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About the cover:
The Silver City CLAY Festival continues through August 4 at venues around the area, including **Blue Dome Gallery** at Bear Mountain Lodge, a selection of whose artists working in clay is featured on this issue's cover. For a complete list of the artists and other gallery events related to the festival, see page 20.



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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Surge of Insincerity

Buying votes for immigration reform, not real security.

The immigration reform bill that now awaits action in the House of Representatives passed the Senate with 68 votes, including those of 14 Republicans. That GOP support was bought in part by a \$46 billion border-security package including a \$38 billion "border surge" sponsored by Republican Senators Bob Corker (Tenn.) and John Hoeven (ND). Not even that amendment's sponsors seemed to believe such a huge expenditure is necessary for anything except politics: "I was just trying to work with our caucus to get as many of our guys to participate," Hoeven admitted.

The price of a few extra GOP votes included \$30 billion over the next decade to hire more than 19,000 additional Border Patrol agents, more than doubling that force, and \$7.5 billion to build 350 miles of fencing along the US-Mexico border. The bill also specifically mandates the purchase of helicopters and radar equipment from designated manufacturers—an unusual step reminiscent of the olden days of "earmarking."

The "border surge," if passed along with the immigration legislation, would likely be a gold mine for border communities across the Southwest. And those 19,000 newly minted agents will have to live *somewhere*. But is it a smart investment of tax dollars? And does it address the most pressing problems on the border?

Most experts say no. Even Arizona Sen. John McCain acknowledged, "This is not only sufficient, it is well over sufficient. We'll be the most militarized border since the fall of the Berlin Wall."

The fact is, in most sectors levels of apprehensions of illegal crossers are at or near historic lows. Border Patrol staffing, infrastructure and technology have never been greater; the US spends more on immigration enforcement than on all other main federal criminal-enforcement agencies combined. What remains a critical problem is drug trafficking. Even as seizures of heroin and meth have skyrocketed, it's estimated that border and customs agents intercept less than 10% of the traffic. According to the State of the Border report, only about two-tenths of a percent of the illicit cash that crosses the border to enrich the cartels gets seized.

"There are major crimes going on at the border," former Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard told the *Arizona Daily Star*, "—smuggling drugs and people north and smuggling guns and money south. Only one of them is receiving attention."

Erik Lee, associate director of the North American Center for Transborder Studies, agreed: "Border security is about much more than economic migrants attempting to cross into the United States. It's about a whole range of things, from drugs and guns to how safe border communities feel."

Maybe it's too much to expect senators from Tennessee and North Dakota to understand the real issues on the US-Mexico border. And the ever-escalating demands for "border security" from far-removed politicians seem mostly like a smokescreen to hide their antipathy toward facing the reality of the nation's 11 million illegal immigrants.

Here in the Southwest, however, where border security is more than just playing politics, we understand that the US needs real answers. That starts

with a concerted effort to crack down on the cartels' operations on this side of the border, and to interrupt their flow of profits back to Mexico. It means focusing as much on drug smugglers as on border crossers seeking a better life or unification with their families. It's about fighting crime, not dashing the hopes of "DREAM"-ers.

"We could double the number of Border Patrol agents and see little improvement" in combating criminal drug-smuggling operations, Goddard warned. "If you focus on just part of the problem, and I would argue not the most important, you are going to continue to lose. That's exactly what's happening."

Given the uncertain future of immigration reform and border security in the House, where at this writing Speaker John Boehner was dragging his feet on even bringing legislation to a vote, we're all going to continue to lose. The odds of a better bill, with more targeted security measures and a smarter commitment to combating the cartels, are even longer. If any reform does squeak through the House, it will likely be with still

more Christmas-tree ornaments of "border security" spending.

Perhaps the cartels could be convinced to start smuggling drugs through North Dakota instead. Maybe then we'd see some solutions instead of feckless buying of votes from "our guys."

Downtown "Surge"

Businesses and police cooperate to make downtown Silver City safer.

Speaking of tackling crime, the meeting early last month between downtown Silver City business owners and local officials was an important first step in tackling the downtown crime problem—on which we first urged action back in April 2012 ("Paging Officer Krupke"). Some 40 people packed the gathering and came away energized to "take back the downtown," as one participant put it.

Business operators have begun looking out for each other and confronting aggressive or nuisance vagrants, even snapping photos with smartphones and forwarding to the police. Surveillance cameras, an idea greeted unenthusiastically a year ago, may now be set up as businesses cooperate in watching each other's storefronts from across the street.

Most important, though, is that Silver City police—led by Chief Ed Reynolds, who attended the meeting—are stepping up, too. As we urged last year, a more visible police presence downtown is essential to deterring crime both petty and serious. Following the early-July meeting, we're told, officers began patrolling on foot and in patrol cars, even cruising downtown alleys. That's the sort of "surge" we can believe in.

The next meeting will be August 5 at 3:30 p.m. at the Visitors Center. Let's hope the momentum continues, with businesses and law enforcement both doing their part to "take back" historic downtown Silver City. 🌵

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LETTERS

Our Readers Write

Pet-Project Tax

In the June edition of *Desert Exposure*, David Fryxell presented a case opposing the proposed \$10 million increase in Grant County's Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) to fund a series of undefined capital outlay projects (Editor's Notebook). The Progressive Voters Alliance of Grant County (PVA-GC) concurs with Mr. Fryxell's logic and also stands in opposition this tax increase.

We are strongly opposed to the process used to propose the tax increase. The County Commission has undertaken a special election, at a cost of thousands of dollars, asking voters to decide on a tax increase to fund capital outlay projects that haven't even been clearly defined, and that are not explicitly tied to the outcome of the election in any case. The election has been called before a myriad questions about these projects can be asked, much less answered.

What we have here is a classic "pig in a poke." Instead of asking voters what resources or amenities they think might be needed, the Commission says, "Give us \$10 million and trust us."

There's no shortage of needed projects; in fact there are too many. PVA-GC believes the public should have a voice in deciding which projects to pursue, how big, and using what financing. The GRT is a regressive tax paid disproportionately by those with low income; it's not the way to finance improvements to facilities most working folks won't use.

This "pig in a poke" proposal is ill advised. The PVA-GC says "vote NO" on the proposal. Make our leaders go back to the drawing board—this time with full community input and a careful planning process. If they do that, maybe then we could say yes.

Jeff Boyd

PVA-GC Steering Committee Chairman
Silver City

Thank you for your insightful June editorial. We at the Southwest Green Chamber of Commerce believe that responsive and responsible local governments can have a positive effect on improving community economics and quality of life for citizens. However, we have concerns about this 2013 rushed special election.

Despite the language being used, this is NOT a Quality of Life bond initiative. It is a perpetual increase in Gross Receipts Tax and will fund a \$10 million bond for Capital Outlay.

Our concerns about this proposed Gross Receipts Tax are twofold:

1. Lack of a rational public process to discuss capital infrastructure needs and engage public feedback for project prioritization. Grant County has a Capital Improvements plan (Resolution R-13-03 adopted January 2013) for infrastructure improvement. This Capital Improvements plan, and other published plans (e.g. Grant County Strategic and Action plan published in 2012), should be used to identify important infrastructure and community needs. The SW Green Chamber has sent a letter to the Grant County Commissioners suggesting a rational public process to use.

2. No analyses of economic, community and environmental effects. Of the five projects proposed—renovating the county Conference Center; work on the WNMU pools; paving golf course paths; improving the baseball field at Bataan Park; and building a cinema multiplex—only very wide cost-to-build guess-estimates have been disclosed. We have seen no operational cost plans and estimates. So far, no qualitative or quantitative analyses have been publicly disclosed regarding anticipated economic development (e.g. how many and what kinds of long-term jobs would these create); effects on the community (e.g. who would use facilities, what would fees be); and effects on the environment (e.g. effects on watershed; night-sky light pollution).

We agree with the concerns you raised in your editorial about such a gross receipts tax being regressive. We echo your concern that these are really "pet projects." We have grave concerns about lack of public process and analyses. We are not comfortable giving the Grant County Commissioners free rein to spend our money without our input. Hence, the

Southwest Green Chamber of Commerce does NOT support this proposed Gross Receipts Tax.

Lynda Aiman-Smith
Secretary, Southwest Green Chamber of Commerce
Silver City

Ouch Update

Your recent articles on natural antibiotics and healing (Body, Mind & Spirit, February and May), while interesting and informative, failed to mention a simple, natural treatment for minor skin infections. Along with the other joys of geezer-hood, I've noticed that dings I collect sawing firewood, for example, dings that used to take care of themselves with simple washing, have become sore and infected. A visit to HMS has yielded an Rx for antibiotics, which after 10 days have produced a cure. However, last year, the PA I saw decided to consult with a doctor as to which antibiotic to prescribe. The doctor came in to have a look and said that the wound needed to be much worse to require antibiotics. She told me to apply hot compresses twice a day, as heat kills bacteria locally. I boiled water and poured over a washcloth, waited until it cooled a bit, applied. Repeated several times, twice a day. After two days, the infection was completely gone! Thus, the healing time was compressed, too...

And your personal war, or should I say, dealings with bees (Continental Divide, May) prompts me to relate a discovery I made accidentally. Wasps have always loved my area of the Gila. The home I built, even better. I've been stung too many times to remember, often in pitched battles involving a fly swatter or vacuum cleaner with a long hose. Last summer, an open, empty gallon glass jug picked up some water from a monsoon rain and then ended up on its side. Early one morning, I noticed a large number of wasps inside. Later, most were gone, but the next morning, many dozens had moved back in. I capped it, shook well, etc. Putting in about an inch of water creates an even larger lake when the bottle is on its side, and with the steep sides, once in the water, they can't get out. Bonus: Flies, too, join in the summer fun!

Scott van Linge
Silver City

Really Rough Riding

I'm reading your article on the rodeo ("A Greenhorn's Guide to the Rodeo," June)—very good. It dawned on me that there is another very popular sport that grew out of the participants' full-time business ventures—NASCAR racing, which grew out of bootlegging!

Also, the mention of Bill Pickett reminded me of a recent article about a book about his life. "Bulldogging" developed from the fact that bulldogs were used to "herd" cattle, which apparently they did by biting the bulls on the nose and holding on. Neat trick, eh?

Well, according to the article, Bill Pickett would do exactly that: leap off his horse onto the bull, BITE him on the nose and hang on! Better trick. He became famous doing this at rodeos, but eventually got smart and resorted to wrestling the bull to the ground.

Bert de Pedro
Red Rock

Debt Doubts

Thank you for easing my mind so much ("The Debt Dud," Editor's Notebook, May). I can now ignore all those TEA Party and *Wall Street Journal* wackos who keep trying to worry me about the US government's exponentially growing deficits. You so helpfully pointed out that a real live Nobel Prize-winning economist, Paul Krugman, says that there's nothing to worry about. So I'll quit worrying.

I got it into my head somehow that the government's finances were a lot like mine, or those of a private company, or the county, municipal and state governments, and that eventually the debts, including all the interest, would have to be repaid. I know that when I go and buy something on credit, I certainly do have to pay it off, and the longer it takes me to do it, the more it costs in the long run. I even know of people who have carried so much debt for so long

that what they originally purchased is only worth a fraction of what they eventually wound up paying, with all that interest piling up for years.

But now I know that the federal government doesn't have to worry about that. They are exempt from the economic laws I learned about in Economics 101. Why? Because they (or I should say the bankers at the Federal Reserve) simply print more money in order to pay off last year's debts. And, as you and Mr. Krugman point out, we "just owe the debt to ourselves." So somehow it doesn't matter that in printing new money at the rate of about \$40 billion per month (I think they call it "quantitative easing") they might be devaluing and inflating our currency.

Being a retiree on a fixed pension and Social Security, my income won't keep up with much inflation. But I'm sure Mr. Bernanke and his fellow bankers will take good care of our money. Of course we'll never know, since Congress can't get up the courage to audit them. Nobody knows what they are doing, and who is getting their pockets filled with our money. But I'll not worry about anything until you and Mr. Krugman tell me to, which probably won't be until the Republicans take over Congress and the White House again. I think it's time for my nap now.

Jeff Ross
Glenwood,

Editor's note: Unfortunately, the misconception that the government's budget is akin to a family's household budget has held back the recovery in Europe (where "austerity" policies have clearly failed) and continues to keep millions under- or unemployed in the US. Nor is there any whiff of inflation, despite repeated (and repeatedly wrong) warnings, and the US dollar remains attractive even at historically low interest rates on bonds. ❄

Let us hear from you! Write Desert Exposure Letters, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or email letters@desertexposure.com. Letters are subject to editing for style and length (maximum 500 words, please), and must be in response to content that has appeared in our pages. Deadline for the next issue is the 18th of the month.

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Vote 'NO' on Tax Increase
The Grant County Gross Receipts Tax increase ballot will be mailed to your home in late July for the August 19 Special Election.

The PVA-GC* recommends a vote 'NO' because:

- ✓ No guarantees what will be done with the money
- ✓ No public input was obtained
- ✓ Poorly-defined projects—benefit to community unclear
- ✓ The gross receipts tax hits low income folks hardest—not the right way to fund capital outlays

*Paid by the Progressive Voters Alliance of Grant County (PVA-GC)

DESERT DIARY

Special Sin-Packed Edition!

Boozing, stealing, body parts, bears and worse—you've been warned.

Beware of bearing gifts... These first two jokes are alike only in that we absolutely didn't see the punch line coming in either one. First, from **The Santa Claran:**

"Four brothers left home for college, and they became successful doctors and lawyers. One evening, they chatted after having dinner together. They discussed the 95th birthday gifts they were able to give their elderly mother who moved to Florida.

"The first said, 'You know I had a big house built for Mama.'

"The second said, 'And I had a large theater built in the house.'

"The third said, 'And I had my Mercedes dealer deliver an SL600 to her.'

"The fourth said, 'You know how Mama loved reading the Bible and you know she can't read anymore because she can't see very well. I met this preacher who told me about a parrot who could recite the entire Bible. It took 10 preachers almost eight years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$50,000 a year for five years to the church, but it was worth it. Mama only has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot will recite it.'

"The other brothers were impressed. After the celebration, Mama sent out her thank-you notes. She wrote: 'Milton, the house you built is so huge that I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks anyway.'

"And: 'Marvin, I am too old to travel. I stay home. I have my groceries delivered. So I never use the Mercedes. The thought was good. Thanks.'

"And: 'Michael, you gave me an expensive theater with Dolby sound and it can hold 50 people, but all of my friends are dead, I've lost my hearing, and I'm nearly blind. I'll never use it. Thank you for the gesture just the same.'

"And finally: 'Dearest Melvin, you were the only

son to have the good sense to give a little thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious. Thank you so much.'"

Annals of inebriation... Then there's this from **Ned Ludd**, which the easily offended might want to skip:

"A man walks into a bar, notices a very large jar on the counter, and sees that it's filled to the brim with \$10 bills. He guesses there must be at least \$10,000 in it. He approaches the bartender and asks, 'What's with the money in the jar?'

"Well, you pay \$10, and if you pass three tests, you get all the money in the jar and the keys to a brand-new Lexus.'

"The man certainly isn't going to pass this up, so he asks, 'What are the three tests?'

"You gotta pay first,' says the bartender, 'those are the rules.' So, after thinking it over a while, the man gives the bartender \$10, which he stuffs into the jar.

"Okay,' says the bartender, 'here's what you need to do: First, you have to drink a whole quart of tequila, in 60 seconds or less, and you can't make a face while doing it. Second, there's a pit bull chained in the back with a bad tooth. You have to remove that tooth with your bare hands. Third, there's a 90-year old lady upstairs who's never had sex. You have to take care of that problem.'

"The man is stunned! 'I know I paid my \$10—but I'm not an idiot! I won't do it! You'd have to be nuts to drink a quart of tequila and then do all those other things!'

"Your call,' says the bartender, 'but your money stays where it is.'

"As time goes on, the man has a few more drinks and finally says, 'Where's the damn tequila?!' He grabs the bottle with both hands and drinks it as fast as he can. Tears stream down both cheeks—but he doesn't make a face, and he drinks it in 58 seconds!

"Next, he staggers out the back door, where he sees the pit bull chained to a pole. Soon, the people inside the bar hear loud growling, screaming and sounds of a terrible fight—then nothing but silence!

"Just when they think that the man surely must be dead, he staggers back into the bar. His clothes are ripped to shreds and he's bleeding from bites and gashes all over his body.

"He drunkenly says, 'Now, where's that old woman with the bad tooth?'"

Elementary, my dear... New correspondent **Digital Wiz in Silver City** sends along this tale of deduction in the great outdoors:

"Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson go on a camping trip. After a good dinner and a bottle of wine, they retire for the night, and go to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes wakes up and nudges his faithful friend: 'Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see.'

"I see millions and millions of stars, Holmes,' replies Watson.

"And what do you deduce from that?"

"Watson ponders for a minute. 'Well, astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a fine day tomorrow. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful, and that we are a small and insignificant part of the universe. What does it tell you, Holmes?'

"Holmes is silent for a moment. 'Watson, you idiot!' he says. 'Someone has stolen our tent!'"

Field and stream... More from the great outdoors, this from **Yerby**—and definitely not for those offended by the earlier joke from **Ned Ludd**:

"Bob was excited about his new rifle and decided to try bear hunting. He traveled up to Alaska, spotted a small brown bear and shot it. Soon after there was a tap on his shoulder, and he turned around to see a big black bear. The black bear said, 'That was a very bad mistake. That was my cousin. I'm going to give you two choices. Either I maul you to death or we have sex.'

"After considering briefly, Bob decided to accept the latter alternative. So the black bear had his way with Bob. Even though he felt sore for two weeks, Bob soon recovered and vowed revenge. He headed out on another trip to Alaska where he found the black bear and shot it dead.

"Right after, there was another tap on his shoulder. This time a huge grizzly bear stood right next to him. The grizzly said, 'That was a big mistake, Bob. That was my cousin and you've got two choices: Either I maul you to death or I have sex with you.'

"Again, Bob thought it was better to cooperate with the grizzly bear than be mauled to death. So the grizzly had his way with Bob. Although he survived, it took several months before Bob fully recovered.

"Now Bob was completely outraged, so he headed back to Alaska and managed to track down the grizzly bear and shoot it. He felt sweet revenge, but then, moments later, there was a tap on his shoulder. He turned around to find a giant polar bear standing there.

"The polar bear looked at him and said, 'Admit it Bob, you don't come here for the hunting, do you?'"

Pranks for the memories... Thank goodness, the only sins in this one from **Farmor the Swedish Grandma** are stealing and lying:

"Two boys, Frankie and Fred, entered a chocolate store. As they were busy looking, Fred stole three chocolate bars. As they left the store, he said to Frankie, 'Man, I'm the best thief. I stole three chocolate bars and no one saw me. You can't beat that.'

"Frankie replied: 'You want to see something better? Let's go back to the shop and I'll show you real stealing.' So they went to the counter and Frankie said to the shopkeeper, 'Do you want to see magic?'

"The shopkeeper said that he would. Frankie continued, 'Give me one chocolate bar.' The shopkeeper gave him one, and he ate it. Frankie asked for a second bar, and he ate that as well. He asked for a third, and finished that one, too.

"The shopkeeper asked: 'But where's the magic?'

"Frankie replied: 'Check in my friend's pocket, and you'll find all three bars of chocolate!'"



Postcards from the edge... Continuing to play catch-up with the pile of photos submitted by readers on the road, near and far, showing themselves holding a copy of *Desert Exposure*, here are **Dean and Leda Evert**, standing across the river from the Taj Mahal in India. "Behind us are people waiting in a long line that goes around the Taj Mahal twice before it enters the temple," they write. "India is an amazing country full of people and contrasts."

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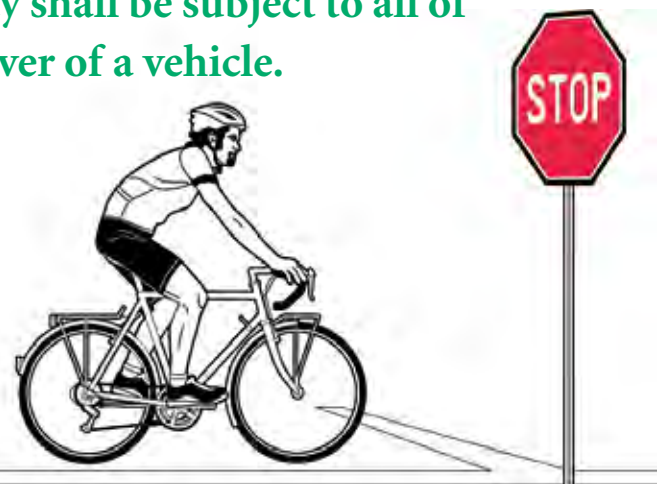
A Word About Stop Signs

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New Mexico Motor Vehicle Code states that every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle.

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Blowing through stop signs sets a bad example for younger riders and hurts the image of all bicyclists.





Postcards from the edge... This group shot of Silver City residents in Costa Rica depicts **Ron Groves** and **Pam Bryant** in front and in back, **Linda Zatopek** ("Guide/Driver Extraordinaire"), **Allan Mata Fonseca**, **Pat Cowan**, **Tim Bell** and **George Farmer**.

Whether you're heading to India, Central America or just to Isleta, snap a picture of yourself holding "the biggest little paper in the Southwest" and send it to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or diary@desertexposure.com.

Annals of medicine... Since we've already of-fended all our sensitive readers, we might as well get this one out of the way, too. **Blame Old Grumps:**

"A male patient is lying in bed in the hospital, wearing an oxygen mask over his mouth and nose. A young student nurse appears and gives him a partial sponge bath. 'Nurse,' he mumbles from behind the mask, 'are my testicles black?'"

"Embarrassed, the young female nurse replies, 'I don't know, sir. I'm only here to wash your upper body and feet.'"

"He struggles to ask again, 'Nurse, please check for me. Are my testicles black?'"

"Concerned that he might elevate his blood pressure and heart rate from worrying about his testicles, she overcomes her embarrassment and pulls back the covers. She raises his gown, gently grasps his privates, looks very closely and says, 'There's nothing wrong with them, sir. They look fine.'"

"The man slowly pulls off his oxygen mask, smiles at her, and says very slowly, 'Thank you very much. That was wonderful. Now listen very, very closely: Are... my... test... results... back?'"

Losing the battle of the sexes... **The Santa Claran** returns with this explication of two different viewpoints on the evils of alcohol:

"She: 'Do you drink?'"

"He: 'Yes.'"

"She: 'How much a day?'"

"He: 'Three six-packs.'"

"She: 'How much per six-pack?'"

"He: 'About \$10.'"

"She: 'And how long have you been drinking?'"

"He: '15 years.'"

"She: 'So one six-pack costs \$10, and you have three packs a day, which puts your spending each month at \$900. In one year, it would be \$10,800, correct?'"

"He: 'Correct.'"

"She: 'If in one year you spend \$10,800 not accounting for inflation, the past 15 years puts your spending at \$162,000, correct?'"

"He: 'Correct.'"

"She: 'Do you know that if you hadn't drank, that money could have been put in a step-up interest savings account and after accounting for compound interest for the past 15 years, you could have now bought a Ferrari?'"

"He: 'Do you drink?'"

"She: 'No.'"

"He: 'Where's your Ferrari, then?'"

Then there's this perspective on the very start of the gender wars, courtesy of **GeraldH:**

"Adam was hanging around the garden of Eden feeling very lonely. So God asked him, 'What's wrong with you?'"

"Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to."

"God said that He was going

to make Adam a companion and that it would be a *woman*: "This person will gather food for you, cook for you, and when you discover clothing, she will wash it for you. She will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will never have a headache and will freely give you love and passion whenever you need it."

"Adam asked God, 'What will a woman like this cost?'"

"God replied, 'An arm and a leg.'"

"Then Adam asked, 'What can I get for a rib?'"

"The rest is history...."

Finally, the difference between men and women is wrapped up by the **Silver City Greek:**

"A wife asks her husband, 'Would you please go shopping for me? Buy one carton of milk and, if they have avocados, get six.'"

"A short time later the husband comes back with six cartons of milk. The wife asks him, 'Why did you buy six cartons of milk?'"

"He replies, 'They had avocados.'"

"If you're a woman, I'm sure you're going back to read it again! Men will get it the first time."

Bottom's up... We also seem to have had an awful lot about drinking in this month's Diary, so what the heck—one more for the road from **CharlesC:**

"John is sitting outside his local pub one day, enjoying a quiet pint and generally feeling good about himself, when a nun suddenly appears at his table and starts decrying the evils of drink. She lectures him, 'You should be ashamed of yourself, young man! Drinking is a sin! Alcohol is the blood of the devil!'"

"Now John gets pretty annoyed about this, and goes on the offensive. 'How do you know this, Sister?'"

"My Mother Superior told me so.'"

"But have you ever had a drink yourself?" he counters. 'How can you be sure that what you are saying is right?'"

"Don't be ridiculous! Of course, I have never taken alcohol myself.'"

"Then let me buy you a drink,' John says. 'If you still believe afterwards that it is evil, I will give up drink for life.'"

"How could I, a nun, sit outside this public house drinking?'"

"I'll get the barman to put it in a teacup for you; then no one will ever know.'"

"The nun reluctantly agrees, so John goes inside to the bar. 'Another pint for me, and a triple vodka on the rocks.' Then he lowers his voice and says to the barman, 'And could you put the vodka in a teacup?'"

"Oh, no!" says the barkeep. 'It's not that nun again, is it?'"

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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TUMBLEVEEDS • DOUG FINE

The Drug Peace Bumblebee

Why it matters to my family that hemp is legalized

Editor's note: Grant County author and solar-powered goat herder Doug Fine is never not busy, and that's the way he likes it. Between fatherhood, goat ranching, writing and touring with the live event surrounding his most recent bestseller, *Too High to Fail* ("Going to Pot," August 2012), the real question is when he has time to sleep. "Airplanes," he says.

A few months ago, Fine took on another gig, a weekly, nationally syndicated column called "The Drug Peace Bumblebee." The premise is, the long drug war and its associated propaganda have kept people from hearing stories about humanity's longest utilized plant other than "This is Your Brain on Drugs." In the course of his work, Fine sees more "Drug Peace" folks, from Hawaii to Laos to right here in the Land of Enchantment, than they see of each other. So he's started writing about them, and sometimes himself. Here's a recent sampling.



During World War II, Americans were urged to grow hemp for the war effort.

How can a decision be both astonishing and a no-brainer? On June 20 of this year, the US House of Representatives passed (as the rest of the world long ago did) an industrial cannabis (hemp) cultivation provision in the massive five-year farm bill. The vote was 225-200. Of course, the whole bill was subsequently voted down, but that was just the usual nation's political process falling apart—it had nothing to do with humanity's longest-utilized plant.

So I find myself, fresh back from months of international industrial cannabis research, calling a minor hemp study approval clause a landmark step for the nation, the planet and my family (not to mention a huge leap toward the end of the 40-year "Drug War").

Because that's what it was. Most of the early coverage of the hemp provision, put forth by Colorado Rep. Jared Polis and two other congressmen, notes correctly that the Republican-controlled House took the brunt of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) lobbying that had killed a similar provision on the Senate a week earlier, and, rightly, ignored its babbling, anti-American idiocy.

To quote one passage from the DEA talking-point memo (first broken by Ryan Grim at the Huffington Post), "It is true that, if given a choice, marijuana smokers will seek cannabis with a relatively high THC concentration over the type of cannabis typically grown for industrial purposes. However, as indicated, there is no guarantee that a cannabis plant grown for industrial purposes will not cause a psychoactive effect when smoked."

Really? That has never happened, anywhere. Canada, in its 15 years of hemp legality, has not had a single problem with hemp used for psychoactive purposes, according to Anndrea Hermann, who tests hemp crops for the Canadian government. We Americans buy a half-billion dollars of Canadian hemp products every year, and that number is growing 20% annually. We're just not allowed to grow it here. This kind of

trade imbalance, which the turf-protecting DEA deciders are finally failing to encourage, is why the American colonies fought for independence from Britain.

I should note here that, after three years of reporting from the Drug War's front lines, I believe the good men and women of the DEA are doing their best. I applaud law-enforcement efforts to stem the flow of dangerous drugs like cocaine, meth and black-market prescription pills. What's coming through here in the hemp discussion is my citizen anger at a government agency putting its budget ahead of the clear interests of the nation. Fighting tooth and nail to defend a ban on hemp is outrageous.

Why is our appetite for hemp products so insatiable? The hemp food and body care products, in which the Canadians specialize, are healthy. The Canadian government knows this. It conducts hemp cultivar (seed variety) research for its farmers, instead of lobbying to keep New

Mexico, North Dakota, Kentucky and Colorado farmers from cultivating a much-needed cash crop, as our DEA does.

In fact, the president of Canada's largest hemp-oil processing company, Shaun Crew, told me his company is ready to "parachute" into the North Dakota seed-oil market the moment it's legal to grow hemp stateside. And it's not just Canada. China's president, in a recent visit to a hemp-processing facility, called for a massive increase in hemp cultivation. They can't keep up with demand.

Which gets to why the June 20 congressional hemp vote matters on my goat ranch, where my Sweetheart makes our clothing and yogurt, and the sun provides our power. Here are some details I noticed in my recent examination of the final days of the Drug War, *Too High to Fail: Cannabis and the New Green Economic Revolution*. In assessing the impact of the war on industrial cannabis, I found that the plant was already in an astonishing number of components in my life, and several of them were edible or related to home economics: Every morning I squeezed the perfectly omega-balanced cannabis (hemp) seed oil (produced in Canada) into my family's health shake. We pounded the stuff.

Then I put on my cannabis sun hat and went for a run. I diapered my kids in organic hemp (the only material that held up to repeated washing and brutal New Mexican line drying) and hung our curtains with cannabis twine (Walmart-purchased, made in Romania). We then bathed the youngsters in Doctor Bronner's Fair Trade hemp soap (lavender variety usually, though sometimes rose).

I mean, one tries not to sound like one of those "cannabis can do anything including bring about world peace and an end to ring-around-the-collar" people, but by the time I finished the assessment, I felt I deserved some kind of Canadian tax rebate. I discovered that I spent two grand a year on hemp products, none of which was domestically produced. That offends me as a patriot.

And all of these hemp uses were unintentional and nonpolitical. They resulted simply because cannabis won out in the marketplace. All of them represented economic value I could be contributing to the American

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economy. If, you know, cannabis were legal to grow here. Because if 40 years of failed drug policy have taught us anything, it's that cannabis is going to be grown, one way or another. It's really our choice: allow the production to benefit farmers and the tax base, or allow a government agency to continue lobbying against the solid majority viewpoint of the people.

The latest industrial cannabis poll, also conducted by the Huffington Post, shows 56% of Americans supporting a return to a Hemp for Victory outlook that the US Department of Agriculture espoused in its 1942 propaganda film of that name, which urged farmers to grow the plant for the war effort. No worry in that film's narrative about confusing 6- to 20-foot-tall, densely grown hemp with manicured psychoactive cannabis, which June's DEA lobbying memo also insanely claimed.

Nothing new about the idea of hemp as an industrial material, of course—most Americans know that Henry Ford used it in an experimental 1941 model, that *Popular Mechanics* called it a "billion-dollar crop" in 1938, and Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence on it. But I was astounded when I added up my family's cannabis-industry investments. Take that unintentional \$2,000 consumer contribution and multiply it by 300 million



Americans. You get a big number, without a single joint being lit. And also a lot less foreign oil once hemp's biomass potential is exploited.

"It's magnitudes more productive than corn- or soy-based ethanol as a biofuel," a USDA biologist told me at a 2010 sustainability festival.

"But it's not even on our blackboard because it's a federal crime."

Within a decade of the end of America's longest "war," hemp is going to be an even bigger industry than psychoactive cannabis, according to Jack Noel, who co-authored a 2012 industrial-hemp task force report for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. He said, "We'll see a \$50 billion domestic hemp industry." That's bigger than the \$40 billion some economists predict smoked cannabis would bring in.

As I noted in the *Washington Post* in June, food and body care products are the biggest US markets for hemp today, but industrial cannabis will have the biggest impact in the energy sector. A Kentucky-based energy company is already planning to grow hemp for power on reclaimed soil damaged by coal mining. That brings both domestic energy security

TUMBLEWEEDS continued on next page


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. Let's hope this month marks the zenith of coverage for both our drought and wildfires.

