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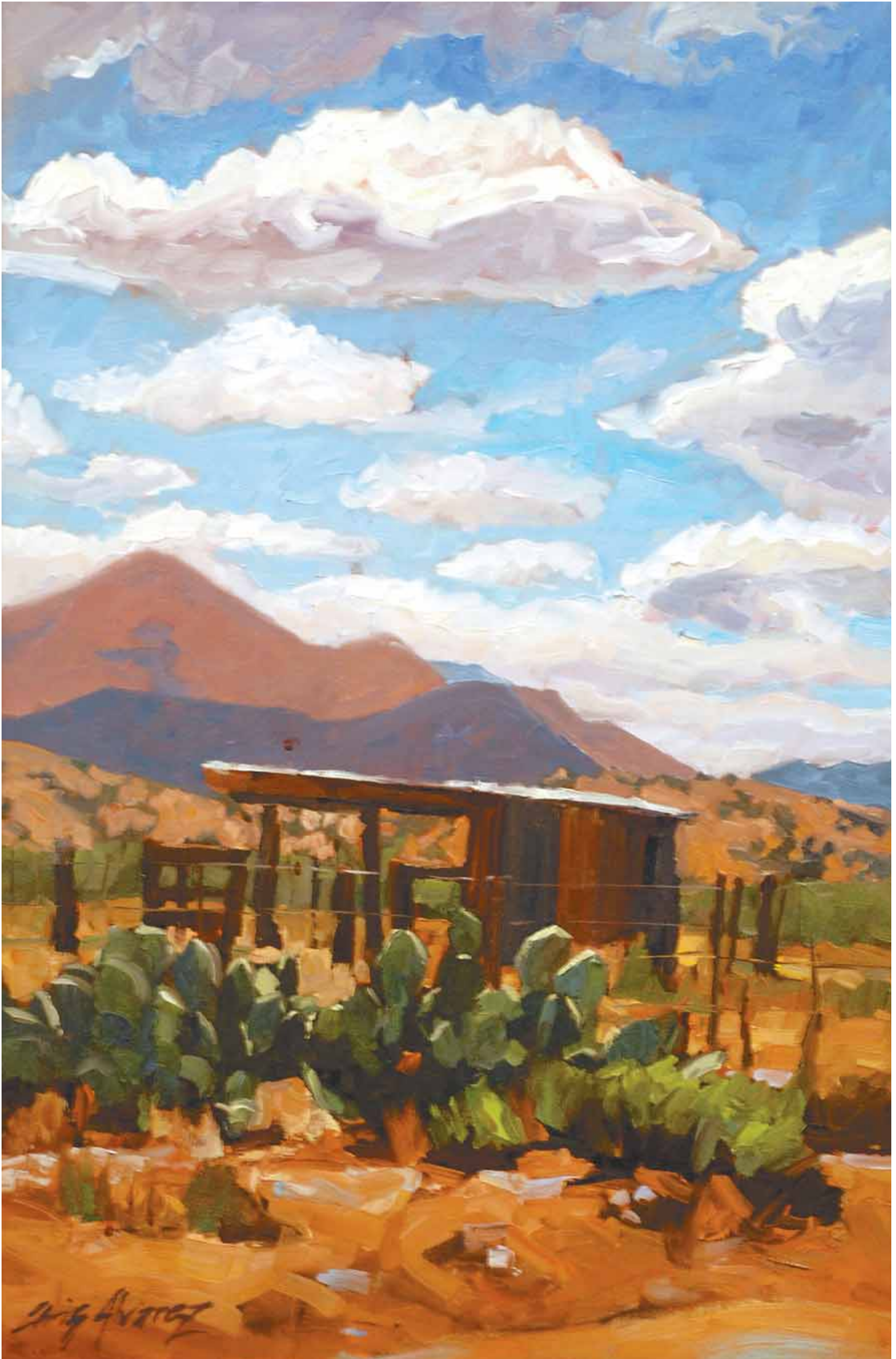
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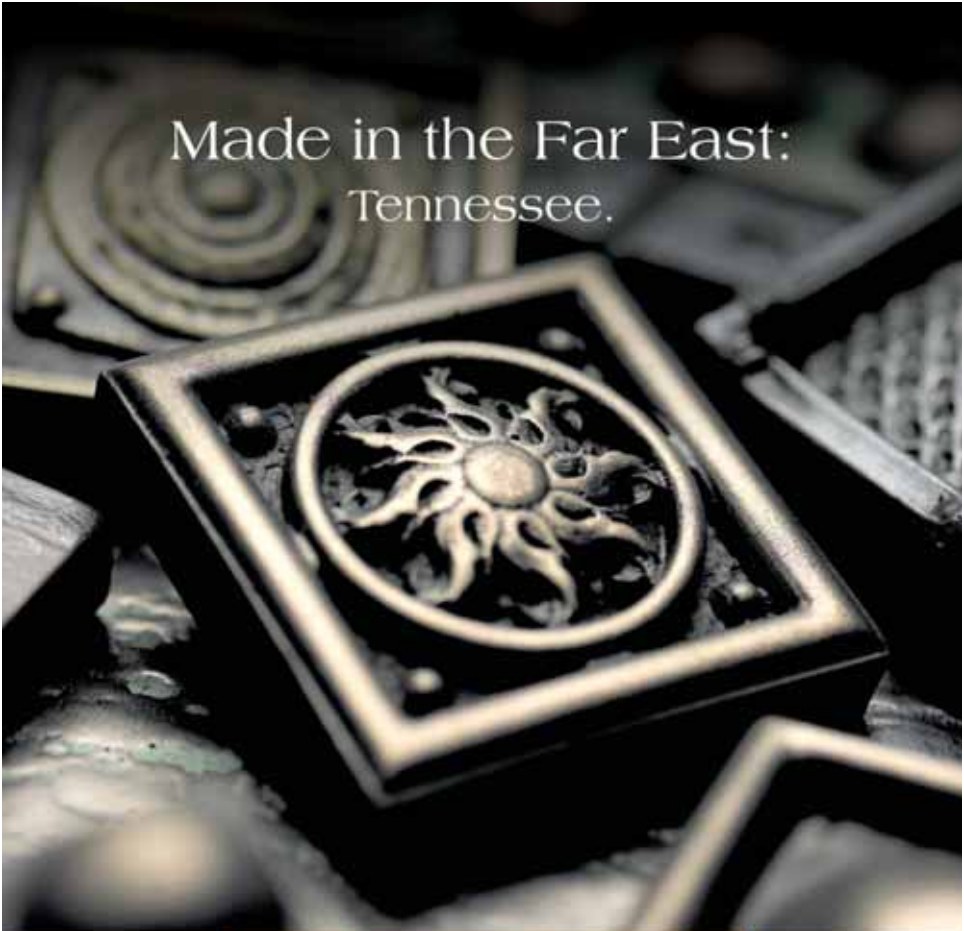
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About the cover:
"Southwest Cloud Temple" by **Chris Alvarez**, a featured artist at Seedboat Center for the Arts in Silver City. For more about the artist and the 15th annual Weekend at the Galleries, Oct. 7-9, see this issue's Arts Exposure section.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Trapped in the Past

The game commission must stop ignoring public concerns about trapping.

New Mexicans are increasingly moving toward a consensus that foothold trapping of furbearer animals ought to be more closely regulated—if not mostly banned, as our neighbors in Arizona did in 1994. Unfortunately, at the same time the New Mexico State Game Commission has taken important steps in the opposite direction. Increasingly, the commission seems to serve only a tiny minority—only 1,921 furbearer licenses were sold for 2009-10. But more than 40,000 people hike in areas where traps could be set.

The latest evidence of an out-of-touch game commission came in July, when it ignored 12,000 public comments advocating a ban on trapping on public lands. Worse than ignored—the commission lifted a year-old ban on furbearer trapping in the Gila and Apache national forests that had been enacted to protect reintroduced Mexican gray wolves.

The point here isn't to revisit the emotional debate about wolf reintroduction. Rather, as the public is clamoring for tighter controls on trapping, the commission thumbed its nose at voters and did the opposite.

Silver City outdoorsman and former game commissioner Dutch Salmon had it right, we suspect, when he commented in the *Sun-News*, "If New Mexico had a referendum, trapping would be gone." Unfortunately, Salmon's voice of reason and insights into the balance between nature and those who find their sport in hunting, fishing and trapping will no longer be heard in Santa Fe. Gov. Susana Martinez abruptly removed Salmon and two other commissioners in March, even though Salmon still had nine months remaining on his term.

Last month, Animal Protection New Mexico and TrapFreeNM.org sponsored a public forum in Albuquerque to try to counter the game commission's intransigence on trapping regulation. An editorial in the *Albuquerque Journal* prior to the meeting likened trapping to cockfighting—"another subculture in New Mexico that justified its animal cruelty as a way of life." Just as the legislature finally banned cockfighting in 2007, the editorial concluded, it should put an end to trapping. The editorial brought a spate of letters in response—all even more vehemently anti-trapping.

It's easy for trapping advocates to dismiss such opinions and animal-lovers' meetings up in Albuquerque as the soft-hearted rantings of uninformed city folk. But in *Desert Exposure's* extensive past coverage of the trapping controversy, it's clear that even people who might think a ban goes too far ought to be concerned about New Mexico's lax trapping rules.

Unlike almost every sort of hunting, there's no bag limit on trapping furbearers. There's no limit on the number of traps an individual can set, as long as he can "make a visual inspection" every 24 hours. A trapping license costs just \$20 for adult residents, less than half that for hunting deer or bear—and yet trapping activity is partly spurred by hopes of economic gain, increasing as pelt prices rise. Unlike hunting, the wildlife management aspect of trapping is an afterthought at best, driven by the fur market rather than by furbearer populations; until 2006, trappers in New Mexico weren't even required to report their catches (except for federally tracked bobcats).

Foothold traps must be placed more than a quarter-mile from an occupied dwelling (unless the occupant consents in writing) or an established public campground, roadside rest area, picnic area or boat launching area. Traps have to be more than 25 yards from any designated US Forest Service or BLM trail. Less-formal trails have no such protection, as we discov-

ered to our surprise not long after moving to New Mexico, when a companion's dog got trapped as we were hiking Saddlerock Canyon.

Trappers will tell you how easy it is to open a trap and free a trapped pet—or its owner. That's because they know what they're doing. We've tried opening a 6 1/2-inch foothold trap—the maximum allowed—and trust me, it's not so easy for a tenderfoot. Trying to do it while a panicked dog is writhing in the trap would be a nightmare.

Don't even think, by the way, of moving or springing a trap you encounter along a favorite trail. A 1978 state law prohibits "intentionally affecting the condition or altering the placement of personal property used for the purpose of killing or taking a game animal, bird or fish"—even an illegally placed trap. The first offense is a petty misdemeanor, the second a misdemeanor.

The American Veterinary Medicine Association, the American Animal Hospital Association and the National Animal Control Association have all condemned foothold traps as "inhumane." Trapped animals, they say, suffer terror, exhaustion, exposure, frostbite, thirst, starvation and shock. The Wildlife Protection Network says, "Victims suffer excruciating pain and fear as they tear ligaments and break teeth in their struggle to free themselves.... Animals suffer lacerations, broken bones, joint dislocations and gangrene." The World Animal Foundation claims that up to a quarter of all trapped animals escape by chewing off their own foot. Free the Animals cites a study in Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge in Tennessee that found 28% of mink, 24% of raccoons and 26% of trapped fox bit off their own limbs to escape.

And yet we understand that a case might be made for the practical necessity of continuing some carefully regulated trapping. We're not so naïve, for instance, as to flatly ban trapping of skunks that can infest houses. Trapping is also more effective than hunting for controlling animal-spread diseases such as rabies. In Colorado and Arizona, according to a national trappers' association, coyote populations have expanded since those trapping bans to cause millions of dollars in damage to sheep and cattle. Coyotes are also said to be hurting wild-life populations, such as antelope.

These are issues that need to be carefully considered by a game commission that weighs the input of wildlife experts, trappers and animal activists. Unfortunately for all concerned—especially New Mexico's furbearers—that doesn't seem to be on the agenda. Public opinion be damned, that's the message from the current game commission.

Trappers, too, ought to be concerned. Because as long as the game commission remains deaf to the opinions of the 99.9% of New Mexicans who don't trap, quashing even minimal reforms, the threat to their "way of life" that trappers most fear looms larger. Enlightened trappers and the game commission ought to consider steps to better align the rules with wildlife management and to minimize the interactions of non-trappers and their pets with traps, such as:

- Establish quotas on some species, such as bob-

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK continued

cat, raccoon and fox. (Coyotes and skunks are so prolific that they don't need limits.) In 2007-08, for example, both bobcats and gray foxes were trapped in numbers that reached the "estimated sustainable harvest limit" range.

- Require a trailhead to be marked with a sign that traps are present.
- Increase the minimum distance for a trap from a trail to 50 feet.
- Limit the number of traps that a trapper can set in a season.
- Ban non-resident trapping. While this would represent a small blow to tourism, veteran outdoorsmen say non-residents come here to make a living off of trapping, setting hundreds of traps in an area, then moving on after they've caught most of the furbearers—very different from hobbyist trappers.

None of these reforms, of course, will suffice if you've concluded that trapping is simply cruel and

inhumane and that it must be banned in a civilized society. Like the death penalty or abortion, for many New Mexicans this is an all-or-nothing issue.

Nonetheless, trappers and their game-commission allies need to understand that a similarly hard-line stand can't succeed when you're so in the minority. They need to be reasonable and take steps to better separate their activity from those who find it at best startling and at worst abhorrent.

Otherwise, if those who are supposed to be regulating trapping won't listen, eventually the political wheel in Santa Fe will turn and the legislature and a different governor will. That's when trapping will be finally banned in New Mexico. And its advocates will have only themselves to blame. ❧

David A. Fryxell is editor of Desert Exposure.

LETTERS

Winners, Apaches and Pearce

Plus losing touch with reality and Larry Lightner's "death wish."

Real Winners

I enjoyed Heather Null's prizewinning story, "Middle of Nowhere," in the September issue but hopefully she is taking artistic license in her description of the rest stop on Hwy. 180 between Deming and Silver City. While it might be lonely at night I have always found it to be one of the neatest, cleanest, best kept-up rest stops I have ever seen. I doubt that a coyote could find even a scrap of leftover food to eat there. The area is always nicely maintained. All the rocks surrounding the paths are painted white; some of the bushes are even painted and trimmed to resemble hearts or dice cubes. Three cheers to the people who keep up this great rest area!

Kathy Cassell
Silver City

I was reading this month's issue of your magazine (September) and I couldn't believe my eyes when I read the story of the cover, and I can't believe that the cover was actually colored in (by contest winner Sarah Stills, over Ben Balas' drawing)! Its absolutely remarkably beautiful. Congratulations on such an original concept. Both artists, the one who drew the cover and the one who colored it in and won the contest, are amazing! I hope that they do more work for you on the future. I think there is no other magazine out there such as yours!

Gloria Hernandez
El Paso

Ringin' a Bell

I just read the article on "ringing in your ears" (Body, Mind & Spirit, September). I have had tinnitus for quite awhile, and since it doesn't interfere with my hearing (my wife's opinion to the contrary), I find it useful. I can actually hear my pulse as I go through the day, and when I exert myself, the beat speeds up and then happily settles back down to my normal rate.

Also, if I ever hear just a constant tone in my ears, I'll know the ride is over.

Bert de Pedro
Red Rock

Death Wish?

Rambling Larry Lightner ("Rambling Outdoors," September) asks, "Any more questions?" before closing with his usual oddball reference to the strange god he believes in. I have one: What is the psychological relationship between his love of killing defenseless wild critters and his stated precarious lifestyle? Is there a death wish in there somewhere?

Bob Young
Las Cruces

I'm very concerned about Larry Lightner. Why does he drive himself to hunt the forest he is so afraid of? I remember an article he wrote saying how scary it was when noises heard could not be identified. I also remember an article he wrote

talking about seeing "animals" that turned out to be logs or boulders. And, now, it seems he is afraid of almost everything in the forest: bears, lions, wolves and snakes.

Gosh, I've been hiking alone in the forest since I was five years old. I've met bears, lions, rattlesnakes and wolves. No problem. I carry a camera—not a gun.

Somebody! Get Larry some help! Tell him it's OK not to go into the forest. Tell him it's OK to stay in—maybe take up crafts or something.

Deirdre Wolf
Silver City

Pearce's Pop Quiz

I have a few comments on the editorial about Steve Pearce's visit to Silver City ("Editor's Notebook," September). Steve Pearce is a total fraud and liar. Many of the comments made in the editorial are very accurate and to add a little more to it: Pearce never talks about the \$6 trillion of government waste and handouts during George Bush's years in office, which Pearce supported 100%. In Pearce's "limited" government scheme, Bush, with support from the likes of Pearce and all the Tea Baggers out there today, gave Halliburton a "no-bid" contract to "rebuild" Iraq during the Iraq War. Where do "no bid" contracts fit in with the "free market" system that Pearce and the Tea Baggers swear by? This cost taxpayers many billions of dollars.

There was so much of this government wasteful spending that Pearce and the Tea Baggers supported for eight years under Bush, which contributed to our huge debt today, far more than anything Obama has done. Yet here we are listening to their rhetoric about "too much" government. Pearce's only beef with Obama is that Obama has tilted the scale ever so slightly towards the middle class and the poor and this is intolerable to Pearce and his Tea Bagger supporters who want to give the rich their "deserved" federal subsidies.

William Joseph
Silver City

Unfriending Facebook

Just a note here to let you know I super-enjoyed your "Continental Divide" column ("The Anti-Social Network," September). It is sooo nice to read that someone else who's not a regular Joe Blow thinks all this tweeting and social networking has gotten a bit out of hand. It's amazing how hard it seems to be for even relatives to drop an email (or better yet, call) because they are so hung up on Facebook. People gripe at me all the time because I don't have a Facebook account, like I'm out of touch with reality.

I have come to the conclusion that there are so many people living in the "virtual world" that THEY have lost touch with reality. A lot of these people I know spend so much time gaming and hanging out online that I get to wondering if they even have physical friends much anymore. In fact, my daughter who lives in Phoenix says it's getting really hard to know people physically. I warned her that life now has changed dramatically and that this seems to be

a major ailment in our culture/society. Sure, it is nice to be able to chat with folks around the world; I used to do it in email and enjoyed it. But doggone. You are right. Where DO these people get the time to hang out online so much?

Thanks again for a delightful editorial of “real life.” And I’m sure that psychologists who specialize in cyber-psychology are making a mint nowadays. This is the psychology of people who are so hung up on cyberspace and virtual reality that they have lost touch with real reality and they likely don’t even have to be doing drugs or alcohol to achieve this dysfunction.

Laura Boyd
Silver City

Moving Like the Wind

Jerry Eagan’s August 2011 article on Apache history (“From Water to Water”) reeks of racist bias, which is all the worse as his subtitle suggests self-reflection, none of which is apparent anywhere in the piece. This rambling, disjointed bit of writing seems to serve no clear purpose other than to provide Eagan with a forum for self-congratulation and to demonstrate his, and non-Apache society’s, superiority to the Apache. Throughout the article he paints Apache people as unreasonably violent, drunk, servile and existing meaningfully only in the past.

Eagan writes, “It’s a myth to state that no one could follow Apaches save other Apaches.” Sure, others could follow the Apache but ultimately, no one but other Apaches succeeded in finding them, and those Apaches were thanked with imprisonment along with the “renegades.” Despite the lack of “vigilance” Eagan describes, it is nevertheless true that 5,000 US troops (one-quarter of the entire US army at the time), 3,000 Mexican troops and nearly another 1,000 of miscellaneous vigilantes—9,000 in all—were unable to catch 37 Apaches (18 warriors, 13 women and 6 children) when they did not want to be caught.

Eagan says, “Geronimo never fully apologized for those many deaths, nor did any other Apaches at Canyon de los Embudos apologize.” Has the US government ever apologized for stealing the entire home of the Apache, for the genocide committed against the Apache and for the numerous, grievous lies it told the Apache regarding their future? What about the Bascom betrayal and the massacre at Cibecue of compliant Apaches on the San Carlos reservation? Should no one apologize for the revocation of the Chiricahua reservation after only three and a half years, the refusal to allow the Chihenne a small piece of their original homeland, and the outrageous lies told to Geronimo and his band at their final surrender? Additional examples of deceptions and violence committed against the Apache, in the past and present, could go on for pages.

The Apache are not gone, but are present today in New Mexico, Arizona and elsewhere. Many Apache people live today in Grant County. Today’s Apache are the admirable survivors of genocide and cultural destruction and as such deserve our respect and unflinching support. Historian David Roberts observes in *Once They Moved Like the Wind*, “...it seems unfathomable that white Americans could have found no way to coexist, in all the empty magnificence of the Southwest, with a mere 1,200 Chiricahua—roughly the population today of such way-side Arizona hamlets as Pima or Morenci. The heartland of the Apache, upon which even the caravans of modern tourism have left little mark, pulses with the absence of the people who knew and used that wilderness best.”

Non-Apaches such as Eagan have told the Apache story ad infinitum. I would rather hear what present-day Apaches have to say. Eagan refers in the opening paragraphs to the historical conflict between the Irish and the English. Maybe he should write, and make a film, about that.

Laura Ramnarace
Silver City

Author Jerry Eagan replies: I want to thank Ms. Ramnarace for her comments. Many of the issues she raises, however, reflect historical revisionism. I’d like to ask her to read all 27 articles I’ve written for what I think is an objective view of the Chiricahua Apache that I’ve

studied before she characterizes me as writing with “racist bias.” These were brutal wars with extreme brutality on all sides. Treacherous political decisions were made, and dishonest military actions were committed. But many fair attempts were made to convince the Chiricahuas that their lifestyle was tenuous. At some point, some Chiricahua Apaches made a conscious decision to raid, kill and plunder Americans and Mexicans after even some other Chiricahuas (e.g., the Chihene N’de of Loco) had finally surrendered in 1884.

In my article “Chihuahua’s Journey” (April 2011), I recount how Chihuahua (whom I admire as a total human being) urged Geronimo to torture a Mexican family even after he’d promised to not do so. The entire family were tortured and killed brutally. I’ve noted that once the Chiricahua went into captivity, they were astonishingly peaceful and free of pathological violence: Chihuahua was so gentle that when Captain Marion Maus came to Mount Vernon Barracks to hear the Apaches’ laments, Chihuahua was lovingly tending an infant. Maus waited while he handed the baby to another person.

Torture and outrages happened on both sides, as I’ve acknowledged in writing in detail about the manner in which Mangas Coloradas was tormented by soldiers poking him with heated bayonets before killing and decapitating him.

As for the challenges of tracking the Apache, having read 100-plus rolls of microfilm of the American Army from 1840-1890, I know there were ample occasions when Americans working with non-Apache scouts succeeded in finding down the Apache.

The tragic instances of alcohol abuse among the Apache are similarly well documented. Geronimo himself died from pneumonia contracted on a drinking spree in 1909.

As for non-Apaches telling this story, it’s ironic that in just the previous paragraph Ms. Ramnarace admiringly quotes historian David Roberts, whom I’ve likewise cited in my articles. Roberts, of course, is not an Apache, either.

Call for Compassion

“Driving to the Moon” by Marjorie Lilly (“Borderlines,” September) was a delightful article—and her request for our kindness (and compassion) is important. We used to welcome the children of Palomas to local schools. Those who complained (who could complain about educating a child?) said these people don’t pay taxes—but they used to spend a great deal of money in the US, buying clothing for their children and themselves, school supplies, farm equipment. Now we have our own “not-so-great” wall—a terrible thing. Our utter lack of compassion, and the way the poor (of any nation) are treated in this country, is a disgrace.

Maya nolastrane
via email

Let us hear from you! Write Desert Exposure Letters, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134 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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DESERT DIARY

Shopping & Sex, Bravery & Blondes

Plus the hidden history of the automobile air conditioner.

Losing the battle of the sexes... Two reports, first off, from the frontlines of the gender wars. You'll see why we couldn't resist pairing them up. The opening volley comes courtesy of **Ned Ludd**:

"A woman was in town on a shopping trip. She began her day finding the most perfect shoes in the first shop and a beautiful dress on sale in the second. In the third, everything had just been reduced by 50% when her mobile phone rang. It was a female doctor notifying her that the shopper's husband had just been in a terrible car accident and was in critical condition and in the ICU. The woman told the doctor to inform her husband where she was and that she'd be there as soon as possible.

"As she hung up she realized she was leaving what was shaping up to be her best day ever in the boutiques. She decided to get in a couple of more shops before heading to the hospital. She ended up shopping the rest of the morning, finishing her trip with a cup of coffee and a beautiful chocolate cake slice, compliments of the last shop. She was jubilant.

"Then she remembered her husband. Feeling guilty, she dashed to the hospital. She saw the doctor in the corridor and asked about her husband's condition. The lady doctor glared at her and shouted, 'You went ahead and finished your shopping trip, didn't you? I hope you're proud of yourself! While you were out for the past four hours enjoying yourself in town, your husband has been languishing in the Intensive Care Unit! It's just as well you went ahead and finished, because it will more than likely be the last shopping trip you ever take! For the rest of his life he will require round-the-clock care, and he will now be your career!'

"The woman felt so guilty she broke down and sobbed. The lady doctor then chuckled and said, 'I'm just pulling your leg. He's dead. Show me what you bought.'"

Then there's this, from **Old Grumps**:

"One evening last week, my girlfriend and I were getting into bed. Well, the passion started to heat up, and she eventually says, 'I don't feel like it. I just want you to hold me.'

"I said, 'WHAT?! What was that?'

"So she said the words that every boyfriend on the planet dreads to hear: 'You're just not in touch with my emotional needs as a woman enough for me to satisfy your physical needs as a man. Can't you just love me for who I am and not what I do for you in the bedroom?'

"Realizing that nothing was going to happen that night, I went to sleep.

"The very next day I opted to take the day off work to spend time with her. We went out to a nice lunch and then went shopping at a big department store. I walked around with her while she tried on several different very expensive outfits. She couldn't decide which one to take, so I told her we'd just buy them all. She wanted new shoes to compliment her new clothes, so I said, 'Let's get a pair for each outfit.'

"We went on to the jewelry department, where she picked out a pair of diamond earrings. Let me tell you, she was so excited. She must have thought I was one wave short of a shipwreck. I started to think she was testing me, because she asked for a tennis bracelet when she doesn't even know how to play tennis.

"I think I threw her for a loop when I said, 'That's fine, honey.'

"Finally, she said, 'I think this is all, honey, let's go to the cashier.'

"I could hardly contain myself when I blurted out, 'No, honey, I don't feel like it.'

"Her face just went completely blank as her jaw dropped and she let out a baffled, 'WHAT?'

"I then said, 'I just want you to HOLD this stuff for a while. You're just not in touch with my financial needs as a man enough for me to satisfy your shopping needs as a woman.'

"And just when she had this look like she was going to kill me, I added, 'Why can't you just love me for who I am and not for the things I buy you?'

"Apparently I'm not having sex tonight, either—but at least she knows I'm smarter than her."

Go on, fire your best shot! Send your jokes to Desert Diary at diary@desertexposure.com.

Corporal pun-ishment... This, "The Mother of All Ethnic Jokes," was sent along by **Jess Hossinaround in Arenas Valley**. Feel free to try to read it aloud all in one breath:

"An Englishman, a Scotsman, an Irishman, a Welshman, a Latvian, a Turk, a German, an Indian, several Americans (including a southerner, a New Englander and a Californian), an Argentinean, a Dane, an Australian, a Slovakian, an Egyptian, a Japanese, a Moroccan, a Frenchman, a New Zealander, a Spaniard, a Russian, a Guatemalan, a Colombian, a Pakistani, a Malaysian, a Croatian, a Uzbek, a Cypriot, a Pole, a Lithuanian, a Chinese, a Sri Lankan, a Lebanese, a Cayman Islander, a Ugandan, a Vietnamese, a Korean, a Uruguayan, a Czech, an Icelander, a Mexican, a Finn, a Honduran, a Panamanian, an Andorran, an Israeli, a Venezuelan, a Fijian, a Peruvian, an Estonian, a Brazilian, a Portuguese, a Liechtensteiner, a Mongolian, a Hungarian, a Canadian, a Moldovan, a Haitian, a Norfolk Islander, a Macedonian, a Bolivian, a Cook Islander, a Tajikistani, a Samoan, an Armenian, an Aruban, an Albanian, a Greenlander, a Micronesian, a Virgin Islander, a Georgian, a Bahamian, a Belarusian, a Cuban, a Tongan, a Cambodian, a Qatari, an Azerbaijani, a Romanian, a Chilean, a Kyrgyzstani, a Jamaican, a Filipino, a Ukrainian, a Dutchman, an Ecuadorian, a Costa Rican, a Swede, a Bulgarian, a Serb, a Swiss, a Greek, a Belgian, a Singaporean, an Italian, a Norwegian and 47 Africans walk into a fine restaurant.

"The maître d' scrutinizes the group one by one and bars

their entrance, saying, 'Sorry, you can't come in here without a Thai.'"

Oh heavenly daze... This yarn from up yonder was roped and sent our way by **CharlesC**:

"Cowboy Jim appeared before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. 'Have you ever done anything of particular merit?' St. Peter asked.

"Well, I can think of one thing,' the cowboy offered. 'On a trip to the Black Hills out in South Dakota, I came upon a gang of bikers who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So I approached the largest and most tattooed biker and smacked him in the face, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring, and threw it on the ground. I yelled, 'Now, back off or I'll kick the crap out of all of you!'

"St. Peter was impressed, 'When did this happen?'

"Coupla minutes ago."

Paging Miss Malaprop... Picking up on our recent challenge to share your favorite malapropisms and mangled metaphors, **Megapod** sent along this response to submitter Buckaroo Bibs:

"It's nice to have a chance to chew the breeze with Buckaroo Bibs. Haven't heard from her in a while, but absinthe makes the heart grow fonder. When I read her well-thawed-out olio, I said to myself, 'Half of one, six dozen of the other, might as well put my ear to the grindstone and put pen in hand.' After all, one stitch in nine gathers no moss. Sometimes it's just in one ear and gone tomorrow, but life's a gambol, and there you are."

C'mon, join in the pun! Send your own mixed-up phrases to diary@desertexposure.com.

Annals of hanky-panky... Maybe it's the ethnic flavor, maybe the subject matter, but here are another two we couldn't resist presenting in tandem. First, from **TeresaO**:

"An 18-year-old Italian girl tells her mom that she has missed her period for two months. Very worried, the mother goes to the drugstore and buys a pregnancy-testing kit. The test result shows that the girl is pregnant. Shouting, cursing, crying, the mother says, 'Who is the pig that did this to you? I want to know!'

"The girl picks up the phone and makes a call. Half an hour later, a Ferrari stops in front of their house. A mature and distinguished man with gray hair, impeccably dressed in an Armani suit, steps out of a Ferrari and enters the house. He sits in the living room with the father, mother and the girl and says, 'Good morning, your daughter has informed me of the problem. I can't marry her because of my personal family situation but I'll take charge. I will pay all costs and provide for your daughter for the rest of her life.

"Additionally,' the gentleman continues, 'if a girl is born, I will bequeath a Ferrari, two retail stores, a townhouse, a beach-front villa and a \$2 million bank

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Postcards from the edge... Readers continue to take us up on our challenge to snap a photo of themselves holding a copy of “the biggest little paper in the Southwest.” First, here are **Marta McElroy Goodman** and her grandsons, Cameron, Blake and Julian, at Edisto Island, SC, where they attended a McElroy family reunion. Prior to the reunion, Marta visited family in Raleigh and Charlotte, NC, where she also was a delegate from the Silver City Unitarian Fellowship to the annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Cathy Holmberg sent along this second photo, snapped in Perth, Scotland, in May. That’s her husband Mike on the left and Christeen and Keith Sievwright on the right. Christeen and Cathy have been penpals since Girl Scout days—about 55 years, says Cathy. In the middle is now-retired “postie” Burnett Scott, who delivered Cathy’s letters to Christeen.

Won’t you be *our* photo penpal? Whether you’re heading to Scotland or Scottsdale, snap a picture of yourself holding *Desert Exposure* and send it to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or diary@desertexposure.com.



account. If a boy is born, my legacy will be a couple of factories and a \$4 million bank account. If twins, they will receive a factory and \$2 million each.

“However, if there is a miscarriage, what do you suggest I do?”

“At this point, the father, who had remained silent holding a shotgun, places a hand firmly on the man’s shoulder and tells him, ‘You gonna try again.’”

Then there’s this from **Beadlady**:

“An Irish woman of advanced age visited her physician to ask his advice on reviving her husband’s libido. ‘Would he take a pill?’ asked the doctor.

“‘Not a chance,’ she said. ‘He won’t even take an aspirin.’

“‘Not a problem,’ replied the doctor. ‘Give him an ‘Irish Viagra.’ It’s when you drop the Viagra tablet into his coffee. He won’t even taste it. Give it a try and call me in a week to let me know how things went.’

“It wasn’t a week later when she called the doctor, who directly inquired as to her progress. The woman exclaimed, ‘Oh, faith and begorrah! ’Twas horrid! Just terrible, doctor!’

“‘Really? What happened?’ asked the doctor.

“‘Well, I did as you advised and slipped it in his coffee and the effect was almost immediate. He jumped straight up with a twinkle in his eye! With one swoop of his arm he sent me cups and tablecloth flying, ripped me clothes to tatters and took me then and there passionately on the tabletop! ’Twas a nightmare, I tell you, an absolute nightmare!’

“‘Why so terrible?’ asked the doctor. ‘Do you mean the sex your husband provided wasn’t good?’

“‘Begorrah, ’twas the best sex I’ve had in 25 years! But sure as I’m sittin’ here, I’ll never be able to show me face in Starbucks again.’”

Persons of the blonde persuasion... It wouldn’t be Desert Diary without a blonde joke. Fortunately, **A Santa Claran** came to the rescue with this—in which, as always, you’re invited to substitute the hair hue of your choice:

“A blonde was driving home after a game, and got caught in a really bad hailstorm. Her car was covered with dents. So the next day she took it to a repair shop.

“The shop owner saw that she was a blonde, so he decided to have some fun. He told her just to go home and blow into the tail pipe really hard and all

the dents would pop out.

“So the blonde went home, got down on her hands and knees, and started blowing into her tailpipe. Nothing happened. She blew a little harder, and still nothing happened.

“Her roommate, another blonde, came home and said, ‘What are you doing?’

“The first blonde told her how the repairman had instructed her to blow into the tailpipe in order to get all the dents to pop out. Her blonde roommate rolled her eyes and said, ‘Ooh, like hello! You need to roll up the windows first!’”

Hidden history... Finally, thanks to **GeeRichard** for sharing this little-known bit of automotive history:

“Did you know that the four Goldberg brothers—Lowell, Norman, Hiram and Maxmilian—invented the first automobile air-conditioner? On July 17, 1946, the temperature in Detroit was 97 degrees. The brothers had just perfected their AC invention, so they drove to the office of one of the auto industry magnates.

“They got his secretary to tell him that four gentlemen were there with the most exciting innovation in the auto industry since the electric starter. The magnate was curious and invited them into his office. The brothers refused and instead asked that he come out to the parking lot for a demonstration.

“They persuaded him to get into their car, which was about 130 degrees inside. They turned on the air conditioner and cooled the car off immediately.

“The auto executive got very excited and invited them back to the office, where he offered them \$3 million for the patent.

“The brothers refused, saying they would settle for \$2 million, but they wanted the recognition by having a label, ‘The Goldberg Air-Conditioner,’ on the dashboard of each car in which it was installed.

