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About the cover:
"Grateful Pause" by Jean Chandanais Bohlender. To read about the artist's new exhibit of paintings depicting American military men and women serving in Afghanistan, see this issue's Arts Exposure section.



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Desert Exposure is published monthly and distributed free of charge at establishments throughout Southwestern New Mexico. Vol. XIX, number 6, June 2014. Mail subscriptions are \$19 for 6 issues, \$37 for 12 issues. Single copies by mail \$4. All contents copyright © 2014 Continental Divide Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without written permission. All rights to material by outside contributors revert to the author. Views expressed in articles, advertisements, graphics and/or photos appearing in *Desert Exposure* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or advertisers.

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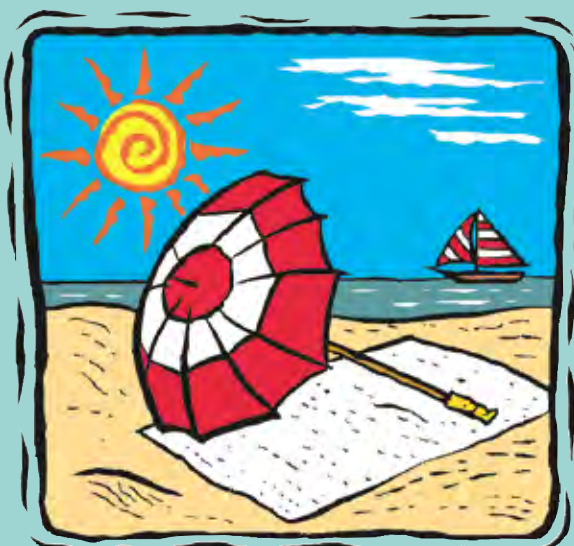
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

The Win Column

Accolades from readers and fellow journalists.

It's been a few years since we last surveyed our readership, so it's good to know "the biggest little paper in the Southwest" is still also your favorite paper. In fact, the results of our questions about reading frequency and readers per copy in the 2014 reader survey, just completed, track almost exactly the last time we asked these questions.

Some 88% of survey respondents pick up *Desert Exposure* every single month, and 86% spend two hours or more with each issue. A whopping 61% save their copies at least all month long, or indefinitely, and several of those who said they don't save *Desert Exposure* explained that's because they pass it on to friends or family. (In that case, you're forgiven.) All that pass-along readership adds up to 2.3 readers per copy, actually up a bit from our last survey. That works out to about 23,000 readers of our print edition every month.

This was the first time we've asked about readership of our web site, and it was striking how little overlap there is between our "dead-tree edition" audience and online readers. Almost 60% of survey respondents have never visited our website (www.desertexposure.com), except to respond to the survey, or read our digital edition at www.scribd.com/desertexposure. Among readers who mailed in the survey clipped from the print edition, only a couple had ever visited us online.

While we wish more print readers would also enjoy our online offerings (which include searchable back issues all the way to January 2005), this isn't entirely bad news. When we say another 10,000 unique visitors click on the website every month and 1,200 read us on Scribd, those are not overlapping much at all with our print audience. So, yes, we really are reaching more than 30,000 pairs of eyeballs every issue.

We're also being read by a lot of folks advertisers can't reach by other means. Overall, more than 15% of survey respondents didn't check any of the eight other local publications we asked if you read regularly. The *Glenwood Gazette*, another free paper, had the greatest overlap, at 42%, followed by the *Silver City Sun-News* (31%), *Silver City Daily Press* (28%) and *Las Cruces Sun-News* (27%). No other publication gets read by more than one in five *Desert Exposure* readers.

We've added several regular columns since we last surveyed readers, so this was the first time to test the popularity of those additions. Obviously you approve: Linda Ferrara's 100 Hikes tied for fourth overall in readership, and second only to longtime favorite *Desert Diary* (16%) in percentage citing it as their one favorite (14%). Vivian Savitt's Southwest Gardener roughly tied our long-running Arts Exposure section in popularity. And Scott Thomson's Talking Horses column, which

admittedly targets a niche audience, found fans even among those who said they don't own a horse—and was cited as the top favorite by 6% of all readers.

Those newcomers aside, your rankings of most-read columns and departments haven't changed a lot. This very Editor's Notebook and Continental Divide by yours truly led the way, followed closely by *Desert Diary*, 100 Hikes and Henry Lightcap's *Journal. Letters, Tumbleweeds and Larry Lightner's Ramblin' Outdoors* were just a few decimal points behind.

When asked to name a single favorite, after *Desert Diary* and 100 Hikes, readers picked Editor's Notebook and Continental Divide, followed by Lightcap, 40 Days and 40 Nights and Marjorie Lilly's *Borderlines* column (all tied).

Not surprisingly given the strong showings of our outdoors entries, 64% of readers checked that they regularly hike, bike or engage in other out-and-about activities. That trailed only eating out at restaurants (93%) and was tied with daytrips (64%), followed by going to art galleries (52%—a figure far above the national average), and attending live music or theater performances (43%).

Many of you also added kind words, suggestions and other comments. Our favorite, though, given what pays the bills and makes *Desert Exposure* possible, was this: "For me, it is the greatest little paper in the Southwest and I always read the ads, too, to stay on top of where to shop or get services."

As a thank-you for participating, we randomly selected five lucky readers to receive *Desert Exposure* mugs. Soon to be sipping their coffee or tea in style are: Phil Merryweather and Suzanne Thompson of Silver City; Charles Troutman of Mimbres; and Roberta Flores and Randy Summers of Las Cruces.

Congratulations to them and thanks to all who responded.

While it's reader opinions that really count, we wouldn't be human if we didn't also enjoy recognition from our peers in the journalism world. So we're delighted to be able to report that the 2014 Top of the Rockies competition, sponsored by the Colorado chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and open to publications throughout a four-state region, recently honored *Desert Exposure* with four awards in our circulation category.

This column won first place in Editorials, based on a sampling of three editorials published in 2013. Tom Barry's feature, "The Coming Water Wars," about how climate change is heightening tensions between Mexican small farmers and expanding Mennonite colonies, published in our April 2013 issue, won first place for Agriculture Enterprise Reporting. (You can read it online at www.desertexposure.com/201304/201304_water_wars.php

and see why the judges were so impressed.) My feature on tamales ("Holiday Wrapping," December 2013) won second place in the News Feature category. (It's online at www.desertexposure.com/201312/201312_holiday_wrapping_tamales.php.) And a selection of three of my Continental Divide columns placed third in the Personal Column/Humor category.

This is the fifth straight year *Desert Exposure* has been honored by fellow journalists in the Top of the Rockies competition. But it's the accolades from you, our readers, that keep us getting out of the bed in the morning. ☺

David A. Fryxell
is editor and
publisher of
*Desert Expo-
sure*.



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LETTERS

Corporations and Catfish

Our readers write.

Homegrown Wealth?

As usual, your editorial ("Greed, Inc.," May) was well thought out. It is a sad commentary on the nation, that we subsidize billion-dollar corporations, who then jump ship at the first opportunity with all the loot that was thrown at them by the state/local governments to attract the jobs. It's typical Wall Street piracy.

It seems to me that if New Mexico is going to actually become prosperous, we must put maximum distance between our economy and Wall Street.

There are ways to do it, so that what is done for New Mexico will stay here. First, establish a state-owned bank, but to assure honest banking, have the credit unions in the state elect the board of directors annually. The credit unions are the most stable, democratic financial institutions we have. The bank's main features are to handle the state and local governments' financial needs, and to establish a "financial market" for investing in New Mexico businesses and co-ops. Special accounts might be established by credit unions to collect some of the savings into accounts that pay 2%-6% per annum, which is far more than the current savings accounts' rates and yet is very achievable in a well-run business.

Second, establish a deliberate legal framework that makes establishing financially and ecologically sound co-ops a public priority, with the objective being to employ people at a reasonable living wage by producing and distributing the necessities of life here. Emphasis should be to make the co-ops catalysts for forming stable mini-communities that enable people to be housed, clothed, fed, healed and schooled. These can be formed using the ingenuity of the participants in nearly any setting from rural to urban. The co-ops should be governed by a boards of directors that are annually elected by employees and investors on the basis of one vote per human, not per dollar. The state bank would be the financial fountain. This would make the employees responsible for the success, but protect them in the process. The co-ops could be merged with other co-ops but not "bought out" by corporations.

Third, establish a state investment bond system for investing in the utilities, transportation and other infrastructure, modeled on the old savings-bond idea. If we can sell lottery tickets, why not sell investment and thrift? Once again, use the state bank as the fiduciary agent, since it's governed by our honest credit unions.

This should stabilize our society and take pressure off our government safety net programs. By stabilizing the society, it would be possible to correct the problems we now have in education, and put a large dent in the finances of the corporate prison industry.

Something to think about.

Charles Clements
Las Cruces

Your editorials are a pleasure to read and an inspiration to act. Please keep opining; your writing is opening minds.

Michael Murphy
Mimbres

A Gardener Remembered

Thank you, Vivian Savitt, for the wonderful thoughts about Dorothy Eagan (Southwest Gardener, May). I knew her through the Mogollon Mountain Dulcimers. She was an eager learner and eventually took over our music library. She single-handedly created an easy-to-use file; I am sure her library experience came in to play. Dorothy was a beautiful woman, who was loved by all of us.

Peggy Spofford
Silver City

The Catfish's Tale

There are some good and bad points to catfish ("The Catfish's Meow," May). In your story it appeared that you were trying to protect the

State of New Mexico, which writers have been doing for far too long now.

Catfish must be stocked in lakes and rivers where they cannot travel to other water sources. In every state where my colleagues and I did research we learned that catfish take over with really no natural predators. This is the reason that certain lakes and ponds should be for catfish only.

Catfish never return money to the state. The reason is that every other state has catfish except for Idaho, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. No one comes to New Mexico to fish for catfish.

Recently one of my closest friends (a bass aficionado) spent over \$15,000 trying to see if Bill Evans Lake could withstand a bass tournament. The last tournament he held in West Texas brought in just a little over \$7 million for a town the same size as Silver City. But Bass Pro and Cabela's did studies and learned that there were just too many catfish in Bill Evans Lake. That is the lake in Grant County that should be our bass and catfish lake; however there needs to be a stocking of bass for maybe four years before we can have a successful bass tournament.

It is unnecessary to stock catfish in any Grant County water source; they are doing very well on their own. However, the Rio Grande should be stocked with as many catfish as we can get for a variety of lucrative reasons, not to mention the fun you listed in your article.

States that have mixed catfish and trout together have all lost

millions of tourist dollars and have paid for it by kids having fun (they do not care what they catch) and adults who love to eat catfish, which is also one of my favorite fish to have for dinner. Wherever this has happened in New Mexico (Bear Canyon), the lake should be shocked. We need to stock Bear Canyon with trout and withhold fishing it for 150 days; the same can be said for Lake Roberts.

New Mexico Game and Fish has always done things the cheapest way without any regard for what can make money for our rural communities. We can make people happy and make money if we designate each lake for certain fish. Did you know that Pennsylvania and West Virginia are stocking only trout in their mountain waters? This was done to stop their outdoorsmen from going west to fish for trout.

As far as angling is concerned, many serious anglers do not like the way catfish fight; the fish do not come to the surface or jump, making it boring to the more serious angler. I would also like to see only night crawlers and liver used for catfish. Other baits have made it difficult for some species to live in the water. Also it is a known fact that catfish grow very rapidly on both of these baits as well as hamburger.

American catfish from Mississippi were planted in Europe and now they are all being removed and given to organizations that feed the poor. Why? They planted them everywhere instead of enclosed lakes, which is what I am trying to get them to do at this minute. They are punishing catfish for their stupidity!

Bass and trout tournaments make a lot of money for their communities; people come to the West to fish for trout, not catfish. Tourists from Texas will come for bass and bass tournaments.

Dr. Anthony "Tony" Zine, PhD, wildlife biologist
North American High Streams Fishing Catfish Assn.
Las Cruces

Correction: Contrary to last month's Starry Dome column, the M51 galaxy is not in Ursa Major. Though nearby, it's actually in Canes Venatici. ❄

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

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DESERT DIARY

Deep South and Candid Kids

Plus counting ammo and aphorisms for our time.

The full Scandihoovian... No doubt recalling that we're suckers for Ole and Lena jokes, **Ned Ludd** shared this one:

"Ole, while not a brilliant scholar, was a gifted portrait artist. His fame grew, and soon people from all over the country were coming to him in Minnesota for paintings and formal portraits. One day while Ole was mowing the lawn, a beautiful young woman pulled up to his house in a stretch limo. She asked Ole if he would paint her in the nude. This was the first time anyone had made this request. The beautiful lady said money was no object; she was willing to pay him \$50,000.

"Not wanting to get into trouble with his wife, Ole asked the lady to wait while he went in the house and conferred with Lena.

"In a few minutes he returned and said to the lady, 'Ya, shoor, you betcha. I'll paint ya in da nude, but I'll haff ta leave my socks on so I'll have a place to wipe my brushes.'"

Losing the battle of the sexes... Two tales from the gender wars, the first from **Jess Hos-**
Lsinaround in Arenas Valley, sent with the subject, "How I lost my teeth":

"Was in the Texas Rose last night, at the bar waiting for a beer, when a butt-ugly, big old heifer came up behind me and slapped me on the ass. She said,



Postcards from the edge... Going somewhere? Take along a copy of *Desert Exposure* and snap a photo of yourself holding it "on location." Here's **Eva Booker** with a photo from her trip to Europe, showing her with *Desert Exposure* in Augsburg, Germany.

'Hey, sexy, how about giving me your number!'

"I looked at her and said, 'Have you got a pen?'

"She said, 'I sure do.'

"I said, 'Well, you better get back into it before the farmer notices you're missing.'

"My dental surgery is on Monday."

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

"Husband's message (by cellphone): 'Honey, a car has hit me while I was out of the office. Paula brought me to the hospital. They have been running tests and taking x-rays, but I think it's bad. The blow to my head was very strong. Fortunately, it seems that it may not have caused too much serious damage, but I have three broken ribs, a compound fracture of the left leg, and they may have to amputate the right foot.'

"Wife's response: 'Who is Paula?'"

Share your reports from the battle of the sexes, your favorite funnies and anecdotes with Desert Diary by emailing diary@desertexposure.com.

Wish I was in Dixie... This humorous tour of the South was sent our way by **The Packrat Out Back**, who reminds us, "Y'all kin say whut y'all want 'bout the South, but y'all never hear of anyone retirin' an' movin' north!"

"A Florida senior citizen drove his brand new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he pushed it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left. 'Amazing,' he thought as he flew down I-95, pushing the pedal even more.

"Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a Florida state trooper, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. He floored it to 100 mph, then 110, then 120. Suddenly, he thought, 'What am I doing? I'm too old for this!' and pulled over to await the trooper's arrival.

"Pulling in behind him, the trooper got out of his vehicle and walked up to the Corvette. He looked at his watch, then said, 'Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a new reason for speeding—a reason I've never before heard—I'll let you go.'

"The old gentleman paused then said: 'Three years ago, my wife ran off with a Florida state trooper. I thought you were bringing her back.'

"Have a good day, sir,' replied the trooper."

"The owner of a golf course in Georgia was confused about paying an invoice, so he decided to ask his secretary for some mathematical help. He called

her into his office and said, 'Y'all graduated from the University of Georgia, and I need some help. If I wuz to give yew \$20,000, minus 14%, how much would you take off?'

"The secretary thought a moment, and then replied, 'Everthang but my earrings.'"

"A senior citizen in Louisiana was overheard saying, 'When the end of the world comes, I hope to be in Louisiana.' When asked why, he replied, 'I'd rather be in Louisiana 'cause everythang happens in Louisiana 20 years later than in the rest of the world.'"

"The young man from Mississippi came running into the store and said to his buddy, 'Bubba, somebody just stole your pickup truck from the parking lot!'

"Bubba replied, 'Did y'all see who it was?'

"The young man answered, 'I couldn't tell, but I got the license number.'"

"A man in South Carolina had a flat tire, pulled off on the side of the road, and proceeded to put a bouquet of flowers in front of the car and one behind it. Then he got back in the car to wait.

"A passerby studied the scene as he drove by, and was so curious he turned around and went back. He asked the fellow what the problem was.

"The man replied, 'I got a flat tahr.'

"The passerby asked, 'But what's with the flowers?'

"The man responded, 'When you break down, they tell you to put flares in the front and flares in the back. I never did understand it, neither.'"

"A Tennessee state trooper pulled over a pickup on I-65. The trooper asked, 'Got any ID?'

"The driver replied, ' 'Bout whut?'"

"The sheriff pulled up next to the guy unloading garbage out of his pickup into the ditch. The sheriff asked, 'Why are you dumping garbage in the ditch? Don't you see that sign right over your head?'

"'Yep,' the man replied. 'That's why I'm dumpin' it here, 'cause it says: 'Fine For Dumping Garbage.'"

Kids say the darnedest things... Switching from the South to the innocence of youth, here's this yarn from **GeraldH**:

"Young Ernie and his family were invited to have Easter Sunday lunch at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Ernie received his plate he started eating straight away.

"Ernie, wait until we say grace,' said his father.

"But I don't have to,' the five-year-old replied.

"Of course you do, Ernest,' his mother insisted rather forcefully. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'

"That's at *our* house,' Ernie said. 'This is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook.'"



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Jonathan Miller

And another tale of youthful honesty, from **Aletteration**:

"After he and his baby brother were baptized, the little boy cried all the way home from church, riding in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong.

"Finally, the boy stopped crying enough to explain: 'The priest said he wanted us to be brought up in a Christian home. But I want to stay with you guys!'"

Fashion statements... This offbeat tale came to us from the **Silver City Greek**:

"A guy is heading into a club to meet his friends for a stag night. The doorman stops him from entering because he is not wearing a tie. The chap complains but the doorman says, 'No tie, no entry.' The guy returns to his car and looks for a tie. There is no tie. He looks in the trunk, where the only thing available is a set of jumper cables. He puts them around his neck and fashions a knot and heads back to the club.

"The doorman looks him up and down and says, 'OK, you can come in but don't go starting anything!'"

Annals of escalation... Everything's relative, we guess, and depends on your point of view. Take this illustration from **Ramblin' Man**:

"You may have heard on the news about a Southern California man who was put under 72-hour psychiatric observation when it was found he owned 100 guns and allegedly had 100,000 rounds of ammunition stored in his home. The house also featured a secret escape tunnel. By Southern California standards, someone owning 100,000 rounds is considered 'mentally unstable.'

"In Arizona, he'd be called 'an avid gun collector.'
"In Arkansas, he'd be called 'a novice gun collector.'

"In Utah, he'd be called 'moderately well prepared,' but they'd probably reserve judgment until they made sure that he had a corresponding quantity of stored food.

"In Kansas, he'd be 'a guy down the road you would want to have for a friend.'

"In Montana, he'd be called 'the neighborhood 'go-to' guy.'

"In Alabama, he'd be called 'a likely gubernatorial candidate.'

"In Georgia, he'd be called 'an eligible bachelor.'

"In North Carolina, Virginia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and South Carolina he would be called 'a deer-hunting buddy.'

"And in Texas he'd just be 'Bubba, who's a little short on ammo.'"

Pondering the imponderables... The Pack-rat Out Back returns with these updated aphorisms. Some we may have seen before, but they're worth repeating:

"You are not drunk if you can lie on the floor without holding on.

"We have enough 'youth.' How about a 'fountain of smart'?"

"A fool and his money can throw one heck of a party.

"When blondes have more fun, do they know it?"

"Five days a week my body is a temple. The other two it's an amusement park.

"Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

"We are born naked, wet and hungry. Then things get worse.

"Ninety-nine percent of all lawyers give the rest a bad name.

"Xerox and Wurlitzer will merge to produce reproductive organs.



Postcards from the edge... Our second reader photo comes from **Grace Williams** and **Jim York** of Mimbres, "on a visit to the Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia."

Whether you're going to Angkor Wat or Albuquerque, snap a picture of yourself holding a copy of your favorite publication (ahem, that would be *Desert Exposure*) and send it to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or diary@desertexposure.com.

"Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

"The latest survey shows that three out of four people make up 75% of the population.

"You know why a banana is like a politician? He comes in and first he is green, then he turns yellow, and then he's rotten.

"I think congressmen should wear uniforms—you know, like NASCAR drivers—so we could identify their corporate sponsors."

Medical miracles... This one from **Dr.B** could of course be about *any* ethnic group, so please don't show up at our house with bagpipes at 2 a.m.:

"A wealthy Saudi sheik was admitted to the hospital for heart surgery, but prior to the surgery, the doctors needed to store his type of blood in case the need arose. As the gentleman had a rare type of blood, it couldn't be found locally, so, the call went out. Finally a Scotsman was located who had a similar blood type. The Scot willingly donated his blood for the wealthy sheik. After the surgery, the sheik sent the Scotsman, in appreciation for giving his blood, a new BMW, five carats of diamonds and \$50,000.

"A couple of days later, once again, the sheik had to go through a corrective surgery. The hospital telephoned the Scotsman, who was more than happy to donate his blood again. After the second surgery, the sheik sent the Scotsman a thank-you card and a box of Black Magic chocolates. The Scotsman was shocked that the sheik did not reciprocate his kind gesture as he had before. He phoned the sheik and said: 'I thought you would be generous again, that you would give me another BMW, diamonds and money, but you only gave me a thank-you card and a box of chocolates.'

"To this the wealthy sheik replied: 'Aye, laddie, but now I have Scottish blood in ma veins.'"

Annals of inebriation... Finally, some advice from **GeeRichard**:

"My granny lectured me about her practical knowledge for staying healthy naturally: 'For better digestion, I drink beer. For loss of appetite, I drink white wine. With low blood pressure, red wine. With high blood pressure, cognac. And whenever I have a cold, I drink vodka.'

"And when do you drink water?" I asked.

"I have never been that sick!" ☘

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



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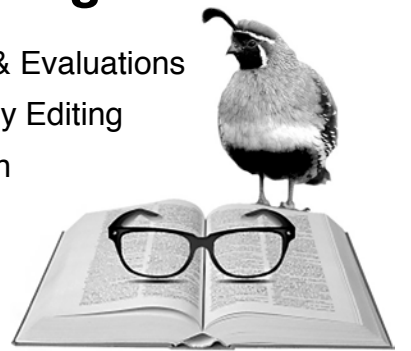
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TUMBLEWEEDS

Suborbital PR Watch

Virgin Galactic hires a top PR firm—maybe a tad too late to manage bad news about its spacecraft. (Just the engine and wings, no worries!)

Expressing confidence that Virgin Galactic founder Sir Richard Branson and his children will launch into space from New Mexico's Spaceport America before the end of 2014, the company has hired a high-profile PR firm, Edelman Digital, to manage its press and social media. Industry journal *Adweek* predicted, "Virgin Galactic is going to be social media on rocket fuel." It also used the unfortunate phrase, "The Internet would completely blow up."



SpaceShipTwo's third flight looked impressive, but the engine had to be shut down before reaching full power, which would have ripped the spacecraft apart. Note the "aabr" logo on the fuselage, which represents the Abu Dhabi government investment that comes due at the end of 2014. (Virgin Galactic photo)

Galactic, "The burn times and altitudes were far short of getting SpaceShipTwo anywhere near suborbital space." The engine "produces such severe oscillations and vibrations" that firing it full blast would rip the ship and crew apart.

At best, with modifications to the engine, SpaceShipTwo might be able to reach the 50-mile limit of space as defined by the US Air Force—thus meeting Virgin Galactic's legal obligations to paying passengers. But the engine couldn't

power it to the 62-mile-high international boundary the company has been promising for the past decade. (Flights were originally to begin in 2007.) Nor could the craft carry the full payload—two pilots and six passengers—used to sell Spaceport America to New Mexico taxpayers.

According to Messier, that's why work is underway on an alternate engine that uses nitrous oxide and nylon. But that won't be ready for the first Space-

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According to Messier, that's why work is underway on an alternate engine that uses nitrous oxide and nylon. But that won't be ready for the first Space-

Life in a State of Nature

More reader photos of creatures big and small.

Contributors new and old continue to share their photos of the critters they see in our "Southwest zoo."

This "cheeky woodpecker" helping himself to the hummingbird feeder was spotted and photographed by **Robert Cwik** of Silver City.



Cora Bucana and her husband found this Gila monster near Rodeo one morning. She writes, "It is about a foot long and the colors are beautiful."

This walking stick posing on an antler was sent in by **Ron Saltzman** of Las Cruces.

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



ShipTwo, scheduled for takeoff later this year.

Why not wait for the alternate engine? Why, in fact, might the company be tempted to rush testing of the modified engine going into the first space plane? "The company has eaten through an enormous amount of funding over the past nine years without flying a single paying customer," Messier notes. And the bill on \$390 million in funding from the Abu Dhabi government comes due in 2015. That investment reportedly specifically requires Branson to fly by year's end. Otherwise, there could be "significant clawbacks."

No sooner did Scaled Composites turn over that first SpaceShipTwo to Virgin Galactic, this spring, than another problem cropped up. In May, the *London Sunday Times* reported that cracks were found in the spars running along the length of the wings, where they connect with the fuselage. According to a *Parabolic Arc* story by the journalist who broke the story, "One particularly worrisome aspect is that nobody knows why or when [the cracks] occurred." Despite repairs, engineers "don't know if they have addressed the root cause, or whether the problem will reoccur. This is not an insignificant matter because this is the aircraft that will launch a lot of billionaires and millionaires into space."

It is also, of course, the aircraft whose success or failure will make or break New Mexico's investment in Spaceport America. Virgin Galactic has denied that the wings had cracks, calling the problem "adhe-

sive imperfections."

It will be interesting to see whether Branson is willing to bet his life and that of his children, Sam and Holly, who are scheduled to accompany him on the maiden flight, on the repairs to those "adhesive imperfections."

At least Virgin Galactic is providing a shot in the arm to the southern New Mexico economy, right? After all, Doña Ana County taxpayers passed an increase in their gross-receipts tax to help pay for Spaceport America in neighboring Sierra County.

Well, those PR mavens might also want to rein in Mark Butler, a senior program manager at Virgin Galactic, who was interviewed by *Albuquerque Business First* in April. Butler was gung-ho about "buying local" and all the business the company is doing in Albuquerque. But southern New Mexico? Not so much.

"Suppliers from the south (of the state) are limited," Butler conceded, quickly changing the subject: "We use many resources from Albuquerque."

At least he didn't say "blow up." ❧

Desert Exposure editor David A. Fryxell has been covering the promises made by Spaceport America boosters since February 2006 ("Have Space-suit, Will Travel," online at www.desertexposure.com/200602/200602_space_tourism.html).

The Tumbleweeds Top 10

Who and what's been making news from New Mexico this past month, as measured by mentions in Google News (news.google.com). Trends noted are vs. last month's total hits; * indicates new to the list. Number in parenthesis indicates last month's Top 10 rank. The GOP touts Gov. Martinez nationwide with T-shirts (\$29 donation) quoting her revelation when she switched parties in 1995: "I'll be damned. I'm a Republican!" So is ex-VP Dick Cheney, who'll appear at a Martinez fundraiser June 24 in Las Cruces; maybe he'll find those WMDs there.

1. (1) **Virgin Galactic**—280 hits (▼)
2. (-) **New Mexico primary election**—203 hits*
3. (5) **Sen. Tom Udall**—176 hits (▲)
4. (4) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—169 hits (-)
5. (2) **New Mexico drought**—149 hits (▼)
6. (3) **New Mexico + immigration**—150 hits (▼)
7. (6) **New Mexico + Tesla**—113 hits (▲)
8. (7) **Sen. Martin Heinrich**—95 hits (▲)
9. (9) **Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson**—89 hits (▲)
10. (8) **New Mexico same-sex marriage**—84 hits (▼)



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SOUTHWEST GARDENER • VIVIAN SAVITT

Gardens of Chihuahua Hill

Touring places where the plots thicken.

Occasionally I drive through Silver City's Chihuahua Hill in hopes of discovering a surprising garden with hints of barrio whimsy. I am seeking mementos of the south side of San Antonio, Texas, circa 1967. At that time, accompanied by my friend Augustin, we sought out gardens with outrageous configurations of colorful plantings embellished with religious, folkloric and ragtag objects. These landscapes were tucked away and required an explorer's persistence to locate, but when discovered revealed a pinata of visual treats.

Back then, I did not consider the "functionality" of barrio gardens.

By virtue of their setting in poorer sections of town where living is a hard scramble, the vegetation served their residents with food, cooking herbs and medicine. Plots featured easy-to-grow plants that took care of themselves, including staples like squash, garlic (*ajo*), epazote (the bean seasoning and flatulence preventative), yerba buena and yerba mansa for traditional, medicinal teas.

Assortments of objects were used as plant holders and decoration. Whether the residents used chipped ceramic pots or mangled metal containers, the items blended into funky, eye-pleasing chaos. To me, any of them would trump the charmless, mock-ceramic items that stock the shelves at big-box stores today.

The patio, a utilitarian and shady place, was the entertainment and family gathering area where even roosters and hens would socialize.