1. (1) **New Mexico + immigration**—352 hits (▲)
2. (2) **New Mexico budget**—328 hits (▲)
3. (5) **New Mexico drought**—302 hits (▲)
4. (7) **New Mexico wildfires**—262 hits (▲)
5. (3) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—256 hits (▼)
6. (6) **Sen. Tom Udall**—188 hits (▼)
7. (4) **Virgin Galactic**—174 hits (▼)
8. (10) **Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson**—172 hits (▲)
9. (8) **New Mexico wolves**—149 hits (▲)
10. (9) **Ex-Gov. Gary Johnson + Libertarian**—134 hits (▼)



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TUMBLEWEEDS continued

and aid to the planet.

Nearly every politico on both sides of the aisle is on board in the Bluegrass State. They're just waiting for the DEA to stop its nonsense about cannabis. Unlike corn- and soy-based ethanol, hemp is a non-food fiber that requires so few pesticides that the Province of Ontario's official hemp farmer guide leaves that box blank.

That's why I'm going to be on the horn with my federal representatives to make sure that the Hemp for Victory momentum continues. Post-legalization, my hope is to cultivate the plant so that my Sweet-

heart no longer has to import from China the material she uses to make the shirts I wear in media interviews to praise the economic value of hemp. In a cynical age, we can use one less irony. ❁

Doug Fine is a comedic investigative journalist, bestselling author and solar-powered goat herder who lives on Funky Butte Ranch in rural Grant County. He is the author of three books: Not Really an Alaskan Mountain Man; Farewell, My Subaru; and Too High to Fail, recently released in paperback. You can read more at www.dougfine.com.

TUMBLEWEEDS

Life in a State of Nature

Reader photos of creatures big and small.

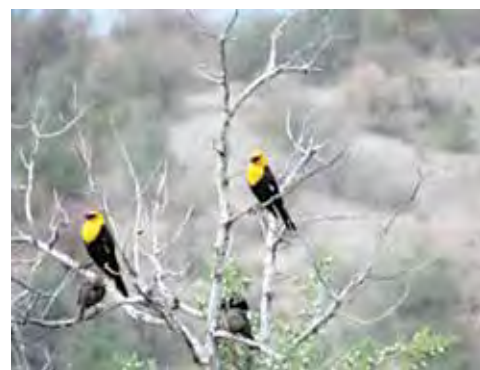
We continue to be happily overwhelmed by the response to our call for readers' favorite local wildlife photos. This month the "wild kingdom" ranges from birds to bugs, with deer and bunnies in-between (in one case, literally).

Our first photo comes from **Vicki Decker** of Glenwood, who writes: "The 'white' deer is kind of special around here. People keep an eye on her. She is not albino. When she was younger she was much whiter and is now a pretty cream color. Some of the locals have named her Cream Puff. We've been spotting her for about three years, I think."



This photo of food sharing comes from **Debbie Morris** of Las Cruces, who writes: "Read your article and thought I'd send you some photos of wildlife from my desert yard."

This photo of avian visitors comes from **Barry and Dawn Gray** of San Lorenzo: "We enjoy watching the yellow-headed blackbirds who have taken up residence this year. They are new to us."



can burying beetle.

Of this mantis, he writes, "It is one of the praying mantis species. It is small—full grown it is less than an inch long—and most of its time it is found on or close to the ground. Many people I am sure have seen it but assume it is just a baby praying mantis when in actuality it is full grown."

Finally, in what's definitely the most unusual and scientifically noteworthy submission, **Elroy Limmer** of Silver City sends this picture of a Yersin's ground mantis (*Yersiniops sophronicum*). It's one of three photos he sent of "insects not often seen by most folks. I believe I have observed each one of them three or more times per year for the last five or six years." In coming months we'll share his pictures of Sumichrast's toothpick grasshopper and the Ameri-

Share your own photos of the Southwest's "zoo." Show us what you've seen out there, large or small, from hummingbirds and scorpions to eagles and elk. 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. ❁



TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Pieces to the Puzzle

For the horse, a scary event may be more than the sum of its parts.

Back in June I did a little tour through Utah, Idaho and Colorado to do some clinic work and some lessons—lots of horses, many miles and one near-death experience. (More on that in a future column!) One stop along the way focused on a subject I touched on back in my June column.

On this trip I had the chance to meet with an owner about a traumatized horse that she was trying to bring back. She was doing absolutely everything right: She had worked with a trainer experienced in this area; she had been part of the process and had worked on her own skills to be better prepared for future issues or relapses. But she was still seeing behavioral issues that didn't seem to make sense. What was happening seemed completely unrelated to the traumatic event.

The horse is one of the true survivors on our planet. For 60 million years it has dealt with everything from dinosaurs to humans, from ice ages to global warming. Evolution and breeding have changed little about the basic nature of the horse. One trait in particular has kept them going for all this time: the ability to look at traumatic or near-death experiences in both micro and macro terms. Ever alert to danger, their survival depends on being aware of anything, large or small, that might be a threat or could put them in a life-endangering situation.

I believe this is what makes the task of bringing back a traumatized horse such a challenge for owners. We know we have to help the horse recover from the event and focus most of our rehab and re-training work on that particular situation. The horse, however, may see the event in much broader terms. The triggers that may cause distress or behavioral issues after such an event may be more subtle or even seem unrelated to us, but to the horse they're very real.

Years ago, I would occasionally let the trainer in our barn in California use my horse Cody for a particular job, one that he loved and did extremely well. Whenever the trainer had a green horse that needed exposure to life on the trail, she would use Cody to pony the young horse to teach him the rules of the road.

On one such ride, with a young horse in tow, the trainer was confronted by a big tom turkey on a small single-track trail with a steep drop-off to one side. For some reason, the turkey blew up to full battle dress and charged down the trail. As far as I know, few turkeys have ever killed a horse, but the two horses saw this thing coming down the trail, squawking and creating quite a scene, and pretty much decided it was the end of the line. The trainer, with her own safety in mind and no room to work, dropped the lead line and tried to spin Cody to get away from the turkey. The lead rope went behind Cody's butt and he clamped down on it with his tail, and he never let go as the young horse bucked and scooted and even crashed into a trail sign.

The trainer managed to get Cody turned and cantered down the trail away from the turkey, with the young horse still being held tightly by Cody's tail. When they hit a paved road where the trail crossed, it led to some skidding, sparks and another crash into a trail sign. Cody had severe and bloody rope burns across his butt where he had held on to the lead rope, but amazingly there were no other physical injuries.

Not knowing much about the psychology of the horse at that point in my horsemanship career, I doctored Cody for a week or so until his wounds healed and assumed that was it. One morning before work I decided to schedule a "breakfast meeting" with my horse and sneaked out on a short trail ride. At that hour of the day there was no one out on the trails, and we just walked along in the quiet of the woods, the only sounds the dripping of the heavy mist off the redwood trees. Off in the distance I heard the sounds of a wild turkey, and suddenly I was on one of those rides we all fear—bucking, scooting and spinning

to bolt home. There wasn't a turkey in sight, but the sound was all that was needed to set Cody off.

I actually didn't put two and two together at first, but when this happened every time we heard or saw a turkey, I knew I had a serious and dangerous issue to fix. As a human, I saw this as irrational behavior—it's just a turkey, after all—but to my horse this was something to be feared.

So I did what most horse owners would do: I focused on the turkey. I did lots of sensory work with anything I could think of that might simulate a turkey. I had a hunter come in and do turkey calls. We even dressed up a barn dog that loved wearing funny clothes to look like a turkey. I'd hand walk Cody on the trails, and if I saw or heard a turkey we'd do some purposeful ground work to keep him focused. Things went well. He's a good horse, our relationship was deepening and we seemed to be back to normal pretty quickly.

But here's where the train goes off the tracks, where our view of a situation may not match the basic nature of the horse. Clearly, the battle on "turkey trail" was a really bad experience for my horse, one where he could have been badly hurt or worse. But as a prey/flight animal, he saw the experience in much broader terms. For him, future survival

meant not just being wary of any turkey, but also of any circumstances similar to the ones leading up to that frightening event, and all that happened afterwards.

After it became obvious that our trail rides were still filled with nervousness and "high alert" behavior, I knew I now had more than a turkey problem. The working saddle used that day... the trail bridle used for ponying that was different than his normal set-up... carrying a lead rope... having a horse following in pony position... any rope around his rear legs or hindquarters... the route that led to the spot where the incident happened... trail signs... going from a trail to pavement... ponying a horse, even in the arena—in his mind, all these little pieces were part of the turkey confrontation. If he saw any of them starting to happen, in his mind he had to be prepared for danger. To really bring him all the way back from something that had truly scared him and changed his behavior, I had to help him get comfortable again with all the pieces as well as the main event.

If you have a horse that has had a serious trauma that has changed his behavior or personality, and have tried to bring him back but continue to see or experience relapses or behavioral issues, try to step back and look at the entire chain of events. This is the way the horse sees it. Your efforts may have helped your horse deal with the actual thing that happened. But if you neglected or missed some of the steps leading up to or following the event, which are all now part of the horse's version of events, you might see behavior that seems unrelated to what happened. To the horse, however, all the pieces are as much a part of the traumatic event as the event itself.

To get your horse all the way back, take the big-picture view of that fateful day and do the work necessary at each step that may have been part of things. The horse pays this much attention to details—this is how he's survived for all this time—so look for you answers with the same level of detail.

As for my horse, he now looks forward to his annual Thanksgiving Day ride! 🦃

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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Drawn to Nature

Botanical illustration, then and now. Plus a quirky garden that delivers.

When I learned that the Summer Garden Flower Fiesta (Saturday, August 24, at the Silver City Farmers Market) will feature a botanical drawing class, my memory experienced a smitherens burst: first trip to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

It was the mid-1970s. Women Studies departments were slowly forming on American campuses. At Kew, I viewed a collection of botanical drawings that spanned four centuries. Rendered mainly in watercolor, finely detailed and often stunningly beautiful, the objective of the illustrations was scientific accuracy. The women who created the drawings frequently ignored convention and downright misbehaved in order to pursue their interest in the natural sciences.

British women who observed the natural world first hand—from Beatrix Potter of “Peter Rabbit” fame to Elizabeth Blackwell—stood apart from “drawing-room ladies” who embroidered bluebells on bed linen, or sketched wildflowers during countryside excursions. Ladies operated under norms dictated by men—that the study of nature “abates the taste for frivolous amusements, prevents the tumult of passions.” More to the point, this pastime “diverted female energies which were showing unsettling signs of vigor and independence.”

In his 1818 treatise on flower painting, George Bradshaw wrote, “Many ladies that I have had the honor of teaching, sketched flowers so correctly after my manner, that I mistook them for my own drawings.”

More than a century before the publication of Bradshaw’s remarks, Germany’s Maria Sibylla Merian spent two years in South America exploring and painting insects and plants



Above and next page, top: Two botanical drawings by Sally Ginet of San Lorenzo depict the dimensions of the seed heads and flowers of both desert paintbrush (*Castilleja chromosa*, above) and blanket flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*). Depending upon the illustrator’s capabilities and a plant’s complexities, many of its aspects and fragments may be illustrated.

in the jungles of Suriname. Merian’s stage-by-stage description of metamorphosis helped to disprove the previously held belief that insects reproduced by spontaneous generation.



Above left: Elizabeth Blackwell illustrated *A Curious Herbal* (1737) to free her husband from debtor’s prison. She drew from specimens housed at the Chelsea Physick Garden. The successful herbal was praised by physicians and apothecarists, but her

husband’s continuing skulduggery led to his eventual beheading in Sweden. Above center: Illustration by Germany’s Maria Sibylla Merian. Above right: A Beatrix Potter mushroom drawing.

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At San Juan College in Farmington, NM, Ginet studied botanical drawing with Linda Reeves, who is both a botanist and an illustrator. "Linda is one of my idols," says Ginet. "She taught me to draw plants from live specimens, never photographs."

During two or three drawing sessions a year, Ginet produces 10 five-by-seven-inch illustrations rendered in watercolor pencil. Her drawings of 20 different plant species—from domestic garden plants to wildflowers—are available as note cards at the Raven's Nest in downtown Silver City.

Gardening with Fibromyalgia

From the sidewalk, John Foldan's raised-bed garden reveals a flower monoculture: in the spring, calming ox-eye daisies (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*); in summer, exuberant *Rudbeckia gloriosa*.

As is often the case when you grow one species in a large area, the effect is striking. Creating drama, however, was not the goal for this small corner garden with preexisting fruit trees.

Foldan suffers from fibromyalgia. Over the years he has learned that broadcasting and watering seeds are nowhere near as strenuous as digging.

A gardener in Washington before moving to Silver City, Foldan describes the severity of his fibromyalgia as "somewhere in the middle." He says, "If I had to show up regularly for my nursing job again, I just couldn't do it."

A registered nurse for 20 years, Foldan thinks the best approach to gardening is "to pace yourself and see what works. In my case, a bit of gardening several days a week is good therapy and exercise." ❁

Vivian Savitt gardens at Ditch Cottage in Silver City.

Merian's improprieties included leaving her husband, selling her belongings, and taking her daughter on the voyage. The publication that resulted from this adventure, *The Insects of Suriname* (1705), also criticized Dutch colonists for their treatment of slaves and indigenous people.

Shortly before Merian's death in Amsterdam, Czar Peter the Great of Russia purchased her watercolors. More recently, Germany named its most modern research vessel in Merian's honor. An exhibition at the J. Paul Getty Museum in 2008 portrayed how her work "raised the standards of natural history illustration and helped transform the field of entomology."

The rebuffs that Beatrix Potter experienced by the British scientific establishment instigated her shift to children's literature. She was barred by the all-male Linnean Society of London from presenting a paper on spore germination—a natural extension of her mushroom drawings. About the same time, in 1897, her illustrations of fungus and mosses were rejected by the then-director of Kew.

Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, published in 1902, began her journey toward international acclaim as a children's writer. Fame brought her the funds to eventually conserve 4,000 acres in England's Lake District, now held by the National Trust. The majority of her mycological illustrations were bequeathed to a museum there—not to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. In 1997, a century after the fact, the Linnean Society of London issued a posthumous apology to Potter.

Where Potter's natural history focus was the English countryside, Sally Ginet—much closer to home—also draws from live specimens, often wildflowers, in the Mimbres Valley.

Ginet will demonstrate how to complete a four-stage botanical drawing in the 15-minute mini-class format set for the Summer Garden Flower Fiesta. Other mini-classes are also featured, including Bill Nolde (former owner of Flowerings) on flower arranging and Blythe Whiteley on edible flowers.

Ginet's background includes farming and sign painting. She and her husband have traveled extensively, often serving as volunteer interpretive guides in various national parks.

"We are also interested in the early botanists and naturalists who surveyed the West," Ginnet says.



A raised rectangular area, formerly the site of a prefabricated log house, now allows John Foldan a perfect stage for his flower garden in Silver City. Ox-eye daisies in spring and *Gloriosa* daisies in summer grew from one organic seed packet mixture.



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The Dry Facts

What's the real story on the water underneath us?

It is a fact that every living thing on Earth needs water or moisture to sustain it. It is estimated that the average human being can go three days without H₂O, and after that we will die. At the three-day limit, most humans will do whatever they have to, to get water.

As I thought about this subject, I realized that virtually every outdoor activity requires me to have a source of potable water, whether it's camping, hiking or hunting—I need water! And where do I get it? From my home, and therein lies the following tale.

Experts say that we in the greater Southwest region of the 48 states are in a severe drought, if not an extreme drought. It has been ongoing for the last 12 years now, even though we have had some good moisture in several of those years.

Simply put, a drought occurs when we receive less moisture in a year than what we should have for the norm. It is especially critical if we don't receive winter moisture to form snowpacks in the mountains.

Recently the news has shown many communities in New Mexico losing their water sources: Santa Fe lost its reservoirs and now must go to aquifers to get domestic water; Magdalena's well dried up, leaving them literally high and dry. As of July 1, the mighty Elephant Butte Lake was down to 10% capacity, and having to give its precious resource downriver to Mexico.

Those circumstances got me to cogitatin' about our own water availability here in Grant County and more specifically, in Silver City: How are we fixed for water in the long term? Here is what I found.

Silver City sits over the northwest edge of a small aquifer known as the "Gila Group Aquifer"; that is part of a larger aquifer system known as the "Mimbres Basin Aquifer." An aquifer is a large pool of underground fresh water. In our case, picture a large swimming pool with a deep end and a shallow end, all of which lies underneath the entire Mimbres Valley all the way to Deming.

Silver City sits at the shallow end and Deming sits over the deep end. According to the US Geological Survey, the Gila Group Aquifer varies from 46 feet to 739 feet in depth, while Deming sits over a pool varying from 831 feet to 2,031 feet in depth. The average depth of water under or near Silver City is 415 feet.

Another sub-basin aquifer of the main Mimbres in known as the "Mimbres Trench" and that sits to our east, basically under the Mimbres River; it has an average depth of 277 feet.

In between the Gila and Mimbres aquifers is a connector that is more shallow, with a depth of 139 feet (under where the mines are). So the shallow end of the swimming pool is not equal everywhere.

That means that as the entire aquifer lessens in overall depth, the shallow end will deplete before the rest.

Before doing this research, I always envisioned the aquifer below us as a big, open pool of water, covered over by earth and rock—sort of like a huge underground lake. It ain't so. Our hypothetical swimming pool has all sorts of "junk" in it—stuff like very porous volcanic rock, gravel, solid rock, sand and earth, and pools of sulphur-bearing water and pools of highly saline (high salt content) water. So not all of the water in the aquifer from here to Deming is accessible, including that in the Gila Group Aquifer.

That's why we can't just sink a well anywhere over the aquifer and expect to get good water, or even water at all!

These aquifers all receive their supply from snowpack in the mountains that melts and goes underground via rivers and winter streambeds. When snowpack is deep and heavy and winters cold, the aquifers are replenished. When snowpack is nil, there is an ongoing drop in the water table below us; that is why some domestic wells run dry. Summer monsoons do help, but mostly they affect surface areas.

In 2002 and 2005, the last years that studies were completed, the drought had barely gotten started; the

greater Mimbres Basin Aquifer was being recharged at a rate of 91,190 acre-feet per year (an acre-foot is 326,000 gallon of water per year). But people from Pinos Altos to Deming were using the water at a rate of 124,945 acre-feet per year and we were bringing the aquifer level down by 33,755 acre-feet per year. And that was during the good times before the present drought!

As per 2002 data, the Gila Group Aquifer outputs water to three main sources: 15,099 acre-feet dump directly into the main Mimbres Basin; 9,800 acre-feet go to domestic wells, both private homes and municipalities; and a significant amount of 1,300 acre-feet emerges via the Mangus Spring west of the Continental Divide along Hwy. 180, about 20 miles from Silver City. From what I gather, the mines do not tap into the Gila Group Aquifer, but get their water farther east.

Silver City retrieves its water from four main wells, and in 2002, we used 2,820 acre-feet; Bayard took 336 acre-feet; Santa Clara took 229 acre-feet; and Deming took an astounding 4,075 acre-feet (but from the deep, main aquifer).

Three of our wells, the Anderson, Gabby Hayes and Woodward wells, are east of the Continental Divide; the Franks well is west of the CD. These wells penetrate into the aquifer to depths between 200 and 600 feet. They yield 200-1,100 gallons per minute, with an average of 300-500 gallons per minute.

In 2005, there was a total water storage in the Mimbres Basin Aquifer of 45 million acre-feet of fresh water—but remember, not all of that is available for usage. Also remember that we are constantly debiting that amount by using more than it is taking back in.

Who uses all of this water? Where does it actually go? I was astounded to see that the mines were not the main user; it is agriculture in the form of farms and ranches that takes the heaviest amount, to the tune of 73,000 acre-feet per year. (Remember, just one acre-foot is 326,000 gallons!)

The next in line are all of the domestic wells at 34,000 acre-feet, and last are the mines that take out 18,000 acre-feet per year.

In spite of all of this, in 2002 we had plenty of water to go around, and probably still do. But here is the "fly-in-the-ointment": These statistics came before or during the least part of the ongoing drought.

In the last two years the Gila basin has not received any snowpack that is worth mentioning, so the aquifers have received far less input than back 11 years ago. There are no current data available to tell us what the level of the aquifer is at now. We certainly haven't been taking out less water; in fact, because of drier summers as well as the rest of the year, agriculture has probably had to increase its demand on the aquifer system.

What that usage amounts to is not available as far as I can ascertain. If the drought continues, in spite of summer rains, both private and public wells will have to go deeper to sustain output at an unknown cost to all.

Will the Gila Group Aquifer go dry? I doubt that, but only time and the drought will tell. One study did suggest that "if unforeseen natural occurrences come about, all of the above facts will no longer be valid." What is an "unforeseen occurrence" back then? This current drought!

By the way, virtually every climatic source that I read has predicted a long-term drought for the Southwest, and maybe we are even on the verge of a mega-drought. Only time will tell.

As one neighbor surprised me this week by stating, "I'm learning how to pray for rain!"

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



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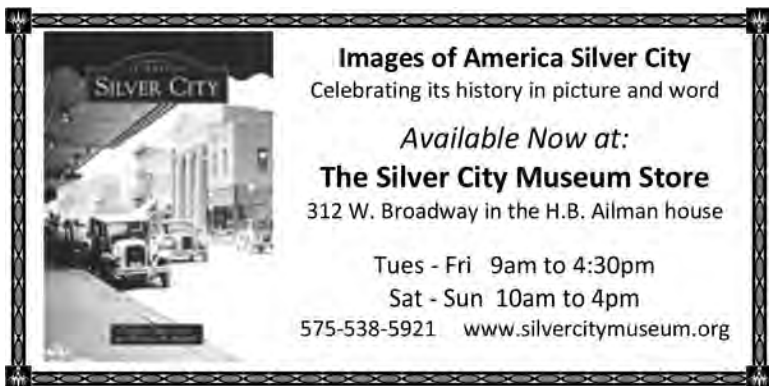
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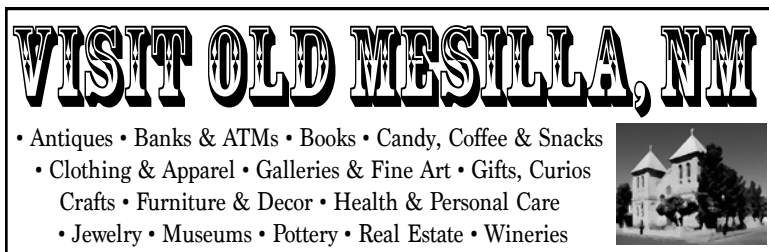
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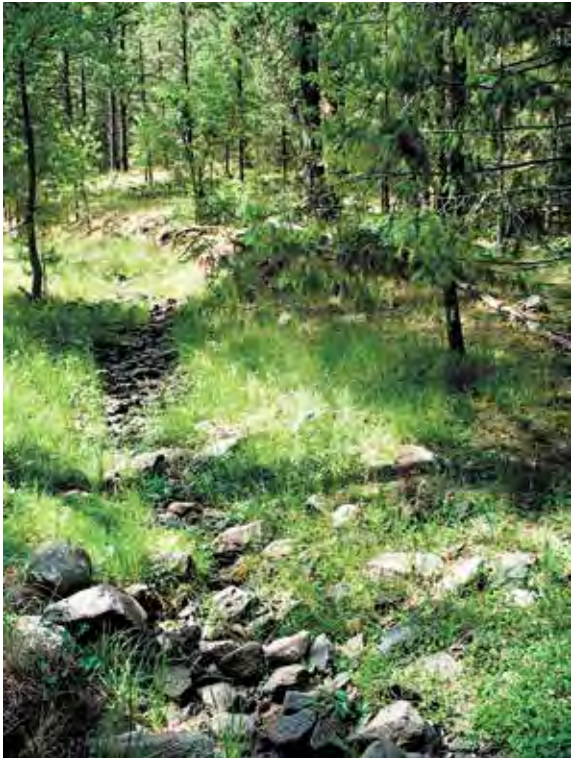
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100 HIKES • LINDA FERRARA

Made in the Shade

Exploring the area around Meadow Creek, north of Silver City.



Name: Meadow Creek

Distance: Various

Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Starting at the intersection of Hwy. 15 and 32nd Street in Silver City, drive 13.5 miles north on Hwy. 15 (aka Pinos Altos Road, aka PA Road). On your right, you will see a Forest sign saying, "Meadow Creek 3 Miles." Turn right (you will see signage stating this is "149") and drive up a well-maintained dirt road for 2.2 miles. On your right, at the bottom of the hill you just came down, you will see a small

dirt road. Pull in and park. There are several parking spots there.

Hike Description: Walk along the side dirt road for about three-tenths of a mile, where the road ends and a trail begins. This is a perfect hike for a hot summer day. It is heavily shaded with many large trees. You will enjoy identifying the wide variety of flora along this moist, cool creek. Although the path climbs a few hundred feet in altitude, it is a gentle, easy rise. Expect to see water in the creek at most times of year along with several seeps/springs. There are cattle on this land, so be careful if you're hiking with pets.

Notes: The area around Meadow Creek is interesting to explore. At some point up the main road, you will have to park and start your hike from there; the creek and boulders make it too difficult to drive over (except for those "monster trucks"—you guys just go ahead and drive on up!). Enjoy checking out the old Boy Scout camp up the road, and other trails off of the main road. If you want more information about this area, check out my blog (100hikesinayear.wordpress.com) entries in the months of June and July 2012. I spent a bunch of time writing about Meadow Creek trails (specifically, entries titled: Hike #69, 71, 73, 77, 78, 84).

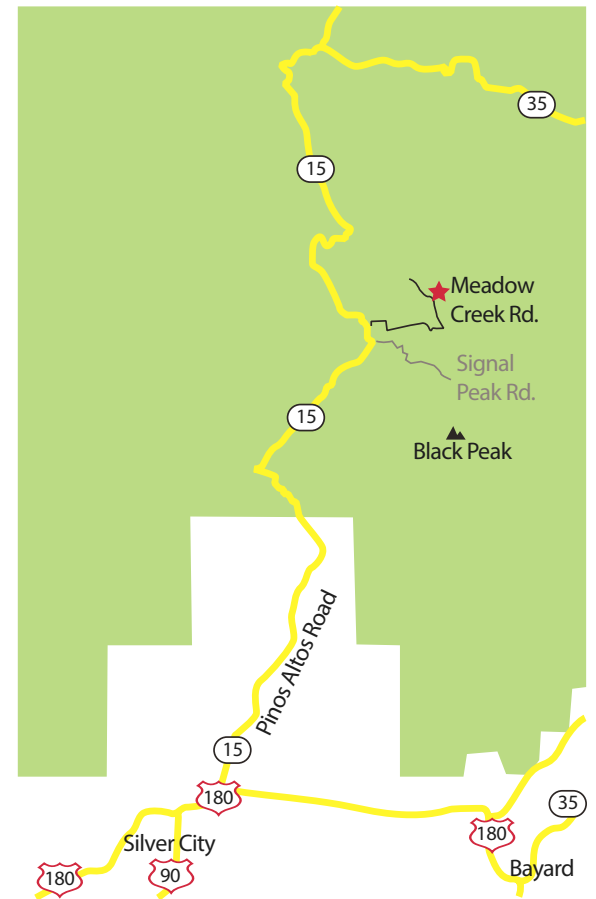


Helpful

Hint: Even though this particular hike has a water source, many local trails do not. When hiking in a desert environment, water can be very hard to find. If stuck, try digging a hole in an arroyo, place a collection container at the bottom, and place a plastic bag over the hole. Secure with rocks. Place a stone in the middle of the plastic bag. Condensation will build in the hole and collect

on the bag and drip into the container. Another option is to tie a bag around a leafy tree branch. Overnight, it may collect condensation.

May I suggest that bringing more water than you need is an even more helpful hint. As an exercise, I attempted the two suggestions above for water collection. I learned that these collected only a small amount of water and I probably expended more sweat digging the hole than I collected water. What I describe above is VERY DIFFICULT and will only produce small amounts of water. Carrying extra water is so much easier!



To read more about Linda Ferrara's 100-hike challenge, check out her blog at 100hikesinayear.wordpress.com.



Vote FOR the County Capital Outlay GRT and vote for a better quality of life.

www.ABetterGrantCounty.com

Special Election

Mail-in Ballot

August 19, 2013

Ballots will be mailed July 29 and must be returned to the Grant County Administration Building no later than August 19, 2013.

The five projects include:

1. Renovation of the Grant County Veterans' Memorial Business and Conference Center.
 - Establishes the facility as a hub for local group meetings, private functions and large conferences.
 - Will bring business travelers to town and boost the economy.
2. Renovation and expansion of the WNMU swimming pool to include a second community pool.
 - Expansion of the current pool provides for athletic competitions by the university, local schools and organizations.
 - The addition of a community pool will offer our residents another entertainment and exercise venue that can be used for laps, aerobics, youth groups and senior programs.
3. Upgrading of the baseball field at Bataan Park.
 - Provides needed improvements to the baseball field.
 - Gives future Mustangs a place to play home games.
 - Creates an opportunity for hosting area championship games.
4. Improvements to the Silver City Golf Course.
 - New cart paths and other improvements will help bring events and visitors to Grant County.
5. Building of a multiplex movie theater.
 - New entertainment option for our families.
 - Helps keep our youth and dollars in Grant County.

Projects would be funded by .25 of 1% in gross receipts tax (GRT) on purchases made by residents and visitors (excluding groceries). The amount is equal to \$1 for every \$400 spent.



Ann McMahon Photography



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ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene

The latest area art happenings.

Silver City & Grant County

The Silver City CLAY Festival, which got underway at the end of last month (see "Down to Earth Artistry," July Arts Exposure), climaxes with an area-wide explosion of activities the first weekend of August. On Thursday, August 1, daytime activities include a primitive pottery workshop, ClayPlay and the Waterworks Building labyrinth dedication at 10 a.m. Then the evening brings the Clay Gala, 6-9 p.m. at the Historic Carter House, 101 N. Cooper St. Your \$30 admission gets you hors d'oeuvres, desserts, Little Toad Creek spirits, a silent auction and the opening of the clay festival's international juried exhibition.

Friday, August 2, the festival continues with a Mimbres site tour at 9 a.m. (meet at the visitor center), lectures, demonstrations, films, an Avelino Jimenez workshop and a vendor fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at 405 N. Bullard.

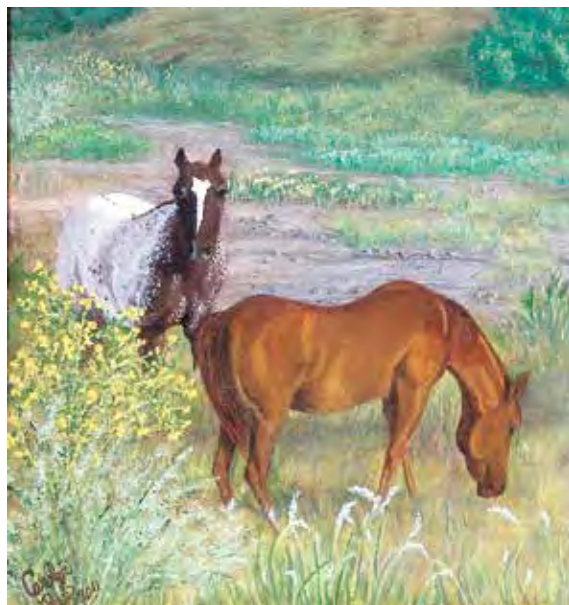
Saturday, August 3, is probably the busiest, most jam-packed day of the whole clay festival. You can enjoy lectures and a panel discussion, demonstra-



The Silver City CLAY Festival continues through August 4. (Top photo by Adrienne Booth; above photo by Dennis Weller)

tions, films, a workshop by Stephani Stephenson, and the vendor fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. A dual reception will be held for the Neo-Mimbreno exhibition, at the WNMU and Silver City Museums, 3:30-6 p.m. Then from 9-10 p.m. enjoy the Public ProJECT outdoor digital exhibition on the 400 block of Bullard Street.

Finally, Sunday, August 4, events wrap up with the vendor fair, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and an artist award brunch and presentation, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bear Mountain Lodge. For more information and a com-



Detail from an oil painting by Carolyn Paez, a member of the Grant County Art Guild who will be featured at the Art in the Barn Summer Fest at the Red Barn Steakhouse, August 10.