“Being more than just a little anti-Semitic, there was no way the magnate was going to put ‘Goldberg’ on millions of automobiles.

“The brothers and the auto tycoon haggled back and forth for about two hours before they finally agreed on \$4 million and that just the first names of the inventors would be shown, abbreviated slightly to fit.

“And so to this day, the controls of car air conditioners are labeled: Lo, Norm, Hi and Max.” ☘

Send your favorite jokes, anecdotes, puns and tall tales to Desert Diary, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134, email diary@desert-exposure.com. The best submission each month gets a brand-new Desert Exposure mouse pad, scientifically proven to take the strain out of emailing jokes to Desert Diary.





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A screenshot of a web browser window. The address bar shows the URL 'http://www.tmatelson.com'. The browser's title bar reads 'Website Design and Development'. The main content area has a black background with white text. At the top, it says 'ideas • design • construction • maintenance'. Below that, in a larger font, is 'websites by Teri Matelson'. At the bottom, it lists the website 'www.tmatelson.com' and the email 't@tmatelson.com'.

Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary helps homeless and abused horses, including animals used in the drug trade.

"We're seeing some pretty disturbing activity,"



"Sundance" (pictured before, above, and after, top) is one of countless horses left abandoned to starve or die of thirst in the southern Arizona/New Mexico outback each month by the drug smuggling trade. The horse was rescued and nursed back to health by Equine Voices.

says Pomroy of the growing number of calls she receives from Border Patrol as well as livestock officers who find animals wandering through Pima and Santa Cruz counties moving north towards I-10.

Rudy Acevedo, a livestock officer and 15-year veteran of the agriculture department, works primarily in the Southeast corridor near Nogales and beyond. He says of the horses, “These are the victims of the drug trade. After they’ve carried their drugs through the border, they’ll just turn them out—but many of these animals have severe wounds and they just don’t survive the heat and ordeal.”

According to Pomroy, who sees and treats the lucky survivors, "The restore time depends on how injured the horses are.... Many will never be the same either mentally or physically."

Acevedo estimates that anywhere from 75 to 100 cases of horse abandonment occur annually at the hands of illegal drug handlers; other horses are never reported or found. Acevedo says, "I've seen horses with sores open plumb to the bone. They (drug traffickers) have absolutely no mercy with these poor animals. They work them along their routes until they just can't go anymore."

As drug-smuggling activity expands, Pomroy expects to see many more horses suffering the effects from the illegal drug trade. She says, "Sometimes the Border Patrol or the livestock officer is the first on the scene—they call us. Sometimes a resident reports a problem. We try to take in all we can."

Who and what's been making news from New Mexico this past month, as measured by mentions in Google News (news.google.com), which tracks 4,500 worldwide news sources (trends noted are vs. last month's total hits; * indicates new to the list). Number in parenthesis indicates last month's Top 10 rank. Bill Richardson just can't stay out of the news! A trip to Cuba pops him back into the top spot he held for so long. Plus another ex-governor, Gary Johnson, finally gets invited to play with the other GOP presidential candidates in a debate. Will it move his numbers? (Up, that is.)

1. (7) **Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson**—1,040 hits (▲)
2. (1) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—765 hits (▲)
3. (3) **New Mexico drought**—655 hits (▲)
4. (4) **New Mexico wildfires**—399 hits (▲)
5. (5) **New Mexico driver's licenses**—392 hits (▲)
6. (6) **Virgin Galactic**—294 hits (▲)
7. (-) **New Mexico redistricting**—293 hits (▲)
8. (9) **Billy the Kid**—181 hits (▲)
9. (-) **New Mexico state budget**—147 hits (▲)
10. (8) **Ex-Gov. Gary Johnson + president**—110 hits (▼)

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The Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary mission is geared to work on other issues, too—the wild horse debate, the transport of horses across borders for slaughter and human consumption, “PMU mares” used to harvest hormones, concerns over Charro Rodeo events, as well as hoarding.

“We would like to see equines reclassified under the law as ‘companion animals’ so the issue and statutes requiring humaneness can be applied beyond the category of ‘livestock,’” says Pomroy. “We’d like to see the sheriff’s office more involved in these issues... to prosecute those who are starving and abusing, or abandoning them. We’d like to see law enforcement and judges taking a more serious ap-

proach on laws designed to protect them.”

Pomroy would also like to see people better educated about the care and expense involved in choosing to buy and own a horse. “Having a horse is a choice,” she says. “They are expensive, they live a long time, and these sentient beings are feeling and caring beings that depend on us for their basic survival needs such as food, water and overall care. Unfortunately, horses are often treated as a ‘status symbol’—or as a piece of machinery to use and then just throw away!”

So the sanctuary works to be a “voice” for horses that can’t tell about the neglect and cruelty they’ve experience at the hands of their owners or handlers. “Our volunteers help to rehabilitate horses, to bring

them back—to get them to trust us again,” says Pomroy. The organization has four PMU mares being fostered and cared for in Portal.

“We’re finding good folks who really care about this issue and who want to give horses a voice,” says Pomroy. “Now we have to listen to them!”

For more information on the nonprofit Equine Voices, see www.equinevoices.org or call (520) 398-2814. To see the NBC “Making a Difference” segment, visit www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/43832782#4383278. Dawn Newman-Aerts is a former Minnesota newspaper journalist who lives in Rodeo.

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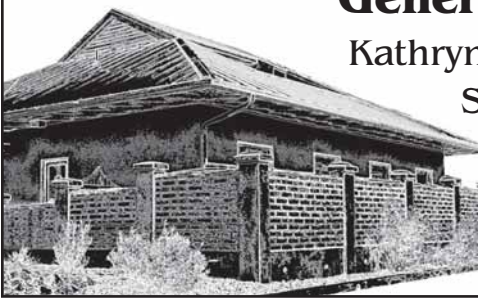
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Kids These Days!

When will these whippersnappers wake up and smell the coffee?

Throughout recorded history, the elder generations have complained about the following ones without much effort at keeping their voice down. Archeologists in France recently discovered prehistoric cave paintings of young Neanderthals lying about the cave, focused on carving icons into small rock tablets instead of finding a summer job. The Montagues and Capulets still shake their heads at how goofy their kids were. Daedalus still doesn't know what Icarus was thinking, and my grandparents never did get that whole "Elvis" thing. So forgive me if I seem a bit crotchety, but I am only fulfilling my geriatric duty when I ask, "What in the world is up with these whippersnappers today?"

I fear that all of our genetic progress will be frittered away in a single generation. After some groundbreaking evolutionary advances like opposable thumbs and biggie-size frontal lobes, the human race now seems to have adopted the attention span of a hummingbird. It's not longer enough to merely drive a car down the road; today's homo erectus must text, suck from a Big Gulp, and manage in-car entertainment options. The new-world man can't be expected to just watch a movie—he must simultaneously chat with his friends, check his voicemail, and fool around with cellophane snack packaging. Books, relationships, home cooking... if it requires time and commitment, it really doesn't fit in with the jam-packed schedule of the modern generation.

With such a short attention span, it must prove difficult to understand challenging concepts, like words and complete sentences. Few things are as personally satisfying as giving a young person concise, clear instruction on a simple task or plan and getting that confused, blank stare back, and the inevitable, "Wait... what?" Unfortunately, I haven't found a way to communicate in syllables of less than one yet, so I seem to be at an impasse when I order my McWhopper at the drive-through these days.

When I go to town, I can't swing a dead cat without hitting a teenager with a baby. Or a tattoo. Some of 'em have babies *and* tattoos, which is just an example of outstanding work. In addition to being offended that I'm whirling about carcasses of expired felines, these youngsters seem super-motivated to get all their bad decisions out of the way early in life so they can spend all their free time in their forties drinking malt liquor and hating their crappy jobs at MegaMart.

There's nothing wrong with tattoos or babies (tat-

tooded babies would be an issue), but they're both lifelong commitments. I'm not sure a 16-year-old can grasp the long-term ramifications of a neck tattoo, child support and no education on their future prospects, but it's not like having a bad haircut or baggy pants.

When I was a teenager, I remember "the older generation" railing about what a bunch of snot-nosed, disrespectful young hooligans my generation had become, or something like that. I'm not sure because I had Twisted Sister blasting out of the Sparkomatic speakers in my '68 Chevy pickup. I'm sure we seemed like hopeless slackers at the time, but we knew what was expected of us.

This feels different, though. It seems a lot of young people don't even care enough to go through the motions. Their social filters have failed, and there doesn't seem to be much impetus for them to change. The world has come to them in the form of texts, tweets, blogs, e-mail, Facebook, video games, reality shows, streaming video, satellite radio, GPS, iPods, iPhones and iDon'tKnowWhatElse. They are a generation experienced at ignoring people in front of them in order to answer messages. They don't seem to value education or ambition, but expect rewards in life. Could it be that the world owes them something?

Bad news, slackers: The world doesn't owe you squat. In fact, look within your own peer group—there are kids who "get it." The ones who do well in school, go to college, wait to get married and have babies. If they get tattoos, they're discreet. They are polite in mixed company, and value companionship over distraction. Pay attention—these are the people you'll call "boss" someday. The things that the slackers might think the world owes them, these kids will earn.

Now that I think about it, maybe kids today really aren't all that different. Maybe more of them just have excuses to embrace mediocrity now. The older generations will never fully understand the younger generations, but conversely, the younger will never fully understand the elder until they arrive on their own. ☘

Hey, you kids, get off
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What’s Bugging You?

The answer may range from voracious aphids to the colorful cochineal, the tricky blister beetle to the villainous assassin bug. In the insect world of the Southwest, variety is indeed the spice of life.



Scenes from our variety of insect life: Yellowjacket wasps, at a nest (top). Praying mantis (above). Mat-ing walking sticks (right). All the insects on these pages were photo-graphed in southwestern New Mexico. Photos by Jay W. Sharp.

in the densely vegetated and humid estuaries along the Gulf Coast. The diversity of species across the Southwest, however, may equal or exceed that of any place else in the country. As Floyd G. Werner notes in *Insects of the Southwest*, which he co-authored with Carl Olson, “The Southwest has a concentration of diversity that is unbeatable in the United States.” The 100,000 or more insect species in the South-west amount to a small percentage of the possibly 10 million species throughout the world. The ever-changing mix within our various insect communi-ties and the variability among the species, however, reflect a wide variety of ecological and environmen-tal conditions. These range from hot desert basins (where summer temperatures climb well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit) with sparse vegetation or al-most barren sand dunes; to widely separated river bot-toms with dense shrub and thick woodlands; to mountain slopes and valleys with pygmy woodlands

and park-like forests; to towering peaks (where win-ter temperatures can fall well below zero) with sub-alpine forests. The insects have adapted to every eco-logical niche in the Southwest, making their homes in the rocks, soils, air, plants and animals. The insects vary almost unimaginably in terms of size, form, color, range, habitat, diet and environ-mental roles and in almost science-fiction life cycles and behaviors. But for all their differences, they are bound together by certain common characteristics. Every species has a head, a thorax and an abdomen. The head has eyes, antenna and mouthparts. The thorax, or middle body segment, bears wings and six jointed legs. The abdomen contains the heart, the digestive tract and the reproductive organs. Every species has an exoskeleton that encases vital organs. A few examples suggest the breadth of the diver-sity within these basics:

Aphid “Of all the bugs, the aphids are probably the most interesting,” William Atherton Du-Puy wrote in his *Our Insect Friends and Foes*, first published in 1925.

In southwestern New Mexico, for instance, the aphids, or “plant lice,” comprise various species that come in a range of sizes (all small, from one-to three-sixteenths of an inch in length, according to Werner and Olson) and in a variety of colors (from green to bright yellow to black to brown). Soft and pear-shaped, the typical aphid has a distinctive pair of



Ladybird beetle, which preys on aphids and cochi-neal insects.

cornicles, or “honey tubes,” protruding from the rear of its abdomen. When called to move, perhaps due to overcrowding or declining plant forage, the aphid may dress itself in wings, which will take it to new fields. The aphid, well represented across the Southwest, often gets very choosy in selecting the plant on which it will feed. One species may dine just on your roses or another of your garden plants. A yellow and black species lives solely on milkweeds or oleanders, note Werner and Olson, who add, “The brown aphids that make a shiny mess under arbor vitae trees [a species of conifer] can’t even live on the re-lated junipers.” In feeding, the aphid inserts its straw-like proboscis, or “bill,” through the plant skin and sucks up the fluid, causing leaves to shrivel and, sometimes, the plant to die. Because the plant fluids lack ami-no acids essential to life, the aphid calls on a bacterium, which lives within specialized cells, to provide supplementary nutrients—the in-sect’s way of taking vitamins. Prodigiously reproductive, the adult female aphid of the early spring may carry within her body not one, but two, generations—or a pregnant daughter. It amounts to a kind of biological telescoping

THE FAMILY CLINIC

The Stites Family talks about The Family Clinic and Tony Guck, PAC

“He’s cool. I like him,” says nine-year old Cyrus Stites. The whole family feels the same way. Chris, Cyrus’s and Julianna’s mother, says that Tony has been with the family since both kids were tiny, and she is really impressed with the way Tony treats her children as individuals, without talking down to them. She also really likes the way he is willing to consider various options for treatment, which he takes the time to dis-cuss with both her and her husband, Rohan. On the other hand, he will make a referral if the situation warrants it. “As a mom, I feel that Tony really calms my anxieties.”

Both parents also see Tony, so he treats the whole family, which is one of the founding ideas of The Family Clinic. Rohan, owner of Adobe Techniques and an avid, take-no-prisoners mountain biker, admits that he has a long history of being hard on doctors, but he admires Tony’s approach.



“You can question him, and he doesn’t get offended. He puts what he is saying in laymen’s terms.” Chris and Rohan feel that Tony is “a very grounded person” who “knows who you are.”

The Stites like going to The Family Clinic. There is a relaxed atmosphere when they walk in the door, and the waiting room, with its books and toys, keeps the children occupied and happy. After their appoint-ments, the children leave with smiles, because Tony hands out a book to each child who comes to see him.

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Cochineal insect’s fungus-looking coating on prickly pear cactus.

of the reproductive process, with no need for males. An aphid population, all female from spring into the summer, can explode almost overnight. The male aphid finally makes an appearance in the fall, as the sunlight wanes and the temperatures fall. It and the female mate. The female now produces an egg that can survive through the winter, yielding a larva that renews the aphid’s reproduction cycle come spring and summer.

Fortunately, aphids serve as a banquet for ladybird beetles and their voracious larvae as well as for parasitic wasps and aphid lions. Otherwise, aphids would soon engulf us all.

Strangely, the aphid, secreting honey dew from its cornicles, also serves as a kind of milk cow, or more specifically, a “honey cow,” for some ant species. DuPuy wrote, “Ants follow these aphids about and lap up this honey. They even have flocks of them and milk them regularly.”

Cochineal Scale

The cochineal, or “crimson,” scale has played what is perhaps a unique role for insects on the world stage, having parts in textile manufacturing, territorial conquest, international commerce, cosmetic production, food processing and even science and art.

It seems too small a creature for such an outsized task. The female cochineal insect, colored by red pigment, measures only some one-sixteenth to one-quarter of an inch in length; the male measures about half the female’s length. She has neither wings nor legs; he has both. She has the shape of an engorged tick; he has more the look of a typical insect, with the addition of two distinctive filaments extending from the rear of his abdomen.

The cochineal covers much of the lower elevations in the western United States and Mexico, including our desert basins in southwestern New Mexico. According to the Arizona Wild Flowers website, the cochineal feeds almost solely on the pads of selected prickly pear cacti species. Like the aphid (a related insect) the female drives her tubular proboscis through the cactus skin, where she will remain affixed for the rest of her life, sucking out the juice. Simultaneously, she produces a white, waxy, fungus-looking coating that will help protect her from predatory insects and birds and shade her from the desert sun. She nevertheless sometimes falls prey to a rare carnivorous caterpillar and, more commonly, to our good friend, the ladybird beetle. Over time, a heavy cochineal infestation can kill its resident plant.



Grasshopper, whose eggs may serve as prey for a blister beetle.

As she feeds, the immobile female cochineal produces eggs beneath her abdomen. When the eggs hatch, the legged juveniles, females and males, called “crawlers,” make their way to the edge of their home cactus pad. Wingless females produce long, ethereal filaments, which lift the insects into the desert wind. Some descend onto new host prickly pear cacti, where they will breed, make a new home, set a new dining table, molt and shed their legs, their traveling life over and done. Winged males take flight, searching for mates so they fulfill their role in nature’s plan. They die within a few days.

As the Spanish discovered when they conquered Mexico in 1521, the cochineal scale insect, when crushed, yields a supreme scarlet dye, which the Aztecs had long used in the production of exquisite textiles. The dye would become an added incentive for Spain in its Mexican conquest; the Spanish held the source of the dye secret for years. The cochineal produced a major cash export for Mexico, second only to silver.

Over time and across Europe, it would, according to Werner and Olson, bring the color scarlet to royal garments, military uniforms, national dress, cosmetics, various foods and even Michelangelo’s palette. It may have been incorporated in the cloth that Betsy Ross supposedly used in making the red stripes for the first flag of the United States. The cochineal still serves as the source of the dye that microbiologists use to stain slide specimens, although it pays a heavy price for the privilege: Some 70,000 cochineal insects are required to manufacture a single pound of the dye.



Blister beetle on bloom.

Blister Beetle

The blister beetle—named for its ability to exude from its joints a liquid that causes painful blisters on your skin—ranks close to the top of the list as one of the insect world’s most clever and odious imposters, even if it is often colorful and relatively innocent looking.

According to Donald J. Borror and Richard E. White in *A Field Guide to the Insects of America North of Mexico*, the typical blister beetle has an elongated and pliable body. It measures about a half inch to an inch and a half in length. The beetle, says New Mexico State University entomologist Charles R. Ward, in “Blister Beetles in Alfalfa,” has thread-like antenna, non-bulging compound eyes, a bowed head and relatively long legs. “Primary body colors,” Ward writes, “include black, brown or gray; different species have spots or stripes of yellow red, brown orange, black or white,” depending on the species.

Of the more than 300 species of blister beetle that occur in the United States, several dozen make their home in the Southwest, where the adults feed, sometimes voraciously, on both wild and cultivated plants, often favoring honey mesquites. One of the *Insects of the Southwest* authors says, “I have seen stripped [by blister beetles] trees in a straight line several hundred feet long.” If inadvertently harvested and bailed in large numbers with alfalfa, the blister beetle, which contains a toxic chemical compound called “cantharidin,” can poison domestic animals,

BUGS continued on next page

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BUGS continued

especially horses, that eat the hay.

In some species, the blister beetle larvae prey on the eggs of grasshoppers, actually imposing some control on a historic pest. In other species, newborn larvae called “triungulins” pack themselves together by the hundreds in a single mass that mimics—and even smells like!—a female solitary bee, according to San Francisco State University scientists. Collectively, with the precision of a military band, they march to the tip of their host plant stem, where they pose provocatively as a single female bee, displaying a phony sexuality, luring lusty male bees. They quickly attach themselves to a foolish male when he tries to mate with them. They transfer to various females when the male tries to couple with more rewarding mates, clinging to the unwitting females for a free ride to the bees’ nests. “Then,” says DuPuy, “showing no gratitude for the transportation furnished, this vicious little creature alights, crowds its way into a cell which the bee has arranged for its young, eats her larva there and feasts for growing days on the food that has been provided for that larva.”

Assassin Bug

The assassin bug’s aliases—for instance, cone-nose bug, walapai tiger, bed bug, wheel bug, thread-legged bug, kissing bug—reflect the insect’s multiple personalities, making it a perfect villain for a James Bond film. Depending on the species, this bloodthirsty bug may prey not only on other insects but also on reptiles, birds or mammals, including humans.

Typically, an assassin bug, which may look almost armor-plated, like a medieval knight, measures a fraction of an inch to an inch and a half in length. Its color ranges from brownish to black. It has a generally oval, but sometimes a considerably elongated, shape, according to Borror and White. It has antennae with four segments, and a three-segmented tube-like beak that it folds into a groove beneath its throat. It has thickened forelegs that it snaps together like spring-loaded clamps to snatch insect prey. Threatened by other predators such as certain reptiles or birds, some assassin bug species defend themselves by using their beaks to squirt their venom, from a foot away, at their attacker’s eyes and nose, causing extreme irritation. If its stream strikes a human’s eyes, it can cause temporary blindness.

Widely distributed across the Southwest, the assassin bug that preys on insects tends to hang around foliage, and the species that prey on vertebrate animals may invade burrows, nests, dens and human bedrooms. The female lays her eggs in the fall, primarily in secreted crevices and cracks. The nymph hatches in the spring, looking much like a miniature adult. After several molts, it emerges as a full-grown assassin bug, ready to ply its full trade.

The species that prey on insects may stalk and attack or simply ambush their victims. The assassin bug drives its beak like a dagger into its victim’s body, injecting “a very toxic, or poisonous, liquid that affects the nerves and liquefies the muscles and tissues,” according to the From Amazing Insects website. It goes on, “Prey many times their size can be quickly overcome. Once the insides of the prey are turned into a liquid, the assassin bug uses its [beak] to suck out the liquefied tissues in much the same way we use a straw to drink a milkshake!” The assassin bug’s toxin can kill a much larger insect in a matter of seconds. It discards its victim’s carcass with disdain. The assassin bug may also deliver a painful bite, in self defense, if carelessly handled by a human.

The species that prey on the blood of vertebrate animals feed not only on wildlife (especially pack-rats) but also on domesticated animals and pets—and, sometimes, they may help themselves to human



Assassin bug on mescal agave, looking for a mate.

blood, thank you very much! The assassin bug usually comes under the cover of darkness, stealthily, invading a person’s bed, looking for exposed flesh, usually the face, especially the tender flesh around the eyelids, ears or lips (ready to deliver an ominous “kiss”). In a Utah State University Extension Entomology fact sheet, insect diagnostician Alan H. Roe explains that as an assassin bug delivers a bite, it injects an anesthetic, rendering the wound virtually painless, and it injects an anticoagulant, assuring free blood flow. In the Dermatology Online Journal, Rick Vetter says that the insect will typically feed for 8 to 15 minutes. It may cause an especially sensitive person to suffer symptoms such as violent itching, breathlessness, nausea, heart palpitation and even unconsciousness, Roe adds. In Latin America, the bite sometimes leads to Chaga’s disease, a form of sleeping sickness, although that is rare in the United States. The assassin could clearly be a villain worthy of 007!

The aphid, cochineal scale, blister beetle and assassin bug provide a snapshot of the variability in the world of insects, but, in the end, they deliver no more than the briefest glimpse of a strange world. They tell us nothing of whole other families of insects. Butterflies, for instance, the swallowtails, bring a whole other dimension, with an ethereal beauty, to the Southwest (see Southwest Wildlife, July and August 2011). Social insects—the ants, termites, honeybees and wasps—draw the fascination of biological scientists and sociologists with an orchestrated and disciplined lifestyle. Twig-like, three-inch-long walking sticks, so thin some bear names like “devil’s walking stick” or “devil’s knitting needle,” may strip the leaves from trees and issue a venomous spray at its would-be attackers. The praying mantis, a three-inch, powerful insect, ambushes victims and eats them alive, “like a stalk of celery,” say Werner and Olson.

In the Southwest, tens of thousands of insects have been identified and classified by biological scientists, but only a fraction of those have been studied closely. Moreover, tens of thousands more await identification and classification. The richness of life in the insect community of the Southwest—the diversity of sizes, forms, colors, ranges, habitats, diets and environmental roles—is a story with many chapters still to unfold. 🐞

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Jay W. Sharp is a Las Cruces author who is a regular contributor to DesertUSA, an Internet magazine, and who is the author of Texas Unexplained. To read all his guides to wildlife of the Southwest, see www.desertexposure.com/wildlife. Thanks to Jana McFarland, NMSU graduate student, for her help in identifying some of the insects in the photographs.

SOUTHWEST STORYLINES • RICHARD MAHLER

Tuning In

For Kyle Johnson, Gila/Mimbres Community Radio is only the latest stop on the dial in a career that’s taken him from TV and movies to “Radio Free Silver.”

Don’t worry, Kyle Johnson assures me, running fingers through his short gray hair, KURU-FM is coming.

“What we think will happen by the end of this year,” the board member and secretary-treasurer of Gila/Mimbres Community Radio declares, “is Internet radio.” The online service will start by playing mostly music, he explains, and will not identify itself initially as KURU, the call letters recently assigned to the long-awaited Grant County station. “We won’t keep them a secret, but we’re basically saving the marketing value of the call letters until we’re actually broadcasting on the airwaves.”

Okay. And when will *that* happen? When will KURU actually air at its recently assigned 89.1 FM?

“If we get lucky fast,” speculates Johnson, speaking in the authoritative manner that served him well during a past career as an actor and musician, “it could happen a year from now. If we get lucky slow, it could take two years.” Either eventuality, he believes, should renew enthusiasm for a project that has ridden a rollercoaster of support as efforts to launch the station have dragged on for over six years.

“People need to push a button or turn a dial to hear [programming],” Johnson allows during a recent interview. “I think that’s what it needs to catch.”

In April 2005 about a dozen Grant County residents formally birthed the idea—which already had been kicked around for several years—of creating an independent, listener-supported voice for an area served by only a handful of radio stations. Of these, the non-commercial options were retransmissions of New Mexico State’s KRWG-FM, an NPR affiliate, along with a couple of religious broadcasters. Gila/Mimbres Community Radio incorporated in fall 2005, then hired an attorney and engineer to move its idea forward. During the long period of bureaucratic maneuvering—extended by a freeze on applications imposed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)—some early GMCR organizers faded away and even Johnson dropped off the board for a while. But enthusiastic newcomers are now on board and, following the FCC’s grant of a construction permit for a 10,000-watt facility last December, their dream is closer to reality than ever.

“What brought about the genesis of this was a pretty acute dissatisfaction with the existing media landscape,” says Johnson, a self-described “media guy” who departed California for short spells in Santa Fe and High Rolls before settling in Grant County more than decade ago.

The 60-year-old Gila resident, whose communications credentials stretch back to childhood, is helping to secure the money, office space, volunteers and equipment needed to put the station on the air. “The thing has to get launched for it to be viable,” he main-



Kyle Johnson, a self-described “media guy.” (Photos by Richard Mahler)

tains, “so I’ve really been concentrating on that.” Asked if he seeks to become KURU’s first general manager, Johnson demurs, noting that much groundwork still must be done for such a paid position to enter the realm of possibility.

“Hearing that our application for a construction permit was approved was a great relief,” he says. “But it started a clock running that stops in three years. We have to be on the air within that time period or else we lose the permit.”

The result? Johnson is one busy guy. An unexpected task is answering questions related to a non-commercial station that came on the air during the two years GMRC spent waiting for the FCC to act. Silver City’s KOOT-FM, at 88.1 MHz, is licensed to Community Access Television of Silver (CATS), which also operates low-power KOOT-TV. The radio station, technically assigned to Hurley, has been broadcasting music and public affairs shows from a Bullard Street studio since spring 2009. Because KOOT-FM describes itself as having “an educational and community” focus, many wonder why the GMRC folks simply don’t join forces with the outlet. One reason, Johnson offers, is that KOOT’s 2,000-watt signal reaches only a portion of Grant County and is available only 12 hours each day, from midnight to noon. The latter is due to a frequency- and time-sharing arrangement with another entity that has not yet started to broadcast.

“I’m sure some people are confused,” Johnson ad-

SOUTHWEST STORYLINES continued on next page

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SOUTHWEST STORYLINES continued

mits. "But I think that the definition of community [by KOOT] might be different, as evidenced by our very open and transparent process and one in which there was no [prior] announcement. It was all after-the-fact that KOOT was being planned; it didn't come out of a grassroots community process, which sets a tone for what might be expected."

He also foresees that KURU will have greater editorial freedom, more "adventuresome" fare, and a much more powerful transmitter than KOOT. "In essence," he predicts, "we will have coverage roughly equal to or better than any existing Grant County station. If you can hear one of them, you will hear us."

For this articulate and energetic community radio advocate, returning to the airwaves in unfettered fashion may be particularly sweet. Over seven years ago, Kyle Johnson lost a short-lived and controversial weekday program on Silver City's KNFT-AM after a group of local businesspeople threatened to pull advertising if Johnson's one-hour offering wasn't dumped. The pressure came from a conservative faction, he contends, that engaged "in what was basically thuggery."

As the deposed talk show host tells the story, his "red hot minute" on KNFT—actually, about eight weeks—was a fluke from the start. The station's then-owner offered him the 9 to 10 a.m. slot out of the blue on a day when Johnson asked for some airtime, perhaps an hour each month, on behalf of the Grant County Peace Coalition.

"I'd never done radio before," Johnson admits with a shrug, citing previous experience as the original general manager of CATS. "But I thought, 'Let's give it a whirl.'"

"Radio Free Silver" was born. "The idea was that it would be a discussion show," Johnson recalls, "with dialogue and debate between [members of the Peace Coalition] and those with opposing views." His ultimate motive, says Johnson, was instigating political change. "I felt that 2004 was a pivotal year; that George Bush was going to destroy our country." Yet while some shows focused on the war in Iraq, others involved local issues or the work being done by nonprofit organizations. "Basically," says Johnson, "my show involved a single subject under discussion with one or two guests." We talked about "a wide range of things, and not particularly radical subjects."

Within a month, Johnson continues, "the station started getting calls of complaint about my show, even though I was followed by [nationally syndicated conservative hosts] Rush Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly and Michael Savage each day." The threat delivered to management by a group of disgruntled business owners, according to Johnson, was that "either you get rid of this thing or we are going to take all of our advertising off both the AM and FM [KNFT] stations, not just this one show." Within a month, despite full financial support of his program from Radio Free Silver, Johnson was off the air.

The incident received national attention, not all of it flattering to Silver City. "The irony," Johnson laughs, "was that some people who were not necessarily supporters of us, the hotel and real estate people, had been trying to paint this as a wonderful retirement community with great natural attributes and a terrific place to live. They were asking [those opposed to the program], 'What is it with you yahoos? We're trying to build this place up and you're trying to turn it into some kind of redneck backwater?'"

Shaking his head at the memory, Johnson says he had a hunch that "something like this could happen. I knew that there were enough people here with that way of thinking that they would do something" to get the show off the air.

Undeterred, Johnson took Radio Free Silver's programming, now in video form, to CATS as well as other public-access TV outlets in other cities. These discussion shows continued running for several years. Meanwhile, the audio portion of many of Johnson's



Johnson beside a sculpture by Cecilia Stanford.

TV and radio interviews can still be heard on the Internet via the Radio Free Silver website (see box).

"Over time," Johnson points out, "area radio stations have changed hands so that all but one of them are now owned by the same [corporate parent, Arizona-based Skywest Media], with basically a chain model." The result, Johnson continues, is that most programming comes from a central location in a big city out of state: "They have no interest in local issues at all. Period. What our station would be like is a lot more social interaction and, basically, more coverage of social justice issues, although over a 24-hour period it is mostly going to be mainly music, arts and culture."

Asked to be more specific, Johnson says that KURU's backers "want very much to provide a real alternative to the kinds of things that you typically get on a radio station. We would like, for example, to get [the Mideast-based network] Al Jazeera as one of our news sources. It's the new BBC—so get used to it. I'd also like to have some English-language programming out of India, Latin America, Africa and Asia that really gives the picture of how other people see the world."

This, he says, is the notion of "turning the telescope around so we can see what other people are thinking and how we are perceived by them.... Even in community radio, this is something you rarely hear. Let's open a window out of our own direct experience and see what other people are thinking, how they see us, and what's happening where they live."

In summing up his activist orientation, Johnson quotes the late anthropologist Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." KURU, according to this co-founder, "will be a use of media that empowers our community. The media-chain radio stations certainly don't want to talk about anything that might be unpleasant to explain to their advertisers."

As an aside—and in the interest of full disclosure—I'll mention that I first met Kyle Johnson casually about 25 years ago, when we both lived and worked in the Los Angeles area. For a time he dated my housemate. Our first encounter was at a concert by an African ensemble at a time when Johnson was a musician in a band, writing songs and playing guitar.

"During that part of my life in Los Angeles I was not involved in political activity, even though I had a political awareness," Johnson reflects. "As an artist I think I was much more self-focused or centered on things that had to do with my career.... But I've



You can stay abreast of Gila/Mimbres Community Radio through its website, gmcr.org, and hear programs from the Radio Free Silver archives at radiofreesilver.com. Learn more about community radio in general at the website of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters, nfcbr.org.

always been involved in media. I started working as an actor at seven years old.”

According to Wikipedia, Johnson’s acting career began when his mother, actress-singer Nichelle Nichols—who portrayed Lt. Uhuru in the “Star Trek” TV series and movies—dragged him as punishment to an audition for a stage play. The director was immediately impressed by young Kyle and cast the boy on the spot for his production. Born in 1951, Johnson was cast as Sidney Poitier’s son in the 1965 epic, *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, and went on to play the lead role of Newton in the critically acclaimed 1969 movie *The Learning Tree*. During the Sixties and Seventies he appeared in episodes of TV’s “The Fugitive,” “Mod Squad,” “McCloud” and “Dr. Kildare,” among others. Johnson segued into a music career in the 1980s. His love song “Ready to Receive” became a modest hit for singer-musician Claudia Russell and headlined her album of the same name.

But that was then—and this now.
“The process of helping launch KURU has been interesting and fruitful for me personally,” muses Johnson, who sees communication as the unifying theme in his string of endeavors. “Now I am not simply talking about or visualizing community, but actually engaging at a level where I am really developing a relationship and an involvement with organizations that are very dedicated. These groups aren’t the Red Cross or United Way or something where people are getting paid a lot of money; these are organizations [whose employees] are just scraping by because this is what is important to them and embodies their desire to fulfill their vision of how one lives in relation to other people. This kind of work is practical, not theoretical.”

Lest this sound overly idealistic for a signal area barely encompassing 31,000 people, Johnson believes the “changing demographics” and growing “sense of awareness” in Grant County ensure a sizable audience thirsty for the programming he anticipates from KURU. The mission of the station “is to serve the community in general,” stresses Johnson, “but particularly those who are underserved and who do not have a voice or do not have a choice in what they can hear on the radio.... We will present a range of content and ideas that you can’t get on existing

radio outlets or on CATS except irregularly or from time to time.”

Gila/Mimbres Community Radio needs about \$150,000 to sign on, although it expects to offset that with some donated equipment from the former owner of now-defunct KSIL-FM. It plans an initial operating budget of between \$75,000 and \$80,000 annually.

“All we ask from supporters,” says Johnson, “is a base membership of \$60 per year. It will take a while to ramp up to that, but I think getting a thousand subscribers at that level is possible and not unreasonable in this county.” With a core of this many listeners contributing regularly, he argues, “we will not be beholden to businesses, to grants, or to any of the sources of funding that tend to have strings attached or are here today and gone tomorrow.”

So what can listeners expect to hear when GRMC starts webcasting this fall or winter?

“We will begin mapping out our schedule first with music,” says Johnson, “and replacing it [over time] in blocks with news and public affairs, Spanish-language programming, locally hosted shows, and selected other content from outside that we feel would be of interest and value. We will do training.... It’ll be a modest affair initially and a lot of it will be automated.”

And while this online venture will not meet the FCC definition of go-

ing “on the air,” concludes Johnson, “it will relieve us all—especially me—of the need to describe what community radio is. People will be able to click the button and hear it. In terms of content I think we will move quickly to present a pretty good sketch of what KURU will be ultimately. It will take some months to develop things, to train people, and to get programs from local folks—but it will happen.”