So last month when I drove to Chihuahua Hill for probably the hundred and something time, it was to uncover a semblance of that garden type.

I began in the area closer to downtown where gardening activity is burgeoning. Robert Southworth's house with its small, verdant side garden and dazzling muraled facade is a hub for both plant talk and catching-up on neighborhood haps. The mural—depicting both a *talavera* pottery pattern and a *cerveza* label at its side—is reminiscent of barrio street art. Southworth is a retired mechanical engineer from Texas. A soft-spoken, decorous septuagenarian, he spent two weeks living at the Palace Hotel before committing to a Silver City move 12 years ago.

Southworth's tenant, Cheyenne Thomas, is an ar-



A festive mural marks the facade of the Southworth garden. (All photos by Vivian Savitt)

borist from Austin, who maintains several vegetable gardens on the Hill and has planted orchards in other parts of Silver City. His name comes up often when neighbors show off pass-along plantings such as stands of goji berries.

Besides distributing heaps of this berry used in traditional Chinese medicine, Thomas added 20 pear grafts onto Southworth's quince tree (pear and quince are both in the pome fruit family).

Thomas observes that gardeners in the neighborhood tend to be either recluses or quite congenial. Either way, he finds the area "a good one to live in because it's quiet, diverse and contains small, functional gardens."

Indeed, the quiet seems enhanced by the distinctive domes of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church and the peaked silhouette of La Capilla—regardless of one's spiritual inclinations.

A case in point is Jane Papin's garden, which reflects both her dietary interests and need for a calm realm. Papin looks like a healthy specimen with excellent posture—perhaps the result of her equestrian past growing up in North Carolina and Florida.

"My father was a horseman, and I spent lots of time outdoors riding on the beach," she says.

Papin continues, "I was always interested in eating wild plants and drawn to *Peterson's Field Guide to Medicinal Plants*." Later, during a visit to Silver City, she "leafed through the telephone book and found two custom-blend herb shops, plus the Food Coop—cinching my settling here."

Today almost everything she adds to a blended breakfast drink is grown in her small garden, including dandelion greens, lemon balm, goji berries and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Papin adds "stevia as a sweetener, plus ginger, lemon, chia seeds and a slice of seasonal fruit."

Wearing rubber gloves, she gathers the nettle leaves for stews and soups to impart "an earthy flavor" and also dries them in the shed for tea. "Nettles are one of the most nutritious foods on the planet—full of minerals and protein."

The potted nettle plants look robust, and her other plantings surrounding the deck show Papin's flair for design. Situated near one of the garden's water features is a collection of animal



Arborist and vegetable gardener Cheyenne Thomas is dwarfed by an *Agave americana* on Chihuahua Hill.



Jane Papin's restful and prolific garden.

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Signs of planting activity and some decorative flourishes in Azima Forest's late-spring landscape.

horns and arcane objects—adding some mystery to the tranquil landscape.

Papin's practice of transcendental meditation (TM) requires a quiet haven. "My mother once remarked how I had gone from being a bitchy daughter to a very sweet one because of TM. Now she's 91 years old and also practices meditation."

Objects reflecting a spiritual bent and lifelong interest in Sufism appear farther up Chihuahua Hill in Azima Forest's garden.

Forest recognizes the spiritual importance of La Capilla to most of the Hill's residents and adapts her own celebrations to its locale. "A mixed group of us drum up there on solstices," she says, tousling her healthy head of gray hair.

After graduating from the University of California-Berkeley, Forest worked as a computer programmer at Lockheed. After holding that job in the late 1960s—plus having children and getting a divorce—Forest spent four years in India in the 1990s. She has also practiced dream and Reiki healing work. It was Silver City's Sufi community and finding the hillside home that lured her here.

Her often windy corner is a challenge, but Forest cultivates a full array of edibles. Companion planting is in evidence—marigold and rue nestle near a fig tree, dill and chive surround a grafted apple tree, and false indigo safeguards both the cherry and pear trees.

For local planting knowledge, Forest relies on Hi-Dog (High Desert Organic Gardeners) and especially appreciates the group's seed exchange.

Up to now, Forest has used Arizona rosewood and New Mexican olive trees as a wind barrier. With a US Forest Service permit now in-hand, however, she will soon install a coyote fence from culled Ponderosa pine. After the fence is up, there will be a private area for her medicine wheel—a stone circle with blue grama grass growing in its quadrants.

Silver City's mojo also captivated Mary Dearhamer and Chris Aquino during a stay at the Palace Hotel, despite frequent commotion from the Buffalo Bar. Previous residents of Fort Collins, Colo., the couple "fell in love with the old houses and buildings, plus the friendliness of the people."

These days, Aquino is managing Moses Clark's campaign for County Commissioner, District One, while Dearhamer creates a garden sanctum for pollinators. Birds seem magnetically attracted to the tall, trickling Saguaro fountain—"a gift from my kids," Dearhamer says.

Her diverse plantings range from a bed of opulently sized hostas, to the drought-tolerant and bee-attracting lavender and red hot poker (*Kniphofia*) plants.

Now seven years old, the garden is fortuitously sited—abutting the older Allen-Apple property, where Cheyenne Thomas tends the backyard replete with majestic apricot trees, roving passion-flower vines and bountiful vegetable beds. In turn, the Allen-Apple property sits adjacent to the God-freys' plot, one of Chihuahua Hill's most visible, early gardens.

Dearhamer hopes that more gardens will soon dot the Hill's terrain. Walking through the neighborhood, she reports a proliferation of container plantings and "a readiness of residents—both renters and homeowners—to ask for gardening advice."

Perhaps these novices will soon aspire to grow food and nurture their spiritual and artistic tendencies on Chihuahua Hill. Perhaps... there is a whiff of prophecy in the air. ☘

Vivian Savitt gardens at Ditch Cottage in Silver City.



Flanked by red hot poker plants, the saguaro fountain is the centerpiece of the Dearhamer-Aquino garden, and the birds seem to agree.

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MLS 30906 \$245,000



MLS 30884 \$225,000 This house is huge!! 6 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 3 living areas, Open Kitchen, Island with concrete counter top, two refrigerators side by side in kitchen. One living area has a bedroom and bathroom with its own entrance so it could be segregated as an in-law suite or guest suite. Located on 3 acres in Indian Hills. Horses Allowed. Lots of views.

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MLS 31129 \$130,000



RAMBLIN' OUTDOORS • LARRY LIGHTNER

Being a Cheerleader

Why it's hard to beat our corner of the Southwest.

Have you ever stopped to ponder and cogitate over how good we have it here in the greater Southwest? The other day I did just that.

The news has been full of all sorts of natural disasters that are plaguing the rest of the country. Last winter was one of the worst on record for cold and snow in the upper Midwest, the northeast and even the deep South.

By comparison, in the 26 years that I have resided here in Grant County, this past winter was the mildest and best I've seen. I can recall only one day where the daytime high was below 35 degrees. Most days were between the upper 40s and the low 60s.

Every other year, at our house, we experience thermometer readings on one to four nights in the single digits; this year it never dropped below the high teens.

For the first time ever, I was able to ride my mountain bike every week since last July—it was that nice out (at least to Yours Truly).

I remember when we moved here, cold turkey, back in the late 1980s. Soon after, the National Weather Service stated that Silver City had the best all-around climate of anywhere in the US. That was an affirmation that we had made the right choice!

Yeah, there are naysayers who will see only a half-empty glass. They'll tell you that we need rain; that it's too dry; that the spring winds are unbearable. But I've come around to seeing a half-full glass for my own self and have seen the benefits of thanking my Forever God for how He has blessed us.

I cogitate over the facts that we don't ever suffer from hurricanes, earthquakes of any noticeable magnitudes, area-wide floods, killer tornadoes, record snowstorms, or the threat of some mountain or cauldron blowing its lid off.

When's the last time some resident worried about a mudslide or sinkhole taking their home out?

Sure, we do get wildfires, and that is a legitimate threat for some, but even that threat is minimal compared to California. We just ain't in the same league that they are.

Because of all of our plusses, you and I can enjoy just about any outdoor activity that we can come up with, and do it year-round. There are not too many other geographic places that can make that claim.

Oh, the first half-decade or so after the Missus and I moved here, we did endeavor to look at other places, seeking still greener pastures, from our old home of California (before we moved to Pennsylvania) to the state of Missouri.

We really like Julian, northwest of San Diego, up in the forested mountains, but the politics of southern California is just too much for us. I can see why northern California has wanted to be its own state for the last 30 years!

We really like Springerville to our north, in Arizona—a beautiful spot, but it's just too dang cold there to suit our old bones. That's why we left Pennsylvania!

To the southwest or more westerly are the hamlets of Willcox and Benson. I like their locations and small size a bunch, but the politics of the larger cities again ruin them for the same reason; all of the southern Californians have moved there and their influence is substantial, especially when it comes to hunting and guns.

Why do you think that we are inundated by Arizonians every fall and spring? In the late 1990s, I hunted a lot in the hill

country of Texas. I like that area a lot, and looked hard at moving there, but they have their pitfalls not to my liking: no public lands to play in, rattlesnakes as big as boa constrictors (well, almost anyway—I hate rattlesnakes!), big spiders, ticks and other crawlies, and humidity that is all but unbearable. Hey, 5%-15% humidity does tend to spoil one here.

And then there was Missouri. Every time we drove through it and saw all of those abandoned farmlands in the 1990s, I coveted buying a farm there. Now those same farms are bringing big bucks. I couldn't imagine what a 50-year-old at the time would do for a living in the rural country, though. Plus they get killer tornadoes, flooded lands, humidity and very, very cold temperatures. No way!

So after a period of time, we decided that Silver City looked pretty dang great, and that was the end of looking for greener pastures.

On another note, our northern neighbor, Colorado, doesn't look too good to me right now.

Andy Barrie and his wife live in Breckinridge in Summit County; it seems they have been battling the county for many years and dollars now because the county wants to declare "right of eminent domain" over one of their vacation properties, which is supposedly quite charming with a neat little rustic cabin.

They lost out, ran out of money, and had to "settle" on what the county wanted to give them and were actually forced to sell their property.

Now, I'm not a Libertarian when it comes to the view that all lands should be privatized; you and I need lands to play on. But I do agree with the Libertarians that private land today should remain in the hands of those who own it, unless they CHOOSE to sell it to the government.

By the way, when we talk about the government owning so much land, guess what? That is you and I who actually own that land through our taxes!

But that is another rabbit to chase—back to the issue at hand. This land-grab smacks very closely to the old Earth First idea of "Sky Islands" that would be set aside for wildlife use and not for humans, and those corridors from Mexico to Canada to unite those "islands."

Thank the Almighty that we don't have that problem here! (Yet!)

Along the same lines, this past March the good ol' Environmental Protection Agency attempted to institute a land-grab of its own concerning authority over more streams and wetlands, and this could very well affect folks here in New Mexico.

The agency has proposed a change in the Clean Water Act that would give it authority over TEMPORARY wetlands and streambeds. That act could conceivably be extended to seasonal ponds, tanks, streambeds and ditches on private lands!

The agency would then be empowered to come onto your property and mine and tell us what we can and cannot do. That smacks of Big Brother to me.

By the way, in 2001 and 2006 the Supreme Court ruled that the fed's authority was only "relatively" permanent on continuously flowing and sizeable waters like oceans, rivers, lakes and constant streams. But what does "relatively" mean?

This last note is something: States are making laws to prohibit the use of DRONES for hunting. Say what? It seems some unscrupulous hunters are using drones to find game and direct hunters to it. In New Mexico both hunter groups and animal rightists are joining forces, petitioning lawmakers to outlaw such a practice; I agree wholeheartedly.

New Mexico already outlawed the use of airplanes to fly over and find game for hunters on the ground, so there is a good chance the drones will be outlawed, too.

As always, keep the sun forever at your back, the wind forever in your face, and may The Forever God bless you too! ☘

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




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ARTS EXPOSURE • JEAN CHANDANAIS BOHLENDER

Another Desert

Area artist Jean Chandanaïs Bohlender paints Americans in Afghanistan.

Editor's note: Western Bank in Silver City recently opened an art exhibit, "Another Desert—Americans in Afghanistan," featuring paintings by local artist Jean Chandanaïs Bohlender and a special patriotic student art project led by Cliff School art teacher Riley Olson. The exhibit will be on view until Sept. 26. Bohlender is best known for her paintings of Western scenes and ranch life, like the art on this issue's cover. Here she explains how she came to branch out to depict scenes in the Afghan desert, halfway around the world.



Will Rogers once said, "All I know is what I read in the papers." Now we might add, "what we hear on the news or read on the Internet." I wanted to know what our troops actually do in Afghanistan, their lives during deployment. There were many thousands of our military people over there, and I'd only read about a few who did very well, a few who did not, and many who gave their lives in service. Then a young military friend showed me some pictures of his experience in Afghanistan, totally different from what I knew.



women offering their lives for the many millions of Americans, I am honored to know a few. While painting the stories of these Marines, Army soldiers and airmen, I spent time to think of them, learn of their lives (so very different from the civilian world) and to pray for them. I prayed for the wholeness of their bodies, minds and spirits. I tried to understand what influences them, changes them. I wanted to know who they are now.

Out of the many thousands of military men and

for the wholeness of their bodies, minds and spirits. I tried to understand what influences them, changes them. I wanted to know who they are now.

This is their story. Painted by me, but translated into paint without my altering what is theirs. They supplied photographs of their experience, with permission to work from them. Normally, I paint only from my own experiences and resources, but this time I was grateful not to have to be in the desert that I longed to see. They also supplied the information of their experiences and explained some of the myriads of military abbreviations.

These military men and women experience the cultures they are placed in, sometimes in a position to serve and protect the indigenous people also. Some are sent places you can barely find on a map, where there are just a few houses and a district center along a wadi. Some look back to see there are now no US forces present anywhere they once were.

In my experience with them through painting, notes and conversation, I gained respect for the integrity of their hearts, minds and discipline. These people train relentlessly. Their training is continual and intense. They often face life-threatening situ-

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page



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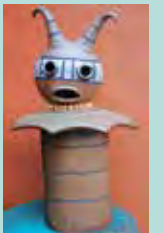
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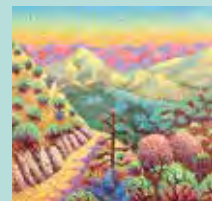
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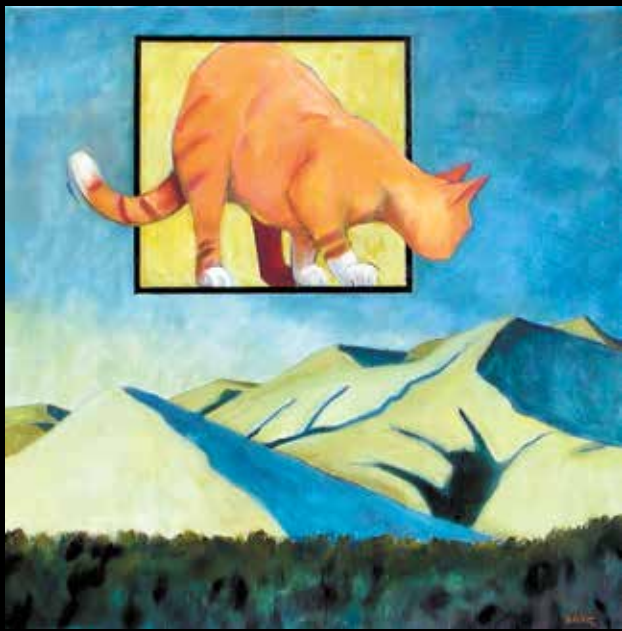
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ARTS EXPOSURE continued

ations. They are stressed, dis-comfited and inconvenienced by frequent moves, occupational changes, deployments, separations from spouses and families. In between all the pressure and rushing, lie long stretches of waiting, waiting, waiting. Waiting to go home. Waiting for the next move.

Those I've spoken to sincerely are fighting for us "back home"—those they love, those who wait for their return. All also fight for each other—brothers in arms, working (and sometimes dying) together for the sake of the mission set before them. All are subject to the chain of command. All have a job to do, directed by those of superior rank, and your elected Congress and president.

Military people who are deployed spend months to years away from their homeland and those loved ones they fight for. Wives have babies and raise children alone. Relationships are "suspended" until they can be together again. Small children growing and changing daily miss their father's or mother's influence for many months. Parents of serving military pray and hope for their safety and well being... and wonder when will they see them again.

The military becomes the military's families. The spouses have a strong support network for each other, helping each other and befriending each other



They supplied photographs of their experience, with permission to work from them.



should deal with your elected officials—but honor those who are serving as the warriors.

"Another Desert" tells a small part of the lives of a few Marines, Army and Air Force personnel. It shows some of their work and what they do. Some paintings show their equipment, and what some of their missions were, while some show a little of the Afghan culture. Each painting has

a description with the titled card telling the story. Each description is supplied by the military men and women who provided the photos.

If someone were to ask me what my "statement" is as an artist, in painting these works, I would have to say, "Honor those who serve you." Support and pray for America's troops. 🇺🇸



Jean Chandana's Bohlender lives near Silver City with her husband, her dog

Delilah, chickens and goats. Her two children serve in the military. Along with this exhibit, she has two paintings in the Montford Point Marine Museum in Jacksonville, NC, as well as in collections across the United States. Bohlender's art is represented by Seedboat Gallery, 214 West Yankee St. in downtown Silver City, www.seedboatgallery.com. Western Bank is located at 330 Hwy. 180 W. in Silver City. Lobby hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Bohlender plans to donate 40% of any sales from this show to the Wounded Warrior Project at the end of the exhibit.

while the military mate is away. They welcome new military families into their circles, and often invite unmarried or single military people in for holiday celebrations in their homes. Their lives are forever altered by their service to our country. Some spend many lonely hours. Some uproot their lives, friendships and involvements, rebuilding at every move.

Some pay a tremendous price for their service—temporarily or permanently disabled, burns, lost limbs, mental ailments. Some never come home alive. Some lose their marriages or their ability to function in society.

I believe they are all worthy of our respect and gratitude. I believe if you do not support the war, you

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ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene

The latest area art happenings.

Silver City & Grant County

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

Look for the Pollinators Fiber Fun June 9 in downtown at the El Sol, with an opening 3-5 p.m. at **Ursa Minor Gallery**, 303 N. Texas.

Copper Quail Gallery is featuring "Chonanna," repurposed metal art. 211A N. Texas, 388-2646.

Leyba & Ingalls Arts will be featuring new work by Paul Hotvedt, Zoe Wolf and special guests Luis Eduardo Tobon and Juan Pablo Solarte. 315 N. Bullard, 388-5725, www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com.

This year's **Mimbres Region Arts Council's Youth Mural Camp** takes place at Penny Park weekdays from Monday, June 16, through Friday June 27, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Campers will be completing a mosaic on the east wall left of the restroom building at Penny Park. Campers (ages 6-12), apprentice interns (13

and 14) and interns (15 and older) will work with mentoring artists to create a mosaic mural, participating in all aspects of the mural process from design to creation. Space is limited. Fee for both weeks is \$165, for one week \$110. Limited scholarships to the camp are available. Applications are available at the MRAC office (in the Wells Fargo Bank) or at Leyba & Ingalls ARTS, 315 N. Bullard St. Completed murals throughout Silver City can be seen on the MRAC website, www.mimbresarts.org/youth-mural-camp.

Common Ground Gallery will feature "Up Close. & Impersonal," a one-artist show by Avelino Maestas, a Silver City native who is online content editor for the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, DC. The show opens July 4 at 4 p.m. and continues through August 4. Maestas' photographic work of the urban scene in and around the Washington area captures the beauty and the pathos of big city life, often in the same image. Favorite motifs include commuters, people on the streets, nature and the built environment. Summer gallery hours are 4-9 p.m. 102 W. Kelly.

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page



Above: The Mimbres Region Arts Council's Youth Mural Camp begins June 16. Below: The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery features works by Mary Zawacki.



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websites by Teri Matelson

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t@tmatelson.com

ARTS EXPOSURE continued

Las Cruces & Mesilla

The Tombaugh Gallery continues to exhibit "Ancestral Gourdworks," with a "soft opening" on Sunday, June 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Gourd artists Karen Phillips and Kathe Stark will give a talk and demonstration. The last day of the exhibit is June 27. 2000 S. Solano., 522-7281.

Continuing at Aa Studios through June 29 is "Mirror of Society," recent works by Jess Reinhard, during the months of May and June. Behind 2645 Doña Ana Road on Calle Del Oro, 520-8752.

The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery this month features works by Mary Zawacki and Weeden Rockwell Nichols. Zawacki is a transplant from Los Angeles, where she had a longstanding career as an advertising art director and graphic designer working for the major movie studios. Nichols has been a photographer for 48 years, specializing simple compositions of shape and color, landscapes and seascapes. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

Summer art classes at the Las Cruces Museum of Art begin on June 3, with new sessions starting each week. Class schedules and registration forms are available at the museum and on the website www.tinyurl.com/lcmuseums. All children's classes are \$60, and adult classes range from \$60-\$110. 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

The New Mexico Watercolor Society-Southern Chapter will present its spring juried show, "New Canvases and Textures of My Mind," at the Branigan Cultural Center. The show opens with a reception at The Ramble on Friday, June 6, 5-7 p.m. In conjunction with the exhibition, a workshop on watercolor techniques will be held Saturday, June 21, at 12 p.m.



Continuing at Aa Studios through June 29 is "Mirror of Society," recent works by Jess Reinhard,

The program is free and open to the public.

In conjunction with the Branigan Cultural Center exhibit "International Madonna Print Exchange" by Ochosí Editions, local artist Sudeshna Sengupta will present a lecture on "Women's Art Rituals in Southeast Asia" on June 7 at noon. The program is free and open to the public. The following Saturday, June 14, at noon, Sengupta will present a multigenerational workshop on Kantha quilt-making, "Kantha Quilts of Bengal: Storytelling through Recycled Fabrics," open to ages 9 and up. 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

Mesquite Art Gallery will feature "Rodeo School," photos by Mel Stone, June 5-28. See story in this issue. 340 N. Mesquite St.

Main Street Gallery and Big Picture will feature works by photographer Scott Winans in "Colors of Juarez," opening June 6, 5-7 p.m. 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

The West End Art Depot will present Jeremy Noll's "MIDlifeCAREERcrisisRETROSPECTIVE," with an opening reception June 6, 6-10 p.m. Noll, originally a California artist, takes a look back at a diverse and eclectic background in the 2D and 3D art world. He utilizes a variety of mediums and material, including ceramics, bicycles, automobiles, paintings, assemblage, sculpture and drawings. 401 N. Mesilla St., 312-9892, www.we-ad.org.

Luna County

The Deming Arts Center will be hosting a Luna County Art Show, opening with a reception June 6, 5-7 p.m. 100 S. Gold, 546-3663.

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



Work by Donna A. Wood, featured in the New Mexico Watercolor Society-Southern Chapter spring show at the Branigan Cultural Center.

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Mail entries to: Desert Exposure Writing Contest, PO Box 191 Silver City, NM 88062 or email to contest@desertexposure.com

Include name and postal address, plus email if available. Entries cannot be returned!

ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

Silver City
ANN McMAHON PHOTOGRAPHY, 125 Country Road. By appointment. www.AnnMcMahon.com.
ANN SIMONSEN STUDIO-GALLERY, 104 W. Yankee St., 654-5727.
ARTESANOS, 211-B N. Texas St., 519-0804. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 12-6 p.m.
[A]SP.“A”@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.
BARBARA NANCE GALLERY & STONE-WALKER STUDIO, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Stone, steel, wood and paint. Sculpture path. www.barbaraNanceArt.com.
BLUE DOME GALLERY, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road (Bear Mountain Lodge, 2251 Cottage San Road), 534-8671. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.bluedomegallery.com.
CLAYFUL HANDS, 622 N. California, 534-0180. By appointment. Phoebe Lawrence.
CLAYMOON STUDIO, 13 Jade Dr., 313-6959. Marcia Smith. By appointment.
THE CLIFFS STUDIO & GALLERY, 205 Lyon St. & Yankee, (520) 622-0251. Diane Kleiss' encaustic multimedia art. By appointment. doart2@yahoo.com, www.dianealdrichkleiss.com.
COMMON GROUND, 103 W. Kelly, 534-2087.
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 Yankee and Texas, 388-2646. Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Fine arts and crafts.
COW TRAIL ART STUDIO, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley. Mon. 12-3 p.m. or by appointment, (706) 533-1897, www.victoriachick.com.
CREATIONS & ADORNMENTS, 108 N. Bullard, 534-4269. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Work by Diane Reid.
FRANCIS McCRAE GALLERY, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517.
GUADALUPE'S, 505 N. Bullard, 535-2624. Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
LEYBA & INGALLS ARTS, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media featuring artists Crystal Foreman Brown, Romaine Begay, Christana Brown, Susan Brinkley, Gordeev Headlee, Diana Ingalls Leyba, Dayna Griego, Constance Knuppel, Mary Alice Murphy, Phillip Parotti, Betsy Resnick, Teri Matelson, Joe Theiman, Zoe Wolfe, Melanie Zipin. www.LeybalngallsARTS.com, LeybalngallsART@zianet.com.
LOIS DUFFY ART STUDIO, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signal-peak.net.
LOYD STUDIOS, 306 W. Broadway, (303) 378-0926. Weds-Sat. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 12-5 p.m. lloydstudios.com.
MIMBRES REGION ARTS COUNCIL GALLERY, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. www.mimbresarts.org.
MOLLY RAMOLLA GALLERY & FRAMING, 307 N. Texas, 538-5538. www.ramollart.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. Yankee St., 534-1136. Weds.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment. info@seedboatgallery.com.
SILVER SPIRIT GALLERY, 215 W. Broadway, 388-2079.
THE STUDIO SPACE, 109 N. Bullard St., 534-9291. www.jessgorell.com.
STUDIO UPSTAIRS, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.
SUSAN SZAJER STUDIO, Sanctuary Road, 313-7197 By appointment.
21 LATIGO TRAIL, 388-4557. Works by Barbara Harrison and others.
URSA MINOR, 303 N. Texas St. "The little blue box of eccentricities."
VIBRATIONS GALLERY, 108 W. Yankee St., 654-4384, starxr@usa.net.
WILD WEST WEAVING, 211-D N. Texas, 313-1032, www.hosanaeilert.com. Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
WIND CANYON STUDIO, 11 Quail Run off Hwy. 180 mile marker 107, 574-2308, (619) 933-8034. Louise Sackett. Mon., Weds. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and

by appointment.
WYNNEGATE GALLERY & STUDIO, 110 W. Yankee St., (214) 957-3688. Mon., Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 11:45 a.m.-4 p.m., Tues.-Wed. by appointment.
YANKIE ST. ARTIST STUDIOS, 103 W. Yankee St., 313-1032. By appointment.
ZOE'S GALLERY, 305 N. Cooper St., 654-4910.
Tyrone
MOONSTRUCK ART STUDIO, 501 Covellite Dr., 956-5346, 654-5316. By appointment.
SUN DAWG STUDIO, 501 Malachite Ave., 388-3551. By appointment.
Pinos Altos
HEARST CHURCH GALLERY, Gold St., 574-2831. Open late-April to early-October. Fri., Sat., Sun. and holidays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Mimbres
CHAMOMILE CONNECTION, 3918 Highway 35N, 536-9845. Lynnae McConaha. By appointment.
COTTAGE STAINED GLASS & MORE, Cedar Lane off Hwy. 35, 536-3234. Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 2-5 p.m.
KATE BROWN POTTERY AND TILE, HC 15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536-9935, katebrown@gilnet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.
NARRIE TOOLE, Estudio de La Montura, 313-2565, www.narrietoole.com. Contemporary western oils, giclées and art prints. By appointment.
REESE-BENTON ARTS, 3811 Hwy. 35, 536-9487. By appointment.
Bayard
KATHRYN ALLEN CLAY STUDIO, 601 Erie St., 537-3332. By appointment.
T. ALI STUDIO, 421 E. Elm St., 537-3470. By appointment.
Hanover
FIERRO CANYON GALLERY, 4 Hermosa St., 537-3262, www.fierrocanyongallery.com. Thurs.-Mon. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Hurley
JW ART GALLERY, Old Hurley Store, 99 Cortez Ave., 537-0300. Weds.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., www.jwartgallery.com.
Cliff
GILA RIVER ARTISTS GALLERY, 8409 Hwy. 180. Eclectic collection of local artists. Fri.-Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Northern Grant County & Catron County
ANNIE'S ON THE CORNER, Hwy. 180 and Adair, Luna, 547-2502.
CASITAS DE GILA, 50 Casita Flats Road, Gila, 535-4455. Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. or by appointment. gallery@casitasdegila.com, www.galleryat-thecasitas.com.
WILLOW GALLERY, Hwy. 15, Gila Hot Springs, 536-3021. By appointment.
Mesilla
ADOBE PATIO GALLERY, 1765 Avenida de Mercado (in the Mesilla Mercado), 532-9310. Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
GALERI AZUL, Old Mesilla Plaza, 523-8783. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
GALERIA ON THE PLAZA, 2310 Calle de Principal, 526-9771. Daily 10 am.-6 p.m.
GALERIA TEPIN, 2220 Calle de Parian, 523-3988. Thurs.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY, 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933. Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
ROKOKO, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.
Las Cruces
ALEGRE GALLERY, 920 N Alameda Blvd., 523-0685.
AZURE CHERRY GALLERY & BOUTIQUE, 330 E. Lohman Ave., 291-3595. Wed.-Thurs. 12-5 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 12-8 p.m.
BLUE GATE GALLERY, 311 Old Downtown Mall, 523-2950. Tue.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-noon.
CHARLES INC., 1885 W Boutz Rd, 523-1888, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
COTTONWOOD GALLERY, 275 N. Downtown Mall (Southwest Environmental Center), 522-5552. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
CREATIVE HARMONY, 220 N. Campo St., 312-3040. Weds.-Sun. 12-5 p.m.
CRUZ NOPAL, 1175 W. Picacho, 635-7899. Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. or by appointment. ouida@ouidatouchon.com, www.ouidatouchon.com.
CUTTER GALLERY, 2640 El Paseo, 541-0658. Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
GALERIE ACCENTS, 344 S. San Pedro

#3, 522-3567. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
GALERIE CRAMOISIE, 1695 Hickory Loop, 524-9349. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4:30 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@delvalleprinting.com.
J.T. MACRORE STUDIO, 639 S. San Pedro, 524-1006.
LAS CRUCES MUSEUM OF ART, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137. Tues.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
LUNDEEN INN OF THE ARTS, 618 S. Alameda Blvd., 526-3326. Daily 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
MAIN STREET GALLERY, 311 N. Downtown Mall, 647-0508. Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
MESQUITE ART GALLERY, 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502. Thur.-Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 2-5 p.m.
MOUNTAIN GALLERY AND STUDIOS, 138 W. Mountain St. Thurs.-Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
M. PHILLIP'S FINE ART GALLERY, 221 N. Main St., 525-1367.
MVS STUDIOS, 535 N. Main, Stull Bldg., 635-5015, www.mvsstudios.com.
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.
QUILLIN STUDIO AND GALLERY, behind Downtown COAS Books, 312-1064. Mon.-Thurs., Sat.
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. agr-omero@zianet.com, www.virginiamariaromero.com.
Deming
ART SPACE GALLERY, 601 S. Silver, 546-0673. Mon., Fri. 12-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., donni@chris-donni.com.
DEMING ARTS CENTER, 100 S. Gold St., 546-3663. Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
GOLD STREET GALLERY, 112-116 S. Gold St., 546-8200.
READER'S COVE USED BOOKS & GALLERY, 200 S. Copper, 544-2512. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Photography by Daniel Gauss.
STUDIO LE MARBE, 4025 Chaparral SE, 544-7708.
Rodeo
CHIRICAHUA GALLERY, 5 Pine St., 557-2225.
Hillsboro
BARBARA MAS-SENGILL GALLERY, 894-9511/895-3377. Fri.-Sun. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Chloride
MONTE CRISTO, Wall St., 743-0190. Daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

The Buck Starts Here

Don't be too quick to blame the horse.