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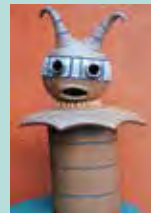
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in Historic
Downtown
Silver City



Vibrations Gallery
108 W. Yankie
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Lois Duffy Art
211C N. Texas
313-9631



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211A N. Texas
388-2646



Seedboat Gallery
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534-1136



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plete schedule, see clayfestival.com.

The **Vibrations Gallery** is now open in downtown Silver City. Owner Rebecca Martin, who is also an astrologer, features art and photography, especially of animals, as well as music. 108 W. Yankee St., 654-4384, starxr@usa.net.

Adobe-themed digital photography by Gene Daniels of Mimbres is on display at the **Bayard Public Library**. 1112 Central Ave., 537-6244.

Art & Conversation will feature a show of street photography by Colin Rhodehamel, "Frozen Moments—The Tao of Now," with an opening reception Saturday, August 3, 6-8 p.m. 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.

Copper Quail Gallery is showcasing original photography and digital images on canvas by FeVa Fotos—Sandy Feutz and Tom Vaughan—with an opening reception August 3, 2-7 p.m. 211A N. Texas, 388-2646.

Leyba & Ingalls Arts will feature works by Zoe Wolfe and a pottery-wheel demonstration by Sarah Piñeda August 3, 1-3 p.m. 315 N. Bullard, 388-5725, www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com.

In addition to events in downtown for the clay



Luanne Brooten with some of her Hwy. 180 paintings, featured at the MRAC Gallery in September.

festival, **Kate Brown** will host an open house at her Mimbres studio, August 4, 5-7 p.m. There will also be a tile-making class August 5, 9-5 p.m., and an advanced tile-making class August 6-7, 9 a.m.-about 5 p.m. 536-9935, katebrown@gilinet.com.

On Saturday, August 10, a fabric and yarn sale will be held to benefit the **Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective**, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The Common Thread, 107 Broadway.

Lois Duffy Studio will be spotlighting her new paintings of the Catwalk. 211C N. Texas, 534-0822, www.loisduffy.com.

JW Art Gallery in Hurley unveils a new show on August 10, 1-4 p.m., featuring "Teachers Who Paint and Painters That Teach," including Thomas E. Holt, Diane Cornelius, Ginna Heiden, Astara Matthews, Jane Seavers, Gerri Spiller and Thia Utz. The show

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page



"Blind Mouse" by Wanda Fuselier, at the Mesquite Art Gallery in Las Cruces.

Frozen Moments — The Tao of Now Street Photography by Colin Rhodehamel



**Opening Reception
Saturday, August 3
6-8pm**

With outdoor PowerPoint
of more of Colin's work.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

mimbres Arts COUNCIL 2013 Annual Meeting

- Check out the new food pantry at the Commons
- Music by Manda Clair Jost & Esther Jamison
- Appetizers & beverages, catered by Brenna Brown
- Unveil 2013-14 Season Brochure
- Recap an amazing year of successful events and impressive awards
- Introduce the MRAC Board of Directors and talk about our new endowment.

**Thursday, August 22, 2013
5:30 - 7:00 pm**

**The Commons Center
501 East 13th Street
(the corner of 13th and Corbin)**

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The Trishas | Carolyn Martin | The Hard Road Trio
Joe West & the Santa Fe Revue | Bootleg Prophets
Sacaton | Last Minute Bluegrass Band
Gene Booth

2013 RED DOT studio tour Silver City, New Mexico



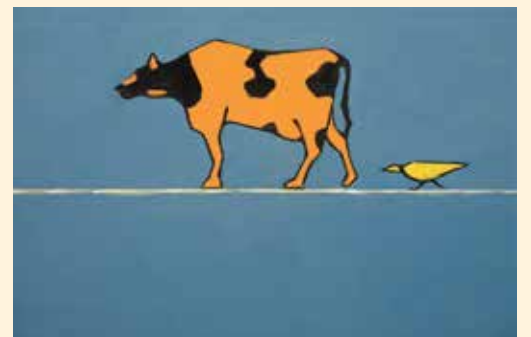
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New Mexico

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August 2-3 at The Studio Space, 109 N. Bullard Street, Silver City, NM
10:00 am-11:00 am Wallace and Gromit: Claymation Films for All Ages.
11:15 am-12:00 pm Paquimé: An Ancient Town. A Continuing Inspiration
1:15 pm-2:45 pm Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time
3:00 pm-4:15 pm Making of a Dream: The Story of Nader Khalili

YOUTH ACTIVITIES CLAYplay: Exploring Our Heritage, Ages 3rd-6th Grade.
Register: 575-538-3672; Limit 15 Participants

July 31
10-11:30 am at the Silver City Library, 2-3:30 pm at the Bayard Public Library; Making Mimbres Designs on Pots & Shards with Beth Menzcer

August 1
10-11:30 am at the Silver City Library, 2-3:30 pm at the Bayard Public Library; Sculpting in Clay: Critters Real & Imagined with Wendy Shaul

August 2
10-11:30 am at the Silver City Library, 2-3:30 pm at the Bayard Public Library; Pueblo Pottery: Traditional Pinch & Coil Methods with Pam Lujan Hauer

CLAYground: Outdoor Fun for Kids, All Ages
August 2-3
11 am-4 pm at the Yada Yada Yarn Portico, Play with clay & build a dinosaur with Jared Carpenter

DEMOS
August 2-3
8 am-5 pm Artists will offer demonstrations at the El Sol Theater front windows, located at 406 N. Bullard

July 27-August 4, 2013 • ClayFestival.com

Our Cover Artists

The Silver City CLAY Festival continues through August 4 at venues around the area, including **Blue Dome Gallery** at Bear Mountain Lodge, a selection of whose artists working in clay is featured on this issue's cover. During the festival, Blue Dome is also featuring works by Ben Owen, pictured here.



Works on this issue's cover were created by: Deb Flauntery (nativity set), Barbara Campbell (Mimbreno plates), Gay Smith (tall green vase), Cynthia Spencer (birds), Todd Shelby and Karen Pritchett (three-eared vases), Mary Fisher (covered bridge) and Cathy Jefferson (two salt-fired vases). 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road (Bear Mountain Lodge, 2251 Cottage San Road), 534-8671, www.bluedomegallery.com.

Other galleries that will be participating in the clay festival include: **Barbara Nance Gallery & Stonewalker Studio**; **Fierro Canyon Gallery**, display of clay work by Robert Wick and clay-related photos by Chris Saxman; **Lois Duffy Art**,

exhibition and reception featuring handmade tile artist Stephani Stephenson, Friday, August 2, 5:30-7 p.m.; **Molly Ramolla Gallery**, gargoyle making; **Seedboat Gallery**, Diego Valles and Carla Martinez exhibition, works by Kathryn Allen, Marcia Smith, Dave Roberts, Beth Menzcer, Kate Brown; **Wynnegate Gallery**, pottery by Chris Sowers and Cactus Fire Pottery; **The Raven's Nest**, local potters Jeff and Debbie Kuhns and clay art by Chris London; **Silver Spirit Gallery**, pottery by Bud Hinshaw, clay arts from Grant County Art Guild and San Vicente Artists. clayfestival.com. ☘

ARTS EXPOSURE continued

will be on view through Sept. 8. The gallery is also featuring a "Harry Benjamin Collectors Special," in honor of the iconic local artist who died earlier this year. Old Hurley Store, 99 Cortez Ave., 537-0300, www.jwartgallery.com.

Ann McMahon Photography will open its doors for the first time for the Silver City Red Dot Tours this fall. McMahon has been a photographer for 40 years, concentrating the past decade on developing the skills to produce fine art digital prints on canvas and paper. Since retiring in Silver City in 2010, she has developed new images for her Southwest New Mexico and Gila Wilderness Galleries, which can be seen on her website at www.AnnMcMahon.com.



Scottsdale artist Donna Levine will judge this year's Grant County Art Guild Purchase Prize Award Exhibit.

Artist Luanne Brooten will be featured in a one-woman show at **MRAC Gallery** in the Wells Fargo Bank building, opening with a reception on Sept. 3, 4-5:30 p.m., and running through Sept. 30. There will also be a reception on Sept. 26, 4-6 p.m., to celebrate Brooten's 65th birthday, and the paintings will be shown at Western Bank several months later. The show is the result of a summer project in which Brooten has been driving Hwy. 180 between Silver City and Alma, taking photos and painting watercolor landscapes all along the 70-mile stretch. The paintings will all be hung along with a slide show of the photos going to Alma and coming back to Silver City.

"I kept a journal of the whole project and my experiences while painting along Hwy. 180 and getting the show ready," says Brooten, a moving force behind San Vicente Artists' annual Gila River and New Mexico Landscape Art Show. "It will be printed with accompanying photos and available to read. There will be prints and note cards available for each painting and DVDs of the photo show."

As an outgrowth of Brooten's project, a new feature, The 180 Challenge, was added to this year's Gila River and New Mexico Landscape Juried Art Show. The annual show, in honor of the Gila River Festival in Silver City, will be Sept. 20-22 at the **Artists' Lair Gallery** on the corner of Texas and Market Street (in the former Elks building). A participating artist or photographer who wins first place with an entry from the stretch of landscape along Hwy. 180 between Silver City and Alma will earn double the prize money. Entry forms are available at Silver Spirit Gallery and Leyba and Ingalls Arts, and online at silver-

cityartists.org. Call 590-2006 with questions or for additional information.

The Red Barn Steakhouse will host the Art in the Barn Summer Fest, in conjunction with the **Grant County Art Guild**, on Saturday, August 10, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Award-winning artists, photographers and fine crafters will be showing their work, including Roz Springer, Carolyn Paez and Connie Thibeau, photographer John Catsis, glass artist Dora Klein, and scroll-saw woodwork artist John O'Brien. The Red Barn will also host a beer-tasting, giving visitors the opportunity to sample a variety of beers from local breweries and beyond. 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5666.

Meanwhile, the Grant County Art Guild is gearing up for its 28th Annual Purchase Prize Award Exhibit, which opens with an artist reception Sept. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the **Pinos Altos Art Gallery** in the historic Hearst Church. This year's theme will be "Visions of Realism" and the judge will be Donna Levine of Scottsdale, Ariz. Deadline for entry is August 5. www.gcag.org, 534-2899.

Old ways meet new to express over 400 years of Hispanic New Mexican devotional art in a new exhibit, "Our Saints Among Us: Revisited," opening Sept. 6 at the **Silver City Museum**. The exhibit will remain on view through March 2, 2014.

The exhibit is derived from the private collection of Barbe Awalt and Paul Rhett. The collection includes works in the forms of *santos*, *retablos*, *buttos*, *colcha*, tinwork and other media depicting saints and other



Nick Otero altar photo, part of "Our Saints Among Us," opening Sept. 6 at the Silver City Museum.

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traditional themes. It has been 15 years since the exhibit first traveled to museums, libraries and universities throughout the Southwest and California. Upon a recent visit to Silver City and the museum, the collectors were inspired by the town and approached the museum about an exhibit.

As guest curators, Awalt and Rhetts are working with the museum's curatorial staff in adding a new element to the exhibit with an emphasis on the role of Hispanic New Mexican art in mass-produced items. "There is no importance given to one kind of Hispanic art over another because they are all significant to the history of New Mexico and each other," they say of their collection. "Artists from Spanish Market and Contemporary Market are included as well as artists not in either market."

More than 24 known artists from throughout New Mexico will be featured, along with a special display of art by Silver City native Nick Otero, who now lives in Los Lunas. Themes of the exhibit include Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, the Christmas story, modern lithographs and monoprints, Santa Librada, crosses and jewelry. 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces & Mesilla

The **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery** will feature artists Roberta Leavelle Widner and Majorie Houston this month. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com

The Las Cruces Arts Association Summer Show at the **Mountain Gallery** introduces three new members: Wendy Baldwin, ceramics; Monique Har-



Unsettled Gallery features works by Jill Somoza, opening August 4.

ri-son, oil and watercolor; and Tomi LaPierre, sculpture. The show will be featured during the August 2 Ramble, 4-7 p.m. 138 W. Mountain, 652-3485, www.lascrucesarts.org.

Also on August 2, 5-8 p.m., **Creative Harmony Gallery and Gifts** will host an evening with the artist featuring acrylics painter Linda Rude. 220 N. Campo St., 312-3040.

Jill Somoza and Mary Robertson are the featured artists in the exhibit that opens the **Unsettled Gal-**

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page

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you make of what you remember
may have happened."*

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ARTS EXPOSURE continued

lery's fall season with an artists' reception on Saturday, August 3, from 4-6 p.m. Somoza studied art at the Art Institute of Chicago, University of Texas at El Paso, University of Iowa and New Mexico State University. She paints on vinyl, because of the manner in which the material's translucency allows her gestural marks to interact with light and form shadows on the wall. The vinyl is stretched over a wood framework formed into a multiplicity of angles and curves.

Robertson will show small watercolors created in a bright palette with bold contrast. Her compositions, abstract in style, are aerial landscapes. Robertson recently relocated to Las Cruces from Albuquerque. 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285, u@unsettledgallery.com, www.unsettledgallery.com.

Mesquite Art Gallery will present "Local Ladies" during the month of August, with a reception on Saturday, August 3, 4-6 p.m. Featured artists include Joyce Macrorie (etchings), Margaret Bernstein (paintings), Mildred Grossman (lithographs and acrylics), Lois Smith (watercolor) and Wanda Fuselier (recycled art). 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502.

The **Tombaugh Gallery** will present "The Journey," works by Dennis Lujan, August 4 through Sept. 27, with an opening reception August 4, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Refreshments will feature tamales and baklava made from scratch by the artist, creating "a connection between cultural, art and epicurean worlds." The artworks, which can be hung in any direction, employ "basic primary colors that intermix and collide with each other, combining geometric shapes and textures. Squares and circles intertwine in an imperfect chaos. The art is random and brightly colored with splashes of primary colors of red, blue, yellow plus white. In between periods of oil painting, graphite drawing and digital graphic design work, there was a point of the free act of tossing



Works by new member Wendy Baldwin are part of the Las Cruces Arts Association show at the Mountain Gallery.

stuff on a canvas and just painting inside the object or around it." Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281.

On August 16, the **New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum** opens a show, "The Chihuahuan Desert Garden," featuring 35 works by members of the Southern Chapter of the New Mexico Watercolor Society. The show in the museum's Arts Corridor runs through Dec. 1. A reception is scheduled for Sept. 19, 6-8 p.m. 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.



Roberta Leavelle Widner is one of this month's featured artists at the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery.

category and will be exhibited during the show. The "ORIENTAL EXPRESSIONS Challenge" was exhibited in Las Cruces at the Bank of the West during Love of Art month in February.

Las Colcheras Quilt Guild meets the second Monday of each month at Trinity Lutheran Church, usually at 7 p.m., with an occasional daytime meeting. 521-0521.

The **Calavera Coalition** is looking for artists to submit original artwork for the 2013 Dia de los Muertos on the Mesilla Plaza official T-shirt and poster design. Artists of all ages and regions are eligible. Deadline to receive submissions is August 27. For details, email calaveracoalition@q.com or write PO Box 1308, Mesilla, NM 88046.



"The Grand Finale," a quilt by Anita Himes, is a contender in the 2013 AQS Quilt Week Contest in Grand Rapids, Mich., August 14-17.

casing southern New Mexico and west Texas artists with a reception on Sunday, August 4, 1-3 p.m., at the Deming Art Center. 100 S. Gold St.

The **Deming Arts Council** is calling for artists for group or solo 2014 shows, including paintings, sculptures, pottery, jewelry and fine crafts and textiles. Contact the arts council by mail before Dec. 4. More information is available at from Diana LeMarbe at 546-7708.

Sierra County
 Continuing through Sept. 30 at the **Hillsboro Historical Society Education Center** is the traveling photographic exhibit, "New Deal Public Art of New Mexico." The center is located on Main Street, across from the Post Office. 895-3324.

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

ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

Silver City

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

ART + CONVERSATION, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sundays 12 a.m.-6 p.m. Gallery and gathering space. www.artandconversation.com.

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.

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.

CLAYMOON STUDIO, 13 Jade Dr., 313-6959. Marcia Smith. By appointment.

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.

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

GALLERY 400, Gila House, 400 N. Arizona, 313-7015. Tues.-Sat., 1-6 p.m. www.gilahouse.com.

HOWELL DESIGN & GALLERY, 200 W. Market St., 388.2993. www.anthony-howell.com.

JEFF KUHN'S POTTERY, 3029 Pinos Altos Road, 534-9389. By appointment.

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, Gordee Headlee, Diana Ingalls Leyba, Dayna Griego, Constance Knuppel, Mary Alice Murphy, Phillip Parotti, Betsy Resnick, Teri Matelson, Joe Theiman, Zoe Wolfe, Melanie Zipin. www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com, LeybalngallsART@zianet.com.

LOIS DE LONG STUDIO, 2309 Paul Place, 388-4759. By appointment.

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.

LOYD STUDIOS, 306 W. Broadway, (303) 378-0926. Weds-Sat. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 12-5 p.m. lloydstudios.com.

MARY'S FINE ART, 414 E. 21st St., 956-7315. Mary A. Gravelle.

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

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

OFF BEAD GALLERY, 701 N. Bullard, 388-8973. Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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. Mon., Thurs.-Sat. 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tues.-Weds. by appointment. info@seedboatgallery.com.

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

STONEWALKER STUDIO, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Barbara Jorgen Nance.

STUDIO BEHIND THE MOUNTAIN, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388-3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.

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

STUDIO UPSTAIRS, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.

SUSAN SZAJER STUDIO, Sanctuary Road, 313-7197 By appointment.

TATIANA MARIA GALLERY, 305 & 307 N. Bullard St., 388-4426.

TOP HAT ART, 115 N. Bayard.

21 LATIGO TRAIL, 388-4557. Works by Barbara Harrison and others.

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.

WYNEGATE 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.

Tyrone

MOONSTRUCK ART STUDIO, 501 Covellite Dr., 956-5346, 654-5316. By appointment.

SUN DAWG STUDIO, 501 Malachite Ave., 388-3551. By appointment.

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

CHAMOMIE CONNECTION, 3918 Highway 35N, 536-9845. Lynnae McConaha. By appointment.

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@gilnet.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.

REESE-BENTON ARTS, 3811 Hwy. 35, 536-9487. By appointment.

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KATHRYN ALLEN CLAY STUDIO, 601 Erie St., 537-3332. By appointment.

T. ALI STUDIO, 421 E. Elm St., 537-3470. By appointment.

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

LA GARITA, 13 Humboldt, 537-6624. By appointment.

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.

Northern Grant County & Catron County

ANNIE'S ON THE CORNER, Hwy. 180 and Adair, Luna, 547-2502.

CASITAS DE GILA, 50 Casita Flats Road, Gila, 535-4455. Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. or by appointment. gallery@casitasdegila.com, www.galleryat-thecasitas.com.

WILLOW GALLERY, Hwy. 15, Gila Hot Springs, 536-3021. By appointment.

Mesilla

ADOBE 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. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sun. 12-5:30 p.m.

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

ROKOKO, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

Las Cruces

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

AZURE CHERRY GALLERY & BOUTIQUE, 330 E. Lohman Ave., 291-3595. Wed.-Thurs. 12-5 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 12-8 p.m.

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

CHARLES INC., 1885 W Boutz Rd, 523-1888, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

COTTONWOOD GALLERY, 275 N. Downtown Mall (Southwest Environmental Center), 522-5552. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

CREATIVE HARMONY, 220 N. Campo St., 312-3040. Weds.-Sun. 12-5 p.m.

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

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

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GALERIE CRAMOISIE, 1695 Hickory Loop, 524-9349. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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J.T. MACRORE STUDIO, 639 S. San Pedro, 524-1006.

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.

LUNDEEN INN OF THE ARTS, 618 S. Alameda Blvd., 526-3326. Daily 8 a.m.-6 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.

M. PHILLIP'S FINE ART GALLERY, 221 N. Main St., 525-1367.

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

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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.

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STUDIO 309, 309 E. Organ Ave., 649-3781. By appointment.

STUDIO 909, 909 Raleigh Road, 541-8648. By appointment.

TERRA MONTANA GALLERY, 535 N. Main St., 635-2891. Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

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

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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.

KING'S KORNER, 103 E. Ash, 546-4441.

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

STUDIO LEMARBE, 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708.

Rodeo

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

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LEARNING • MATTIE EAGLE

The Next Plane of Development

At last owning its school property, Guadalupe Montessori in Silver City looks to a future as bright as that it offers students.



Guadalupe Montessori School recently purchased its long-time home from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kan.

I arrive for my visit to Guadalupe Montessori School on foot and take the long way around, strolling through a lush garden full of mature greens, flowers, herbs and juvenile fruit trees. A small group of young children gathers around a flower bed labeled “pollinators,” observing and making a bouquet for their classroom. Walking through the front door, I immediately notice the soft charm of the older building—wood trim, natural light, a large potted plant in the corner. Lunch is baking—my mouth waters a little at the scent of bacon-cheese quiche browning in the oven. Office Manager Annie Duffy warmly welcomes me and informs me that the quiche will be served with salad, fruit and fresh bread—part of the rotating menu of healthy, mostly organic meals prepared from scratch each day at the Silver City school.

Duffy directs me into one of two Primary (ages three to six) classrooms. I am immediately struck by the calm, focused atmosphere in the room. The room is spacious with large windows, bordered by low shelves, decorated with plants and pictures, and furnished with small tables and chairs. One boy sits at a table by himself, so engrossed in painting with watercolors that he doesn't notice me watching. Two older girls are cooperatively tracing and drawing a map of the world from a map puzzle with pieces shaped like each continent and the oceans.

Another girl approaches the teacher, Samantha Friedman, asking for help with the “number rods.” Friedman helps the student lay a mat on the floor and carry rods of different lengths, each with a different number of alternating red and blue sections, one at a time onto the mat. Together, they lay the rods next to one another, starting with the “10” rod (five blue sections and five red sections), and aligning them so the child can see how the length and quantity of red and blue sections decrease down to the “one” rod.

Friedman explains to me that this activity demonstrates some of the underlying tenets of Montessori philosophy: that the brain develops by directing the hand to do something meaningful, and by using the

senses. Instead of counting aloud to 10, or counting 10 objects, the child manipulates these rods to learn “10” in a deeply sensory and experiential way—visually, tactilely and spatially. Even more interesting, as the child explores the rods and their relationship to one another, she develops important executive functions in her brain such as self-direction, creativity and problem-solving.

Total commitment to “pure” Montessori philosophy as evidenced by this precise use of the number rods is unusual. Many schools are “inspired” by the pedagogy developed by Dr. Maria Montessori in the early 1900s. But Guadalupe Montessori School (GMS) is recognized by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), an international organization founded to protect the integrity of Montessori's methods, meaning GMS passes regular program audits based on strict international standards.

It is May when I visit GMS, near the end of the 2012-2013 school year. The following day, May 21, officers of the GMS Board of Directors will sign closing documents to purchase the portion of St. Mary's where the school has been located since 1989. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kan., have owned the St. Mary's property in Silver City for more than 80 years. Marcia Allen, president of the Sisters community, tells me later that the Sisters were very glad when GMS approached them about buying, as the school is true to the purpose and spirit of the property: “We are proud to have them there; we couldn't ask for better neighbors.” St. Mary's has a rich history of use for education



Anabella Lopez works with number rods in a Primary class.

and community outreach: Some Silver City residents attended a Catholic school in the buildings now occupied by Guadalupe Montessori, and other buildings on the grounds once housed El Refugio shelter for women and children and served as offices for Life Quest's Early Childhood Intervention Program.

I move from the classroom into the warm, cave-like office in the center of the school's circular layout, to ask school director Ellen Gore about the purchase and its impact on the school. She lights up and emphasizes to me how owning the building and grounds gives the school ownership, empowerment and increased visibility within the community. “The Sisters have been very generous to the school all along, but they have wanted to sell this property for over 15 years,” she explains. “Our lease was on a 30-day notice agreement. This really is the perfect building for us, so it makes sense for us to take greater ownership.”

I can see why the school is excited to acquire the property. They have obviously invested a lot in building playgrounds, developing a beautiful one-third-acre garden, and improving the buildings and grounds.

Gore goes on, “Actually there was a Sister who was part of the Catholic school, Sister Neria, who had a vision for a Montessori school here long ago. And Kathy Dahl-Bredine had her eye on the building for quite a while when she was looking for a place to start the school, so I think it is very sweet that their dreams came together even after Sister Neria was gone. I see our ownership of the site as a fulfillment of these vi-



Phil and Kathy Dahl-Bredine with their son and GMS graduate Dominic, his wife Shivani, and their son, Taven Sky, who begins in the GMS toddler program in August.

sions. It really symbolizes the fact that we are a long-lived part of the community that is here to stay.”

I was lucky enough to meet with Kathy Dahl-Bredine, the founder of Guadalupe Montessori, who currently lives in Oaxaca, Mexico, doing rural service projects. Now in her early 70s, Dahl-Bredine's face reflects her years of service work and time in the New Mexican and Mexican sun, warmly crinkling into a smile as she remembers the beginnings of GMS and its circular relationship with the St. Mary's property. Kathy and Phil Dahl-Bredine moved their family to Silver City from Wisconsin in 1979, and she had the goal of opening a Montessori school here (her third, as it turns out).

The Sisters at St. Mary's were supportive of the idea, and gave her one room of their Catholic elementary school, which was still operating on the property at the time. The original class of 10 children, including two of the Dahl-Bredines' own children, grew quickly. The fledgling school soon moved to a space at St. Vincent's, then to the current location of Agape school, and then, in 1989, GMS was invited to move back to St. Mary's, as the Catholic school had closed and other uses of the building had ceased.

Kathy Dahl-Bredine smiles as she remembers Sister Neria and her wish for St. Mary's to be a Montessori school. “I always look back at that time; it had to have been the prayers of Sister Neria, along with everyone's hard work, that made it happen,” she says with a laugh. A dedicated group of teachers, staff and parents worked hard through that summer making major renovations to the school. Dahl-Bredine fondly remembers Jesse Franklin-Owens, a longtime teacher and now father and grandfather of Montessori students, quipping, “It's not too many teachers who have to build their own school and then teach.”

Throughout these transitions, GMS has always met AMI standards and facilitated the training of many teachers over the years. Dahl-Bredine explains that maintaining the high quality of true Montessori education was integral to the vision of the school, alongside two other main priorities: that the school be available to people of lower incomes, and that it promote education for peace. “It is not an elitist school,” she maintains.

Maria Montessori believed that each generation of children would move society to change in ways that would lead toward a world of peace. Dahl-Bredine is pleased to see the continuation and growth of the school, and looks forward to her grandchildren attending. She notes the uniqueness of an AMI-accredited school that serves the age range of toddlers through older elementary, as many Montessori schools now focus only on the Primary program: “A school like this in a town this size is unheard of,” she concludes. “I don't think it exists anywhere else in the country.”

In addition to this rich and perhaps predestined link between the school and the property, there are other, more practical, reasons GMS administrators are happy to own the school grounds. They no longer need approval from the owners to make decisions about the use of the property, and they look forward to the opportunity to open the space to collaborations with other community non-profit organizations. They also look forward to increased opportunities for funding, both to improve the buildings and for program grants.

“It is surprising; sometimes a funder will look at the application and see we are leasing, and they won't want to move any further,” explains business director Heather Castello. “Ownership implies permanence and commitment, which we obviously have since we



GMS Board of Directors Vice-President Josh White, Treasurer Kathryn Sanderson, and President Nancy Stephens sign closing documents for the property purchase at Grant County Title.

have been operating for 34 years! I really hope we can secure more funding, because these buildings do need quite a bit of work." The board of directors and the school directors are currently working on a list of necessary improvements for integration into their overall fundraising and outreach plan.

The school's long history in the Silver City community is nearly matched by the long GMS histories of a few staff members and families. Gore has been working at the school since 1997. "During my training in Phoenix, I agreed to write an article for AMI about the unique qualities of GMS, and the minute I saw the pure Montessori focus and the community focus, I knew I had to be here," she explains. Two weeks later, a teacher left the school, and Gore was hired and moved to Silver City. She taught Primary (ages three to six) for 10 years, and Younger Elementary (ages six to nine) for four years, before becoming Education Director in 2011. Bob Anderson is still teaching Elementary at the school after 23 years. Both of his children are GMS graduates, and his two grandsons now attend the school.

The "pure Montessori focus" that keeps these educators attached to GMS originated with Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician turned educator. From her earliest studies in pediatrics and psychiatry in 1894 until her death in 1952, Montessori's focus remained human development, and brain development in particular, as it applied to education. She developed her educational theory and her signature materials while in charge of the medical care of a group of "uneducable" children from asylums, orphanages and hospitals in Italy. The children achieved educational standards equal to those of mainstreamed students. True to her scientific background, Montessori's theory developed from observing children and their behavior. She solidified her observations into a plan that could be applied universally, and began developing Montessori schools around the world.

Montessori identified four "planes of development," each six years long, that humans pass through from birth to age 24. In contrast to traditional assumptions of a linear path of increasing knowledge, year by year, Montessori asserted that each "plane" included a period of rapid, intense development followed by a period of mastery during which development tapers off and the brain ramps up for the next period of intensity. According to author Paula Polk Lillard, Montessori education capitalizes on these periods, and the basic human tendencies toward exploration, abstraction, manipulation, repetition and order, which lead into the desire for precision, control of error, perfection and communication.

A "pure" Montessori education executes the three elements of Montessori's plan: a prepared environment of simplicity, beauty and order, including specially designed materials for learning; a prepared adult trained in the Montessori theory who presents materials to children as appropriate for their development; and freedom with responsibility, training children in the art of control of self and self-discipline. When executed properly, this educational plan leads to confident, independent children committed to learning for their internal joy and satisfaction, rather than for exterior goals of testing and grading. The method works—a 2006 article published in *Science* magazine found that Montessori students had more developed social skills, were keenly aware of issues relating to justice, wrote more complex and creative essays, and performed as well as children in traditional school in reading and math.



Ryan Lobik paints in a GMS Primary class.



Two GMS students work together on reproducing a map of the world.

As Guadalupe Montessori moves forward in its fourth decade of operations, it does face challenges to its pure focus. As with any non-profit organization, finances are always an issue, and the property purchase is an additional stress on the budget.

But board vice-president Josh White says, "We are in a beautiful part of a poor state with many of the problems that poverty implies, and having a school that really teaches children to find themselves and their interests, and to think independently is very unique."

Even though the tuition at Guadalupe Montessori is only a third of the average cost for Montessori schools in urban areas, it can still be difficult for families here to pay. According to the Census Bureau's information collected on 2011 spending, public schools in New Mexico spend around \$9,000 per pupil per year; GMS educates students on less than 60% of that amount. As a result of lower tuition, salaries are also lower than at schools in urban areas, which makes teacher retention another challenge.

"We have high hopes for our current Primary and Elementary staff, as they seem very committed to the school, and are integrating well into the community," says Nancy Stephens, board president. "I really hope the school can increasingly act as a draw for people moving here, and spark the interest of longtime residents who are just learning about the school."

Three main goals for fundraising include establishing a \$250,000 endowment, paying off the mortgage in conjunction with the property purchase, and developing a scholarship fund to pay full tuition for five students per year. Cathryn Wallace, a local attorney and GMS board member who has experience in planned giving, wants to engage members of the community: "I hope people consider their support of the school to be an investment: an investment in our children today and in our community now and in the future."

Real-estate broker and GMS parent Blake Farley, who facilitated the school's recent property purchase, returned her entire commission from the sale to GMS. Manzanita Ridge furniture store will donate 10% of sales for August 30-31 to the school.

"We also have a couple of ideas for larger community events that could both raise visibility and raise funds for the school," adds Kathryn Sanderson, who has been a board member for six years. "With the added responsibility of being property owners, we are renewing our efforts toward fundraising, and developing a clear plan for the future. I hope that with over 30 years of experience, and now our permanent location, that people will see this as a great thing to support."

As my visit to GMS comes to an end, I walk out of the school building and into a cacophony of laughter and shrieks of delight. It is outdoor play time on the playground, and the students from the Primary class chase one another, take turns on the swings, and dig for treasure in the sand. I have found one of Silver City's treasures in this sweet, unique school, with its rich history and hopeful future. ❀

Guadalupe Montessori is located at 1731 N. Alabama St. in Silver City, (575) 388-3343. For more information, see www.guadalupe-montessori.org.