Stay tuned. 📻

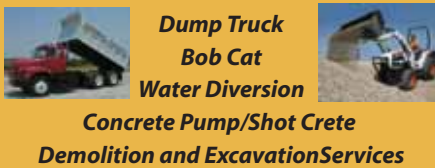
Southwest Storylines columnist Richard Mahler is a freelance writer based in Silver City. His career in radio includes stints as a freelance reporter for NPR, CBS, Pacifica and other outlets. Learn more at www.richardmahler.com.



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Taking a Fall

Sometimes you eat the bear; other times the bear eats you.

Once in a while I do something really, really stupid! I always have to pay for those mistakes later. Right now, as I pen this, I'm stove up pretty bad. I've got goodly pain in my lower back and especially my left leg when I either stand or walk. That includes my groin muscle and my thigh and my outer hipbone. Sometimes they even scream at me!

For days now I've been icing and heating the areas, plus soaking in a hot tub. I've massaged, stretched and gone to the chiropractor. Oh, I can sit or lie and there is no discomfort, but who can do that all of the time? Weeds grow, dog crap needs tending to, work has to be done and many other commitments.

My usual cure for such a thing is to hang upside-down for five minutes once or twice a day, and then ice the injury and I'm as good as new by the next day. That's kept me out of the chiropractor and doctor's offices for four years now, but not this time.

It all began the second day of early bear season. I'd been up this valley and the series of small waterfalls many times before over the years, but this time water was running down them.

The falls lay about half a mile up from the head of the narrow valley and I was coming down them after scouting far above. The falls rise about 30 feet in a series of small steps, with the upper step being about five or six feet in height; the next step down is about four feet in height. These steps are made of granite or at least granite-looking, gray, solid rock.

On this particular day, the stream was slowly undulating down the surface and about a foot wide. I didn't wanna get wet and I saw where a bear had slid down near the water, so I figgered that I could do the same. But as I slid feet-first, I slipped sideways into the wet stream and my speed picked up more than I wanted. Not only was I now soaked, but as my feet hit the soft sand, I felt a small "pop" like a rubber band in the area of my hip/pelvic area, right next to my spine on the left side.

Yeah, it felt funny, but I thought it was no big deal. I started down the four-foot drop and on a small foothold in the rock, I felt my left ankle give way. Let me add that I didn't want the rifle that I was holding to get damaged, so I held it up and in front of me as I crashed head first into the bottom, my right knee hitting solid rock along with my right elbow. My injured left ankle hit soft sand.

The entire ordeal was jarring, to say the least, and when I stood back up, I was now in pain, not only in my lower back/hip, but up and down my leg and ending in my ankle. I was now pretty wet on my butt and down the front of my right leg—so much for trying to stay dry!

In fact, if I had just slid down the water in a straight manner and not tried to twist out and away from it, I'd probably not be in my present predicament. But now I was, for better or for worse, and my body was screaming to me that it was for the worst.

I hobbled down 200 yards to my previous stand in hopes of recovering while sitting there and maybe salvaging the day. I soon stripped the wet sock and shoe off my left foot and observed that there was no swelling, so I hadn't cracked or broken the ankle, thank the Lord!

I next retrieved an Ace bandage from my pack and proceeded to wrap said ankle. I cogitated as I sat there, thinking that if I sat too long, I might stiffen up to the point that I couldn't hobble to my ATV a half-mile down-valley. So I made the decision to go to camp and get some pain reliever in me.

At camp, I downed 800 milligrams of Ibuprofen and laid down and read a novel for an hour, waiting for the pain killer and anti-inflammation to take effect. That never happened and I was in misery when I decided that I'd better break camp and head for home two days early. Once there I could do the inversion/ice treatment and hopefully salvage the remaining time in the hunt.

Of course, I was in misery as I limped around putting things away, hooked up my truck to the camper and loaded the ATV and attendant trailer. At least on the way home, while sitting and driving, I felt a whole lot better.

But as soon as I left the truck and stood up, the misery was back in new levels! I hung like a bat and iced the ankle and back, and by morning the ankle was okay and the back felt better.

On Sunday morning, I got a case of the "stupid" and hiked over two miles at a fast pace just to "loosen up." What a dumb idea! By nightfall my pain was screaming in retribution for what I had done and it hasn't improved since.

I have to learn from this and also maybe you will learn a thing or two also. First off, I left my cell phone in camp—what if I'd fallen and broken something? I need to carry that phone all of the time; that's why I got the dang thing!

Remember that walking staff that I've written so much about? I said that I was now going to carry and use it everywhere I went in the great outdoors. I left it in camp, too. Had I used it, I wouldn't be writing about all of this; a third leg does wonders for one's balance!

And I'm going to BACK down steep slopes as I would a ladder. After all, I'm no agile bear.

Oh yeah, one more thing: It would not have been a problem at all to have slung my rifle over my back and had two hands free to guide me. Duh!

As always, keep the sun forever at your back, the wind forever in your face, and may the Forever God bless you too! (And watch out for waterfalls.) 🌲

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

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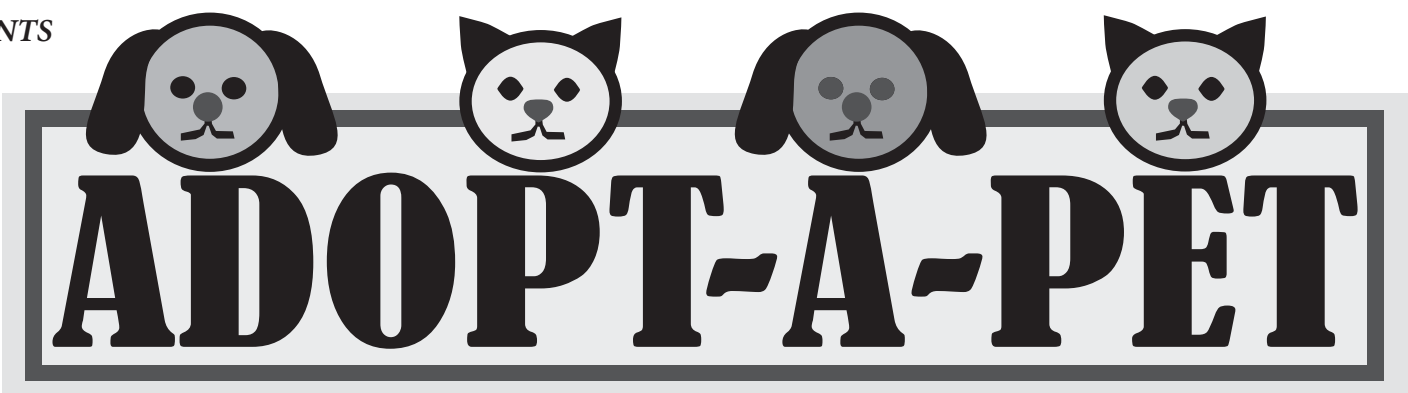
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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Corona Australis, the Southern Crown

Plus the planets for October.

About 20 degrees above our southern horizon on these cool October nights, right below Sagittarius and its Teapot asterism, you will find the little ringlet of stars that makes up the constellation Corona Australis, the Southern Crown. Even though this grouping is rather far south, it is still one of the classical constellations, listed in Ptolemy's *Almagest* in the second century AD.

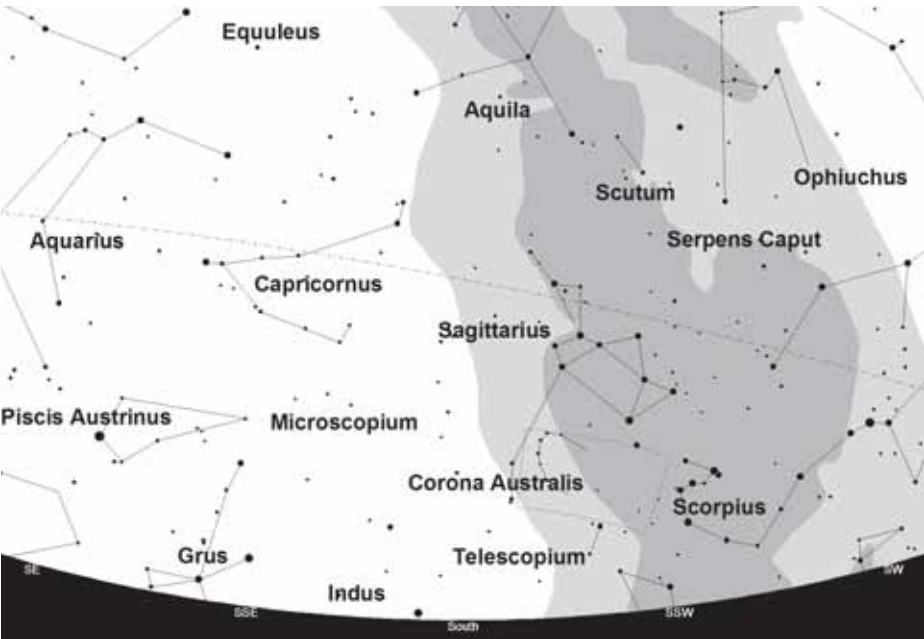
While there isn't a great deal of mythology about this constellation, the Greeks thought of it as a wreath that had adorned the head of Sagittarius the Centaur. Because of this, the constellation was sometimes known as Corona Sagitti, before the International Astronomical Union defined all the constellations and their boundaries in 1922. The Arabs called it the Tortoise, the Woman's Tent, the Ostrich Nest and the Dish. The Chinese also thought of it as a tortoise, specifically the Black Tortoise of the North.

This constellation is on the eastern border of the Milky Way, but has only a few deep-sky objects. One is NGC 6541, a globular cluster in southwestern Corona Australis. It is bright enough to be seen with the naked eye from a dark location. This globular is 24,400 light-years from us and orbits the center of our Milky Way like all the other globular clusters associated with our galaxy. Visually, NGC 6541 appears to be about the size of the full moon, 29.6 arc-minutes across. The small central core is where most of the stars in the cluster are located and it is the most visible part of the cluster.

This globular was first discovered on March 19, 1826, by Nicolò Cacciatores (1780-1841), who was working at an observatory in Palermo, Italy. This was just a few months before James Dunlop independently found it on July 3 of that year. Cacciatores first thought this to be a "new nebula." John Herschel's 1847 catalog lists it as h 3725, and later in his *General Catalogue* it is GC 4372. Finally, J.L.E. Dreyer's *New General Catalogue* listed it as NGC 6541 in 1888.

Another less visible but more interesting object in Corona Australis is the neutron star RX J1856.5-3754. This designation is from the ROSAT X-ray source catalog (the RX part). The "J" indicates that the coordinates that follow refer to the orientation of the sky in 2000. Finally, the Right Ascension and Declination of the object are listed (18 hours, 56.5 minutes; -37 degrees, 54 minutes, respectively).

This object (we will just call it RX) was originally the larger member of a binary star system. As the larger star, it aged faster and became a supernova. After the supernova explosion, RX was large enough to become a neutron star, but not so large that it would become a black hole. Before and during the supernova blast, some of the material from RX was transferred to its partner. With added mass, the partner star then started aging more rapidly. It too became a supernova, blasting a good deal of its mass into space and weakening the gravitational bond between the two stars. The weakened gravity, combined with the supernova blast, threw RX off into space, traveling just underneath the Teapot of Sagittarius is the little constellation of Corona Australis, the Southern Crown. (A larger, printable version is on our website, www.desertexposure.com.)



Watch the Skies

(all times MDT)

Oct. 1, 5 a.m.—Mars 0.5 degrees south of the Beehive cluster (M44)

Oct. 3, 9:15 p.m.—First Quarter Moon

Oct. 11, 8:06 p.m.—Full Moon

Oct. 13, 3 p.m.—Saturn in conjunction with the Sun

Oct. 19, 9:30 p.m.—Last Quarter Moon

Oct. 26, 1:56 p.m.—New Moon

Oct. 28, 8 p.m.—Jupiter at opposition

ing at 67 miles per second across the sky. RX was discovered in 1992 among the data from the ROSAT X-ray Observatory. It was first thought to be only about 200 light-years away, but later observation with the Chandra X-ray Observatory satellite in 2002 showed it to actually be twice as far away.

Neutron stars have a gravity so strong that it forces the electrons that normally orbit the nucleus of an atom into the protons in the nucleus to form neutrons. This allows all the atoms that had been held apart by repulsive electromagnetic to collapse together; the neutron star becomes a giant nucleus composed only of neutrons. The incredible density of this material would allow 90% of the mass of our Sun to be compressed into a sphere of only 8.5 miles across!

The Planets for October 2011

Mercury and Venus are both east of the Sun this month, which puts them in the evening sky. But as it gets dark, both are so low in the west that they will be very hard to find. October sees Mercury pulling away from the Sun, but the ecliptic, to which all planets stay close, is at a very shallow angle to the horizon. So even though Mercury is pulling away from the Sun, Mercury appears to slide southward along the horizon without getting much higher. By the end of the month, Mercury will be only 5 degrees above the west-southwestern horizon as it gets dark. Its disc is 5.4 seconds-of-arc across, and it shines at magnitude -0.3. It is 84% illuminated, becoming less full every day.

Venus spends the month near Mercury. At month end, Venus is 94% illuminated and becoming less full during the month, too. Its disc is 10.6 seconds-of-arc across and it shines at magnitude -3.9. Next month Venus will become easier to find as it gets higher in the sky. Venus and Mercury both start the month in Virgo, and then move into Libra, where they will be when the month ends.

Jupiter reaches opposition this month on Oct. 28. This is a great time to view its 49.6 second-of-arc disc since it will be high in the sky at midnight, visible all night. Jupiter shines at magnitude -2.9. It spends the month in Aries.

Mars is the last planet up in the morning sky. Rising around 2 a.m., the God of War glows at magnitude +1.2. At mid-month, Mars' disc is 5.5 seconds-of-arc across. Traveling from Cancer into Leo, Mars is heading toward Regulus, which it will pass next month.

Saturn is too close to the Sun to be observed this month, but next month it will be in the morning sky.

So get ready for cold-weather observing and "keep watching the sky"! ✨

An amateur astronomer for more than 35 years, Bert Stevens is co-director of Desert Moon Observatory in Las Cruces.



Body, Mind & Spirit • Bina Breitner

It Feels Personal—But It Isn’t

Knowing what’s personal and what’s structural.

I’ve noticed that people suffer more than they need to when they don’t distinguish between what’s personal and what’s structural. Here are some examples of what I mean by that, from a marital breakup, a childhood loneliness, and a job environment.

Lila and George had been married for 27 years and still got on well. Each had friends and jobs, there was enough money, the house was paid for, their two daughters were launched, and life was good.

Except that George fell in love with Marie. He saw her on the side for two years, then finally told Lila he wanted a divorce, and moved out that evening.

Lila was stunned, then furious, helpless, frightened, hysterical with hurt and rage. How could he be this amoral? How could she have been so blind? How could he humiliate her so permanently and still say he “loved” her? How could he set this kind of example for their daughters? Where was the man she thought she’d known, and had always admired? She was unmoored, thrashing in tumultuous waters. Nothing made sense.

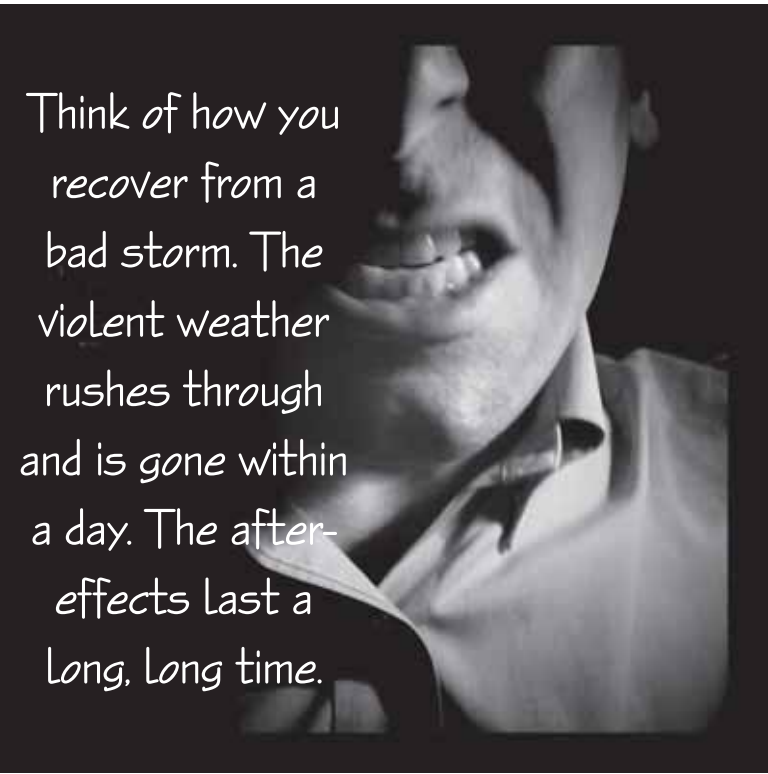
Over time, she began to put the pieces of her life back together. She stayed in the house, saw her friends, continued working, and started counseling in an effort to understand better what had gone wrong and how she could take better care of herself and her daughters during such wrenching change.

As her life stabilized, Lila started wondering why was she still in distress. She didn’t really miss George. If that was the kind of fellow he was, and if he didn’t want to be with her, she was better off without him. She had a job, she had friends, she had supportive family, she had done nothing wrong, he provided some financial support—the heck with him! She could do well enough on her own. So why was she still miserable?

That’s where recognizing the difference between what was *personal* and what was *structural* came in. Lila hadn’t understood that her grief, for example, wasn’t only for George. It was also for their partnership and the role he had filled in her life—structural realities.

He’d been her “husband.” They’d been “married,” they’d been “a couple.” They had been “parents” together. None of those realities was personal: George was the man who occupied those categories in her life. Of course the relationship had felt (and had been) extremely personal. She didn’t marry a mannequin; she married a person, George. But she’d been “married,” whereas now she was “separated” and heading toward divorce. She, George, and everyone in the community who knew them would be shifting identities around. She wasn’t “George’s wife” any more. She was becoming an “ex-wife.”

These structural adjustments were going to take much longer, because they were part of how she had defined herself, to herself and others. Bringing her identity into line with the new realities was a slow, disturbing process. She’d known herself in the *context* of her relationship to George. She knew his breathing at night, his smell, his quirks and needs, his schedule, as part of her inner world. She knew herself in the community as a member of their couple. The changes were physi-



Think of how you
recover from a
bad storm. The
violent weather
rushes through
and is gone within
a day. The after-
effects last a
long, long time.

cal, social, financial... and they could evolve only slowly.

Think of how you recover from a bad storm. The violent weather rushes through and is gone within a day. The after-effects last a long, long time. At first, you grieve the damage to your home, you rage, you sit down and cry helplessly, you ask, “Why me?” Then you start the work of rebuilding. It’s the same with the loss of an important relationship or some large life change. You react quickly, in flashes, but the rebuilding of your life takes a long time. You have to find new building materials, so to speak—new rhythms, new ways of allotting your time and energy, new ways of defining yourself, and new ways of relating to the familiar and the unfamiliar.

People can make the mistake of entering a relationship blithely, because they don’t understand how much “clean-up” there is if things don’t work out. “Oh, I’ll get over it. I’ll move on,” they say. “If it doesn’t work out, we can always split up.” On the personal level, that’s correct. At the structural level, a break-up is a lot more complicated. You need to read the warning labels.

Brave people, who are accustomed to making tough decisions and moving forward, are especially susceptible to this naïveté. “She’s a scumbag, and I’m better off without her,” may feel true—and may be true—but that’s about *her*. What about you and all the adjustments you’re faced with? It’s easy to underestimate the time and emotional cost involved.

You can also end up being too hard on yourself.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

“It’s been a year,” you say impatiently. “How can I still be stuck on that creep?” Well, you may not be stuck on the creep. You may not miss *him*; you may even be relieved to have him gone. But that’s different from the structural fallout. You’re alone, or you don’t have enough money, or other couples have stopped inviting you because you’re unattached, or the people you know in the check-out line still feel awkward when they see you. (*Is she OK? Does she know her ex is seeing someone else? What should I say to her? Maybe nothing?*)

The structural changes are big, like a move, or a job change, or a death. As with any kind of deep change, the symptoms come and go. You’ll be fine and then get clobbered, for no “reason.” A fit of rage or of anxiety or tears will hit you at odd moments. It’s normal. It has nothing to do with the qualities or the specifics of the person who’s gone. You can grieve the loss even of someone you came to hate. You don’t miss them; you miss the part of your heart that went away with them.

And by the way, if you stay in the personal and don’t understand the huge structural upheaval, you can slide over what you need to process. Discounting what you’re really going through makes you lonelier than you need to be—and you’re already lonely. Deep change requires time, and it requires acknowledgement. You have to make room for it, or it hangs around, waiting to be accepted.

Consider the same duality in another context: childhood. If your parents are not really up to the job or, worse, mistreat you, you take it personally. As a child, you can’t understand the larger structural factors. So you feel hurt and, most damagingly, you feel helpless, powerless and humiliated by your weakness.

Unless you sort out the personal and the structural later on, you go on loathing yourself for having been powerless. You feel ashamed. You may not be aware of it—it’s just part of the landscape—but it continues to hurt you. Even if you prop yourself up by blaming your inadequate parents, some part of you knows they didn’t have any more to offer. They were starved; they starved you because there wasn’t enough nourishment around.

When you start looking at the situation through a structural lens, you understand that your shame (your powerlessness) was not personal. *All* children are powerless. It means nothing that you’ve tried to compensate by seeking power in other ways—in the material world, for example, or socially, professionally, intellectually, or in relation to other people or animals—because you’re fighting a battle that doesn’t exist. There was never any doubt when the competition was between an adult and you as a child. You didn’t lose. The game was rigged.

Once you distinguish between the personal and the structural, you can stop holding yourself respon-

sible. It wasn’t you; it was in the structure. You can see events and your feelings in a larger, more accurate context (telling the truth does set you free). Because you’ve stopped holding yourself responsible for (structural) things beyond you, you can relax, cry, release the old feelings, and flush out the emotional poisons. You *were* helpless, and it felt hopeless. You survived. Good for you.

One more example. As a professional musician in Boston for years, I had many colleagues who suffered, as I did, with the inherent struggles of the career. You prepare for decades; it’s extremely difficult to play really well; you do it because you love it. And then you get into the “business” of being a musician.

Well, the pay is atrocious, many conductors are mediocre or worse, the conditions are harsh (driving at all hours to various gigs, eating on the run, playing in an opera pit that smells of old urine), you live with constant uncertainty about whether you’ll get called “next time” to do that job again. You’re worried about money, your body starts to hurt, the music-making is unsatisfactory....

I got out, mostly because I’d done other work before and understood that this was just one kind of career. The colleagues who’d attended only music conservatories, who had no other skills, were in the soup—and feeling terrible. They were still taking it personally. I was very lucky to be able to see it structurally. If you’re a musician (in this country, without any subsidy or serious value given the arts), this is what you get. It is not personal. If you can’t see that distinction, you suffer.

Whatever the arena, the most serious problem of confusing the personal and the structural is shame. When you think *you* have failed (to get the gig, to help your parents understand you, to stay in a relationship or a job that matters), you feel shame. And shame—a hugely underestimated emotion—paralyzes.

You *have to* prove you’re really OK. You become the dog with the bone. You’re stuck. And every lap around the track reinforces your sense of failure. You try, you try again, you try harder. Failure is unacceptable, because it means *you* are unacceptable. You can become obsessed and disgusted with yourself, even if you don’t consciously know it.

Once you realize the “failure” was structural, you’re off the hook. You still grieve the failure itself—you really wanted things to be as you needed them. But *you*, personally, were never the problem. It’s humbling to admit that some things really are bigger than you are. But what a relief. ❧

Bina Breitner is a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) in private practice at 808 W. 8th St. in Silver City. She can be reached at (575) 538-4380.

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





Body, Mind & Spirit is a forum for sharing ideas and experiences on all aspects of physical, mental and spiritual health and on how these intersect. Readers, especially those with expertise in one or more of these disciplines, are invited to contribute and to respond. Write PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134 or email editor@desertexposure.com. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of *Desert Exposure* or its advertisers, and are not intended to offer specific or prescriptive medical advice. You should always consult your own health professional before adopting any treatment or beginning any new regimen.

Body, Mind & Spirit • Sheri Lynn

Slow Down, You Move Too Fast

Are you too busy to find time for you?

By the time I'd received my last wake-up call, I was spending a great deal of my earnings to maintain my body so that I could continue to overwork. Weekly appointments for acupuncture, therapeutic massage, chiropractic and a naturopathic doctor—it was now costing me a pretty penny to keep my overwhelmed endocrinal system from taking me out.

I did the math and had a “come to Jesus” moment of clarity about my self-value. It occurred to me that if backed down on the external demands, my struggling body would stand a chance. Up to that point, meeting the well-meaning expectations of everyone else was killing me. I was swimming hard upstream and my body was waving several white flags, the final of which was my second pre-cancer diagnosis.

I'd been a busy woman. I'd been a busy woman for years.

Melissa is a busy woman. She complained to me frequently that there “aren't enough hours in the day.” She'd moan, “If only I had more time, I could squeeze in some time for me. This extra 60 pounds on my body looks terrible, my back hurts, I just went on meds for my blood pressure, and I don't even have time to shop for bigger clothes.”

She was recently laid off from her job. Two weeks later, we spoke again. I asked her how it felt, to now have all that free time on her hands.

“What free time?” she demanded. “I have no idea how I found the time to work!”

Rex's family and friends complain to him that he is not present. In a room with loved ones, he keeps his smart-phone in his palm and texts during conversations. “What?” he says. “I'm right here!”

His ailing grandmother asked him to leave her hospital room and “take that thing with you.” Rex was angry. “Hey!” he said to relatives in the room, “I have a LIFE!”

We've become a nation of multitaskers because we believe that the more we accomplish, the richer our lives will be. But the truth is that the more we multitask, the less happy, creative and rested we are. Our relationships suffer.

We are effectively addicted to having too much to do. Many of us feel validated by a full schedule and there is an increasing tendency among us to judge our self-worth and sense of achievement on how active we are.

Are YOU too busy? Answer these nine questions to see:

1. Do you greet people with a tirade of how very busy you are?
2. Do you complain about being “stressed” or “crazy busy”?
3. Do you get out of bed in the morning already looking forward to when you can climb back in?
4. Is your “downtime” scheduled?
5. Are you sacrificing quality food for the sake of convenience when you feed your family?
6. When you have a day off, do you crave more activity? Do you feel restless and unable to slow down and enjoy yourself?
7. How often do you moan that there “aren't enough hours in the day”?
8. Do you find it difficult to get through an actual conversation with someone without checking your phone/texts?
9. Do you carry your smart-phone with you at all times? Are you anxious if you do not have it within your grasp?

Okay, so you're still reading this article. Your health, relationships or career



may be on the line. Here's the path I followed to dig my way out of the hole:

Know Your Limits: Only you know how much stress you can take before you break. For some, “breaking” is becoming physically ill too frequently. For another, it may be the red flag from important relationships, or feeling constantly irritated and angry. And some wait for the really big diseases, like cancer.

Knowing your limits requires some self-care and attention so that you know the level that is unhealthy for you. Don't have time for self care? Bingo.

Figure Out Where Your Time Goes: Fill out a calendar of an average week, filling in every hour of every day so you can look at it on one sheet of paper. Include hours at work, doing household chores, taking care of children or other people, time sleeping and eating. Be honest. Then sit back and have a look at it.

Set Priorities: What are the five most important things in your life, and in what order? (Hint: put you and your self-care at the top. We can't “give away what we don't got.”)

Take that priority list and apply it to that schedule you drew up. Does it match up? What can you cross off your schedule to make more time for the things higher on your priority list?

Just Say No: Take the things you crossed off your list and say “no” to them. You can let folks know that you are prioritizing to save your sanity. Or health. Or relationships.

Schedule Blank Time: This is very important. We ALL need a little flexible time. Stare at a wall, smell a rose, wander down the street, pull out a project you enjoy, or just sit and think. This space provides the opportunity to heal on all levels—physical, emotional, spiritual, psychological.

If you feel there is value to the old saying, “I'll rest when I'm dead,” it may come sooner than you think. ☸

Sheri Lynn, who spends half of the year in Silver City, has over 20 years of experience in the fitness industry. Her varied background includes credentialed experience in addictions counseling, public speaking, personal training, civil engineering and mining engineering. Lynn developed the Genesis Transformation system (www.genesistransformation.com), which includes Genesis, an international award-winning online food journaling tool. Contact her at sheri@genesistransformation.com.

Sheri Lynn will be speaking on the “Five Simple Steps to Lasting Health and Fat Loss” at Mountain View Market in Las Cruces on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. \$10 admission, \$7 for Mountain View coop members.

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The Religious Society of Friends



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for more information: 575-388-3478 • coleonard@gilanet.com

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Zazen & Dharma Talk Informal Dharma Discussion Group Community Movie Night	Friday 5:30-6:30 pm Every other Monday 6:00 pm

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Rev. Dr. Oryu Paul Stuetzer **575-388-8874**



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P.O. Box 4034, SC, NM 88062, For more information call 575-538-0101


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Body, Mind & Spirit • EarthTalk

Pill Pollution

Are we accidentally medicating our water supply?

Dear EarthTalk: Pharmaceuticals were in the news again recently, how they are polluting water and raising a host of health issues because we dispose of them both unused and used through body waste elimination. What can be done?

Pharmaceutical drug contamination in our groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuaries and bays is a growing problem. Millions of us are flushing unused medications down the toilet and discharging them in our body waste—even though sewage treatment plants and septic systems were never designed to deal with such contaminants. Additional discharges by healthcare facilities exacerbate the problem. As a result, researchers have identified traces of pharmaceutical drugs in the drinking-water supplies of some 40 million Americans.

A nationwide study conducted by the US Geological Survey in 1999 and 2000 found low levels of pharmaceuticals—including antibiotics, hormones, contraceptives and steroids—in 80% of the rivers and streams sampled. According to Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE), the effects of constant, low-level exposure of pharmaceuticals on ecosystems and humans are uncertain, though “possible health concerns include hormone disruption, antibiotic resistance and synergistic effects.” And antidepressants, says CCE, can “alter the behavior and reproductive functions of fish and mollusks.”

CCE cites a recent Stony Brook University study showing that some fish species in New York’s Jamaica Bay are experiencing “feminization”—the ratio of female to male winter flounder was 10 to 1 in the studied area—likely a result of flushed pharmaceuticals that can act as “hormone mimics” and cause such effects. New York’s Department of Environmental Conservation concurs, citing a number of other studies underscoring the impacts on aquatic life. What irks CCE about the problem is that almost all known sources of drugs in the environment first pass through wastewater treatment plants where they could be filtered out, but these facilities are not required to be equipped with pharmaceutical filter devices.

In light of the problem, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2007 established its first set of guidelines for how consumers should dispose of prescription drugs. First and foremost, consumers should follow any specific disposal instructions on a drug’s label or the patient information that accompanies the medication—and shouldn’t flush the drugs down the toilet. If there are no disposal instructions, the FDA recommends finding out from your municipality if any take-back programs are in place. Also, the US Drug Enforcement Administration sponsors National Prescription Drug Take Back Days across the country at various sites a few



Researchers have identified traces of pharmaceutical drugs—including antibiotics, hormones, contraceptives and steroids—in the drinking water supplies of some 40 million Americans. (Photo: Stockbyte)

times a year.

“If no instructions are given on the drug label and no take-back program is available in your area, throw the drugs in the household trash, but first take them out of their original containers and mix them with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter,” says the FDA. This will make them less appealing to children, pets or people who may intentionally go through your trash, says the agency, which adds that a final step is to put the medication into a sealed bag or other container to prevent leaks.

CONTACTS: CCE, www.citizenscampaign.org; National Prescription Drug Take Back Days, www.nationaltakebackday.com; FDA’s “How to Dispose of Unused Medicines,” www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/UnderstandingOver-the-CounterMedicines/ucm107163.pdf.

EarthTalk is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E—The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Subscribe: www.emagazine.com/subscribe. Free trial issue: www.emagazine.com/trial.



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Body, Mind & Spirit

Grant County Weekly Events

Support groups, classes and more.

Sundays
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP—5:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center board room. Jerry, 534-4846.
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
GENTLE YOGA—5:30-7 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.
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.
RESTORATIVE YOGA—4-5:30 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.

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 Donna, 538-9344.
AL-ANON—Noon. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, Silver City. Contact Shawneen, 313-4721.
ART CLASS—9-10:45 a.m. Silver City Senior Citizen Center. Beginners to advanced. Contact Jean 519-2977.
KUNDALINI YOGA—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—6-7 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Board Room. Jerry, 534-4866; Sharon, 534-0079.
SILVER CITY SQUARES—Dancing 7-9 p.m. Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. Kay, 388-4227, or Linda, 534-4523.

Tuesdays
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS—Men’s group, 7 a.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall. 3845 N. Swan. Jerry, 534-4866.
BELLY DANCE WITH ZOE—5:30-6:50 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St. 654-4910.
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, 313-7362.
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 .
INTERBODY YOGA—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.
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.
RESTORATIVE YOGA—10-11:30 a.m., 5:30-7 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.
SLOW FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m. 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.
SOCIAL SERVICES—Noon. Red Barn, 707 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-5666.