One of my least-favorite calls is someone asking me to come "get the buck out of my horse." This call usually follows an accident that's resulted in an injury, ranging from sprains and bruises to breaks and concussions. Most of the time there is also a loss of rider confidence and a renewed mistrust of the horse.

I had such a call recently, and the caller even offered me \$25 for the chance to break my neck. After I unrolled my eyeballs from the back of my head at this opportunity not to be missed, I explained that this is not the kind of work I do. When asked why, I said, "Because the buck isn't in the horse, the buck is in the human." You can imagine the response to that comment.

I get the most enjoyment in my business working with people who want to understand the nature of the horse and how to solve problems using the techniques and philosophies of natural horsemanship. Someone who thinks there is a one-shot magic bullet that can solve a problem with a horse, especially a dangerous one, should probably be riding a lawnmower and not a horse.

My experience with bucking horses started pretty quickly, actually only one hour into my first ride on my horse Cody. Even before that, I watched my wife make four trips to the ER in six months from bucking accidents with her horse, a horse she actually bought from her trainer. Unless you're a professional cowboy paid to ride a bucking horse, a bucking incident can leave a lasting impression and ruin a lot of underwear.

I consider myself lucky to have a great laboratory for studying the behavior of horses. Through my volunteer training work at End of the Road Ranch Horse Rescue (www.endoftheroadranchnm.com or www.facebook.com/eotr) I have more than 25 horses to play with. I get to experiment with different techniques and different horse personality types, and I get to take my time as there is no owner looking over my shoulder, wondering when it will be "safe" to ride their horse.

I spend a lot of time at the ranch just watching the horses in the herd, observing their interaction and communication. You know the one thing I never see? A bucking horse. Sure, on a fresh cool day with a little wind, one of the younger geldings might take off with some youthful exuberance, throwing in an "I feel good" buck or two. Other than that, you just don't see that behavior in a herd.

What has been especially interesting is how this varied group of horses has behaved as we have handled them. Many of the horses, especially the ones from the PMU factories, have never really been handled. Although some are as old as 9 or 10 and look completely mature, they really don't have the physical strength or conditioning to carry a rider. Some of the horses have obviously been ridden before, started too young and handled roughly, now with physical or emotional issues that make being ridden again a scary thought. Some have been involved in horrible riding wrecks and were given up on by a previous owner.

Yet, as we've brought these horses along we haven't had a single incident of bucking, from initial ground work to first saddling to first rides.

The relative calmness we've had with these horses makes me wonder what happens between the horse in a natural state—an animal that is a follower, who looks for a no-pressure safe environment, good leadership, and who spends only one percent of its time above a walk—and my pretty pony who just bucked the owner off. The obvious variable—the human. So, is the buck in the horse or in the human? Every horse has the ability to buck as a basic instinct, primarily as a survival technique to get rid of a predator, but I contend that for what we want to do with horses, we're responsible for the behavior.

My operating philosophy at the ranch, and with private owners, is twofold. First, always do things with the best interest of the horse in mind. Teach him in a way that makes sense to him and go at his pace. Second, to para-

phrase something I heard from John Lyons, focus all your energy, teaching and praise on the behavior you want, and the behavior you don't want will magically disappear.

Whether starting or rehabbing a horse, or trying to fix a bucking problem, the first thing I do is look at pain and overall conditioning as possible or potential causes for unwanted behavior. I've seen numerous bucking and rearing problems go away after thorough equine dentistry—not just a basic float to take off a few points and hooks but looking at bit seats, occlusion, TMJ, etc. Your vet or chiropractor can assess the back, and if your farrier is worth anything he or she should be able to tell you if discomfort is starting at ground level. Think about how you feel if your teeth hurt, your back is out or your feet are killing you. Now think about how you would react if someone jumped on your back and asked for a ride for a couple of hours.

Obviously the quality of tack is part of this equation. I've seen saddles that fit well sitting on pads that haven't been cleaned in years or with girths that are so dirty they resemble sand paper. A comfortable horse is a lot safer than one with a sore growing under a pad or girth. Are the bits or headstall set-ups appropriate for the confirmation of the horse, the level of training and the skill of the rider? A severe bit in the hands of a novice rider will almost guarantee upward movement rather than forward.

Maybe the issue is the rider. How good is his seat? Is she out of balance and leaning forward? Does he ride with a death grip on the reins, practicing the classic "whoa go" approach that probably causes more bucks and rears than anything else? Is she clamped on the horse with legs and hands, a sure sign to a claustrophobic flight animal that it might be time to lose this creature and get out of Dodge?

Working with the horse, I have one "secret" worth mentioning. At no time during the process do I become disconnected from the horse. I've never understood why so many people do ground work with the lead rope, then for a first saddling or first ride, they take off the lead. I've seen some pretty big names do great ground work, then put a saddle on, unstrap the lead and watch the horse go bucking around the round pen. Seems contradictory to spend time gaining the horse's respect and trust, and assuring him you'll always be there, and then unhook him to let him go figure out the saddle on his own. I want the horse to believe we're in this together every step of the way.

Same for first rides or getting on a horse with a history. I always use a second person I trust to handle the lead rope so the horse has a visual that is consistent with the ground work. The person in the saddle can just stay calm and balanced, reducing the chance of scaring the horse. From there, first rides will be more like pony rides with a trusted human guiding and walking with the horse on the ground. This includes duplicating a lot of the basic ground work, but now with a rider. This forces the horse to stay focused on the ground person and to worry less about the rider on his back. After this, the transition to safely riding on your own seems to go pretty smoothly.

Approaching an existing or potential bucking problem from the viewpoint that this may be a human teaching and understanding problem—rather than inherent bad behavior in the horse—takes more time and isn't as exciting as a backyard rodeo ride. But it can lead to a stronger and safer riding partnership. When you're at Silver City's pro rodeo this month, look at how much human effort goes into making a horse buck for entertainment, then tell me where you think the buck really resides. 🍷

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



THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Boötes, the Herdsman

Plus the planets for June.

Did you know there is a kite in our sky? No, not one at the end of a string, but one made of stars. The constellation Boötes, the Herdsman, is shaped like a kite. The base of the kite is the fourth-brightest star in the sky, Arcturus. Working up the kite-shape, the lower sides are formed by Epsilon Boötis on the east and a pair of stars on the west, Sigma Boötis and Rho Boötis. Farther up the kite, the crossbar is formed by Delta Boötis to the east and Seginus (Gamma Boötis) to the west. The top of the kite is Nekkar (Beta Boötis). All these stars are at least fourth magnitude, so they are pretty obvious from a moderately dark sky.

One easy way to identify Boötes' brightest star, Arcturus, is to start at last month's constellation, Ursa Major. Follow the arc of Ursa Major's tail southward, away from the bowl of the dipper, and you will run right into Arcturus. If you continue onward in the same arc, you will hit the first-magnitude star Spica in the constellation of Virgo. This can easily be remembered by the phrase, "arc to Arcturus and speed on to Spica."

The mythology behind Boötes is a little murky. It was first mentioned by Homer in the *Odyssey* as a navigational reference point. There are multiple stories, identifying Boötes as a herdsman, ox driver or bear driver. A different story had Boötes representing Icarus, a grape grower in Attica (not to be confused with Icarus, who flew too close to the Sun). Icarus was a friendly guy who let the disguised Bacchus, the god of wine and intoxication, inspect his vineyards. Bacchus was so impressed that he taught Icarus how to make wine.

Icarus invited some local shepherds to sample the new wine. They all drank too much and eventually fell asleep. When they awoke, they decided Icarus had tried to poison them and killed the still-sleeping Icarus, throwing his body in a ditch. His dogs started howling and Erigone, his daughter, released them to search out Icarus' body. Filled with grief, Erigone killed herself and the two dogs jumped into the ditch and died as well. The gods put all of them in the sky, Icarus as Boötes, the dogs as Canes Venatici, and Erigone as Virgo.

Arcturus, the brightest star in Boötes at magnitude -0.04, is a red giant star only 36.7 light-years away. It is 170 times brighter than our Sun, but it is much redder—type K1.5 IIIpe. The "pe" means its spectrum contains "peculiar emissions" in the form of bright emission lines from various elements in its relatively cool atmosphere. Arcturus is the brightest K-type star in the sky and was the first star (besides the Sun) to be observed in the daytime with a telescope, in 1635 by French mathematician and astronomer Jean-Baptiste Morin.

When we look toward Boötes, we are looking out of the plane of our galaxy, so it contains few nebulae, open or globular clusters. A number of faint galaxies can be seen, far beyond our Milky Way, including NGC 5248, a 10.2-magnitude spiral galaxy way down at Boötes' southwestern corner. This galaxy is fairly small, 6.1 by 4.4 minutes of arc across. Measurements of its distance vary from 41.4 to 74.0 million light-years away, but it is usually reported as 59 million light-years distant.

NGC 5248 is a member of the Virgo supercluster of galaxies. Early astronomers discovered there were many more galaxies in and around the constellation Virgo than in other parts of the sky. It was not clear at first whether this was an actual cluster or just



Facing south and looking overhead you will find a kite-shaped constellation overhead, Boötes, the Herdsman. NGC 5248 in the southwestern part of the constellation is a member of the Virgo cluster. You can follow the arc of the handle of the Big Dipper southward to Arcturus in Boötes and follow that arc onward to Spica in Virgo (just off the southern edge of this chart).

a chance alignment of galaxies. The argument continued into the 1970s when the first large-scale surveys of galactic red-shift were performed. This measurement of the displacement of emission lines in their spectra, caused by the expansion of the universe, provided a measurement of the distance to each galaxy. These measurements proved conclusively that Virgo supercluster galaxies, including NGC 5248 in Boötes, were roughly the same distance away. That means they are actually close together in space.

The Planets for June

The first week of June, you can find all the naked-eye planets except Venus in the evening sky. If you sweep along the ecliptic from west to east, you will find Mercury, Jupiter, Mars and Saturn. Venus alone is only in our morning sky.

Mercury is low on the western horizon as June begins. It was

best viewed last month for this apparition, but you can still find it in the evening for the first week of the month. On June 1, Mercury will be magnitude +1.5 with a disc 9.7 seconds-of-arc across. It will be a crescent that is only 20.6% illuminated, becoming thinner until it is no longer observable. Mercury will swing between the Earth and Sun on June 19. The Messenger of the Gods will move into the morning sky next month.

Jupiter is moving eastward in eastern Gemini, only 17 degrees up in the west as it gets dark and setting around 10 p.m. At midmonth, the King of the Gods is magnitude -1.9 with a disc 30.1 seconds-of-arc across.

This month, **Mars** sets around 2 a.m. You can find it 50 degrees up in the south as it gets dark. At midmonth the God of War shines at magnitude -0.2 with a disc 10.5 seconds-of-arc across. Mars is moving eastward in central Virgo.

Watch the Skies

(times MDT)

June 5, 2:39 p.m.—First Quarter Moon

June 7, 4 a.m.—Mercury stationary

June 12, 10:11 p.m.—Full Moon

June 19, 12:39 p.m.—Last Quarter Moon

5 p.m.—Mercury at inferior conjunction

June 21, 4:51 a.m.—June Solstice, summer begins

June 24, before sunrise—Venus near the Moon

June 27, 2:08 a.m.—New Moon

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

Farther east, **Saturn** is just past opposition, so it is a great time for a telescopic look. Saturn is moving slowly westward in central Libra, 35 degrees up in the southeast as it gets dark and setting around 4 a.m. Saturn's Rings are 41.3 seconds-of-arc across and tilted down 21.2 degrees with the northern face showing. Its disc is 18.2 seconds-of-arc across.

Venus starts the month in western Aries. It travels eastward through Aries and into central Taurus, ending the month near the Hyades star cluster. It rises around 4 a.m. in the east. The Goddess of Love's disc is 12.8 seconds-of-arc across and 81% illuminated. Venus is heading back around the far side of the Sun, making its disc fuller each day.

June 21 at 4:51 a.m. marks the beginning of summer in the northern hemisphere with the June Solstice. This is the instant the Sun reaches its northernmost point in the sky each year, marking the longest day and shortest night. After this date, the Sun begins to move back southward. So make the best of the little darkness you have this month and "keep watching the sky"! ☼

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



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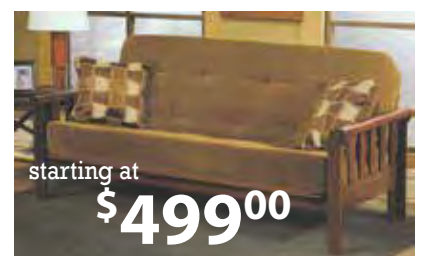


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Super New Mexico

From the Hulk to Silver City's own Aqualad, New Mexico is ground zero for many of comic books' most memorable—and oddest—characters.

This is the summer of the superhero. Starting early, with last month's record-breaking *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, the nation's multiplexes will be screening one spandex-clad super-character after another—*The Amazing Spider-Man 2* and *X-Men: Days of Future Past* this month, *Guardians of the Galaxy* in August. Superheroes look to dominate the silver screen every summer, in fact, for the foreseeable future, with *Spider-Man* spinoffs, a *Fantastic Four* reboot, *Avengers: Age of Ultron* and *Batman vs. Superman* all headed to production.



The first appearance of the Hulk: Here in New Mexico, we knew him when—he was just Bruce Banner and when he was a gray Hulk.

For more on famous fictional characters with New Mexico connections, see "Local Characters" by Jeff Berg in our January 2013 issue, online at www.desertexposure.com/201301/201301_local_characters.php.



On that production side, New Mexico's role in this costumed-hero boom has been well documented. Among others, *The Avengers*—released in 2012 to become the third highest-grossing film of any type of all time—was filmed in part in Albuquerque. Less celebrated has been the Land of Enchantment's role in these and other superheroes' fictional universes.

You might recall that the first *Thor* film, released in 2011, was not only filmed in and around Galisteo, but largely took place in New Mexico. As Wikipedia summarizes the setup: "Thor lands in New Mexico, where astrophysicist Dr. Jane Foster, her assistant Darcy Lewis, and mentor Dr. Erik Selvig, find him. The local populace finds (Thor's hammer) Mjolnir, which SHIELD agent Phil Coulson soon commandeers before forcibly acquiring Jane's data about the wormhole that delivered Thor to Earth..." Our state's prominent place in this chapter of the Marvel cinematic saga was actually teased in the post-credits sequence of *Iron Man 2*, released in 2010, which showed Coulson finding Thor's hammer in the New Mexico desert.

Unfortunately, the earlier *Hulk* movie, directed by Ang Lee and released in 2003, skipped over New Mexico's even more prominent role in that character's comic-book origin. Lee's peculiar take on the Hulk transplanted alter ego Bruce Banner's monster-creating gamma experiment from the New Mexico desert to the University of California-Berkeley. New Mexicans can take perverse pleasure in the fact that the film was a box-office disappointment, but the 2008 reboot *The Incredible Hulk* also played fast and loose with the origin. In this second version, starring Edward Norton instead of Eric Bana, the Hulk is born at "Culver University" in Virginia as a result of a gamma-irradiated



When Thor's hammer (cast to Earth by an angry daddy Odin) lands in New Mexico in the post-credits scene of *Iron Man 2*, can the Marvel movie universe's next hero be far behind?

twist on the "super soldier" formula that created Captain America. (The 1978-1982 "Incredible Hulk" TV series, starring Bill Bixby and Lou Ferrigno, similarly had the monster created from an experiment at the "Culver Institute," far from our deserts.)

Viewers longing for a screen experience that places the Hulk in New Mexico where he belongs can tune in Disney XD's cable cartoon series, "Hulk and the Agents of S.M.A.S.H." Not only does it set the Hulk's origin straight; the cartoon places the Hulk and a squad of other gamma-irradiated heroes in a headquarters just outside scenic Vista Verde, NM—the only town in America that loves the Hulk.

But the print (and, increasingly now, digital) comic books have featured New Mexico much more richly than these sparse screen appearances. Just last month, for example, Marvel Comics' "Original Sin" crossover event in the print comics began with the young superhero Nova battling an "Aztec god" (which turns out to be a robot—don't ask) in the oil patch of New Mexico (which is mistakenly described as belonging to Native Americans). Even a cursory search of only the two biggest comics publishers, Marvel and rival DC, reveals a sprawling variety of New Mexico superhero characters and events, spanning fictional centuries, continuities and parallel planet Earths.

Unlike DC, which set its best-known characters in places like "Metropolis," "Gotham City" and "Central City," Marvel from the beginning has used real locales—notably New York City, home to everyone from Spider-Man and the Fantastic Four to the Wombat (yes, really). So it's not surprising that a real place like New Mexico might show up more often in Marvel's pages.

Which brings us back to the Hulk, New Mexico's most famous super-powered native son. Let's take a few paragraphs to recap the big green guy's true comic-book roots in the Land of Enchantment, with an assist from the unofficial Marvel Database wiki (marvel.wikia.com, home to 123,445 pages and counting).

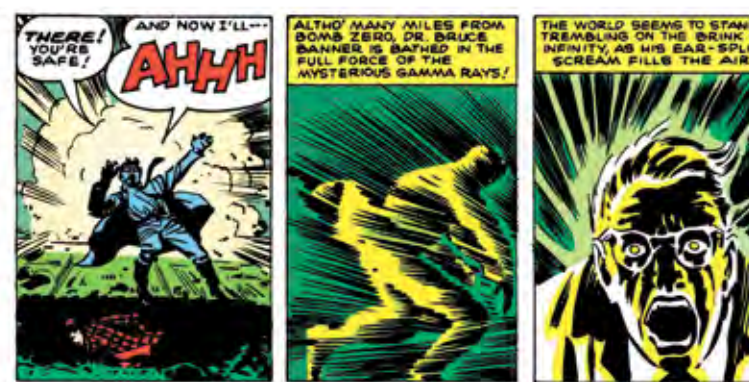
It turns out that not only was the Hulk from New Mexico, but so in a way was the Dr. Jekyll to his Mr. Hyde, Bruce Banner (more completely, "Robert Bruce Banner"—not "David Banner" as in the TV series). Though Bruce was born in Dayton, Ohio, his dad, atomic physicist Brian Banner, "found a job in Los Alamos working for the government as a member of a project trying to develop a clean way to create nuclear energy." (Things went badly there, as you might guess, but let's not digress.) Bruce graduated from Science High School and went on to study nuclear physics (like father, like son) at Desert State University in Navajo, NM.

After graduate work at the non-fictional Penn

State and Cal Tech, Bruce Banner returned to New Mexico to work at the government's top-secret if not very imaginatively named Desert Base. There he met General Thaddeus E. "Thunderbolt" Ross, the Air Force officer in charge of the base, and Ross' daughter, Betty, with whom Banner would fall in love. Desert Base was developing a "Gamma Bomb"—and Banner found himself in the instrumentation bunker at the fateful first test.

A freewheeling teenager, Rick Jones, drove onto the test site on a dare—beginning a long comic-book career that would include helping to launch the Avengers, serving as a sidekick to Captain America, being bonded to the alien Captain Marvel, and becoming a gamma-powered monster himself. (Let this be a lesson to you, kids, about acting on dares and peer pressure.) The brave if spindly Dr. Banner saw the doomed youth and raced out to save him, telling his suspiciously named colleague Igor Starsky to delay the test. Starsky was of course secretly a Soviet agent and so let the blast proceed, thinking Banner would perish. Banner threw young Rick into a protective trench and absorbed the gamma radiation himself—turning him into the initially gray, later green brute called the Hulk!

The Hulk's New Mexico origins led to a long list of other Marvel characters being connected to the Land of Enchantment. General Ross developed an obsession with capturing the Hulk, leading him to establish



Rick Jones (right) ventures onto a New Mexico gamma-bomb-testing range on a dare—and Bruce Banner gets irradiated trying to save him (above). After a few issues of the Hulk, the green hue seen here will replace the monster's original gray.



a variously named New Mexico base dedicated to that mission—Project Greenskin Base, Hulkbuster Base, Gamma Base. Pretty soon you could hardly swing a radiation control rod around the base without hitting some super-villain like the Leader or the Abomination. Heroes, too, like Doc Samson.

Given all this gamma-powered activity—already funded by Uncle Sam—maybe New Mexico should have tried to develop Hulk-based industry and tourist attractions, instead of taking a literal flier with Spaceport America.

But the Hulk, incredible though he may be, is only the most prominent of Marvel's heroes with New Mexico connections. A trip through the Marvel wiki reveals that outlaw hero Kid Colt was the first (in terms of fictional chronology) to do derring-do hereabouts, in Wild West days. Fellow western hero Two-Gun Kid also saw action in New Mexico. (You couldn't be a Marvel western hero unless you were nicknamed "Kid.")

Things quieted down, comics-wise, until the mid-20th century, when the original Human Torch (an android, not the Fantastic Four member) and sidekick Toro visited to deal with a tree that grew diamonds. (This was 1946, World War II plots had expired, and writers were desperate.) A few years later, Sun Girl got herself kidnapped by the Cube Men from the planet Autan here. This was a couple of years after



Taos native Bonita Juarez encounters “cold fire” outside of Albuquerque and becomes Firebird.

the “Roswell incident,” so fictional aliens in New Mexico should have surprised no one.

In the 1950s—lean years for most comics publishers, creatively as well as financially—the international criminal known as the Vulture (not to be confused with the later Spider-Man villain) set up shop in New Mexico to build a “super atomic bomb.” Once again, the Human Torch and Toro swooped in to save the day. They stuck around to stop a dinosaur unleashed by atomic testing—by the government this time.

The only non-Hulk-related Marvel hero with New Mexico roots seems to be Firebird, born in Taos, who has appeared in 170 issues of various titles at

last count despite being relatively obscure. “Bonita Juarez was walking across the desert near Albuquerque, NM, when a huge ball of cold fire plummeted out of the sky and struck the sand 10 feet from where she stood.” Naturally, she figured out that the “cold fire” was “a manifestation of the American Indian legend of the firebird.” Pretty soon, Juarez had a costume and was battling villains like the Corruptor and saddling up with several other Southwestern heroes as the Rangers. She’s also filled in with the Avengers and briefly adopted the name La Espirita.

It turned out, by the way, that the “cold fire” wasn’t divinely sent, after all, but was actually “an alien child’s discarded experiment.” From alien kids to WIPP, it seems New Mexico is always somebody’s dumping ground. Did we mention that the Armageddon Man, along with perhaps other super-dangerous types, is being held in stasis at a nuclear facility near Alamogordo?

Other Marvel mentions of New Mexico have included SHIELD’s Aero-Space Development Station #9, in the “Ultimate” universe, and a sojourn here by a disillusioned Ultimate Captain America.

Another Marvel team, the Defenders, had a base in New Mexico called the Aerie. Besides Bruce Banner, Los Alamos is the hometown of Mandrill, Multiple Man and Nekra Sinclair. The fictional Liberty, NM, gave birth to something called Woodgod—yet another government science experiment gone awry. (When will they learn?)

Las Cruces gets only a brief cameo in Marvel lore: Charles Xavier, mentor of the X-Men, stayed in Las Cruces at one point while “trying to restore his fractured memories” after being shot. He visited his childhood friend, Carter Ryking, who apparently ran something called the Ryking Institute, and accessed some of his memories.

Despite DC Comics’ preference for fictional locales, it’s lately added real places to the map along with Metropolis, Gotham City

SUPERHEROES continued on next page

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SUPERHEROES continued

and such—and DC is the only one of the two leading comics publishers to have a hero spring from Silver City. Unlikely as it might seem (but that, as we'll see, is the whole point), an African-American high school student from Silver City became Aqualad.

We'll have to back up a little to make sense (such as it is) of Aqualad's New Mexico origin story. In the 2010 crossover saga, "Brightest Day," the opening scene of the first issue of the comic by that name shows two lawmen discovering a "glowin' doohickey" in a crater in "Silver City, New Mexico." On the next page, hero Green Lantern and temporarily reformed villains Star Sapphire and Sinestro land in the crater. After a brief fracas with the lawmen (who evidently had not been reading the previous "Blackest Night" series and think Sinestro's still a villain), the superpowered trio revealed that the glowing white



Out of the events of *Brightest Day*, Silver City high-schooler Jackson Hyde becomes Aqualad (right, with Aquaman behind him).

lantern—similar to Green Lantern's emerald power source—is an "Entity" unearthed from the center of the earth. Sinestro explained that Silver City is home to "the white light that sparked the very creation of life throughout the universe." (Perhaps the source of that "vortex" here that people are always talking about.) Now the white lantern has also brought a bunch of deceased DC heroes, including Aquaman and Hawkman, back to life.

The Silver City action soon changed forever the life of "Jackson Hyde, an average student with an on-and-off-again girlfriend, who's pretty bored in Silver City, New Mexico" (according to the DC wiki, dc.wikia.com). Our dry climate is an important plot point here, as Jackson had been taught by his parents (not really his birth parents, of course, as would be revealed) to fear water. Not clear how the Hyde family has handled monsoon season—perhaps annual vacations in the Sahara.

As the "Brightest Day" business shook things up, rain did indeed trigger Jackson's dormant water-based superpowers, revealing gills and webbed hands. His real father turned out to be Black Manta—arch-enemy of Aquaman. Mera (aka Mrs. Aquaman, on-and-off) had given baby Jackson (real name "Kaldur'ahm") to his adoptive parents in Silver City to keep him safe from his evil real dad. After a battle over a secret chest from Atlantis, pitting Aquaman, Mera, Aquagirl and Jackson against Black Manta, the bad guy was sent packing and Jackson became Aqualad.

Not to be confused with the original Aqualad, Aquaman's 1960s sidekick and member of the Teen Titans, aka Garth and Tempest. (There will be a quiz.) The new Aqualad/Kaldur'ahm also appeared in the animated "Young Justice" series on Cartoon Network, though with a slightly different origin and minus the Jackson Hyde alter ego. "Young



The first panel of DC Comics' *Brightest Day* #1 brings super stuff to Silver City.

Justice" did feature a Justice League base in Taos, however.