Former Desert Exposure calendar editor and local business owner Mattie Eagle recently joined the Guadalupe Montessori board.

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OUT AND ABOUT • KAREN RAY

Lost and Found

When area hikers and others go astray, Mesilla Valley Search and Rescue and the Civil Air Patrol come to the rescue.



President Vic Villalobos (driving) and MVSAR members in an ATV.

None sets out on a hike intending to get lost. Nevertheless, sometimes they do and there are many groups of capable, concerned citizens out there on standby to help find them. Search and rescue groups come in all shapes and sizes, from canine search specialists and ATV crews to search planes and water recovery teams.

Search and Rescue organizations (SAR) and their volunteer resources fit under the direction of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, specifically the state police. There are over 40 such organizations in New Mexico and surrounding states. Mesilla Valley SAR, founded in 1996, and Civil Air Patrol (CAP) are

two Doña Ana County groups that have participated in many search efforts over the years.

Mesilla Valley Search and Rescue (MVSAR) often works with other rescue organizations when on assignment. It can be called out on missions anywhere in the

state, depending on the need to expand the circle of searchers. Vic Villalobos, president of the group, says it is up to the State Police Field Coordinator which teams to pull onto a mission. Villalobos gets the initial call for MVSAR and then determines which resources will get a call-out. "I then call our individual team leaders... depending on the resource they (state police) have requested... and we try to deploy within one hour. Once you get used to it it's not bad because you have all your gear set aside and everything ready to go."

Villalobos adds, "I've had people ask, 'Why do you do it?' and I ask them, 'Why don't you?'" He first became interested in search and rescue while serving in

MVSAR members take to the water.



the Coast Guard, and has been involved with MVSAR since 1997. His day job is general sales manager of *American Classifieds* and producer of the *Dog 'Crucies* magazine and website ("Pet Project," April 2009).

The MVSAR team has at its disposal law enforcement, trackers, jeeps and ATVs, as well as the only canine team in southern New Mexico. "What makes our team fairly unique is that we can do a little bit of everything," Villalobos says. On average, they participate in 12-15 missions per year. "We'll go through spells where we don't have a search for three months"—then they'll get several in a row. In the fall it is primarily hunters and the summer usually involves swimmers who need rescuing.

There are 35 people on the MVSAR team, which consists of four specialized teams working together: the ground team, which does hiking and tracking; the canine team, which does air scenting and human remains detection; the ATV team; and the communications team, which mans a big base camp trailer with its own communications equipment. Part of the communications team's job, Villalobos says, is "to ensure that the searchers can communicate with the Incident Command staff at all times.... They are often positioned in various locations throughout the search area in order to serve as relays between teams in the field and Incident Command."

Aaron Goodman, ATV team leader, says, "Our team has run well over 200 missions. A very large percentage of those have been to find and rescue people who were just going for a short hike, oftentimes on an easy, very common and seemingly well-defined trail. It's true that people hike all the time with very little preparation and have no problems. It's also true that people get hurt and/or lost, more often than you'd think."

Which leads me to a bit of personal transparency: I too have been lost. I didn't need help getting found, but let me show you just how easy it is for even experienced hikers to become temporarily misplaced.

I had been exploring an eerily beautiful trail in the Gila, hiking in a drizzling summer rain. Passing through a lush water meadow that bore the imprints of elk who had bedded down there during the night, the trail meandered into an area overgrown with willows. The ground became spongy, the smell of leaf mold intense, as mist settled into a light ground fog. Ducking under a low-hanging branch, my hiking partner and I stared at the cliff face 15 feet in front of us. Abundant ferns grew from the rock face and shivered in the drops of water condensing on them in the humidity. A bird trilled somewhere up the tiny stream. Walking a few steps farther revealed a clear, warm waterfall, running down between ferns and mats of vegetation. A warm spring had turned this small plot of ground into a paradise, vibrant with every color of green.

After exploring what looked like a tiny piece of New Zealand, not New Mexico, I was ready to head back to camp for some hot tea and a good read. My hiking partner wanted to explore more. Parting ways, I started back. Several wildlife trails wound through the undergrowth and I looked carefully to find the one we had taken from the river. Finally, I found it and walked along, still daydreaming about this exceptional ecosystem tucked into the desert—only to realize my surroundings didn't look familiar. So I turned around and backtracked.

At this point I proceeded down a path of self-pity. I couldn't find the path back to where I was and had to find a new way forward. Then, laughing at myself, I began thinking metaphysical thoughts about my dilemma. I looked for the landmark water meadow but couldn't



Vic Villalobos and Ruby after a long night searching.

find it. Coming up out of a dry creek channel, I came upon the largest cottonwood tree I have ever seen: a dead giant that would take four people to encircle its base. It had thrived in this semi-tropical niche, probably tapping into the warm geothermal springs that feed this whole section of the valley. I knew we didn't go by this before and I was almost glad I'd gotten turned around, just for the chance to see this old beauty.

Not laughing anymore, I knew it was no more than a quarter-mile to the river. I knew this but had become disoriented in the extremely dense undergrowth. I headed back to the cliff face and hollered at it for a few minutes, knowing I couldn't be heard because of all the running water and the sound-dampening wet ground. Resentful that I'd been taken at my word that I knew the trail and didn't need help, I gave up yelling, felt foolish, got mad, and determined to find my way back, in that order.

I knew I was within 200 yards of the river, so I put the big cottonwood behind me and headed across the valley. The river lay between one cliff at my back and another one I could just see over the treetops. This time I looked at the landmarks better, paying closer attention. *This is a good life lesson*, I thought. I stayed calm by rehearsing the cautionary tale I would tell at the campfire later. My half-grown children would laugh and shake their heads as I admit

with chagrin that I didn't know all that and have learned the error of my ways.

Dissecting this experience in hindsight, I can see many places where I did the wrong thing, with the best of intentions. There were also several things I did right, such as having food, water and extra clothing with me, but I will never forget the feeling of realizing I didn't know how to get back. I thought I

was capable; after all, I'd been hiking for years and had been on the main trail several times.

Indeed, says Kurt Anderson with Grant County SAR ("Hot on the Trail," June 2008), "Most victims are folks who knew what they were doing... but they hit a patch of bad luck or got injured."

The account of an actual MVSAR rescue this spring makes me feel a little better about getting lost—at least I didn't require extraction or encounter mountain lions. The call was about a fallen hiker in the Organ Mountains. The 60-year old hiker had a phone and had been able to call for help. The MVSAR team got out to the base camp at the Dripping Springs visitor center about 9:30 p.m. About 15 people participated in the search, during which they saw three mountain lions, plus snakes.



MVSAR volunteers in rough country.



Trixie during a K-9 training session.

"I made the decision to not take canines because of the mountain lions," Villalobos says, though dogs were brought in once it was daylight.

The SAR teams continued the search overnight. As the support helicopters lit up the mountainside with searchlights, the team discovered a surprising number of deer bedded down on the slopes—lots of food for mountain lions. The search had a happy ending: The hiker was found about 9 the next morning, some distance away from where his predicted trajectory should have put him, and airlifted out to safety.

At MVSAR's monthly meeting, the team spends some time debriefing that mission. They discuss what worked and what to correct so the searchers stay safe, too, even though they're focused on the mission. One team member points out, "It's interesting how quickly you can get in a bad situation up there (in the Organs)." Another comments dryly, "Mountain lions stink. They smell really bad."

There is much good-natured, relieved joking as Villalobos relates encountering one of the lions as he was three-quarters of the way to the top of Fillmore Falls: "I got within 20 feet of facing a lion. He was right on me."

The MVSAR ground team, key to that mission, is used for all search activities and its responsibilities are varied. The team trains in skills such as GPS orienteering, map and compass use, wilderness survival and hiking skills, as well as radio communications and first aid/CPR.

Use of ATVs, or "quads," is gaining popularity in search and rescue work, according to MVSAR: "A small team on ATVs can cover a great deal of terrain quickly, shuttle personnel to and from search areas, and provide support to our ground and dog teams. As with searchers on horseback, an ATV rider can stand while riding to gain a higher view of the search area. The unique vantage point of an ATV rider can be used



ATVs can rescue people in place other vehicles can't reach.

to take in broad vistas to quickly assess a large area, or can be exploited to study the ground for possible signs of tracks."

The canine team is also a strong component of the MVSAR work: "Dogs are used in search and rescue because of their superior sense of smell, which is thousands or millions of times more sensitive than that of human beings. Dogs also can maneuver across rugged terrain more efficiently than humans can; they make excellent partners for search and rescue." Some of the team's dogs are trained in air scenting, while others focus on trailing and picking up the scent from the ground, both techniques requiring hundreds of hours of training.

MVSAR team members come from all ages and walks of life and have different reasons for being involved with the group. One couple joined out of a desire to work with their dogs and help people. A local geology student participates to "learn more about the country and how to keep from being rescued." Members are required to have appropriate gear by the state, but there are no dues or fees associated with the group. Folks who are active outdoors anyway will likely already have most or all of the needed gear.

While there is a lot of good humor and joking, this is a finely honed team. One thing they have in common is a desire to help and a great ability to follow directions while working together.

SEARCH AND RESCUE continued on next page

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SEARCH AND RESCUE continued

Phyllis Wright, a tracking and training specialist, provides a short training session on lost person behavior at MVSAR's monthly meetings. She was trained by the same person who trains the Border Patrol in tracking. This night the topic is "Lost Person Behavior: Dementia (Alzheimer's)." She offers practical guidance on how to find a demented person, statistics on where subjects are usually found, and tips on approaching the person correctly. She recommends a book by Robert J. Koester, *Lost Person Behavior*.

Emphasizing the importance of map and compass work, Wright says, "These are just absolutely critical skills to have."

Aaron Goodman adds, "You see what you train to see, what you expect to see.... You're trying to construct some sort of story, trying to piece together a scenario." He cautions that sometimes subjects do not fit a profile and behave in unexpected ways, so you have to think outside the box and brainstorm possibilities.

The most challenging terrain the team has faced was when six of them deployed to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. "We were not in any way used to that situation," Villalobos says. As they were skirting Lake Pontchartrain on their second day, he remembers, "We were at I-10 where it goes in the water and I see a dog swimming toward us; he looks exhausted, he's covered with oil." The dog collapsed in front of them so they took him along, trying to find a home for him or reconnect him with his owner along the way. "We couldn't find anybody that would take him so we brought him home and called him Buddy."

While caring for "Buddy," they took him around to schools and he became a little celebrity. Villalobos continued to actively search for the dog's family, finally finding them after eight or nine months. They drove the dog, whose real name was Theo, over to reunite with his relieved owner, who had been out of town during the hurricane.

Villalobos, also a member of the canine team, says his most memorable mission involved Zoe, a golden retriever SAR dog who has since passed away. She was the one who found a lost autistic boy over in the Alamogordo area: "She made a beeline for an area searchers had originally dismissed as inaccessible due to a fence. I jumped the fence and here comes that little boy out of a culvert. He was super excited." Another unforgettable recent mission was finding a woman over in the Gila with her cat by her side.

His current dog, Ruby, is a five-year-old golden retriever. "She's good at it, she enjoys her work."

Villalobos adds, "The dog team is probably the most popular.... They get the most attention. Out of all the teams you can be on, the canine takes the absolute most work. We meet every Sunday for four hours. It takes a year to a year and a half to train a dog."

"Not all dogs raise their paws to say I want to be a SAR dog," says another canine team member.

When it comes to training, Villalobos—whose wife, Shannon Murray, is training another dog, Star, in search and rescue—praises Steve Stochaj, owner of Striking the Wonder Dog, of NMSU fame: "He is an exceptional trainer; he's probably one of the best trainers I've ever known." Nancy Chanover, Stochaj's wife, is the dog team leader for MVSAR.

When rescues require an even greater range than dogs and ATVs can search, the Civil Air Patrol is called in. CAP was established nationally in 1941. Among its primary functions is search and rescue for lost hikers, downed aircraft and others needing aircraft spotters. CAP cadets are



CAP cadets Edmond Avilos and Hannah Fish train in a hangar with Lt. Col. Michael LeGendre (right).

trained and certified in first aid and CPR, map competency, radio communication and proper search and rescue procedures. About 15 cadets are currently involved with the local CAP squadron.

Alan Fisher, a retired Air Force captain, is the organization's air operations branch director, in charge of directing and coordinating air assets. He says, "SAR is very rewarding and very motivating."

Explaining how to use an aeronautical map of the state, he mans the radio as a compact Cessna 182 plane loads up with three team members and takes off for a joint training exercise between Arizona and New Mexico CAPs. The purpose of this operation is to work on disaster relief skills with other groups. CAP participates in "red cap," real missions, about every three to four months.

One of Fisher's more memorable assignments occurred a couple of years ago while he was flying a search and rescue mission looking for a man and his son who had been caught in a snowstorm in the Gila. CAP was

working in cooperation with a Border Patrol helicopter and searching with a plane. Fisher was also involved as a team coordinator in the recent case of the missing runner, Micah True.

"We use technology as much as we can," Fisher says, "implementing a camera with a built-in satellite location to aid ground searchers."



Lt. Brooks Hindes (left) and Major Robert Macklin outside a CAP mobile operations center.

"Many people think they could never

be of use in search and rescue," MVSAR's Aaron Goodman acknowledges, "because they aren't the 'strong, courageous type,' but everybody can make a difference. If your interest is hiking, training your dog to be a search dog, riding ATVs or driving 4x4s, tracking lost people or overseeing radio communications, we have a place for you. If you can walk a city street to look for a missing child, make a phone call at 2 a.m. or make a platter of sandwiches at a base camp, we need you.

"You can make a difference. You can help save a life."

Karen Ray is a Las Cruces-based writer and personal historian. She can be reached at karen@rememberingthetime.net.

Resources:

- Mesilla Valley Search and Rescue, www.mvsar.org
- Grant County Search and Rescue, www.gcsar-nm.org
- Civil Air Patrol, www.gocivilairpatrol.com
- New Mexico Emergency Services Council, www.nmesc.org (information on upcoming SAR events across the state, study guides for the state certification exam)
- National Association for Search and Rescue, www.nasar.org, is dedicated to the advancement of professional, literary and scientific knowledge and training in the search and rescue field

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Heading for the Hills

This month, historic Hillsboro celebrates its role in the famous Fountain murder trial. But it's worth a visit anytime.



Ruins of the courthouse from the time when Hillsboro was the county seat. (Photos by Marjorie Lilly)

Note: Hwy. 152 between Silver City and Hillsboro will be closed from mile marker 22 to 39.2 through August 5 for post-fire maintenance.

You settle into Hillsboro down a paved sloping road. The place is as idyllic and quiet as an old New England village and warm and mellow as the adobe houses that make it up. The June fire that caused the evacuation of nearby Kingston left Hillsboro unscathed, although the steep, forested hillsides and Emory Pass along Hwy. 152 show its scars.

Hillsboro has about 100 residents, according to Postmistress Claudia Edwards, who staffs the post office that's been there since 1879. The town is a half-hour from T or C, an hour and a half from both Silver City and Las Cruces, making it a pretty obscure place.

But it's home to a lively, close-knit community of artists and writers, mostly retirement age. They go to each other's houses for supper sometimes and play in a loose-knit, shaggy group of stringed instruments and harmonicas two or three times a week. This group has run a cooperative known as Percha Creek Traders that supports their art, although it's no longer active because of the languishing economy.

Locals are visited at times by javelina, cougars and bear. Mule deer are visiting from the mountains in droves because of the drought.

Hillsboro resident Matilde Holzwarth is a former biology professor at NMSU who's

Left: Angela and Steve Detloff outside their Barber-shop Café. Below: Mural on the side of the 1877 building housing the General Store Café.



now doing a lot of photography as an "encore career" ("I've finally figured out what to call it," she says). I ask her, "Does it feel remote here?" She thinks a couple seconds with her eyes half-shut, and then says, smiling, "No."

The town consists of mostly one main street with no traffic light and a couple of short parallel streets connected by the cosmopolitan-sounding Second, Third and Fifth Avenues.

At the top of a hill are the arching ruins of the old courthouse that still have a kind of august grandeur in the midst of this little mountain town. The fieldstone jail next to it has black window bars that are still intact.

Most old homes and buildings have been artfully and carefully restored, many with Victorian facades, giving the place the air of a little city lost in the desert. There's a detailed walking-tour map online (www.landerland.com/Hillsboro/walkingprint.html) with 25 buildings described. At its height, Hillsboro had about 1,200 people.

Hillsboro has some distinctions: The town was the county seat of Sierra County from 1884 to 1939, until that moved to T or C. It's said to have had the last operating stage line in the US. Since 1986 it's been a US Historical District. It's on the Geronimo Trail.

It was founded in 1877 when gold was discovered, and its character was mostly formed by the boom and bust silver mining cycle of 1882-93, like Kingston and the ghost town of Lake Valley in either direction. Of these towns, Hillsboro has by far the largest number of original buildings still standing.

Hillsboro was where the trial related to the 1896 murder of Judge Albert J. Fountain and his eight-year-old son took place in May 1899. The prominent New Mexico figures of Albert Fall and Thomas Catron, who became New Mexico's first US senators, were lawyers in the case. In the rest of the country it was called "the story of the century."

A play about the Fountain trial will be presented in a two-day event from August 31-Sept. 1 at the Hillsboro Community Center. Locals expect it to be a major event. This original piece was written by retiree Garland Bills with contributions by some of the actors. In his former life Bills was a linguist at UNM.

The historic trial wasn't held in Las Cruces, where Fountain resided, because it was felt defendants Oliver Lee and Jim Gililand couldn't get a fair trial there due to political tensions. The trial in Hillsboro was only for the murder of eight-year-old Henry Fountain because the physical evidence was so scarce that the lawyers felt they had to rely on the jury's sympathies.

In a clever attempt to bring history to life, townspeople will reenact the murder and trial and the audience will act as the jury. The outcome will depend on their decision.

In the actual 1899 trial, according to the Hillsboro Historical Society's blog, "After a three-week trial that made headlines in newspapers across the country, Lee and Gililand were acquitted. The prosecution faltered from the start; key witnesses didn't show up. Some historians say they got away with murder. Others reason that the Territory tried the wrong men." No one ever stood trial for the murder of Albert Fountain.

A reception will be held Friday, August 30, at a new winery, with members of the Fountain family present. Over the weekend several writers of books about the Fountain incident will be giving book talks and signing books.



Claudia Edwards staffs the post office that's been in Hillsboro since 1879.

Hillsboro isn't just history, though. Angela and Steve Detloff run an eatery called the Barber-shop Café, with a large consignment shop in an adjoining room, and also the Barbershop Plaza Motel next door. The Café has been a popular place for 14 years, and Angela makes sure I realize that they've created their own cookbook.

She says the type of people who stop off in Hillsboro tend to be "wilderness campers and lots of cyclists—bicycles and motorcycles."

Angela says the town is made up of "mostly newcomers." But she knows of about eight locals who



The Pickers Circle performs at an artists' reception.

have either moved away and come back again, like herself, or who have always lived there. She lived in southern Connecticut, Albuquerque, California and other places before moving back.

Angela's family was German, but "the locals are mostly Hispanic," she says. Six out of the eight names she mentions are Spanish—Torres, Padilla and so forth. Both Lonnie Rubio and his father Lonnie were head of the Department of Transportation in the Hillsboro region for decades, going back to the 1930s.

Artist David Farrell's wife Barbara teaches in the schools in T or C, and she claims that no local kids are going on the bus anymore to T or C, since four kids graduated last year. But four rancher children outside of town still go to school there.

Another eating place, the General Store Café, built in 1877, is on the other side of the street from the Barber-shop Café. They both close at about 3 p.m.

The town has a surprising number of points of interest for such a small population.

The Barbara Masingill Gallery is all adobe charm and gardens. There's a heavy emphasis on flowers and animals in the paintings and some sweet miniatures. They offer me southern-style cake with peaches on top, as they usually do for visitors.

Cuna Cueva is a gallery that you need to call in advance because the owners are cavers who aren't often there.

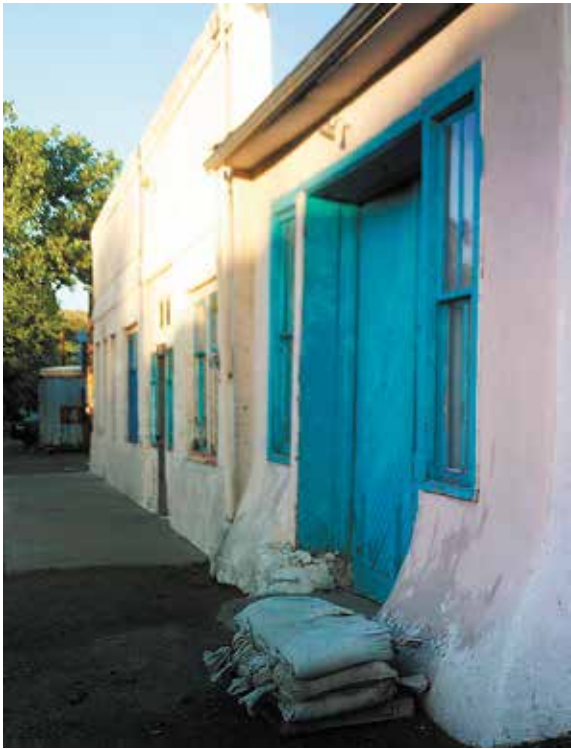
Sue's Antiques is a concoction of antiques and second-hand things. Sue Bason has lived in town



Above and below: Houses on Hillsboro's historic Main Street.

for 50 years exactly, and makes crosses with fanciful paintings on them, like Saint Francis with several rabbits.

The Enchanted Villa is a B&B that is given good



ratings and is right in town. The Hillsboro Museum has mostly mining artifacts, and should be called in advance. Birding Trail #32 starts from the center of Hillsboro, and there are hiking trails near town.

The Historical Society is opening a shop soon to support its operations, and a private gallery called Gallery 152 will also start up soon.

On the Friday I visit, there's a reception for an exhibit of Hillsboro artists' works at the restored Percha Bank in the tiny town of Kingston (population 25), only 15 minutes from Hillsboro up in the mountains over a stunningly beautiful road. Kingston was evacuated for 10 days in June after the Silver Fire licked at its edges, but survived unscathed.

It's explained to me by Catherine Wanek, who co-owns the Black Range Lodge with her mother, that Kingston people are offering this space to Hillsboro artists because the Percha Creek Trading Coop has closed its doors. They consider themselves one community, she says. When Kingston residents were evacuated because of the fire, most of them took shelter in homes in Hillsboro.

It's clear that most people present know each other well. Embraces abound. Painter Melody Sears and photographer Matilde Holzwarth have an in-depth conversation that lasts close to an hour during the reception for their art.

Hillsboro and Kingston are unincorporated towns, so it leaves a lot of room for getting to know each other on the Water Board, at the Community Center (which hosts excellent musicians several times a year), or at town meetings.

Another painter featured at the exhibit is David Farrell, with his colorist-influenced landscapes. Farrell runs the Black Range School of Art, where he teaches people mostly on an individual basis.

When silver went bust in the area, Wanek says, Hillsboro people salvaged buildings in Kingston.

There are only five of the original buildings in Kingston now, including the lodge, the bank and the assay office.

At about 6 p.m. the Pickers Circle musicians start up, after most people at the scattered tables have eaten from the array of dishes offered on a long table. The atmosphere is laid-back and people socialize as if there's no music going on.



Idrive back by the tall peaks studded with tiny clusters of nopales. Cottonwoods follow the map-lines of the dry Percha Creek that fills up only in the monsoon season.

As I head up the rise leading out of Hillsboro at sunset, a mule deer leaps out of the road into the empty lot at the intersection, trembling in the cool shadow of the trees.

Two more deer appear in my rear-view mirror.

I leave Hillsboro to its silence and to other tourists who come along. 🌿

Matilde Holzwarth (left) and Melody Sears in front of the Percha Bank in nearby Kingston.

For more information about Hillsboro, see www.hillsboronm.com, www.sierracountynewmexico.info/attractions/hillsboro-new-mexico, and hillsborohistory.blogspot.com.

Marjorie Lilly writes the Borderlines column.

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Survival of the Thriftiest

The plants of our desert Southwest have developed a variety of strategies for surviving and even thriving in hard times.



Tabosa, one of the most drought-tolerant of the grasses, once grew across much of the Chihuahuan Desert region. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)

Most of the modern native plant species of our Southwestern deserts—one of the more biologically challenging environments in the United States—have managed not only to subsist but to prosper, since the end of the last Ice Age, roughly 10,000 years ago. In fact, according to experts at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, “Desert scrub communities often contain surprisingly large amounts of plant biomass, and possess remarkable diversity of plant growth forms.”

These plants owe their successes as species to basic survival strategies that they have developed during their long histories in our arid climate. Reflecting the resourcefulness of nature and the persistence of life, they have managed to make a home in a land with periodic severe drought, impoverished soils, blistering summer air and ground temperatures, occasional powerful and dusty windstorms, low humidity, unpredictable and spotty rainfall, rare streams or ponds, high evaporation rates, and intense interspecies competition. Through time, the desert plants have endured even in difficult periods like our recent severe drought.

Generally, say botanical scientists, our desert plants have developed diverse and individualistic strategies for coping with desert stresses. Some of our more familiar plants typify these strategies.

Annual Forbs

The annual forbs, or the short-lived non-woody plants other than the grasses, simply refuse to deal with the desert drought. Rather, these plants—including, for a few examples, various daisies, asters, coneflowers, sunflowers and paintbrushes—have found a way to simply lie in wait for the right season and the right rainfall. Of course, this coincidence of events may not occur for years in the desert, given its erratic climatic events.

Typically, the desert forb uses its seeds as botanical currency to purchase its future in the desert. Scattered widely by wildlife, wind and even occasional flash flood waters, the seeds may lie in the desert soil for a decade or more, dormant, awaiting just the right cues from nature for germination. Some of the forbs may even deposit different sizes of seeds into their “seed-savings accounts,” as if



Indian paintbrush, a forb that may send its roots to attack those of other plants, helping itself to its neighbors’ moisture and nutrients.

anticipating that the large seeds can respond to perfect conditions and produce vigorous sprouts and the small seeds can respond to marginal conditions and produce less water-thirsty sprouts. Either way, the species reinforces its opportunity for survival.

When the moment does come, however, the forb races to sprout, develop, flower and produce abundant seeds before inevitable drought comes again. During this time, at least one of the forbs, the Indian paintbrush, may dispatch roots to attack nearby plants’ roots, helping itself to its neighbors’ moisture and nutrients.

Ocotillo

The ocotillo, a distinctive long-living, non-succulent plant, just takes time off during dry periods. It resumes its growth activity when rains return.

Sometimes called the “devil’s walking stick” or the “coachwhip,” it has several long, whip-like, spiny stems that may spray upward for perhaps 20 feet or more from a root crown. Its stems have water-absorbent central tissues and essentially waterproof bark. As described by James A. MacMahon in his book *Deserts*, the ocotillo has one- to two-inch-long green oval leaves that appear soon after a respectable rain falls and then wither and fall off as the soil dries—a cycle that can be repeated four or five times during the warm season.

As the leaves fall off, they leave behind the plant’s rigid, conical-shaped spines. “No other plant family makes spines in this way,” according to Arthur C. Gibson in the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden’s online newsletter.

The ocotillo has a shallow radiating root system. It produces a brilliant red cluster of flowers at the ends of its stems during the spring, sometimes even when no leaves have appeared. It yields an abundance of small, flat, feathery seeds during the early summer, casting them into the desert winds.

The ocotillo’s succulent stems preserve water, and its shallow root system quickly lays claim to new rainfall or snowmelt. The ocotillo’s leaves, during their short lives after a rain, turn swiftly to the business of photosynthesis (the use of solar energy to synthesize the organic compounds necessary to sustain life). When the plant sheds its leaves during drought, the plant becomes essentially dormant, minimizing transpiration—that is, the evaporation

of the plant’s water supply—although its stems still perform photosynthesis after its leaves have fallen, even if “in a feeble manner,” as H.A. Mooney and B.R. Strain put it in “Bark Photosynthesis in Ocotillo.” With the next warm-season rain, the plant springs back to life, producing a new coat of leaves that quickly resume the business of vigorous photosynthesis.

Only a minuscule percentage of the ocotillo seeds that germinate during the desert’s rainy season survive over the next two years. But those that do may yield plants that live for up to two centuries, according to authorities Annette Lamb and Larry Johnson.

Grasses

Highly resourceful, the desert grasses—which covered much of the Southwestern landscape before they were heavily overgrazed by domestic livestock—have developed several basic strategies for surviving the arid environment, according to Thomas R. Van Devender and Mark A. Dimmit, writing for the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

Like annual forbs, some grasses die back during drought or winter temperatures, then draw on seed banks to produce new plants given the right coincidence of season and rainfall. Other species die back just to their root crowns, from which they swiftly grow new stems, leaves and flowers when rainfall



The ocotillo produces brilliant red flower clusters at the end of its stems. The plant can be induced to produce leaves just by wetting its stems.

and acceptable temperatures return. Among still other species, new individual plants may either spring from a seed bank or may re-grow year after year from their root crowns, given the right moisture and season. Some of the larger species die back only to living nodes along their stems, then regrow their stems and produce new leaves and flowers when the time is right. Remarkably, some individual plants among the larger species of grass may live for more than a century, say Van Devender and Dimmit.

Given enough moisture, the grasses grow swiftly, producing seeds that are distributed by the animal life and the wind. Some species curl their leaves, shrinking away from the sunlight and heat. The grasses produce a dense tangle of shallow roots that



The creosote turns the edges of its small leaves toward the desert sun, minimizing the exposure to solar heat.

compete effectively for rainwater. Before the suppression of wildfires, the grasses often capitalized on lightning-sparked desert blazes, which did less damage to the grasses than to the shrubs that would otherwise compete for resources.

Shrubs

Collectively, the shrubs, now the dominant plants across much of our desert landscape, follow perhaps the widest range of strategies for survival. They may come equipped with small leaves, protective thorns, multiple branches, disagreeable smells and tastes, and extensive root systems.

Some have small, shiny, waxy leaves that reflect heat and impede evaporation. Others have leaves covered with dense, light-colored hairs to reflect the intense sunlight. Others ooze light-colored salt onto the surfaces of their leaves to reflect the light. Some turn their leaf edges rather than their broad surfaces toward the sun, minimizing exposure to the intense light. Others shed leaves and even twigs—effectively pruning themselves—to reduce exposure and resource requirements during prolonged periods of drought. A few shrubs—for instance, the heavily branched and pungent-smelling creosote bush—may have roots that secrete chemicals toxic to nearby plants.

Many smaller shrubs have a dense network of shallow roots that allows them to compete effec-

tively for water after a rain. They are sometimes called “intensive exploiters.” Larger shrubs may have extensive shallow as well as deep root systems that allow them to compete both for fresh rain water and for deeper water. These may be called “extensive exploiters.” The honey mesquite, a thorny native of our Chihuahuan Desert, may send roots widely just beneath the surface and deeply into the earth in its determined reach for water.

In addition to its other adaptations, a typical desert shrub produces a great abundance of hard-coated seeds that help ensure the future of the species.

Cacti

The cacti rank high on the list of the most drought-resistant plants on earth. Perhaps the most iconic plants in our part of the Chihuahuan Desert, they represent surprising diversity—so much so, in fact, that they have confounded taxonomists’ efforts to classify and name them all. They range from the small pincushion cactus to the rotund barrel cactus, from the multi-branched chollas to the particularly variable prickly pears. All the cacti have succulent, waxy-coated stems armed with spines that evolved from leaves. They have radiating root systems that lie near the ground’s surface.



Moisture-saturated prickly pear stem.

A cactus’ stems soak up water and its waxy cuticle slows transpiration. The plant’s spines, with far smaller surfaces than most leaves, offer limited exposure to the hot desert sun. The shallow root system lies in wait to capture any water from a rain or snowfall and to conduct it to the plant’s stems. Further, literally within hours after a rainfall, the cactus’ roots sprout tiny rootlets to help absorb water even more quickly.