TEA PARTY PATRIOTS—2nd and 4th Thur. 6 p.m. Red Barn Steakhouse, 708 Silver Heights Blvd. 388-4143..
Wednesdays
AL-ANON—5:30 p.m., Swedenbor- gian Church, 1300 Bennett St. Ellen, 535-2596, or Jerry, 534-4866.
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, whud- son43@yahoo.com.
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN—Second Weds. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Subject to change. 536-2953.
GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY—First Weds. 6:30 p.m. Red Barn Restaurant meeting room. Linda Pafford, 536-3055
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.
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—Noon. St. Mary’s Academy, 1801 N. Alabama, building by flagpole. Jerry, 534-4866; Sharon, 534-0079.
PFLAG—(Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) 2nd Weds. 5:30 p.m. Wellness Coalition, 509 N. Bullard. 590-8797.
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
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—2nd 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 Hwy180E, 590-2578.
CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL—First Thurs. 5:30 p.m. Grant County Admin Bldg.
DE-STRESSING MEDITA- TIONS—12-12:45 p.m. New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.
HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOUR- ISM 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.
MOUNTAIN DULCIMER JAM—6:15 p.m., Public Library.
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.
VINYASA YOGA—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.
YOGA CLASS—Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, 7th and Texas.
Fridays
GILA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY—2d Fri. Grant County Admin. Bldg., 1400 Hwy. 180E. tim@tam.u.edu.
KUNDALINI YOGA—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center confer- ence room. Art, 590-6141, or John, 538-8779.
SILVER CITY WOMAN’S CLUB—2d Fri., 10 a.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-9326.
TAIZÉ—2d Friday. Service of prayer, songs, scripture readings and quiet con- templation. 6:30 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 538-2015.
VETERANS HEALING CIRCLE—2d Fri. 12-4 p.m. Marian Hall, 1813 N. Ala- bama St. 388-4870.
YOUTH SPACE—5:30-10 p.m. Loud music, video games, chill out. Satellite/ Wellness Coalition.
Saturdays
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BEGIN- NERS—6 p.m. Lions Club, 8th & Bullard (entrance at Big Ditch behind Domino’s). Newcomers and seasoned members welcome.
BEGINNING SALSA—7-8 p.m. Java- lina’s. Instructor Gail Willow, 388-3332.
DOUBLE FEATURE BLOCKBUSTER MEGA HIT MOVIE NIGHT—5:30-11 pm. Satel- lite/Wellness Coalition.
EVENING PRAYER IN THE EASTERN OR- THODOX 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, MEDITA- TION, 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. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425. ☸

Send weekly events updates and additions to events@desertex- posture.com. All phone numbers are area code 575 except as

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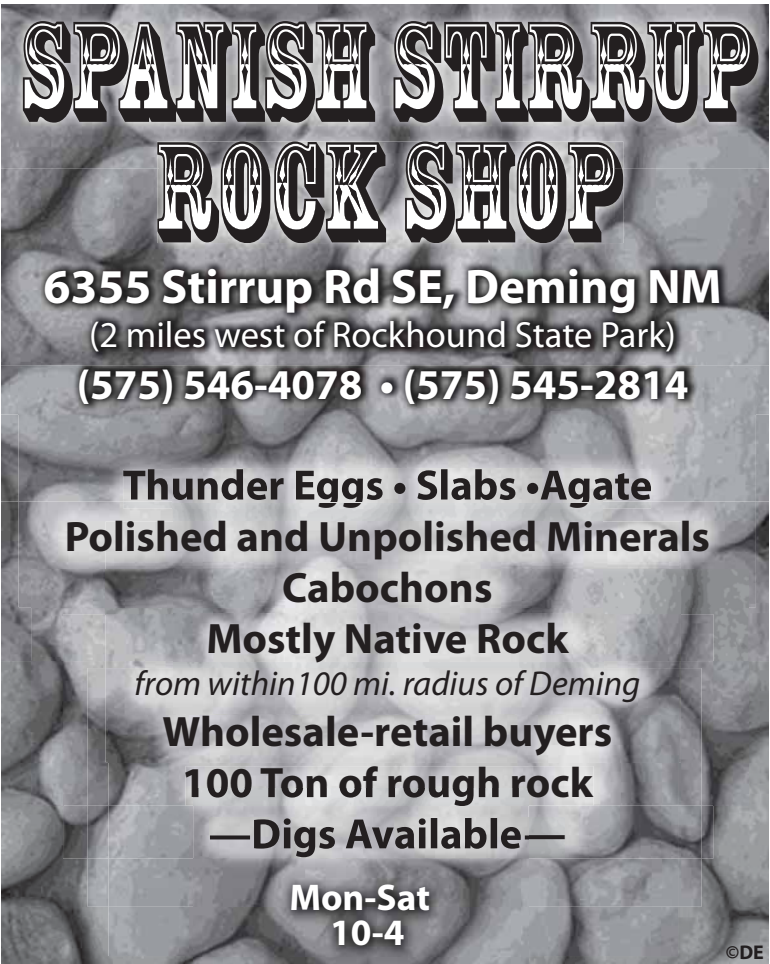
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BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

A Visit to Juarez

Despite the violence, it's not what you expect.

Howard Campbell, a sociology professor at UTEP, offered by phone to go with me to Juarez last month.

I put it off for a week or more, partly because I couldn't quite fit his schedule with mine. But I was also a little too scared. It wasn't palpable fear, but it was that I didn't quite have the courage.

Campbell had said to me, "You'd have to have really, really bad luck to have anything happen to you." He'd never witnessed any violence in the many times he'd crossed to Juarez.

The number of murders there has also been dropping somewhat—how much isn't really clear. There was something between a 37% and 22% difference between the first seven months of 2010 and those of 2011, depending on the source of information.

These facts, plus a couple of phrases from prayers, got me there.

So we walked across the bridge, Campbell in very informal clothes and prepared to give me a little walking tour of El Centro, or the business district of Juarez.

We veered toward the right at the other end of the bridge, so he could show me the large vacant lots where many buildings had been razed.

An attempt by the city to "clean up" the Bella Vista area of bars and brothels there had devastated the neighborhood, which used to be glamorous, a place where movie stars would visit, according to Campbell. The brothels and so forth had basically moved farther west.

But this didn't really have anything to do with the drug war, because this campaign had all started about four years ago. Campbell told me that El Centro, especially the Bella Vista district, had seen "hundreds" of murders. It is one of the worst places.

But there was another kind of "social cleansing" occurring, an attempt by the police on July 24 to take control of El Centro. "They had all these people, just prostitutes, people that looked like prostitutes, poor people, street drug sellers, vendors of pirated goods," and the police put them into trucks, Campbell said. Four hundred people ended up getting arrested for a while, but very few stayed in the prisons.

Juarez' new police chief, Julian Leyzaola, who came from Tijuana in March, seems to have bended the murder statistics downward a bit, although he has serious human rights accusations against him. The trend neatly coincides with his arrival.

We stopped at a bakery that I'd often visited before the violence. Its inventory now seemed to be a tenth of what it was before. It used to have about a dozen bins of different kinds of loaves of bread. Now that was all gone.

The young woman working the cash register said with a kind of frazzled look, "Honestly, I don't see that it's gone down [the level of killings]. There's a lot of danger in these streets."

How much danger existed, and what its size and shape were, was something very much on my mind.

We then went to the open-air market and stopped to talk to people selling fruits and vegetables. A man assured me there wasn't much violence there. He said the local police were the "rateros" (thieves).

It was a clear 90-degree day, and there was a comfortable number of people on the sidewalk (although, as a newspaper vendor estimated, there was probably only about a fifth of the number compared to a few years ago, when El Centro had wall-to-wall people). Grimy-looking city buses and cars still barreled down Avenida 16 de septiembre.

The fact is, the phrase "throbbing with life" came to mind. This was something I felt embarrassed to say.

Campbell was ready to go back to El Paso, but I had reached a point, surprisingly, where I had no problem staying in Juarez by myself. I didn't have any fear.

Before going there, I had pictured almost all businesses shuttered tight, with an overcast sky and a few lonely people scurrying through the streets.

A lot of businesses had closed, but the majority were actually open for business.

This irony seems to have something to do with the nature of war, or at least at this level of conflict. Life goes on right on in the middle of it. There's more life than death going on.

At another store in the Centro a man was willing to talk with me for a while.

He said he leaves work at 6 p.m. and walks "from work to the house, nothing more," because of fear. Violence can happen "day or night, at any hour."

He said, "Last week two guys were shooting nearby, and the federal police came and beat them up." But his voice was confidential and kind. He seemed cautious, not terrified.

I asked him if he thought about moving to El Paso, and he said, "How can one make a living in El Paso?" Giving up his store wouldn't be easy.

On the other hand, a man in a little bookstore tucked away south of the Av. 16 de septiembre told me he had never seen an incident of violence in Juarez. He'd just read about them or seen them on the news.

The killings can seem remote even if you live there. There may be six or eight murders a day, but they're almost all occurring in other neighborhoods.

An employee at a certain chain store whose name I won't mention confided to me that the owner of the chain pays the narcos for protection. He said of the businesses near him, "The majority are affected by extortion."

People were confiding in me, people were courteous, people came out of their shells somewhat.

Juarez had seemed barren to me before, and the people seemed apathetic and jaded. It was so close to the border that there was no novelty to a visiting gringo. Most weren't especially interested in talking to me, not as much as people were in smaller cities like Zacatecas or Chihuahua.

On the way back to the bridge, on Av. Juarez, I stopped in a little restaurant to eat a gordita. The owner, a woman with red hair, told me brightly that all the shuttered businesses on the street had closed because they had debts, not because of extortions. She was obviously trying to improve the "image" of Juarez.

It was a good try, but I already had a better image of Juarez.

I'll think twice before going back to Juarez. But when I do I know I will find a very different city from the one I pictured before I went there. ☘



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SOUTHWEST GARDENER • VIVIAN SAVITT

Big Horses and a Big Tree

Horsepower for growing vegetables. Plus Fort Bayard’s “alligator” landmark.



At Frisco Farm:, Kyle Scaggs leads his team of Belgian draft horses while a friend holds the plow. (Photo: Kelsy Waggaman)

With the addition of “Kate” and “Bess,” two majestic Belgian draft horses who each weigh 1,600 pounds, the operation of Frisco Farm in Pleasanton serves as a harbinger of what small-scale organic farming may look like in the near future.

Situated on the San Francisco River just south of Glenwood, Frisco Farm is owned by Kyle Skaggs, who has provided organic produce to area residents for two years. Besides the Silver City Farmers’ Market, Kyle also sells to the Silver City Food Coop and local restaurants and to coops in Las Cruces and Albuquerque.

From May through October he participates in the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, selling one share of produce harvested on the farm to families and individuals for \$15 a week. Kyle provides 25 shares and establishes a baseline income for himself.

Tall and lean with corn-silk-colored hair that matches the manes and tails of his drafting team, Kyle, 26, was born and raised in Glenwood. In this paradisiacal landscape his growing up—working outside, swimming in the river, hiking and biking in the Gila—exemplified a great childhood. He would often assist his parents, both field biologists, doing raptor surveys. Kyle credits his parents, now science teachers, with showing him “the value of hard work and the importance of relating to the land.”

At Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., the future farmer pursued an ecology degree. Later, he spent time training to run cross-country and 100-mile mountain races. His trophy pile, although not on display, reflects numerous first-place accomplishments. Unless you were aware of these feats, Kyle probably wouldn’t mention them. Nowadays, such self-effacement is indeed a breath of fresh country air.

During an apprenticeship on a farm in northern New Mexico, Kyle met Ann LeFevre, who taught him farming techniques. Afterwards, she moved with him to Glenwood, to help start Frisco Farm on land owned by his parents.

A neighboring horse breeder let Kyle use her draft horse before he purchased his own team of Belgians from an Amish horse trader. The breed is known for its powerful build and good disposition.

Walking behind the collared and harnessed horses with a plow, Kyle says that he “experiences their quietness.” The horses, he continues, “keep me more in touch with what’s going on as I walk the furrows, noticing things like soil moisture. There is no distracting tractor noise.”

Using animals also means less soil compaction and having a constant source of fertilizer on hand.

To keep the manure coming, Kate and Bess consume organic rye grass and legumes, supplemented by hay in winter. When they are working—usually four days per week—they are fed oats. In hot weather, the sorrel-colored team sweat profusely while doing heavy work like plowing. Aside from work breaks, their R&R occurs on acres of good Pleasanton pastureland.

As a local boy, Kyle gets chided by the older farmers who cannot understand why in the world he doesn’t use a tractor. But, Kyle acknowledges, “they also respect my efforts.”

Kyle believes that corporate farming practices—with its high energy consumption and heavy use of fertilizer and pesticides—will continue until it simply becomes economically unfeasible. He sees small farms like his own eventually being the only sustainable and economically viable alternative.

On his small farm at the moment, autumn field work is underway—plowing under old crops, harvesting red and yellow onions and three different varieties of squash and digging up sweet potatoes.

During the down time offered in winter, Kyle hopes to build a root cellar, burn brush and cut trees. Kate and Bess will help haul the logs. The rest of the time they will no doubt graze picturesquely among the area’s pastoral splendor. And although Kate and Bess may resemble the Budweiser Clydesdales, you won’t catch them promoting beer.

Another Big Species

Soldiers in the Ninth Cavalry and early settlers had a clear view of it from the north side of Signal Peak. Centuries later, the exact same tree—an alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*) growing 12 miles from Silver City—serves as an arboreal surprise at the end of a two-mile hike on the “Big Tree Trail” (#755) at Fort Bayard.

With its checkered gray and black bark, the spe-

SOUTHWEST GARDENER continued on next page



The canopy of the Big Tree appears at the end of a two-mile trail at Fort Bayard. This alligator juniper is thought by some experts to be between 800 and 1,000 years old. (Photo by Vivian Savitt)

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SOUTHWEST GARDENER
continued

cies seemingly resembles alligator hide. The intricate and distinctive bark could also serve as a fine pattern on contemporary textiles.

Thirty years ago, the tree was listed in the New Mexico Big Tree Registry and estimated to be 63 feet tall—with a circumference of 220 inches and a crown spread of 61 1/2 feet. Today, the Big Tree's height and age can only be guessed, but it holds landmark status locally nonetheless.

Gabe Partido, forest vegetation manager and a timber specialist at the Gila National Forest/US Forest Service, thinks if a core sample were taken today, it would prove the tree to be 800 to 1,000 years old. The coring procedure results in an eraser-size sample whose rings, magnified under a microscope, reveal age.

Ron Henderson, a retired forester who is associated with the Fort Bayard Historical Society, agrees about the tree's age. He also believes that the juniper remains extant because in the past, "it was too big and wide to saw down with either a crosscut saw or an ax."

In this way, the "Big Tree" could also be called the "big survivor," having escaped the historic fort's dire need for firewood.

Russell Ward, Silver City District forest ranger, explains that alligator juniper remains the preferred firewood species because it splits easily and contains far less creosote than Ponderosa pine. If allowed to collect on the sides of chimney walls, creosote may combust.

Alligator juniper is also popularly used by wood craftsmen to make rustic furniture. It is a slow-growing, hardy species resistant to bark beetle. Severe cold, however, does affect its longevity, and Ranger Ward observed a large die-off of the species last winter. On the other hand, alligator juniper is extremely drought tolerant.

Ward advises that those concerned with obtaining legally harvested firewood—not poached—should make sure that permit tags are marked on the cords they buy.

Ron Henderson, who also documents the area's old graves and homesteads, adds one last "for



Top: Plowing at Frisco Farm with "Kate" and "Bess." Each horse weighs 1,600 pounds and brings the farm to a higher level of sustainability. (Photo: Kelsy Wag-gaman) Above: Kyle Skaggs and his girlfriend Meggie Dexter take a break from selling Frisco Farm organic produce at the Farmer's Market in Silver City. Right: Up close, the bark of alligator juniper does resemble said reptile and even casts a bit of silvery shine. (Photos: Vivian Savitt)



sure" attribute to the Big Tree's legacy: "No one ever hanged from or was buried underneath it." ❧

Vivian Savitt gardens at Ditch Cottage in Silver City. Her Southwest Gardener column will return in the spring.



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Section B

OCTOBER 2011

GOOD NEIGHBORS • HARRY WILLIAMSON

Out of the Ashes

Grant County emerges from a devastating fire season with a new sense of community and commitment to preparedness.



Grant County didn't get a phoenix rising out of the ashes of March's Quail Ridge fire, but it did see some uplifting after-effects, including a reverse-911 system and the new Silver City Neighborhood Alliance.

The fire was not the end but the start of an it-could-happen-here story whose latest chapters were being written this year in Texas, where almost 2,000 structures were burned on forested acreages packed with homes—much like ours.

"Quail Ridge was our wake-up call. Grant County is beyond the situation of saying it might happen. It did happen," says Gary Benavidez, Grant County fire management officer. "What happened in Texas or in the 2003 firestorm in Southern California, where 2,800 buildings were destroyed, could happen here next time. So what are we going to do about it?"

Even before the ashes had cooled and the smoke cleared in Silver Acres, the subdivision south of town hardest hit by the blaze, people were trying to figure out answers to that question. How could we better prepare for the next conflagration?

These people included Kathy Anderson, one of the county's numerous Alaska transplants—even though she doesn't live in Silver Acres. "I'm one of those jumpers. When something happens, I jump in to help," Anderson says. "And I don't mind jumping in without all of the facts."

Anderson jumped in and started the Silver City Neighborhood

Alliance, a network to communicate and share resources between representatives from all of the individual neighborhood associations.

At the time of the fire, she had called a number of her Silver Acres friends, reaching some who were stuck in traffic trying to get out of the subdivision and others who, after a short conversation, had to hang-

up with an, "I have to hurry now. I see flames!"

The fire, started by sparks from a vehicle's faulty catalytic converter on Hwy. 90 near Tyrone, spread almost as fast as the 45-mile-an-hour winds that pushed it.

"In the years I've lived here, I never anticipated having a wind-driven fire going from Tyrone into Quail Ridge," Benavidez says. "In my mind, looking at the terrain, looking at fire behavior, and looking at the dominant winds, I always thought there would be a fire coming from the southwest into that area."

He adds that the fire moved across the drainages, not burning along the drainages, as would be expected. And it traveled at almost lightning speed, fed by grass, the occasional structure and trees.

Bill Berstch, two-time president of the Silver Acres Property Owners Association, walked out of his back door at about 2:30



The Quail Ridge fire (left, photo by Gary Emerson) swept through the Silver Acres neighborhood, destroying some homes while sparing others. (Photos by Lisa D. Fryxell)

p.m. on that day, March 7, to see and smell smoke. He drove up to Ridge Road, where a deputy sheriff pointed to smoke in the distance, saying a voluntary evacuation was under way.

"The deputy said the fire was at least a half-mile away, so I thought we had all kinds of time," Berstch recalls.

He and his wife were packing a bit later when a neighbor called to say she had been blocked from getting back into the subdivision, asking the Berstchs if they could bring out her pets and a few other items. Berstch took a few minutes to email the association's membership what was happening.

"We grabbed her pets and left without even our toothbrushes," he says.

By the time they were going out the back entrance from Silver Acres, the fire had jumped Ridge Road and the first

OUT OF THE ASHES continued on next page



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ance got rolling, she says, “Neighborhood groups started coming out of the woodwork. First and foremost was Indian Hills. Indian Hills was well organized and kicked it hard by arranging slash and trash removal, and borrowing a county pickup to haul it away.”

Neighborhoods that have organized and are represented on the Alliance to date include Dos Griegos, Pinos Altos, Skyview Plus, Indian Hills, Silver Acres and the Cottage San Road district.

Almost immediately after being formed, the Neighborhood Alliance sought to hold a meeting with neighbors and county fire officials. Some members saw a reverse-911 system as one solution. In May, *Desert Exposure* was the first local publication to speak out editorially about the need for reverse-911 in the county.

Anderson says that in understanding how a reverse-911 system operates, people should reverse their thinking from when someone experiencing an emergency calls 911: “Instead, with reverse-911, the county calls you and tells you what’s happening, what the emergency is.”



Ellen Brown, fire prevention and mitigation coordinator for the Gila National Forest, talks to a participant at a recent public event held in downtown Silver City. (Photo by Harry Williamson)

How might the Quail Ridge fire emergency might have been different if a reverse-911 system had been available? Anderson says people would have been able to get a call, throw their stuff in a bag, get in their car and get out of their neighborhood. “Minimally, people would have been evacuated in a more organized sense, with less confusion and fear,” she says. “Before our reverse-911 system, the sheriff and police staff had to go from door to door, banging on doors.”

Other means of getting the word out have been radio stations, and during emergencies, the Forest Service has occasionally established 800-numbers for people to call.

Benavidez says he became more familiar with reverse-911 in February when he spent a couple of hours talking with the Ruidoso fire chief. “I had looked at his urban interface situation and he has some real nightmares there,” Benavidez says.

He adds that Ruidoso has an incredible amount of fuels, including ponderosa thickets, along with numerous steep canyons, with homes built right in the canyons. There is a one narrow road going in and coming back out, with no escape routes.

“Ruidoso has had reverse-911 for a long time, and the fire chief said they are in the process now of enlarging and expanding it,” he adds.

Anderson says Grant County is the perfect spot for such a system, adding, “We have a whole lot of homes that are at the end of the road.”

The problem was money to pay for the necessary software.

Once the Neighborhood Alliance started sending out emails, included in the list were all of the county’s volunteer fire fighters, resulting, Anderson says, “in a lot of chat going on,” especially in the Dos Griegos and Pinos Altos areas.

“It was from discussions in those areas that one individual anonymously donated the money to buy the software,” she adds. In June, the donor made \$15,000 available to the Regional Dispatch Board to purchase the reverse-911 system and get it up and running, with the condition that the board fund the rest of costs for permanent implementation.

The system was operational in early July, with its first true test coming on Sept. 1 due to a lightning-caused grassfire in the Boston Hill area. Jean Fortenberry, manager of the county’s Regional Dispatch Authority, says the system worked well, except for

an inability to limit the message to just those streets being evacuated, a problem she says is being worked on. Residents can choose to received an automated phone message, an email or both.

The system was used again on Sept. 12 to warn residents in the 1900 block of Swan Street in Silver City to stay in their homes due to a man who had barricaded himself inside a nearby house and was threatening to kill anyone who came close. The man was later taken unharmed after police fired teargas into the home.

Although all local phone numbers have already been entered into the system, Fortenberry says people who would like to be doubly sure they’re included, or would like to opt for the email option, can find a link at the county’s and the town’s websites, grantcountynm.com and www.townofsilvercity.org.

“With this new system we can record a message and then automatically launch it so it doesn’t tie up our phone lines from receiving calls,” Fortenberry says. “I can’t personally thank the people who donated the money, but I hope they know just how much it’s appreciated.”

Anderson says the Neighborhood Alliance next turned its attention to joining with other local organizations to lessen the use of fireworks, along with helping existing neighborhoods with their firewise and defensible space programs. The Alliance also worked to encourage neighborhoods that have not formed an association to do so.

As a rule of thumb, if a neighborhood is located in the wildland urban interface (WUI) and is served by a volunteer fire department, it needs to have an organized association that can help homeowners understand and initiate safety measures. The county currently has 13 volunteer fire departments.

“The volunteer fire departments make or break the success in this county,” Anderson says. “I’m very, very impressed with the capacity of our firefighters to work together.”

This includes firefighters from the state and federal forest services. Ellen Brown, fire prevention and mitigation coordinator for the Gila National Forest, says, “We’re seeing an influx and uptick in what the New Mexico counties are doing to train and equip for wildland fires. Grant County is particularly good. There is not much discussion about which shirt you wear. If you’re needed to fight a fire, you just go.”

Anderson says the Neighborhood Alliance will rekindle its efforts (pun intended) once the county reenters its lengthy dry season. Among the Alliance’s other goals, she lists helping the county enforce its hazardous substance and blight ordinances, continuing to strengthen the reverse-911 system, and working to get young people educated and involved in preparedness and community responsibility.

“Some of these are decisions the county has control over, but I think citizens always need to have input,” she says.

Anderson adds that the Alliance’s overall goal is to have a “joint citizen-government disaster preparedness effort that is very lively. I’m interested in helping the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) become bigger and stronger, having a disaster-preparedness team that takes the county’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan and makes it a living, breathing document. We need to have have clearly marked evacuation routes, outreach and education and all the rest.

“There is no conclusion, no finality to the issue of preparedness,” she says. “It’s an issue that continually needs to be massaged, and we need to have younger people get engaged.”

Benavidez says that in his opinion, the county’s most desperate need is an Emergency Operating Center for improved coordination during local emergencies. He adds that, as bad as the Quail Ridge fire was, since it happened so early in the year, it got people ready for the rest of the fire season.

“I believe we didn’t have any other catastrophic fire because the public was engaged, and that’s what makes restrictions successful,” he says. “It gave us a so-called teachable moment, about a six-month win-



dow when we have support, not only by groups, but also by individuals.”

The Forest Service’s Ellen Brown agrees, speaking in terms of the impact of the Miller Fire, which burned a few weeks later up Hwy. 15 in the vicinity of the Gila Cliff Dwellings. “The unification of this community still gives me goose bumps,” she says. “They were on top of it, watching for smoke and letting us know. Everybody was a fire lookout, so to speak.”

Brown adds that she has worked in 10 different forests in five states, and there is always some amount of public involvement in protecting the forest. “But the degree I saw it here this year was pretty amazing.”

There were 236 fires in the Gila Fire Zone this year, she says, compared to 108 in 2010 and 156 in 2009. The highest number of fires in recent years was 423 in 2000; 2008 saw the fewest, with 95 fires.

What about the 2012 fire season?

No one can, of course, predict the weather, but indications are it is getting dryer in the Southwest. “Every year we seem to redefine the word ‘extreme.’ What was extreme last year might be peanuts in a few years,” Brown says. “Ten years ago the television weatherman never talked about red-flag warnings. There were no fire weather watches. Now they are commonplace.”

Benavidez

says he keeps referring to fire conditions in Grant County this year as akin to the perfect storm—the perfect fire season. “Just on the issue of dryness, we were at record levels, and the fires were very aggressive once under way, very hard to control.”

Benavidez

is available to speak to neighborhood

groups on fire issues and creating defensible spaces around homes, and will visit homes to give individual homeowners an idea of what they need to do.

He is also scheduled to teach a Western Institute for Lifelong Learning class on “Protect Your Home from Wildfire” on Nov. 9 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. The WILL classes are held at Western New Mexico University. The phone number to register is (575) 538-6835.

A new edition of “Living With Fire: A Guide for the Homeowner,” updated just for New Mexico, was recently released, and is available from the county, New Mexico State Forestry and the USDA Forest Service. It has an excellent step-by-step description of how to create defensible space, referred to in the book as a “lean, clean and green area.”

Kathy Anderson can be reached at sneighborsalliance@gmail.com to assist neighborhoods in starting and developing an association, and to answer questions on the Silver City Neighborhood Alliance. Gary Benavidez can be contacted at (575) 534-0011, and Ellen Brown’s phone number at the Gila National Forest office is (575) 388-8262. Harry Williamson moved to Grant County three years ago after reporting and editing for newspapers in New York, Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas. Feel free to contact him at editorharrydad5@gmail.com.



Bill Berstch, president of the Silver Acres Property Owners Association, points to some of the areas that were burned in the Quail Ridge Fire. He believes defensible space was responsible for saving some of the homes in his neighborhood. His home was not burned. (Photo by Harry Williamson)

THE LIVELY ARTS • JEFF BERG

With a Banjo on Her Knee

Botanist and banjo player Lillis Urban looks for the elusive Chihuahua scurfpea by day and plays music by night.



Photos of Lillis Urban by Robert Yee

As I glance out the large picture window of Las Mariachi’s Mexican Restaurant in Mesilla, a woman on an old-fashioned “one-speed” bike breezes by, stops, and rests her transport against an outside post. She is wearing an attractive and functional pale green dress, which goes well with her shock of blonde hair. She carries a shoulder bag filled with her tools for the day.

I’m always pleased when I meet people who don’t “fit” into the category of someone who may typically live in southern New Mexico. That certainly applies to Lillis Urban, botanist and banjo player.

She scurries into the café, slightly askew, thinking it is later than it actually is. She apologizes, noting that she is resting up from any number of things, including the recent successful defense of her dissertation for her PhD in botany from NMSU. That was quickly followed

by the start of some contract work with the BLM, doing field research near the town of Columbus. No wonder she just woke up from a three-hour nap.

Besides all of that, she has become the doyenne of local banjo players.

“I was born in Chicago, but we moved to Lake Bluff and when I was about 15 or so, my family moved to Arkansas, to the Ozarks,” Urban starts off.

It was a bit of a change to go from a suburb north of Chicago on the shores of Lake Michigan to the more rural life of Arkansas, but it was not one that she minded. Leaving home at an early age, her travels for music and education have taken her to some pretty exotic places including Belize, Denmark and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, where she did her master’s degree work. Belize was a place for field work, and other stops for botany instruction included the University of Georgia and

Prescott College in Arizona. Music took her to Denmark, as well as a stint in Austin, Texas.

Urban explains her alighting at NMSU and living in Mesilla: “I met a professor, Donovan Bailey, who I really wanted to work with, who was smart and decent and I just decided to go for my PhD. It was great to meet and work with someone who had those qualities, and I worked with him for five years.

“I’ve always been interested in plants, ever since I can remember, and I’ve always loved to be outside, and love adventures.” She adds with a laugh, “And I’ve always found friends who want to ‘get dirty’ with me, even in Las Cruces.”

Another reason for being in New Mexico is because Urban loves the desert and wanted to live a bit “off the radar” for awhile. She acknowledges being shy, but that has lessened because of her music, as she makes more and more personal appearances at local establishments.

Thus far, she has done gigs at Vintage Wines, High Desert Brewing, the Fountain Theatre and the Rio Grande Theatre.

Unlike her botany work, most of Urban’s musical talent is self-taught. She dabbles in other instruments, but specializes in the banjo with a side of guitar. I personally can’t think of another female banjo player, certainly not one of note. (A Google search turns up several country music crooners, such as Barbara Mandrell, who also played the banjo, Emily Robison of the Dixie Chicks, the late Wendy Holcombe and Roni Stoneman of “Hee-Haw.” Not a long list.)

Most of Urban’s music is her own as well, written as originals. She is not the “pickin’ and a-grinnin’” type of banjoist; rather she has her own unique sound and style that would be hard to put into a niche if one wanted to. She tends to make the instrument sound softer and clearer than other banjo artists I have heard. The term “minimalist” fits, as noted on her social network pages.

Asked about her musical influences, she thinks long and hard, and finally offers that she really doesn’t have any, although Neil Young is a favorite. “I rarely listen to music at home,” she says.

“I guess playing music is one of my favorite ways to be with people, to be with friends,” she goes on. “It is an amazing way to share. When I go out, when I leave my adobe, the goal is most often to hear or share music. I guess I am a bit of a hermit. I spend an awful lot of time alone, which I love, but I also love people, and sharing music with people—well, for me, anyway, it doesn’t get much better than that. And there are so many excellent players right here. It’s incredible. All I have to do is bicycle four blocks to be around a handful of players and songwriters—right here in Mesilla alone.”

And Mesilla is a place she has grown to love. “I feel like I fit in Mesilla”, she offers, adding with a smile, “So much so, that I would probably do ad hoc promotion work for the town.”

She continues to talk about her musical ambitions: “I would like to follow the music as much as I can, but, as you know, making a living with music is tough. Really tough. So, there is the botany, which I also love and which also doesn’t pay much. Wow, I really know how to pick viable professions, no?! But perhaps between the two there is a way.”

As for that botany work, her current assignment has her trawling the desert for a plant called the Chihuahua scurfpea. In 2008, the Wild Earth Guardians petitioned the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list the plant under the Endan-

gered Species Act. According to the petition, only eight samples of the plant have been collected since its discovery in 1744 and as few as 300 may exist in its traditional range, which includes far southwest New Mexico, southeastern Arizona, and a portion of northern Mexico. Overgrazing is a prime, but unproven suspect in the plants’ disappearance.

Urban explains how she got involved in this project, looking for a plant in the vast spaces that its traditional territory covers: “Well, my lab mate did similar survey work for the same folks this past year and they asked if he could do it again. He had previous commitments and recommended they ask me. They emailed me. I sent them my resume.”

Too bad all jobs aren’t that simple to land, but she does have concerns about what to do when this project ends in November, and is even considering moving.

For now, though, it’s all about the scurfpea. “It is a rare plant and is only found in one area in New Mexico and one in Arizona,” Urban says. “It is also known historically to occur across the border in Mexico, but is thought to have been extirpated there. It may be interesting for readers that the plant has been used medically by the Tarahumara (tribe) to reduce fevers.”

What happens when a sample of the plant is found? “Well, when we are doing presence/absence survey work (meaning, just looking to see if it is there) we record the position of all individual plants we may find with high-dpi GPS coordinates. The last time I was out we systematically walked a piece of land out there for four days (one mile up, one mile back) and found no plants.” (On a followup trip in September, however, Urban and a partner did find scurfpea near Columbus. “They’re cute,” she says.)

“That piece of land was selected for two reasons: It is close to known populations of *P. pentaphyllum* (the scientific name for the scurfpea) and a rancher who is leasing the land for cows would like to drop tebuthiuron (a harsh herbicide) on it to kill the creosote and promote the growth of grass. This is a relatively common practice in the rangelands of the Chihuahuan Desert, with mixed results. But, because the piece of land is so close to known populations of *P. pentaphyllum*, the BLM decided that the land first needed to be surveyed to see if *P. pentaphyllum* occurred there before the go-ahead was given for the application of tebuthiuron.”

The other part of her assignment is ecological survey work. “We go to places where there are known individuals of *P. pentaphyllum* and establish plots,” Urban explains, “record all the plant species that occur in the plot, assess the percentage cover of species, and then do line-transect work. The details are perhaps boring, but, in summary, we

lay out a series of lines within the plot and record the plant species that intersect the line (this is field ecology for you—measuring nature). With this data people (not me, in this case) do math (basic stats).”

Urban adds that the main goal of the plot work “is to characterize and describe the habitat type where these plants occur. Such an understanding will allow for informed searches of potentially suitable habitats where we may find additional populations and also allow for comparative studies to be carried out over time to see if/how vegetation structure may be changing in an area and if/how changes affect the survival and recruitment of the scurfpea.”

But Urban would rather talk about her music. So I inquire about a band that she has worked with in Austin, The Just Desserts.

“The Just Desserts are an Austin-based world music group headed up by Michael Shay and Lisa Shawley,” she replies. “I’ve known Michael for years, back from my days in Arizona where we used to play music together. He too really encouraged me time and time again to sing, to play out, and to share my songs. The Just Desserts cut a record in Austin about one and a half years ago and invited me to sing on it, which I did.

“I plan to head again to Austin in December for a couple of weeks to do some recordings. I think music can be so subtle and putting your finger on what it is



The endangered Chihuahuan scurfpea. (Photo by Mike Howard, Bureau of Land Management)

working, or not working, or what you can hear in your mind but that has yet to be sounded, can be a real challenge.”

Music is also what took her to Denmark, to record and play. She mentions that it, too, is a place where she feels comfortable and fits in. “We got a drummer to drive out from Copenhagen to the studio, and it was incredible that he came, really,” Urban recalls. “I met him one night late night in Copenhagen. Another Danish player and friend of his were there along with a friend of mine from Austin. Both great players. We had merely wandered in for beers and to hear who might be playing.

“My friend suggested we get up and play a couple songs. So we did and this drummer, who was already on stage, asked if he could play along. We happily agreed. It was a good time, a bit of a mess, but fun. The next day I called down to the bar, seeing if I could find a way to get in touch with the drummer, whose name I never did get, to see if he would be interested in coming out the countryside to the studio with us.

“A woman was on the other line and I did my best to tell her who I was looking for, telling her I was in last night and that we had played a couple songs and that the drummer played with us. To this she replied, ‘Oh, yes, you’re the blonde country singer.’” Urban finishes this story with a laugh.

She can hardly be labeled a “country singer,” although she does note affection for the real country singers of the past, and sometimes does covers of some of their songs.



"I'll sing anytime, anywhere," she adds.

Our interview closes with another observation about her current home in Mesilla. We had previously noted that we shared the thought that living in the desert allows one to feel more open emotionally, rather than places that may make one feel more confined like cities or places hemmed in by trees and mountains.

"Since I left Chicago, I haven't been back," Urban recalls. "But people are friendlier here than they are in other places, including Arkansas."

"They get it."

You can hear some of Lillis Urban's music on her MySpace and Facebook pages. If so inclined, you can also contact her through those social networks to book her for your venue. Urban will perform Oct. 8 at 8 p.m. at Vintage Wines in Las Cruces. Senior writer Jeff Berg neither picks nor grins in Las Cruces.

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LOOKING BACKWARD • KEN EMERY

Crash Program

America's first military air campaign, launched from Columbus, NM, in 1916, had its ups and downs.



The Curtiss "Jenny" flown by the First Aero Squadron from Columbus in 1916.

Editor's note: In our April 2010 issue ("First in Fighting Flight"), Ken Emery introduced readers to the US Army's First Aero Squadron, which arrived in Columbus, NM, on March 15, 1916, to join General John "Blackjack" Pershing's search for Pancho Villa. This would be the first time that the US Army used airplanes in a military campaign—in effect, the birth of the US Air Force. In this followup article, Emery delves deeper into some of the adventures of the squadron's pilots as they flew into history from southwest New Mexico.

Orders arrived from Gen. Pershing on March 19 to proceed *at once* to his new base near Casas Grandes. Captain Benny Foulois, squadron commander, took the orders literally, though that meant the squadron would have to fly at night. The eight Curtiss JN-2 "Jenny" planes were readied for the flight and Foulois requested that a landing area be prepared and signal fires lit to identify it. At 5:10 p.m. the planes took off one by one and headed south into Mexico.

The Jennies were ill equipped for night flight. None of the pilots knew where Casas Grandes was, just the general direction. Their "maps" were blueprints of uncertain accuracy. The only instruments were compasses of various types and uneven quality, which really didn't matter much because the planes had no lights. At night the pilots would be flying blind.