Otherwise, New Mexico has made only scattered cameo appearances in the DC universe. In Old West days, the bounty hunter Jonah Hex (he would have been "Kid Hex" in Marvel) came to "Silverton, a small mining town in New Mexico," to apprehend a couple of bandits. Said bandits had previously wreaked havoc in Alamogordo.

Another Western character, El Castigo (The Whip), hailed from the New Mexico town of Seguro. Originally Fernando Suarez, a descendant of Spanish nobility, the mantle of El Castigo was passed to a descendant, Rod Gaynor, when he discovered the hero's hat and whip in a Seguro church.

The Justice Society, the Golden Age (1940s) precursor to the Justice League, got a hand from William Wildeagle, a Native American curator of a small New Mexico museum. Wildeagle helped Hawkman and other members in thwarting a plot by Vandal Savage involving (what else?) global conquest.

The town of "Swainsville, New Mexico," is home to the Porcupine Man and was also the stopping point of the Flash (aka Wally West, the third to bear the



Flash name) after the "Dominators' invasion." The Flash ran so fast he dug a massive trench that ended in a crater at Swainsville, where he was (wrongly) believed to have perished. The enterprising New Mexicans of Swainsville made a nice profit for awhile selling Flash souvenirs to tourists who came to gape at the crater.

The ghostly hero Spectre has also flitted through Roswell and White Sands.

With New Mexico's atomic history, deserts just begging to be battled upon, Native American heritage and Wild West lore, it's only a matter of time before more super characters descend on the Land of Enchantment. Just in case, though, perhaps the legislature could pass some sort of preferential tax treatment to lure more superheroes here. Who needs Tesla, after all, if we could get Superman or Wonder Woman, Spider-Man or the Fantastic Four? 🦸

Desert Exposure editor David A. Fryxell discovered comic-book superheroes at age 10 and has never looked back.

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Back to School

Turning 65 and deciding it's time to tackle college algebra again.

Editor's note: When Silver City resident Elaine Carlson decided to take college courses at the age of 65, she kept a diary. Here, at the end of her first semester at WNMU, she shares some of her entries.

Dec. 16, 2013

Soon it will be my birthday and because I will become 65 I will be able to take classes at Western New Mexico University for free—maybe there will be some fees but no tuition. At least that is what I heard soon after I moved to Silver City in 2008.

Of course, then I was too young, but I thought I would go into the school and tell people I was 65. After all, I started drinking when I was 19 and I told every bartender I was 21! But I am sure the university is not run by dummies and I doubt if I would get away with lying about my age there.

Dec. 27

So what class to take? I am thinking maybe a math class. I already took

college algebra and trigonometry but that was years ago. Now maybe is a good time to review what I have learned and maybe fill in a few of the holes of what I forgot.

Jan. 7, 2014

Now is an apt time to stop thinking, "Wouldn't it be nice to take a class?," and go online to scope out the facts. The WNMU website says people who are at least 65 can take up to six credit hours for \$5 a unit, on a space-available basis. There's also a \$25 registration fee and a \$40 technology fee.

Jan. 8

Today I went to WNMU. I paid a \$30 (not \$25) registration fee and took their math placement test. I have really forgotten a lot over the years. I get a score of 75, which means I should take trigonometry, but they don't offer it this semester. In the class schedule I see a section of college algebra that meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-10 a.m., and decide to sign up for that course.

The person who picked up my completed form asked to see my driver's license. She said she needed to check my age. So much for maybe being able to get in for the discounted rate before I turned 65—I got "carded."

Jan. 12

I wonder what the instructor will be like. In high school when I was thinking about getting a new teacher I always hoped I didn't get a "the students don't like me but respect me" type. Now all I want is someone who can explain things well.

Jan. 13

I wake up early with a sense of excitement. Today is the first day of my class. I look around and find a notebook and decide to make sure I have a pen or pencil. I end up sticking three pencils and four pens in my purse. I just want to be prepared!

I go to the campus and find the classroom. A woman is at the blackboard and she has written "Shannon Muehlhausen."

At 9 a.m. on the dot, Ms. or Dr. Muehlhausen faces the class. She says her name and tells us we can call her "Shannon." I am glad she hasn't earned her PhD. I had heard the rule is that you address instructors

as "Dr." if they have but otherwise you can call them by their first name. I am sure I would have trouble pronouncing her last name.

On my way out I tell her that I am taking the class as a special student because I just turned 65. I also tell her I took college algebra but I feel a bit rusty on the subject. She asks me if I am going to audit. I tell her no, it is my intention to take the class for credit.

Jan. 15

Shannon explains the university computer program, Canvas. She's already put up the syllabus and will post all of our homework assignments. I think Canvas is super; it sure beats having to attempt to write down everything the teacher says. I really like this modern age!

Jan. 16

I get a big shock when I go to the college bookstore. The new price for our textbook is \$219 and used ones go for \$166. The last time I took college algebra the textbook cost about \$20. I notice a sign advertising textbook rentals. I decide to go that route when I learn the rental fee is "only" \$67.

I get another shock when I read the terms on the rental contract. It says if I don't return the book on time and in good condition they will post \$219 and a \$45 non-return fee to my credit card (I gave them the numbers and the expiration date).

I consider "fine print" or "highway robbery" to be interchangeable terms here. They gave me a used book that they would have sold to me for \$166 but if I don't return it on time in good condition they will charge me \$219 plus a processing fee of \$45. How can such a contract be legal?

Jan. 17

After class I go to Walmart. The first thing I do is get a calculator, a Texas Instruments model selling for \$9.95. I am glad not all school expenses have gone up the way textbooks have.

I leave the store with other school supplies: regular and graphing paper, a few pens and pencils, Advil and some Hershey bars. I know pain pills and candy are essential school supplies!

Jan. 20

Today is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Because I am retired, holidays usually don't mean that much. Often I first learn a day is a holiday when I see a notice stuck in the door of a bank. I enjoy the day away from school and I really begin to feel like I am a student!

Jan. 24

I don't go to class today because my husband Brad developed a serious liver infection and I have to take him to Gila Regional Medical Center. His doctor told him to get there between 10-11 a.m. Briefly I consider driving us both to school and making him wait in the car while I am in class, but decide that is not such a good idea.

Feb. 5

I took college algebra in 1974, but math was taught differently then. In fact, things have changed so much that what started out as an attempt to refresh my memory of what I had forgotten has instead become going to a whole new class—well, not whole, because some of the things we are studying are the same, but I am essentially taking a different class.

A big change is that now we do a lot of graphing. Then (was it really 40 years ago?) it was just straight math. Math was a matter of doing manipulation and you had to remember that what you did on the left side of the equation you also had to do on the right. I could do a problem if I had the formula (and I always had a lot of difficulty memorizing them).

I like this new emphasis on graphs. It is very nice to be able to see what is going on.

Feb. 14

Shannon announces that the first test will be on Feb. 24 and says that she will post review material on Canvas.



WNMU as seen from Boston Hill. (WNMU photo)

As soon as I get home I start doing the homework. It seems so obvious but I keep telling myself that doing the homework is a good way to prepare for the test. Homework is one of the two things I didn't like about school. The other was taking tests. But such is life. I think back to that first day when Shannon asked if I was going to audit the class. I have to admit now auditing seems like a good option.

Feb. 19

After class I get into a conversation with two other students in the class, Beth and Angela. I tell them I am not a regular student and just taking this class. They say it is easier for me because I have to study and do the work for only one class. I am a little bit embarrassed by the fact so I do not add that I took the course before.

Feb. 24

Test Day (or is "Catastrophe Day" a better designation?). As I am going into the class I feel a pain in my gut—almost as if Paul Bunyan grabbed the insides of my stomach and squeezed hard. I am surprised I am feeling so much anxiety. I decide the best way to cope is to just concentrate on taking the test.

Shannon tells us we can use calculators and the computers at our desk but we can't use our cell phones. She explains she has no way of regulating them and that it is possible some of us might have made arrangements with people on the outside to help us. I think about saying something cute like, "Now how can I expect to pass this dang test?," but think better of it and keep quiet.

I finish my exam and give it to Shannon. I can't help but think maybe I shouldn't be taking this course.

Feb. 28

Shannon hands back the tests and I am happy when I see I got a 92. I feel good I survived and I tell myself taking this class hasn't ended up being a bad idea.

March 1

I decide I want to look up the history of algebra. YouTube has several good videos on the subject. I learn *Algebra* is from an Arabic word because the first person to sketch out the details of this kind of math was an Arab living in Baghdad in the 6th century.

I look to see what else YouTube offers. I end up spending the day watching videos on functions, absolute numbers and quadratic equations and other topics covered in the class. I never really realized how much fun it can be to watch different people present lectures on the same topic.

April 2

I take the second test today and it is harder than the first one. I am glad that Shannon told us that the final will not be commutative and so I won't have to deal with this material again on a test.

One problem I had a lot of trouble on and wasn't able to do—but after I got home I thought of the answer. Now why couldn't I have done that when I was taking the test? I guess I will never know how my brain works (or doesn't work).

April 7

Shannon hands back the tests and I see I got a 76. I console myself with the fact that I didn't bomb but I wish I had done better.

April 14

Today Shannon covers "limits." As she is telling how when you break distances into halves and kept going one half of the way you never get there, I kept thinking of the guy whom this concept



The author decided to enroll in college algebra at age 65. (Photo by John Catsis)

was named after. Then when I got home I remembered it is Zeno's Paradox.

Limits is one of the things I remember well. In one math class the instructor couldn't give a lecture on limits without giving examples that involved sexual innuendo. I am glad Shannon is giving the lecture—she has better manners than that male math instructor I had so many years ago.

April 23

Yesterday I didn't feel well and went to Urgent Care. The doctor I saw determined I had strep throat and prescribed penicillin. When I woke up I told myself I would stay away from class so I don't expose everyone. Actually I feel so down all I want to do is sleep. I stay in bed and don't leave the house all day.

April 25

The penicillin must be working because I feel so much better. It is just that when I think of how I felt the expression "The Lost Weekend" comes to mind—I almost feel as if I am coming out of a hangover. When I wake up I know I will go to class, and I feel good when I walk in five minutes early.



April 30

Today I go to Albertsons to pick up a few things before I head to WNMU. I am in the checkout line and get nervous when I see it is almost 8:40 a.m. but figure I can still get to class on time. Then the cashier notices the deli forgot to put pricing stickers on the macaroni salad and coleslaw I got there. It is nice that the young fellow she gave them to for taking back to the deli is fast. I watch him run away with the two salads and I see him running back.

Then when I am out trying to turn onto 12th Street I see a lot of bicycles and realize the street is cut off. Damn it, why didn't I remember the Tour of the Gila? I take a roundabout way to the campus and I walk

into class seven minutes late. I don't like that feeling.

May 9

Now we are near the end and our final is next, Wednesday, May 14. All week was "Dead Week" and Shannon spends all of the class time conducting reviews ("I am not covering anything new.").

Again I become aware of how different things are from when I was taking college classes before. She tells us using graphing calculators during the test will save us a lot of time. It is so nice to be able to put in a formula and to look at the graph that the computer generated to get the answers to the problems.

She also tells us to look for a computer calculator that can give us the answers to a quadratic formula. I know we are not exactly home free because we have to do the work from the information she gives us to derive the formula, but after you get it is so nice to be able to just do some plugging in to get the answers.

I remember really bombing one test because I forgot the relevant formulas. Again I realize I really like this modern age.

May 13

On the teacher evaluation form I write that Shannon is a good teacher because she explains things well and she doesn't make you feel like an idiot if you ask a

question when you don't understand something. She and all the students have been so nice to me that I really enjoyed becoming a student again.

The final will be tomorrow and now I am about at the point where I know it is too late for me to do anything more to prepare. Of course, I hope I do well but even if I don't I am not going to change my mind about this being a good class. ❁

Elaine Carlson moved to Silver City in 2008 with her husband, his cat, and her 72 dolls.

THE *COVBOY WAY* • MEL STONE

Learning the Ropes

How a photographer's search for horses to photograph led him to the rough and tumble world of NMSU's "rodeo school."

Editor's note: A recent transplant to southern New Mexico, photographer Mel Stone operates the Mesquite Art Gallery in downtown Las Cruces and is a Downtown Farmers Market vendor. What began as a simple outing to photograph horses in the NMSU area evolved into a series, "Rodeo School," documenting the university rodeo team practices and the objects, landscape and people surrounding them. Earlier this year, some of those photographs were featured in a show and accompanying gallery talk at the Branigan Cultural Center in Las Cruces.

The photographs will also be featured this month at his Mesquite Art Gallery. Here, Stone shares a selection of his "Rodeo School" images and talks about his photographic work and the way that images begin to form narratives, stories that bring the viewer on a journey.

I was born in Minnesota, graduated from Thief River Falls, Minn., high school, earned a BA in chemistry at St. Olaf College and found out I was not a very good chemist. I earned a master's in economics and mathematics and then a PhD in economics. I thought about becoming a journalist and eventually became a one-man band in TV news—writer, shooter, editor, all of it. I got a lot of practice shooting pictures, albeit video.

As I slid into retirement, I bought my first digital still camera and joined an art co-op. I did well enough in the co-op to decide to have a combined home and art gallery when I moved to Las Cruces in 2010.

Some photographers love shooting cats or dogs or people. I've always loved photographing horses. But I haven't always had luck finding good locations or good horses to photograph. Perhaps even worse, I haven't always known a good horse photograph when I had one.

A few months after getting my first digital camera, I took this picture ("Front Range") somewhere between Santa Fe and Pueblo, Colo. Driving north on I-25, I saw the snowcapped mountains to the west and thought, "Somewhere there might be a photograph."

Then I saw a herd of horses off to the west: "Damn, they're on the wrong side of the Interstate," I thought.

A few miles down the Interstate, I said, "The hell with it!" and drove through the ditch and back to the horses. After a few shots, I made this one—and it just sat on my hard drive.

Some time later I had my first one-man show since turning digital and just about had the exhibit filled-out but needed one more image. "I like the barbed-wire shot, but doubt if anybody else will," I thought. So I printed, matted, framed and hung it.

The night of the opening reception, "Front Range" was the first piece to sell—and it continues to sell.

It's scary how close I came to not showing that piece.



"These Boots": Very few people see the world from this low perspective.

Another time, I was driving back from a TV news shoot, when I saw a paddock with some horses. I stopped and made a few photographs, but nothing was "making the grade." Then two horses came together and I made this shot ("Horse Play").

It, too, languished on my hard drive. By this time I had joined an art co-op and somehow our advertising person got her hands on this image and it appeared in an ad. The phone started to ring: "Is that photograph still available?" "Damn, I better print it." And it's still a good seller.

Once I moved to Las Cruces, I continued my search for horses to photograph.

About 24 miles north of Las Cruces on Valley Drive, I discovered a place that raised quarter horses. I got to meet the owners, too.

But the last time I headed out there, the water tank and all the horses were gone—probably due to the drought and the high price of hay.

I took some other photos over in Mesilla Park at a horse-rescue farm. I just happened to meet the owner on a garden tour and she said, "Come over and photograph anytime you want."

Then I heard that NMSU had a couple of places where you could find a lot of horses. First I tried the equestrian barns, but there were too many fences and no good access to the horses; the folks from NMSU were worried about my safety and liability.

So it was out to near "A" Mountain where the NMSU rodeo team practices. Fortunately, I had the



Top: "You Call That a Bronc?" Above: "Iron Calf"

good sense to think about photographing the rodeo team practicing, and they gave me great access.

As I made more pictures, I began to see a narrative—beginning, middle and end—and I submitted a proposal to the Branigan Cultural Center. Then I had last fall and this spring to make more pictures at practice.

Many of the images in my original proposal did not make it into the exhibit. In "Boot Flying," for example, this guy had his ankle broken after the bronc stepped on him. I learned that "rodeo is one of the most dangerous organized spectator sports in the world."

Given the narrative I saw emerge, I asked the Branigan to hang the photographs in a more or less specific order. I saw "These Boots" as a nice beginning shot—and very few people see the world from this low perspective.

I got in the habit of showing up early and on odd days. Only once did I see this towed, mechanical bronc being used ("You Call That a Bronc?").

Another day, I saw this lady roping a towed iron calf. By showing the bronc being towed I felt I could use a closer shot of the iron-calf roping and people would deduce it, too, was being towed.

Early another day, I saw a lady doing ground work in goat-tying. I didn't like any of those shots, but then she began practice dismounts from her horse ("Dismount Perfection").

I think shots like this ("Looking On") help add a third dimension to a two-dimensional medium. If we'd had a vote for "people's choice" the night of the reception at the Branigan, this one might have won. People seemed to especially like that little braid near the edge.

This is not the side you normally dismount from ("Roper's Dismount"), so I asked a roper about it. This is the best way for them to dismount.

This one ("Season's Over") was shot at NMSU's last rodeo of the season in 2013. Sunday's rodeo began at high noon, when the light is just awful, so I decided to show up later

in the day. I got there after the rodeo was finished, but wandered the grounds. I saw this guy on crutches and asked if I could take some photographs. They were all forgettable, so I wandered some more



Top: "Looking On." Above: "Roper's Dismount"

and came back to him and hung around for a time and made this picture.

Speaking of light and time of day to photograph brings me to this: Photography, taken apart, is "photo," which means light, and "graph," which means to write, so photography is "writing with light."

Light is everything! And generally speaking it's nicest early in the day, around sunrise, and late in the day, around sunset. Fortunately, the NMSU team practiced late in the day.

For more about NMSU's rodeo team, see aces.nmsu.edu/rodeo. The College National Finals Rodeo will be June 15-21 in Casper, Wyo.



Above: "Front Range." Below: "Horse Play." (All photos by Mel Stone)





"Dismount Perfection"

If you learn to see the light and find it hitting interesting subjects, about all that's left is to compose well.

Some photography teachers admonish their students to get it right in the camera and never crop in post-production. I like to get as much as possible perfect in the camera, but I will crop in post-production—especially with a fast-moving event like rodeo.

A photographer-teacher, Rick Sammon, doesn't understand the "don't crop" attitude. He says post-production is your last chance to get the composition right, and has coined the word "crop-osition" (cropping and composition).

I guess my favorites among these "Rodeo School" pictures are when the light and the "crop-position" come together just right. 🌟



Above: "Airborne." Above right: "Season's Over."

Mel Stone's Mesquite Art Gallery is at 340 N. Mesquite St. in Las Cruces, (575) 640-3502, www.mesquiteartgallery.com. Hours are Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday 2-5 p.m.

The Southwest Horseman's Association will sponsor the annual **Wild, Wild West Pro Rodeo** in Silver City, **June 4-6**. This annual PRCA Rodeo features bull riding, fast riding and roping and nightly mutton bustin' by the youngest cowpokes. Events are held at the Southwest Horseman's Park, off Hwy. 180 and Caballero Road.

Wednesday, June 4: The Boys and the Bulls.
Thursday, June 5: Family Night and "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" night. Exceptional Rodeo at 6:15 p.m.
Friday, June 6: Rodeo action.
Saturday, June 7: Final rodeo action.
 Gates open at 6 p.m., SHA Gymkhana demonstration at 7 p.m., Mutton Bustin' at 7:30 p.m., and the PRCA Rodeo performance gets underway at 8 p.m.
 Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the gate. Available at: Circle Heart Western Wear (Silver City), First New Mexico Bank (Silver City), Lawley Dodge (Silver City), Circle S Western Emporium (Deming) and Trail Town Chevron (Lordsburg). For more information, see silvercityprorodeo.com.



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*New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey High School Survey Results 2011 (most current year available)

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100 HIKES • LINDA FERRARA

In the Loop

Hiking a loop around the Mogollon Box with Kathy Whiteman, director of WNMU's Outdoor Program.

Kathy Whiteman, director of WNMU's Outdoor Program, has lived in rural settings for most of her life. She was raised in northwest Pennsylvania, has spent time in Washington State, and made it to New Mexico in the mid-1990s. Her credentials include a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Edinboro University, a Bachelor of Science (botany) from Western New Mexico University, and a Master's and PhD in Biology (plant ecology) from New Mexico State University.

She is exceedingly knowledgeable about the plants, animals and terrain of our wilderness backyard, which made her an excellent hiking partner. She has traveled throughout the Gila on foot and mule for almost two decades. Clearly, she is especially competent to run the Outdoor Program for WNMU.

You can tell she has hiked with inexperienced hikers before. She reminded me to bring a snack, water, river shoes and a hat. She also sent me a link to a Google map that showed where we were going. This is my kind of hiker!

Name: Mogollon Box Loop Hike

Distance: 4.25 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: Starting at the intersection of Hwy. 180 and Little Walnut Road in Silver City, drive 28 miles to mile marker 84. Make a right onto S211 and drive 1 mile to a fork in the road. Stay to the left and drive 6.9 miles to trailhead. Park in the Mogollon Box campground.

Hike description: Keep in mind that the flood we had last fall re-structured parts of the river so that some of the trails/markers are not immediately obvious. Go around the brown gate and walk on the road. Just before the green gate (a minute or two of walking), on the right, you will see a brown Gila National Forest trailhead marker. Take this trail through the trees and after one or two minutes, look for a trail on your left. Now trek through a dry river bed until you pick up the trail again (as of May 1, there were blue tape markers hanging in the trees showing the way). You will soon see the trail. Take it to your first river crossing. You will see the trail on the other side of the water.

This is a loop trail that crosses the Gila River five times and works its way over a mountain. You will pass the Gila USGS gauging station along the way. Walk past the gauge equipment and follow the two-track road back to the car.

We saw six desert bighorn sheep along the way, a gopher snake, and a hiking fool who fell in the water twice (it's not necessary to name names).

Notes: If the river is flowing when you cross, be careful. The rocks under the water are slippery and the water is flowing faster than you think!

If you prefer an easier, drier hike, at the green gate, keep heading northwest on the two-track road and follow it all the way to the gauging station. Return the way you came. No river crossings for this modified hike, but take plenty of water with you, as there is very little shade.

Tell me about a particularly memorable hiking experience: As I click my camera overlooking the Gila River, Kathy shares a story. "Not surprisingly, one of the stupidest things I've ever done involved alcohol. I was in my 20s and spending a lot of time backpacking in the Gila. One afternoon a friend of



mine dropped me and another friend off at a trailhead. The two of us hikers had been drinking and were pretty toasted when we started down the trail. We had very heavy packs and were planning to make it to a base camp we'd set up 12 miles away.

"We were having a great time, drunk as skunks, when it started to snow. It was one of those big snows with heavy wet flakes that stick. It was beautiful and we were like kids, throwing snowballs and me, making snow angels. Before long, I was soaking wet and cold; I wasn't dressed for the snow.

"Not surprisingly, by the time it started getting dark, we were a long way from our intended camp spot. We had enough sense to make camp before the light was completely gone, but our hands were so cold that we couldn't light a match or use a lighter. We had trouble putting up the tent. We only had one sleeping bag.

"When I look back on this experience, I realize how lucky I was, and how embarrassingly stupid. The Gila's 'gentle seasons' can be unforgiving; nature is not sympathetic to human ignorance. Getting sloppy drunk out in the wilderness is about as dumb as it gets. Thankfully, I learned from this experience."

What is the WNMU Outdoor Program all about? "The Outdoor Program (OP) allows students of WNMU to take classes for academic credit. Classes include Outdoor Leadership, Foundations in Experiential and Adventure Education, Introduction to Rock Climbing, Introduction to Backpacking, SCUBA, Fundamentals of Search and Rescue, Mountain Biking and more. This fall the OP is teaming with the Art Department to offer a wilderness photography course. Participants will learn photography and practice skills on a four-day horse-packing trip to photograph elk. The university Outpost has gear for rent to students and the public as well as maps and other information.

"Students (and WILL members) may also attend trips (not for credit) that the outdoor program leads. Previous trips have included: Carlsbad Caverns, scuba diving, skiing/snowboarding, White Sands National Monument, whitewater rafting, and wilderness horseback riding."

Want to know more about WNMU's Outdoor Program? Check out their website: www.wnmuoutdoors.org.

To read more about Linda Ferrara's 100-hike challenge, check out her blog at 100hikesinayear.wordpress.com. See a new collection of her previous 100 Hikes columns at www.desertexposure.com/100hikes.



BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

Hearts and Minds

The Learning Center in Palomas comes alive.

The Learning Center in Palomas is one long narrow room slapped onto the side of the library a couple of years ago by Border Partners volunteers. It's finally being used regularly by local kids and adults.

It started being used early this year with five or seven students. As of mid-May, word had spread and about 25 kids were showing up in the late afternoons as well as adults on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Organizers are considering more expansion before too long.

One 13-year-old girl has learned to read for the first time, a 7-year-old learned to say the alphabet in English overnight, and a 12-year-old is so good at computers that he hacks into one of his instructors' computers in the evening to say hi.

Three- and four-year-olds bring a hand-made booklet of English vocabulary words home to their parents for them to learn. One girl found something about yodeling online and wants to yodel. This cracks up Sheila Bjeletich, the forever supportive and bubbly promoter of the project.

There are 10 desktop computers, four laptops, and eight tablets. A 20-foot-long mosaic lizard by artist Dago Rodriguez ("Frieze Frame," September 2013) covers much of the floor.

The first germ of the Learning Center can probably be traced to Clinton Friberg, who lives in Columbus. He started teaching poor kids one-on-one at least five years ago. Sheila came along about two years ago and offered the use of her computer tablets.

They both are helping some families get their kids higher education with the assistance of the "Mexico College Fund," found on Facebook.

They started teaching at the Del Rio pharmacy near the Port of Entry. "We moved on to private homes, the park, street corners, and then the Learning Center was completed," says Sheila. Peter and Polly Edmundson of Border Partners, based in Deming, had been building a Learning Center all along.

"Peter offered the use of the center and all those computers," says Sheila. "Oh my God, we were in heaven!"

The center now has its own entrance, separate from the library entrance. It can now be open five days a week and on Saturday. Mostly adults come on Saturday.

"We're getting grownups here to learn the computers," says Juan Rascon, the thoroughly bilingual supervisor of the project. "Even something like a gas station is computerized. You need it to run the cash register."

Some kids have parents who are involved with the *narcos*, or very poor, or screwed up in other ways. Some have been selling *chicle* (gum) on the streets or washing windshields. Some girls may be perilously close to becoming prostitutes to support their families. It doesn't matter. They are all welcome.

"We need to keep them off the streets," Juan emphasizes.

The computer-hacking boy visits a website with the words "*El niño sicario*" (the boy murderer) on it. Juan is concerned about this, and says if the boy continues going on websites like this he will tell him he can't come to the center for three weeks. The shadows are so close to some of these kids.

Juan takes care of things here, and gets paid by Border Partners. He is sober, sincere and quiet.

He and two of his brothers spent most of their lives without papers in the US, for the most part in Gallup, Farmington and Colorado. A few years ago they were deported. Juan spent eight months in detention and was returned to the Mexican side at Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in 2010, at the height of the violence.

But Juan says he is "a very positive person," and sees his work for the Learning Center as perhaps one reason for his being in Palomas. He says that for a while he was depressed about the violence in Mexico, but he's learned to look on the positive side.

There are two sisters who are very devoted to this work, too. Their names are Sheri and Ruth, and they



Students at the Learning Center in Palomas include Dayán Cano Porras, left, who dances *la bachata*, and Dulce Maria Lopez, who just learned to read. (Photo by Marjorie Lilly)

are a laugh-a-minute. They say, "We came to Palomas to get our teeth fixed three years ago and stayed here."

These two blonde Americans hardly speak Spanish, but say they communicate with Mexicans without serious problems. "I don't know if it's the heart?" Sheri asks, voice rising.

Ruth grasps for words to explain what is clearly a spiritual thing to them: "You've got to hear from here," she says, pointing to her stomach. "When you feel at home, there's an underlying peace. When things are in sync and working, everything works."

They teach English at the Learning Center, which is a popular subject among the kids. The women don't have water in their house, and they use a day pass for the Pancho Villa State Park to take showers.

Around the dining-room table in Juan Rascon's mother's house in the warm evening, Sheri struggles to describe the situation in Palomas these days in regard to the invisible *narcos*. "It's like a circle of light with dark around it. Or it's as if there's a dome in the middle. People are creating their own peace," she says.

"It's really wonderful to see," she adds. "It's love!" Juan says, "The people were very traumatized by the violence. They want peace."

Sheri has learned second-hand about the wives of *narcos*, and says they say to their husbands, "It doesn't matter what you do, but just don't do it here." Sheri alludes vaguely to acts of violence and disappearances that are carried out beyond the city limits, or to rumors of these acts.

Out on the porch of the library I talk to the 13-year-old girl who had just learned to read through a phonics website online at the Learning Center. Her favorite subjects in school are science and biology. Self-assuredly she says she's planning to go to Casas Grandes for both high school and college, where she'll learn to be a nurse.

A younger friend spins around on the porch, insouciant and funny. She talks about her favorite singer called "*Piz roi*" (she writes this in my notebook very decisively, although I can't find it online) and a dance called *la bachata*.

A 10-year-old girl, Andrea Santillanes Garcia, states calmly that she'll go to college in Michigan, where she'll learn to repair computers. She already fixes computers at the Learning Center.