Unlike most plants, a cactus opens its stomata—



pore-like structures located on its stems—during the cool of night rather than during heat of day to absorb and biochemically store the carbon dioxide gas essential for daytime photosynthesis. This strategy is not particularly efficient, which means that the cactus grows more slowly than many plants, but it serves to minimize evaporation.

Yuccas and Agaves

The yuccas and agaves—related plants with leaves that look like bouquets of rapiers or swords—also rank high on the list of drought-resistant plants.

Their channel-shaped leaves have succulent tissues and waxy cuticles. The leaves of both the yuccas and the agaves are typically armed with sharp points, and the leaves of the agaves, like the lechaguilla, for instance, are further armed with wickedly barbed margins. Some yucca species have stems, but the agaves of southwest-

ern New Mexico have virtually none. Like the cacti, the yuccas and the agaves have shallow radiating root systems. Some of the yuccas also have “tap” roots. The agaves may produce plantlets or “pups” from their roots.

The yucca and agave leaf rosette arrangements serve to funnel rain water and snow melt to the plant stems and roots. Like cacti stems, the yucca and agave leaves absorb water and restrain evaporation. Yucca stems, when they occur, have specialized tissues that store and conduct water. The agave leaves, thick with tissues, store energy for years and even decades, not only as a hedge against drought, but in anticipation of fueling the climactic—and life-ending—production of a towering bloom stalk with spikes of seed-rich flowers at the upper reaches.

Like the cacti, the yucca and

Left: Reputedly, creosote shrubs have roots that secrete chemicals that are toxic to nearby plants, killing them and reducing competition.

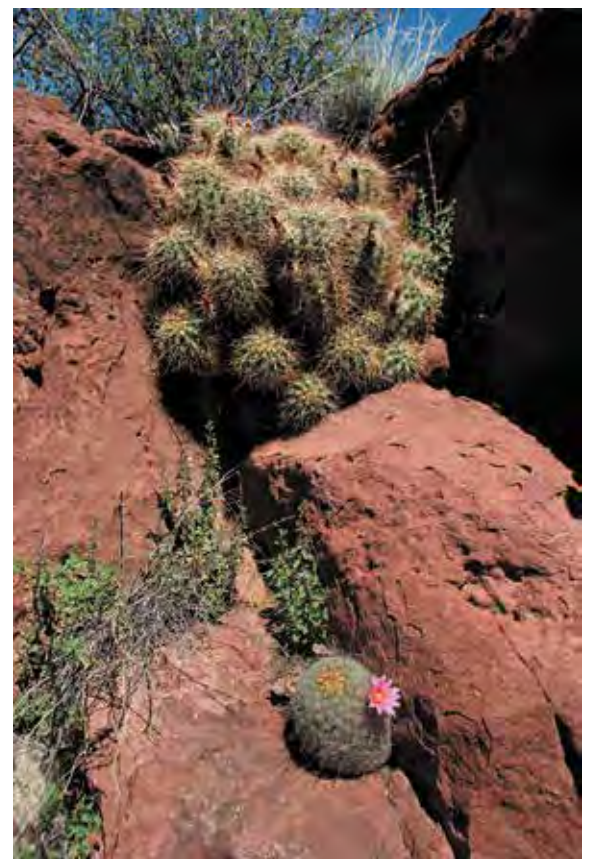
agave have shallow and radiating root systems that lie in wait to intercept water from rain or snow melt. Those yuccas with tap roots may reach down 10 to 15 feet for deeper water. Like the cacti, too, the yuccas and agaves open their stomata, located in their leaves, at night to absorb carbon dioxide for use the following day in photosynthesis.

Sotol

At first look, the sotol appears to bear a close relationship to the narrow-leaf yuccas or the agaves. All have similar rosette leaf arrangements. Fairly recently, however, scientists have decided that sotol holds a closer relationship to sacahuista, a grassy-looking plant with serrated leaves that grow in thick fountain-like clumps.

The mature sotol has hundreds of long, narrow, flattened, armed leaves that flare into somewhat spoon-like shapes at the bases. (The plant is sometimes called the “desert spoon.”) Typically, in southwestern New Mexico, the sotol leaf rosette emerges from a very short stem. According to some sources, its roots, apparently coarse and carrot shaped, extend straight down for several inches then branch radially. Its flower cluster, which emerges in late spring and early summer, extends for several feet along the top of the bloom stalk, and it yields an abundance of seeds.

Something like the yuccas and the agaves, the so-



Hedgehog cactus above, blooming pincushion cactus below.



Allthorn or crown of thorns, which—under favorable conditions—can grow into a dense tangle of spines 20 feet or more in height.

DESERT PLANTS

continued on next page

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DESERT PLANTS continued

tol's rosette leaf arrangement and spoon-shape bases serve to funnel rain water and snow melt to the plant's short stem and its roots. As a succulent, its leaves have tissues and a waxy coating to retain water. The radially spreading roots intercept rainwater and snowmelt near the surface. It restrains transpiration by opening its stomata at night to collect the carbon dioxide necessary for photosynthesis during the day.

Ephedra

The ephedra—a primitive plant also called Mormon tea, cowboy tea, whorehouse tea, squaw tea, canyon tea, jointfir, joint-pine, yellow horse, country mallow and numerous other names—looks much like a three-dimensional game of pickup sticks. Typically standing waist to chest high, it has “numerous jointed green, apparently leafless, branches,” according to MacMahon. Its joints are quite distinct.

The ephedra's scale-like, leathery leaves, which grow at the joints of the branches, measure no more than a small fraction of an inch in length. Its branches bear an abundant waxy cuticle and depressed stomata. Its roots, notes the USDA's Stanley G. Kitchen, “are deep [perhaps six or seven feet] and fibrous extending from an expanded root crown.” Classified as a gymnosperm, which means that it is a nonflowering plant, like the pines, the ephedra produces minute cones and seeds.

The toughness of the plant's small leaves, the waxiness of its cuticle and the distinctive shape of its stomata all restrain transpiration. The depth and breadth of its root system give the plant an extended reach for water. Its abundance of small seeds helps assure the future of the species.

(Please note: Although ephedra has a long history as a folk medicine, it should be used only with the greatest of knowledgeable care. Its side effects can be highly dangerous, even life-threatening.)

Allthorn or Crown of Thorns

“No cactus plant can claim to be spiniest than this weird plant,” writes Clark Champie in *Strangers in the Franklins*. “No one, having seen it, will wonder why it is called allthorn.” As biologist Arthur H. Harris puts it in *Desert Diary*, a UTEP website, the allthorn “seems to consist of little but thorns, though a botanist will tell you that they're really branches whose ends constrict abruptly to sharp points. As if this armament wasn't enough, the shrub sends its branches in all directions, intersecting in a virtually impenetrable tangle of branches and spines.”

Typically, the allthorn grows as a shrub 5 to 10 feet tall, but occasionally it reaches more than 20 feet in height. Its leaves, which appear briefly after a spring rain, measure about a quarter of an inch in length. They disappear promptly with the resumption of dry weather. The plant produces one-quarter-inch-diameter shiny black berries. Its branches and spines, wax-coated and equipped with stomata, perform the function of photosynthesis. The allthorn's roots, according to L.H. Gile, R.P. Gibbens and J. M. Lenz in the *Journal of Arid Environments*, penetrate to extraordinary depths. Secondary roots penetrate deeply then turn around and, remarkably, grow vertically upward and branch profusely near the surface.

With small, quickly shed leaves and wax-coated branches, the plant minimizes transpiration. Its roots reach into the soil both at shallow and deep levels to reach water. Further, Gile et al believe that “occasional deeply penetrating soil water moves down channels once occupied by roots and other openings in the soil, and



Mescal agave blooms. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)

that this is a source of water for growth of the deeply penetrating roots, as well as for the roots that grow upward.”

Our Current Drought

Imagine! During the early summer of 2013, the Elephant Butte and Caballo impoundments—major sources of water for south-central New Mexico—have fallen to historic lows, with little to offer to downstream communities and farmers. Other than during abbreviated releases of irrigation water from the lakes, the Rio Grande simply dried up, leaving no water to the desert floor and the regional bolsons. Playa waters completely evaporated, their basins no more than parched desert sands.

Since 2010, yearly rainfall has typically amounted to no more than a half to three-quarters of the area's roughly nine-inch annual average. In parts of south-central New Mexico—at our home at the southern edge of Las Cruces, for instance—rainfall totaled no more than perhaps a quarter of an inch during the first six months of 2013, less than a fourth of the average.

The plants of our desert must now call on all their survival strategies to sustain them through hard times. ☼



Ephedra branches rendered brown by drought.

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.desertexposure.com/wildlife.

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The Cartel Carousel

Power shifts in Chihuahuan towns, but violence goes on.

Lorenzo held forth on the subject of drug cartels for about half an hour quite unselfconsciously even though we were in a pretty public place. I didn't stop him.

He was telling me what he knew about which drug cartels controlled which towns in the state of Chihuahua. His source of information was mainly his brother-in-law, who he said was a "mule" (transporter) for the Juarez Cartel. We stood in a park in Las Cruces.

I shot him a little wary look (*Don't you care that your relative is in danger?*). After that he used the work "friend" more often to talk about his source.

The center of Ciudad Juarez is still held by the Juarez Cartel, he said, even though the rest of Juarez is controlled by the Sinaloa Cartel. The Valle de Juarez, along the Rio Grande to the east of the city and probably the place most devastated by the conflict in the past few years, is now in the grip of the Juarez Cartel, he said. Lorenzo claimed Cuauhtemoc, a city an hour to the west of Chihuahua City, belonged to Sinaloa.

"I think Casas Grandes is the Juarez Cartel," he said. He didn't know about Ascension.

"I know Nicolas Bravo is Juarez," he said. And Madera, too, he added. A tiny town in that area called Alamalillo, with about 40 houses, was almost entirely abandoned, mostly in 2009. Lots of houses were burned, and more than 30 people were disappeared. These towns are a couple hours south of Casas Grandes.

The Copper Canyon and the city of Parral on the border with Durango belong to Sinaloa, he claimed. The southern town of Guadalupe y Calvo, the most violent spot in the state, was held by the Sinaloa Cartel.

Lorenzo may have gotten some of his facts wrong, but basically, the southwestern towns of Chihuahua are dominated by the Sinaloa Cartel and the more central towns by the Juarez Cartel.

This man had a couple of legitimate mining claims in the Sierra Madre. He said part of his work procedure was to have a cup of coffee with the cartel member in control of the area first, just to let the guy know what he was up to.

With Palomas so quiet now, and with reports of the death toll in Mexico beginning to decline, it's easy to forget that other regions are still tormented by violence.

The mountain *municipio* of Guadalupe y Calvo, flush with the border of Durango, is the worst place in the state of Chihuahua now and has been in desperate straits for months. Southern Chihuahua in general has been violent.

Guadalupe y Calvo had a murder rate of 180 per 100,000 residents from January to May this year, while Juarez and Chihuahua City both had a rate of just 131.

Guadalupe y Calvo is as close to the state of Durango as it is to the state of Sinaloa. Culiacan, the birthplace of the Sinaloa Cartel, is the closest big city. It seems obvious that the Juarez and Sinaloa cartels are still slugging it out in Guadalupe y Calvo.

Lorenzo was probably judging the situation there prematurely by claiming it belonged to the Sinaloa cartel.

The town is one of those considered to be at the center of the "golden triangle" of drug trafficking, where the rugged mountain landscape provides a hiding place for the *narcos*, their fields of marijuana and poppies, and their meth labs.

The ordinary residents are in a state of chaos and fear. It is one of the worst towns for hunger and maternal mortality in the state.

On June 10, local PRI mayoral candidate Jaime Orozco was kidnapped; within a couple of days, he was found dead. Senator Javier Corral asked President Enrique Pena, also of the PRI, for help from the military. The elections were held on July 7. (In 2010 Gua-

dalupe y Calvo Mayor Ramon Mandivil Sotelo was killed also.)

In this heightened state of "*psicosis*," as they call it in the Mexican press, some stories have circulated that were later denied. There was a report of gunfire breaking out at a funeral of some of those murdered and one about a kidnapping of the director of the hospital in Guadalupe y Calvo, both of which were denied by authorities.

There was a strange incident where a report on July 15 of more than 15 bodies being found along the road to Ocote was later denied.

But that story is not too hard to believe, as the Mexico City newspaper *Excelsior* reported 11 people being killed there one weekend in December, and *La Cronica*, also in the capital, reported 11 being killed in February. The *narcotraficantes* held four checkpoints on the highway between Guadalupe and Parral as of July 20.

From late June through mid-July, there were six small massacres of between three and five people in different towns in Chihuahua. Two were in Guadalupe y Calvo. In two cases little kids were victims.

When one cartel wins the *plaza*, Guadalupe y Calvo will fade out in the news to be replaced by other towns. Chihuahua and much of Mexico are still in a high state of turmoil and aren't likely to change soon.

In Chihuahua the drug traffickers are just reshuffling their cards, in terms of their power relationships. They aren't going away despite 18,000 deaths in the state since the drug war started.

On a brighter note, a fresh project has started up in Palomas, and there's a new request for donations. Health *promotores* (educators), in collaboration with Deming-based Border Partners, have started biking through Palomas streets on Saturday nights in an effort to rouse people to the benefits of exercise and better eating habits to combat childhood obesity.

Recently Border Partners directors Peter and Polly Edmunds went with them and 36 kids on bikes, not to mention a few local police. A truck followed them with signs exhorting people to join their campaign.

Border Partners would be happy to hear from people who can tell them how to get hold of some free or low-cost bikes and parts, because more kids would like to participate. Please call Polly if you have information or donations at (575) 546-1083.

It might also be a good time to donate to a special new program of Casa de Amor that will help you sponsor a Palomas teen in junior high or high school. The program will provide registration fees and uniforms for poor students who would otherwise drop out and be confined to a life of manual labor. For details you can contact Pat Noble at (505) 546-0451 or dpatnoble@gmail.com.

Food donations also never go out of style in Palomas. Please check the information about several social service organizations listed at www.desertexposure.com/palomas. ☘

Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.



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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Hercules, Son of Zeus

Plus the planets for August.



August evenings have the constellation Hercules almost overhead. Just west of the Milky Way, Hercules is home to the brightest globular cluster and one of the brightest radio objects in the sky. M13, also known as the Great Cluster in Hercules, is visible to the naked eye from a dark location and is a stunning view in a telescope. The galaxy 3C 348 is the brightest radio object in this part of the sky. An active galactic nucleus (AGN), 3C 348 has plasma jets shooting out in opposite directions.

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

Hercules, the son of Zeus, is one of the most well-known constellations, at least by name. This grouping of stars is dominated by four central stars—Pi, Eta, Zeta and Epsilon Hercules—forming a trapezoid called the Keystone of Hercules. These stars are in the third-magnitude range, so they can be seen even from urban areas. This asterism is the easiest part of Hercules to recognize in the sky.

Hercules is one of the great heroes of Greek mythology. The myth is one of the longest in the whole panoply of myths, and as such, we cannot cover the entire story, but here is a much-abbreviated version: Hercules is the son of Zeus and Alcmene, whom Zeus tricked by pretending to be her husband. This infuriated Hera, Zeus' wife, who would be primarily responsible for Hercules' problems the rest of his life. Hera sent two snakes to kill him as an infant, but Hercules crushed them. When he grew up and was married, Hera made him insane so he killed his wife and children. After he regained his sanity, Hercules had to perform his famous 10 labors to atone.

After many more adventures, Hercules finally won the hand of the beautiful maiden Deianeira. They settled down, but the centaur Nessus kidnapped Deianeira. Hercules set out to rescue her and shot the centaur with one of his deadly arrows. As the centaur died, he told Deianeira that a drop of his blood would restore Hercules' interest in her should he ever stray.

Later, thinking Hercules was losing interest in her, Deianeira put the drop of Nessus' blood, still containing poison from Hercules' own arrow, on Hercules' tunic. When Hercules put the tunic on, the blood burned his skin, forming a painful and unhealing wound. Deianeira, in despair over what she had done, hanged herself. Hercules again had lost his wife and in sorrow incinerated himself. Zeus then gave Hercules immortality by putting him in the sky.

The most famous object in Hercules is on the western side of the Keystone—the great globular cluster M13. This is the brightest globular cluster in the northern hemisphere, shining at magnitude 5.8. It is visible to the naked eye in a dark location. Composed of several hundred thousand stars, M13 is 145 light-years across and is about 25,000 light-years from Earth. M13 was discovered by Edmond Halley in 1714. Charles Messier added it to his catalog (as entry 13) on June 1, 1764.

Not only do objects in space emit light, but they also emit radio waves. The brightest radio object in Hercules is the galaxy 3C 348 in eastern Hercules. Early radio-source catalog designations started with the constellation name and then a capital letter, beginning with "A," so this object is also designated Hercules A. It has been recently studied by the Very Large Array, a radio telescope composed of 27 dish antennas on the Plains of San Agustin 50 miles west of Socorro.

This visually unassuming galaxy is a faint magnitude 16.4. Its visible part is just 23 seconds-of-arc across, but the radio size is much larger, 138 seconds-of-arc across, stretching directly outward in two streams from opposite sides of the nucleus.

Looking closer at the center of 3C 348, two nuclei orbit each other, indicating that this object is the result of the recent (astronomically speaking) merger of two galaxies. The larger nucleus contains a supermassive black hole that pulls gas and dust from around the center of the galaxy into a disc, where it spirals into the black hole. From this disc, called an accretion disc, material spirals into the black hole along its equator. But some of this material gets shot out from the black hole along its north and south poles, forming jets of dust and gas going in opposite directions. Astronomers are not sure how this happens, but the jets are traveling almost at the speed of light. When they hit the gas and dust floating outside the galaxy, they send out radio waves that we can pick up here on Earth.

The Planets for August

That bright "star" dominating the western sky about 16 degrees up in the west as it gets dark is the planet **Venus**. At midmonth it

Watch the Skies

(times MDT)

August 6, 3:51 p.m.—New Moon
August 12, morning—Perseid meteor shower peaks
August 14, 4:56 a.m.—First Quarter Moon
August 20, 7:45 p.m.—Full Moon
August 28, 3:35 a.m.—Last Quarter Moon

is magnitude -4.0 with a disc 13.5 seconds-of-arc across and 79% illuminated, becoming less full every day. Venus starts the month in central Leo and moves eastward into Virgo on August 10. It will be halfway through Virgo when the month ends. Venus sets around 9:30 p.m.

Saturn is moving eastward from the 4.2-magnitude star 98-Kappa Virginis in Virgo, reaching the border with Libra by the end of the month. You can find it shining at magnitude +0.7 as it gets dark 34 degrees above the southwest horizon. The Rings are 37.2 seconds-of-arc across and tilted down 17.7 degrees with the northern face showing. The Ringed Planet has a disc that is 16.4 seconds-of-arc across.

Around 3:15 a.m. the King of the Gods rises in the east-northeast. **Jupiter's** disc is 33.6 seconds-of-arc across and it shines at magnitude -2.0 at midmonth. Jupiter is moving slowly eastward through central Gemini, 34 degrees up in the east as it starts to get light.

Next up is **Mars**, moving eastward from Gemini into western Cancer during the month. Mars is magnitude +1.6 with a disc 4.0 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth. The God of War rises around 4 a.m. and is 24 degrees up in the east-northeast as it starts to get light.

Last to come up before it gets light is **Mercury**, at least for the first half of the month. On August 15, Mercury will be just four degrees above the east-northeast horizon as it starts to get light. After that, it will be too close to the Sun to be found until next month, when it will be in the evening sky. As it disappears, Mercury will be magnitude -1.4 with a 91% illuminated disc that is 5.4 seconds-of-arc across. Mercury starts the month in eastern Gemini, then moves across all of Cancer and most of Leo, ending the month in the eastern end of that constellation as it moves behind the Sun.

The second half of the year has many more meteor showers than the first. In August there is the famous **Perseid Meteor Shower**. Comet Swift-Tuttle is the source of the dust particles that enter the Earth's atmosphere at 37 miles-per-second and flash out of existence. These meteors appear to come from the Perseus-Cassiopeia border. The Moon will be in the evening sky, so it will not interfere with seeing these meteors during their best viewing time in the morning sky. An observer in a dark site should see about 80 meteors per hour in North America during the early morning hours. So August 12 is chaise lounge time again, so you can relax and "keep watching the sky!" ☼

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



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Western New Mexico University's Extended University department would like to start offering non-credit classes to community residents. We are looking for persons interested in sharing their expertise in educational, cultural, and recreational services.

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Rebecca Estrada, Continuing Education Planner for WNMU, is excited about getting the non-credit program started again. Ms. Estrada's office is located in the P.E. Complex, room 131 and may be contacted by phone at 538-6149 to set up an appointment for persons interested in teaching a class.

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Adventure in Moving

When every day is Boxing Day.

Lucky for us, our forefathers were happily migratory. Whether leaving the carnivore-infested savannahs of Africa behind, riding boats made out of rotten lumber across the Atlantic, or stuffing the Conestoga wagon with furniture to burn along the trail to the gold fields of California, mankind is a wonderfully nomadic species, always moving around like discontented hobos. Although migration seems to be in our genetic code, I am happy to report that I have completed what should be my final relocation in life.

I still remember the first time I moved, giddy with teenage freedom to occupy a flophouse with a band of friends starting college together. All my material belongings fit into my pickup—the cab, not the bed. In fact, the amount of things I did not own was staggering: I didn't have a bed, a trashcan, or even silverware. But I was done with the entire moving process in 15 minutes, leaving me plenty of time to cook a delicious dinner of ramen and bologna. Who says moving is hard work?

A few years later, I opted to vacate those premises covertly in lieu of paying the landlord rent money that I had wisely invested in cheeseburgers instead. I was surprised how much more work it was to move, and I actually had to put items in the bed of the truck, but very quietly so as to not arouse the landlord. Moving is even more difficult when you have to be sneaky about it.

Since then, I have changed addresses a total of 10 more times in 30 years, which makes me sound like a gypsy. Since I don't have a tambourine or any goats, I politely reject that label as I believe that, like all human beings, I am merely prone to get caught up in the currents and eddies of life's inexorable flow.

My most recent move, however, provided solid evidence that I don't ever want to do this again.

My wife and I found a wonderful home in a part of the Mesilla Valley that is ideal for our antisocial lifestyle: a tidy home sequestered in a generous parcel of land with walls and fences. I was holding out for machine-gun turrets, a moat and a murder hole through which to dispatch unwanted guests and Jehovah's Witnesses, but compromise is the bailiwick of the modern man. The purchase being made, it was time to pack up our fairly Spartan household and transport it a scant five miles up the road. Easy, right?

Ha. Any sense of optimism was quickly drained away by simply packing up my solitary bookcase. That little task begat a small pyramid of boxes, each weighing slightly less than a baby hippo, and I was already exhausted. My industrious wife, on the other

hand, was furiously packing cartons with actual care, taping them shut and—who does this?—labeling the contents and what room they go to.

On the designated moving day, I hitched my trailer to my truck, and we called over my wife's parents who also have a truck and a trailer. I recruited my two teenagers to the job site, and my wife hired the services of a third teenager she knows. The morning started off with great zeal, as all hands were busily toting boxes and hefting furniture. Spirits were high and the temperature was low.

After dispatching the first flotilla of laden trucks to the new address and unloading, there was a noticeable change in the work environment upon returning for another load. My teenagers started to lose focus on the task at hand, and I'm pretty sure I saw the third one lingering a bit longer than necessary in

the shade, but I wasn't sure since I was suffering a heat stroke of my own. The more items we dragged out of the house, the more seemed to magically appear, like box-shaped tribbles from "Star Trek."

Shortly after lunch, my kids used their "jobs" as a reason to abandon the moving tasks. Things starting getting a bit haphazard as fatigue set in, which is inevitable as the last boxes are finally filled. There's always a box that everything left over gets tossed into—an errant bath towel, two flashlights, the cat's water bowl, three

markers and a coffee cup. Furniture gets banged against the wall, and the plaster garden gnome meets an untimely end facedown on the sidewalk. You can't have war without a few casualties.

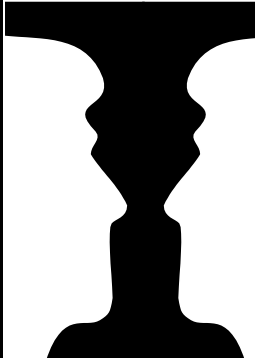
My Herculean wife never flagged, though, and kept us on task. By nightfall, everything was in the new house, and we started the next phase of our adventure: living out of boxes for days on end and wondering where random, suddenly indispensable objects might be at.

As we lay there in our hastily constructed bed at 10:30 p.m., still trying to correctly identify light switches and learning every new squeak and sound of a strange house, we spoke quietly as we drifted off to sleep. "Never again," was the last thing I heard her say as we closed our eyes. The cat yowled from the other side of the house, lost and knocking over boxes. We were beyond caring. ☘

Henry Lightcap lives somewhere in Las Cruces, where he is slowly learning his new address.



Furniture gets banged against the wall, and the plaster garden gnome meets an untimely end facedown on the sidewalk. You can't have war without a few casualties.



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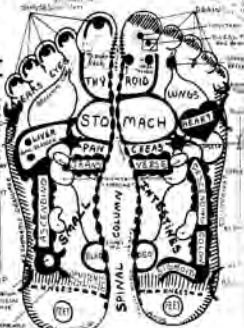
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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • JOHN CATSIS

Diary of a Caregiver

When his wife's ailing parents moved in, everything changed.
First of four parts.

Editor's note: When Silver City author John Catsis' in-laws moved from San Antonio, Texas, so Catsis and his wife could care for them, he began keeping a diary. In this and subsequent installments, he shares highlights (and lowlights) of that 11-month account of becoming a caregiver. (Some names have been changed to protect privacy.) As America ages, it's an experience increasingly relevant to us all.

March 27, 2012

Today was the second time in a month that Harry had fallen and couldn't get up. Harry is my father-in-law. He and his wife, Vera, now live with my wife, Connie, and me at our home in Silver City.

"That's it," Connie told me. "One more time and he goes to an assisted care facility." She was not saying this out of displeasure or frustration. Rather, it was because she loves her father, now so frail and nearly unable to walk. But it's getting tougher for Connie to be his caregiver.

Her mother is also showing signs of worsening mental and physical health.

I am learning first hand why it is said that the greatest strain on the aging process is the caregiver. I can see and appreciate the anxiety Connie is experiencing. It's evidenced by the many hours each day that she must spend preparing meals for her parents, each of whom requires a different menu served at different times, plus distributing medication, locating lost items, arranging medical appointments, driving each to see their respective doctors, and helping with organizing a lifetime of paperwork in preparation for the inevitable.

Connie also spends many hours each week talking to both her parents. While her mother still understands what's going on, she has lost most of her hearing. Most of the time she refuses to wear her hearing aids.

Her father has dementia. His conversations are short, simplistic and repetitive. He often talks about not having sex anymore. Real conversations are no longer possible.

Connie is the real victim here. We knew it would be tough, but we didn't think the increased workload would happen so soon. We had built a two-room addition to our home, complete with bath and kitchenette. Harry and Vera moved in the week before Christmas 2011. That's when Harry could walk a hundred feet from our car to his bed. He was with me when I brought home a new flat-screen TV.

"Do you need any help?" Harry asked.

"Sure," I replied. "Grab this end and help me carry it inside." It was a distance of about 20 feet. The box weighed perhaps twenty pounds, yet this simple task left him exhausted. He immediately went to bed. It was the last time he "helped" me with anything. I once considered him one of the strongest men I'd ever known. For example, there was the time he'd



helped us move into a new home. The last item off the truck was a clothes washer. He and I had struggled to carry it up a flight of stairs. Or should I say, I had struggled.

"Let go," Harry had said, mildly frustrated. And with that he'd grabbed the washer and carried it the rest of the way. The vision of such extraordinary strength has stayed with me all these years.

Harry now spends more than 95% of his time in a twin bed, drinking wine, reading and watching TV or the deer outside his window. Mostly he is drinking wine. If he's not doing that, he is sleeping.

Lt. Col. Harry Brown was an Air Force pilot, and if I do say so, a swashbuckling type of fellow. Always pleasant, always helpful, and always ready to crack a joke—at least, what he thought were jokes. When I married his first-born daughter, Connie, 44 years ago, he was flying transport planes across the Pacific, ferrying new helicopters to Vietnam and returning damaged choppers and injured servicemen to the United States. Stationed at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, Harry was then in the final few years of a career that spanned more than two decades.

Now, Harry had become a drunk. It started on Valentine's Day, 2011, when he learned his brother Harvey, a retired professor at the University of California-Davis, had taken his life because of health problems. It had been devastating news.

Several years before, his oldest brother, Vaughn, a welder, had also committed suicide. Financial problems. Both used pistols. Harry was now the remaining child.

Later on that Valentine's Day he fell against the bar. The next thing he knew he was in a hospital with three broken ribs, a damaged spleen and a collapsed lung.

When Connie heard the news, she drove the 725 miles from Silver City to San Antonio in one day. Usually, it's a two-day trip for her, but this time it was more important to be with her family—to see her father and comfort her mother.

"I goofed up," Harry told Connie from his hospital bed. That was the last time he consumed vodka, but certainly not the last time he'd had alcohol. Ever since then, Connie has prepared a 50-50 mix of red wine and cranberry juice, further diluted with water.

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March 28, 2012

This morning, Harry fell again while trying to get to the bathroom. I was sound asleep, leaving Connie and Vera to lift what has now become dead weight. Vera spent the next half-hour cleaning up spilled wine from his bed and changing his urine-soaked sheets. I'm glad they didn't wake me.

April 2, 2012

Harry has an appointment with a Silver City pulmonologist. An X-ray exam confirms there is some type of fluid in his lungs, but the doctor is not sure how serious it is. He orders more X-rays from side angles.

As Connie and I are helping Harry back in the car for the ride home, he lets out a yell, complaining about a pain on his left rib area where I had grabbed him. That's the first time I'd ever heard him utter any kind of reaction to pain. Ever. Could this be yet another broken rib? An X-ray the week before did not show a fracture. Did the fall two days before cause the problem?

An hour after returning home, Harry fell again. This time Connie and I managed to get him up and to the bathroom. I'm beginning to feel like a hospital orderly, and I can't say I am pleased by this new role thrust upon me.

This is the fourth fall, and Connie is beginning to realize her father will need more care than she is able to provide. That afternoon we visit three nursing homes.

The first is Millie's, a former brothel turned into a nursing home. The facility is clean, but lacks that new-hospital look. The price of \$2,000 a month was the least expensive of the three places we visited.

The second is Sunset Vista, located behind the Gila Regional Medical Center. It resembles a hospital, with bright, airy rooms, wide hallways and an apparently sufficient number of staff members. This place charges \$6,000 a month. Medicare will pay 80% only if a patient first spends three days in a hospital. But the facility will not accept Harry's secondary insurance, Tri-Care.

Finally, we visit Fort Bayard, a brand-new facility. This was the most expensive: \$10,000 a month. The VA will help, but only if the veteran is poor. Harry is not. As a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, he receives a comfortable retirement.

There is no obvious choice except to continue to provide for Harry at our home. Connie announces that we must do whatever we can to make him comfortable and Connie's life less stressful. More equipment will be needed, along with outside help. I couldn't agree more.

April 3, 2012

This morning, we visit a hospital-supply company to see what's available that might make life easier for both Harry and Connie. It stocks

hospital beds and heavy-duty people lifters, like the type used to remove engines from automobiles.

April 5, 2012

This is the day Harry has his chest X-rayed. En route Harry divulges he had fallen several days previously, unknown to anyone, and had struck "a grab bar" with his chest. That might explain the pain he felt in his lower left ribs. Today's X-ray may reveal possible trauma to that area.

The female tech and I struggle to get him to lie 90 degrees across the bench. I stand behind him, wearing a protective lead jacket, holding the X-ray film, at the same time trying to keep Harry from falling. The tech then says we must flip Harry over for a second exposure. That's when I demand another helper. "We can handle this," she claims, to which I insist that I can't. Finally, she gets help.

That evening, Connie's youngest sister, Monica, arrives to help out. Almost immediately, Monica is needed to provide more than consolation and company to her parents. She has learned what it's like to help her dad to the bathroom and attend to his bodily needs.

She doesn't like it, either.

April 6, 2012

This morning Hospice calls to say Harry's internal medicine physician has authorized Hospice care. The reason given: "failure to thrive." Hospice is home care for persons deemed terminally ill—six months or less.