Foulois led the way in #344 with the "experienced" Capt. Townsend Dodd as his pilot. Dodd was the only pilot who'd previously flown at night—a *total* of 10 minutes! The others were to follow single-file, hoping that the light from the previous plane's exhaust would keep them together. Lt. Walter Kilner in #42 barely cleared the wire fence at the end of the field and returned to Columbus with engine trouble. The others flew on.

Just before total darkness, Foulois spotted dust from the US Cavalry and wisely decided that it was foolhardy to continue at night, landing at Ascension. Half his squadron landed with him. Lts. Robert Willis, Edgar Gorrell and Herbert Dargue had already lost sight of the leaders, however, and continued deeper into Mexico.

Willis in #41 and Gorrell in #52 managed to stay together for a while, then became separated. Willis

drifted south of Gorrell, then spotted a fire to the west. Gorrell saw the same fire to his south. Each thought it might be the signal fire marking their field and headed toward it. At about 7:45 p.m. they met again, nearly colliding in midair. Separating again in the dark, the pilots realized that the light was a forest fire. Willis turned south and Gorrell north.

Eventually, Willis came upon another fire. The area near it seemed suitable for a landing and since he was getting low on fuel, he decided to risk it. The ground proved to be much rougher than it appeared from the air and he tore the undercarriage from his plane on landing. The fire proved to be a burning crosstie on the railroad. He was five or six miles south of Pearson (modern Mata Ortiz) and 35 miles from his destination.

A few mounted men approached and hailed him, but he hid behind the railroad embankment until they left. He started walking, traveling at night and hiding by day. He reached the squadron at Colonia Dublan at 2 a.m. on March 21.

Two attempts were made to retrieve Willis' abandoned #41. The first attempt failed because the small detachment was fired on near Pearson and forced to retreat. A stronger force tried shortly after and found the plane. It had been stripped and the only salvageable part was the engine.

While Willis was foundering at Pearson, Gorrell was following the North Star, determined to reach the US or Canada, whichever came first. He continued until he ran out of gas and glided to a landing in a field of bunch grass just south of a small stream. There were a few small buildings nearby and a mixed herd of cattle and horses. North of the stream was a small mountain, which he decided to climb to get his bearings.

Just as Gorrell started out he thought he saw men emerge from one of the buildings, so he started to crawl. Apparently this attracted the herd's attention because it came over to check him out. It got close, *very* close, *too* close! Gorrell was a small man (his nickname was "Nap" for Napoleon) and he had heard stories of animals trampling things crawling on the ground, so he jumped up and ran across the stream—hoping it wasn't too deep. It wasn't and the pursuing herd stopped at the stream.

Reaching the mountaintop, Gorrell rested until daylight, then started walking west—convinced he was east of Casas Grandes and Pershing. But at 3:45 p.m., nearly out of water and with nothing in sight, he gave up and barely managed to make it back to his plane and the stream.

The next morning, while trying to catch a horse, he was accosted by a Mexican on horseback. The man was yelling at him so Gorrell ducked into a nearby adobe house. The Mexican rode around and around the house, yelling in Spanish, while Gorrell ran from window to window brandishing his revolver and shouting "amigo!" That was all the West Point Spanish that he could remember at the time.

The rider finally approached and Gorrell came out of his refuge, covering his opponent all the time. It took awhile but the man proved friendly and agreed to provide a horse and guide "Nap" to Ascension. Gorrell had eight silver dollars; he agreed to pay the guide four for the trip to Ascension and four more for the return. During the negotiations, an older man arrived and offered Gorrell some milk. The pilot said it looked good and he could have used it but declined, fearing that it might be poisoned.

The guide took Gorrell to Ascension and the 6th In-



Lts. Herbert A. Dargue and (right) Edgar S. Gorrell with "Aeroplane #43" between flights in Mexico.

fantry. On March 22, he was driven back to his plane (his guide had disappeared, but another was found) with enough gas and oil to get him to Ojo Frederico. There he could be refueled from an army truck train.

Gorrell met the train as planned and refueled. But when he took off, he hit his left wing against the only obstacle in sight, the empty fuel drum. This damaged the wing so badly that he was forced to set down again. He caught a ride the next day with the truck train bound for Colonia Dublan. On March 25, he returned with mechanics and repaired the wing. Finally, on March 26 he rejoined the squadron, one week after leaving Columbus.



Captain Benjamin "Benny" Foulois, who commanded the squadron, with (right) Captain Townsend Dodd. When the campaign began, Dodd was the more "experienced" pilot at night flying, with all of 10 minutes of actual flight time.

While Willis and Gorrell were exploring Mexico on foot and horseback, Lt. Dargue was having his own problems. After losing sight of the squadron, he found a field near Janos. The sound of his engine attracted some unfriendly visitors so Dargue took off again and, with a small flashlight, managed to keep his compass pointed south.

Not finding Casas Grandes, he reversed course after a time and returned to the same field at Janos. This time he shut off the engine and glided in.

There was a building in the distance with figures moving about, so Dargue didn't dare sleep and sat awake all night with his .45 in his lap. It was too cold to sleep in any case and he was shivering violently by morning. Several times he was frightened by nearby noises. The first proved to be cattle; the second, a coyote. At first light, he took off, landed at Corralitos to get his bearings, then on to Colonia Dublan. He was the first to arrive, followed closely by Lt. Kilner.

Kilner, after returning to Columbus, had worked into the night replacing the engine in #42. He took off at dawn and had an uneventful flight. Foulois and the rest of the squadron arrived soon after.

Dargue pointed out it was just as well that they didn't find the field that first night. The non-flyers with Pershing had chosen an area of dry marsh studded with bunch grass and mud clumps that a car couldn't drive across. It was surrounded on three sides by large cottonwood trees. Trying to land there in the dark, the entire squadron probably would have been destroyed.

Pershing wasted no time in putting the squadron to work. At noon on the day of their arrival, Foulois and Dodd were sent flying south toward Cumbre Pass to locate cavalry moving south. Twenty-five miles below Casas Grandes, they en-



countered the foothills of the Sierra Madres and were unable to fly over them due to the elevation and severe air turbulence. They were forced to return to base without completing the mission.

Later in the day, Lt. Thomas Bowen took #48 up. It was hoped that with just one person, the planes might be more successful. Bowen reported that he reached 10,000 feet (4,000 feet above the terrain) and that the visibility was good. But when he landed, he was caught in a “whirlwind” (dust devil) and demolished the plane. He walked away with scratches, bruises and a broken nose, thus becoming the squadron’s first casualty. It earned him a trip back to Columbus to have his nose set.

So, in two days in Mexico, two planes were lost, though the authorities didn’t yet know of Willis’ mishap.

Because the Jennies were underpowered and unable to maneuver in the mountains, they were restricted to lower elevations. There they proved useful primarily as couriers. The cavalry troops were actively searching for Villa and were scattered over hundreds of miles of Chihuahua. Pershing used the aero squadron for reconnaissance, to keep track of the cavalry and relay messages. In the course of this work, the pilots often were challenged.

On April 7, two planes flew to Chihuahua City with dispatches for the American consul. Foulois flew with Dargue in #43 while Dodd and Lt. Joseph E. Carberry in #45 carried duplicates. Dargue landed south of the city while Carberry took Dodd to the north. Dodd managed to get into the city without incident, but Foulois wasn’t as lucky.

When a large, angry crowd gathered around their plane, Foulois advised Dargue to fly to the north and join Carberry. As Dargue was taking off, four *rurales* shot at him but caused no damage. Foulois remonstrated with them, whereupon the locals arrested him. As he was being led away, escorted by a mob of several hundred, Foulois spotted an American watching and asked him to get word to the American consul. After significant delay, the military governor of Chihuahua obtained Foulois’ release.

Dargue and Carberry had their own troubles while Foulois was cooling his heels in jail. When Dargue reached Carberry, another unruly crowd was already gathering. The pilots were hard-pressed to protect their planes as the crowd moved in and started to collect “souvenirs.” Nuts and bolts were removed. Swatches were cut from the fabric and cigarettes burned holes in it. The pilots decided to fly to the American Smelter a few miles away where there was a fenced enclosure for protection.

Carberry got away in a hail of stones but part of Dargue’s fuselage flew off and damaged the stabilizer. He had to abort the takeoff. The mob gathered again and Dargue, now alone, was getting desperate when a photographer arrived. He wanted pictures of Dargue and his Jennie—so the crowd politely backed off to allow him his shots.



Officers of the First Aero Squadron in San Antonio, Texas, prior to setting off as part of Pershing’s “Punitive Expedition” into Mexico after Pancho Villa. Left to right: Lts. T.S. Bowen, J.E. Carberry and C. G. Chapman, Captain B.D. Foulois, and Lts. T.D. Milling and I.A. Rader.

Taking advantage of the lull in the action, Dargue managed to prolong the photo op for half an hour by posing in different, sometimes ridiculous positions and pretending to make adjustments to the plane or his uniform. The crowd was becoming a mob again and even the photographer was getting angry when, finally, a detail of Mexican soldiers arrived to provide security. The photographer then got his pictures and, to Dargue’s amazement and pleasure, sent him a copy!

Now that the planes were protected by the Mexican Army, Dargue and Carberry were able to make the necessary repairs. The next day, both planes were able to leave, though a few shots from rooftops saluted them as they flew off.

And what of Dodd during all of this? After delivering his copy of the dispatches to the consul, Dodd met the civilian governor of Chihuahua—who turned out to be an old college chum from the University of Illinois. So while Foulois stewed in jail and other pilots stood off a mob, Dodd enjoyed a college reunion over lunch!



Lt. Robert Willis went down five or six miles south of Pearson (modern Mata Ortiz) and 35 miles from his destination. He started walking, traveling at night and hiding by day, finally reaching the squadron at Colonia Dublan at 2 a.m. on March 21.

and ended up upside-down with Willis dangling by one foot. Dargue extricated himself and then Willis from the wreckage. Besides Willis’ ankle, which was bruised and painful, he had a three- or four-inch gash on his scalp behind one ear.

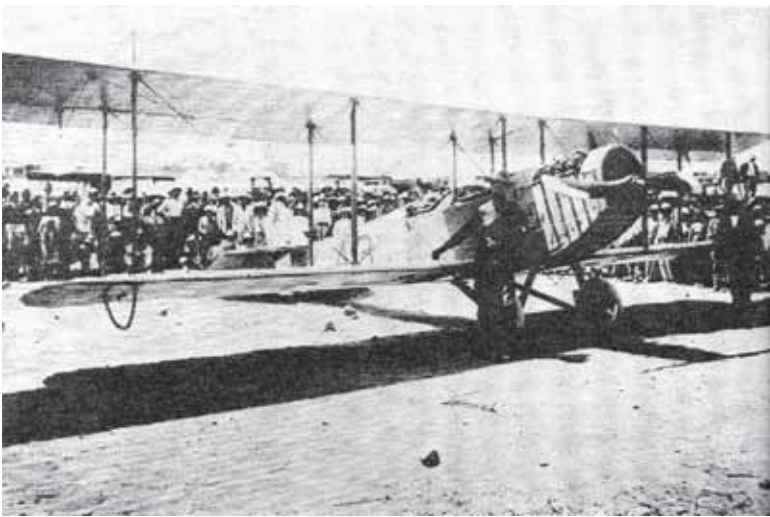
Dargue tended Willis’ scalp wound, then they gathered what they needed and could carry and set fire to the plane. The fire rapidly spread to nearby brush and trees. This amazed them since the vegetation looked green. Eventually the blaze grew to become one of the largest wildfires in Mexican history.

The downed pilots were 65 miles from their base at San Antonio with no recourse but to walk. Willis’ head and ankle bothered him a great deal. Although there were trails, they didn’t dare use them for fear of whom they might meet. So they stuck to the rough ground, which made the walking tougher and slower. Knowing that water would be scarce, they tried to ration the little water that they had in their canteens. Dargue had used some to clean Willis’ wound. They had emergency rations but not much.

They saw turkeys and other game but dared not shoot. They avoided all habitations. They were trying to reach the railroad about 50 miles away, which would lead them to San Antonio.

There were several steep ridges, almost mountains, and canyons that they had to cross. Several times they climbed to higher ground to get their bearings. Once they hid from a Mexican driving a pig. They could see the San Andreas Valley, where they expected to find a river. It was there, but dry. They pushed on, trying to cross the valley before dawn.

They were out of water and thirst was becoming a real problem. When finally they found a small stream, they brushed the green scum aside and drank. De-



When Lt. Herbert A. Dargue was surrounded by an angry Mexican mob in Chihuahua City, he bought time by posing for photographs—including this one.

spite their thirst, they couldn’t drink much because it tasted so bad. A little farther on, they discovered the stream’s source—a pigsty!

They managed to get across the San Andreas Valley without being seen. They even napped in a cornfield once. When they reached the plateau that San Antonio was on, they saw a lake in the distance. But when they reached it they couldn’t drink from it, either; it was too alkaline. At last, a mile or so away amidst a copse of cottonwoods, they found a spring that was palatable.

Several hours later, near midnight, they reached the railroad. Following it, they reached San Antonio at 6 a.m., 49 hours after their flight began. And they could still see their forest fire in the distance. It was discovered later that Willis had walked the 65 miles with a broken ankle.

This ended the “active” phase for the First Aero Squadron in Mexico. There were only two Jennies left and they were used up. They were flown back to Columbus, condemned and destroyed.

Pershing’s search for Villa was slowing dramatically. To Pershing’s chagrin, he was ordered to pull back to northern Chihuahua and maintain defensive positions there while diplomacy ran its course.

Back in Columbus, the squadron received a variety of new planes. The main field in Columbus and the satellite fields in Mexico were used for testing, training and courier service. Four planes usually were in Mexico at any given time.

By the end of 1916, all the original pilots had been promoted and transferred. The US was expanding its Air Service in anticipation of World War I and these, the most experienced pilots available, were given responsible command and training assignments elsewhere. Some went on to prominence in the war and later. A number of other pilots passed through Columbus and Mexico in 1916-17. Some of these also had very successful careers.

The adventures related above are the highlights (low lights?) of the first five weeks of America’s first air campaign. As these stories are few, one might think that most of the pilots spent most of their time in mundane routine assignments. True, if one considers flying in underpowered, wood, wire and canvas planes routine! Pershing was impressed, stating, “Officers have literally taken their lives in their hands without hesitation.” Every flight was risky and that all survived the Jennies in Mexico is remarkable indeed. 🍀

The First Aero Squadron Foundation is working to restore the field in Columbus used by the First Aero Squadron and to preserve the legacy of America’s first airborne military campaign. For information, write FASF, PO Box 1516, Columbus, NM 88029, or see www.firstaerosquadron.org. Ken Emery, a retired field archeologist who lives in Columbus, is a board member of the First Aero Squadron Foundation.

Taking advantage of the lull in the action, Dargue managed to prolong the photo op for half an hour by posing in different, sometimes ridiculous positions and pretending to make adjustments to the plane or his uniform.

RED OR GREEN? • DINING GUIDE

Red or Green? is *Desert Exposure's* guide to dining in southwest New Mexico. The listings here—a sampling of our complete and 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. Call for exact hours and days of operation, which change frequently. 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. "Under new ownership and refocusing on what has made it a longtime Silver City favorite: excellent breakfasts and lunches." (April 2011) Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: B L.*Alotta Gelato, 619 N. Bullard St., 534-4995. Gelato and desserts.*

ASIAN BUFFET, 1740 Hwy. 180, 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 freewheeling 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. The baby back ribs and beef brisket—all treated with tasty dry rubs and slow-roasted for long hours in the smoker-cooker—are moist, tender and championship quality." (November 2010) Barbecue, pizza, gyros, pasta: L D. Italian nights Weds., Sat.*

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.*

CAFÉ UN MUNDO, 700 N. Bullard, 956-8752. Vegetarian, juice, soup: L. **CHINESE PALACE**, 1010 Highway 180 E., 538-9300. Chinese: L D.

COURTYARD CAFÉ, Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American, Sunday brunch, catering: B L D.*

CURIOUS KUMQUAT, 111 E. College Ave., 534-0337. "A hotspot of modern culinary innovation. Lunch (Mon.-Sat.) features soups, salads and sandwiches. Dinners (Thurs.-Sat.) are elaborate, imaginative, exotic five-course culinary creations. Entrees always include vegetarian and the super-duper hamburger, plus two determined by what local ranchers have available." (July 2010) L D.*

DIANE'S BAKERY & CAFÉ, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. "As they serve Diane's fresh, inventive dishes, the staff will make you subtly aware you are indeed enjoying a big-city-caliber dining experience—without the least bit of snootiness to detract from the fact that you are, nonetheless, in small-town New Mexico." (Sept. 2007) American: L D, weekend brunch.

DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI, The Hub, Suite A, Bullard St., 534-9229. "Top-notch pastries in the morning, deli lunch or casual, tasty dinner. . . Diane's new Deli has it all—to go!" (Sept. 2007) Sandwiches, deli, baked goods: B L D.*

DON FIDENCIO'S, 901 N. Hudson St., 534-4733. Mexican: B L D.

DON JUAN'S BURRITOS, 418 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5440. Mexican: B L.

DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE, 711 Hwy 180 E., 538-2916. Breakfast: B L.*

EAT YOUR HEART OUT, 800 W. Market, 313-9005. Take-away dinners: 4:30-6 p.m.*

EL RINCON, 3110 N. Silver St., 388-2715. Mexican, American: B L D.

GILA BEANS, 1304 N. Bennett St. Coffeshop.

GOLDEN STAR, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. "If you sometimes long for the guilty pleasures of the Chinese food served at a mall food court—think Panda Express—or just want your wontons without waiting, there's good news.... Normal appetites will find the three-item combo tough to finish, so plan on leftovers whether you're eating

in or taking out. All of it's plenty tasty, and you can enjoy it just like in the food court." (February 2007) Chinese: L D.

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

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

ISAAC'S GRILL, Bullard and Broadway, 388-4090. "Situated in the historic and massively renovated Isaac Cohen Building.... Though one certainly can linger over a 'serious dinner' here, or enjoy microbrews and appetizers for hours, it's great for a quick bite, too." (November 2006) American, Burgers, Sandwiches, Sushi: L D.*

JALISCO CAFÉ, 100 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. "The Mexican restaurant where you take out-of-town guests . . . Jalisco's massive menu goes well beyond the traditional combination plates, though it has those, too." (December 2007) Mexican: L D.

JAVA THE HUT, 611-A N. Bullard St., 534-4103. Coffeshouse.*

JAVALINA, 201 N. Bullard St., 388-1350. Coffeshouse.*

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

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

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

LA MEXICANA, Hwy. 180 W and Memory Lane, 534-0142. Mexican and American: B L D.

MARGO'S BAKERY, 300 S. Bullard St., 597-0012. Baked goods: B L.*

MARY'S RESTAURANT, 1700 Mountain View Rd., 534-9317. Mexican: B L.

MAS Y MAS TORTILLERIA, Suite C-The Hub Plaza, 534-9255. Tortillas, Mexican: B L.*

MI CASITA, 2340 Bosworth Dr., 538-5533. Mexican: L D.

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

OFF THE HOOK, 1700 Mountain View Road, 534-1100. Catfish, chicken, shrimp: B L D.*

THE PARLOR AT DIANE'S, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Sandwiches, light bites: D.

PEACE MEAL COOPERATIVE VEGETARIAN DELI, The Hub, 6th and Bullard, 388-0106. "The unique and healthful food is tasty, and the only such of its kind around for miles—maybe even galaxies." (February 2007) Vegetarian: L D.*

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

Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. "Q's Southern Bistro has found its niche and honed its 'elevated pub' menu to excellence to serve its fun-loving, casual dining crowd." (October 2010) American, steaks, barbecue: L D.

RED BARN, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5666. "From the friendly staff to the down-home food—steaks, of course, plus chicken, seafood, burgers, sandwiches and a sampling of superb Mexican fare—you might be settling in for lunch or dinner at an especially large ranch house." (October 2009) Steakhouse: L D.*

SHEVEK & Co., 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168. "Shevek & Co. will take your taste buds on a culinary tour from Spain to Greece, with delicious with delicious destinations all along the Mediterranean in-between. The sheer ambition of the offerings is astonishing." (March 2009) Mediterranean: D, brunch on selected weekends.*

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

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

TRE ROSAT CAFÉ, closed for remodeling of new location.

VICKI'S EATERY, 315 N. Texas,

388-5430. "Serving hearty breakfasts, sandwiches both cold and grilled, wraps and salads that satisfy in a homey yet sophisticated way. Don't miss the German potato salad." (Dec. 2009) American: B L.*

WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL, 2005 Hwy. 180, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.

YANKIE CREEK COFFEE HOUSE, 112 W. Yankie St. Coffeshop.*

Bayard

A.I.R. ROASTING HOUSE AND CAFÉ, 208 Central Ave., 537-3967. Coffeshouse.*

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

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

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

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

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

Cliff

PARKEY'S, 8414 Hwy. 180 W., 535-4000. Coffeshop.

Hurley

GATEWAY GRILL, 2705 Hwy. 180E, 537-5001. American and Mexican: B L D (Fri-Sat).

Lake Roberts

SPIRIT CANYON LODGE & CAFÉ, 684 Hwy. 35, 536-9459. (July 2011) German specialties Saturday L.

Mimbres

ELK X-ING. BREAKFAST, sandwiches, Mexican: B L.

MIMBRES VALLEY CAFÉ, Hwy. 35 N., 536-2857. "You won't go home hungry from the Mimbres Valley Café, an oasis of down-home good food in a friendly

atmosphere. The menu is simple and hearty, a blend of American and Mexican." Mexican, American, hamburgers: B L 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: D.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY
Las Cruces & Mesilla

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

ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 526-9632. Mexican hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas.

ANDELE RESTAURANTE, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: L D.

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

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

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

BLUE MOON, 13060 N. Valley Dr., 647-9524. Brew Pub: L D.

BOBA CAFÉ, 1900 S. Espina, Ste. 8, 647-5900. "The signature Bubble Tea is just the beginning of an inventive eating experience. The menu—with a long list of soups, salads, sandwiches, appetizers, wraps and 'other stuff'—is the same for lunch and dinner, although Tuesday through Thursday nights Boba lays on special Caribbean fare and Friday nights are Asian-themed, with sushi." (June 2009) Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: L D.*

BRAVO'S CAFÉ, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: B L D.

BREAK AN EGG, 201 S. Solano Dr., 647-3000. Breakfasts, burgers, salads, sandwiches: B L.

BURGER NOOK, 1204 E. Madrid Ave., 523-9806. Burgers: L D.

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

CAFÉ AGOGO, 1120 Commerce Dr., suite A, 636-4580. Asian, American: L D.

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

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

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

CROSSWINDS GRILL, Las Cruces Airport off I-10, 525-0500. Burgers, Mexican: B L.

DAY'S HAMBURGERS, Water & Las Cruces St., 523-8665. Burgers: L D.

DE LA VEGA'S PECAN GRILL & BREWERY, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers. "The restaurant uses local produce whenever possible, including the pecan wood pellets used in the smoking and grilling. A lot of the foods and drinks are infused with pecans, and also with green chiles from Hatch, processed on site. They even serve green chile vodka and green chile beer." (February 2010): L D.

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

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

DICK'S CAFÉ, 2305 S. Valley Dr., 524-1360. Mexican and Burgers: B L D.

DION'S PIZZA, 3890 E. Lohman, 521-3434. Pizza: L D.

DOUBLE EAGLE, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern: L D.

DUBLIN STREET PUB, 1745 E. University Ave., 522-0932. Irish, American.

EDDIE'S BAR & GRILL, 901 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-8603. Pub Food, American and Southwestern: B L D.

EL CAMINO REAL RESTAURANTE, 1765 S. Main St., 524-8591. Mexican, lunch buffet: B L D.

EL TIBURON, 504 E. Amador, 647-4233. Mexican, seafood, steak: L D.

EMILIA'S, 2410 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Burgers, Mexican, soup, sandwiches, pastry: B (weekends), L, D.

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

FOX'S PIZZA DEN, 1340 E. Lohman Ave., 521-3697. Pizza: L D.

GOOD LUCK CAFÉ, 1507 S. Solano, 521-3867. Mexican seafood. B L early D.

GRANDMA INES'S KITCHEN, 2910 Avenida de Mesilla, 527-0602. American: B L D.

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

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

HIEBERT'S FINE FOODS, 525 E. Madrid Ave. #7, 524-0451. Mexican, American: B L D.

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

HOTEL ENCANTO, 705 S. Telshor, 532-4277. Southwestern, Continental: B L D.*

INTEGRITY BAGELS, 1405 S. Solano, 522-3397. Bagels and Sandwiches: B L.

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

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

JOSEPHINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. "Whether for breakfast or lunch, Josephina's offers a delicious change of pace. There are a variety of classic deli

we're expanding the value meals.

"Our lunches have not been philosophically aligned with our dinners," Connoley adds. "Starting at the same time in mid-October, we're revamping the lunch menu to include only house-made or cured meats, mostly locally sourced, house-made pickles and kimchi, and a whole new menu featuring local ingredients made in our kitchen. Virtually nothing will come from outside our community."

Also in October, the Kumquat will hold an Oktoberfest beer tasting (12-5 p.m., \$20) and an authentic German dinner on Saturday, Oct. 22. Reservations are highly recommended, 534-0337. 111 E. College Ave.

Shevek & Co. also has some special events this month. For First Friday, Oct. 7, there will be a tasting of South American wines, five for \$8 including munchies. Then you can celebrate Halloween (a bit early) with a special beer-tasting dinner on Friday, Oct. 28. Reservations are required, 534-9168. 602 N. Bullard.

More musical chairs in the Las Cruces restaurant scene. The former **Durango Bagels**, 1495 S. Solano Dr., is now **Integrity Bagels**. New owner Deborah Soffera, who bought the bagel joint in April, is responsible for the change. Hours are Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. 522-3397.

And **Fox's Pizza Den** has completed its promised move from 115 S. Roadrunner Parkway to 1340 E. Lohman Ave. 521-3697. 🍷

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

RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

Best of Both Worlds

The initials in “M & A Bayard Café” stand for “Mexican and American”—and the café serves up good food of both types.

The M & A Bayard Café sits alongside the railroad tracks in the village of Bayard. It’s a down-to-earth, friendly, unpretentious place—kind of a cross between a Mexican cantina and a 1950s home-style diner, serving tasty, no-frills Mexican and American food at reasonable prices. (The “M & A” in the café’s name stands for Mexican and American.)

The café is open weekdays for breakfast, lunch and dinner. And the menu includes a wide range of both Mexican and American options for each meal, as well as dishes that merge the two food traditions. Green chiles, in particular, find their way into several types of omelettes and onto several kinds of burgers.

There are a number of surprises on the menu. The three types of fish offered on the dinner menu, for instance—filleted trout, catfish and cod—are all grilled, not fried. (Each for just \$8.95.) On Friday, however, the M & A also offers a very popular fish fry for \$5.95—\$6.95 with shrimp added.

The café’s green chili—served in a bowl for \$5.65 and in a cup for \$3.50—is made with beef, rather than the more traditional pork, and some of that flavorful beef is included in the breakfast burritos, along with eggs, hash brown potatoes and bacon. Purists will be happy to hear that the green chile sauce at M & A is made the old-fashioned way and does not include cream of mushroom or celery soup as a base.

One word of caution: If you order the Roast Beef Dinner with visions of a pink slab of beef dancing in your head, forget it. Picture instead a generous portion of beef that is what I would call pot roast—melt-in-your-mouth tender, covered in a classic brown gravy and wonderfully tasty—and you will not be disappointed. That dinner costs just \$7.95 and includes (as all the American-style dinners do) a vegetable, a roll, a choice of potato, and either salad or soup.

Alex and Rebecca Brown established the café in 1987, and have owned and operated it ever since. It’s a popular eating place now, but it took a while for people to find it.

“We started with \$16 days when we first opened. Not too many people. But every year for 24 years we’ve been going up,” Alex says. “We don’t advertise unless we have something special going on. The people advertise for us.”

“It was mostly family helping in the beginning,” Rebecca says. Now, their daughter Charol shares the management responsibility with them, and they have paid kitchen and serving staff. But Alex and Rebecca remain hands-on in the business, taking care of ordering, supervising and doing the actual cooking when necessary. “Well, Rebecca does the cooking,” Alex amends.



M & A Bayard Café owners Alex and Rebecca Brown. (Photo by Peggy Platonos)

“If she feels nice, she’ll let me cook sometimes.” “It’s hard when you don’t have the help, but we enjoy it,” Rebecca says.

“Though age is creeping up on us,” Alex comments.

Alex is 70, and Rebecca is 62. The restaurant opens at 5:30 a.m. The two of them arrive at 4:30 a.m. “And people are already waiting,” Rebecca says.

The café offers pack lunches, and many of the local miners come early to pick up their lunches, which consist of burritos or sandwiches—or whatever they want,” Alex says.

“We do catering, too,” he adds. “We did one event for 600 people for the power plant outside Deming a few years ago.”

The M & A Bayard Café is open from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is located at 1101 N. Central in Bayard, and is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, call the café at (575) 537-2251. 🍷

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

sandwiches to choose from, all served on freshly baked bread, as well as the soup of the day in a cup or bowl, and salads.” (October 2008) Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: B (Fri-Sat), L.

KATANA TEPPANYAKI GRILL, 1001 E. University Ave., 532-2042. Japanese: L D.

KIVA PATIO CAFE, 600 E. Amador Ave., 527-8206. Mexican, Southwestern and American: B L D.

LA COCINA, 204 E. Conway Ave., 524-3909. Mexican: B L D.

LA IGUANA, 139 N. Main St., 523-8550. “The restaurant is an interesting combination of styles, with elements of coffeehouse, deli and fine dining imaginatively woven together.” (February 2011) Sandwiches, soups, salads, coffee bar: B L D. *

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

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

LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. Mexican and Steakhouse: L D.

LAS TRANCAS, 1008 S. Solano Dr., 524-1430. Mexican: L D.

LEMONGRASS, 2540 El Paseo Rd., 523-8778. Thai: L D.

LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFE, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. Deli, Sandwiches, coffeshop: B L.

LORENZO’S, 1750 Calle de Mercade, 525-3170. Italian and Pizza: L D.

LORENZO’S PAN AM, 1753 E. Uni-

versity Ave., 521-3505. “Homey, classic Italian fare. This location also features ravioli dishes, in half and full portions, served with salad and a basket of warm, fresh bread. Save room for dessert.” (July 2008) Italian and Pizza: L D.

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

LOS COMPAS, 603 S. Nevarez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D.

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

LOS MARIACHIS, 2790 Avenida de Mesilla, 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.

MARIA BONITA, 207 E. Lohman, 541-5580. Mexican: B L D.

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

MESON DE MESILLA, 1803 Avenida De Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood: L D.

METROPOLITAN DELI, 1001 University Ave., 522-3354. Sandwiches: B L D.

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

MI PUEBLITO, 1355 E. Idaho Ave., 524-3009. Mexican: B L D.

MI RINCONCITO, 1605 S. Solano Dr., 532-1091. Mexican: B L

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

MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS, 1001 E. University Ave. #D4, 532-2042. “For a true taste of Tokyo, a classic curry, a Vietnamese tidbit or big bite of Australia—all served up with the

sophistication of San Francisco—head to Mix Pacific Rim Cuisine in Las Cruces for an international dining experience that satisfies. This elegant yet comfortable restaurant—belying its strip-center address—offers impeccable food from a wide array of cuisines, unhurried service and a deep wine list.” (March 2008) Asian and Pacific: L D.

MOONGATE CAFE, 705 E. US Hwy. 70, 382-5744. Coffeeshop and Mexican: B L D.

MY BROTHER’S PLACE, 336 S. Main St., 523-7681. Mexican: L D.

NELLIE’S CAFE, 1226 W. Hadley Ave., 524-9982. Mexican: B L D.

NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 2605 Missouri Ave., 522-0440. Mexican: L D.

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

OLD TOWN RESTAURANT, 155 S. Valley Dr., 523-4586. Mexican and American: B L. *

ONO GRINDZ, 300 N. Downtown Mall, 541-7492. “Expect Ono Grindz’ authentic Hawaiian fare to thrill your taste buds in an atmosphere that charms all your other senses.” (Feb. 2008) Hawaiian: B L D.

ORIENTAL PALACE, 225 E. Idaho, 526-4864. Chinese: L D.

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

PANCAKE ALLEY DINER, 2146 W. Picacho Ave., 647-4836. American: B L D.

DINING GUIDE continued on next page

Alotta Words about ALOTTA GELATO



It’s October again, the days are getting shorter, the nights are getting cooler, and that can only mean one thing: it’s time for Pumpkin Pie gelato! People ask us all year for the stuff, but we only make it in the Fall. Time’s a-wastin’, so come on in and taste this seasonal favorite; it’s a perfect way to end a good hearty meal, or as an added dividend to a delicious dessert. We sell it by the serving and also have hand-packed pints and quarts available in case you want to stock up. And we’re not just talking about Pumpkin Pie: we can hand-pack your choice of more than 30 incredible flavors (such as the ever-popular Bounty coconut chocolate and our exclusive Gila Conglomerate), including dairy-free fruit flavors and sugar-free ones sweetened with Splenda® (and yes, we can pack several flavors into each insulated container). This is the real deal, folks: authentic Italian gelato, low in fat but bursting with great tastes, made on the premises with imported flavorings and fresh ingredients. (And if all this isn’t enough to get you in here, wait ‘til next month when we bring back a couple more of our seasonal favorites: Egg Nog and Peppermint Stick!)

Remember that we also carry delicious dessert items such as Key Lime bars, brownies, cheesecake, cookies, flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, and big honkin’ slices of three-layer Carrot Cake— plus hot and cold drinks to go with them. Lastly, we have gift certificates available in any amount for any occasion including Halloween (no, we didn’t forget Halloween).

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. Come on down to the most delicious destination in Silver City and experience the best gelato anywhere, from the oldest gelato store in the Land of Enchantment! Thanks for reading. As a token of our esteem for you, our valued customer, **bring this ad for 25¢ off any size gelato for each member of your party.**

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DINING GUIDE continued

PAOLA’S BAKERY AND CAFE, N. Main St., 524-2025. El Salvadoran.

PEPPERS ON THE PLAZA, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern: L D.

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

PIT STOP CAFE, 361 S. Motel Blvd., 527-1993. Mexican, American, steak: B L D.

PLAYER’S GRILL, 3000 Champions Dr. (NMSU golf course clubhouse), 646-2457. American: B L D.

RANCHWAY BARBEQUE, 604 N. Valley Dr., 523-7361. Barbecue and Mexican: B L D.

RED BRICK PIZZA, 2808 N. Telshor Blvd., 521-7300. Pizzas, sandwiches, salads: L D.

RENEE’S PLACE, 3000 Harrelson, 526-4878. American.

ROBERTO’S MEXICAN FOOD, 908 E.

Amador Ave., 523-1851. Mexican: B L D.*

ROSIE’S CAFÉ DE MESILLA, 420 Avenida de Mesilla, 526-1256. Breakfast, Mexican, burgers: B L D.

SANTORINI’S, 1001 E. University Ave., 521-9270. “An eclectic blend of Greek and Mediterranean dishes—gyros with different meats, such as lamb or chicken, hummus with pita, Greek salads—plus sampler plates and less-familiar items such as keftedes and pork shawarma. Vegetarian options are numerous.” (July 2010) Greek, Mediterranean: L D.

SB’S LATE-NIGHT LUNCHBOX, 120 S. Water St.. New American fare, vegetarian, vegan, wraps: L D.