I've gotten pretty cynical at times about Mexico over the last seven years of mayhem. But these kids are to me like the bright green blades of grass that keep springing up on earth completely oblivious to human tragedies.

The blades are inevitable and spontaneous, but helped along by people like the ones in this article. ❁

To contact Sheila Bjeletich or Clinton Friberg about the Learning Center, email sheilabjeletich@gmail.com or clintonfriberg@gmail.com. *Borderlines* columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.



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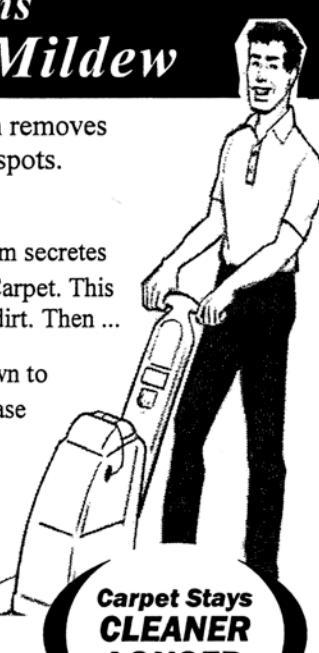
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The Meaning of Life

How can life provide such an unlikely cycle of sadness and happiness in such a short span of time?

Ever since the first protozoa became self-aware millions of years ago, our species has spent an embarrassing amount of time trying to figure out what the meaning of life is. Scores of bloviating Greek philosophers, recumbent in their gilt-edged robes, squads of nihilistic Germans and perfumed Frenchmen have all attempted to define our mortal purpose, to very little effect. Like all amateur writers fostering a low-level case of alcoholism, I myself have ruminated at length on these very matters, and have yet to come up with an answer more satisfying than a comfortable chair and copious quantities of green chile.

I distinctly recall when I recognized my mortality. I was a towheaded ranch rat, about 10 years old, scurrying from the chicken coop, past the pig pens towards my dad’s experimental earthworm farm. (Give me a break—it was 1975, and my parents wanted to be worm barons.) For some reason, it suddenly occurred to me that the breath in my lungs was on loan. Even more frightening, my parents had expiration dates, too. We all do. Holy crap, what was the point of cleaning out the chicken coops if we’re all going to wind up dead anyway?

I was most disappointed in this morbid turn of events. I had no idea that this was the genesis of a personal philosophical quest embarked upon by nearly every human being, ever.

There are a lot of theories about the meaty subject of our common mortal mission. One of my all-time favorites was put forth in Douglas Adams’ *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*. When the galaxy’s most powerful computer was asked to explain the meaning of life, the universe, and everything, it considered the issue for 10,000 years. Finally, it spat out the answer: 42. Outraged at the ambiguity of the answer, the people demanded an explanation. The computer simply replied, “Only when you know what the question is, will you know what the answer means.”

For those searching for a less frivolous answer, there are many alternative schools of thought. Among the choices are Aristotelianism, Stoicism, Kantianism, Nihilism and—one of my all-time favorites—Cynicism. There are scores of Asian religions to consult, scads of Western holy men to entertain, and even scientific aspects to consider. But don’t waste your time. All these sources pretty much boil down to the point that Michael Palin delivered at the end of *Monty Python’s The Meaning of Life*: “Try to be nice to people, avoid eating fat, read a good book every now and then, get some walking in, and try to live together in peace and

harmony with people of all creeds and nations.”

The meaning of life has been on my mind a lot lately due to one of the most schismatic weeks in my own mortal existence. After a brief illness, my mother died at the end of April, and we held her funeral on a Tuesday. My oldest son graduated from college on Saturday.

I was confused by how life could provide such an unlikely cycle of sadness and happiness in such a short span of time. I had to go from a grieving child to a proud parent, and both roles came far more easily than I would have predicted. It was a painfully poignant time for the entire family, but for me, it was a study in living within a moment. Each event was enormously significant in its own context. I celebrated my mom’s life and my son’s, all the while reflecting on the inexorable indifference of time’s passage. These mortal coils shift constantly, and our desire for control is little more than an illusion that helps us cope with the vagaries of existence.

In the midst of all this, a cherished friend shared a news story about a visit the Dalai Lama had made to Santa Fe in the mid 1980s. The prospect of a visiting holy man in robes and sandals in the snow,

surrounded by an entourage of Tibetan homies, is unlikely enough. However, the Dalai Lama announced he was hungry, and spontaneously visited a restaurant at a ski resort. The waitress, who wasn’t necessarily a practicing Buddhist but who recognized the Dalai Lama’s wisdom, asked him in all seriousness what the meaning of life is. Over the course of his entire visit, the Dalai Lama had been asked many questions, except this one. The big one. He answered immediately, “The meaning of life is happiness.”

He explained further, “Hard question is not, ‘What is meaning of life?’ That is easy question to answer! No, hard question is what make happiness? Money? Big house? Accomplishments? Friends? Or... compassion and good heart? This is question all human beings must try to answer: What make true happiness?”

My mom strived to give me a happy life, and with her support and love, I feel I have done pretty well. I am trying my best to do the same for my kids, which also brings me happiness. I guess that if that’s the meaning of life, then I’m way ahead of the game. 🍀

Henry Lightcap figures things out in Las Cruces.



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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • JEAN EISENHOWER

Designing an Ecosystem

How a garden or a yard can be a nurturing space.

Wonderful to be out in the garden again! *Sitting.*

Yes, sitting. I haven't felt like working much yet this year. Maybe I'm recovering from doing so very much last summer.

I often ask myself why this space nurtures me so well. It's not just one or a couple of things. We're connected to a vast Universe, all of it impacting us in different ways, as we impact our yards and gardens in different ways, all of it requiring consideration.

My neighbors have seen my yard slowly transform over the past eight years, from the solid granite hill cut with elm trees and four other major living plants, to an elm-cleared weedy lot with barren structures of fence posts, swales and materials piles, to a cedar-fenced enclosure with a half-dozen young trees peeking above (and lots more unseen inside) with experimental plantings on the outside. It's been a slow go.

It's a complex process to create something not just aesthetic, but ecologically responsible, functional, productive, socially nurturing, self-nurturing, ergonomic and economic. It's not something to knock out on paper in an afternoon and then hire the workers to complete next week.

Our yards are ecosystems we're creating of uncountable living beings, all interacting. The design task challenges our creativity and our consciousness. The result is a harmonious gathering of living beings to share our space on quiet mornings, nurturing, inspiring, and healing.

If I could wish anything for everyone on this planet, it would be a garden that nurtures them—body, mind and soul.

Since we each have different needs, abilities and constraints, each of us needs a unique design. Here are some basic considerations:

Privacy and Quiet

Modern life subjects us to a lot of stimuli and has taken most of us

away from the natural, living world to some degree, so it's important for us to create at least a small natural space where we can be free of overstimulation, including social stimuli. Fences or hedges seem essential to most people who want to spend time outdoors.

Beauty

The most beautiful items, I assert, are found in nature: stones, trees, flowers and all plants. A yard needs nothing more to create beauty.

If we need to introduce manufactured items—for instance, to build a fence—the more natural, the better.

Garden hoses, plastic tubs and trashcans can all be stored in a single location, maybe shielded, leaving all the rest of yard for feasting the eyes on natural colors, lines, textures and shapes. When we must have a manufactured item in those areas—for instance, chairs—the colors and textures should be harmonious.

Lines in the yard needn't be rectilinear. Paths and fences can meander, and patios should be



Author Jean Eisenhower with friend Darlene Dabroslavic and partner Greg Renfro on a late summer morning in the garden last year.



A narrow garden bed was expanded outward with a "keyhole" notch for access to the widest area. All the garden beds were widened last summer, leaving just enough space in the yard for wide walkways and (to the left outside the frame) seating for morning meditation.

shaped organically to suit their function. Rectangles have their place in modern efficiency, but we're not packing patios into the back yard! Often, we just have one, and it should be shaped to support the life on it and surrounding it. What will be on and around it? Hold that thought.

Color! Who doesn't thrill at the first spring flowers? Flowers bring us such wonderful lessons in harmony and aesthetics in every iris, columbine, rose, garden sage spike, evening primrose, twining morning glory, and even my beloved, modest globe mallow (she's a healer, you know). And prickly poppies, thistles (please don't mow them down, City!), elderberry, desert willow, fairy duster and all the others unnamed. *And these are just the flowers that grow with almost no effort!*

Please don't be too practical (like I used to be) and think that all the soil needs to be in vegetable production. Allow the flowers, and then learn what they're good for. Dandelion, for instance, is excellent medicine. Flowers, if we understand them and use their medicine appropriately,

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page



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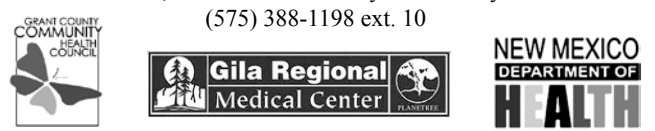
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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

might even save us thousands of dollars in health care.

I remember little from my grade school and high school art education, but I found it easy to apply what I learned about harmony, balance, dominance and emphasis, similarity and contrast, etc. in my yard, and it was pure fun to create garden beds with meandering edges, and to use brick dividers (meandering also) in the patio, pointing to “featured elements” of apricot and almond trees. (A refresher in art basics is as close as the public library!)

Functionality, Ergonomics

Don't start those lines meandering until you've considered as many functions of your yard as you can possibly imagine. Where do you need to walk the most often, less often, or once a year? What do you need to store? Try to think of everything, and then add more space for the unexpected.

What are your physical needs? Those of your family and friends? Consider the future and decide where you might want to plan paths, now or later, wide enough for a wheelchair.

Do you want to change the location of anything? Is your hose bib in the sun in winter? Is your compost near the back door, but not too near? Are your gardens convenient to the kitchen, especially beds of things you use often, like herbs, or need to check regularly, like those zucchini?

Do you have furniture that lets you enjoy the yard fully? Do you need a place for people or animals to play? Do you like the idea of a social space for friends to gather? If so, what's needed for that? Would an outdoor fireplace extend your enjoyment of your yard?

Do you have a work table outside, to clean all that harvested food or those flowers before bringing them inside?

Is anything too low or too high for comfort? Can you change that?

Straight rows of vegetables have a few advantages, easily accepting rectangular shading and rectangular cold frame boxes. But there are advantages in a circle, too! A six-foot-diameter round garden with a “keyhole” entry to the center allows the gardener to access it all from one spot, and—best of all—lets



Flowers and “weeds” combine to feed our souls and the chickens (with their greens). The pottery pieces add visual accent to the yard, can store water, and with a pottery tray the one makes a birdbath (with crystals inside).

the gardener twist and turn ergonomically, healthily, while tending the plants.

Economics

A well-designed yard with appropriate passive solar design can save hundreds of dollars each year in energy and water bills, and can provide as much in food and herbal medicines. If you compost and recycle, you'll help the whole community with landfill costs and be able to amend your soil for free.

A good design can also add living space, and that and the beauty will enhance the value of your home.

And maybe your yard or garden can help you earn an income.

If you ever get more food than you can eat or easily process, consider a simple food dryer. It's a huge money-saver and time-saver over canning.

Ditto drying your clothes on a line outside. Do you have a good place in the sun for the line? Consider those that roll-up against the side of the house.

Solar ovens also save money, and we users insist the food tastes better.

Consider an outdoor shower or tub, to cool off when working outside and then to recycle

the water into the garden—another savings.

Ecology

No need for plastic patio mist machines when you have good passive solar design. That means planning to get solar radiation in the

winter to your home and patio—and gardens, compost, chickens, dog house, hose bibs, etc.—while protecting many of those elements from the sun in summer. Since the winter sun cuts a low arc across the southern sky and the summer sun rises and sets northerly and crosses the sky higher overhead, we can plan to get solar gain to specific elements in winter and shade some of them from the east, west and overhead in summer.

It's a great puzzle! Not only 3-D, but changing though time—the fourth dimension—the seasons and years, as trees and other shade-producing plants grow and deciduous ones lose and regain their leaves every year. Yes, a puzzle-worker's delight—in 4-D!

Then there's water. We've recently joined billions of people all over the planet who need to fight to protect their water source. And with the weather becoming in-



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creasingly erratic, the water concern is even greater. So, to be responsible for our water use, we must heavily mulch our gardens, plant appropriate desert-adapted species, and use as efficiently as possible the rainwater that falls on our property. Since the average American roof can harvest 1,000 gallons in a good rainfall, it makes sense to either save it in tanks or direct it to collect in gentle swales, shallow depressions. These are most attractive when they are shallow, perhaps just a few inches deep, and especially when they meander across your property, maybe alongside your pathways, providing a place for herbs, flowers and trees. There's no sense in letting the water flood the street—or flood your yard and paths.

Plastic offends my sensibilities, though obviously modern life demands that we accept it. Still, I see no need to have any more of it in my private garden than is necessary. So I pay more for products that will one day go back to the Earth easily and naturally, and I discover there's an awful lot of stuff that just isn't necessary. Plastic garden hoses I don't know how to get around. Our water-harvesting tank, recycled from a natural food container, was ugly to me, so we plastered over it to blend in with the granite hillside.

We buy nothing toxic at the nursery, except for one thing to eradicate the elm trees—an invasive species that will kill off all competitors. If anyone knows of a natural option, please let me know, and I'll spread the word far and wide.

Honeybees all over the planet are in decline. By planting gardens and tending them organically, we can do a small part to sustain the bees. And beekeeping is becoming a popular avocation, enhancing one's garden productivity, providing free honey (with local pollen, homeopathic allergy help) and high-value wax, as well as helping the planet with her bees. (I'm planning one for our roof.)

All wildlife is stressed these days, but our yards can provide some habitat by including native species. It's best to avoid bird-feeders (using seed from mono-culture crops elsewhere that destroyed native habitat, and requiring long-distance transportation and plastic bags), but the old birdseed can be allowed to sprout where it has fallen. Then the stalks can be gathered and set out for the birds, to fall and sprout again. But the local, native food, of course, is best.

Lizards love stones for their homes and can be counted on to provide a degree of free insect control, so be sure to use piles of stones in your yard. And bat houses (designs online) can do even more.

If you have deer in your neighborhood, please don't feed them. They quit eating what's healthiest for them, then bother your neighbors, and eventually get moved and/or killed by Game and Fish.

Respect for the Earth and Others

The more I work this puzzle, trying to put together my own little, healthy living ecosystem on this barren granite hill cut (a desert in a desert, coming to new life), the more impressed I am by the fragility and resiliency of life. I think now before I



Grapes are easy to grow, provide shade for the kitchen window in summer, and feed both people and birds.

put a blade into the soil. The micro-organisms, fungi, worms and other lifeforms don't like the light and dry air and will quickly die. Do I need to do what I'm doing? If so, perhaps I can mitigate my activities.

As gardener, I have the life of every living thing in this garden in my hands. I'm like God to these beings—or Goddess. Am I conscious of this responsibility? Not always, I'm sorry to say, but I'm becoming more so.

Finally, I'll admit that I've been blessed to experience the Mysterious in the garden—intelligences that have been given many names throughout time: elementals, devas, faeries, gnomes, sprites, undines, etc. Whatever their names, they've been described by philosophers of different eras, Paracelsus and Rudolph Steiner, in particular, and many other mystics throughout time. These intelligences are credited with the health of all living things on the planet. We might forego those other names and just call them the life force. In any case, the life force is intelligent, powerful, healing and essential—not just for our gardens, but for us. If we respect it, it respects us and can help us.

And so the garden blesses me whenever I stroll out there to enjoy it. It gives me beauty, privacy, relaxation, healthy food (for family and chickens), herbal medicines, water I can use, sun when I want it, shade when I want it, comfort, ease, entertainment, delight, and a place for friends to gather now and then.

It also helps me be conscious of the infinite intelligence of our cosmos.

It's what I wish for everyone. ☘

Jean Eisenhower is proprietor and designer at Home and Garden Inspiration in Silver City. More writing and photos can be found at homeandgardeninspiration.net.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • STEPHANIE SMALL

How to Stop Sugar Cravings

When your sweet tooth bites back, try these tips.

Calling all cookie monsters and candy junkies: If you struggle with sugar cravings, you're not alone. The desire for the taste of sweet is natural, and common among humans. But if your enjoyment of the sweet taste has crossed the line to craving, that indicates some sort of physiological, nutritional, lifestyle or emotional imbalance is occurring—and it's worth investigating what the cause (or causes) might be.

According to traditional Chinese Medicine, five tastes exist: sweet, salty, sour, pungent and bitter. The "sweet" taste corresponds to the energy of the earth, which is nurturing and maternal. (Does that help explain why a bad day seems better after a few bites—or maybe a little more—of ice cream?) And from an evolutionary standpoint, fruit—nature's candy—was a crucial part of our ancestors' diet.

"Our ancestors ate a lot of fruit when it was available in the summer and fall, and thus became prediabetic," says Nori Hudson, a certified nutrition consultant, professor at Bauman College of Holistic Nutrition and owner of Radiant Vitality. "That was actually a good thing, because they were about to enter a period of famine during the winter. They'd go into their caves and use up the energy they had stored from the sugar, which protected their cells from freezing."

Enjoying a sweet flavor, in and of itself, is no problem. "Mother's milk is sweet. Safe herbs are sweet. Sweet is nature's way of signaling that the taste is safe. It also tells you that the food contains energy," Hudson says.

If you're battling ongoing cravings, however, there's something else going on. When I talk about "craving," I don't mean looking forward to a special dessert once in a while; I mean thinking often about your next sugar fix, planning when you'll eat it, being disappointed or even angry if you don't get it, and pleased, satisfied or even a little high if you do. (And don't forget alcohol, a very sugary substance, falls into this category as well.)

- Integrate high-quality meats, veggies, grains and fruits into your diet. Also consider exploring nutrient-dense traditional foods such as bone broth, fermented veggies and organ meats. Make sure each meal includes protein and fat, and keep water close by. Contrary to popular opinion, eight glasses a day is not for everyone. Instead, divide your body weight in half and drink that many ounces. Remember, caffeine can act as a diuretic and—if you consume more than the equivalent of three to five cups of coffee a day—can be dehydrating. Caffeine also deregulates blood sugar, which can kick off cravings.

- There's a reason we always hear about the importance of sleep, exercise and stress management for a healthy lifestyle—because it's true. If your lifestyle needs an overhaul, start by setting small, manageable goals so you can have success. Then build from there.

- Learning to identify and work with our emotions takes time. It may be worth seeking a therapist who has experience in eating issues and body-centered practices to help guide you. To get started, though, here's a


simple and potentially effective first step to try: Sit in a quiet place, take a few deep breaths in and out through your nose, and close your eyes. As you continue breathing, bring your awareness to any physical sensations that may be occurring in your body. Observe them without judging and without trying to "fix" them. Spend some time with these sensations, and track them as they shift and change, or as they dissipate, or even increase.

As you keep breathing, now notice any emotions that may be associated with those sensations. Again, just observe with compassion, without trying to figure out, "Why am I feeling this way?" or, "What do I do about it?" This isn't about thinking—it's about feeling. Again, spend some time with these emotions. Notice any memories or images that might arise, or whether the emotion shifts and changes.

Bringing awareness to your internal experience in ways like this helps you understand yourself better, and prevents your unheard emotions from yelling so loudly they're running the show.



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Kick It to the Curb Tips

- There's no sense telling ourselves, "I'm never going to have sweets anymore," or, "I'll just have a piece of fruit when a craving strikes." That just leads to feeling deprived, which is likely to set off even more sugar intake. Instead, try forgoing refined white sugar and experimenting with natural sweeteners such as stevia, honey or maple syrup. Natural sweeteners don't create such harmful physiological reactions and often come packed with minerals and enzymes that support the body's cellular processes.

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General Dentistry

Kathryn Gorthy, R.D.H.
Sara Day, R.D.H.

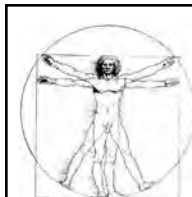
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Body, Mind & Spirit is a forum for sharing ideas and experiences on all aspects of physical, mental and spiritual health and on how these intersect. Readers, especially those with expertise in one or more of these disciplines, are invited to contribute and to respond. Write PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, 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 • MEGAN E. PHELPS

Food and Mood

Anti-inflammatory eating may help against depression.

Did you know that how we eat can have long-term effects on how we feel? When having a bad day, it's easy to turn to junk food for comfort, but the evidence suggests that we feel better when sticking to a long-term plan of healthy eating. In fact, doing so can decrease the risk of developing clinical depression.

New evidence for this idea comes from a recent study published in the journal *Brain, Behavior and Immunity*, which found correlations between an inflammatory diet pattern and a higher risk of depression—up to 41%!

It's good news that dietary changes could help prevent depression because this health issue affects millions of people: one in 10 US adults, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The numbers are even higher for women. Some estimates place a woman's lifetime risk for experiencing depression as high as one in five.



Foods and beverages that increase inflammation, such as sugared sodas, may also promote depression.

According to this study, people benefit from eating more foods that prevent inflammation—olive oil, wine, coffee and leafy green and yellow vegetables—and fewer foods that cause it (margarine, refined grains, red meat and soda).

The Anti-Inflammatory Diet

If you haven't heard much yet about inflammation as a health problem, that's probably about to change. Recent research has linked chronic, low-level inflammation to a wide variety of health problems including not only depression, but also heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer and more.

This type of inflammation is caused by our immune systems reacting to various stresses. While some inflammation helps the body fight disease, excessive inflammation can cause problems, and a poor diet contributes to the problem.

Not surprisingly, there's now a growing amount of information being published about anti-inflammatory diets. Go online and you can read about it from sources as various as Dr. Weil, WebMD and the Mayo Clinic. There's even an *Anti-Inflammation Diet for Dummies* book.

But this isn't just another trendy diet. One reason this recent study is worthy of our attention is that it's

rooted in some very solid science.

Looking at the Big Picture

This research is particularly valuable because, unlike many other nutritional studies, it analyzes real people's overall eating habits rather than trying to draw conclusions from chemicals present in individual foods, says Michel Lucas, lead author of the study and a visiting scientist at the Harvard School of Public Health. "The biggest mistake in nutrition is that we're talking about nutrients instead of talking about food," he says. "We don't eat one nutrient a day; we don't eat one food a day. Different foods correlate together."

Another reason to pay attention is that this research comes out of a huge, long-running health study. It's not just a handful of people being analyzed for a few weeks; this research is based on information from more than 40,000 women over 12 years. The data comes from the Nurses' Health Study, a highly respected ongoing study supported by Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health.

So is an anti-inflammatory diet where it's at? Should we all start following the diet outlined by this study? It's rare that any one piece of research tells us as much as we'd like to know about what to eat. The good news is that if you'd like a little more context for this study, you can easily find it online: For much more about this research visit The Nurses' Health Study. You can also find boiled-down nutrition guidelines from the Harvard School of Public Health in Healthy Eating Plate and Healthy Eating Pyramid.

Altogether, there's a lot of solid advice for food choices that can increase your overall health and sense of well-being. Don't you feel better already? 🌿

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Alan Mong on Mike Harris: "No One Has Ever Called Me at Home with Results!"



Alan Mong has lived in Silver City for 9 years, and during that time he has gone to various practitioners but he really hit it off when he went to see Mike Harris, a certified Nurse Practitioner at Silver Health CARE. Alan had come in to have his blood drawn at the SHC lab in the morning, and by mid-afternoon Mike was calling him to discuss the results. Alan said "Wow! No one has called me at home on the same day with lab results!" He appreciated that he would not need to schedule another visit to discuss the results, and was able get the information from Mike on the phone. "He listens to you and he is there for you," Alan said. Alan thinks that "Mike enjoys listening because that's how he finds out who his patients are and what are their concerns." Alan is also very impressed with Mike's "open-mindedness": "Some practitioners have an agenda, and I feel that Mike has no other agenda than being there for you."



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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • EARTHTALK

Is BPA OK?

The FDA says low levels are safe, but questions linger.

Dear EarthTalk: A recent study showed that Bisphenol A (BPA) was hardly the human health risk researchers once believed it to be. Should I still try to avoid products that may contain it?

Some 93% of us carry traces of the synthetic compound Bisphenol A (BPA) in our bloodstreams, so it's no wonder that public health advocates are concerned about its potential effects. Developed in the 1950s to strengthen plastics and epoxy resins, BPA is today used in a wide range of products, including many plastic food and drink containers, the lining of most cans, some paper products, and dental sealants.

But with widespread use of BPA has come increased scrutiny regarding its potential impact on human health. When ingested, BPA mimics naturally occurring human hormones and thus can potentially interfere with the body's endocrine and reproductive workings. According to the nonprofit Breast Cancer Fund, previous research has linked BPA exposure to with increased risk for cardiovascular disease, miscarriages, decreased birth weight at term, breast and prostate cancer, reproductive and sexual dysfunctions, altered immune system activity, metabolic problems and diabetes in adults, and cognitive and behavioral development in young children. These concerns have led the European Union, Canada—and more recently the US—to ban the use of BPA in baby bottles and other items geared toward babies and children.

Meanwhile, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) maintains that typical low-level BPA exposure does not pose any health risk. A February 2014 study by FDA researchers found that low doses of the compound did not affect the health of rats over a 90-day study period. While study rats exposed to higher doses of BPA had lower body weights, abnormal female reproductive development and altered hormone levels, there were no such effects in rats exposed to lower doses more akin to what humans experience.

But critics point out some flaws in that study that call its conclusions into question. For one, a control group of rats that was supposed to remain unexposed to BPA somehow had levels of the compound in their blood equivalent to the lowest-dose study population. FDA researchers maintain that this contamination of the control group did



BPA exposure has been linked to a host of human health issues, including cognitive and behavioral development in young children. These concerns have led the European Union, Canada—and more recently the US—to ban the use of BPA in baby bottles and other items geared toward babies and children. (Photo: Coralie Mercier, courtesy Flickr)

not affect their results because neither group of rats showed any effects given their low-dose exposure. Another issue is that the researchers did not look at neurological effects such as changes in learning, memory and behavior.

“What needs to follow is whether these exposures are causing neurobehavioral changes,” Harvard epidemiologist Joe Braun told Environmental Health News, adding that previous research has shown that estrogen receptors in the brains of rats were triggered by low doses of BPA. “Hopefully [the FDA] will address that down the road.”

More research is underway still. The February 2014 FDA study is part of an ongoing two-year assessment of the toxicity of BPA. Dozens of university studies are also in progress to shed more light on just how risky our use of BPA may be. Consumers should continue to take precautions to limit their intake of BPA by avoiding polycarbonate plastic food and drink containers and metal cans, and by refraining from putting plastic items in the microwave—a process that can expedite the leaching of BPA into food.

CONTACTS: Breast Cancer Fund, www.breastcancerfund.org; US Food and Drug Administration, www.fda.gov; Environmental Health News, www.environmentalhealthnews.org.

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.

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June 14: Dwight Simpson - TBA
June 21: Pastor Quinones - TBA
June 28: Joseph Gonzalez –
“The Great War Remembered”

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

Grant County Weekly Events

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Sundays

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

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS—Men's group, 7 a.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 3845 N. Swan. Jerry, 534-4866.
ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT—1st Tues. 1:30 p.m. Senior Center. Margaret, 388-4539.
BAYARD HISTORIC MINE TOUR—2nd Tuesday. Meet at Bayard City Hall, 800 Central Ave., by 9:30 a.m. \$5 fee covers two-hour bus tour of historic mines plus literature and map; call 537-3327 for reservation.
CHESS CLUB—All ages. 4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS—4th Tuesday. 6:30 p.m. Support for those who've lost a child. Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 7th and Texas St. Charlene Mitchell, 534-1134.
FIGURE/MODEL DRAWING—4-6 p.m.

Contact Sam, 388-5583.

KIWANIS CLUB—Noon. Red Barn, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 590-0540.
LOS COMADRES CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Tues. 6 p.m. Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180 E. (next to Ace). 388-1198 ext. 10.
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP—First Tuesday. 11:30 a.m. at local restaurant; email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.
REIKI CIRCLE—First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. 2035 Little Walnut. Treatment for those in need of healing. Vicki, 388-8114, or Virginia, 388-4870.

SLOW FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m. 5:30-7 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.
SOCIAL SERVICES—Noon. Red Barn, 707 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-5666.
TEA PARTY PATRIOTS—2nd and 4th Tues. 6 p.m. Red Barn Steakhouse, 708 Silver Heights Blvd. 388-4143.

Wednesdays

ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—Third Weds. of every month. Oct.-Nov., Jan.-April 7 p.m. Silver City Women's Club. Summers 6 p.m. location TBA. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN—2nd Weds. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Subject to change. 574-2888.
BAYARD AL-ANON—6 p.m. Santa Clara Senior Center, 107 East St., Santa Clara. 537-3141.
A COURSE IN MIRACLES—6:30 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.
CURBSIDE CONSULTING—Free for nonprofits. 9 a.m.-noon. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard, Lisa Jimenez, 534-0665, ext. 232, lisa@wellnesscoalition.org,
FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS WOMEN'S GROUP—6:30 p.m. 1000 N Hudson St., 519-1070.
GIN RUMMY—1 p.m. Yankee Creek Coffee House.
GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY—2nd Weds. Potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sen. Howie Morales' building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180.
LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION—8 a.m. tee time. Silver City Golf Course.
LEGO CLUB—Ages 4-10. 4:30 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
PING PONG—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.
PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Weds. 6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF GRANT COUNTY—Third Weds. 6 p.m. Red Barn.
STORYTIME—All ages. 10:30 a.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College

Ave., 538-3672.