Returning home, I am welcomed by our son, Alex, and his family. While everyone is gathering to say "goodbye" to Harry, he now seems peppier, probably because of all the attention.

Alex spends most of the evening in Harry's room. This is a memorable time for the two of them, and I do not disturb them, even when dinner is served in the dining room.

April 8, 2012

Easter Sunday, and all the relatives went home today. It had been a good weekend. Nothing special, just good people getting together.

Harry is now using the bedside potty, which should result in far fewer falls, although it now falls on Connie to empty it on a regular basis. And Harry is now complimenting me for installing a hand rail along the wall next to his bed. This allows him to use the potty without assistance.

April 11, 2012

Early in the afternoon, Connie talked to Vera about Hospice. She told me her mom was crying and talking about "using a gun" or "going

I'm beginning to feel like a hospital orderly, and I can't say I am pleased by this new role thrust upon me.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page



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Gavin Lawson, A "Superstar" at Silver Health CARE

Gavin Lawson, a chipper, outgoing 7-year old, and his mother, Monica Teran, have come a long way together as they sit and wait at the Bayard Clinic for Gavin's monthly appointment with Dr. Laura Davenport-Reed. When Gavin was just a year old, he needed a liver, small bowel, and pancreas transplant. The surgery was done by a transplant team in Nebraska, headed by Dr. Wendy Grant. After Gavin's condition stabilized, Monica decided she would move the family back to Grant County, where she grew up and where her parents live. When Dr. Grant heard that Monica would be moving, she said "I have the perfect doctor for you," and gave her the name of Dr. Davenport-Reed since she knew her well, having worked with her.

Monica can't say enough about the follow-up care that Dr. Davenport-Reed has provided over the five years that she has been supervising Gavin's care. Dr. Davenport-Reed communicates regularly with the transplant team back in Nebraska, and frequently consults with specialists in Albuquerque to make sure Gavin continues to enjoy good health. "It takes a team" says Monica, and Dr. Davenport-Reed has provided support, not just for Gavin, but for the whole family, helping to allay Monica's concerns for her son's health. "There have been times that were really rough, but fortunately, with Dr. Davenport-Reed's attentive care and Gavin's 'tough attitude' we have made it through and he is now doing very well. She has done everything possible and has gone above and beyond in making herself available if a sudden medical need arises." It is clear from the interaction in the clinic, where Gavin is greeted as a "superstar," that Dr. Davenport-Reed and her staff are personally fond of a young patient whom they have come to know very well.

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

to Oregon," where assisted death apparently is legal. After an emotional talk, Vera gave her approval.

April 12, 2012

We spend nearly one and a half hours at Hospice. We learn that up to 10 different individuals will be coming to the house regularly, offering counsel, checking medications and dressings, and helping with bathing. There even is care available for the caregiver. We are also told that from now on, if there is a need to call 911, no matter what the circumstance, we are to call Hospice at a special number instead. "We are now the ones who will call 911," says Kari, the case worker. When Harry dies, Hospice and its medical examiner will eliminate the need to call police.

April 13, 2012

Two Hospice nurses arrive and spend the next hour working with Harry, after which Connie saw an ophthalmologist for the first time in her life. When she returned she announced she will be seeing a specialist in Tucson in three days, because she has a problem with her left eye that could result in blindness. It's called wet macular degeneration. "It's treatable," she said, displaying a weak smile. Her hands trembled as she placed her purse on the kitchen counter. "It's unfair," she added, turning to look at me, a tear forming in that left eye. "I'm an artist."

April 14, 2012

It snowed this morning. Two days earlier the temperature had been in the high 70s. Connie and Vera hurried to cover the tender plants they only recently planted in flower beds. Vera grumbled about our "unreliable" weather.

Other than that, this was a quiet day. That evening Connie and I crawled into bed and watched a drama on PBS. Opa, our dog, lay between us. Special time.

April 16, 2012

This morning, minutes after leaving the house for our drive to Tucson for Connie's eye appointment, Monica called my cell phone, saying she had been unable to reach Vera on her cell phone.

Connie turned the Honda around and returned to the house to check on the situation. Twenty minutes later she was again back behind the driver's wheel. Connie found Vera's phone set on vibrate. She also hooked up a land line to Vera's bedside phone as backup communication.

The eye appointment took two and a half hours, during which time the doctor inserted a needle in Connie's retina and injected a prescription fluid. She told me it did not hurt. Connie then learned there

would be at least three more of these injections, spaced about a month apart. I guess we are going to know Tucson well.

April 19, 2012

This afternoon Leslie came to give Harry a shower. She wheeled him into our roll-in shower and spent about half an hour with him. Later, I asked Harry what it was like to be bathed by a woman other than his wife. "She had me wash my pecker," he said, sounding a bit disappointed.



Harry is now
complimenting me for
installing a hand rail
along the wall next
to his bed...

April 24, 2012

Vera had her first doctor's appointment. As Connie later reported, the doctor was very sympathetic. The "medicine" was more mental than physical, allowing Vera to shed tears. Connie has told her mom it's OK to cry; that she is supposed to cry; it's part of the process of letting go. Because Connie has made a study of death and dying throughout her adult life, she speaks with compassion, love and understanding. I'm glad she's my wife.

April 26, 2012

Harry had a appointment with a podiatrist, to examine his left big toe, which had virtually lost the entire nail. When the doctor removed the nail, Harry did not feel a thing.

April 27, 2012

Today, Harry saw a dermatologist. He examined Harry's back and quickly determined that Harry had three problems, all of which were treatable. Essentially, it was bed sores. And "bothered" is the operational word, because he would frequently rub his back against anything firm. Like a cat or dog.

April 30, 2012

Today, Harry was visited by the lead Hospice chaplain, followed by a woman who is the lead housekeeper. She examined the in-law suite to determine who should be assigned to cleaning duties. Cleaning services are not paid for by Medicare.

At dinner that night Connie told me about a conversation she had with her dad. He remembered that Vera's birthday was coming up in two weeks and was wondering what to get her. We both agreed it was significant that Harry would remember his wife's birthday. Had this been an earlier time in his life, he would have been too busy with other activities and would have forgotten. ❁

John Catsis moved to Silver City in 2007 after a long career in broadcast journalism. He recently published his first novel, Fulltimers—The Adventures of Lou and Martha.



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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • ELIZABETH ROCKEY

Creating a Community

LGBT Grant County takes another step forward this month, opening a new community center.

When you move to a new area, what is the first thing you look for after your basic needs are met? Community. People fulfill this need to seek out those who are like minded by joining volunteer groups, attending a religious organization, making friends in a place of employment or just frequenting conducive locations. This need for community becomes even greater for people who are shunned by their families and oppressed by society.

In large cities, people have myriad choices. In rural areas like Southwest New Mexico, however, finding a community of like-minded people can be a challenge. For local members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, LGBT Grant County provides services, support and a sense of belonging. This month, an LGBT Grant County Community Center is scheduled to open at College Street Plaza in Silver City on August 1.

That event marks a major milestone in a 15-year journey that began with an art auction sponsored by the Grant County community of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender, questioning and their allies. After that initial fundraising event, the SouthWest Activities Network Society (SWANS) was formed. Recently the name was been changed to LGBT Grant County to make it easier for people in need to identify.

The local LGBT group has distributed over \$40,000 to the community for various needs over the years. Many people have benefited from LGBT Grant County by receiving small scholarships, cash grants and money for emergency expenses.

The organization has also conducted a needs-assessment survey to ascertain the specific needs of the LGBT community in our area. The most pressing needs are: support for LGBT youth, support for people living with HIV, and the establishment of a LGBT Community Center to offer support and services. Some of these needs will be addressed through a 24/7 LGBT Grant County Helpline. Anyone can call (575) 956-7359 for information on local happenings, support groups, referrals to healthcare providers and general information.

"We want to make sure any LGBT person or ally can contact a trained volunteer who can help them," says LGBT Grant County President Ted Tufares. "We don't want anyone to feel isolated or alone. There is



LGBT Grant County's Mega Sale raised \$1,000, which was donated to the Grant County Chicano Music Project and the Harry Benjamin Expressive Arts Scholarship fund.

a community of people here to provide support and services."

Why is such local support so essential? According to a Human Rights Campaign survey, 52% of LGBT youth reported "their parents had or would disown them based on their sexual orientation." Obviously, if you don't have the support and acceptance of your family it is essential to find a community that fills these essential needs. Combine this with the bullying and cruelty offered up by peers and even teachers at school and a toxic environment is created for LGBT youth.

These youth grow into adults feeling they have no place in the community and are not wanted, loved or supported. Suicide rates for LGBT youth are more than double those for heterosexual youth, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless. A recent study found that 25% of gay men and 20% of lesbians had experienced victimization as adults based on their sexual orientation. These adults reported more symptoms of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress, according to the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. Such negative experiences contribute to an increased vulnerability for mental illness, substance abuse and suicide.

To understand LGBT issues and the need for com-



Kristy Rogers, Nancy Kailing and Tyler Connoley at the LGBT Grant County Helpline training.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

munity, it is important to understand the basic history of LGBT civil rights. Homosexuals have been discriminated against, arrested, beaten, raped and harassed by law enforcement and society at large for hundreds of years. A person could lose a job simply for being a homosexual. Places where homosexuals gathered were frequently raided by the police and brutality was rampant. Organizations formed to try to help make positive changes, but they were mostly underground and lack of media coverage on these issues meant the general public had no idea what the experience was like for LGBT people in the United States.

June 28, 1969 is the generally accepted start of the gay (LGBT) rights movement. When police raided an unlicensed gay bar, The Stonewall Inn, in New York City's Greenwich Village (as they had done on numerous occasions previously), they were surprised to come up against resistance. Riots lasting for days were triggered by the police harassment of gays. It marked a decided change in the attitudes of LGBT people who had finally had enough and began to fight back. One year later, on the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the nation's first Gay Pride parades were held in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Pride events are now held yearly in June all over the world.

Up until 1973 homosexuality was classified by the American Psychological Association (APA) as a mental illness. Dr. Robert Spitzer provided data showing there was no clear link between homosexuality and mental illness, causing the APA to remove homosexuality from the diagnostic manual. This was a big step toward legitimizing LGBT human rights and advancing the gay rights movement.

The 1980s brought the AIDS crisis, to which the government was extremely slow to respond. Current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates are that 650,000 people in the US alone have died from AIDS. But linking AIDS with gay men put it out of the minds of heterosexual people. It was a "gay" disease and therefore it was easier for heterosexuals to ignore.

During the AIDS epidemic it became apparent that LGBT couples have legal issues. Parents of people suffering with AIDS could block their long-time partners from seeing them in the hospital or from being involved in making any medical decisions. Parents who had disowned their gay children suddenly showed an interest as their children succumbed to the disease, barring their partners and friends from saying goodbye and assuring the patients' requests were met.

In 1993 President Bill Clinton enacted the "don't ask, don't tell" policy in the military, preventing gays from serving openly. The military has a history of dishonorably discharging military members who are LGBT. In fact, one study suggests the dumping of



Chaz Moreno and Rebecca Martin lead members of the LGBT community in Silver City's 4th of July Parade.

LGBT ex-military members in port cities may be why San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles became known places of refuge for LGBT people.

In 1996 Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), barring same-sex marriage. This affected more than 1,100 provisions of federal law, denying gay couples the right to federal benefits given heterosexual couples. Despite the passage of DOMA, in 2000 Vermont became the first state to allow same-sex civil unions; Vermont later approved same-sex marriage in 2009. In 2004 Massachusetts legalized gay marriage. Since then 13 more states have legalized same-sex marriage.

In 2009, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act was signed into law by President Barack Obama. The act was named after two victims of especially horrific hate crimes. It requires the FBI to track hate crimes based on gender and gender identity and gives the Justice Department the power to prosecute crimes motivated by the victim's race, religion, national

origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

The latest advancement to LGBT rights has been this summer's declaration by the US Supreme Court that DOMA is unconstitutional. Gay couples legally married in their states will now be granted federal benefits.

As for New Mexico, our state protects employees in the private sector and state and local governments from discrimination on the basis of gender identity and/or gender expression. Many experts believe New Mexico will legalize same-sex marriage in the next few years.

Everyone needs to find a place where they belong—a community of people who are supportive and like-minded. It is essential to everyone's growth and development to be accepted, which LGBT Grant County is helping to make a reality in Southwest New Mexico. ❁

Elizabeth Rockey is vice president of LGBT Grant County. Call (575) 956-7359 for information.



Guadalupe Cano, LGBT Grant County board member, Ted Tufares, president, and Pat Bennett at a weekly chat group meeting at Javalina 10 a.m. every Tuesday.

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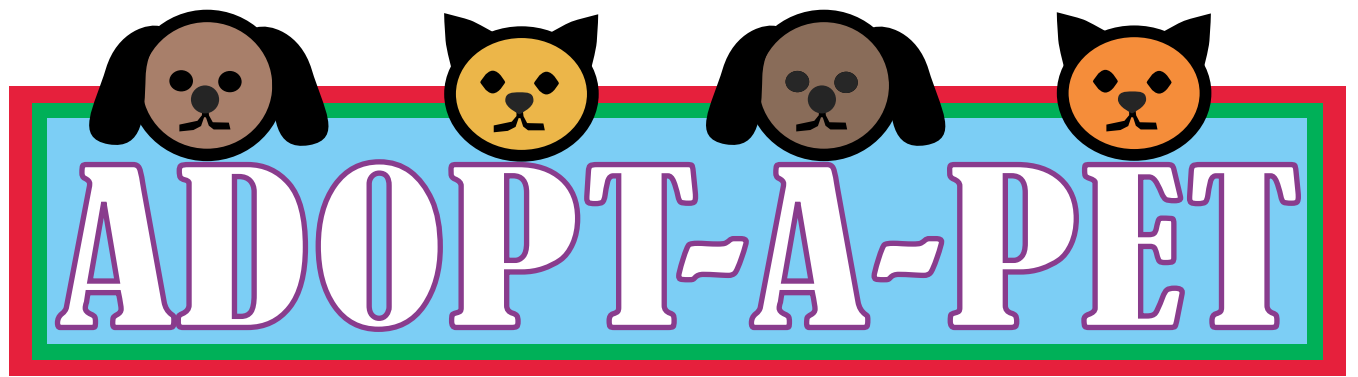
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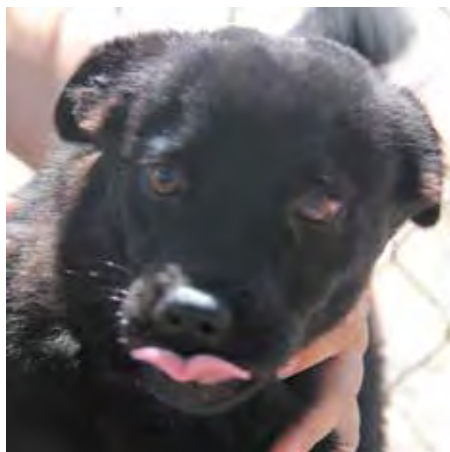
Abbot

3 mos., Neutered Male, DMH



Dragger

16 mos., Male, Heeler/Black Mouth Cur



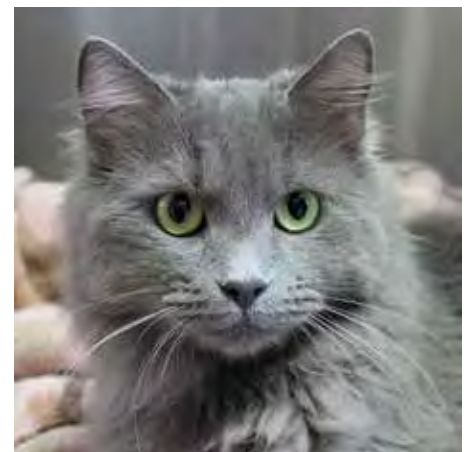
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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

Grant County Weekly Events

Support groups, classes and more.

Sundays
ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—First Sun. of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.
BEAD SOCIETY—1 p.m. Alotta Gelato 388-1362.
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
A COURSE IN MIRACLES—6:30 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.
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.
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.
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.
GILA WRITERS—6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. Trish Heck, pheck@grmc.org, 538-4072.
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—6:30 p.m. Santa Clara Senior Center, 107 East St., Santa Clara. 537-3141.
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.
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.
GROUP MEDITATION—5:30 p.m., A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St. 388-2425.
LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION—8 a.m. tee time. Silver City Golf Course.
PFLAG—(Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) 1st Weds. 5:30 p.m. Sparks Clinic, 1000 N. Hudson. 590-8797.
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.
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.
CARDIAC SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Thurs. 4 p.m. Grant County Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy 180E, 590-2578.
DE-STRESSING MEDITATIONS—12-12:45 p.m. New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.
GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—2nd Thurs. 6 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria St. Kyle, 538-5706.
HATHA YOGA—5:30 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St. Lori Zitzmann.
HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOURISM MEETING—Second Thurs. 10 a.m. Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.
KUNDALINI YOGA—5:30 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.
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
KUNDALINI YOGA—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.
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.
TAIZE—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, 590-2166.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.
SADHANA MORNING PRAYER, MEDITATION, YOGA—Last Sat. 5-7 a.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.
SPINNING GROUP—1st Sat., 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.
VINYASA FLOW YOGA—10 a.m. All levels. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331. ✽

Send weekly events updates by the 18th of the month to events@desertexposure.com

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310 W. 6th Street • NMCNH Integrative Health & Wellness Center
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August Workshops
Monthly Breath Empowerment
 Sat., Aug. 10, 10am-12noon \$20

Monthly 9-Breath & Prayer Circle
 Sat., Aug. 17, 11am-12:30pm, \$10
 Half of the proceeds collected donated to local non-profit.

3 Hour Breath Workshop
 The powerful Breath Empowerment, learning the 9-Breath Method and Healing 9-Breath Prayer Circle.
 Sat., Aug. 24 from 1-4pm \$35 for this life altering event (\$25 if attended previous Breath Empowerment with Martha)

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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.*

ASIAN BUFFET, 1740 Hwy. 180E, 388-0777. "A boundless buffet that would satisfy the Mongol hordes." (April 2010) Chinese, Thai, Malaysian, sushi: L D.

BILLY'S BBQ AND WOOD-FIRED PIZZA, Hwy 180E, 388-1367. "A free-wheeling mixture of barbecued ribs and brisket, freshly made pasta, Cajun catfish, seared Ahi tuna, authentic Greek gyros, and pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven and featuring a wide range of innovative toppings." (November 2010) Barbecue, pizza, gyros, pasta: Tues.-Fri. D. Sat.-Sun. L D. Italian nights Weds., Sat.*

BRYAN'S PIT BARBECUE, Mimbres Valley Self Storage and RV Park, (660) 247-3151 or (660) 247-3160. Barbecue: L D.

CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. "Bear Mountain Lodge blends food, art and natural beauty into a memorable experience that pleases all the senses.... The menu changes daily, with entrées that are always imaginative and tasty—comfort food in a form that most of our mothers would never have thought of producing." (March 2011) Weekend brunch, weekday L by reservation only.*

CHINESE PALACE, 1010 Highway 180E, 538-9300. Chinese: Mon.-Fri. L D. **COURTYARD CAFÉ**, Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American: B L, with special brunch Sundays.*

CURIOS KUMQUAT, 111 E. College Ave., 534-0337. "A hotspot of modern culinary innovation. Lunch features soups, salads and sandwiches. Dinners are elaborate, imaginative, exotic five-course culinary creations. Entrées always include vegetarian and vegan options... plus others determined by what local ranchers have available." (July 2010) Contemporary: Mon. L, Tues.-Sat. L D.*

DELIGHTFUL BLEND, 3030 N. Pinos Altos Road, 388-2404. Coffeeshop. **DIANE'S RESTAURANT**, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Homemade American, Euro and Pacific Rim: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. D only, weekend brunch, catering.

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

DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE, 711 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-2916. Breakfast, American: B L

EAT YOUR HEART OUT, 800 W. Market, 313-9005. Catering.*

GALLO PINTO, 901 N. Hudson St., 597-3663. Mexican: B L D.

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

GOLDEN STAR, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. Chinese: L D.

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

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

JALISCO CAFÉ, 100 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.

JAVA THE HUT, 611-A N. Bullard St., 534-4103. Espresso and coffeeshop: Mon.-Sat.*

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

KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1505 N. Hudson St., 388-4512. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L early D, Sun. B only.*

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.*

LA MEXICANA, Hwy. 180E and Memory Lane, 534-0142. "Carrying on the legacy of unpretentious but tasty and authentic Mexican food established many years ago at the family's restaurant in Chihuahua." (April 2013) Mexican and American: B L, closed Tues. Lion's Den, 208 W. Yankie, 654-0353. Coffeeshop.

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.*

MEXICO VIEJO, Hwy. 90 and Broadway. "A remarkably extensive menu for a small roadside food vending stand, and the dishes are not what one normally finds in other Mexican restaurants." (July 2013) Mexican food stand: Mon.-Sat. B L early D.

MI CASITA, 2340 Bosworth Dr., 538-5533. New Mexican cuisine: Mon.-Thurs. L, Fri. L D.

MILLIE'S BAKE HOUSE, 215 W. Yankie, 597-2253. "The food is oven-fresh and innovative." (November 2012) Soup, salads, sandwiches, baked goods: 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. Beer and wine bar, sandwiches, light bites: Tues.-Sun.

afternoons.

PEACE MEAL BURRITO BAR, The Hub, 6th and Bullard, 388-0106. "Slow-roasted beef, pork and chicken options in addition to vegetarian and vegan fare... with a commitment to provide food that is organic and healthy." (January 2013) Chipotle-style burrito bar: Weds.-Mon. L early D.*

PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM, 312 N. Bullard St., 388-8600. Dessert, ice cream: Mon.-Sat.*

Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO AND BREWERY, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Mon.-Sat. 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. "If sampling new types of food is part of the adventure of traveling for you, you only have to go as far as Shevek & Co. Restaurant in Silver City to take a culinary tour around the world." (May 2013) Mediterranean: 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, **DINING GUIDE**

continued on page 47

Cappuccinos Lattes **three dogs** Macchiatos Espresso

COFFEEHOUSE & EATERY

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A Fund Raiser to Benefit Bridge Community

Early Sunday Supper

with entertainment by AMAZING GRACE

Sunday, August 18
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

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.

It's HOT! Come Cool Off...

...with the many chilled dishes on our August/September menu

French Dinner Cooking Class
Saturday, August 24, starting at 11am.

Learn all the French dishes served during our French Wine Tasting Dinner—attendance at the Wine Tasting Dinner **not** required to take the class.

See the link on our website for details.
Preregistration required.

French Wine Tasting Dinner
Join us on Friday, August 16 at 6:30pm for a six-course dinner featuring the foods of various regions of France with optional matched French wines presented by Bob Geitgey of Favorite Brands. See our website for details—or scan the QR code at right.
Reservations highly recommended.

In Historic Downtown Silver City
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Shevek & Co. Restaurant

Summer Hours:
Monday 5pm-9pm
Tuesday 5pm-9pm
Wednesday CLOSED
Thursday CLOSED
Friday 5pm-9:30pm
Saturday 5pm-9:30pm
Sunday 5pm-9pm

Silver City Food Co-op

a community market since 1974

August Community Forum: *Raw for Life*

Learn about the benefits of a raw food diet

Presented twice

Tuesday, August 13th Noon-1 pm
Thursday, August 15th Noon-1 pm

In the Co-op Community Room
FREE & OPEN TO EVERYONE
Light refreshments served

The Co-op's Summer Member Appreciation Day is on Thursday, August 22 Members will save 15%

It's time for the Co-op's Annual Picnic!

Sunday • August 25th • 11-3pm
at the Little Walnut Picnic Area
Bring a desert or salad to share
Bring plates and utensils

520 N. Bullard St. 575.388.2343
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www.silvercityfoodcoop.com

RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

Chiles and Beyond

Sparky's in Hatch serves up champion green-chile cheeseburgers, barbecue, innovative drinks and a generous dollop of whimsy.

Hatch, NM, will be hosting its annual Chile Festival again this year during the last week-end of August. But Hatch is worth a visit at any time of the year for more than its famous green chile peppers. It is, after all, the home of Sparky's, an eating establishment that announces its whimsical uniqueness at the curb in no uncertain terms with gigantic figures of Paul Bunyan (burger in hand), Uncle Sam (green chile pepper in hand) and dinosaurs.

Sparky's green chile cheeseburgers regularly receive rave reviews from customers and last year took first place honors on the Green Chile Cheeseburger Trail, as reported by *New Mexico Magazine*. But those much-acclaimed burgers were almost an afterthought in the development of the restaurant.

"Sparky's started with my wife and daughter, who were just going to do drinks and coffee," says Teako Nutt. "Then I decided, if they were going to do that, I'd like to do barbecue too."

Smoked sausage, pulled pork, sliced brisket and center-cut spareribs joined espresso drinks, milkshakes and freshly made lemonade and orangeade as part of the new venture. The barbecuing was, and still is, accomplished overnight in a smoker at the back of the restaurant, using pecan wood from a local orchard and Teako's special dry rub.

The green chile cheeseburgers were added, you might say, by popular demand. "For years, we had been holding a cookout and giving away green chile cheeseburgers every Saturday at our family business, Franciscan RV in Hatch, and we were actually listed on the Green Chile Cheeseburger Trail as a result—the only non-restaurant to be listed," Teako explains. "My son, Dillon, who was in high school at the time, insisted we had to have green chile cheeseburgers on the menu. He said his friends would never leave him in peace if we didn't. So we added green chile cheeseburgers to the menu, too."

The food menu kept expanding, and now includes char-broiled chicken breasts and ribeye steaks, Tecate beer-battered chicken strips and (on Fridays only) cod, pulled-pork burritos and tacos, and even Chile Cheese Hot Dogs.

In keeping with their original idea, Teako's wife, Josie, and their daughter, Michelle, have developed an extensive beverage menu that includes drinks with names as creative as the combination of ingredients that go into them. You can sip on Crimson Pucker (a pomegranate-flavored fresh lemonade), the Mudball (essentially a chocolate milkshake with two shots of espresso added), or the Wired Cow (an espresso drink with white and dark chocolate).

The location being Hatch, the self-proclaimed chile capital of the world, it should not really surprise anyone that chile peppers and powder not only appear pretty much everywhere on the food menu, but also find their way into some unlikely drinks at Sparky's. There's Green Chile Lemonade, a lemonade-based drink called El Rojo (made with Guajillo chile powder and mango syrup), a Green Chile Milk Shake, the Chile Mango Shake (with Hatch green chile), Sassy Strawberry Lemonade and the Sassy Strawberry Shake (both made with Guajillo chile powder and frozen strawberries).

Yes, dining at Sparky's is definitely an adventure—a nicely choreographed adventure, incidentally. Despite the fact that it's a popular place, particularly on weekends, and customers nearly always have to wait in line, the line moves along quickly enough that first-timers may worry they won't have time to look the menu boards over thoroughly before reaching the counter and having to place their order.

Um, no, you don't sit down and order to a wait-



Teako Nutt looks on as his daughter, Michelle, serves Sparky's famous green chile cheeseburgers.

ress. You place your order at the front counter, where you receive a tall metal holder with a big number attached at the top. You pay for your food immediately. Then you go find a table, either in the small room next to the counter or in the larger room reached by going back outside. There's live music in that larger room Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 12:30 to 3:30—good music, but loud.

Wherever you alight, you place your numbered holder on the table. In a relatively short period of time, your drinks arrive at the table—the sharp-eyed servers finding your number and delivering the right order to the right table every time. Shortly thereafter, your food arrives—again delivered unerringly to the correct table.

Considering the fact that all the char-broiled and fried items are cooked to order and all the specialty drinks are made to order, the wait is by no means unreasonable. It is a highly efficient system.

Sparky's opened in 2008, and has been, from the beginning, rooted in whimsy. "We're toy collectors, and Sparky was the name of a 1948 robot toy from Japan," Teako explains. "As he walks, a little flint is struck and causes him to spark out of his mouth. That's how he got his name. He's one of our favorite toys,

so we decided to use his name for our restaurant."

A people-sized metal sculpture based loosely on the original Sparky stands in the patio outside the restaurant. It was made by Josie out of old farm parts: oil pans, shock absorbers, transmission gears. A bigger version of Sparky will be arriving in the near future, holding a cup of coffee in one hand and a green chile cheeseburger in the other, as he is pictured in the restaurant's logo.

Food prices are reasonable at Sparky's, ranging from \$3.99 for the Sausage Bites appetizers and the pulled-pork burrito, to \$14.99 for a 10-ounce ribeye steak, with the majority of meals costing \$6.49 to \$7.99. Most come with a choice of at least one side dish from a list that includes Pineapple Cole Slaw, Seasoned Pinto Beans, Sweet Corn with Hatch Green Chile & Onion, and Wedge-cut Fries. The most expensive drinks, at \$3.99, are 20-ounce milkshakes and the Mudball espresso-laced chocolate milkshake.

Sparky's is located at 115 Franklin St. in Hatch, just off Hwy. 26. It's open Thursday through Monday from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. A catering menu for large parties is available. For more information, check out the website at www.sparkysburgers.com or call (575) 267-4222.

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

Viva

NEW MEXICO RESTAURANT PROGRAM



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Viva New Mexico Restaurant Program—encouraging diners to select more health conscious meals when eating out.

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Billy's BBQ
Diane's Restaurant
Grinder Mill
Kountry Kitchen
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Silverado
The Jalisco Café
The Red Barn
NEW Tre Rosat Café
Vicki's Eatery
Wrangler's Bar & Grill
-Bayard-
Little Nisha's
M and A Bavard Café
-Hurley-
Gateway Grill
-Mimbres-
Elks Xing Café
-Lordsburg-
El Charro
Fidencios
Ramona's Café
-Rodeo-
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The Curious Kumquat

life's a banquet

Wine Tasting

SAT, AUG 2ND, 7PM-

10 wines, \$10, appetizers

Open Tue-Sat at 11 am

Dinners served Tue-Sat

Catering & Private Chef Services

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sandwiches, wraps: Mon.-Sat. B L.*
TRE ROSAT CAFÉ, 304 N. Bullard St., 654-4919. International eclectic: Mon.-Fri. L, D. Sat. D.*
VICKI'S EATERY, 315 N. Texas, 388-5430. American: Mon.-Sat. B L. Sun. B.*
WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.*
YANKIE CREEK COFFEE HOUSE, 112 W. Yankee St. Coffeeshop, coffee, homemade pastries and ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies.*

Bayard

LITTLE NISHA'S, 1101 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-3526. Mexican: Wed.-Sun. B L D.
LOS COMPAS, 1203 Tom Foy Blvd, 654-4109. Sonoran-style Mexican, hot dogs, portos, menudo: 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.

Hurley

GATEWAY GRILL, 2705 Hwy. 180E, 537-5001. American and Mexican: Sun.-Thur. B L, Fri.-Sat. B L D.*

Lake Roberts

LITTLE TOAD CREEK INN & TAVERN, 1122 Hwy. 35, 536-9649. "Rustic gourmet... designed to appeal to the eyes as well as the taste buds. And this is true of the items on the brunch menu, as well as those on the very different dinner menu." (June 2012). Steaks, sandwiches, American: 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. "For the German sampler, café customers can choose two meat options from a revolving selection that may include on any given day three or four of the following: bratwurst, roast pork, schnitzel (a thin breaded and fried pork chop), sauerbraten (marinated roast of beef), stuffed cabbage leaves, or roladen (rolled beef with a sausage and onion filling)." (July 2011) German specialties, American lunch and dinner entrées: Saturday 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.

Pinos Altos

BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE, Main Street, 538-9911. "The Buck," as most locals affectionately call it, has a history of satisfying at the dinner plate with its long-favored menu including generous slabs of meat, hearty green chile stew with kick and 'honest pours' at the full bar." (December 2010) Steakhouse, pasta, burgers: Mon.-Sat. D.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

Las Cruces & Mesilla

ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT, 500 S. Main St. #434, 523-5911. American: Mon.-Fri. B L.
ANDELE RESTAURANTE, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Mon. B L, Tues.-Sun. B L D.
AQUA REEF, 900-B S. Telshor, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: D.
BAAN THAI KITCHEN, 1605 S. Solano Dr., 521-2630. Thai: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. L.