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

SI ITALIAN BISTRO, 523 E. Idaho, 523-1572. Italian: L D.

SIMPLY TOASTED CAFÉ, 1702 El Paseo

Road, 526-1920. Sandwiches, soup, salads: B L.

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

SPIRIT WINDS, 2260 S. Locust St., 521-1222. Sandwiches and Bakery: B L D. *

St. Clair Winery & Bistro, 1800 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-0390. Wine tasting, Bistro: L D.

SUNSET GRILL, 1274 Golf Club Road (Sonoma Ranch Golf Course clubhouse), 521-1826. American, Steak and Burgers: B L D.

TERIYAKI BOWL, 2300 N. Main St., 524-2055. Japanese: L D.

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

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

TIFFANY’S PIZZA & GREEK AMERICAN CUISINE, 755 S. Telshor Blvd #G1, 532-5002. Pizza, Greek and Deli: B L D. *

TONY’S RESTAURANTE, 125 S. Campo St., 524-9662. Italian: B L.

UMP 88 GRILL, 1338 Picacho Hills Dr., 647-1455. 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. Wine and cigar bar, tapas: L D.

WOK-N-WORLD, 5192 E. Boutz, 526-0010. Chinese, pizza: 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, also sandwiches at adjoining Popular Artisan Bakery: L D.

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

Anthony

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

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

Chapparal

EL BAYO STEAK HOUSE, 417 Chapar-

al Dr., 824-4749. Steakhouse: B L D.

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

Doña Ana

BIG MIKE’S CAFE, Thorpe Road. Mexican, Breakfasts and Burgers: B L D.

SAFARI, 2221 Desert Wind Way, 382-0600.

La Mesa

CHOPES BAR & CAFE, Hwy 28, 233-9976. Mexican: L D.

Organ

THAI DELIGHT, 16151 Hwy. 70 E., 373-3000. Thai, steaks, sandwiches: L D.

LUNA COUNTY

Deming

ADOBE DELI, 3970 Lewis Flats Rd. SE, 546-0361. “The lunch menu features traditional deli-style sandwiches, ranging. The dinner menu is much grander, though some sandwiches are available then, too: filet mignon, flat iron steak, T-bone, ribeye, NY strip, Porterhouse, barbequed pork ribs, halibut, Duck L’Orange, Alaska King Crab legs, broiled salmon steak, shrimp scampi, pork chops, osso buco, beef kabobs.” (March 2010) Bar, Deli and Steaks: L D. *

BELSHORE RESTAURANT, 1210 E. Spruce, 546-6289. American: B L.

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

CANO’S RESTAURANT, 1200 W. Pine St., 546-3181. Mexican: B L D.

DAIRY QUEEN, 1414 E. Pine St., 546-820. Frozen desserts, burgers. *

DEMING TRUCK TERMINAL, 1310 W. Spruce, 546-8832. American, Mexican: B L D.

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

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

GOLDEN STAR, 500 E. Cedar St., 544-0689. Chinese.

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 and Seafood: B L D.

LA FONDA, 601 E. Pine St., 546-0465. “Roomy, bright and airy, La Fonda is no mere taco joint. The extensive menu features all the Mexican favorites at bargain prices, plus a wide range of Anglo fare and a breakfast

that’s worth the drive to Deming. Famous for its fajitas: Choose chicken, beef or both, fajitas for two, or try the unusual stuffed fajita potato or seemingly contradictory fajita burrito.” (September 2009) Mexican: B L D. *

LA PARRILLA, 1409 Columbus Road, 544-4443. Mexican: B L.

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: L D. Manolo’s Cafe, 120 N. Granite St., 546-0405.

MIMBRES VALLEY BREWING Co., 200 S. Gold, 544-BREW. Craft beer, pizza, burgers, wings, paninis: L D.

PALMA’S ITALIAN GRILL, 110 S. Silver, 544-3100. “Even if you think you don’t like Italian food, you might want to try this family-run enterprise, with Harold and Palma Richmond at the helm. In addition to the name, Palma brings to the restaurant her Sicilian heritage and recipes that came to the United States with her grandmother. Harold brings training in classic Continental cuisine, along with his family’s New England food traditions.” (Sept. 2010) Sat. prime rib, Sun. buffet. Italian: L D. *

PATIO CAFE, 1521 Columbus Road, 546-5990. Burgers, American, breakfast specialities: B L D. *

PRIME RIB GRILL, inside Holiday Inn, I-10 exit 85, 546-2661. Steak and Seafood: B L D. *

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

SI SENOR, 200 E. Pine St., 546-3938. Mexican: B L D.

SUNRISE KITCHEN, 1409 S. Columbus Road, 544-7795.

TACOS MIRASOL, 323 E. Pine St., 544-0646. Mexican: L D.

Akela

APACHE HOMELANDS RESTAURANT, I-10. Burgers, ribs, “casino-style” food: B L D. *

Columbus

PANCHO VILLA CAFE, Hwy. 11, 531-0555. Mexican and American: B L D.

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.



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Bear Mountain Lodge

Thanksgiving Menu

Thursday, Nov. 24
Served Noon to 7 pm

Fall Starters

Brie with Apple Chutney

Soup Course

Ginger Carrot Soup

Entree Choices (Please Choose One)

Herb Encrusted Roast Thanksgiving Turkey Served with Apple Pistachio Dressing and Bourbon Gravy

or

Pork Tenderloin Stuffed with Cranberries In A Port Wine Sauce

or

Autumn Garden Vegetables Lasagna Layered with Phyllo and Homemade Ricotta Cheese (Vegetarian)

All Entrees Include

Apple-cranberry Sauce, Coconut Milk Sweet Potatoes, Winter Vegetable Au Gratin, Homemade Bread, and an Asparagus Red Bell Pepper Tomato Salad and Bear Mountain Crackers

Desserts (Please Choose One)

Pumpkin Cheese Cake with Membrillo Whipped Cream

or

Tiramisu with A Bit of Brandied Cranberry Sauce

Coffee or Tea

Cost Is \$32.00 Per Person


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OCTOBER TAKE AWAY DINNERS
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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
OCTOBER 3 Pork Loin Twice Baked Potatoes Vegetable Dinner Roll Cake 10.00	OCTOBER 4 Closed for Special Catering Event for Grant County Health Council Annual Banquet	OCTOBER 5 NEW DISH! Fried Chicken and Waffles Greens Banana Pudding 10.00	OCTOBER 6 Beef Stroganoff Buttered Noodles Vegetable Dinner Roll Cookie 10.00	OCTOBER 7 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders
OCTOBER 10 BBQ Chicken Mac 'n' Cheese Salad Bun Cookie 10.00	OCTOBER 11 Pork Loin and Dressing Vegetable Dinner Roll Cake 10.00	OCTOBER 12 Meatloaf Baked Potato Cabbage Slaw Dinner Roll Pie 10.00	OCTOBER 13 Chicken Pot Pie w/ Potatoes and Vegetables Tossed Salad Dessert 10.00	OCTOBER 14 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders
OCTOBER 17 Frito Pie Salad Brownie 10.00	OCTOBER 18 Italian Chicken Breast Baked Tomato Sauced Spaghetti Salad Italian Bread Pie 10.00	OCTOBER 19 Pork BBQ with Bun Baked Potato-Sweet or White Cabbage Slaw Brownie 10.00	OCTOBER 20 Green Chile Chicken Enchilada Pinto Beans Fruit Salad Corn Bread Cookie 10.00	OCTOBER 21 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders
OCTOBER 24 Chicken Parmesan With Pasta Alfredo Tossed Salad Italian Bread Dessert 10.00	OCTOBER 25 Pot Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Celery Salad Dinner Roll Pie 10.00	OCTOBER 26 Potato Soup or Fish Chowder Tossed Salad Dinner Roll Cake 10.00	OCTOBER 27 Oven Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Salad Dinner Roll Cookie 10.00	OCTOBER 28 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders
OCTOBER 31 3 Meat Lasagna Tossed Salad Italian Bread Cookie 10.00	NOVEMBER 1 Chicken 'n' Dumplings Potatoes & Vegetables Salad Dessert 10.00	NOVEMBER 2 Roast Pork w/ Sauerkraut and Potatoes Relishes Rye Bread Cake 10.00	NOVEMBER 3 Brisket w/ BBQ Potato Salad Baked Beans Crusty Roll Brownie 10.00	NOVEMBER 4 No Take Away Open for Regular Catering Orders

Take Away Dinners Are Available From 4:30-6:00 pm

Call ahead to reserve your dinner or just stop by the kitchen to pick up your dinner on the way home.

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FIDENCIO's, 604 E. Motel Dr., 542-8989. Mexican: B L early D.
KRANBERRY'S FAMILY RESTAURANT, 1405 Main St., 542-9400. Mexican and American: B L D.*
MAMA ROSA'S PIZZA, 1312 Main St., 542-8400. Pizza: L D.
RAMONA'S CAFÉ, 904 E. Motel Dr., 542-3030. Mexican, American: B L D.

Animas
PANTHER TRACKS CAFE, Hwy 338, 548-2444. Burgers, Mexican and American: B L D

Rodeo
RODEO STORE AND CAFE, coffeeshop food: B L
RODEO TAVERN, 557-2229. D (Weds.-Sat.).

CATRON COUNTY
Reserve
ADOBE CAFE, Hwy. 12 & Hwy. 180, 533-6146. Deli, American, Thursday pizza, Sunday barbecue buffet: B L D (Thurs., Sun.).
BLACK GOLD, 533-6538. Coffee-house.
CARMEN's, 533-6990. Mexican and American: B L D.
ELLA's CAFE, 533-6111. Homestyle: B L D.
UNCLE BILL'S BAR, 533-6369. Pub food: L D.

Glenwood
ALMA GRILL, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, hamburgers, Mexican: B L.*
BLUE FRONT BAR AND CAFE, Hwy. 180, 539-2561. "Plentiful appetizer platters, perfectly done and tender ribeye, weekend special barbecue dishes smoky sweet and ample. Try the 'Stevie' sandwich, a grilled cheese with onions, tomatoes and chiles.... A regular haunt for locals who eat out, and a Thursday night yoga group meets and eats here each week." (Nov. 2007) Mexican and American, weekend Barbecue, Friday catfish fry: L D.*

GOLDEN GIRLS CAFE, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. "Dig into an honest taste of the local scene and a down-home breakfast you'll surely wish your mama had made. The specials listed up on the whiteboard all come with biscuits and gravy, and the ample menu has all the usual suspects—omelets, pancakes, French toast and, of course, breakfast burritos—clueing you into the rib-sticking satisfaction ahead." (Nov. 2007) Breakfast: B.
MARIO'S PIZZA, Hwy. 180, 539-2316. "This unpretentious eatery serves up better pizza than you'll find in many a big city. But a recent visit to the tiny, scenic mountain town will forever be remembered as the time I had, absolutely, the best calzone of my life." (Nov. 2008)

Italian: D (Tues., Sat.).
Other Catron County
PURPLE ONION CAFE, Mogollon, 539-2710. "Seasonal, quirky and way off the beaten path, The Purple Onion Café in Mogollon serves eclectic fare and 'famous' pie." (August 2011) Breakfast, burgers, veggie melts, pita pockets: B L (Fri.-Sun., Mon. holidays, May-Oct.)
DAILY PIE CAFE, Pie Town, 722-2700. Italian and Homestyle: B L D.
EL SERAPE, Quemado, 773-4620. Mexican and American.
SNUFFY'S STEAKHOUSE AND SALOON, Quemado Lake, 773-4672. Steakhouse: D

SIERRA COUNTY
Hillsboro
BARBER SHOP CAFE, 895-5283. American, Mediterranean, Sandwiches: B (Sat., Sun.) L.
HILLSBORO GENERAL STORE, Main St., 895-5306. American and Southwestern: B L D (Sat.).

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

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Halloween Beer Tasting Dinner


Friday, October 28. Join us for a six-course tasting dinner of Halloween-themed beers and matched food. Reservations Required. Banquet seating at 6:30pm. See website for menu & details.

Cooking Classes

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ARTS EXPOSURE • MANDA CLAIR JOST

Portraits of North India

An exhibit of photography and folk arts captures part of a crowded subcontinent poised between past and future.

Editor's note: Dr. Manda Clair Jost's exhibit of original photography and folk arts from India, "Aakriti: Portraits of North India," is on display until Oct. 14 at the McCray Gallery of Contemporary Art at Western New Mexico University, 1000 W. College Ave. in Silver City. Regular gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. During the MRAC Weekend at the Galleries, the exhibit will be open Saturday, Oct. 8, from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., with an interactive musical performance of Sanskrit kirtan on Saturday from 4:30-6 p.m.

Jost is a professor of Natural Sciences at Western New Mexico University, and was a US Fulbright Scholar to India during the first half of 2011. In this article, she shares some of the experiences reflected in her exhibit.



"Waiting for the Eclipse": A group of pilgrims to the holy town of Kurukshetra await the moment of a solar eclipse, when they will take a purifying dip in an ancient tank of sacred water.

The flat, humid state of Haryana in North India is sometimes called the "bread basket of the nation." A four-hour drive in moderate traffic along National Highway 1 from New Delhi offers little to see but wheat and flooded rice fields, haystacks and dung huts, water buffalo and cattle, and the colorful agrarian people who reside in the nearly 7,000 different villages of Haryana. At about one-seventh the size of New Mexico, Haryana is still considered to be one of the "smaller states" of India. Haryana's population exceeds 25 million—greater than the entire population of Texas, greater than the combined sum of all the populations of the 10 largest cities in the United States. In New Mexican terms: whereas India overall has more than 10 times the average population density of the United States, the little state of Haryana has *more than 90 times* the population density of New Mexico, and *more than 180 times* the population density of our own Grant County.

If you find these numbers difficult to fathom, try imagining about 2 million people residing in Silver City, and an additional 4 million residing in the surrounding rural environs between Deming and the Gila. Or, more accurately, imagine Grant County evenly peppered with about 1,500 villages averaging 4,000 residents apiece, most of whom do not have electrical power in their homes, and who must walk a mile (or more) several times each day to fetch and carry water from sources of questionable purity. That is the structure of India's population, where about 70% of people live in more than half a million small villages scattered across the country.

There, the "farmer's market" esthetic enjoyed in small American towns is not a quaint, two-dollar-tomato weekend attraction, but a necessary way of daily life that has been going on for millennia. Of course, every village has many of the small, family-owned provision stores that sell things like soap, soft drinks, cellphone acces-

sories, Lay's potato chip, and condoms with disturbing brand names like "Man Force" (seriously). But except for the biggest cities (and targeted toward the westward-gazing upper class), there is hardly such a thing in India as a one-stop grocery store.

Streets teem with pedestrians, ancient bicycles in half-repair, dromedary camels, three-wheeled motor

rickshaws, bearded ascetics in orange robes, bullock carts hauling produce, and motorcycles with up to five passengers apiece (ladies riding sidesaddle in colorful pyjamas or wrapped in saris). Every quarter-mile or so stands an ornate temple dedicated to one of the deities of the Hindu pantheon, decorated in fresh flowers. Beggars profoundly disfigured by polio mutter and crawl along filthy sidewalks, too tired to even beg anymore. Passenger trains rumble by noisily, jam-packed and surprisingly on-schedule. A sow and her piglets scurry quickly by, performing their civil service of helping rid the village ditches of trash, since garbage collection and landfills are unknown in most of India. A wedding procession marches along an

alleyway, with trumpet players, vigorous drumming, and a festooned chariot bearing the highly decorated bride and groom, whose marriage was almost certainly arranged by their parents. Red-faced monkeys gallop and crash across sheet-metal roofs, wreaking

terror and havoc in their menacing paths. The *adhan*—the Muslim call to prayer—begins again over a loudspeaker from a nearby mosque, borne on a steady wind smelling of dust, dung, incense, exhaust, fresh milk, fruit stands and rot. Everything is beautiful, hideous, wonderful and horrific. Anyone who has spent a significant amount of time in India knows well the great contrasts that this nation is famous for.

During my six months in North India as a Fulbright fellow, it frequently occurred to me that my mission of traveling there for the express purpose of teaching Evolutionary Biology was both totally apropos and totally absurd. Apropos be-



"Bangled Arms": Three friends in Rajasthan take a break at Amber Fort.



"Macaque": A man shows off an unusual companion, since monkeys are considered to be pests in India.



“Red Sardarji”: A Punjabi man of the Sikh religion tends to a decorated camel in Chandigarh.

cause where else in the world could Darwin’s observations of superfecundity, natural selection and the struggle for existence be more apparent in the human species? And absurd because 21st century Indians don’t want to learn about evolution; they want to learn about social infrastructure, resource management, family planning and law enforcement. And yet, all of those more mundane and immediate needs are related to evolutionary biology, as well. So while I spoke and lectured daily about Darwin, biodiversity, evolutionary family trees and genome databases, I also dropped frequent hints (in context) about human overpopulation, conservation biology, bioprospecting for medicinal plants and the dangers of continuing to enforce India’s firm traditional patriarchy at the expense of the well-being of the women.

On one hand, these things are none of my business; on the other hand, as an earthling and a female, they are. The Fulbright program, which sends American researchers and academics to over 150 countries worldwide (and also brings foreign scholars to the US), is not “ideological colonialism” nor does it strive to mold other cultures to fit Western ideals. Rather, the Fulbright program emerged in the 1940s from the nifty idea that connecting well-educated scholars from every academic discipline might be a more effective way of attaining international understanding (and peace) than through political treaties, the military and trade agreements alone.

When I first started working in India, I was delighted to find that almost 70% of graduate students in the biological sciences were female. I thought: Here was a healthy, progressive society that cultivates scientific research opportunities in the largest democracy in the world (which incidentally has a female president, as well). But when I eventually learned that a lot of my female students had no true career aspirations and were chasing degrees only to make them more marketable for arranged marriage, a very different picture began to emerge.

Certainly women around the globe experience oppression in some form or another, and certainly the circumstances of women in North India are not representative of the entire nation, or experienced by all to the same degree. But for the most part, the life of a North Indian woman goes something like this: She spends her childhood awaiting the socially mandated

destiny of being married away by her parents no later than her mid-20s, regardless of any other hopes she might have for herself. Under the very best circumstances she will be matched to a husband who treats her kindly, even if she might not have selected him as a mate if given a say in the matter. Under the worst circumstances, if she suffers domestic abuse, she is usually trapped in that situation for the rest of her life, since North India frowns sternly upon divorce, and divorced women are considered to be “broken,” useless, and largely doomed to a lonely future of economic hardship and being shunned.

For a North Indian woman, even her own birth may have been a disappointment to her family, as sons are greatly preferred over daughters, even to the point of inspiring female-specific abortions and infanticide. I lived only a few miles from the village with the most alarming gender asymmetry in all of India at about 540 females per 1,000 males, an imbalance that is no accident, but is created by the elimination of female fetuses and children. Ironically, a woman’s mother-in-law often participates in the demanding expectation that she will bear only sons, and not daughters. After all, due to the now illegal but still widely practiced tradition of the dowry, every son represents an eventual financial gain to the family when he takes a wife, and every daughter represents a financial liability whose dowry must someday be paid. The enormous gender imbalance that has developed in North India also contributes to elevated rates of sexual harassment and rape. The very same villages that eliminated female children are reaching a demographic crisis where they start scratching their heads and wondering: Who are we going to marry all our sons to? There aren’t enough girls here to go around!

It is possible that some of the things I am describing—the sights, the sounds, the social condition of women—are partly skewed or incomplete, as they represent a foreign observer’s take on the experience of living in India. Much of what I learned, however, came directly out of conversations with Indian professors, students and friends, both females and males. While I am primarily a biologist, I also have a degree in anthropology, and know that one of the principles central to modern social science is an awareness that

outside observers can never accurately comprehend or document the subtle things that occur in a culture that isn’t theirs. I believe in this principle. As a biologist, however, I also know that there is something unsustainable and terminal about exponential population growth; about unregulated depletion of natural resources; about “gendercide”; and about women participating fully in the same cycle of oppression that harms them.

It will be fascinating to watch as India becomes the most populous nation on Earth within another 5 to 10 years. As a nuclear power, global leader in technology and medicine, the world’s fourth largest economy, and the world’s largest democracy, it is reasonable to predict that India will be one of the most powerful nations on Earth within our lifetimes—if it isn’t so already. I’m just not sure how they can succeed without curbing their population growth, or without meaningful participation by the females of the species. ☘



“Ladies of Garhwal”: Three friends in the Himalayan district of Garhwal, with a basket of feed for their goats.

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by Janey Katz

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Weekend at the Galleries

October 7-10

Weekend at the Galleries Kick-Off Wine & Beer Tasting

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Weekend at the Galleries

October 7, 8, 9

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ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene

The latest area art happenings.

Silver City & Grant County

Time flies when you're having fun—and enjoying art. This year's Mimbres Region Arts Council's **Weekend at the Galleries**, Oct. 7-9, marks the 15th such arts-filled Columbus Day weekend in Silver City. Events begin with a kick-off reception and special art sale at the Seedboat Center for the Arts on Friday, Oct. 7. This year, the art sale is themed “When Pigs Fly.” Says MRAC director Faye McCalmont, “We expect that the pieces may be realistic, fun or just plain fanciful.” All sale items are the work of local artists and will be priced at \$200 or less for the evening. Proceeds benefit MRAC programs. The kick-off reception will include a wine and beer tasting and appetizers from 5-8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and are limited due to space. (Attendees must be at least 21 years of age.) Tickets can be purchased online at the MRAC website or by stopping by or calling the office.

Free Gallery Art Walks will be held Saturday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. On Saturday evening, galleries will host Evening at the Galleries, a gala event of opening receptions. Enjoy meandering the streets of historic downtown Silver City while searching for the perfect piece of art.

For more information, call the Mimbres Region Arts Council at 538-2505 or visit www.mimbresarts.org.



The 15th annual Weekend at the Galleries will feature works by Silver City artists including Janey Katz (left) and Jean-Robert Be'ffort (right).

www.mimbresarts.org, where you can also download a Weekend at the Galleries brochure.

Ginny Wolf Studio and Gallery plans two special events this month. During Weekend at the Galleries, on Oct. 8, a reception from 4-8 p.m. will feature local potter Kate Brown and Kingston silversmith William Lindenau. Then on Oct. 29, a Dios de los Muertos celebration will feature pottery sculptor Dominique Gonzalez and the creation of a community altar, 3-6 p.m. 108 W. Yankie St., 313-5709, www.ginnywolf.com.

Copper Quail Gallery will open a new show, “Southwest Sway,” during Weekend at the Galleries,

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Our Cover Artist

Chris Alvarez has been interested in art since he was a young boy growing up in his hometown of Silver City. He learned to draw by watching an older cousin copy pictures out of a magazine. When he grew older, he took some bad advice given with good intention and tried to find something "to fall back on" in case art didn't work out. He spent a lot of energy, he says, looking for that safety net with some success. He experimented, trying his hand at different endeavors such as bartending, working with at-risk youth, and working as an ophthalmic assistant. In 1988 he even enlisted in the US Army.

"Although I found all these experiences valuable and rewarding, art was always there calling," he says. In 1997 Alvarez decided to commit to becoming a professional artist. He signed up for classes at the Cottonwood Art Academy and studied with Sparky LeBold and Chuck Mardosz. He also enrolled in workshops taught by such established artists as Skip Whitcomb, Matt Smith, Mary Dolph Wood, Eric Michaels and Kim English. Alvarez became one of the first students of what's now the Cottonwood Artists' School to become an instructor; he currently teaches drawing and painting. He also earned a BA in fine art at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, where he taught drawing for five years.

He's won several awards for his plein air work, such as *Plein Air Magazine's* grand prize at the Paint Historic Manitou Springs "paint-out" in 2005 and the grand prize at the Victor Celebrates the Arts "paint-out" in 2002. Alvarez is currently represented by Seedboat Center for the Arts, 214 W. Yankie St. in Silver City, and The Gallery at Rich Design in Colorado Springs. You can see more of his work at chrisalvarezpaintings.com.

Oct. 7. On view through Nov. 22, the show features southwestern art by local talents. 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankie and Texas, 388-2646.

For WAG, **Tatiana Maria Gallery** will feature special guest artist Juanita Coriz from Santo Domingo Pueblo, who will be showing traditional hand-cut beads and mosaic work. A reception with classical-guitar music by Farhad will be Oct. 7 beginning at 3 p.m.

Seedboat Center for the Arts will celebrate WAG with new works by Michael Metcalf, Michael Orgel, Marcia Smith, Barry Namm, Mimi Peterson and other artists. 214 W. Yankie, seedboatgallery.com.

Lois Duffy Art will feature her latest 3D portrait constructions, plus contemporary quilts and textiles by Susan Szajer. 211C N. Texas, 313-9631, www.lois-duffy.com.

The **Blue Dome Gallery** at Bear Mountain Lodge will feature "In Guad We Trust," an exhibition of Our Lady of Guadalupe imagery by gallery artists, with an opening reception Oct. 8. 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538, www.bearmountainlodge.com.

The **StudioSpace** this month will spotlight "Dogs, Cats: Apples and Oranges," sculptures by Kelley Hestir, plus paintings by Toni Garland and Dick Johnson and new photographs and mixed-media collage by Jess Gorell. Hestir is a professional sculptor, art instructor and illustrator and has worked in museum exhibition, graphics and architectural design.

"Between Daylight and Dark" by Linda Gendall, part of the Denim Show at Main Street Gallery in Las Cruces.



"Stretching Cat" by Kelley S. Hestir, featured artist at The StudioSpace in Silver City.

She was the concept artist, sculptor and site designer of the Bataan Death March Memorial at Veterans Park in Las Cruces.109 N. Bullard, 534-9291.

"Warren's Gear," Gay Marks' tribute to a hunting man, took Best in Show in Susan Carlin's judging of the 50 entries in the Grant County Art Guild's **26th annual Purchase Prize Exhibit**. The Silver City artist's painting was the first-place winner in the oils category. Other first-place category winners were Susan Ley of Luna in acrylics, Louise Sackett of Silver City in pastel, and Penny Thompson Simpson of Las Cruces in watercolor.

Las Cruces & Mesilla Arts Scene

The **Tombaugh Gallery** presents work by the Advanced Placement (AP) studio art program from Alma d'arte Charter High School in Las Cruces, Oct. 2-28. The students featured are Kaitlyn Almanzar, Jordan Alvarenga, Ann Marie Gallegos, Andrea Hinojosa, Julian Hunting, Cody Jackson, Sabrina Ritchie, Jon Scoggins and Shelly White. A public artists' reception will be held Friday evening, Oct. 14 from 6-8 p.m., with a gallery talk by the students. Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281.

From Oct. 1-29, **Mesquite Art Gallery** will feature new works by painter-educator Wayne Carl Huber, with an opening reception Oct. 8, 4-6 p.m. This series, in acrylic-wash on paper, is titled "Mountainscapes." Huber has been in juried, group and solo exhibits across much of the US, winning numerous prizes, including a show judged by Elaine DeKooning. Recently he taught painting at the Las Cruces Art Museum; he is currently teaching art classes in the Las Cruces school system. 340 N. Mesquite St., www.mesquiteartgallery.com.

Linda Gendall, our August cover artist, presents her second annual Art on Denim Show, "Indigo Meets the Other Colors," at the **Main Street Gallery**, Oct. 7-Nov. 1, with an opening during the Oct. 7 Downtown Ramble, 5-7 p.m. The exhibit features 21 accomplished area artists exploring denim as a creative alternative for canvas. 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

An artist-designed recycled furniture sale to benefit the **West End Art Depot** and SumArtists Guild will be held Saturday, Oct. 8, 5-8 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre. The free, all-ages event will feature wine by Amaro Winery and acoustic music by Blue Gramas with members from the Baylor Canyon Boys, rehabbed furniture and room décor plus fine custom woodwork by Thomas Koehler. The West End Art Depot is now signing up artist members. 312-9892, www.sumartfest.org.

The "Inner Landscapes" exhibit opens Oct. 8, 4-6 p.m. at **Unsettled Gallery and Studio**, featuring mother and son artists June Decker and Greg Decker. Their works are influenced by many years spent in Africa. 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285.

The **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery** will feature local artists Roxana Quinell and Kurt Van Wagner this month, with an artists' reception Oct. 16, 1:30-3:30 p.m. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfineart.com.

Sierra County Arts Scene

The **Monte Cristo Gift Shop & Gallery** in Chloride will celebrate its fifth birthday with a bash on Saturday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Located in the old Monte Cristo Saloon & Dance Hall built in 1880 to serve the thirsty miners of Chloride, the gallery is now home

ARTS SCENE
continued on next page

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Tatiana Maria

Weekend at the Galleries

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ARTS SCENE continued

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Displaying artists will be on hand to meet patrons. Sue Hawkins, painting and batik, will be demonstrating her techniques. Area authors Tom Diamond, Patsy King and John Middagh will be signing their works, and Homer Bryant will perform his original cowboy

poetry. Food will be provided by the chefs at the soon-to-open Chloride Bank Café. Chloride is 40 miles from Truth or Consequences. From I-25 take exit 83 or 89 to Hwy. 181, then take Hwy. 52 west to Winston. At Winston take the first left past the General Store, stay on the paved road two miles to Chloride. 743-0493, montecristogallery@windstream.net. ☼

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”@E, 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. Tue.-Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Fine arts and crafts.
COW TRAIL ART STUDIO, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley. Mon., Thurs.-Sat., 12-3 p.m. 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.
FENESTRA’S PANES IN THE GLASS, 102 W. Kelly St., 534-2087. By appointment.
FRANCIS MCCRAY GALLERY, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517.
GINNY WOLF STUDIO & GALLERY, 108 W. Yankie St., 313-5709, www.ginnywolf.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.
KAREN CARR STUDIO, 117 W Market St., 388-4505. 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, Christina Brown, Susan Brinkley, Gorde Headlee, Diana Ingalls Leyba, Dayna Griego, Constance Knuppel, Mary Alice Murphy, Phillip Parotti, Betsey Resnick, Teri Matelson, Joe Theiman, Zoe Wolfe, Melanie Zipin. www.LeybalngallsARTS.com, LeybalngallsART@zianet.com.
LOIS DUFFY, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The studio and gallery of Lois Duffy presents a unique and thought-provoking view of the world through the eyes of an artist. Imaginative portraits, surreal places and realistic scenes of life. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.
MIMBRES REGION ARTS COUNCIL GALLERY, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. www.mimbresarts.org.
MOLLY RAMOLLA GALLERY & FRAMING, 307 N. Texas, 538-5538. www.ramollaart.com.
OL’ WEST GALLERY & MERCANTILE, 104 W. Broadway, 388-1811/313-2595. Daily 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
SEEDBOAT CENTER FOR THE ARTS, 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. info@seedboatgallery.com.
SILVER SPIRIT GALLERY, 215 W. Broadway, 388-2079.
STONEWALKER STUDIO, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment.

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STUDIO BEHIND THE MOUNTAIN, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388-3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.
THE STUDIOSPACE, 109 N. Bullard St., 534-9291. www.jessgorell.com.
SUSAN SZAJER STUDIO, Sanctuary Road, 313-7197 By appointment.
TATIANA MARIA GALLERY, 305 & 307 N. Bullard St., 388-4426. New Mexico landscape oils by Dan Boldman and Maria Brion. Fine art glass panels by Steve and PJ Robowski. Mimbres gourd vessels and masks by Pierre Nichols. Gallery designed furniture.
TOP HAT ART, 115 N. Bayard.
TUNDAR GALLERY & STUDIO, 110 Yankie, 597-0011.
21 LATIGO TRAIL, 388-4557. Works by Barbara Harrison and others.
TWO SPIRIT GALLERY, 313 N. Bullard, Suite B, 534-4563. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
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.
YANKIE ST. ARTIST STUDIOS, 103 W. Yankie St., 313-1032. By appointment.
ZOE’S GALLERY, 305 N. Cooper St., 538-8983. By appointment.
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., 538-9761/538-8216. Open mid-May to mid-Sept. Fri., Sat., Sun. and holidays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Mimbres
CHAMOMILE CONNECTION 3918 HIGHWAY 35N, 536-9845. Lynnae McConaha. By appointment.
KATE BROWN POTTERY AND TILE, HC 15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536-9935, katebrown@gilaneet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.
REESE-BENTON ARTS, 3811 Hwy. 35, 536-9487. By appointment.
Bayard
T. ALI STUDIO, 421 E. Elm St., 537-3470. 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.
Mesilla
ELKIN STUDIO, Oriate Plaza, 635-2025, www.elkinjewelers.com.
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.
GALERÍA TEPÍN, 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.
PRESTON CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER, 1755 Avenida de Mercado, 523-8713, www.prestoncontemporaryart.com. Tues.-Sat. 12-5 p.m.
ROKOKO, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.
Las Cruces
ALEGRE GALLERY, 920 N Alameda Blvd., 523-0685.
BLUE GATE GALLERY, 311 Old Downtown Mall, 523-2950. Tue.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-noon.
CHARLES INC., 1885 W Boutz Rd, 523-1888, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
COTTONWOOD GALLERY, 275 N. Downtown Mall (Southwest Environ-

mental Center), 522-5552. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
CRUZ NOPAL, 1175 W. Picacho, 635-7899. Thurs.-Sat.10 a.m.-6 p.m. or by appointment. ouida@ouidatouchon.com, www.ouidatouchon.com.
CUTTER GALLERY, 2640 El Paso, 541-0658. Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
GRIGGS & REYMOND, 504 W. Griggs Ave., 524-8450, Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
JUSTUS WRIGHT GALERIA, 266 W. Court Ave., 526-6101, jud@delvalleprintinglc.com.
J.T. MACRORIE 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. Thurs.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
M. PHILLIP’S FINE ART GALLERY, 221 N. Main St., 525-1367.
MVS STUDIOS, 535 N. Main, Stull Bldg., 635-5015, www.mvsstudios.com.
NEW MEXICO ART, 121 Wyatt Dr., Suite 1, 525-8292/649-4876. Weds. 1-6 p.m., Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
NMSU ART GALLERY, Williams Hall, University Ave. east of Solano, 646-2545. Tues.-Sun.
NOPALITO’S GALERIA, 326 S. Mesquite. Fri.-Sun., 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
TIERRA 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.
UNSETTLED GALLERY & STUDIO, 905 N. Mesquite, 635-2285.
VIRGINIA MARIA ROMERO STUDIO, 4636 Maxim Court, 644-0214. By appointment. agzromero@zianet.com , www.virginiamariaromero.com.
La Mesa
LA MESA STATION GALLERY, 16205 S. Hwy. 28, 233-3037. Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 1-4 pm.
Columbus
ART ON THE WESTERN EDGE, at Windwalker Guest Ranch B&B, Hwy. 11 north, mile marker 7, 640-4747.
Deming
ART SPACE GALLERY, 601 S. Silver, 546-0673. Mon., Fri. 12-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., donni@chris-donni.com.
DEMING ARTS CENTER, 100 S. Gold St., 546-3663. Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
KING’S KORNER, 103 E. Ash, 546-4441.
GOLD STREET GALLERY, 112-116 S. Gold St., 546-8200.
ROOM WITH A VIEW, 108 E. Pine St., 546-5777.
Rodeo
CHIRICAHUA GALLERY, 5 Pine St., 557-2225.
Hillsboro
BARBARA MASSENGILL GALLERY, 894-9511/895-3377, Fri.-Sun. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
PERCHA CREEK TRADERS, 895-5116, Weds.-Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Chloride
MONTE CRISTO, Wall St., 743-0190. Daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m. ☼
SUBMIT GALLERY INFORMATION TO—
Desert Exposure, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134, email editor@desertexposure.com.