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

Thursdays

ARTS ANONYMOUS—5:30 p.m. Artists Recovering through the Twelve Steps. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan St. 534-1329.
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Thurs. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Board Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.
DE-STRESSING MEDITATIONS—12-12:45 p.m. New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.
GILA WRITERS—2-4 p.m. Silver City Public Library. Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com, 534-0207.
GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—2nd Thurs. 6 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria St. Kyle, 538-5706.
HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOURISM MEETING—Second Thurs. 10 a.m. Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.
NEWCOMERS CLUB—Third Thurs. 11 a.m., luncheon noon. Women's Club, Yucca and Silver Heights Blvd. Linda Sylvester, (480) 518-5839, lindasylvester@msn.com.
PROGRESSIVE PILATES—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.
TOPS—5 p.m. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.
WOMEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Thurs. 6-7 p.m. GRMC Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. 388-1198, ext. 10.
VINYASA FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.
YOGA CLASS—Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, 7th and Texas.
Fridays
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center conference room. 313-9400.
SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB—2d Fri., 10:30 a.m., lunch 12 p.m. 411

Silver Heights Blvd. 538-3452.

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

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

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

Saturdays

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BEGINNERS—6 p.m. Lions Club, 8th & Bullard (entrance at Big Ditch behind Domino's). Newcomers and seasoned members welcome.
ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT—10 a.m.-noon. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Margaret, 388-4539.
BLOOMING LOTUS MEDITATION—1 p.m. Details: 313-7417, blooming-lotus-sangha@googlegroups.com.
DOUBLE FEATURE BLOCKBUSTER MEGA

HIT MOVIE NIGHT—5:30-11 pm. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Silver City Zen Center

(Ginza-ji Zen Buddhist Temple)

Meditation Practice (Zazen)

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 am

Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am

Dokusan (Pastoral Counseling)

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YOGA

Mathew Sommerville
One on One Yoga
Therapy & Group Classes

Yoga Class Schedule

Monday/Thurs
7:30 - 8:45 a.m.

Monday/Wednesday
11 - 12:15 p.m.
5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

Class Fees
First Class Free
Drop in: \$9.00
6 class punch card: \$42
12 class punch card: \$78

Free First Saturday Yoga:
Intro. to yoga class
10:30 a.m. Sat., June 7

One on One Yoga Therapy by Appointment
yogahridaya.com
575-956-9988

QIGONG

Martha Everett

First Class FREE!!
Mondays • Qigong 5-6pm
Tuesdays • Qigong 1-2pm
• Qigong Strength Training
5:30-6:30pm

Wednesdays • Qigong 8-9am
• Qigong 6:30pm -7:30pm

Thursdays • Qigong Strength Training 1-2pm
Fridays • QST 7-8 am

Monthly Workshops
Next Monthly Breath Workshops
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Private and small group breath sessions
available by appointment

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Having Trouble Planning Affordable Healthy Meals?
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Looking at food packages can be VERY misleading.
BREAK THROUGH THE CONFUSION... FOR FREE!

- Know the secret formula to finding out what food is REALLY made up of, including caloric and daily percentage figures
- UNDERSTAND** the ingredient list and WHAT ingredients are
- Find out **WHERE** to locate healthy food in your store
- Learn **HOW** to buy the best produce
- Compare food to make **HEALTHIER** choices

All Tours led by Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Kristen Morgan

Silver City Food Basket
1220 N. Hudson St.
Saturday, May 31 or June 7
10 a.m.—Noon

Bayard Food Basket
1111 Tom Foy Blvd.
Saturday, June 14
10 a.m.—Noon

United Way
Gila County Community Health Council
Reserve your place: Call (575) 388-1198 or email: healthcouncil@grmc.org
RSVP is required to attend. Tours are FREE. All families attending tours receive a gift.

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Red or Green?

Southwest New Mexico's best restaurant guide.

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

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

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

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

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

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

GRANT COUNTY

Silver City

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

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

ASIAN BUFFET, 1740 Hwy. 180E, 388-0777. 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 and pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven and featuring a wide range of innovative toppings." (November 2010) Karaoke Fri., live entertainment Sat. Barbecue, steak, pasta, pizza: Tues.-Fri. D. Sat. L D. Italian nights Weds., Sat.*

BRYAN'S PIT BARBECUE, Mimbres Valley Self Storage and RV Park, (660) 247-3151 or (660) 247-3160. "Authentic Southern-style barbecue.... Brisket, pork ribs, chicken and sausage dinners, pulled pork and chopped brisket sandwiches." (August 2010). Now also BBQ tenderloin and smoked turkey. Barbecue: L D.

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

CHINESE PALACE, 1010 Highway 180E, 538-9300. "All the food is cooked to order. This means that not only does every dish arrive at the table freshly cooked and steaming, but also that you can tailor any dish to suit your taste." (October 2012) Chinese: Mon.-Fri. L D.

COURTYARD CAFÉ, Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American: B L, with special brunch Sundays.*

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

DELIGHTFUL BLEND, 3030 N. Pinos Altos Road, 388-2404. Coffeeshop.

DIANE'S RESTAURANT, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. "Always evolving, always interesting, Diane's has it all." (Sept. 2013) Fine dining (D), steaks, seafood, pasta, sandwiches (L), salads: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. D only (family-style), weekend brunch.

DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI, The Hub, Suite A, Bullard St., 534-9229. "Always evolving, always interesting, Diane's has it all." (Sept. 2013) Artisan breads, sandwiches, deli, baked goods: Mon.-Sat. B L early D, Sun. B L.*

DON JUAN'S BURRITOS, 418 Silver

Heights Blvd., 538-5440. Mexican: B L.

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

EL GALLO PINTO, 901 N. Hudson St., 597-4559. "Breakfast dishes are served all day, along with all the other traditional Mexican favorites like burritos (with a long list of filling options)... plus a vertical grill cooks sizzling chicken and carne al pastor." (October 2013) Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

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

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

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

GREEN TURTLE NOSHERY, The Hub on Bullard St., 200-6895. Baked goods, organic breakfast and lunch items: Thurs.-Sat. B L, Sun. B L brunch.

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

HEALTHY EATS, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Sandwiches, burritos, salads, smoothies: L.

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

KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. "Since 1978, Kountry Kitchen has been serving up Mexican food that is considered to be some of the best that can be found in the area. All the dishes are tasty, unpretentious, attractively presented and reasonably priced." (February 2013) Mexican: Tues.-Sat. B L D, Mon.-Sun. B L.*

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

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

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

LITTLE TOAD CREEK BREWERY & DISTILLERY, 200 N. Bullard St., 956-6144. "The menu offers what they call 'pub food'—but always with a bit of a twist." (March 2014) Burgers, wings, salads, fish, pasta, craft beers and cocktails: Weds.-Mon. L D.*

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

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

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

MILLIE'S BAKE HOUSE, 215 W. Yankee, 597-2253. "The food is oven-fresh and innovative." (November 2012) Soup, salads, sandwiches, baked goods: Tues.-Sat.*

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

THE PARLOR AT DIANE'S, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. "Always evolving, always interesting, Diane's has it all." (Sept. 2013) Burgers, sandwiches, homemade pizzas, paninis: Tues.-Sun. L D.

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

Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO AND BREWERY, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Mon.-Sat. L D.

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

RIVER RANCH MARKET, 300 S. Bullard, 597-6328. "If you want to eat healthy without leaving meat out of your diet, you are likely to find just what you need." (May 2014) Grass-fed meats, pastured poultry, gluten-free baked goods, to-go soups and stews, cast-iron cooking: Weds.-Sat.*

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

SHEVEK & Co., 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168. "If sampling new types of food is part of the adventure of traveling for you, you only have to go as far as Shevek & Co. Restaurant in Silver City to take a culinary tour around the world." (May 2013) Mediterranean: Fri.-Tues. D.*

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

STREETSIDE FOOD, College and Bullard. Asian: Mon.-Sat. L.

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

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

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

TRE ROSAT CAFÉ, 304 N. Bullard St., 654-4919. "The dinner menu ranges from humbler (but not humdrum) fare like burgers, pizzas and pastas to daily specials that include more upscale items like grilled salmon and petite sirloin steak. Appetizers include homemade chile relleno poppers, egg rolls (with specialty fillings changing from day to day) and the ever-popular, ever delicious bacon-wrapped dates." (August 2012) International eclectic: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

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

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

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

Bayard

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

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

LOS COMPAS, 1203 Tom Foy Blvd., 654-4109. Sonoran-style Mexican, hot dogs, portas, menudo: L D.

M & A BAYARD CAFÉ, 1101 N. Central Ave., 537-2251. "A down-to-earth, friendly, unpretentious place—kind of a

Table Talk

The Green Turtle Noshery has opened in the space in The Hub in downtown Silver City recently vacated by Peace Meal Deli. It serves “various and sundry baked goods made fresh each day with quality, organic ingredients,” with “a modest breakfast and lunch menu” plus brunch on Sundays. Hours are Thursday-Saturday, 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m., and Sunday, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. 200-6895. Also in the works in The Hub is a new pizza restaurant, **Forrest’s Pizza**, complete with gourmet pizza oven.

Streetside Food is the name of that new little red food truck at the intersection of College and Bullard in Silver City. It serves a “meandering menu” of lunches including Asian curries, sesame noodles and fresh spring rolls, Monday-Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (“or until the food runs out”). Silver City’s **Gil-A Beans** coffeeshop is now featuring mini-doughnuts. 1304 N. Bennett St.

Café Oso Azul at Bear Mountain Lodge will have a Father’s Day Brunch, June 15, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Reservations are a must. 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538, bearmountainlodge.com.

Shevek & Co. restaurant in downtown Silver City reopens after spring cleaning and renovation on June 6. On Friday, June 27, at 6:30 p.m. a wine-tasting dinner will feature six courses of Italian food matched with appropriate Italian wines. Reservations highly recommended. \$80 per person (\$45 food without wines). 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168, silver-eats.com.

Work has started on the new **Wing Daddy’s** restaurant on Telshor Boulevard in Las Cruces, across from Mesilla Valley Mall. 🍷

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

35, 536-3267. “Consistently good food based on the success of the family’s Living Harvest Bakery.” (December 2013) Buffet: Tues.-Sat. B L.

Pinos Altos BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE, Main Street, 538-9911. Steakhouse, pasta, burgers: Mon.-Sat. D.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

Las Cruces & Mesilla ABRAHAM’S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT, 500 S. Main St. #434, 523-5911. American: Mon.-Fri. B L.

A DONG, 504 E. Amador Ave., 527-9248. Vietnamese: L.D.

ANDELE’S DOG HOUSE, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 526-1271. Mexican plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D.

ANDELE RESTAURANTE, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Mon. B L, Tues.-Sun. B L D.

ANTONIO’S RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA, 5195 Bataan Memorial West, 373-0222. Pizza, Italian, Mexican: Tues.-Sun. L D.

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

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

BURGER NOOK, 1204 E. Madrid Ave., 523-9806. Burgers: Tues.-Sat. 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, sandwich, salad, rice bowl: Mon.-Sat. L D.

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

CARILLO’S CAFÉ, 330 S. Church, 523-9913. Mexican, American: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CATTLEMEN’S STEAKHOUSE, 2375 Bataan Memorial Hwy., 382-9051. Steakhouse: D.

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

CHICAGO SOUTHWEST, 3691 E. Lohman, 521-8888. Gourmet hot dogs and smoothies: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CHILITOS, 2405 S. Valley Dr., 526-4184. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

CHILITOS, 3850 Foothills Rd. Ste. 10, 532-0141. Mexican: B L D.

CHINA EXPRESS, 2443 N. Main St., 525-9411. Chinese, Vietnamese: L D.

CHINESE KITCHEN, 2801 Missouri #29, 521-3802. Chinese: L D.

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

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

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

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

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

DICK’S CAFÉ, 2305 S. Valley Dr., 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sun. B L, Mon.-Sat. B L D.

DION’S PIZZA, 3950 E. Lohman, 521-3434. Pizza: L D.

DOUBLE EAGLE, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. “All the steaks are aged on the premises in the restaurant’s own dedicated beef aging room... An array of award-winning margaritas and deliciously decadent desserts.” (March 2012) Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet. *

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

EL AHUUA’S, 1001 E. University Ave., 556-9484. Mexican: B L D.

EL PATRON CAFÉ, 1103 S. Solano Dr. Mexican: Tues.-Thur., Sun. B L, Fri.-Sat. B L early D.

EL SOMBRERO PATIO CAFÉ, 363 S. Espina St., 524-9911. Mexican: L D.

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

DINING GUIDE

continued after next page



Alotta Words about ALOTTA GELATO

I want to take this opportunity to thank our loyal customers for bearing with us while we endured what we like to call “Display Case Angst.” After nearly three months of pain and suffering, we were finally able to have a new, state-of-the-art control unit installed—barely two days before the Tour of the Gila! Talk about the nick of time!

Wow, it’s June, and chances are that you’re searching desperately for a gift for Dad, a grad, or the newlyweds. Well, look no further— help is on the way! When you visit ALOTTA GELATO at 619 N. Bullard St. in beautiful Downtown Silver City’s Arts & Cultural (and Gelato!) District, we will be happy to sell you one of our valuable gift certificates, available in any amount— truly a tasteful gift!

Since it’s also the time of year for picnics and other gatherings, we want to remind you that our delicious low-fat Italian gelato is available in hand-packed pints and quarts in your choice of flavors (and yes, we can pack several flavors into each insulated container). We’ve got 20 flavors on hand in our main display case (including 9 dairy-free fruit flavors), about a dozen others in our Grab & Go case, and always at least one Sugar-Free flavor sweetened with Splenda®!

Remember that we also carry delicious dessert items such as Key Lime Bars, Chocolate Chip Brownies, Triple Lemon Cheesecake, slices of flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, cookies, and big honkin’ wedges of triple-layer Carrot Cake— plus hot and cold drinks to go with them.

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. School’s out, so come on by, bring your friends/family/ neighbors/significant others and experience the best gelato in the state! One last thing: our gelato is not frozen yogurt, Italian ice, soft serve, ice milk, frozen beads or any of that phony stuff— it’s simply the best home-made ice cream you’ve ever tasted (and to think that the Italians have had this all along!) Thanks for reading; as a token of our appreciation for you, our valued customer, **bring this ad for 25¢ off any size gelato for each member of your party.**



Find us on Facebook Visit us online at: www.alottagelato.com



Alotta Gelato - 619 N. Bullard St., in Downtown Silver City - 575-534-4995

Valle Mimbres Market



Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 6pm
Natural Groceries and Supplies
Year-around Fresh Organic Produce
Local Produce in Summer
2739 Highway 35 in San Lorenzo
575-574-7069

cross between a Mexican cantina and a 1950s home-style diner, serving tasty, no-frills Mexican and American food at reasonable prices.” (October 2011) Mexican and American: Mon.-Fri. B L D.

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

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

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

Lake Roberts, 1122 Hwy. 35, 536-9649. “Rustic gourmet... designed to appeal to the eyes as well as the taste buds. And this is true of the items on the brunch menu, as well as those on the very different dinner menu.” (June 2012). Steaks, sandwiches, American: Thurs.-Fri. D, Sat.-Sun. brunch and D. Tavern with soups, sandwiches, Scotch eggs: Daily L D.

SPIRIT CANYON LODGE & CAFÉ, 684 Hwy. 35, 536-9459. “For the German sampler, café customers can choose two meat options from a revolving selection that may include on any given day three or four of the following: bratwurst, roast pork, schnitzel (a thin breaded and fried pork chop), sauerbraten (marinated roast of beef), stuffed cabbage leaves, or roladen (rolled beef with a sausage and onion filling).” (July 2011) German specialties, American lunch and dinner entrées: Saturday midday D.

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

MIMBRES VALLEY CAFÉ, 2964 Hwy. 35, 536-2857. “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.” (Jan. 2009) Mexican, American, burgers: Mon.-Tues. B L, Wed.-Sun. B L D, with Japanese tempura Wed. D.

RESTAURANT DEL SOL, 2676 Hwy. 35, San Lorenzo. “Popular and unpretentious food, powered by a huge solar system.” (April 2014) Breakfasts, burgers, sandwiches, Mexican: Daily B L early D.

3 QUESTIONS COFFEE HOUSE, Hwy.

sushi: D.

ARABELLA’S, 1750 Calle de Mercado, 526-1313. Cuban, Italian: D.

BAAN THAI KITCHEN, 1605 S. Solano Dr., 521-2630. Thai: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. L.

THE BAGEL SHOP, 1495 S. Solano Dr., 521-4784. Bagels: Mon.-Sat. B L.

THE BEAN, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 523-0560. Coffeeshop.

A BITE OF BELGIUM, 741 N. Alameda St., 527-2483. Belgian food: Mon.-Fri. B L.

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

BLUE MOON, 13060 N. Valley Dr., 647-9524. Bar, burgers: Sat.-Sun. L D.

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

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

BRAVO’S CAFÉ, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: Tues.-Sun. B L.

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RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

Food and Family

Four generations have made Silver City's Jalisco Café a success.

For 30 years, Silver City residents and visitors have been flocking to the Jalisco Café for good Mexican food, and it created a bit of a stir when the popular restaurant closed down for a period of time recently. But have no fear—it was simply to permit some major remodeling. Jalisco's is now open again, looking better than ever.

There are brand-new tables and chairs, a new oak floor in several of the dining sections, and brightly painted walls with colorful south-of-the-border decorations throughout the restaurant. Behind the scenes, the kitchen has been spruced up, too, with a new epoxy floor in place of the old tile, freshly painted walls, and an improved air-conditioning system.

The menu, however, remains the same. Why mess with success?

"We're taking a look at the menu, but with the idea of adding a few new items, not taking away the dishes we started out with,"

says Michael Mesa, who is now moving into the role of owner-manager in the restaurant founded by his father, George, in January 1984. "My grandmother, Mary Mesa, had had two Jalisco Cafés in other locations in Silver City before this one, and she helped get this one started by supplying her own tried and true recipes."

Those recipes are still used at the Jalisco Café.

"We are known for our chilis, which we process ourselves in-house. The red chili is made from pods, not powder. The green chile peppers are roasted here. Our salsa is homemade," Michael says. "At first, it was just combination plates, with tacos, burritos, enchiladas as the only choices and sopapillas as the only dessert. Those are all still on the menu, of course, and they're still made as they originally were. Through the years, we've added steaks, salads, and a few other American items. But our number-one best-seller is chicken tacos, with beef tacos second."

"Originally, the restaurant was just one room—one in a string of small storefronts," George chimes in. "They all had strange doors—so small I had to duck my head to enter."

In 1988, George bought the whole building, and his uncle, Eddie Mesa, did the remodeling, cutting archways to link the individual stores, and framing the arches with antique bricks. The archways still exist, providing scenic passageways from one dining section to the next.

The building, incidentally, was constructed in 1923 and is now registered with the Historical Society in Santa Fe.

"We started out with seating for 43 people," George says. "Now we seat 154."

To serve that many customers, Michael is now heading up a staff of about 40, but the Jalisco Café remains a family business, with Michael's oldest daughter, Megan, in charge of the front of house, and his middle daughter, Morgen, working in the restaurant on weekends.

That makes four generations of the Mesa family who have been involved in a restaurant that remains family-friendly, with a children's menu featuring kid-sized taco plates, taquito plates and burrito plates.

Prices for adult-sized Mexican meals range from \$6.99 for Bean Tostadas (three) or \$7.19 for a Chili Bowl with Beans, to \$12.99 for a Large Beef or Chicken Combination. That combination includes two ground beef or chicken tacos, two rolled red or green cheese enchiladas, a stuffed *chile relleno* with rice and refried beans, as well as a sopapilla with honey for dessert or on the side.

The menu offers a choice of New Mexico-style flat enchiladas (red or green, ground beef or chicken) for \$10.49, rolled enchiladas (same options) for \$8.99, or flat cheese enchiladas (red or green) smothered in enchilada sauce for \$8.59—all served with rice and



Jalisco Café founder George Mesa (left) poses with his son, Michael, now stepping into the role of owner-manager. The colorful wall and tapestry are part of the new decor created by Cecilia Mesa, George's wife and Michael's mother. The brick-framed arch is one of four that link the different sections of the restaurant. Each section used to be a separate storefront, and the arches were created after George purchased the entire building in 1988. Up to that time, the café occupied just one of the storefront spaces. (Photo by Peggy Platonos)

refried beans.

Taco plates offer three beef or chicken tacos for \$8.79 or a combination with one ground beef, one chicken and one shredded beef taco for \$9.19. Shredded beef or chicken taquitos also cost \$9.19 for three, and a *chile relleno* plate costs \$9.89. These plates all come with rice and refried beans.

If you prefer pork, you can choose a Taco de Carnitas plate (three pork tacos with rice and refried beans) for \$9.09. Seafood lovers can opt for the Fish Taco plate made with battered cod in soft tortillas and served with rice and whole beans for \$10.29.

Ribeye steaks, cooked to order, are available in three different sizes: 8-ounce (\$16.99), 12-ounce (\$25.49) or 16-ounce (\$33.89)—all served with two rolled cheese enchiladas, rice and beans.

The quesadilla appetizers are generous enough to be light meals in themselves, and range in price from \$4.19 for a simple cheese quesadilla to \$7.59 for a Green Chili Chicken Quesadilla. Another light-meal option is the Chicken Tortilla Soup, topped with *pico de gallo*, avocado, crisp tortilla strips and a lime wedge for \$6.59.

Are you hungry yet?

If you have members of the family or guests who are not keen on Mexican food, there's plenty for them to choose from, too. Hamburgers, all served with French fries, range from \$6.39 for a basic burger to \$9.19 for a Double Meat Mushroom Burger. The wide variety of sandwiches on the menu, also served with French fries, include old American favorites like grilled cheese (\$5.29), tuna (\$6.79), grilled chicken (\$6.79), hot roast beef (\$6.79) and BLT (\$6.79), and also a couple with a southwestern twist, like the Guacamole BLT (\$7.39) and the chicken club sandwich (\$8.29), which includes avocado and a jalapeño garnish along with the traditional ingredients.

Imported and domestic beers are available, as well as New Mexico wines.

Desserts? Yes, indeed. If you still have room, you can top off your meal with chocolate mousse, key lime pie, mandarin orange cake, apple pie, chocolate cake or crème brûlée. Or a sopapilla, of course.

The Jalisco Café is located at 103 S. Bullard St. It is open Monday through Saturday, closed on Sundays. Summer hours are 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.—except for Fridays, when the restaurant closes at 9 p.m.

For more information, call (575) 388-2060. But be advised that it is a longstanding policy at Jalisco's not to take reservations. It is strictly first come, first served. ☞

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

DINING GUIDE
continued

EMILIA's, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Burgers, Mexican, soup, sandwiches, pastry, juices, smoothies: L D.
EMPIRE BUFFET, 510 S. Telshor Blvd., 522-2333. Asian: L D.
ENRIQUE's, 830 W. Picacho, 647-0240. Mexican: B L D.
FARLEY's, 3499 Foothills Rd., 522-0466. Pizza, burgers, American, Mexican: L D.
FIDENCIO's, 800 S. Telshor, 532-5624. Mexican: B L D.
FORK IN THE ROAD, 202 N. Motel Blvd., 527-7400. Buffet: B L D 24 hrs.
GAME BAR & GRILL, 2605 S. Espina, 524-GAME. Sports bar and grill: L D.
GARDUÑO's, 705 S. Telshor (Hotel Encanto), 522-4300. Mexican: B L D.
GO BURGER DRIVE-IN, 1008 E. Lohman, 524-9251. Burgers, Mexican: Mon.-Fri. B L.
GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD, 1420 El Paseo, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.
GOOD LUCK CAFÉ, 1507 S. Solano, 521-3867. Mexican, seafood: B L early D.
GRANDY's COUNTRY COOKING, 1345 El Paseo Rd., 526-4803. American: B L D.
GUACAMOLE'S BAR AND GRILL, 3995 W. Picacho Ave., 525-9115. Burgers, pizza, salads, sandwiches, Hawaiian appetizers: 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.*
INTERNATIONAL DELIGHTS, 1245 El Paseo Rd., 647-5956. Greek and International: B L D.
JAPANESE KITCHEN, 141 Roadrunner Parkway, 521-3555. Japanese: L D.
J.C. TORTAS, 1196 W. Picacho Ave., 647-1408. Mexican: L D.
JESSE's KANSAS CITY BBQ, 230 S. Church, 522-3662. Barbecue: Mon., Tue., Thurs-Sat. L D.
JIREH's, 1445 W. Picacho. Mexican, American: B L early D.
JOSE MURPHY's, 1201 E. Amador (inside Ten Pin Alleys), 541-4064. Mexican, American: L D.
JOSEPHINA's OLD GATE CAFÉ, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches:


Mon.-Thur. L, Fri.-Sun. B L.
KATANA TEPPANYAKI GRILL, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-0526. Japanese: Mon.-Fri. L D, Sat. D.
KEVA JUICE, 1001 E. University, 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D.
KIM-CHI HOUSE, 1605 S. Solano, 652-4745. Korean: Tues.-Sun. L D.
KIVA PATIO CAFÉ, 600 E. Amador Ave., 527-8206. Mexican, Southwestern, American: B L D.
LA COCINA, 204 E. Conway Ave., 524-3909. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L.
LA GUADALUPANA, 930 El Paseo Road. 523-5954. Mexican: Tues.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.
LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA, 1300 N. Solano Dr, 541-9617. Mexican: L D.
LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ, 195 N. Mesquite, 523-5434. Mexican and American: B L.
LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. "A restaurant with history hard-wired into the fiber of its being. Through building, menu and ownership, its roots extend all the way back to the 1840s." (September 2011) Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Sat.-Sun. and holidays also B.
LAS TRANCAS, 1008 S. Solano Dr., 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Sat.-Sun. also B.
LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Mon.-Sat. B L.
LET THEM EAT CAKE, 2001 E. Lohman, Suite 136, 649-8965. Cupcakes: Tues.-Sat.
LORENZO's PAN AM, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. "Homey, classic Italian fare.... 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, pizza: L D.
LOS COMPAS CAFÉ, 6335 Bataan Memorial W., 382-2025. Mexican: B L D.
LOS COMPAS CAFÉ, 603 S. Nevezar St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D.
LOS COMPAS, 1120 Commerce Dr., 521-6228. Mexican: B L D.*
LOS MARIACHIS, 754 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.
MARIA's, 1750 N. Solano Dr., 556-9571. Mexican: B L D.
MESILLA VALLEY KITCHEN, 2001 E. Lohman Ave. #103, 523-9311. American, Mexican: B L.*
MESILLA VALLEY PIZZA & SUBS, 3961 E. Lohman Ave. #21, 521-9293. Pizza, sandwiches: Mon.-Sat. L D.