BLUE MOON, 13060 N. Valley Dr., 647-9524. Bar, burgers: Sat.-Sun. L D.
BOBA CAFÉ, 1900 S. Espina, Ste. 8, 647-5900. Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: Mon.-Sat. L D.*
DE LA VEGA'S PECAN GRILL & BREWERY, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers: L D.
DG'S UNIVERSITY DELI, 1305 E. University Ave., 522-8409. Deli: B L D.*
DOUBLE EAGLE, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. 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.
GARDUÑO'S, 705 S. Telshor (Hotel Encanto), 522-4300. Mexican: B L D.*
HIGH DESERT BREWING COMPANY, 1201 W. Hadley Ave., 525-6752. Brew pub: L D.*
JOSEPHINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Mon.-Thur. L, Fri.-Sun. B L.
LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Sat.-Sun. and holidays also B.
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.*
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. Southwestern: L D.*
ROBERTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 908 E. Amador Ave., 523-1851. Mexican: B L D.*
SAVOY DE MESILLA, 1800-B Avenida de Mesilla, 527-2869. American, Continental: B L D.
THE SHED, 810 S. Valley Dr., 525-2636. American, pizza, Mexican, desserts: Wed.-Sun. B L.*
SHEBA GRILL, 2265 S. Main St., 525-1100. Indian, Middle Eastern: Mon.-Thurs., Sat.-Sun L D, Fri. D.
SPIRIT WINDS COFFEE BAR, 2260 S. Locust St., 521-1222. Sandwiches, coffee, bakery: B L D.*
ST. CLAIR WINERY & BISTRO, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-0390. Wine tasting, bistro: L D.
TIFFANY'S PIZZA & GREEK AMERICAN CUISINE, 755 S. Telshor Blvd #G1, 532-5002. "Greek as the Parthenon, the only pure outpost of Greek food for 200 miles.... When the food arrives, it's in portions that would satisfy a Greco-Roman wrestler." (February 2005) Pizza, Greek, deli: Tues.-Sat. B L D.*
UMP 88 GRILL, 1338 Picacho Hills Dr., 647-1455. "An authentic taste of the Emerald Isle in a delightfully authentic pub atmosphere." (December 2008) Irish pub: L D.
VALLEY GRILL, 1970 N. Valley, 525-9000. American: B L D, Friday fish fry.
VINTAGE WINES, 2461 Calle de Principal, 523-WINE. "The atmosphere is



Happy 10th Birthday to ALOTTA GELATO

Surprise! Who would have guessed on that fateful day, August 29, 2003, that we would still be dishing it out ten years later? We are the oldest gelato shop in the state (and for several years we were the **only** gelato shop in the state), and we couldn't have done it without our friends and loyal customers, both "locals" and visitors.

So here's the Birthday Deal: *on our Tenth Birthday, Thursday August 29, for every regular, medium, or large cup of gelato you buy, we'll give you a child-size cup of gelato absolutely free!* No coupons, no punch cards—just walk in, tell us you want the Birthday Deal, and celebrate with us!

Here's another surprise: after all these years, we have (finally!) created *Alotta Gelato*-T-shirts (with the help of our terrific neighbors at No Excuses)! We hope to eventually have several different designs available, each with a unique and memorable slogan/aphorism/graffito about gelato in general, our gelato in particular, or Silver City in all its glory! Only \$19.95, and worth every penny!

ALOTTA GELATO is open 7 (count 'em!) days a week, beginning at Noon every day until 9:00 PM (Sunday through Thursday) or 10:00 PM (Friday and Saturday)—sometimes even later.

Thanks for reading, thanks for your support, and Happy Birthday to us!



Visit us online at: www.alottagelato.com



Alotta Gelato - 619 N. Bullard St., in Downtown Silver City - 575-534-4995

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Contact Building Owner 575-313-1700

DINING GUIDE

continued on next page



The Café Oso Azul at The Lodge

CLAYFEST AWARD BRUNCH MENU

August 4, 2013 11-1pm
Reservations A Must! 575-538-2538

The Big Salad

A kiln load of local greens, veggies, topped with jicama and pistachios serve with Ben Owen Grilled Pimento Cheese Sandwiches

\$16.

or

John Glick Roasted Pork Tenderloin glazed with a reduction of balsamic vinegar and figs served with creamy polenta and raku peaches and sauteed veggies

\$16.

or

Sophie Newcomb College's Crab Cakes-lump crab tossed with a bit of onion and red bell peppers breaded with seasoned panko crumbs served with a mango salsa and sauteed veggies

\$16.



All entrees are served a caprese salad and a cup of cold basil watermelon soup along with homemade bread and Bear Mountain Sesame-Orange salad dressing and crackers

Dessert:

Brickyard Ice Cream Sandwiches- Slabs of Chocolate cake mortared with Homemade Blackberry ice cream

\$6.

60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road
575 538 2538 • www.bearmountainlodge.com

MVHAL Announces the Eighth Annual



MIMBRES VALLEY HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday
October 5, 2013
San Lorenzo School
NM Hwy 35
9am to 5pm

Live Music

Delicious Locally-Prepared Food

Community Greenhouse Tours

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Non-Stop Kids' Activities!

Farmers' Market

Mimbres Valley Stories & Poetry

Giant Raffle with lots of great prizes!

Free Health Fair 9am-2pm



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www.MimbresHarvestFest.com (575) 536-3990 or (575) 536-9337



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Second Location Now Open on Saturdays

Sunrise Espresso II
1212 East 32nd St.
Now offering Smoothies

Come on in or use our convenient drive-through. Enjoy freshly baked treats and free WiFi. If you have the time, we offer a relaxing comfortable location for informal meetings of getting together with friends.

At Sunrise Espresso we specialize in high quality espresso drinks designed to please the most discriminating tastes. The menu includes lattes, cappuccinos, mochas, and one of the best black cups of coffee you will find anywhere. All our drinks can be made hot, frozen (blended), or over ice, and most drinks can be made sugar free. Non-coffee drinks include Chai lattes, Italian cream sodas, and assorted teas.

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Mon.-Fri. 6am to 5pm • Sat. 8am-3pm

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DINING GUIDE
continued

casual and relaxed, the handful of tables situated snugly as in a real French bistro to encourage conversation. Kick off the evening with wine and tapas inside, or wrap up the night out on the charming, cozy patio with a dessert wine or port." (June 2008) Wine and cigar bar, tapas: L D.

WOK-N-WORLD, 5192 E. Boutz, 526-0010. Chinese: Mon.-Sat. 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.

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.*

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

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

BENJI'S RESTAURANT, 821 W. Pine, 546-5309. Mexican, American: Mon., Tues. Thurs, Fri. B L D, Weds. B L.

CAMPOS RESTAURANT, 105 S. Silver, 546-0095. Mexican, American, Southwestern: 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.

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.

"FORGHEDABOUTIT" 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 CAFE, 120 N.

Granite St., 546-0405. "The menu offers breakfast, lunch and dinner choices, and it's difficult to convey the immense range of food options available. In every section of the menu, there's a mixture of American-style 'comfort' food items and South-west-style Mexican dishes which no doubt qualify as Hispanic 'comfort' food. There's nothing particularly fancy about the food, but it's fresh and tasty. And the prices are reasonable." (February 2012) Mexican, American: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

MIMBRES VALLEY BREWING CO., 200 S. Gold,

544-BREW. Craft beer, burgers, wings, paninis: Tues.-Fri. D, Sat.-Sun. L D.

PALMA'S ITALIAN GRILL, 110 S.

Silver, 544-3100. Italian: L D. Sat. prime rib, Sun. buffet.*

PATIO CAFE, 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. Steak-house, 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.

TACOS MIRASOL, 323 E. Pine St.,

544-0646. Mexican: Mon., Wed.-Sat. B L D, Tues. B L.

Akela

APACHE HOMELANDS RESTAURANT, I-10. Burgers, ribs, "casino-style" food: B L D.*

Columbus

PATIO CAFE, 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 CAFE, 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.

Rodeo

RODEO STORE AND CAFE, 195 Hwy. 80, 557-2295. Coffeshop food: Mon.-Sat. B L.

RODEO TAVERN, 557-2229. Shrimp,

Table Talk

This month's wine-tasting dinner at **Shevek & Co.** in downtown Silver City will feature a French theme. The six-course dinner on Friday, August 16, at 6:30 p.m. will serve matched wines and foods from a variety of French regions. Reservations highly recommended; \$80 per person (\$45 food without wines). 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168.

As reported last month, **Three Dogs Coffee-house & Eatery** is back in business in downtown Silver City, under new ownership. Starting August 4, it will also be open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sundays.

The Curious Kumquat will host a wine tasting, 10 wines plus appetizers for \$10, on August 2 at 7 p.m. 111 E. College Ave., 534-0337.

Little Toad Creek in Lake Roberts will hold "Farm Fest," August 22-24, an outdoor music fest featuring the group Danger Cakes on Thursday, a pig pit roast, croquet and horseshoe tournaments, local foods and crafts and Little Toad Creek's own brews and spirits. 1122 Hwy. 35, 536-964.

Several new Las Cruces-area eateries are hoping to open by the time you read this. **Mesilla Valley Pizza & Subs** is opening at 3961 E. Lohman Ave. Sibling owners Bruce and Tisha Toombs will offer pizza, gourmet sandwiches, appetizers and side dishes. Also opening this summer, as we reported back in March, is **Arabella**, at 1750 Calle de Mercado, serving Cuban, Spanish and Italian fare. That's the former home of Lorenzo's de Mesilla. Check the website www.arabella-soriano.com for updates.

Renoo's Thai Restaurant is also coming to Cruces, at 1445 W. Picacho Ave. on the corner of Picacho and Valley Drive. That's a loss for Organ, however, where the restaurant had been operating and is now closed. 373-3000.

Later this year, look for a new brewery/restaurant, **Roadrunner Brew House**, at 901 E. University Ave. Owner-brewers will be Joel and Deanna Green, who promise a full, locally flavored lunch and dinner menu along with beer, wine, cider and hard lemonade. ☘

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

fried chicken, steaks, burgers, seafood: Weds.-Sat. D.

CATRON COUNTY

Reserve

ADOBE CAFE, 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 CAFE, 533-6111. American: B L D.

UNCLE BILL'S BAR, 230 N. Main St., 533-6369. Pizza: Mon.-Sat. L D.

Glenwood

ALMA GRILL, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, Mexican: Sun.-Weds., Fri.-Sat. B L.

GOLDEN GIRLS CAFE, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. Breakfast: B.

MARIO'S PIZZA, Hwy. 180, 539-2316. "Italian: Mon.-Tues., Fri.-Sat. D.

Other Catron County

PURPLE ONION CAFE, 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 CAFE, Main St., 895-5283. American, Mediterranean, sandwiches: Thurs.-Sat. L.

HILLSBORO GENERAL STORE & CAFE, 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. ☘

40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going on in August

Plus a look ahead into early September.

AUGUST THURSDAY

1 Silver City/Grant County SILVER CITY CLAY FESTIVAL—Through August 4. See Arts Exposure section. Primitive pottery workshop, ClayPlay, Waterworks Building labyrinth dedication at 10 a.m., evening gala. clayfestival.com.

CLAY GALA—Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, Little Toad Creek spirits, the opening of the clay festival's international juried exhibition. Silent auction. 6-9 p.m. \$30. Historic Carter House, 101 N. Cooper St., clayfestival.com.

MIMBRES FARMERS' MARKET—Thursdays. 3:30-5:30 p.m. 14 Hwy. 35, 574-7674.

BROWN BAG PROGRAM—"Mathis and Mathis, 1936-1984: A Business History of a Successful Medium-Sized Mining Company in Silver City," with Scott Fritz. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Jim Helder Septet. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

EVERETT HOWL—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRANCES HA—7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

FRIDAY

2 Silver City/Grant County SILVER CITY CLAY FESTIVAL

Through August 4. See story in Arts Exposure section. Mimbres site tour at 9 a.m., meet at visitor center. Lectures, demonstrations, vendor fair 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 405 N. Bullard, films, Avelino Jimenez workshop. clayfestival.com.



The annual Copper Country Cruizers car show returns to Gough Park in Silver City on August 17. Here Felix Roybal of Mimbres shows off the 1964 Ford pickup that once belonged to his dad.

BIKE-IN MOVIE NIGHT—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Free. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

PAT PANTHER—Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com

VFW DANCE NIGHT—Every Friday. Hector Carrillo. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. VFW Post 3347, Hwy. 180 & Burnham Road.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

11 FLOWERS—Through August 8. Wang Han (Liu Wenqing), age 11, lives with his mother (Yan Ni), father (Wang Jingchun) and sister (Zhao Shiqi) in a remote village in the Guizhou province of China during the Cultural Revolution.

When his teacher (Yu Yue) gives Wang the honor of leading the morning exercises at school, he persuades his mother to make him a new white shirt despite their family's poverty. But Wang loses the shirt while playing out in the local river with his friends. A fugitive (Wang Ziyi) on the run for murder stole the precious shirt, and when Wang converses with him deep in the woods, he promises to buy him a new shirt. In Mandarin, Shanghainese with English subtitles. 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.

LUNCHTIME YOGA—Fridays. 12 p.m. \$12 includes lunch. Downtown Desert Yoga, 126 S. Downtown Main St.

RGT LIVE!—Open mic. 7-10 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

THE GONDOLIERS—Through August 4. W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan as a comic satire on class distinctions. The plot follows two handsome gondoliers in Venice as they attempt to run the government after they learn that one of them is the King of Barataria. The operetta also tells the story of Casilda, the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Plaza-Toro, as she deals with the recent news that she was married to the missing King of Barataria as an infant, making her the queen of Barataria. 7:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

SATURDAY

3 Silver City/Grant County SILVER CITY CLAY FESTIVAL

Through August 4. See story in Arts Exposure section. Lectures and panel discussion, demonstrations, films, vendor fair 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 405 N. Bullard, Stephani Stephenson workshop. Neo-

entertainment. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, 313-6468.

FeVA FOTOS—Original photography and digital images on canvas by Sandy Feutz and Tom Vaughan. Opening reception. 2-7 p.m. Copper Quail Gallery, 211A. N. Texas, 388-2646.

FROZEN MOMENTS: THE TAO OF NOW—Opening reception. Street photographer Colin Rhodehamel. 6-8 p.m. Art & Conversation, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

NEO-MIMBRENO 2013 VESSELS—Exhibit opening, 4:30-6 p.m., also at WNMU Museum. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercity-museum.org.

THE OVERSOULS—Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com

ZOE WOLFE & SARAH PINEDA—Featuring works by Zoe Wolfe and a pottery-wheel demonstration by Sarah Piñeda. 1-3 p.m. Leyba & Ingalls Arts, 15 N. Bullard St., 388-5725, leybaingallsarts.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ANIMALS AND WILDLIFE IN THE GARDEN WORKSHOP—Farm Manager Lori Garton: Flora and fauna work together harmoniously in the garden and farm. Learn why and how you can incorporate animals into your agro-ecological setting. 9-11 a.m. \$20, \$15 MVM members. Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Rd., 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

BOAT SAFETY—The course is eight hours; successful completion will earn participants the boater education card. Anyone born after January 1, 1989, who would like to operate a vessel must complete a state-certified boating education course. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

COFFEE ROASTING DEMONSTRATION AND TASTING—Father Daniel Cave, the rector at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in La Union, will be holding a demonstration on roasting coffee beans. 10-11 a.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

GUIDED HIKES—Saturdays and Sundays. Journey through the park on a ranger-led hike. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water and sun protections. Binoculars are always a bonus 2:30 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

JILL SOMOZA AND MARY ROBERTSON—Opening for exhibit. 4-6 p.m. Unsettled Gallery, 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285, u@unsettledgallery.com, www.unsettledgallery.com.

LOCAL LADIES EXHIBIT—Reception. Joyce Macrorie (etchings), Margaret Bernstein (paintings), Mildred Grossman (lithographs and acrylics), Lois Smith (watercolor) and Wanda Fuselier (recycled art). 4-6 p.m. Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St., mesquite-artgallery.com.

PETER & THE TWINS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

BIRD WALKS—Saturdays. With members of local Audubon Society and park volunteers. No reservations needed, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring or borrow park binoculars. 7:30 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Sarah "Juba" Addison and Sharlene Wittern. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Downtown, 317

EVENTS continued on next page

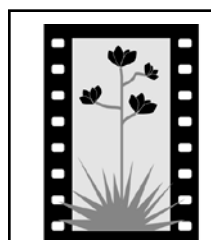


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AUGUST FILMS

Aug 2-8 **11 Flowers** (Mandarin, Shanghainese with English subtitles).

Aug 9-15 **Augustine** (French with English subtitles).

Aug 16-22 **Fill the Void** (Hebrew with English subtitles).

Aug 23-29 **Beyond the Hills** (Romanian with English subtitles).

Mesilla Valley Film Society
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!



FROM ACCLAIMED WRITER JEREMY SCAHILL

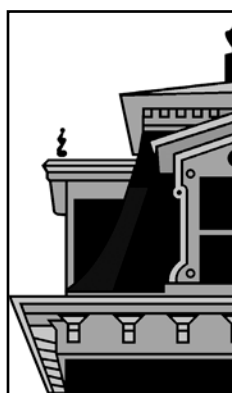
A SECRET ARMY. A WAR WITHOUT END. A JOURNALIST DETERMINED TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH.

DIRTY WARS

4 September 2013 / WNMU / Global Resource Center

A FINANCIAL CHALLENGE. A VOICE AND A CHOICE FOR SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO. A COMMUNITY RADIO STATION DETERMINED TO GET ON THE AIR.

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DONATIONS NEEDED for Aug. 17 Auction

Silver City Museum Society needs your good unwanted items. Deliver to the annex on Broadway and Arizona

Aug. 2, 9—3 PM to 6 PM
Aug. 10—12 to 3PM

Please no firearms, clothing, or old electronics.



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THE TO DO LIST

August occasions.

These may be the dog days of summer, but some area events are just starting to howl. For example, you can rev up your month at the 22nd annual Copper Country Cruizers' car show, **August 17** at Gough Park in Silver City. "Run to Copper Country" is open to all vehicles 1978 and older (previously the cut-off was 1975). Registration for participants, at \$35 per car, will begin on Friday, August 16, from 2-8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express. Copper Country Cruizers, a non-profit club, uses revenues from the show to support a scholarship fund, toy drive and local charities. There's no charge for the public to stroll down automotive memory lane. In addition to the vehicles, the show will include vendors, refreshments and meals, raffles, 1950s and 1960s music and special events.

If you'd rather race ducks than cars (and where else in America would that phrase even make sense?), the **Deming Duck Races** return **August 22-25** for the 34th straight year of feathered fun.



Dmitri Matheny.

tured on "This American Life" and in The Huffington Post, Berkeley has opened/toured with Adele, Mumford & Sons, Ben Folds, Don McLean, Ray LaMontagne, Nickel Creek, Michelle Shocked, Olabelle, Dido, Rufus Wainwright and others.

The next night, Sunday, **August 25**, the **Dmitri Matheny Group** performs at Seedboat Center for the Arts in downtown Silver City. Matheny was first introduced to jazz audiences in the 1990s as the protégé of Art Farmer. He has since matured into "one of the jazz world's most talented horn players," according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Matheny's popular Jazz Noir project offers a fresh spin on familiar TV and movie themes (film noir, spy thrillers and crime dramas), plus a selection of new works, jazz classics and beloved standards. Concert highlights include a "Noir Medley" of cinematic favorites and Matheny's original "Crime Scenes" suite, a dreamlike series of vignettes linked together with voiceover narrative in the hardboiled detective style of Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler.

Then it's Labor Day Weekend already, which brings Silver City's 30th annual **Gem and Mineral Show, August 31-Sept. 2**, at the Grant County Business and Conference Center. Sponsored by the Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society, the free show features vendors, field trips and educational displays.

Also in Silver City, **August 31** is the inaugural **Chicano Music Project**, with a car and bike show, live music, a photo and memorabilia exhibit, and the premiere of a documentary featuring Grant County musicians.

At the Southern New Mexico Fairgrounds outside Las Cruces, the three-day weekend means the **Harvest Wine Fest**. Your adult admission includes a souvenir wine glass for sampling while you learn about wine and listen to Radio La Chusma, Nosotros, the Eli James Band, Josh Grider, Soulshine and Locomotion.

Hillsboro will be celebrating with a re-creation of the historic **Fountain murder trial, August 31 and Sept. 1** at 2 p.m. at the Hillsboro Community Center Theater, along with screenings of a film about the case at the 1891 Sheriff Murphy House and other events. Read more in the article in this issue.

That's also the weekend for the annual **Hatch Chile Festival**, of course. This issue's restaurant writeup on Sparky's in Hatch may inspire you to make the spicy trip for green chile cheeseburgers and more.

That's also a big music weekend hereabouts, with the Buckhorn Opera House in Pinos Altos presenting **David Berkeley on August 24** as part of the New Mexico Music Series. Berkeley, an Ivy League grad who now lives in Santa Fe, is touring in support of his new release "The Fire in My Head," his fifth album. He penned a memoir called *140 Goats and a Guitar*, which accompanied his last album, "Some Kind of Cure"; *Goats* tells 13 stories, which led to the writing of the album's 13 songs, and the concept allowed Berkeley to perform in bookstores across the country, as well as his usual clubs and theaters. Recently fea-



David Berkeley.

EVENTS continued

5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

MUSIC IN THE PARK—Performance by Colin McAllister (Latin jazz), Project Latin Jazz, La Cella Bella (chamber music). Bring a blanket or lawn chair. 6 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave., las-cruces.org.

SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET—Sundays. Featuring fresh produce, locally roasted coffee, water-wise desert plants, sustainable crafts, more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THE GONDOLIERS—See August 2. 2 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

THE JOURNEY—Exhibit through Sept. 27. Dennis Lujan. Opening reception. Refreshments, featuring tamales and baklava made from scratch by the artist. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Tombaugh Gallery, 2000 S. Solano.

Deming

BLACK RANGE ARTISTS—Reception. 1-3 p.m. Deming Art Center, 100 S. Gold.

SUMMER MUSIC SERIES—Tom Morris, country and acoustic. 5:30-8:30 p.m. St. Clair Winery, 1325 De Baca Road, 546-1179.

TUESDAY

6 Silver City/Grant County GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 3-6 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Tuesdays. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 2251 Calle de Santiago, 620-0377.

EOT: EDDY HARRISON—Eddy Harrison has been writing and singing cowboy and gospel music for 60 years. He started singing in country music dance bands and then started doing a single act at coffee houses and various other venues. He has recorded with country music greats Red Steagall, Stuart Hamblen and Cliffee Stone. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN: FERAL CAT CARE—Join nationally recognized expert on feral cat care, Joe Miele, who will explain some simple things we can do to make the feral cat population more comfortable, and learn how to humanely reduce the population by preventing new litters. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY

7 Silver City/Grant County FARHAD—Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

THURSDAY

8 Silver City/Grant County GREEN DRINKS—Monthly meeting of the Southwest New Mexico Green Chamber and the Silver City Chapter of the New Mexico Solar Energy Association. Keynote presentation: "Our Hospital... Local Quality Healthcare for Today & Tomorrow." 5:30-7 p.m. Shevek & Co., 602 N. Bullard St. 538-1337, scGreenChamber@gmail.com.

MIMBRES FARMERS' MARKET—Thursdays. 3:30-5:30 p.m. 14 Hwy. 35,

574-7674.

ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETING—Gem and Mineral Show Ramp-Up. Led by Lee Stockman and Karen Blisard. Potluck, bring your own serveware and a dish to share. 6 p.m. Senior Center, Victoria St., 534-1393, rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

SILCO RENOVATION PROJECT—The architect of this downtown project will present renderings and design concepts. Free. 6 p.m. Silco Theater, www.Silver-City/MainStreet.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

EARLY MAIL IN NEW MEXICO—Author Henrietta Christmas looks at the history of mail delivery in New Mexico. Letters, packages and their transport will be discussed from the earliest times to a more current view. The Camino Real and the colonial military were instrumental in transporting the mail to and from New Mexico. From horseback, freight wagons, railroad and car, mail has been delivered for centuries. 7 p.m. \$2. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

PHILLIP GIBBS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY

9 Silver City/Grant County

PHILIP GIBBS—Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com

BIKE-IN MOVIE NIGHT—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Free. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

VFW DANCE NIGHT—Every Friday. Hector Carrillo. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. VFW Post 3347, Hwy. 180 & Burnham Road.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

AUGUSTINE—Through August 15. A look at the relationship between pioneering 19th century French neurologist Dr. Jean-Martin Charcot and his star teenage patient, a kitchen maid who is left partially paralyzed after a seizure. Directed by Alice Winocour. Stars Vincent Lindon, Soko, Chiara Mastroianni. French with English subtitles. 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.

LUNCHTIME YOGA—12 p.m. \$12. Downtown Desert Yoga, 126 S. Downtown Main St.

SATURDAY

10 Silver City/Grant County

34TH ANNUAL SILVER CITY GUN SHOW—Through August 11. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. National Guard Armory, Hwy. 180, 388-2360.

ART IN THE BARN—Fine art and craft show featuring award-winning local artists and crafters, plus beer tasting. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Red Barn Family Steak House, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-3848.

ARTS AND CRAFTS STREET FAIR/ MARKET—9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, 313-6468.

CRAFT CLASS—Medicine Pouch. Ages eight and older. Pre-registration encouraged. Parent or guardian attendance required. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

FABRIC AND YARN SALE—8 a.m.-5 p.m. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, fiberartscollective.org.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

TEACHERS WHO PAINT AND PAINTERS THAT TEACH—Exhibit through Sept. 8. Thomas E. Holt, Diane Cornelius, Ginna Heiden, Astara Matthews, Jane Seavers, Gerri Spiller and Thia Utz. Opening Reception. 1-4 p.m. JW Art Gallery, 99 Cortez Ave., Hurley, 537-0300, jwartgallery.com.

THE ROADRUNNERS—Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

GUIDED HIKE—2:30 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

BIRD WALK—7:30 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Doug las Jackson. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Downtown, 317 N. Water St.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Jean Gilbert. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Solano, 1101 S. Solano.

THE MIGHTY ORK—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

Radium Springs

MUSIC AND THE STARS—Enjoy an evening of music by local talents followed by a night of stargazing with the park's new observatory. Park rangers and volunteers from Astronomical Society of Las Cruces will guide you through the universe. 6:30-10:30 p.m. Park entrance fee. Leasburg Dam State Park, 12712 State Park Rd., 524-4068, emnrd.state.nm.us.

SUNDAY

11 Silver City/Grant County

34TH ANNUAL SILVER CITY GUN SHOW—9 a.m.-3 p.m. National Guard Armory, Hwy. 180, 388-2360.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

GUIDED HIKE—2:30 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

MUSIC IN THE PARK—Performance by "Remember Then." Bring a blanket or lawn chair. 6 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

MONDAY

12 Silver City/Grant County

WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE—Speaker will be Randy McCowan, who will talk about a Buffalo Soldier who won the Medal of Honor. 11 a.m. \$10 includes lunch. Glad Tidings Church, 537-3643.

TUESDAY

13 Silver City/Grant County

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 3-6 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

RAW FOR LIFE—Also August 15. Marie and Rod Schabloski. Learn about the benefits of filling your diet with live raw foods. Try sample dishes and take home recipes. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Food Co-op, Community Room, 111 6th St., 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Tuesdays. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 2251 Calle de Santiago, 620-0377.

WEDNESDAY

14 Silver City/Grant County

GREENWOOD MISSES—Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

COFFEE GROUND FOSSILS—Working with different materials to create coffee ground fossils. 10-11 a.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

ORTHO-BIONOMY: WHEN NOTHING ELSE HELPS YOUR PAIN—Clients typically seek out Ortho-Bionomy for the gentle relief of both acute and chronic pain arising from old injuries, trauma and stress, and for reconnecting body, mind, and spirit. 5-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY

15 Silver City/Grant County

MIMBRES FARMERS' MARKET—Thursdays. 3:30-5:30 p.m. 14 Hwy. 35, 574-7674.

RAW FOR LIFE—See August 13. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Food Co-op, Community Room, 111 6th St., 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BAYOU SECO—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Sangria. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

EAT SMART LIVE WELL—Class detailing the health benefits of and wide range of uses for coconut oil, for your brain, skin, heart, digestion and more. 5-6 p.m. \$3, MVM free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

VEGAN SUPPORT GROUP—Presentation about sea vegetables (aka sea weeds). Sea vegetables have 10-20% more minerals than land vegetables, and you'll learn the many ways to incorporate them into your daily diet. Most important, they are a source for B12, a vitamin vegans and vegetarians find lacking in their diet. 7-8 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

FRIDAY

16 Silver City/Grant County

COPPER COUNTRY CRUIZERS CAR SHOW REGISTRATION—Hot cars, hot dogs, oldies music. 2-8 p.m. Holiday Inn Express, Hwy. 180.

SUSANNE ABBOTT—Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

BIKE-IN MOVIE NIGHT—Fridays.

8:30 p.m. Free. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

VFW DANCE NIGHT—Every Friday. Hector Carrillo. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. VFW Post 3347, Hwy. 180 & Burnham Road.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

FILL THE VOID—Through August 22. A devout 18-year-old Israeli is pressured to marry the husband of her late sister. Declaring her independence is not an option in Tel Aviv's ultra-Orthodox Hasidic community, where religious law, tradition and the rabbi's word are absolute. Directed by Rama Burshtein. Stars Hadas Yaron, Yiftach Klein, Irit Sheleg. Hebrew with English subtitles. 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.

LUNCHTIME YOGA—Fridays. 12 p.m. \$12. Downtown Desert Yoga, 126 S. Downtown Main St.

SATURDAY

17 Silver City/Grant County

RUN TO COPPER COUNTRY CAR SHOW—Annual Copper Country Cruisers car show. Door prizes, 50/50 Raffle, Engine Raffle, Basket Raffle, Trophy Winner Parade. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Gough Park.

ARTS AND CRAFTS STREET FAIR/ MARKET—9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, 313-6468.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

MUSEUM AUCTION—Benefits the Silver City Museum Society. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP—Call for details. 388-2010, rollingstonegms.blogspot.com.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—Saturdays. Music by Bayou Seco. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

TIFFANY CHRISTOPHER—Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ANNUAL BUTTERFLY FLUTTERBY—Join us for a glimpse into the fascinating world of this delicate insect with games, experts, arts. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$2. Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, 524-3334, asombro.org.

DAN LAMBERT—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

DESERT BABY-WEARERS—Learn about safe and comfortable baby-wearing, practice new methods, try different carriers and meet other baby-wearers at this monthly meeting. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

DIVAS: 2013—Five of Las Cruces' most talented singers in a special one-night only fundraiser for American Southwest Theatre Company's outreach and guest artist programs. 7:30 p.m. \$15, \$5 high school students with ID. NMSU Center for the Arts, 646-4517.

GUIDED HIKE—2:30 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

BIRD WALK—7:30 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Sarah "Juba" Addison and Sharlene Wittern 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Downtown, 317 N. Water St.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Sonya Weiner. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Solano, 1101 S. Solano.

THE BIG SEED AND WEED VOLUNTEER DAY—Join in the fun of preparing your co-op farm for the fall. Meet other people who are interested in local agriculture and growing their own food. Wear closed-toe shoes, clothes that can get dirty, sun protection, and bring a water container. Light refreshments provided, and all participants will receive one free admission to a future farm workshop. 7-11 a.m. Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Road., 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

Deming

MUSIC IN THE PARK—"AlmaZazz!" Accordionist Judy Mitchell shares her own renditions of favorites and jazz. 6 p.m. Free. Rockhound State Park, Hwy. 143, 546-6182, friendsofrockhound.org.

SUNDAY

18 Silver City/Grant County

ICE CREAM MAKING—1-2 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

EARLY SUNDAY SUPPER—Entertain-
EVENTS continued on next page

Dmitri Matheny Group

Jazz Noir

With his gift for soaring lyricism, Matheny plays jazz that's emotionally open but full of mystery.

—Andy Gilbert, SF Metropolitan

Seedboat Center for the Arts
Sunday 25 August • 7:00 pm
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534.1136 • info@seedboatgallery.com

SILVER CITY MUSEUM

Come explore with us Tuesday through Friday 9:00am - 4:30pm
Saturday and Sunday 10:00am - 4:00pm

Saturday, August 3
4:30 pm to 6:00 pm at the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway
Exhibit Opening:
Neo-Mimbreno 2013 Vessels: Two Museums, One Exhibit

Saturday, August 17
Auction!! 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the
Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway
Find a Fabulous Deal on a Treasure!
To benefit the Silver City Museum Society

See our website for information on these other August programs:
Brown Bag Presentation, Butter and Ice Cream Making demonstrations, Medicine Pouch craft class, and Drop Spindle classes.