40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What’s Going on in October

Plus a look ahead into early November.

OCTOBER SATURDAY
1 Silver City/Grant County
14TH ANNUAL PINOS ALTOS FI-ESTA—Family fun and games, live music, great food, and plenty of vendors in celebration and support of our community spirit. Step back in history to when the west was wild and enjoy music, dancing, a bit of history of historic Pinos Altos and other entertainment. 10 a.m. 574-8394.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS—Please have all animals under restraint. 10 a.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd.

CLIFF-GILA COUNTY FAIR—Through Oct. 2. Cliff Fairgrounds, 388-1558

FREE FLU SHOT CLINICS—Ages 4 and up. First-come, first served. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Hidalgo Medical Services, Med Square parking lot, 114 W. 11th St.

GILA MONSTER CHALLENGE FUN RIDE—A bicycle racing experience open to everyone. There will be 32, 52, 72 and 106-mile courses. 590-2612.

GRACELAND AND LONESTAR—Through Oct. 2. Two one-act plays, *Graceland* by Ellen Byron and *Lonestar* by James McClure. 7:30 p.m. \$10. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM—Community potluck open house. 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Senior Center, 205 W. Victoria St., 388-2523 ext 13.

SILVER CITY FARMERS’ MARKET—8:30 a.m.- 12 p.m. Mainstreet Plaza, North Bullard between 7th and 8th, 388-2343, www.silvercityfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

WNMU VOLLEYBALL VS. COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY—7 p.m. www.wnmu-mustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
AGGIES VOLLEYBALL VS. UTAH STATE—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

BECOMING A BIRDER SERIES—Park ranger will lead a guided tour along the park trails and point out common birds found in the park this time of year. Please bring binoculars, water, sunscreen, and wear close-toed shoes. 8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

BORDER BOOK FESTIVAL DANCE—Fundraiser. Frontera Bugalu performs. 7 p.m. \$7. Palacio’s Bar, 523-3988.

CLASSICS ONE GALA ALL-ORCHESTRA CONCERT—Also Oct. 2. The Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra will perform Maurice Ravel’s *Alborada del gracioso*, Zoltan Kodaly’s *Variations on a Hungarian Folksong*: “The Peacock,” Charles Ives’ *Variations on “America,”* and Samuel Barber’s *Symphony No. 1*, Op. 9. 7:30 p.m. \$35-\$45. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

CULTURAL BAZAAR—The courtyard will be alive with more than a dozen cultures. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

LA SEMILLA FOOD SUMMIT—Keynote addresses from Las Cruces City Councilor Olga Pedroza and W.K. Kellogg Foundation Program Officer Ricardo Salvador. Labor, food access and racial equity in our food system. \$10, under 18 free. Court Youth Center/Alma d’Arte High School, 402 W. Court Ave., lasemillafoodsummit.com.

MAP DOWSING AND DOWSING FOR ENERGIES—Learn to use maps to remotely dowse for water, treasures, buried items, etc. Dowse for noxious (geopathic) energies and learn to resolve problems associated with those energies. As a prerequisite, participants must have already completed the Basic Dowsing Course or equivalent. 1-3 p.m. \$15, \$12. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

MESILLA JAZZ HAPPENING—Through Oct. 2. Live jazz on the plaza. Free. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext. 117, www.oldmesilla.org.

MESILLA VALLEY CORN MAZE—Through Oct. 2. Take a hayride out to the pumpkin patch to look for the perfect Jack-o-lantern, and then discover the many twists and turns cut into a corn field. 11 a.m.-7 pm. 3855 W. Picacho Ave., 526-1919, mesillavalleymaze.com.

MISS JULIE—Through Oct. 9. A mistress of a country manor struggles against the restlessness of her social station and her burgeoning passions. By August Strindberg. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

PAINT YOUR WAGON—A bawdy

comedy unlike any western you may have seen, this is an entertaining big-budget musical based on the Broadway play by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe. Two unlikely prospector partners (Lee Marvin, Clint Eastwood) share the same wife (Jean Seberg) in a California gold rush mining town. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

PANCHO VILLA’S RAID ON COLUMBUS—Join John Read, park ranger at Pancho Villa State Park, and learn about the history of the Mexican Revolution from 1910-1920 leading to a discussion about some of the possible motivations behind Pancho Villa’s raid on Columbus on March 9, 1916. 10 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

PLANT A WILDFLOWER GARDEN—Learn to select the seed, prepare the soil, and sow the seed for an exciting spring display of wildflowers. 2 p.m. \$7.50, Free to members. Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-1886, gardens@zianet.com, nmenchantedgardens.com.

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR AND RODEO—Through Oct. 2. 8 a.m.-midnight. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 12 miles west of Las Cruces, I-10 west, exit 127 or 132, 524-8602, snmstatefair.com.

THE 39 STEPS—Through Oct 2. Mix Hitchcock’s film with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and you have a whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre. Two-time Tony and Drama Desk Award-winner. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

THE NAMES OF LOVE—Through Oct. 6. A young, extroverted left-wing activist who sleeps with her political opponents to convert them to her cause is successful until she meets her match. Directed by Michel Leclerc. Starring Sara Forestier, Jacques Gamblin and Zinedine Soualem. Subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, free for MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

DEMING FUSILIERS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

Lordsburg
FREE FLU SHOT CLINICS—Ages 4 and up. First-come, first served. Hidalgo Medical Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lordsburg clinic parking lot, 530 E. De Moss St.

White Sands
TRINITY SITE OPEN HOUSE—The Trinity site is the location of the first atomic bomb explosion. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. \$10 motorcycles, \$25 per car, \$100 per bus. White Sands Missile Range, Stallion Gate off Hwy 380, 678-1134, wsmr.army.mil.

SUNDAY
2 Silver City/Grant County
GRACELAND AND LONESTAR—See Oct. 1. 7:30 p.m. \$10. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

CLIFF-GILA GRANT COUNTY FAIR—Cliff Fairgrounds, 388-1558.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
CLASSICS ONE GALA ALL-ORCHESTRA CONCERT—See Oct. 1. 3 p.m. \$35-45.. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 North Horseshoe, 646-2421.

MESILLA JAZZ HAPPENING—Live jazz on the plaza. Free. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext 117, www.oldmesilla.org.

MESILLA VALLEY CORN MAZE—See Oct. 1. 11 a.m.-7 pm. 3855 W. Picacho Ave., 526-1919, mesillavalleymaze.com.

MISS JULIE—See Oct. 1. Through Oct. 9. 2 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR AND RODEO—8 a.m.- 6 p.m. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 12 miles west of Las Cruces, I-10 west, exit 127 or 132, 524-8602, snmstatefair.com.

THE 39 STEPS—See Oct. 1. 2:30 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

MONDAY
3 Las Cruces/Mesilla
BANNED BOOKS WEEK: CENSORSHIP—Dr. Stephanie Taylor, NMSU assistant professor of Modern and Con-

temporary Art History. 10 a.m. NMSU Library, 646-4707, lib.nmsu.edu.

TUESDAY
4 Silver City/Grant County
FREE FLU SHOT CLINICS—Ages 4 and up. First-come, first served. Hidalgo Medical Services. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Mimbres Valley Clinic, 2743 B Hwy 35 N.

GILA FARMERS’ MARKET—3:30-6:30 p.m. 414 Hwy 211 in Gila, 525-2729.

HEALTHY LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS IN SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO—Mark Winne. 4-6 p.m. Cobre Fine Arts Center, 1300 Tom Foy Blvd.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
AGGIES VOLLEYBALL VS. UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN AND WINTER FERAL CAT CARE—Feral cat care with Joe Miele. 6-7:30 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY
5 Silver City/Grant County
AMOS TORRES—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloon-andoperahouse.com.

BAYARD FARMERS’ MARKET—3-6 p.m. Lion’s Club, 808 Tom Foy Blvd., 313-6883.

LUNCH AND LEARN—Liz Mikols speaks about the Harvey Girls. 12 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center. will-learning.com

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BALANCED LIVING BOOKCLUB— 7:30-8:30 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY
6 Silver City/Grant County
MIMBRES VALLEY FARMERS’ MARKET—4:30-6:30 p.m. Mimbres Valley Roundup Lodge, 94 Aklin Hill Rd, 536-3335.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
THE GREAT CONVERSATION—Randy Harris. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

PSYCHIC READINGS AND ENERGETIC HEALINGS—Dawn Cheney. 12-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

KEVIN PAKULIS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY
7 Silver City/Grant County
WEEKEND AT THE GALLERIES—Through Oct. 9. Kickoff reception and art sale, “When Pigs Fly.” All sale items are the work of local artists and will be priced at \$200 or less for the evening. Proceeds benefit MRAC programs. The kick-off reception will include a wine and beer tasting and appetizers from 5-8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and are limited due to space. (Attendees must be at least 21 years of age.) Tickets can be purchased online at the MRAC website or by stopping by or calling the office. Seedboat Center for the Arts. 538-2505, www.mimbresarts.org.

FIRST FRIDAY DOWNTOWN—Street dance on the Courthouse lawn and free family activities to kick off Weekend at the Galleries. Family activities and storytelling in the Silver City Museum courtyard. 5-8 p.m.

RIVER GIRL—Staged play reading. 7 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex. 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

KEVIN PAKULIS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloon-andoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
AUTUMN IN NEW MEXICO—Art exhibit by members of the Ten O’Clock Club. 5-7 p.m. La Iguana Restaurant, 138 Main St.

COWBOYS FOR CANCER DANCE—6:30 p.m. Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., 644-4367, cowboysforcancerresearch.org.

DOWNTOWN RAMBLE—Do the Main Street Downtown Ramble through galleries, shops, businesses and restaurants. Enjoy art openings, exhibits, music, entertainment, open mic opportunities, shopping, refreshments and more. 5-7 p.m. Free. Downtown Mall, 523-2950.

INDIGO MEETS THE OTHER COLOR—Exhibit through Nov. 1. Art on denim. Artists reception. 5-7 p.m. Main Street Gallery, 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

EVENTS continued on next page

BUCKHORN SALOON & OPERA HOUSE
October 2011
Mondays
Open Mic Night @ 7pm
Wednesdays
Saloon Spaghetti

Wed 5th	Amos Torres
Fri 7th	Kevin Pakulis—Tucson
Sat 8th	Báxtalo Beng w/AlmaZazz!
Wed 12th	Wally Lawder
Fri 14th & Sat 15th	Bob Einweck—Tucson
Wed 19th	Peter & Michele

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY:
Fri 21st
Le Chat Lunatique Gypsy Jazz—ABQ

Sat 22nd	Wade Lashley—Flagstaff
Wed 26th	Gordee Headlee
Fri 28th	Rein Garcia—Deming
Sat 29th	Silver City String Beans

Friday, October 21
SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY:

Le Chat Lunatique
Gypsy Jazz
from Albuquerque

buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com or 575-538-9911

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All Showings
Saturdays @ 1:30 pm
at the Fountain Theatre
2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla
Admission is \$4, or \$1 for MV Film Society members.

October Shows

Oct 1 **Paint Your Wagon** (1969, 158 minutes, rated PG-13)
Special note...there will be an intermission, AND a sing-a-long!


Oct 8 **Cross Creek** (1983, 125 minutes, rated PG)

Oct 15 **Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time** (2011, 75 min., not rated, partially filmed in NM)

Oct 22 **The Concert** (2009, 119 minutes, rated PG-13, in French and Russian w/ English subtitles)

Oct 29 **El Sicario- Room 164** (2011, 90 minutes, not rated... US Premiere!)

For more information call 575-524-8287 • www.mesillavalleyfilm.org



OCTOBER FILMS

Oct 1-6 **The Names of Love** (Directed by Michel Leclerc. Subtitles).

Oct. 7-13 **The Hedgehog** (In French/Japanese with subtitles.)

Oct. 14-20 **Anita** (In Spanish/Hebrew/Cantonese, with subtitles. Free for MVFS members.)

Oct. 21-27 **Life, Above All** (In Sotho with subtitles.)

Oct. 28-Nov 3 **Nostalgia for the Light** (In Spanish with subtitles.)

2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla • www.mesillavalleyfilm.org • (575) 524-8287
Shows nightly at 7:30- Sunday Matinee at 2:30.
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NOV. 11-13, 2011

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Thu 10/6 • Kevin Pakulis (Tucson)
Sat 10/8 • Fatigo (Bisbee, AZ)
Thu 10/13 • Bob Einweck (Tucson)
Sat 10/15 • Alma Zazz
Thu 10/20 • Boris McCutcheon & The Salt Licks (Ojo Sarco, NM)
Sat 10/22 • Bayou Seco (Silver City)
Thu 10/27 • Dylan Charles (Bisbee, AZ)
Sat 10/29 • Dan Lambert (El Paso)

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EVENTS continued

MISS JULIE—See Oct. 1. Through Oct. 9. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

OCOTILLO DREAMS—Border Book Festival. Melinda Palacio. Book reading and signing. 5-9 p.m. Cultural Center de Mesilla.

OUTDOOR FILM SERIES—Outdoor Recreation on Campus. 180 Degrees South. 7 p.m. Free. NMSU Intramural Fields.

THE HEDGEHOG—Through Oct. 13. Paloma has decided to kill herself on her 12th birthday. She questions and documents her life and immediate circle, drawing hilarious observations on the world around her. As her appointment with death approaches, Paloma meets some kindred spirits in her building's grumpy concierge and an enigmatic, elegant neighbor, both of whom inspire Paloma to question her rather pessimistic outlook on life. In French/Japanese with subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

WHOLE ENCHILADA SOFTBALL INVITATIONAL—Through Oct. 9. Largest adult slow pitch softball event in the nation. This event has produced over 250 men's and women's teams for the past 15 years. Sanctioned by USSSA. 1-9 p.m. Free. Harty, Paz and Maag Softball Complexes off Haldey Ave. and Solano Dr., 647-3034, usssa.com.

SATURDAY
Yom Kippur
Silver City/Grant County
WEEKEND AT THE GALLERIES—Through Oct. 9. Free Gallery Art Walks 11 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. On Saturday evening, galleries will host Evening at the Galleries, a gala event of opening receptions. See highlights in Arts Exposure section. Mimbres Region Arts Council, 538-2505, www.mimbresarts.org.

BAXTALO BENG WITH ALMAZAZZ—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

FORT BAYARD TOUR—Walking tours last about two hours and are free. 9:30 a.m. \$4. Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, 536-3161.

FREE FLU SHOT CLINIC—Ages 4 and up. First-come, first served. Hidalgo Medical Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Copper Medical Clinic parking lot, 3185 N. Leslie Road.

FREE FLU SHOT CLINIC—Ages 4 and up. First-come, first served. Hidalgo Medical Services. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Cliff/Gila Clinic, 415 Hwy 211, Cliff.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE—9 a.m.-5 p.m. Market St. Bookstore.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Mainstreet Plaza, North Bullard between 7th and 8th, 388-2343, www.silvercityfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

WNMU MUSTANGS FOOTBALL VS. WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF COLORADO—Homecoming. 1 p.m. www.wnmumus-tangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ARTIST DESIGNED RECYCLED FURNITURE SALE—Mix and mingle, browse and shop for cool, lovingly rehabbed furniture and room decor. Also featuring custom woodwork by master craftsman Thomas Koehler. Wine and music. 5-8 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

BIRDING TOUR—Join a park volunteer and learn the birds that are found in Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Please bring binoculars, water, sunscreen, and wear close-toed shoes. 8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

COWBOYS FOR CANCER TEAM ROPING—Through Oct. 9. Fun-filled celebration of team roping. Teams come from across the country to compete for cash. Two full days of roping. 9 a.m. Sproul Arena, 7405 Harvey Farm Road, 526-2887, cowboysforcancerresearch.org.

CROSSCREEK—Mary Steenburgen stars in this adaptation of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' classic novel about her experiences living in rural Florida during the 1920s and 1930s. Also stars Alfre Woodard and Rip Torn, whose performance won him an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

FUR N FEATHERS—Saturdays through Oct. 22. Our fine-feather friends, birds, are the subject of this class. How do they fly? What keeps them gliding in the air? Meet a Green Cheeked Conure Parrot and his handler. Ages 4 and up. Craft time. Registration required. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Museum of Natural History, 522-3120, museums.las-cruces.org.

HOW TO SELECT AND PLANT A TREE—2 p.m. \$7.50, free to members. Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-1886, gardens@zianet.com, nmenchantedgardens.com.

INNER LANDSCAPES EXHIBIT—Artists' reception. June Decker and Greg Decker. 4-6 p.m. Unsettled Gallery, 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285.

LETTERS TO SANTA—Santa picks up letters children have dropped off since the end of September. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St., 647-4480.

LOS LEONES CAR SHOW—Through Oct. 9. Cars of all types. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext. 116, www.oldmesilla.org.

MESILLA VALLEY CORN MAZE—Through Oct. 9. 11 a.m.-7 pm. 3855 W. Picacho Ave., 526-1919, mesillavalley-maze.com.

MISS JULIE—See Oct. 1. Through Oct. 9. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

OBSERVE THE MOON NIGHT—Activities for all ages including scale models of the moon/Earth, lunar phases, moon observation journals and a short presentation of lunar features you may see. 7:30 p.m. Tombaugh Observatory, NMSU Campus, 522-3120.

PUMPKIN FESTIVAL—Through Oct. 9. Two days celebrating America's favorite gourd, the pumpkin. 11 a.m.-7 pm. \$7-\$9. 3855 W. Picacho Ave., 526-1919, newmexicopumpkinfestival.com

WHOLE ENCHILADA SOFTBALL INVITATIONAL—See Oct. 7. Through Oct. 9. 1-9 p.m. Free. Harty, Paz and Maag Softball Complexes off of Haldey Ave. and Solano Dr., 647-3034, usssa.com.

FATIGO—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

Deming
Hi Lo SILVERS—Women's choral group will include songs of stage, Broadway and film, Western, folk songs and standards. 2 p.m. \$10. Historic Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St.

OCTOBERFEST—5 p.m. Rio Mimbres Country Club, 2500 E. Pine.

ST. CLAIR WINE FESTIVAL—Through Oct. 9. Benefit for breast cancer awareness. 5-7 p.m. St. Clair Winery, 1325 De Baca Road SE, 546-1179, www.stclairwinery.com.

Columbus
COLUMBUS FESTIVAL—Parade, games, street dance. 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Columbus Plaza Park, 494-0009.

SUNDAY
Silver City/Grant County
WEEKEND AT THE GALLERIES—Free Gallery Art Walks from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mimbres Region Arts Council, 538-2505, www.mimbresarts.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
AGGIES SOCCER VS. NEVADA—NMSU Campus East of Pan American Center, 646-1420, www.nmstatesports.com.

COWBOYS FOR CANCER TEAM ROPING—See Oct. 8. 9 a.m. Sproul Arena, 7405 Harvey Farm Road, 526-2887, cowboysforcancerresearch.org.

LOS LEONES CAR SHOW—See Oct. 8. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext 116, www.oldmesilla.org.

MARIACHI SUNDAYS—4-6 p.m. Free. Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262, lascrucesmariachi.org.

MESILLA VALLEY CORN MAZE—11 a.m.-7 pm. 3855 W. Picacho Ave., 526-1919, mesillavalleymaze.com.

MISS JULIE—See Oct. 1. 2 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

PUMPKIN FESTIVAL—See Oct. 8. 11 a.m.-7 pm. \$7-\$9. 3855 W. Picacho Ave., 526-1919, newmexicopumpkinfestival.com

WHOLE ENCHILADA SOFTBALL INVITATIONAL—See Oct. 7. 1-9 p.m. Free. Harty, Paz and Maag Softball Complexes off Haldey Ave. and Solano Dr., 647-3034, usssa.com.

Deming
ARTS COUNCIL RECEPTION AND EXHIBIT—Barbara Harrison and Jim Ward. 1-3 p.m. Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold, 546-3663.

ST. CLAIR WINE FESTIVAL—5-7 p.m. St. Clair Winery, 1325 De Baca Road SE, 546-1179, www.stclairwinery.com.

TERRITORIAL BAND—2 p.m. Pit Park, 546-2382.

MONDAY
Columbus Day
Silver City/Grant County
WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE—"Let

Me Entertain You: Meet Lottie, Bessie and Millie" by Liz Mikols. 11 a.m. \$10, includes lunch. Glad Tidings Church, 538-9344.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BANNED BOOKS WEEK—NMSU Latin American & Border Studies Librarian Molly Molloy. 10 a.m. NMSU Library, 646-4707, lib.nmsu.edu.

TUESDAY
11 Silver City/Grant County
A FOOD SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE—Also Oct. 13. Learn how our community can transform its food production model to one that is wholesome, regenerative and sustainable such as Joel Salatin's PolyFace Farm. Presented by J.J. Dabbs, a small family farmer in Gila with a BS in Agronomy and Environmental Science. Noon-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Food Co-op, Community Room, 388-2343.

FALL BREAK CRAFT CLASSES—Through Oct. 14. Tissue-paper marigolds. 10 a.m.-noon. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercity-museum.org.

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—3:30-6:30 p.m. 414 Hwy 211 in Gila, 525-2729.

HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT TOURS—Learn about the underground mining history near Bayard. No walking required. Bus tour. 10 a.m. Bayard City Hall, 537-3327.

TEA PARTY PATRIOTS MEETING—6 p.m. Red Barn Family Steak House, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-3848.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
THE GREAT CONVERSATION—Randy Harris. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

White Sands
FULL MOON HIKES—Hike the moonlit dunes with a ranger. Reservation required. 6:30 p.m. \$3. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, www.nps.gov/whsa.

WEDNESDAY
12 Silver City/Grant County
BAYARD FARMERS' MARKET—3-6 p.m. Lion's Club, 808 Tom Foy Blvd., 313-6883.

LUNCH AND LEARN—Vicki Johnson and Don Johnson, First Born Home Visitation Program in Santa Avelina, Guatemala. 12 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center. will-learning.com.

FALL BREAK CRAFT CLASSES—Through Oct. 14. Sugar-skull decorating. 10 a.m.-noon. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercity-museum.org.

WALLY LAWDER—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloon-andoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
AGGIES VOLLEYBALL VS. HAWAII—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

BALANCED LIVING BOOKCLUB—Sid-deeq Shabazz. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

White Sands
THE ROOTS OF COWBOY CULTURE—Join Rudy Avila and Alex Mares with Furs-N-Spurs Farm & Fun around a campfire for a walk through time that discusses the origins of cowboy culture. With coffee brewing and biscuits cooking in traditional Dutch ovens, Rudy and Alex will provide a overview of Native American pre-history and their contributions to modern cowboy culture. 7 p.m. \$3. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, www.nps.gov/whsa.

THURSDAY
13 Silver City/Grant County
A FOOD SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE—See Oct. 11. Noon-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Food Co-op, Community Room, 388-2343.

FALL BREAK CRAFT CLASSES—Through Oct. 14. Papel picado. 10 a.m.-noon. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING—Speaker Ross Arrington on Paper Treasurers mining memorabilia, plus Larry Crotts of Dragonfly Enterprises. Potluck beforehand; bring a dish to share and your own utensils, plates, beverage and glasses. 6 p.m. Senior Center, Victoria St., 534-1393, rolling-stonesgms.blogspot.com.

MIMBRES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET—4:30-6:30 p.m. Mimbres Valley Roundup Lodge, 94 Aklin Hill Rd, 536-3335.

VINO AND VINYASA—60 minutes of yoga and a glass of wine. 6:30 p.m. \$10. La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery, 206-940-1502.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS—Prevention, Screening, Aftercare and Herbal Support with Genevieve Mitchell, Wendy



“The 39 Steps” at the Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces.

Weir and Ruth Romo. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THE NEW DEAL IS STILL A GOOD DEAL—Kathryn Flynn, executive director of the National New Deal Preservation Association in Santa Fe. Between 1933-43, folks got paid by the federal government to use their knowledge, skills and experience. Who were they? What did they do and where? 7 p.m. \$2. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

BOB EINWECK—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY
14 Silver City/Grant County Fall Break Craft Classes

Matchbox altars. 10 a.m.-noon. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

BOB EINWECK—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloon-andoperahouse.com.

HIGH DESERT HUMANE SOCIETY YARD SALE—Also Oct. 15. Annual yard sale of books, housewares, knick-knacks, furniture, appliances, tools and more. High Desert Humane Society, Cougar Way, 538-9261.

FIDDLING FRIENDS—With Bayou Seco. 12:15-1 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn.

Hi Lo Silvers—Directed by Valdeen Wooton and accompanied by Virginia Robertson on piano and Bill Baldwin on bass viol, the chorus will sing old favorites and songs from stage and film. 7 p.m. Free. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 N Swan St.

TAIZE SERVICE—Taize-style worship consists of sung prayer, alternating with spoken scripture readings, spoken prayer and silence. The service is non-denominational, free to the public and all are welcome. 5:30 p.m. Free. Church of the Good Shepherd, Texas & 7th St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla A Thousand Clowns—Through Oct. 30. Unconventional Murray, uncle and custodian of precocious nephew Nick, is tired of writing cheap comedy gags for a children’s television show. Murray finds himself unemployed with plenty of free time in which to solve problems. By Herb Gardner, directed by Marcus Vickers. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

AGGIES SOCCER VS. IDAHO—NMSU Campus East of Pan American Center, 646-1420, www.nmstatesports.com.

ALMA D’ARTE STUDIO ART SHOW—Exhibit through Oct. 28. Artists’ reception. The Tombaugh Gallery presents work by the Advanced Placement (AP) studio art program from Alma d’arte Charter High School 6-8 p.m. Tombaugh Gallery, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solana, 522-7281.

ANITA—Through Oct. 20. Anita is a young woman with Down syndrome who lives in Buenos Aires, cared for by her mother Dora. Everything changes when Anita is left alone, confused and helpless after the nearby Argentine Israelite Mutual Association is bombed. As Anita wanders through the city, she learns not only to care for herself, but touches the lives of those around her. In Spanish/Hebrew/Cantonese, with subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, Free for MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

JACK WARD INVITATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL—Through Oct. 15. NMSU Choirs puts on a choral show, starring opera singer Kirstin Chavez and the choirs. 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$15. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

White Sands Full Moon Bike Ride—Take a leisurely bike ride through the monument.

No cars are allowed in the monument during this event. Reservations required. 8 p.m. \$2.50-\$5. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, www.nps.gov/whsa.

SATURDAY
15 Silver City/Grant County

BOB EINWECK—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloon-andoperahouse.com.

HIGH DESERT HUMANE SOCIETY YARD SALE—See Oct. 14. High Desert Humane Society, Cougar Way, 538-9261.

COWBELLES ANNUAL DENIM AND PEARLS—Dance and auction. Brisket dinner. Proceeds help fund beef education and promotion, a scholarship given to local agricultural students, El Refugio, 4-H programs, others. 6 p.m. \$20 advance, \$25 at door. Flame Convention Center, 574-2629.

FLAMENCO ENSEMBLE—Chris Burton Jacome. Acoustic flamenco with a vocalist, three flamenco dancers, a bassist and a percussionist. Grant County Community Concert Association. 7:30 p.m. \$20, \$45 for season. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

FREE FLU SHOT CLINICS—Ages 4 and up. First-come, first served. Hidalgo Medical Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Animas Valley Clinic, elementary parking lot, Animas.

GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP—For details see rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com

HEALTH SCREENING—PSA and total cholesterol testing. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. GRMC Laboratory, 1313 E. 32nd St. 388-1198, ext. 10.

LEARN TO NEEDLE FELT—Prairie Small. Learn the basics of needle felting and create a lovely standing wool doll. 1-5 p.m. \$44, \$39 SWFAC members. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.

SILVER CITY FARMERS’ MARKET—8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Mainstreet Plaza, North Bullard between 7th and 8th, 388-2343, www.silvercityfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

SOBERFEST 2011—All-day community festival centered around celebrating life drug- and alcohol-free. Many booths, games, food, live entertainment and keynote speakers. 9 a.m. Gough Park, 574-4031.

Las Cruces/Mesilla A Thousand Clowns—See Oct. 14. Through Oct. 30. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

AGGIES FOOTBALL VS. IDAHO—Tough Enough To Wear Pink Game. Wear your pink in support of breast cancer research. 6 p.m. \$13-\$30. NMSU Aggies Memorial Stadium, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

AGGIES VOLLEYBALL VS. SAN JOSE STATE—2 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

AUTUMN NATURE STROLL—Join the Asombro Institute for Science Education and a special desert expert guest. 9 a.m. Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, 56501 N. Jornada Rd., 524-3334, asombro.org.

BIRDING WITH A BIOLOGIST—Join urban wildlife biologist Lois Balin and learn about the birds of Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Balin works for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is an avid birder. Please bring binoculars, water, sunscreen, and wear close-toed shoes. 8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

CO-OP ROCKS FOOD FOR THOUGHT—A celebration of food, art and music. 5-11 p.m. Free. Mikey’s Place, 3100 Harrelson St, 650-3496, www.mikey-splacenm.com.

EARTH SCIENCE WEEK CELEBRATION—Special activities including making your own toothpaste from scratch, exploring relative dating and fossils. 1-4 p.m.

Museum of Natural History, 522-3120, museums.las-cruces.org.

FUR N FEATHERS—Saturdays through Oct. 22. This class concentrates on that lay eggs, marsupials, and plant-eating or herbivorous mammals. Ages 4 and up. Craft time. Registration required. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Museum of Natural History, 522-3120, museums.las-cruces.org.

GLASS MOSAIC WORKSHOP—Preregistration required. 10 a.m. \$8 includes materials. Nopalito’s Galeria, 326 S. Mesquite, 524-0003, nopalitosgaleria.com.

GREEN FIRE: ALDO LEOPOLD AND A LAND ETHIC FOR OUR TIME—This 2011 documentary, partially filmed in New Mexico, explores conservationist Aldo Leopold’s personal journey and reveals how his idea of a land ethic resonates today with people across the entire American landscape, from inner cities to the remotest wild lands. The film uses photographs, correspondence, manuscripts and other archival documents from the voluminous Aldo Leopold Archives as well as historical film and contemporary full-color footage on location, including landscapes that influenced Leopold and that he in turn influenced. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

JACK WARD INVITATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL—See Oct. 14. 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$15. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 North Horseshoe, 646-2421.

MESILLA VALLEY CORN MAZE—Through Oct. 16. 11 a.m.-7 pm. Mesilla Valley Corn Maze, 3855 W. Picacho Ave., 526-1919, mesillavalleymaze.com.

THE CARE AND EVALUATION OF OUT OF PRINT BOOK WORKSHOP—Book dealer John Randall. Learn how to take care of and evaluate your first edition and out of print books. Participants are asked to bring in their books for evaluation. \$35. Cultural Center de Mesilla.

THE ECOLOGY OF THE BURROWING OWL—A peek at a captive breeding reintroduction program. Join Lois Balin, urban wildlife biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife. 11 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

TOSS NO MAS FALL CLEANUP—Keep Las Cruces Beautiful program is dedicated to keeping the city beautiful through litter and weed control, graffiti eradication and prevention activities, community recycling efforts, and neighborhood and community-wide beautification projects. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Dream Center, 1600 6th St., 528-4723.

ALMA ZAZZ—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

SUNDAY
16 Silver City/Grant County

Hi Lo Silvers—Directed by Valdeen Wooton and accompanied by Virginia Robertson on piano and Bill Baldwin on bass viol, the chorus will sing old favorites and songs from stage and film. 3 p.m. Free. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 N Swan St.

THE TREE—After the sudden death of her father, eight-year-old Simone shares a secret with her mother Dawn. She’s convinced her father speaks to her through the leaves of her favorite tree and he’s come back to protect them. But the new bond between mother and daughter is threatened when Dawn starts a relationship with George, the plumber, called in to remove the tree’s troublesome roots. 4 p.m. \$8, WNMU student and staff free with valid ID. WNMU-Silver City International Film Society, Real West Cinema II, 11585 Hwy. 180 E, 538-5659, www.silverfilm.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla MESILLA VALLEY CORN MAZE—11 a.m.-7 pm. Mesilla Valley Corn Maze, 3855 W. Picacho Ave., 526-1919, mesillavalleymaze.com.

A THOUSAND CLOWNS—See Oct. 14. Through Oct. 30. 2 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

CRUISIN’ FOR CRITTERS CHARITY RUN—Benefiting six local animal-advocacy groups: Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary, Action Programs for Animals, SNAP, Great Dane Rescue, AWARE and the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. Riders will visit up to 10 area businesses and organizations. Door prizes, silent auction items and entertainment will be featured at the after-party at the Blue Moon Bar in Radium Springs. 10 a.m. \$10, includes lunch. Barnett’s Harley Davidson, 2600 Lakeside Dr., 527-4544, actionprogramsforanimals.com.

KIDS CRAFTS—Parents are required to attend with kids. Snacks provided. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

MARIACHI SUNDAYS—4-6 p.m. Free. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext. 116, www.oldmesilla.org.

EVENTS continued on next page

VISIT HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SILVER CITY
GALLERIES • RETAIL & GIFT SHOPS • LODGING • RESTAURANTS & COFFEE • HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Photo courtesy of Tyrah Hamblin

THE HISTORIC SILCO THEATER

Saturday, October 22 at 7pm

Candles in the Window

A drama by Kathleen Ann Thompson about German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who took part in an assassination plot against Hitler and who died in a Nazi concentration camp.

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EVENTS continued

ROXANA QUINNELL AND KURT VAN WAGNER—Artists reception. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfineart.com.

Deming
83RD ANNUAL KLOBASE & BBQ—11 a.m.-2 p.m. Deming Courthouse Park, 700 S. Silver, 546-9783.

MONDAY
17 Las Cruces / Mesilla BANNED BOOKS WEEK—El Paso poet Bobby Byrd, the owner of Cinco Puntos Press. 10 a.m. NMSU Library, 646-4707, lib.nmsu.edu.
WINTER WELLNESS—Learn how to combat common cold-weather ailments through herbal and homeopathic remedies. 6-7 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

TUESDAY
18 Silver City/Grant County GILA FARMERS' MARKET—3:30-6:30 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211 in Gila, 525-2729.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
DOÑA ANA CAMERA CLUB—Good places to take pictures is the topic. Visitors and members are encouraged to bring their own photos to the meetings for display and discussion. 7 p.m. Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall, 532-1919, dacamera-club.org.
THE GREAT CONVERSATION—Randy Harris. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR PERSONAL AND COMMERCIAL SPACEFLIGHT—Conference through Oct. 20. Opening luncheon event is to engage and inform members of the general public on commercial space industry. Allan Lockheed will be the speaker. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$50. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road. 646-6414, ispc.com.
THE PROGRESSION OF TOYS—Open discussion of the progression and development of toys through the ages. Glen Hales, a local toy, car and mineral enthusiast. 5:30 p.m. Museum of Natural History, 522-3120, museums.las-cruces.org.