MESON DE MESILLA, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D.
METROPOLITAN DELI, 1001 University Ave., 522-3354. Sandwiches: L D.
MIGUEL's, 1140 E. Amador Ave., 647-4262. Mexican: B L D.
MI PUEBLITO, 1355 E. Idaho Ave., 524-3009. Mexican: Mon.-Fri. B L D, Sat.-Sun. B L.
MILAGRO COFFEE Y ESPRESSO, 1733 E. University Ave., 532-1042. Coffeehouse: B L D.*
MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS, 1001 E. University Ave. #D4, 532-2042. Asian, Pacific: Mon.-Sat. L D.
MOONGATE CAFÉ, 9395 Bataan Memorial, 382-5744. Coffeeshop, Mexican, American: B L.
MOUNTAIN VIEW MARKET KITCHEN, 120 S. Water St., 556-9856. Sandwiches, bagels, wraps, salads and other healthy fare: Mon.-Sat.: B L early D. *
MY BROTHER'S PLACE, 334 S. Main St., 523-7681. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.
NELLIE's CAFÉ, 1226 W. Hadley Ave., 524-9982. Mexican: Tues.-Sat. B L.
NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 2605 Mis-souri Ave., 522-0440. Mexican: L D.
NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 310 S. Mesquite St., 524-0003. Mexican: Sun.-Tues., Thurs.-Sat. L D.*
OLD TOWN RESTAURANT, 1155 S. Valley Dr., 523-4586. Mexican, American: B L.*
ORIENTAL PALACE, 225 E. Idaho, 526-4864. Chinese: L D.
PAISANO CAFÉ, 1740 Calle de Mercado, 524-0211. Mexican: B L D.*
PANCAKE ALLEY DINER, 2146 W. Picacho Ave., 647-4836. American: B L,

early D.
PARKER's BBQ, 850 E. Madrid Ave., 541-5712. Barbecue carryout: L, early D.
PASSION ULTRA LOUNGE, 201 E. University Ave. (inside Ramada Palms), 523-7399. Steaks, burgers, salmon: L D.
PEPE's, 1405 W. Picacho, 541-0277. Mexican: B L D.
PEPPERS CAFÉ ON THE PLAZA (IN THE DOUBLE EAGLE RESTAURANT), 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. "Creative handling of traditional Southwestern dishes.... [plus] such non-Mexican entrées as Salmon Crepes and Beer Braised Beef Carbonnade." (March 2012). Southwestern: L D. *
PHO SAIGON, 1160 El Paseo Road, 652-4326. Vietnamese: L D.
PIT STOP CAFÉ, 361 S. Motel Blvd., 527-1993. Mexican, American, steak: Mon.-Sat. B L D.
PLAYER's GRILL, 3000 Champions Dr. (NMSU golf course clubhouse), 646-2457. American: B L D.
PULLARO's ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 901 W. Picacho Ave., 523-6801. Italian: L D.
Q's, 1300 Avenida De Mesilla,

571-4350. Brewhouse with steak and pasta: L D.
RANCHWAY BARBEQUE, 604 N. Valley Dr., 523-7361. Barbecue, Mexican: Mon.-Fri. B L D, Sat. D.
RASCO's BBQ, 5580 Bataan Memorial E. (inside Shorty's gas station). Barbecued brisket, pulled pork, smoked sausage, ribs.
RED BRICK PIZZA, 2808 N. Telshor Blvd., 521-7300. Pizzas, sandwiches, salads: L D.
RENOO's THAI RESTAURANT, 1445 W. Picacho Ave., 373-3000. Thai: Mon.-Fri. L D, Sat. D.
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: Sat.-Thurs. B L, Fri. B L D.
SAENZ GORDITAS, 1700 N. Solano Dr., 527-4212. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.
SANTORINI's, 1001 E. University

DINING GUIDE
continued on next page



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Include name and postal address, plus email if available.

Entries cannot be returned!



DINING GUIDE

continued

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: Mon.-Sat. L D.

SAVOY DE MESILLA, 1800-B Avenida de Mesilla, 527-2869. "If you are adventurous with food and enjoy a fine-dining experience that is genuinely sophisticated, without pretension or snobbishness, you definitely need to check out Savoy de Mesilla. The added attraction is that you can do this without spending a week's salary on any of the meals—all of which are entertainingly and delectably upscale." (March 2013) American, Continental: B L D.

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

SHEBA GRILL, 2265 S. Main St., 525-1100. Indian, Middle Eastern: Mon.-Thurs., Sat.-Sun L D, Fri. D.

SI ITALIAN BISTRO, 523 E. Idaho, 523-1572. "Wood-fired pizzas are the star of the show, along with plenty of authentic pasta dishes." (February 2006) Italian: Mon.-Sat. L D.

SIMPLY TOASTED CAFÉ, 1702 El Paseo Road, 526-1920. Sandwiches, soups, salads: B L.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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: Mon.-Sat. L D.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Santa Teresa
BILLY CREWS, 1200 Country Club Road, 589-2071. Steak, seafood: L D.

LUNA COUNTY
Deming
ADOBE DELI, 3970 Lewis Flats Road

SE, 546-0361. "The lunch menu features traditional deli-style sandwiches... The dinner menu is much grander, though some sandwiches are available then, too. Dinner options include filet mignon, flat iron steak, T-bone, ribeye, New York strip, Porterhouse, barbequed pork ribs, broiled salmon steak, shrimp scampi, pork chops, osso buco, beef kabobs." (March 2010) Bar, deli, steaks: L D.*

BALBOA MOTEL & RESTAURANT, 708 W. Pine St., 546-6473. Mexican, American: Sun.-Fri. L D.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LA FONDA, 601 E. Pine St., 546-0465. "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.*

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

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

MANOLO'S CAFÉ, 120 N. Granite St., 546-0405. "The menu offers breakfast, lunch and dinner choices, and it's difficult to convey the immense range of food options available. In every section of the menu, there's a mixture of American-style 'comfort' food items and Southwest-style Mexican dishes which no doubt qualify as Hispanic 'comfort' food. There's nothing particularly fancy about the food, but it's fresh and tasty. And the prices are reasonable." (February 2012) Mexican, American: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

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) Italian: L D. Sat. prime rib, Sun. buffet.*

PATIO CAFÉ, 1521 Columbus Road, 546-5990. Burgers, American: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

PRIME RIB GRILL (INSIDE HOLIDAY INN), I-10 exit 85, 546-2661. Steak, seafood, Mexican: B L D.

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

SI SEÑOR, 200 E. Pine St., 546-3938. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

SUNRISE KITCHEN, 1409 S. Columbus Road, 544-7795. "Good-quality comfort food. There's nothing on the menu that is

really exotic. But all the familiar dishes, both American and Mexican, are done well, and it's that care in preparation that lifts the food above the ordinary. This is not a freezer-to-fryer type of restaurant." (September 2012) American, Mexican, breakfasts: Mon.-Thur. B L, Fri. B L D.

TACOS MIRASOL, 323 E. Pine St., 544-0646. Mexican: Mon., Wed.-Sat. B L D, Tues. B L.

TOCAYO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 1601 E. Pine St., 567-1963. Mexican, dine in or take out: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

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

Columbus
PATIO CAFÉ, 23 Broadway, 531-2495. Burgers, American: B L.*

HIDALGO COUNTY

Lordsburg
EL CHARRO RESTAURANT, 209 S. P Blvd., 542-3400. Mexican: B L D.

FIDENCIO'S, 604 E. Motel Dr., 542-8989. Mexican: B L early D.

KRANBERRY'S FAMILY RESTAURANT, 1405 Main St., 542-9400. Mexican, American: B L D.

MAMA ROSA'S PIZZA, 1312 Main St., 542-8400. Pizza, subs, calzones, salads, chicken wings, cheeseburgers, shrimp baskets: L D.

RAMONA'S CAFÉ, 904 E. Motel Dr., 542-3030. "Lordsburg's quit Mexican food treasure offers some unusual takes on traditional recipes." (December 2012) Mexican, American: Tues.-Fri. B L D, Sun. B mid-day D.

Animas
PANTHER TRACKS CAFÉ, Hwy. 338, 548-2444. Burgers, Mexican, American: Mon.-Fri. B L D

Rodeo
RODEO STORE AND CAFÉ, 195 Hwy. 80, 557-2295. Coffeshop food: Mon.-Sat. B L.

RODEO TAVERN, 557-2229. Shrimp, fried chicken, steaks, burgers, seafood: Weds.-Sat. D.

CATRON COUNTY

Reserve
ADOBE CAFÉ, Hwy. 12 & Hwy. 180, 533-6146. Deli, American, Mon. pizza, Sunday BBQ ribs: Sun.-Mon. B L D, Wed.-Fri. B L.

BLACK GOLD, 98 Main St., 533-6538. Coffeehouse, pastries.

CARMEN'S, 101 Main St., 533-6990. Mexican, American: B L D.

ELLA'S CAFÉ, 533-6111. American: B L D.

UNCLE BILL'S BAR, 230 N. Main St., 533-6369. Pizza: Mon.-Sat. L D.

Glenwood
ALMA GRILL, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, Mexican: Sun.-Weds., Fri.-Sat. B L.

GOLDEN GIRLS CAFÉ, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. "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: Mon.-Tues., Fri.-Sat. D.

Other Catron County
PURPLE ONION CAFÉ, Mogollon, 539-2710. "Seasonal, quirky and way off the beaten path... serves eclectic fare and 'famous' pie." (August 2011) Breakfast, burgers, veggie melts, pita pockets, pies: Fri.-Sun., Mon. holidays, May-Oct.: B L.
SNUFFY'S STEAKHOUSE AND SALOON, Quemado Lake, 773-4672. Steakhouse: D (Dec.-April: closed Mon.-Tues.)

SIERRA COUNTY

Hillsboro
BARBER SHOP CAFÉ, Main St., 895-5283. American, Mediterranean, sandwiches: Thurs.-Sat. L.

HILLSBORO GENERAL STORE & CAFÉ, 100 Main St., 895-5306. American and Southwestern: Sun.-Wed., Fri.-Sat. B L.

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

PRESENTS

Hacienda Realty



1628 Silver Heights Blvd.
Silver City, NM 88061
575-388-1921
www.haciendarealtysc.com



The High Desert Humane Society
3050 Cougar Way, Silver City, NM
575-538-9261
Hours: Tuesday-Friday 8:30-5:30
Saturday 8:30-5

Monthly Vaccination Clinic
Second Saturday
9-Noon



Maureen
1 yr., Female, Dilute Calico



Suzi & Marge
3 mos., Females, DSH



Samantha
8 wks., Female, Torti



Jannene
1 yr., Female, DMH



Claudio
8 wks., Male, DSH



Danny, Sonny & O'Brian
8 wks., Male, Tabby



Paolo
8 mos., Male, DMH—Houstrained—



Helga
6 mos., Female, Hound-X



Johnson
Adult, Male, Pom-X



Madeleine
4 yrs., Spayed Female, Choc. Lab

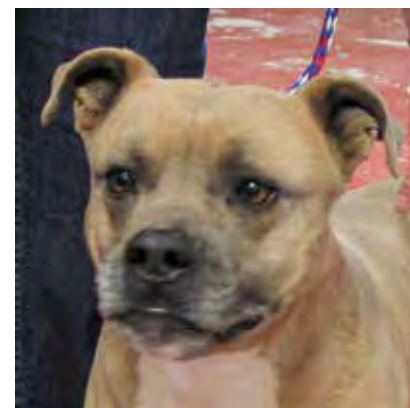


Clarisse
1 yr., Female, Heeler-Dalmatian



Astra
1 yr., Female, Chihuahua

OUR PAWS CAUSE THRIFT STORE
at 108 N. Bullard
Open Wed. - Sat. 10 am - 2 pm
Call for more info Jerry 654-3002
or Mary 538-2626



Skye
2yrs., Male, Pitbull



The SPAY/NEUTER AWARENESS PROGRAM provides spay/neuter assistance to low-income families & individuals in Grant, Hidalgo & Catron counties. Please don't add to the 4 million plus pets euthanized in shelters every year.

YOUR DONATIONS DESPERATELY NEEDED!
PO Box 1958, Silver City, NM 88062
Call SNAP at 575-590-4513.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

501(c3) non-profit org



Ursa Minor
the little blue box
of eccentricities

Cafe Azul Oso
at The Lodge

The Pollinators Fiber Fun

June 9 downtown Silver City at the El Sol with opening 3-5 p.m. at Ursa Minor Gallery, 303 N. Texas

Father's Day Brunch

June 15, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. reservations a must!

Wellness Weekend—June 20-21

Two days of activities including yoga, pilates, hiking, presentations on labyrinths, personal wardrobe, and local flora. Featuring guest expert guides Paula Taylor, Genevieve Nedder and Cordelia Rose



Day passes available--\$155 per day includes lunch.

60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road
575 538 2538 • www.bearmountainlodge.com
for more info and Father's Day menu



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Broadcasting on 89.1 FM



Podcasts available @ http://gmcr.org/category/earth-matters/

40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going on in June

Plus a look ahead into early July.

JUNE SUNDAY

1 Silver City/Grant County 24 Club Home Tour—Six locations in Pinos Altos, plus the Tea House located in the Buckhorn Saloon. Tickets at Adobe Springs, Alotta Gelato, or from 24 Club members. 1-4 p.m. 534-9484.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ANCESTRAL GOURDWORKS—Gourd artists Karen Phillips and Kathe Stark will give a talk and demonstration. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tombaugh Gallery, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281.

CHERRY FIELDS—Cherry Pickers, Derrick Harris Band, Overcome of Las Cruces and Eric Burton. 2-5 p.m. \$8 advance, \$10 door. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

MESILLA VALLEY SWING BAND—Music in the Park. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. No pets. 6 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. 541-2550.

THE LUNCH BOX—Through June 5. Ila prepares a meal with assistance from her neighbor, Auntie. This lunch, with Auntie's special ingredients, is meant to reach her husband's heart through his stomach. Instead, the lunchbox lands on the desk of Saajan. In short order, both parties realize that "the thing that never happens" has happened and a correspondence begins. Through the notes they pass back and forth in the lunchbox, Ila and Saajan come to know each other, to support each other and fall in love. In Hindi and English with English subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

TUESDAY

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

3 Las Cruces / Mesilla ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Every Tuesday. David Haverporth teaches a lesson from 6:30-7:15 p.m. Milonga 7:15-9:30 p.m. \$5. 2251 Calle de Santiago. (505) 620-0377.

TRAP, NEUTER & RETURN: FERAL CAT CARE—Nationally recognized expert on feral cat care Joe Miele will explain some simple things we can do to make the feral cat population more comfortable, and learn how to humanely reduce the population by preventing new litters. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

WEDNESDAY

4 Silver City/Grant County VIRTUAL HIKE ALONG THE GILA RIVER

—With Nathan Newcomer, who started his 50-mile hike on May 27 and will end it on June 3, the 90th anniversary of the Gila Wilderness. This year is also the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and the hike is in celebration of both of the anniversaries. Newcomer will also discuss the inventory he did along the river in hopes of having the Gila River designated a Wild and Scenic River. 2-3 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

WILD WILD WEST PRO RODEO—Through June 7. The Boys and the Bulls. This annual PRCA Rodeo features high-flying bull riding, fast riding and roping, nightly kids' mutton bustin'. Gates open at 6 p.m., SHA Gymkhana demonstration at 7 p.m., Mutton Bustin' at 7:30 p.m., and the PRCA Rodeo performance gets underway at 8 p.m. \$18, \$15 gate. Southwest Horseman's Park, Hwy. 180E and Caballero Road. 534-5030, silvercityprorodeo.com.

THURSDAY

5 Silver City/Grant County GOLD PANNING

—Brown bag lecture and demonstration by David Rinsch. In the museum courtyard. Rinsch has lived most of his life in Grant County and has been prospecting for more than 30 years. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

WILD WILD WEST PRO RODEO—Through June 7. See June 4. \$18, \$15 gate. Southwest Horseman's Park, Hwy. 180E and Caballero Road. 534-5030, silvercityprorodeo.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Jim Helder's

Septet. 8-10 p.m., beginners lesson at 7 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

PHILIP GIBBS—Austin singer-songwriter. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY

6 Silver City/Grant County 6x6 STUDIO SALE RECEPTION

Through June 7. Seven local artists show and sale of six-inch-square paintings. 4 to 7 p.m. Free. 28 Bear Creek Road, Pinos Altos.

BARACUTANGA—"Best of Albuquerque," the flavor of Latin America with rhythms of Peru, Brazil, Colombia and more. 9 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard.

GREG AND CHARLIE—Kick off the Summer Concert Series under the trees of the Courtyard Cafe. 12-1 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center, 1313 E. 32nd St.

STAR PARTY—Wine and telescopes with the Silver City Astronomical Society. Sunset-10 p.m. La Esperanza Winery, (505) 259-9523.

WILD WILD WEST PRO RODEO—Through June 7. See June 4. \$18, \$15 gate. Southwest Horseman's Park, Hwy. 180E and Caballero Road. 534-5030, silvercityprorodeo.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES—Through June 22. Written by John Guare and directed by Tom Smith. Artie Shaughnessy has dreams of making it big in Hollywood as a songwriter, but he just can't figure out quite how to get there from Queens, NY, where he works as a zookeeper and takes care of his manic wife, Bananas. But when the Pope makes a historic trip to New York in 1965, Artie's zany mistress Bunny is certain that with his blessing Artie's dreams will finally come true. But Artie's son, Ronnie, who intends on blowing up the Pope, Artie's Hollywood friends Billy and Corinna, and a group of pushy nuns seem to keep holding him back. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors, \$8 Thursdays. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

JEREMY NOLL—Opening for art exhibit. 6-10 p.m. West End Art Depot, 401 N. Mesilla St., 312-9892.

OMAR—Through June 12. In this film, Omar, a baker, climbs back and forth over the towering Israeli security wall to visit his girlfriend, Nadia. After being routinely harassed by Israeli police, Omar and his two buddies shoot a random border guard—less out of political conviction than as a way to regain some sort of power in their powerless lives. The film zeroes in on the aftermath: the paranoia and breakdown of loyalty among people who have been friends since birth. Six Oscar nominations, Best Foreign Film. In Arabic/Hebrew with English subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

PATRICIA BLACK—Artist reception for new exhibit in the El Paso Electric Gallery. 5-7 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL—Through June 22. By Joel Paley and Marvin Laird. Eight-year-old Tina Denmark knows she was born to play Pippi Longstocking, and she will do anything to win the part in her school musical. Anything includes murdering the leading lady! This musical enjoyed a long off-Broadway run that opened with Britney Spears in the leading role. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 student/senior/military, \$7 age 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

SCOTT WINANS—Open for exhibit, "Colors of Juarez." 5-7 p.m. Main Street Gallery and Big Picture, 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

SPRING SHOW—New Mexico Watercolor Society-Southern Chapter. Opening reception. 5-7 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

Deming

LUNA COUNTY ART SHOW—Opening reception, 5-7 p.m. Deming Art Center 100 S. Gold, 546-3663.

SATURDAY

7 Silver City/Grant County 6x6 STUDIO SALE

See June 6. 10 a.m. to 4p.m. Free. 28 Bear Creek Road, Pinos Altos.

FARMERS' MARKET—8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

COMMUNITY ARTS AND CRAFTS STREET FAIR/MARKET—Every Saturday. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard St.

GROCERY STORE WALKING TOUR—Led by registered dietitian Kristen Morgan. Learn to read food labels and plan healthy meals. Grant County Community Health Council. Register in advance at 388-1198 or healthcouncil@gmcr.org. 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Food Basket, 1220 N. Hudson St.

JUMP INTO SUMMER!—Community fun day. Prizes, food, games, obstacle courses, dancing. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Gough Park. 534-0248.

SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO CAR SHOW

—Lowriders, custom cars, hot rods, muscle cars and more. Music, food, vendors, jumping balloon. 12-4 p.m. Downtown Silver City. Park at Visitor Center, 201 N. Hudson.

THE MOTHER TUCKERS—Country and rock, in celebration of rodeo week. 9 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard.

WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL—Short environmental films, presented by Gila Conservation Coalition. Raffle, live music. 6:30 p.m. \$12 at door, members \$10, students free. Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House, Pinos Altos. www.gilaconservation.org.

WILD WILD WEST PRO RODEO—See June 4. \$18, \$15 gate. Southwest Horseman's Park, Hwy. 180E and Caballero Road. 534-5030, silvercityprorodeo.com.



The 24 Club Home Tour is June 1 in Pinos Altos.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

3V3 LIVE SOCCER TOURNAMENT—Through June 8. Burn Lake Soccer Complex.

ASA MISSY MOLINA FAST PITCH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT—Through June 8. Maag Park.

CRAFTS FOR KIDS—Create Father's Day crafts to take home. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Regular admission required for all family members: \$5, \$3 seniors, \$2 ages 5-17, free age 4 and under. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

DIY SMOOTHIES—How to go beyond your typical smoothie creation—incorporating vegetables ("green smoothies"), protein powders, and healthy additives (chia seeds, flax seeds, bee pollen, etc.). 12-1 p.m. \$3, members free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES—Through June 22. See June 6. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors, \$8 Thursdays. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

MELISSA GREENER—With Tiffany Christopher. Nashville folk crooner. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

ORGANIC AND HOMEMADE PEST CONTROL WORKSHOP—Learn how to deter pests and disease in your garden or farm naturally. This workshop will cover pest identification, preventative measures, and what to do when you've got a real problem. Pre-registration required. \$20, \$15 members. 9-11 a.m. MVM Farm, 2653 Snow Road, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL—Through June 22. See June 6. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 student/senior/military, \$7 age 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

WOMEN'S ART RITUALS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA—Lecture in conjunction with the exhibit, International Madonna Print



The Southwest New Mexico Car Show takes place in downtown Silver City on June 7.

Exchange by Ochoi Editions, by local artist Sudeshna Sengupta. Noon. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

WWE LIVE—WWE Superstars including Randy Orton, Daniel Bryan, The Shield, Kane, the WWE Divas. 7:30 p.m. \$15 and up. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, (800) 745-3000, ticketmaster.com.

Deming

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GOLF SCRAMBLE—7:30 a.m. \$55, \$200 team. Rio Mimbres Country Club, 2500 E. Pine St. 543-5060.

SUNDAY

8 Silver City/Grant County GRANT COUNTY CHICANO MUSIC PROJECT GALLERY TALK—With Patricia Cano. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla 3V3 LIVE SOCCER TOURNAMENT—Burn Lake Soccer Complex.
ASA MISSY MOLINA FAST PITCH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT—Maag Park.
DESERT WIND BAND AND TOM MORRIS—Music in the Park. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. No pets. 6 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. 541-2550.

RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL—Through June 22. See June 6. 2 p.m. \$10, \$9 student/senior/military, \$7 age 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

MONDAY

9 Silver City/Grant County POLLINATORS FIBER FUN—Downtown at the El Sol with opening at Ursa Minor Gallery, 303 N. Texas. 3-5 p.m. opening.

WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE—Joe Wlosinski on ID theft and scams. 10:30 a.m. Lunch \$10. Glad Tidings Church. 537-3643.

TUESDAY

10 Silver City/Grant County COMMUNITY FORUM—Also June 12. "The Wonders of Compost." Do your garden a favor and get a full lesson on how to get your compost pile up and running. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Food Co-Op, 520 N. Bullard, Community Room, 388-2343, www.silvercityfoodcoop.com.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM—Through July 11. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Bayard Public Library, 1112 Central Ave., 537-6244.

Las Cruces/Mesilla BROWN BAG LUNCH LECTURE—"Welcoming the New Union Pacific Santa Teresa Facility," presented by Zoe Richmond, Union Pacific director of public affairs, on the planning and construction of this \$400 million project. Learn about the increase in rail traffic and its impact on the area. 12 p.m. Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St., 647-4480

KIM LYTON—Vocalist. Every Other Tuesday. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

WEDNESDAY

11 Las Cruces / Mesilla NMHSCA NORTH-SOUTH ALL STAR BASEBALL SERIES—Through June 14. Apodaca Stadium.

THURSDAY

12 Silver City/Grant County COMMUNITY FORUM—See June 10. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Food Co-Op, 520 N. Bullard, Community Room, 388-2343, www.silvercityfoodcoop.com.

ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—Presentation by club member Wayne Allen, owner of Silver City Fine Jewelers. He will describe his background and how he got into the jewelry business. He wants those who make jewelry to bring some of their "makings" so that he can begin ordering findings (jewelry-making essentials including bails, earwires, headpins,

spacer bars, etc.). Potluck dinner; bring your own service ware and a dish to share. 6-8 p.m. Senior Center, Victoria St. 534-1393, rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO GREEN CHAMBER—Gary Vaughn, president of the New Mexico Solar Energy Association board,

will discuss the organization and how it promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency, and what that means for green businesses. Dutch treat food and drinks. 5:30 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard (back room). 538-4332.

Las Cruces/Mesilla BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs. DJ Gary Koverman. 8-10 p.m., beginners lesson at 7 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

GLEEWOOD—Folk-rock from Cloudcroft. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

HISTORY NOTES—Maria Hroncich-Conner on "Acculturation and Preference: An Investigation of Household Ceramics from a 17th Century Spanish Estancia." 1 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

LUSH & LEAN—"Rainwater Harvesting" Jeff Anderson, Ag Agent, DA NMSU-CES. 6-8 p.m. Free. Wia Building, 340 N. Raymond St. 528-3549, www.facebook.com/LushAndLean.

NEW MEXICO'S FOODS AND FARMS, TODAY AND YESTERDAY—Author Timothy McKimmie's presentation combines New Mexico's agricultural history with the production of foods, feeds and fibers today. 7 p.m. \$2 donation. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmdranchmuseum.org.

NMHSCA NORTH-SOUTH ALL STAR BASEBALL SERIES—Through June 14. Apodaca Stadium.

FRIDAY

13 Silver City/Grant County ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY—Browse and learn with NMSEA's SunChaser Program. Eight stations will be set up with hands-on learning activities. 1-4 p.m. Town of Silver City Office of Sustainability, 1106 N. Pope. 538-4332.

LOOSE BLUES BAND—Classic blues, rock, folk, and country under the trees of the Courtyard Cafe. 12-1 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center, 1313 E. 32nd St.

SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO GREEN CHAMBER BREAKFAST—Gary Vaughn, president of the New Mexico Solar Energy Association board, will discuss the role the organization has played as a watchdog of the PRC and PNM policies on renewable energy connection to the grid. 8-10 a.m. Diane's, 510 N. Bullard. 538-4332.

Las Cruces/Mesilla FINDING VIVIAN MALER—Through June 19. John Maloof and Charlie Siskel's riddle of a film unmasks a brilliant photographer who hid in plain sight for decades working as an eccentric French nanny. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES—Through June 22. See June 6. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors, \$8 Thursdays. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

NMHSCA NORTH-SOUTH ALL STAR BASEBALL SERIES—Through June 14. Apodaca Stadium.

RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL—Through June 22. See June 6. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 student/senior/military, \$7 age 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

USSSA SLOW-PITCH—Through June 15. Father's Day invitational. Harty Softball Complex.

SATURDAY FLAG DAY

14 Silver City/Grant County 25TH ANNUAL GILA CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT—Benefits Gila Regional Medical Center Foundation. Four-person scramble. 7 a.m. Golf Course, 9 Golf Course Dr. 538-4870. jkellerman@grmc.org.

CHILDREN'S PLANT PROGRAM—Gila Conservation Education Center. Plant flowers and decorate your own pots. 11

a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Bayard Public Library, 1112 Central Ave., 537-6244.

CRAFT CLASS—Make "Coyote Scat," a yummy trail food. For crafters ages 8 and older, Pre-registration encouraged, space limited. Parent or guardian attendance required. 10 a.m.-noon. \$5. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

FARMERS' MARKET—Music by Loose Blues Band, 9-11 a.m. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

GROCERY STORE WALKING TOUR—Led by registered dietitian Kristen Morgan. Learn to read food labels and plan healthy meals. Grant County Community Health Council. Register in advance at 388-1198 or healthcouncil@grmc.org. 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Bayard Food Basket, 1111 Tom Foy Blvd.

LOYD ROGER GRUBAUGH—Pianist in recital works of J. S. Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. Grubaugh is a graduate of the UCLA college of fine arts, with a bachelor's in music/piano performance. He studied with world-renowned music master Aube Tzerko for seven years. He has spent most of his life playing popular music under another name. 7 p.m. Free, donations accepted. First United Methodist Church of Silver City, 300-314 W. College, 575-538-2371

PRESENTATION AND BOOK SIGNING—*Butterfield's Byway: America's First Overland Mail Route Across the West* by Melody Groves. 2 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

SECOND SATURDAY QUARTERLY BOOK SALE—Friends of the Silver City Library. Stock up on summer books: 50-cent paperbacks, \$1 hardbacks. Authors range from Nelson DeMille to Nora Roberts and everything in between. Browse to discover new authors or pick up old favorites. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; members only 9-10 a.m. 1510 Market St., folsilvercitynm@gmail.com.

VACCINATION CLINIC—9 a.m.-noon. High Desert Humane Society, Cougar Way.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES—Through June 22. See June 6. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors, \$8 Thursdays. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

KANTHA QUILTS OF BENGAL—"Story-telling through Recycled Fabrics." Multi-generational workshop in conjunction with the exhibit, International Madonna Print Exchange by Ochoi Editions, by local artist Sudeshna Sengupta. Ages 9 and up. Noon. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

LONESOME SHACK—Seattle "gutbucket blues." High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

NMHSCA NORTH-SOUTH ALL STAR BASEBALL SERIES—Apodaca Stadium.

RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL—Through June 22. See June 6. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 student/senior/military, \$7 age 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

USSSA SLOW-PITCH—Through June 15. Father's Day invitational. Harty Softball Complex.

Deming

LUNA ROSSA FESTIVAL—10 a.m. Luna Rossa Winery, 3710 W. Pine St., 544-1160.

SUNDAY

FATHER'S DAY FIELD TRIP—Gila Native Plant Society will lead a field trip to the high country of Signal Peak Road. Bring water, lunch, a hat and sunscreen and wear good hiking shoes. Meet in the south parking lot of the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater for carpooling. 8 a.m. Free. 388-5192, www.gilanps.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla COMPASSION & CHOICES—Erin Marshall, New Mexico Campaign Manager for Compassion & Choices, will be the guest speaker. Montana Senior Village Community Building, 355 Montana. 527-8432, jnaomiscott@comcast.net.

HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES—Through June 22. See June 6. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors, \$8 Thursdays. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

MARIACHI LOS ARRIEROS AND MARIACHI FLORES FEMENIL MEXICANAS—Music in the Park. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. No pets. 6 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. 541-2550.

RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL—Through June 22. See June 6. 2 p.m. \$10, \$9 student/senior/military, \$7 age 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200,

EVENTS continued on next page



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JUNE 2014

May 30-June 5 **The Lunchbox**—Dir: Ritesh Batra, (104 min., Hindi and English. w/Eng Subs)

June 6-12 **Omar**—Dir: Hany Abu-Hassad, (96 min., Arabic/Hebrew w/Eng Subs)

June 13-19 **Finding Vivian Maier**—Dir: John Maloof, Charlie Siskel, (83min., In English)

June 20-26 **The Amazing Catfish**—Dir: Claudia Sainte-Luce, (89 min., Spanish w/Eng Subs)
25th Patron Admitted Free & Small Popcorn is 25¢ for all on the 25th day

June 27-July 3 **The French Minister**—Dir: Bertrand Tavernier, (113min., French w/Eng Subs)

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Thu 6/5 Phillip Gibbs (Austin Singer/songwriter)
Sat 6/7 Melissa Greener w/ Tiffany Christopher (Nashville Folk Crooner)

Thu 6/12 Gleewood (Cloudcroft Folk-Rock)
Sat 6/14 Lonesome Shack (Seattle Gutbucket Blues)
Thu 6/19 Stefanie Fix & Johann Wagner (Austin Singer-Songwriters)

Sat 6/21 Bob Einweck (Tucson Singer-Songwriter)
Thu 6/26 Pee Wee More (Austin Outlaw Country)
Sat 6/28 Chris "Moondog" Hall & Brigitte London (Last Honky-Tonk Music Series)

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SILVER CITY MUSEUM **June 2014 Calendar of Events**

Wednesday, June 4—Take a Virtual Hike Along the Gila River with Nathan Newcomer
 2 pm to 3 pm at the Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway

Thursday, June 5—Brown Bag program
Gold Panning Lecture and Demonstration with David Rinsch
 12 noon to 1 pm Silver City Museum Courtyard, 312 W. Broadway

Sunday, June 8—Grant County Chicano Music Project
 Gallery Talk with Patricia Cano
 12 noon to 1 pm at the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway

Saturday, June 14—Craft Class
Make "Coyote Scat", A Yummy Trail Food!
 10 am to 12 noon at the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway
 For crafters aged 8 and older, \$5, limit 10 crafters, pre-registration encouraged. Parent or guardian attendance required.

Saturday, June 14—Presentation and Book Signing
Butterfield's Byway; America's First Overland Mail Route Across the West
 by Melody Groves
 2 pm at the Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway

Friday, June 20—Kid's Day at the Museum!
 Free family fun at the museum!
 9 am to 12 noon at the Silver City Museum Courtyard, 312 W. Broadway

Ongoing Exhibits
Gila Wild: A Celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the Gila Wilderness and the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, now through January 4, 2015
Parece Que Fue Ayer: The Grant County Chicano Music Project through July 20
 Original photos and memorabilia of Chicano musicians
Faces and Places of the Chihuahuan Desert through June 8

For more information: visit us at 312 West Broadway, Silver City, NM, call 575-538-5921, or click www.silvercitymuseum.org

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- Silver City delivery (once a month, flat fee)
- Writers/reporters (various)
- Administrative/operations (task-based)

Email a cover letter and resume to:
editor@desertexposure.com

(No calls, please)

THE TO DO LIST
 Bustin' out all over.

June brings plenty of music (insert your own rhyming phrases with *June, tune and swoon* here). On **June 14**, the First United Methodist Church of Silver City presents a recital by pianist **Lloyd Roger Grubaugh**, performing works of J.S. Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. Grubaugh studied with world-renowned music master Aube Tzerko, who can trace a musical-teaching lineage back to Beethoven himself. A friend of Silver City for some 30 years, Grubaugh has played here occasionally and served as the Methodists' pianist for a while.

On **June 20** at Old James Stadium, the Mimbres Region Arts Council and WNMU will sponsor a free concert by 2014 Grammy winners **La Santa Cecilia**, Los Angeles' hottest hybrid alternative band. Winners in the category of Best Latin Rock, Urban or Alternative Album, La Santa Cecilia combines Latin, rock and world music in a distinctive rhythmic style that draws on cumbia, bossa nova, rumba, bolero and tango as well as jazz, rock and klezmer music. Band members include Jose "Pepe" Carlos, accordion and requintero; Alex Bendana, bass; Miguel Ramirez, percussion; and Marisol Hernandez, vocals. They will be performing music from their most recent award-winning album, "Treinta Dias" (30 Days), acclaimed nationally by NPR, *Ad Age* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Then on **June 28** at the Old Elks Club in Silver City, you can dance to local favorites the **Big Ditch Crickets**. The dance is a benefit for the Silco Theater renovation effort.

Summer is also vacation time for kids, who can get a head start on the season **June 7** at Gough Park in Silver City with the annual **Jump into Summer** community fun day for families. Enjoy prizes, food, games, obstacle courses, dancing and free activities for all ages.

Also on **June 7**, up at the Buckhorn in Pinos Altos, the Gila Conservation Coalition presents the **Wild & Scenic Film Festival**. The collection of short environmental films will be accompanied by live music and a raffle.

On **June 19** at WNMU's Global Resource Center, you can learn more about the impact on adolescents of alcohol, prescription drugs and other drugs in a special **Town Hall** sponsored by the Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.



La Santa Cecilia, performing on June 20.

EVENTS continued

MONDAY
16 Silver City/Grant County YOUTH MURAL CAMP—One or two weeks. Mimbres Region Arts Council. Kids (ages 6-12), apprentice interns (ages 13 and 14) and interns (15 and older) with mentoring artists will create a mural and renovate the original "hand walls." Applications for campers and interns are available at the MRAC office (in the Wells Fargo Bank) or at Leyba & Ingalls ARTS. Space is limited, please register early. Limited scholarships are available. 9 a.m. \$165 for both weeks, \$110 for one week. Penny Park, 1305 N. Grant St. 538-2505, www.mimbresarts.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
CAREER ART PATH—Through June 27. Two-week immersion program in the visual arts for middle school students. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

THURSDAY
19 Silver City/Grant County TOWN HALL ON YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE—Grant County Community Health Council. 6-7:30 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center. 388-1198, ext. 10.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Live music. 8-10 p.m., beginners lesson at 7 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES—Through June 22. See June 6. 7 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors, \$8 Thursdays. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

HYDRATION WELLNESS CLASS—Ways you can stay cool and hydrated this summer. 5-6 p.m. \$3, members free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

LUSH & LEAN—Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCo-RaHS). Dave Dubois, State Climatologist, NMSU. 6-8 p.m. Free. Wia Building, 340 N. Raymond St. 528-3549, www.facebook.com/LushAndLean.

STEFANIE FIX AND JOHANN WAGNER—Austin singer-songwriters. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY
20 Silver City/Grant County 3RD ANNUAL SUMMER KICK-OFF SOCCER TOURNAMENT—Through June 22. \$150 per team. Scott Park, 936-0398, 313-4211, scsc2009@signalpeak.net.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT WATCH TRAINING—The Grant County Court Watch group will host a free information session and training for people interested in volunteering for the Domestic Violence Court Watch Program. Participants will learn about the domestic violence court process, the benefits of a court watch program, and the nuts and bolts of how to do court watch. An overview of the volunteer application is included in the three-hour training. Pre-registration is required: (312) 498 9449 or susantellermarshall@gmail.com. 1 p.m. The Volunteer Center, 13th and Corbin.

KIDS' DAY AT THE MUSEUM—Free family fun in the courtyard. Included will be rope making, historic games, bubble making, river art activities, a treasure hunt/navigation activity, a cowboy time traveler who will help you make cowboy cuffs, free books, and refreshments. 9 a.m.-noon. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercity-museum.org.

LA SANTA CECILIA—Grammy winners La Santa Cecilia consists of accordionist and requintero Jose "Pepe" Carlos, bassist Alex Bendana, percussionist Miguel Ramirez, and lead vocalist La Marisol. 5-9:30 p.m. Free. WNMU Old James Stadium. www.mimbresarts.org.

WELLNESS WEEKEND—Through June 21. Two days of yoga, Pilates, hiking and presentations on labyrinths, personal wardrobe and local flora, along with healthy, delicious meals. Instructors: Cordelia Rose, Genevieve Nedder, and Paula Taylor, creative director of Tucson Fashion Week. \$155 day pass includes lunch. Bear Mountain Lodge, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES—Through June 22. See June 6. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors, \$8 Thursdays. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL—Through June 22. See June 6. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 student/senior/military, \$7 age 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

SWING SOLEIL—Gypsy jazz. 8 p.m. De La Vega's Pecan Brewery.

THE AMAZING CATFISH—Through June 26. The film tells the story of Claudia, a woman with no real family or friends. When appendicitis lands her in the hospital, Claudia meets Martha and her brood of children. As Martha's HIV condition worsens, Claudia finds herself becoming more drawn to the family. She becomes both a voluntary care-giver and friend to Martha and her children, and slowly discovers a sense of family that has eluded her all her life. In Spanish with English subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

SATURDAY
21 Silver City/Grant County 3RD ANNUAL SUMMER KICK-OFF SOCCER TOURNAMENT—Through June 22. \$150 per team. Scott Park, 936-0398, 313-4211, scsc2009@signalpeak.net.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARDS BREAKFAST—Followed by a community tour of energy efficient projects. Call for location, reservations and additional information: 538-4332. 9 a.m.

FARMERS' MARKET—Music by Greg and Jean, 9-11 a.m. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

SWING SOLEIL—Gypsy jazz. 7 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard.

ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—Field trip. Call for info. 8 a.m. 388-2010, rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

STARS-N-PARKS—Jupiter very low in the west, Mars past the meridian and Saturn approaching the meridian at program's start. The summer Milky Way runs south to north, northeast by program's end. Presenter: Matt Wilson. Program start: 9:30 p.m. \$5 day-use fee or park pass. City of Rocks State Park, 327 Hwy. 61, Faywood. www.astro-ngo.org.

IS IT A TWEET? OR IS IT A NOVEL?—Writing workshop with Jonathan Miller, author of the "Rattlesnake Lawyer" series. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$85. Space limited. For info and reservations: 313-3172, www.swordfiesta.org. Pinos Altos.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BOB EINWECK—Tucson singer-songwriter. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

DESERT BABY-WEARERS—10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

EXPERIMENTS WITH WATERCOLORS—In conjunction with exhibition, "New Canvases and Textures of My Mind," by the New Mexico Watercolor Society-Southern Chapter. Noon. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

GUS MACKER TOURNAMENT—Through June 22. 3-on-3 basketball. \$140 team fee. www.macker.com.

HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES—Through June 22. See June 6. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors, \$8 Thursdays. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL—Through June 22. See June 6. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 student/senior/military, \$7 age 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.



Explore the story of a 1910 fan at the Branigan Cultural Center in Las Cruces on June 26.

Deming
THE BORDERLAND BONES—Music in the Park. Trombone quartet from Las Cruces, performing everything from the classics to big band. 6 p.m. Rockhound State Park, 9880 Stirrup Road SE, 546-6182, FriendsOfRockhound.org. 543-8344.

SUNDAY
22 Silver City/Grant County 3RD ANNUAL SUMMER KICK-OFF SOCCER TOURNAMENT—\$150 per team. Scott Park, 936-0398, 313-4211, scsc2009@signalpeak.net.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
6TH ANNUAL SOLAR COOK-OFF AND SOLSTICE CELEBRATION—Fun, food, solar cooking contests, prizes, music, vendors, and more. Bring your homemade or store-bought solar oven and cook up your favorite recipe, then enter the cook-off contest for a chance to win prizes. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

GUS MACKER TOURNAMENT—3-on-3 basketball. \$140 team fee. www.macker.com.

HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES—See June 6. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students and seniors, \$8 Thursdays. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL—See June 6. 2 p.m. \$10, \$9 student/senior/military, \$7 age 6 and under. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

SLIPPERY JACK AND DR. FLOYD—Music in the Park. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. No pets. 6 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. 541-2550.

Hillsboro
SWING SOLEIL—Gypsy jazz. 3 p.m. Hillsboro Community Center.

TUESDAY
24 Las Cruces / Mesilla GLUTEN-FREE DESSERTS WITH SUMMER FRUIT—Favorite recipes, sampling desserts, and experimenting with gluten-free baking. 5-6:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

SUNLIGHT—Folk. Every Other Tuesday. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

THURSDAY
26 Las Cruces / Mesilla COWBOYS: THE REAL DEAL—Exhibit opening. New Mexico and the Southwest are home to an enduring cowboy tradition. For almost three centuries, beginning with the Spanish arrival in the region, those who could ride and rope were in demand as cowpunchers and drovers on cattle ranges and trails. This exhibit in the Traditions and Legacy Galleries brings into focus the life of the cowboy, featuring photographs, stories and objects, including a chuck wagon. 6-8 p.m. Free. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP—This workshop, aimed at adults, will examine a wooden promotional fan passed out at the opening of the Boston Store by Joseph Rosenfeld in Las Cruces in November of 1910. Later, Rosenfeld would convince his business partner Sam Klein to join him in Las Cruces. Klein would go on to be Las Cruces' longest-serving mayor. The fan provides subtle insight into early 20th century Las Cruces, highlighting some of the desires and needs of 1910 residents. It also features an image of downtown. Are there landmarks or buildings we can identify today? 1 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

HYDRATION COOKING CLASS—Ways you can stay cool and hydrated this summer. 5-6 p.m. \$3, members free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

LUSH & LEAN—Composting. Bill

Lindemann, Soils Professor, NMSU. 6-8 p.m. Free. Wia Building, 340 N. Raymond St. 528-3549, www.facebook.com/LushAndLean.

PEE WEE MOORE—Outlaw country from Austin. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

USSSA GIRLS FAST PITCH—Through June 29. "The Big Event" NIT. Hadley Athletic Complex.

FRIDAY
27 Silver City/Grant County GREG AND JEAN—Original folk under the trees of the Courtyard Cafe. 12-1 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center, 1313 E. 32nd St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
DON COYOTE—Through June 28. A Children's Theatre of the Mesilla Valley presents tales about a favorite southwest trickster. 7 p.m. \$7. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com. 644-9561, roditikos1@aol.com.

THE FRENCH MINISTER—Through July 3. The film depicts the life of Arthur Vlamnick, the freshly hired speechwriter for the French minister Alexandre Tailard de Worms. Arthur is consistently hurled through a sea of endless rewrites and bureaucratic minutiae, all the while balancing the verbose personalities of the diplomats with whom he is forced to work. In French with English subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

USSSA GIRLS FAST PITCH—Through June 29. "The Big Event" NIT. Hadley Athletic Complex.

SATURDAY
28 Silver City/Grant County FARMERS' MARKET—8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

SILCO THEATER RENOVATION BENEFIT—Big Ditch Crickets dance. Advance ticket sales at Visitor Center, 201 N. Hudson St. 7-10 p.m. \$10, children 12 and under with adult free. Old Elks Club, 315 N. Texas St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
CHRIS "MOONDOG" HALL AND BRIGITTE LONDON—Last Honky-Tonk Music Series. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

DON COYOTE—See June 27. 1 p.m. \$7. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com. 644-9561, roditikos1@aol.com.

MAKE A MATCHBOX RETABLO—Noon. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

USSSA GIRLS FAST PITCH—Through June 29. "The Big Event" NIT. Hadley Athletic Complex.

WINE AND CHEESE PAIRINGS—With local wine from Amaro Winery. 12-4 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

SUNDAY
29 Las Cruces / Mesilla ANTHONY & THE NITELTERS AND THE CLASSIC MIXX BAND—Music in the Park. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. No pets. 6 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. 541-2550.

USSSA GIRLS FAST PITCH—"The Big Event" NIT. Hadley Athletic Complex.

JULY WEDNESDAY
2 Las Cruces / Mesilla USSSA YOUTH BASEBALL GLOBAL WORLD SERIES—Through July 6. Hadley Athletic Complex.

THURSDAY
3 Las Cruces / Mesilla 4TH OF JULY ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE—Las Cruces celebrates with a parade of floats decorated with electric lights. 9 p.m. Free. 541-2000, www.las-cruces.org.

USSSA YOUTH BASEBALL GLOBAL WORLD SERIES—Through July 6. Hadley Athletic Complex.

FRIDAY
INDEPENDENCE DAY 4 Silver City/Grant County INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVITIES—4th of July parade downtown at 10

a.m., followed by music and vendors at Gough Park. Weather permitting fireworks display at dusk. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

JULY 4TH ICE CREAM SOCIAL—Enjoy old-fashioned ice cream and games for the kids. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

UP. CLOSE. IMPERSONAL—Through August 4. Opening for art show by Avelino Maestas, online content editor for the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, DC. 4 p.m. Common Ground Gallery, 102 W. Kelly.

Las Cruces/Mesilla 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION & FIREWORKS—Vendors and live entertainment before the fireworks. Free. Hadley Complex, 1801 E. Hadley Ave. 541-2000, www.las-cruces.org.

USSSA YOUTH BASEBALL GLOBAL WORLD SERIES—Through July 6. Hadley Athletic Complex.

SATURDAY
5 Silver City/Grant County FARMERS' MARKET—8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

COMMUNITY ARTS AND CRAFTS STREET FAIR/MARKET—Every Saturday. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
HOMEMADE AND ORGANIC FERTILIZER WORKSHOP—Learn the many ways an organic grower can help plants thrive. Pre-registration required. 9-11 a.m. \$20, members \$15. MVM Farm, 2653 Snow Road, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com, www.mountainviewmarket.coop.

USSSA YOUTH BASEBALL GLOBAL WORLD SERIES—Through July 6. Hadley Athletic Complex.

MONDAY
7 Las Cruces / Mesilla USSSA YOUTH BASEBALL GLOBAL WORLD SERIES—Hadley Athletic Complex.

TUESDAY
8 Las Cruces / Mesilla DR. FLOYD—Every Other Tuesday. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com. *

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.

Presents

June 6—Baracutanga
"Best of Albuquerque"
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June 7—The Mother Tuckers
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All classes are at the CATS/KOOT studio located at 213 N. Bullard Silver City, NM. Classes start at 5:30 PM and last one hour. Spaces are limited, so please call 534-0130 to reserve a spot 24 hours in advance.

June 2014 Classes

6/04/14: **Beginner Audacity Radio Editing Program** with Todd Dennehy! Learn how to record and edit your own KOOT 88.1 FM radio show!

6/11/14: **Beginner Movie Maker Video Editing!** Introduction to Movie Maker—a free video editing program!

6/18/14: **PRO Radio!** Wonder how the Pros do it? This class will turn you into a PRO! Taught by KOOT 88.1 FM Pro, Todd Dennehy!

July 2014 Classes

7/09/14: **Movie Maker!** Want to show others your photos, but they aren't interested? Learn how to turn your digital photos into a video production!

7/16/14: **KOOT 88.1FM Community Radio 101!** Learn the rules and regulations for broadcasting on YOUR Community-YOUR Station KOOT 88.1 FM!

7/23/14: **Turn Your Videos Into a CATS TV Production!** Phone videos, camera videos, camcorder videos! Get your videos on TV!

Classes are FREE to members! Non-members are charged a \$10 fee. (KOOT 88.1 FM and CATS-where YOU'RE in control!)
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2014 Summer Reading Program
Fizz! Boom! Read!
June 2nd - July 25th

<p>Mindstorms Ages 10 + Mandays @ 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Crafts (limit 35 children) Tuesdays @ 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Chess Club All ages Tuesdays @ 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Storytime for children of all ages Wednesdays & Fridays @ 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>read listen sing move</p>
<p>LEGO Club Ages 4 + Wednesdays @ 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Special Performers All ages Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Movie Night All ages Thursdays @ 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Teen DIY Projects Ages 10 + Fridays @ 2:00 p.m.</p>

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Wild Kingdom

Where life is hard, there's plenty of it to see.

The other day, looking out back, we spotted two young mule deer at play. They scampered across our field of vision, heedless of the precarious footing, stopped hard and reversed course. The clatter of their hooves against the rock-strewn scarp echoed over our gasps of delight at this impromptu show.

Most mornings, if we're up and at 'em early enough, I spot a cottontail or two out back while I'm making coffee in the kitchen. By then the quail have already started their calling, which always somehow sounds aggrieved, as if someone just twisted their topknots. And of course there are the ravens, swooping audibly over the screen room, and the occasional buzzards and roadrunners (dining on packrats, one hopes). Plenty of lizards out there, too—and sometimes in here, when the cat pounces on one that's wandered into the screen room—along with the occasional snake and even a toad in the pond.



Every few weeks the coyotes wake us up at night with their singing. Several times we've spotted a skunk outside our garage door, just in time to not let it in. We've seen a fox once, and fox scat more often than that, and there was the coatimundi that left its dusty print on the hot-tub cover. We didn't see the actual critter, but

the fish formerly in the pond sure did.

Judging by the photos readers keep sending in for our "Life in a State of Nature" feature in the Tumbleweeds section, we're hardly alone in enjoying a constant parade of wildlife. Our desert Southwest is one big open-air zoo, and you never know what you might see if you keep your eyes open.

Readers sometimes joke that this column is a chronicle of "what I saw in my backyard," though to be fair I've covered plenty of other important topics in recent months, such as my beard and the oddly limited palette of automobile colors. If I do occasionally opine about the critters out there, though, it's probably because I saw so little wildlife growing up (outside of the Great Plains Zoo, that is).

This seems strange in retrospect, because it's not as though I grew up in Manhattan or someplace else utterly urban. Sioux Falls, SD, at the time was smaller than Las Cruces is now, a modest city surrounded by corn fields and the Big Sioux River. Moreover, we were virtual pioneers, homesteading on what was then the extreme edge of the city. (My old neighborhood is now considered "central" Sioux Falls, and the dirt road where my dad taught me to drive is the city's busiest intersection.) When my parents built a house

there, several lots on our block were still undeveloped and the lot behind us was wooded and overgrown.

My friends and I could walk to the banks of the river (such as it was when not flooding), in that innocent era when parents apparently didn't worry about drowning, kidnapping or what a 10-year-old boy on the loose with a fistful of firecrackers might be up to. I suppose we saw birds and maybe frogs when we weren't busy blowing tin cans sky-high or decapitating plastic army men. But I don't remember if so.

Instead, my non-zoo experience of wildlife was limited to the songbirds and squirrels that visited our backyard, which my dad set about filling with trees with the sort of determination that General Sherman applied to the Confederacy. My mom kept a bird feeder on the balcony in winter, which attracted the usual suspects—juncos and such—and which proved immune to all efforts at squirrel-proofing.

But no deer scampered across our increasingly tree-filled backyard, much less more exotic fauna. There must have been jackrabbits somewhere—namesake of South Dakota State University's sports teams—but the only ones I saw were corpses tossed on the basketball court by rival fans. I hardly recall even a humble cottontail, but maybe I just wasn't paying attention (playing superheroes takes a pretty serious mental focus). Surely there were coyotes, too, not only those playing on the University of South Dakota sports teams named for them, but I never saw one.

South Dakota is famous for its pheasants, but most of the pheasants I saw were on a dinner plate under a nice cream sauce. Students of my parents (both college English teachers) would share their hunting prizes every pheasant season, no doubt hoping to boost their grades.

Even after we were married and moved away for various jobs—St. Paul, Tuscaloosa, Dubuque, Pittsburgh—the wildlife we saw was nothing that would inspire a visit from Marlin Perkins and the old "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" TV show. ("While Jim evades the crushing power of that anaconda, this important message from Mutual of Omaha can help you avoid crushing problems when the unexpected happens....")

When yet another job took us to Milwaukee, in fact, I was so moved by the sight of a family of deer crossing the sunset-lit park I sometimes drove through on the way home that I wrote about it. (Clearly, sowing the seeds for today's Continental Divide column!)

Weirdly, we didn't really encounter much urban wildlife until we moved to Cincinnati, to a big, turn-of-the-century house smack in the heart of the city. There we had raccoons in the attic and once spotted a woodchuck in our neighbor's backyard. Rather than chucking wood, this woodchuck was busy confiscating a big sheet of plastic the neighbor had left out back—presumably for some woodchuck home-improvement project.

Our Cincinnati experiences prepared us a little for the critter parade of living in Silver City, but the sheer profusion and variety of wildlife still leave us speechless sometimes. What's most amazing, though, is that we're enjoying wildlife in unprecedented (to us, that is) numbers in the most inhospitable-seeming place we've ever lived.

After all, it's famously dry here (putting the *Desert* in *Desert Exposure*). The ground looks more like airport tarmac than anything that could support life. Rather than the welcoming, power-line-endangering trees of my dad's backyard, we have mostly stubby, barely leafed trees that Midwesterners would call "shrubs." Half the plant life in which critters might seek shelter is studded with spikes of some sort. As my visiting sister-in-law once put it, "Don't you have any plants here that won't hurt you?"

And yet somehow the furry and feathered creatures thrive—at least, enough to make frequent appearances where we can spot them.

They come and go, of course, presumably with the changing local ecosystem and micro-climate. Just the other day we were recalling the jackrabbits we used to get—towering over the humble cottontails they'd forage beside—and wondering why they don't visit anymore. In years past, too, the quail would be so thick on the ground in the evenings that you could imagine walking on them without ever touching terra firma. Now we have a quail family or two, but not the hordes.

Deer, on the other hand, were late to the party in our backyard. But in recent years we've seen them pretty regularly, and can count on them to clean up the fallen leaves and fruit from our peach, apple and pear trees.

We'll get to know a roadrunner pretty well, to listen for its distinctive clacking call, and then it moves on. Some years the hummingbirds buzz in the backyard like the sound of a dying hard drive, along with the annual oriole arrival, while other summers we see only a few. We've spied baby squirrels, as tiny as toys, nibbling the flowers and foliage just outside my wife's office window. Then they grow up, I guess, and strike out on their own in other backyards, where the mother squirrel nags them about when they're going to make her a grandma.

Life goes on, and we appreciate how lucky we are to see so much of it—particularly given our lack of wildlife experiences growing up. Even as I type this, the quail are complaining about whatever it is that aggravates them so, and my wife is calling me to come see the big lizard out her window. If I watch long and hard enough, maybe the mule deer young'uns will come back to play.

Our "wild kingdom" has many lessons to teach, I think—and not just about the need to buy insurance. 🐾

When he can tear himself away from the window, David A. Fryxell edits *Desert Exposure*.



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Patrick Conlin, Broker/Owner

#1 Listing/Selling Office 2013 - 113 units sold, \$13.9M



MLS 31189 • \$119,000

Home features tons of upgrades such as tile countertops, Dura-Last flooring in kitchen, dining and hall. Rest of the house has laminate in living areas and berber carpeting in bedrooms. Kitchen cabinets are customized with glass inserts, island. Master bath has modern sinks and fixtures as well as an oversize tiled shower. Master bedroom also has a private deck. Also features fantastic outdoor spaces and privacy.



MLS 31202 • \$29,900

Top of Chihuahua Hill with excellent views! In-town 0.21 acre lot, all city utilities available, run-down house could be torn down or salvaged for a great 2 level residence. One block from La Capilla Heritage Park, close to Boston Hill Trail System, and just blocks to historic downtown. OK for Site-built or manufactured/double-wide homes.



MLS 31141 • \$39,000

2 acres in the Mimbres Valley with excellent views. Driveway, well house/storage building, small building pad, electric available. 340' great well, permitted septic system for a 2 bedroom dwelling, and a 35' travel trailer are included! Property is fenced and has an access gate.



MLS 31172 • \$229,000

3BD/1.75BA home in the Indian Hills area, 1 acre, all city utilities. Open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, fireplace with insert in the living area. Fenced backyard with small patch of green grass, covered patio, storage shed. Wooded lot, house set back from the street and is very private.



MLS 31180 • \$110,000

Beautiful property in Lake Roberts, surrounded by the Gila National Forest. Excellent location, easy access and within walking distance to the lake. 4 bedrooms. Oversized kitchen has a breakfast bar and a pantry. Comfortable, split floor plan. Large detached 24'x40' garage/workshop. DSL hookup is available. The living room has a wood burning stove. Year round hiking, fishing, biking, birding and much, much more this can be the place for years of enjoyment. Two RV hook-ups.



MLS 31182 • \$39,999

NEWER 2BD/1BA single-wide in Hurley with views. Fenced yard, open kitchen/living room, full bath, 1996 Silver Creek model 15'6" X 56".



MLS 31186 • \$25,000

COMMERCIAL or RESIDENTIAL land on Hwy. 35. Nice level lot with views of surrounding mountains and the valley. Community water available. 156 foot frontage to a paved road.



MLS 31145 • \$112,500

Rural acreage close to town. Several good building spots throughout this property. Large trees, pinon and junipers, some oaks create privacy and seclusion. Beautiful views all around. Southern exposure.



MLS 31147 • \$99,500

2BD/1BA home in the downtown mixed use area, commercial or residential use allowed. Fenced corner lot, 1 car detached garage, storage shed. Some hardwood floors, basic kitchen, stand-up crawlspace. Estate sale, sold as-is.



MLS 31183 • \$117,562

3BD/2BA HOME ON 1 ACRE. Fenced backyard, wooded lot, close to the National Forest. Property is sold as-is.

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