For more information: visit us at 312 West Broadway, Silver City NM,
call 575-538-5921, or click www.silvercitymuseum.org

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:
Gila/Mimbres Community Radio
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

Podcasts available @ http://gmcr.org/category/earth-matters/

BEER · FOOD · MUSIC
HOURS · MON-SAT 11:00-MIDNIGHT · SUN NOON-10:00
LIVE MUSIC THURS & SAT 8:00-11:00

Thu 8/1	Everett Howl
Sat 8/3	Peter & The Twins (Minneapolis)
Thu 8/8	Phillip Gibbs (Austin)
Sat 8/10	The Mighty Ork (Houston)
Thu 8/15	Bayou Seco (Silver City)
Sat 8/17	Dan Lambert (El Paso)
Thu 8/22	Tiffany Christopher
Sat 8/24	Montoya Clan (Bisbee, AZ)
Thu 8/29	Bourbon Legend
Sat 8/31	Radio La Chusma

1201 WEST HADLEY AVE. · LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO · 525-6752
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EVENTS continued

ment by Amazing Grace. Fundraiser for Bridge Community. \$10. 5 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 314 W. College Ave., 538-5754.

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS—Free feature-length health film. Sponsored by Seventh-day Adventist Church. 6 p.m. 12 Peterson Dr., 388-1470, 956-9643.

Las Cruces/Mesilla COMPASSION & CHOICES—Learn what a lobbyist does, why it is important, how they do it, and how a lobbyist works, presented by Allison Smith. 1:30-3 p.m. Montana Senior Village Community Center, 355 Montana, 527-8432.

GUIDED HIKE—2:30 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

MUSIC IN THE PARK—Performance by Steve Smith and Hardroad and The Salty Dogs, both bluegrass. 6 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

RIO GRANDE RAMBLERS—6 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THE CHIHUAHUA DESERT GARDEN—Exhibit through Dec. 1. Gardening in the Chihuahuan Desert is the subject of 35 paintings from the Southern Chapter of the New Mexico Watercolor Society. Reception, 6-8 p.m. Free. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

TUESDAY 20 Silver City/Grant County GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 3-6 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

Las Cruces/Mesilla ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Tuesdays. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 2251 Calle de Santiago, 620-0377.

White Sands FULL MOON HIKES—Hike the moonlit dunes with a ranger. Reservations required, accepted two weeks in advance of the hike. 7:30 p.m. \$3. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, nps.gov/whsa.

WEDNESDAY 21 Silver City/Grant County JOE & DANNY—Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Reserve 58TH ANNUAL CATRON COUNTY FAIR—Through August 25. Reserve Fairgrounds.

White Sands FULL MOON NIGHTS—Listen to music, learn about the monument, and enjoy the beauty of moonlit dunes. 8 p.m. \$3. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, nps.gov/whsa.

THURSDAY 22 Silver City/Grant County FARM FEST—Through August 24. Outdoor live music festival. Pig pit roast. Croquet and horseshoe tournaments. Foods featuring New Mexico green chile, local produce, local meats. Produce, flower, art and craft vendors. Little Toad Creek Inn, 1122 Hwy. 35, Lake Roberts, 536-9649, littletoadcreek.com.

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY—Samples, door prizes, special savings. Silver City Food Co-op, Community Room, 111 6th St., 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

MIMBRES FARMERS' MARKET—Thursdays. 3:30-5:30 p.m. 14 Hwy. 35, 574-7674.

MRAC ANNUAL MEETING—Members and other individuals interested in the Mimbres Region Arts Council and its mission are welcome to attend. The new season will be announced and new board members and officers will also be introduced. 5:30 p.m. The Commons Center, 501 E. 13th St. www.mimbresarts.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla EAT SMART LIVE WELL COOKING CLASS—Cooking class featuring easy and delicious ways you can cook with coconut oil. 5-6 p.m. \$3, MVM free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

TIFFANY CHRISTOPHER—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

Deming 34TH ANNUAL DEMING DUCK RACES—Through August 25. Duck Royalty Pageants, DPS Auditorium. 6:30 p.m. 544-0469, demingduckrace.com.

Reserve 58TH ANNUAL CATRON COUNTY FAIR—Through August 25. Reserve Fairgrounds.

FRIDAY 23 Silver City/Grant County FARM FEST—See August 22. Through August 24. Little Toad Creek Inn, 1122 Hwy. 35, Lake Roberts, 536-9649, littletoadcreek.com.

MELANIE ZIPIN & THE SUGAR LEAF—Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

BIKE-IN MOVIE NIGHT—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Free. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

VFW DANCE NIGHT—Every Friday. Hector Carrillo. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. VFW Post 3347, Hwy. 180 & Burnham Road.

Las Cruces/Mesilla BEYOND THE HILLS—Through August 29. The friendship between two young women who grew up in the same orphanage; one has found refuge at a convent in Romania and refuses to leave with her friend, who now lives in Germany. Directed by Cristian Mungiu. Stars Cosmina Stratan, Cristina Fluter, Valeriu Andriuta. Romanian with English subtitles. 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.

GREATER TUNA—Through Sept. 8. What do Arles Struvie, Thurston Wheelis, Aunt Pearl, Petey Fisk, Phinas Blye, and Reverend Spikes have in common? In this send-up of small town morals, they are among the upstanding citizens of Tuna, Texas' smallest town. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

LUNCHTIME YOGA—12 p.m. \$12. Downtown Desert Yoga, 126 S. Downtown Main St.

Deming 34TH ANNUAL DEMING DUCK RACES—Through August 25. Carnival, entertainment 4-8 p.m. Courthouse Park. Sponsor dinner 6:30 p.m. Special Events Center. 544-0469, demingduckrace.com.

Reserve 58TH ANNUAL CATRON COUNTY FAIR—Through August 25. Reserve Fairgrounds.

SATURDAY 24 Silver City/Grant County DAVID BERKELEY—New Mexico Music Series. Singer-songwriter. 7:30 p.m. \$10. Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

ARTS AND CRAFTS STREET FAIR/ MARKET—9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, 313-6468.

DROP SPINDLE CRAFT CLASS—With Karen Porter. Part one. Limit six participants. 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$30. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

FARM FEST—See August 22. Little Toad Creek Inn, 1122 Hwy. 35, Lake Roberts, 536-9649, littletoadcreek.com.

FORT BAYARD'S 147TH BIRTHDAY—Tours, birthday cake. "An Evening with Jeanette MacDonald's 'USO Tour'" at Fort Bayard featuring Vanann Moore. 9:30 a.m. Fort Bayard, 956-3294, fortbayard.org.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—Summer Garden Flower Fiesta. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Main Street Plaza.

Las Cruces/Mesilla GREATER TUNA—See August 23. Through Sept. 8. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

GUIDED HIKE—2:30 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

MONTOKA CLAN—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

BIRD WALK—7:30 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Gloria Hacker. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Downtown, 317 N. Water St.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Judith Ames. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Solano, 1101 S. Solano.

WWE LIVE—7:30 p.m. \$15-\$95. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

Deming 34TH ANNUAL DEMING DUCK RACES—Through August 25. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Balloon ascension, duck races, vendors, entertainment. Courthouse Park, 700 S. Silver, 544-0469, demingduckrace.com.

Duck Days BBQ—11 a.m. First United Methodist Church, 1020 S. Granite, 546-2791, funcdeming.com.

Reserve 58TH ANNUAL CATRON COUNTY FAIR—Through August 25. Reserve Fairgrounds.

SUNDAY 25 Silver City/Grant County SILVER CITY FOOD CO-OP ANNUAL PICNIC—Bring plates and utensils and a salad or dessert to share. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Free. Little Walnut Picnic Area.

DMITRI MATHENY GROUP—"Jazz Noir." 7 p.m. \$25. Seedboat Center, 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136, info@seedboatgallery.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla GUIDED HIKE—2:30 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

MUSIC IN THE PARK—Performance by Flow Tribe (American/Fun/Rock/Zydeco/Jazz) from New Orleans and NMSU Jazz Quartet. 6 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

Deming 34TH ANNUAL DEMING DUCK RACES—7 a.m.-6 p.m. Balloon ascension, duck races, vendors, entertainment. Courthouse Park, 700 S. Silver, 544-0469, demingduckrace.com.

Reserve 58TH ANNUAL CATRON COUNTY FAIR—Reserve Fairgrounds.

TUESDAY 27 Silver City/Grant County GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 3-6 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

PLANT EXCHANGE AND PICNIC—Town and Country Garden Club. Bring a sack lunch and chair. 12 p.m. Memory Lane Cemetery Rose Garden.

Las Cruces/Mesilla ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Tuesdays. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 2251 Calle de Santiago, 620-0377.

MUSIC NIGHT—Alan Munde Gazette. 7 p.m. \$15. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

SEEDSHARE SEED SAVING WORKSHOP—Learn how to save seeds and taste test heirloom fruits and vegetables. This informal workshop will discuss and demonstrate the basic process of saving your own seeds, including planting, selection, harvest, cleaning and storage. Process seeds from tomatoes, chiles, squash, lettuce, melons, and cucumbers. If you can, bring some of your harvest to show off and use in the tasting and seed processing demo. Enjoy an optional potluck with fellow growers. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY 28 Silver City/Grant County THE SALTY DOGS—Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla COFFEE CLAY—Coffee can be used

Prostate Cancer Support Group

Current patients, survivors, and those at-risk for prostate cancer are encouraged to attend. Information on local, state and national resources will be available!

Meets the Third Wednesday of Every Month @ 6:30 p.m. Same Time and Place

Gila Regional Medical Center—Conference Room (1313 E. 32nd St.)

Facilitators:

Dave Schwantes and Walt Hanson

For more information, call the Grant County Community Health Council at (575) 388-1198 ext. 10



COLUMBUS ANIMAL RESCUE

Rescued, Abandoned and Abused Animals need loving homes. All are spayed or neutered and have current vaccinations.

FREE TO GOOD HOMES



Sandy is a terrier, approx. 1 year old, weight 13 lbs. He was abused and is timid but he is loving and gets along with other dogs.

Abundance of Chihuahuas!

Chica is a feisty female, approx. 18 mos. old. "The twins" are males, 5 months old. Calm and quiet. Would love a home together.



Loving homes needed for Sandy, Chica & the Twins!

Call Pat at 575-649-7644 • We have puppies and kittens, too!



The Gilbert and Sullivan Company of El Paso presents *The Gondoliers* at the Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces, August 2-4.

for more than drinking. There are many different ways to use coffee to create a masterpiece. Work with different materials to create coffee clay. 10-11 a.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

THURSDAY
29 Silver City/Grant County MIMBRES FARMERS' MARKET—Thursdays. 3:30-5:30 p.m. 14 Hwy. 35, 574-7674.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Steppin' Up. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

BOURBON LEGEND—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY
30 Silver City/Grant County CHICANO MUSIC PROJECT DANCE—The kick off event of the Grant County Chicano Music Project weekend of events. 9 p.m. \$5, over 21 only. The Flame Center, 2800 Pinos Altos Road. 538-4332, gccmusicproject@gmail.com.

THE OVERSOULS—Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

BIKE-IN MOVIE NIGHT—Fridays. 8:30 p.m. Free. Bikeworks, 820 Bullard St., 388-1444.

VFW DANCE NIGHT—Every Friday. Hector Carrillo. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. VFW Post 3347, Hwy. 180 & Burnham Road.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
GREATER TUNA—See August 23. Through Sept. 8. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

LUNCHTIME YOGA—12 p.m. \$12. Downtown Desert Yoga, 126 S. Downtown Main St.

RANGO—Free movie under the stars. 8 p.m. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarmdranchmuseum.org.

SATURDAY
31 Silver City/Grant County 30TH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW—Through Sept 2. Vendors, day trips on local geology and mining, educational displays. Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society. Free. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Grant County Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180E. www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

CHICANO MUSIC PROJECT—Car and bike show, live music. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Old James Stadium. Opening of photos and memorabilia exhibit, 4-7 p.m. McCray Gallery. Premiere of documentary featuring Grant County musicians, free with ticket, 7 p.m. WNMU Fine Arts Centre Theatre. Dance at the Flame, 9 p.m., \$5. 538-4332, gccmusicproject@gmail.com.

ARTS AND CRAFTS STREET FAIR/ MARKET—9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, 313-6468.

DROP SPINDLE CRAFT CLASS—With Karen Porter, part two. 1-3 p.m. \$30. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvecitymuseum.org.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—Tuesdays and Saturdays. 1-4 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

GREENWOOD MISSES—Buckhorn Saloon, 32 Main St., Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
GREATER TUNA—See August 23. Through Sept. 8. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

GUIDED HIKE—2:30 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

HARVEST WINE FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 2. Celebrate New Mexico's wine harvest with grape stomping, wine tasting, live entertainment. Festival features arts and crafts vendors, children's activities, hourly wine seminars. Music by Radio La Chusma 12 p.m., Nosotros 3 p.m. 12-6 p.m. \$15 includes souvenir glass, free under 21 if accompanied by parent or legal guardian. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 522-1232, nmwine.com.

RADIO LA CHUSMA—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

BIRD WALK—7:30 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Judith Ames. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Downtown, 317 N. Water St.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Sarah "Juba" Addison and Sharlene Wittern. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Solano, 1101 S. Solano.

Hatch
HATCH CHILE FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 1. The Mesilla Valley is the chile capital of the world, and what better way to celebrate than with a chile festival. Sample some of the finest chile while you enjoy food, crafts, an auction, live music by the Yarbrough Band and more. Saturday night dance with Desert Wind Band. \$5 per car. Hatch Municipal Airport, 1 mile west of town on Hwy. 26, 267-5050, www.hatchchilefest.com.

Hillsboro
CREATIVE RE-ENACTMENT OF THE FOUNTAIN MURDER TRIAL—Through Sept. 1. This original piece was written by retiree Garland Bills with contributions by some of the actors. In his former life Bills was a linguist at UNM. See story in this issue. 2 p.m. Hillsboro Community Center, Elenora St., 895-3324.

White Sands
LAKE LUCERO TOUR—Hike with a ranger to the source of the sands and learn about the formation of the dunes. Reservations required. 9 a.m. \$3, \$1.50 children. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, nps.gov/whsa.

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY
1 Silver City/Grant County 30TH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW—Through Sept 2. Vendors, day trips on local geology and mining, educational displays. Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society. Free. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Grant County Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180E. www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

1 Silver City/Grant County CHICANO ROCK—Documentary that inspired the Grant County Music Project. Free. 2 p.m. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater. 538-4332, gccmusicproject@gmail.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
GREATER TUNA—See August 23. Through Sept. 8. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

GUIDED HIKES—Saturdays and Sundays. Journey through the park on a ranger-led hike. Explore the Bosque; learn about our native wildlife and plants while seeing firsthand the impact of the regional drought on our local natural environment. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water and sun protections. Binoculars are always a bonus. 2:30 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

HARVEST WINE FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 2. See August 31. Music by Eli James Band 12 p.m., Josh Grider 3 p.m. 12-6 p.m. \$15 includes souvenir glass, free under 21 if accompanied by parent or legal guardian. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 522-1232, nmwine.com.

Hatch
HATCH CHILE FESTIVAL—See August 31. \$5 per car. Hatch Municipal Airport, 1 mile west of town on Hwy. 26, 267-5050, www.hatchchilefest.com.

Hillsboro
CREATIVE RE-ENACTMENT OF THE FOUNTAIN MURDER TRIAL—See August 31, story in this issue. 2 p.m. Hillsboro

Community Center, Elenora St., 895-3324.

MONDAY LABOR DAY
2 Silver City/Grant County 30TH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW—Vendors, day trips on local geology and mining, educational displays. Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society. Free. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Grant County Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180E. www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
HARVEST WINE FESTIVAL—See August 31. Music by Soulshine 12 p.m., Locomotion 3 p.m. 12-6 p.m. \$15 includes souvenir glass, free under 21 if accompanied by parent or legal guardian; active military \$3 off. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 522-1232, nmwine.com.

TUESDAY
3 Silver City/Grant County HWY. 180 PROJECT—Exhibit through Sept. 30 by Luanne Brooten. Opening reception. 4-5:30 p.m. MRAC Gallery, Wells Fargo Building.

WEDNESDAY
4 Silver City/Grant County DIRTY WARS—Documentary by Jeremy Scahill. Fundraiser for Gila Mimbres Community Radio/KURU. WNMU Global Resource Center. grmc.org.

Las Cruces / Mesilla
WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 8. Outstanding short and feature-length documentaries and narratives of all genres from around the world, with a special focus on Latino and New Mexican film-making. Allen Theaters, Hotel Encanto, and NMSU, (877) 345-6973, wsiff.com.

THURSDAY
ROSH HASHANAH
5 Silver City/Grant County WILL SIGN-UP SOCIAL—Learn more about WILL free programs for the public as well as courses for members. Meet the fall semester course facilitators and sign up for courses if you become or are a member. Membership forms will be available for anyone interested in joining and registering for courses that evening. 5:30 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
GREATER TUNA—See August 23. Through Sept. 8. 7 p.m. \$8. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 8. See Sept. 4. Allen Theaters, Hotel Encanto, and NMSU, (877) 345-6973, wsiff.com.

FRIDAY
6 Silver City/Grant County OUR SAINTS AMONG US: RE-VISITED—Exhibit through March 2. Opening. The exhibit is derived from the private collection of Barbe Awalt and Paul Rhett. The collection includes works in the forms of santos, retablos, bultos, colcha, finwork, and other media depicting saints and other traditional themes. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvecitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
GREATER TUNA—See August 23. Through Sept. 8. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 8. See Sept. 4. Allen Theaters, Hotel Encanto, and NMSU, (877) 345-6973, wsiff.com.

SATURDAY
7 Las Cruces / Mesilla ANNUAL RHIZOME SALE—Through Sept. 8. Spring color your garden. Mesilla Valley Mall, 653-7550, zianet.com/mvis.

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP—MVM Farm Manager Lori Garton: This workshop will demonstrate how you can use free or low-cost resources to supply your soil with more nutrition, beneficial microbiology, water holding capacity, and organic matter. You'll learn how to build and maintain a compost heap the right way. 9-11 a.m. \$20, \$15 MVM members. Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Road, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

GREATER TUNA—See August 23. Through Sept. 8. 8 p.m. \$8. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

NMSU AGGIES FOOTBALL VS. MINNESOTA—6 p.m. \$13-\$30. NMSU Aggies Memorial Stadium, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 8. See Sept.

4. Allen Theaters, Hotel Encanto, and NMSU, (877) 345-6973, wsiff.com.

SUNDAY
Las Cruces / Mesilla ANNUAL RHIZOME SALE—See Sept. 7. Mesilla Valley Mall, 653-7550, zianet.com/mvis.

GREATER TUNA—See August 23. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 8. See Sept. 4. Allen Theaters, Hotel Encanto, and NMSU, (877) 345-6973, wsiff.com.

Deming
St. ANN'S FIESTA—BBQ and festivities. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Courthouse Park, 700 S. Silver, 546-3343. *

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.

The Common Thread

A fiber arts gallery—where art meets craft

August 10
one day sale of yarn and fabric.
Don't miss it!

The Common Thread is a non-profit, volunteer run gallery, supporting women in southern New Mexico

107 W. Broadway, Silver City

575-538-5733 | www.fiberartscollective.org

Vote 'NO' on Tax Increase

The Grant County Gross Receipts Tax increase ballot will be mailed to your home in late July for the August 19 Special Election.

The PVA-GC* recommends a vote 'NO' because:

- ✓ No guarantees what will be done with the money
- ✓ No public input was obtained
- ✓ Poorly-defined projects—benefit to community unclear
- ✓ The gross receipts tax hits low income folks hardest—not the right way to fund capital outlays

*Paid by the Progressive Voters Alliance of Grant County (PVA-GC)

Holiday Inn Express
CONVENIENCE & COMFORT
Combined with Premium Amenities

Holiday Inn Express in beautiful, culturally diverse Silver City is your ideal homebase for both vacation and business trips. Our friendly, knowledgeable staff will aid you in exploring the nearby attractions of Silver City, Grant County, and the Gila National Forest.

- Complimentary hot breakfast bar
- 100% non-smoking hotel
- Wired/Wireless high-speed internet
- Fully equipped Fitness Center
- 24-hour Business Center
- Golf packages
- Conference Room with breakout area (accommodates up to 33 people)
- Pets allowed in select rooms

Located just off US Highway 180 East behind Wendy's
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CONTINENTAL DIVIDE • DAVID A. FRYXELL

The Curse of Cursive

The handwriting is not on the wall.

I greeted the news that cursive writing may be headed for extinction much as the women of Salem, Mass., might have heralded the announcement that witchcraft would no longer be considered a hanging/burning/drowning offense. I would have raced to the nearest blank wall and written, "Cursive is dead!" a hundred times in exultation, except nobody would have been able to read my illegible scrawl.

The recently established Common Core State Standards for the nation's public schools glaringly omit the teaching of cursive handwriting as a require-



ment. Some pioneering states, including Hawaii and Indiana, have already dropped cursive instruction in favor of proficiency in these newfangled things called keyboards. The fadeout of cursive even had a cameo appearance last month in the George Zimmerman trial, as one witness testified that she couldn't read cursive. Of course, there's also a backlash, with a debate on the *New York Times* website and legislation in North Carolina affirming the cursive requirement in that state's schools, which I believe also still teach that the earth is flat and bloodletting is sound medical practice.

Inexorably, though, the curse of cursive is slowly being pushed to the educational sidelines where it belongs. It's ridiculous, really: In what universe does the uppercase letter A resemble a drunken O with a tail? In cursive's crazytown, the capital G looks like something that belongs on a musical staff, as does the uppercase S, while the small s appears to be a comma that's been on a binge. The letters u, v and w are pretty much indistinguishable once they're hooked to other letters, as are m and n. Uppercase F (a big concern to someone named Fryxell) looks like the cursive T with a line through it, and the little f is a pair of loops with tails bearing no resemblance whatsoever to the typed character.

Who came up with this system, anyway? ("In England itself, Edward Cocker had begun to introduce a version of the French *ronde* style, which was then further developed and popularized throughout the

British Empire in the 17th and 18th centuries as round hand by John Ayers and William Banson.... " Thank you, Wikipedia.) Sure, back when those witches were being burned, hanged and drowned, we needed some universal way of writing letters more quickly than their typeset versions could be hand-drawn. By the time the governor could write "Pardonne ye this witch," it was too late.

But by the time I was suffering through "penmanship" class in grade school, we had these things called *typewriters*. Now let's think for a minute about how the world of technology has developed since the 1960s, and ponder which method of written communication turned out to be a better investment in a child's future productivity.... When you get done trying to input cursive handwriting into your computer, wake the rest of us up.

Penmanship was the bane of my grade-school existence, the only thing I wasn't good at. (Unless you count tying my shoes, chorus, flutophone, swimming, dodge ball and recess in general, but let's not nitpick.) My report card would come home with a solid line of "S" grades for "satisfactory" (at least I assume those were S marks—in cursive they could have been the treble clef sign) on arithmetic, reading, geography and whatever else they tried to cram into our tiny heads. And then there was the dreaded N for "needs improvement" across from the penmanship category—or, worse yet, U for "unsatisfactory."

Oh, the shame of it! *Unsatisfactory*—me! Me, who got special bookmobile privileges to check out books meant for older grades. Me, who could earn an S in arithmetic despite being home "sick" for so many days I had every daytime rerun episode of "Andy of Mayberry" and "The Dick Van Dyke Show" memorized (as well as displaying an alarming ability at "Password"). Me, whom the other kids called "Encyclopedia Fryx" in-between beating me up.

I realized that I needed to master handwriting in order to adequately express my elementary-school acumen. But those danged letters refused to cooperate with my hand! Somehow I developed a weird (to the uninitiated, at least) way of holding my pencil, which drove teachers almost as bonkers as the illegible scribbles that pencil produced. Instead of the precise, even elegant pincer grip of thumb and forefinger they battled to teach me, I clutched pencils and pens clawlike, employing as many fingers as possible as if to make perfect cursive letters come out the business end by brute force.

My inability to master cursive letterforms seems odd in retrospect, since I was a pretty good artist as a kid—especially after I discovered comic books. I slavishly and enthusiastically imitated Jack Kirby, Gene Colan, John Romita and all the greats of the 1960s. Perhaps if the cursive S had been styled like the one on Superman's chest, I could have gotten the hang of it. (On the other hand, if Superman in the new *Man of Steel* movie had opted for a cursive S, no

one would have doubted that it was Kryptonian. The whole bit of dialog where Lois Lane tells him, "Here, it's an S," would have been ruined. Instead she'd be saying, "Here, it's... I dunno. A treble clef? A figure-8 with a tumor?")

Even today, my handwriting is pretty terrible; I like to point out that doctors, too, have famously bad handwriting and nobody gives them a U for unsatisfactory. My wife makes a joke out of deciphering my grocery lists on the refrigerator whiteboard—but, come on, Michelangelo couldn't write legibly on a vertical surface with one of those dry-erase pens!

When I take notes during an interview, this illegibility is actually an asset, as there's no risk of the interviewee reading what I'm scribbling in my notebook ("What a doofus. Will he ever say anything worth using?"). Moreover, my chicken scratchings also incorporate an informal personal shorthand, in which "cp" is short for "computer," for example. ("Wht a dfs. Ever say anyth wrth usng?") Fortunately, I can read my own writing, even months or years later. But a head's up to any legal eagles out there who might try subpoenaing my notes: Good luck reading them! ("Does that say 'Nixon authorized the Watergate break-in' or 'Nectarines, apples, watermelon, burritos?'"")

Somehow, though, I've made my way in the world with handwriting that looks like something scrawled by a semi-trained, visually impaired capuchin monkey who's prone to seizures. On those rare occasions when I absolutely must hand-write something to be read by someone besides myself, I try my best at legibility with a sort of print-cursive hybrid. Often this need for handwriting arises on forms, and I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify for my doctor that my medical history should state that I had my tonsils out as a child, not a *tonsure* removal, as in a monk's haircut. And if you know anyone at the Internal Revenue Service, please ask them to stop requesting documentation for my sale of *multiple farms*—that's *mutual funds*.

These hiccups aside, I've gotten by—which is more than you can say for cursive these days. As cursive goes the way of the buggy whip (or *bugle warp*, as it might read if I'd handwritten this), perhaps I'll send a note to those teachers (or, OK, their descendants) to say *nyah-nyah-nyah*. Cursive is dead, long live typing on a keyboard! Take your U grades and shove them U know where!

Of course, I'll have to type those nasty "told you so" notes, or else nobody would be able to read my gloating.

And I do type with just *one finger*. But that's another story. ❄

David A. Fryxell edits *Desert Exposure* and... sorry, we can't make out his handwritten note of what else he wanted to say here.



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Patrick Conlin, Broker/Owner

Silver City's #1 Selling Office for 2012—157 Transactions—\$19.2M sold



MLS 30247 • \$67,500

Fixer-upper has possibilities. Located within walking distance to downtown. With additional fenced and gated vacant space there is room for a guest house, garage or lots of gardening. Living room has a small fireplace - working condition unknown. A good size kitchen with eating area, plus a separate formal dining room. Two of the three rooms have a closets. Laundry room needs much TLC. Nice views of downtown and surrounding mountains from the front porch. This property is awaiting your imagination.



MLS 30267 • \$28,000

Located on taxiway of Casas Adobes Airstrip NM69. Perfect lot for hangar or hangar-type home. Site built, modular or manufactured housing allowed. Underground utilities including water available. Fantastic mountain views. Year-round flying weather! Close to recreational opportunities in the Gila National Forest and Aldo Leopold/Gila Wilderness areas.



MLS 30288 • \$315,000

Horse lovers property with shared private access to Ft. Bayard and the 3.3 million acre Gila National Forest. Designed with horses and horse lovers in mind, this property boasts living quarters above the horse stable. Huge shop, office (walk-in closet), master bedroom and half bath downstairs. Comfortable living quarters upstairs with huge deck and views as far as Mexico.



MLS 30278 • \$177,500

Charming Silver Heights home on large corner lot. Vaulted/beamed ceilings, open floor plan, hardwood floors, bamboo & laminate. Master bedroom suite w/dressing area & full bath. Family room with fireplace, central gas heat & a/c. Detached garage/carport/workshop. Lots to offer & shows great!



MLS 30252 • \$132,000

Overlooking the Mimbres River Valley north of historic San Lorenzo. Living room with fireplace and pellet stove. Large kitchen with gas cooktop in the island plus wall oven with separate broiler. Pantry, solar tube and great views from the kitchen sink. Split floor plan. Master bedroom has sliding door with private deck. Other bedrooms both have walk in closets. Backyard has private covered back porch, chain link fencing and lawn. Garden area with fruit trees and chicken coop/aviary. Oversized 2 car garage, door opener and small wood stove. 220 plug for kiln or welder.



MLS 30294 • \$32,500

1.25 acre tract north of town, wooded, views, private. This parcel is unrestricted and will allow site-built or manufactured homes.



MLS 30264 • \$35,000

Nice fairly level lot in Indian Hills with big trees and nice views. Homes on either side are also for sale so could be purchased in conjunction with those as a buffer.



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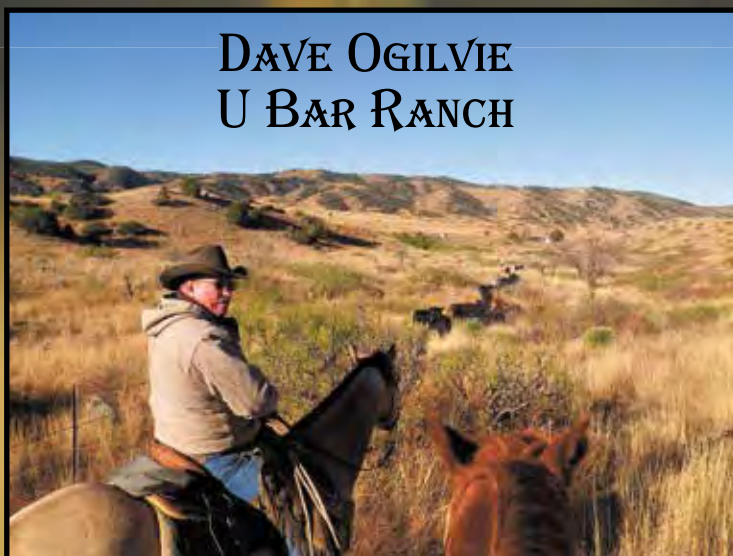


MLS 30273 • \$70,000

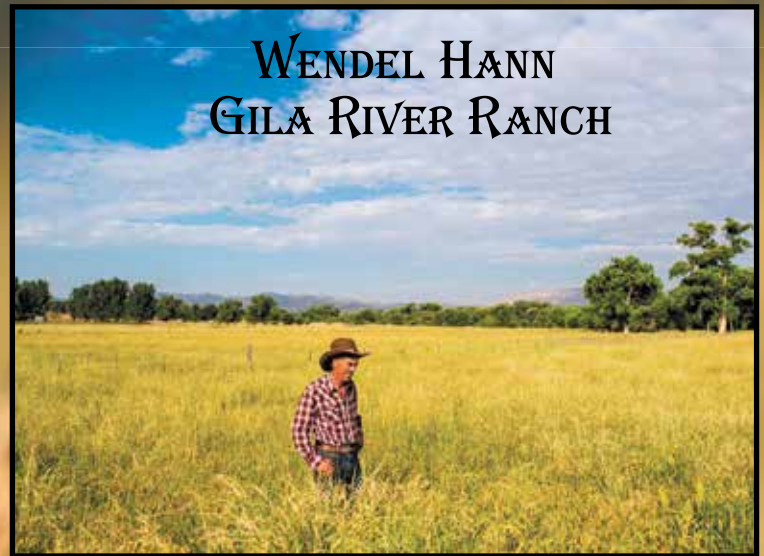
Set above the street and overlooking Bayard & surrounding mountains. Cozy 2bd/2ba with nice backyard, carport, all appliances convey.

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