WEDNESDAY
19 Silver City/Grant County BAYARD FARMERS' MARKET—3-6 p.m. Lion's Club, 808 Tom Foy Blvd., 313-6883.
LUNCH AND LEARN—Julian Lee. Creatures of the Maya. 12 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center. will-learning.com.
PETER & MICHELE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloon-andoperahouse.com.
PROGRESSIVE VOTERS ALLIANCE OF GRANT COUNTY—Inaugural meeting. Non-partisan group designed to serve as a clearinghouse, point of contact and carrying agent for advocates of social and economic justice, political equality and environmental stewardship issues. 7-8:30 p.m. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, www.silcotheater.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BALANCED LIVING BOOKCLUB—Sid-deeq Shabazz. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY
20 Silver City/Grant County MIMBRES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET—4:30-6:30 p.m. Mimbres Valley Roundup Lodge, 94 Aklin Hill Road, 536-3335.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
COOKING WITH GREENS—6-7 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
PSYCHIC READINGS AND ENERGETIC HEALINGS—Dawn Cheney. 12-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
BORIS MCCUTCHEON & THE SALT LICKS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY
21 Silver City/Grant County BORIS MCCUTCHEON—Mimbres Arts Council Folk Series. 7 p.m. \$20, \$15 members. Buckhorn Opera House in Pinos Altos. 538-2505, www.mimbresarts.org.
DR. PHOBIA'S HOUSE OF HORRORS—Through Oct. 31. Fourth annual haunted house. Mature audiences. 7-10 p.m. \$5 (\$1 off with can of food for food pantry). The Wherehouse, south end of Texas St.
LE CHAT LUNATIQUE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.
Las Cruces/Mesilla
3RD BIENNIAL CHRISTMAS FAIRE—Through Oct. 22. Come join the holiday

celebration, visit many vendors of fine arts and crafts and much more. 4 p.m. Free. St. Andrew's Parish, 518 N. Alameda Ave., 526-6333, saitandrewslc.org.
A THOUSAND CLOWNS—See Oct. 14. Through Oct. 30. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.
EMPTY BOWLS—The Potters' Guild of Las Cruces makes over 1,000 bowls yearly for its annual "Empty Bowls" event. Patrons enjoy soup from local restaurants and keep a hand-crafted bowl. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$15-\$18. St. Paul's Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Ave., 525-3831, potterslc.com, caldito.com.
HARD 2 SPEL DAD—Through Oct. 23. Pamela and Zac navigate their way through the challenges and struggles of growing up with dyslexia. By Linda Daugherty and Mary Rohde Scudday. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.
LIFE, ABOVE ALL—Through Oct. 27. A grave and quietly moving story about a South African girl of extraordinary character. As the weight of the world bears down on her slender frame, she becomes the movie's moral compass and its authentic wonder: the child who is forced to be an adult yet remains child-like enough to feel real. In SoHo with subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.
Deming
GUATEMALAN MERCADO—Through Oct. 22. Beaded jewelry, clothing, textiles. 1-5 p.m. Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold.
MAYA INDIANS—Van Kirk. A documentary of the lifestyle and customs displayed in word and pictures of Mayan culture. 6:30 p.m. Free. Historic Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St.
NEW MEXICO CENTENNIAL ART CONTEST—8 a.m. Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold.

SATURDAY
22 Silver City/Grant County A GARDEN OF INTERNATIONAL DELIGHTS—Silver City Woman's Club open house. At the club you will be able to order daffodil and tulip bulbs for fall planting and See's Candy for Christmas. Also see an international offering of beautiful, jewelry, purses, bags and textiles from women's cooperatives in Palomas and Guatemala. Silver City Women's Club, 1715 Silver Heights Blvd., 313-1091.
BAYOU SECO—9:30-11:30 a.m. Silver City Farmer's Market.
CANDLES IN THE WINDOW—A drama about German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who took part in an assassination plot against Hitler and who died in a Nazi concentration camp. 7 p.m. \$10. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, www.silcotheater.com.
DR. PHOBIA'S HOUSE OF HORRORS—Through Oct. 31. Fourth annual haunted house. Mature audiences. \$5 (\$1 off with can of food for food pantry). 7-10 p.m. The Wherehouse, south end of Texas St.
FOLDED FABRIC FUN—Make small bags, flowers and holiday ornaments by folding fabric, with minimal sewing. 1-4 p.m. \$20, \$10 SWFAC members. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.
FORT BAYARD TOUR—Walking tours last about two hours and are free. 9:30 a.m. \$4. Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, 536-3161.
SERENITY ACRES HORSE RESCUE OPEN HOUSE—Horseback ride, rock painting, face painting and roping. BBQ chicken, burgers, beverages and sweet treats. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$1 per item and activity. Serenity Acres, 590-4843.
SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Mainstreet Plaza, North Bullard between 7th and 8th, 388-2343, www.silvercityfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.
WADE LASHLEY—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloon-andoperahouse.com.
WNMU MUSTANGS FOOTBALL VS. CHADRON STATE COLLEGE—12 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.
WNMU MUSTANGS VOLLEYBALL VS. ADAMS STATE COLLEGE—7 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.
Las Cruces/Mesilla
3RD BIENNIAL CHRISTMAS FAIRE—See Oct. 21. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. St. Andrew's Parish, 518 N. Alameda Ave., 526-6333, saitandrewslc.org.
A THOUSAND CLOWNS—See Oct. 14. Through Oct. 30. 8 p.m. \$5-10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.
BAYOU SECO—8-11 p.m. High Desert

THE TO DO LIST


Scaring up some fun.

Never fear! There are plenty of events to keep you occupied in October until Halloween shows its scary face at month's end. Start with the last round of traditional autumn festivals, including the **14th Annual Pinos Altos Fiesta** on **Oct. 1**. The festival is a benefit for the Pinos Altos Volunteer Fire Department, and offers a chance to stroll around this historic mountain mining town.


After stocking up on festival food, you can feed your head on **Oct. 4** with a talk by **Mark Winne** on "Healthy Local Food Systems in Southwest New Mexico," at the Cobre Fine Arts Center in Bayard. From 1979 to 2003, Winne was the executive director of the Hartford Food System, a private non-profit agency that works on food and hunger issues. From 2002 until 2004, he was a Food and Society Policy Fellow, a position supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and he was a Visiting Scholar at John Hopkins University School of Public Health for the 2010-11 academic year. Now based in Santa Fe, Winne has written for the *Hartford Courant*, *Boston Globe*, *The Nation*, *In These Times*, *Sierra Magazine* and *Orion*. He is the author of *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty* and *Food Rebels, Guerilla Gardeners, and Smart Cookin' Mamas: Fighting Back in an Age of Industrial Agriculture*.

Then on **Oct. 23**, *New Yorker* magazine staff writer **Susan Orlean** will read from her latest book, *Rin Tin Tin: The Life and the Legend* at the Fountain Theatre in Mesilla. Orlean's talk and reading will be followed by a screening of the restored version of the silent 1925 Rin Tin Tin adventure film, *Clash of the Wolves*. (You may know Orlean best from the movie *The Orchid Thief*, based on her nonfiction book of the same name, in which she was portrayed by Meryl Streep.)

The month brings a cornucopia of music, too. On **Oct. 15**, the Grant County Community Concert Association kicks off its season with the **Chris Burton Jácome Flamenco Ensemble**, at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. In addition to the renowned guitarist, the ensemble includes three flamenco dancers—among them Jácome's wife, Lena, who was born and raised in Silver City. Her parents still reside in Silver City in the same home in which Lena lived when she graduated from Silver High School. Also dancing will be Silver City resident Carolyn Holguin.



Mark Winne



Chris Burton Jácome Flamenco Ensemble

As for Jácome, he's won the John Lennon International Songwriting Contest for Best World Song, scored the Emmy-winning PBS TV special "Flamenco," played for the TV shows "Kylexy" and "Greek," been the featured soloist in the film *9/10ths* and had two of his original songs appear in the Cannes Film Festival Fipreski Prize-winning film *Amreeka*.

Then on **Oct. 21**, the Mimbres Region Arts Council's Folk Series launches a new season at the Buckhorn Opera House in Pinos Altos with **Boris McCutcheon**. Although born on Massachusetts farmland, McCutcheon has found his place in the mountains of New Mexico, in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristos. When McCutcheon was 19, he met Ralph Rinzler, musician, ethnomusicologist, archivist and founder of Folkways Records and Smithsonian Folklife, who took him under his wing for a brief period and schooled him in traditional American folk roots music. McCutcheon's first two albums, "Mother Ditch" (2001) and "When We Were Big" (2003), were self-released and helped launch his career internationally. His album "Cactusman vs. the Blue Demon" (2005), as well as "Bad Road, Good People" (2008), are on the Frogville label out of Santa Fe.

October also brings some opportunities to lend a paw, er, hand to our four-legged friends. **Oct. 14-15** is the annual **High Desert Humane Society's Yard Sale** at the animal shelter in Silver City. Lots of good finds—we're still working up a sweat on the elliptical machine we bought there for a song a few years ago—and of course all the proceeds benefit the Humane Society.

Over in Las Cruces on **Oct. 16**, the **Cruisin'** for Critters Charity Run will benefit six local animal-advocacy groups: Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary, Action Programs for Animals, SNAP, Great Dane Rescue, AWARE and the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. Door prizes, silent auction items and entertainment will be featured at an after-party at the Blue Moon Bar in Radium Springs.

If your activism tends more toward the voting booth, **Oct. 19** is the inaugural meeting of the **Progressive Voters Alliance of Grant County** at the Silco Theater. The new non-partisan group is "designed to serve as a clearinghouse, point of contact and carrying agent for advocates of social and economic justice, political equality and environmental stewardship issues."

Also in Silver City, on **Oct. 28** the **Southwestern Chapter of the ACLU of New Mexico** brings its annual meeting to the Silver City Woman's Club. In recognition of the National LGBT Month, the activities will focus on Constitutional civil liberties related specifically to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

And then of course there are spooky events leading up to Halloween. Silver City's fourth annual haunted house this year takes the form of **Dr. Phobia's House of Horrors**, again at the Wherehouse at the south end of Market Street. Definitely not kids' stuff, this mature-audiences spookfest includes "terror and extreme gore." Dates are **Oct. 21, 22, 28, 29, 30 and 31**, and admission is just \$5 (or get \$1 off by bringing a canned-good donation for the food pantry).

The Buckhorn in Pinos Altos will be hosting a gala Dia de los Muertos and **Halloween party** on **Oct. 29**, featuring a costume contest and DJs Emtron and Dirtyverbs.

In Las Cruces, the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum holds its annual **Ghosts of the Past** family event, **Oct. 28-29**. Tour indoors or out and encounter characters from New Mexico's past. ☘

Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

BIRDING TOUR—Join a park volunteer and learn the birds that are found in Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Please bring binoculars, water, sunscreen, and wear close-toed shoes. 8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

FUR N FEATHERS—Study meat-eating or carnivorous animals, such as lions and tigers are studied, as well as whales. We will also look at apes who dine primarily on fruit. As part of this class, children will discuss the place of people in the animal kingdom and will also meet a handler of exotic cats. Ages 4 and up. Craft time. Registration required. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Museum of Natural History, 522-3120, museums.las-cruces.org.

HARD 2 SPEL DAD—See Oct. 21. Through Oct. 23. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

MESILLA VALLEY CORN MAZE—Through Oct. 23. 11 a.m.-7 pm. Mesilla Valley Corn Maze, 3855 W. Picacho Ave., 526-1919, mesillavalleymaze.com.

NEW WORKS BY STEPHEN HANSEN—Humorous paper maché artist. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Cutter Gallery, 2640 El Paseo Rd, 541-0658.

THE CONCERT—This film follows the story of Andrei Filipov, a former conductor of the prestigious Bolshoi Orchestra whose refusal to fire his Jewish musicians in the 1980s incurred the rage of the Party and saw him demoted to the status of a humble caretaker. After 30 years yearning to complete the concerto he felt born to conduct—a performance interrupted midway through by agents of the KGB—he intercepts a fax inviting the Bolshoi to play in Paris and sets about reuniting his disgraced orchestra for one last concert. In French and Russian with subtitles. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

VALLE DE VIDA—This one-day event includes special talks in the classroom on restoration, medicinal plants of the Mesilla Valley, Prehistoric Trackways National Monument, and discussions on birds and landscaping. Other activities include guided nature and bird hikes, special children's activities, and informative booths in the plaza. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

Deming

BIG JIM ADAM AND JOHN STILWAGEN—Blues. 2 p.m. \$10. Historic Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St.

GUATEMALAN MERCADO—Beaded jewelry, clothing, textiles. 1-5 p.m. Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold.

WESTERN HERITAGE AND HARVEST FESTIVAL—10 a.m.-4 p.m. Spruce St., between Gold and Silver, 545-2436, dmains@q.com.

SUNDAY

23 Las Cruces / Mesilla

A THOUSAND CLOWNS—See Oct. 14. Through Oct. 30. 2 p.m. \$5-10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

HARD 2 SPEL DAD—See Oct. 21. 2 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

MARIACHI SUNDAYS—4-6 p.m. Free. Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262, lascrucesmariachi.org.

MESILLA VALLEY CORN MAZE—11 a.m.-7 pm. Mesilla Valley Corn Maze, 3855 W. Picacho Ave., 526-1919, mesillavalleymaze.com.

SUSAN ORLEAN READING—Talk and a reading from new book, *Rin Tin Tin: The Life and the Legend*, which will be followed by a screening of the restored version of the silent 1925 Rin Tin Tin adventure film, *Clash of the Wolves*, which became part of the National Film Registry in 2004. The film is 75 minutes long. Orlean, a *New Yorker* magazine staff writer, will also be available to sign books after the film. 7:30 p.m. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

MONDAY

24 Silver City/Grant County

WNNMU MUSTANGS VOLLEYBALL VS. NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY—5 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BANNED BOOKS WEEK—Novelist Alex Sanchez. 10 a.m. NMSU Library, 646-4707, lib.nmsu.edu.

TUESDAY

25 Silver City/Grant County

GILA FARMERS' MARKET—3:30-6:30 p.m. 414 Hwy 211 in Gila, 525-2729.

TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB—Members may bring and display

or demonstrate their special craft projects. Guests are welcome. 1 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 534-4750.

WNNMU MUSTANGS VOLLEYBALL VS. GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY—5 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

SANTA FE GUITAR QUARTET—Benefit for KRWG. 7 p.m. Tickets at KRWG and Enchanted Gardens. Rio Grande Theatre.

HOMEOPATHY FOR COLDS AND FLU—Naturopathic Doctor Genevieve Mitchell. 6-7 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY

26 Silver City/Grant County

BAYARD FARMERS' MARKET—3-6 p.m. Lion's Club, 808 Tom Foy Blvd., 313-6883.

GORDEE HEADLEE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

LUNCH AND LEARN—Cissy McAndrew on The Green Chamber of Commerce and eco-tourism in the Gila. 12 p.m. Free. WNNMU Student Memorial Building. will-learning.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BALANCED LIVING BOOKCLUB—Sid-deeq Shabazz. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY

27 Silver City/Grant County

MIMBRES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET—4:30-6:30 p.m. Mimbres Valley Roundup Lodge, 94 Aklin Hill Road, 536-3335.

VINO AND VINYASA—60 minutes of yoga and a glass of wine. 6:30 p.m. \$10. La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery, 206-940-1502.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

CINDERELLA MUSICAL—Las Cruces High School Performing Arts Department. 7 p.m. \$10. Oñate High School, 5700 Mesa Grande Dr., 522-1659, lchstheaterbooster.org.

MUSICAL MUSINGS WITH THE MAESTRO—Want the inside scoop on Strauss, the buzz about Barber, the dirt on Dvorak? Let Maestro Lonnie Klein whet your appetite over lunch. 12 p.m. \$16. Ramada Palms Hotel and Conference Center, 201 E. University Ave., 646-3709, lascrucessymphony.com.

SCIENCE CAFE—Climatology in New Mexico. Could Tsunamis impact New Mexico? Tim Lawton, professor of Geological Sciences at NMSU, will answer that question and reveal historic geologic data that may surprise those who think we are adequately remote from Japan's trauma. Dr. Tim Lawton, Manasse Chair, will lead a discussion of how distant geological events impact our life here in New Mexico. 5:30 p.m. Museum of Natural History, 522-3120, museums.las-cruces.org.

DYLAN CHARLES—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY

28 Silver City/Grant County

ACLU SONGWRITER COMPETITION—The Southwestern Chapter of the ACLU of New Mexico will hold its Annual Meeting. In recognition of the National LGBT Month, the evening's activities will focus on Constitutional civil liberties related specifically to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. 6 p.m. Silver City Woman's Club, 1715 Silver Heights Blvd.

DR. PHOBIA'S HOUSE OF HORRORS—Through Oct. 31. Fourth annual haunted house. Mature audiences. \$5 (\$1 off with can of food for food pantry). 7-10 p.m. The Wherehouse, south end of Texas St.

REIN GARCIA—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

A THOUSAND CLOWNS—See Oct. 14. Through Oct. 30. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

AGGIES SOCCER VS. HAWAII—Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

GHOSTS OF THE PAST—Through Oct. 29. This family event provides visitors the opportunity to take an indoor or outdoor evening tour where they will encounter and interact with characters from New Mexico's past. Crafts and music also are part of the evening. 6-8:30 p.m. \$2-\$5. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

THE GREAT CONVERSATION—Randy Harris. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

NMSU ADVENTURE ARTS SERIES—Professional climbers Timmy O'Neill and Sean O'Neill. 7 p.m. \$10, \$8 in

advance. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

NOSTALGIA FOR THE LIGHT—Through Nov. 3. A film about astronomers in the Atacama desert of Chile. But it's not just about people looking up in their search for the origins of everything. It's about people looking down and inward, too—archaeologists, political victims and women who hunt for the bones of loved ones disappeared by strongman Augusto Pinochet. In Spanish with subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

WAIT UNTIL DARK—Through Nov. 13. This play is a thriller that moves quickly as the suspense builds to a breath-stopping final scene. By Frederick Knott and directed by Karen Caroe. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

SATURDAY

29 Silver City/Grant County

ALL SOULS TRAIL RACE—Rugged 5K race along San Vicente Creek, with a longer seven-mile Boston Hill option for hardened souls. 9 a.m. \$10. S. Bullard & San Vicente, 388-4306.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS—Costume contest. Halloween extravaganza. DJs Emtron and Dirtyverbs. 9 p.m. \$7. Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

DR. PHOBIA'S HOUSE OF HORRORS—Through Oct. 31. Fourth annual haunted house. Mature audiences. \$5 (\$1 off with can of food for food pantry). 7-10 p.m. The Wherehouse, south end of Texas St.

MAKE A LAMP—Using your hand-made paper we will be forming petals and creating flower lamps. 2-4 p.m. \$15, \$5 SWFAC members plus \$10 materials fee or \$17 if you buy paper. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.

SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET—8:30 a.m.- 12 p.m. Mainstreet Plaza, North Bullard between 7th and 8th, 388-2343, www.silvercityfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

SILVER CITY STRING BEANS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

A SCENTED GARDEN—2 p.m. \$7.50, free to members. Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-1886, gardens@zianet.com, nmenchantedgardens.com.

A THOUSAND CLOWNS—See Oct. 14. Through Oct. 30. 8 p.m. \$5-10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

AGGIES FOOTBALL VS. NEVADA—Homecoming game and Halloween costume party. 6 p.m. \$13-\$30. NMSU Aggies Memorial Stadium, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

AMAZING MAGICAL MUSICAL ADVENTURES—The World of Jazz with sax player Stephanie Muoz. 2 p.m. \$5. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

BIRDING TOUR—Join a park volunteer and learn the birds that are found in Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Please bring binoculars, water, sunscreen, and wear close-toed shoes. 8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

CLASSICS TWO—Through Oct. 30. The Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, featuring pianist Jon Nakamatsu, will perform works by Beethoven and Rachmaninoff. 7:30 p.m. \$35-45. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION—Through Oct. 30. Featuring food, drinks, crafts, entertainment and altars. 12-7 p.m. Free. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext 116, www.oldmesilla.org.

GHOSTS OF THE PAST—See Oct. 28. 6-8:30 p.m. \$2-\$5. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

MESILLA VALLEY CORN MAZE—Through Oct. 30. 11 a.m.-7 pm. Mesilla Valley Corn Maze, 3855 W. Picacho Ave., 526-1919, mesillavalleymaze.com.

MATINEE—Step back into a time of outrageous movie-theater gimmicks and larger-than-life B-screen stars in this homage to the great sci-fi and horror flicks of the 1950s and 1960s. John Goodman is at his uproarious best as the William Castle-inspired movie promoter Lawrence Woolsey, who brings his unique brand of flashy showmanship to the unsuspecting residents of Key West. It's 1962, and 15-year-old fan Gene Loomis can't wait for the arrival of Woolsey, who is in town to promote his latest offering of atomic power

gone berserk. But the absurd vision of Woolsey's tale takes on a sudden urgency as the Cuban Missile Crisis places the real threat of atomic horror just 90 miles off the coast. With the help of Gene and Woolsey's leading lady, Ruth (Cathy Moriarty), the master showman gives a premiere they'll never forget. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

WAIT UNTIL DARK—See Oct. 29. Through Nov. 13. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

DAN LAMBERT—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

Deming

STARS-N-PARKS—Jupiter low in the east by program end. Summer and fall constellations featured. Sally Allen. 7:25 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Rockhound State Park, astro-npo.org.

SUNDAY

30 Silver City/Grant County

DR. PHOBIA'S HOUSE OF HORRORS—Through Oct. 31. Fourth annual haunted house. Mature audiences. \$5 (\$1 off with can of food for food pantry). 7-10 p.m. The Wherehouse, south end of Texas St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

A THOUSAND CLOWNS—Through Oct. 30. 2 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

MESILLA VALLEY CORN MAZE—11 a.m.-7 pm. Mesilla Valley Corn Maze, 3855 W. Picacho Ave., 526-1919, mesillavalleymaze.com.

CICLOVIA HEALTH EVENT—Bike riding, walking, jogging, dancing, aerobics, gymnastics and more. Skates are welcome. 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

CLASSICS TWO—See Oct. 29. 3 p.m. \$35-\$45. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION—See Oct. 29. 12-7 p.m. Free. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext 116, www.oldmesilla.org.

FAMILY ALTAR BUILDING—Part of Día de los Muertos. Families invited to build family altars. 1-5 p.m. Nopalito's Galeria, 326 S. Mesquite, 524-0003, nopalitosgaleria.com.

OLDIES BUT GOODIES—7 p.m. \$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

Hillsboro

RONSTADT GENERATIONS—Michael J. Ronstadt and his sons Michael G. and Petie perform multi-ethnic roots music of the Southwest, looking backwards through the family's participation in five generations of American folk music, and looking forwards to the new music of the next generation. 3-5 p.m. \$5. Hillsboro Community Center.

White Sands

LAKE LUCERO TOUR—Hike with a ranger to the source of the sands. Learn about the formation of the dunes and the special plants and animals that live in and around the dunes. Reservations required. 9 a.m. \$1.50-3. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, www.nps.gov/whsa.

MONDAY

Halloween

31 Silver City/Grant County

DR. PHOBIA'S HOUSE OF HORRORS—Fourth annual haunted house. Mature audiences. \$5 (\$1 off with can of food for food pantry). 7-10 p.m. The Wherehouse, south end of Texas St.

NOVEMBER

TUESDAY

1 Las Cruces / Mesilla

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS EXHIBIT—Exhibit through Nov. 26. 5-7 p.m. Nopalito's Galeria, 326 S. Mesquite, 524-0003, nopalitosgaleria.com.

WEDNESDAY

2 Las Cruces / Mesilla

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CANDLELIGHT PROCESSIONAL—Procession to San Albino Cemetery from the Plaza. 6-8 p.m. Free. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext 116, www.oldmesilla.org.

THURSDAY

3 Las Cruces / Mesilla

AGGIES VOLLEYBALL VS. FRESNO STATE—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

FRIDAY

4 Silver City/Grant County

FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN—Day of the Dead. Dance and family activities in the Silver City Museum courtyard. 7-10 p.m. Free. Downtown Silver City,

SilverCityMainStreet.com.

WNNMU MUSTANGS VOLLEYBALL VS. COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY-PUEBLO—7 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

DOWNTOWN RAMBLE—Do the Main Street Downtown Ramble through galleries, shops, businesses and restaurants. Enjoy art openings, exhibits, music, entertainment, open mic opportunities, shopping, refreshments and more. 5-7 p.m. Free. Downtown Mall, 523-2950.

NASA ART EXHIBIT—Opening of exhibit through Jan. 29. Historic triumphs and pioneering legacy are well known to millions, but the inspiring rocket launches, moon landings and planetary explorations also have had an impact on the imaginations of America's leading artists. Free. Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, lascruces.org/museums.

WAIT UNTIL DARK—See Oct. 29. Through Nov. 13. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

SATURDAY

5 Silver City/Grant County

GUATEMALAN HOLIDAY MARKET AND SALE—Affordable, authentic gift items from Guatemalan artists. MRAC/Wells Fargo Bank Gallery, 538-2505, www.mimbresarts.org.

FIDDLING FRIENDS—With Bayou Seco. 12:15-1 p.m. Alotta Gelatto.

WNNMU MUSTANGS FOOTBALL VS. NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY—12 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

WNNMU MUSTANGS VOLLEYBALL VS. WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF COLORADO—7 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

AGGIES VOLLEYBALL VS. NEVADA—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS EXHIBIT—Exhibit through Nov. 26. Opening reception. 6-9 p.m. Nopalito's Galeria, 326 S. Mesquite, 524-0003, nopalitosgaleria.com.

RENAISSANCE ARTSFAIRE—Through Nov. 6. Spend a weekend with kings and queens. Live entertainment, food and beverages. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$6, free under 12. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

WAIT UNTIL DARK—See Oct. 29. Through Nov. 13. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

Deming

STEVE JONES—"The Howling Coyote." 2 p.m. \$10. Historic Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St. 545-8872.

SUNDAY

6 Las Cruces / Mesilla

MARIACHI SUNDAYS—2-5 p.m. Free. Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262, lascrucesmariachi.org.

RENAISSANCE ARTSFAIRE—See Nov. 5. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$6, free under 12. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

WAIT UNTIL DARK—See Oct. 29. Through Nov. 13. 2:30 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors over 65. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

MONDAY

7 Silver City/Grant County

TAKE ME HOME—John Denver's music comes to life through this ultimate tribute by Jim Curry and his band. Grant County Community Concert Association. 7:30 p.m. \$20, \$45 for season. WNNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

TUESDAY

8 Silver City/Grant County

HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT TOURS—Learn about the underground mining history near Bayard. No walking required. Bus tour. 10 a.m. Bayard City Hall, 537-3327. 🌵

Send events info by the 20th of the month to: events@desert-exposure.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.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Leaf Me Alone!

Fall colors are great, if you don't mind the bare limbs, blizzards and berserker rage.

Autumn leaves are overrated. Here in the Southwest, where the annual explosion of fall colors tends to be limited to a few orange-y trees in town and (if we're lucky) golden aspens in the mountains, it's easy to rhapsodize about the blaze of autumnal glory enjoyed by places like New England. Oh, I know that *Arizona Highways* and state tourism offices down here like to get all excited about our fall colors, too. I've seen the pretty pictures, and even done the driving-into-the-mountains thing in search of a glimpse. But it's not the same, sorry.

Even in the Midwest, which doesn't get the publicity that "leaf peeping" does in New England, you don't have to go in search of fall colors. They're everywhere. You can't miss 'em. Every leafy street turns into a cascade of reds, oranges and yellows. The hill-sides along the Mississippi become a painter's palette of autumnal hues.

Here in the Southwest, not so much.

But my point is that this is OK. Breathtaking as autumn can be in other parts of the country, those fall colors come with a price. And, frankly, it's a tradeoff I'm not willing to make, not anymore.

You can keep your autumn leaves! The underappreciated cactus (below and above right) keeps going all winter long, not like some quitter deciduous trees we could mention... (Photos by Lisa D. Fryxell)



Let's start with the obvious fact that the leaves turn all these pretty colors because they're dying and getting set to fall off the trees. Going out with a bang, sure, but the autumn leaves are going out all the same. After this spectacular farewell salute, the more leafy parts of our planet face long months with bare tree limbs etched against a snow-blown sky.

Yes, we fall-color-bereft folks here in the Southwest have to look at denuded trees, too. But we also have forests filled with pines that stay green all year 'round, live oaks that dropped their leaves earlier in the year and just recently got green again, and those unjustly unloved cacti. While deciduous trees are going through all their colorful, dramatic spasms ("Look at me! I'm going dormant until spring! Enjoy me while you can,

ally, might as well be dead for as much beauty as they provide?

Speaking of snow, of course that's another downside that inevitably follows the fall colors, like, well, winter follows autumn. Snow and its handmaiden, bitter cold (or maybe it's the other way around—I'm never very good with these extended metaphors), exact a frigid price for those fleeting weeks of fall glory. It's like Mother Nature saying, "Here's a pretty picture to look at. Oh, now I'm snatching it away! And you have to go live in this freezer for the next five months."

Who in their right mind would willingly choose such a bargain?

No one, of course, which is why the New England and Michigan and other tourist boards pump out the PR so feverishly about their fall colors. It's not just for the tourists; it's also to convince the people who live there that, gosh, we've really got something special. People come from all over to see our gorgeous fall colors! Forget about what comes next!

If residents of places with the best fall colors ever did a reality check, whole swaths of the country would simply be depopulated: "Wait a sec. A couple weeks of pretty colors followed by months freezing my tail off and scraping ice off my windshield? What the heck am I thinking? Honey, start packing, we're moving to New Mexico!"

What makes fall colors such an amazing scam is the timing: The good part comes right before the truly awful part! If you tried a similar trick with lab animals in some cruel experiment, the critters would wise up after the second or third electric shock: "Look, Fluffy, here's a nice little rabbit treat for you. Wasn't that tasty?" ZZZAPPP! Fluffy would be out of that cage and all over Dr. Frankenstein, scratching his eyes out.

But residents of fall-color states can't seem to make the connection: Pretty leaves mean frostbite's coming! Run, run away!

That's not even the worst of it, though, in my book. I have a particular loathing of raking leaves, another inevitable consequence of nature's autumnal paintbox. You rake and you rake, in what must be the most uncomfortable motion ever devised for the human body, but you can never get them all. The whole raking thing makes Sisyphus look like Steven Covey (*The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*).

This was brutally brought home to me one autumn when I was a kid in South Dakota, which had plenty

of pretty trees (especially our yard, when my dad got through planting) followed by apocalyptic winters. I'd spent all afternoon—it felt like all month—raking maple and ash leaves until at least you could see the lawn again. (Just in time for the grass to turn brown, yay!) The fruits of my labors were painstakingly imprisoned in black plastic Hefty bags set in the driveway for the garbage collectors to haul away. (I don't think "compost" was a verb yet, at least not in South Dakota.) I'd settled down for a well-deserved reward of reading "Spider-Man" and watching "Gunsmoke."

Then a sound drifted up from the driveway to my bedroom, which was on the second floor. It was a haunting mixture of ripping and laughter, followed by an ominous rustling.

Vandals—kids, I guess, maybe not much older



than I was—had torn the plastic bags open and strewn the leaves all over the driveway, from which the unceasing South Dakota wind was returning them to the lawn.

To put it mildly, I did not take this development well. If I had been Bruce Banner of the comic books I loved, I would have greened and grown into the Hulk right on the spot. ("You won't like me when I'm angry...") I think my parents were a tad alarmed, and perhaps resolved to keep a sedative-filled syringe or a strait-jacket in the First Aid kit henceforth.

I don't even remember what happened to the leaves after that. Maybe I trudged out the next day and raked them all up again. Perhaps my doting father did it for me. Could be we simply gave up that year and let the season's legacy of leaves do their worst, to our yard and the neighbors'. I like to think that afterwards we identified the vandals by their fingerprints on the Hefty bags and hunted them down much the way Batman would deal with minions of the Joker. But I'm pretty sure I'd remember that part.

Then a sound drifted up from the driveway to my bedroom, which was on the second floor. It was a haunting mixture of ripping and laughter, followed by an ominous rustling.

The point is, no kid ever went berserk after raking up cactus needles all afternoon when he should have been over at his friend's house playing superheroes. Nobody has to rake and bag the teensy little leaves that live oaks drop. Pine needles might go brown and get messy sometimes, but a little sweeping swiftly puts them in their place.

So don't even try that fall-color dodge on me. "Oh, look how pretty!" Yeah, sure, but who's gonna rake 'em all up? It's not gonna be Bruce Banner—I mean, me—I'll tell you that right now!

Like I said, overrated. 🍂



When not editing Desert Exposure, David A. Fryxell spends his time avoiding lawn implements.

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Manzanita Ridge is a gallery and art store located at 107 N. Bullard in Silver City, New Mexico. They are currently offering a 20%-50% discount on all artwork during October, as well as 20% off Mexican furniture. The store is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM. They also have a black cat named Binx who is featured in their Halloween promotion.



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5 AM	Morning Edition with Carrie Hamblen chamblen@nmsu.edu	Classical Music	Classical Music
6 AM		Travel With Rick Steves	New Dimensions
7 AM		Commonwealth Club	This American Life
8 AM		Weekend Edition	Weekend Edition
9 AM	Performance Today		
10 AM		Car Talk	Marketplace Money
11 AM	Intermezzo with Leora Zeitlin intermezzo@nmsu.edu	Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!	Commonwealth Club
NOON		American Routes	A Prairie Home Companion
1 PM	Afternoon Classics with Julie Amacher		
2 PM		World Café	Car Talk
3 PM		This American Life	Fresh Air Weekend
4 PM	All Things Considered with Vanessa Dabovich	All Things Considered	All Things Considered
5 PM		Fronteras: A Changing America Images	Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!
6 PM	Fresh Air with Terry Gross	A Prairie Home Companion	Back Porch with Benjy Rivas jrivas@nmsu.edu
7 PM	Fiestal with Emily Guerra fiesta@nmsu.edu		Thistle and Shamrock
8 PM		Riverwalk	
9 PM	KRWG Jazz Burnsland (Mon. - Tues.) Michelle Rae (Wed. - Thurs.) Afropop (Fri. 9 PM - 10 AM) Friday Night Blues (Fri. 10 PM - 1 AM)	Saturday Night Jazz	Hearts of Space
10 PM			Echoes
11 PM			
12 AM	Classical Music Midnight-5:00 AM	Classical Music 12:00-6:00 AM	Classical Music Midnight-5:00 AM
1 AM			

KRWG Cultural Datebook, 9:59 AM, 12:04 PM & 8 PM KRWG Community Datebook, 8:49 AM, 11:04 AM & 7:30 PM Pulse of the Planet, 12:59 PM & 6:59 PM Universo, 8:00 PM

KRWG-FM FALL MEMBERSHIP GOAL \$110,000

ON-AIR MEMBERSHIP WEEK OCTOBER 17-21

During the on-air portion of our membership week, October 17-21, we will have a drawing for a lady's 3/4 carat princess cut diamond in a 14 carat white gold setting thanks to Sally & Glenn Cutter and The Cutter Gallery. Tax deductible pledges, additional gifts, and entries (name, address, & telephone number) will be accepted from 6 am on Monday, October 17th until 9 am Friday, October 21st or at the end of the membership drive. Sally & Glenn will do the drawing during Intermezzo on Monday, October 24th.



FALL CALENDAR

Oct 7th: Cyber Day featuring a drawing for a 32 gigabyte Apple iPad 2.




Oct 14th: 7-8am KRWG Power Hour with drawings for a Barnes & Noble Color Nook e-reader with Wi-Fi and Barnes & Noble gift cards.

Oct 17th-21st: KRWG-FM fall on-air Membership Drive.

Oct 25th: Santa Fe Guitar Quartet KRWG Benefit Concert at the Rio Grande at Theatre at 7pm. Tickets will be available Oct 3rd at the KRWG offices in Milton Hall, and at Enchanted Gardens at 270 Avenida de Mesilla, or by calling 575-646-2222.

Nov 12th: KRWG Barnes and Noble Book Fair at the Mesilla Valley Mall. Meet the staff from 11 am – 3pm.

Dec 14th: KRWG El Paso Brass Holiday Benefit Concert at the Rio Grande Theatre at 7 pm. Tickets will be available Nov 28th at the KRWG offices in Milton Hall, and at Enchanted Gardens at 270 Avenida de Mesilla, or by calling 575-646-2222.



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