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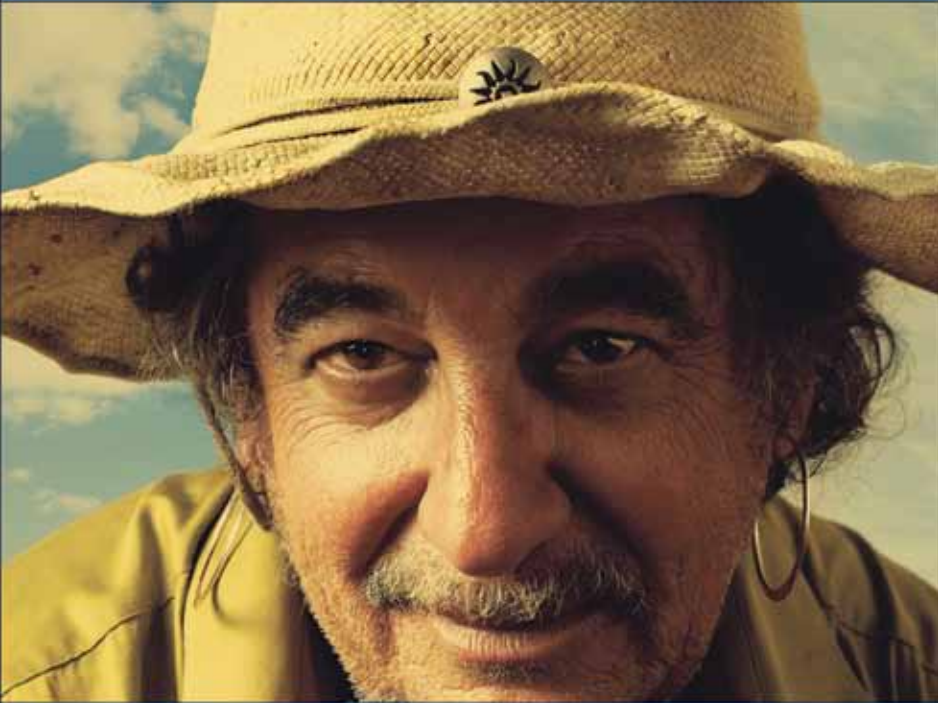


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**Publisher & Editor**

David A. Fryxell  
(575) 538-4374 • editor@desertexposure.com

**Creative Director & Silver City Advertising Sales**

Lisa D. Fryxell  
(575) 538-4374 • ads@desertexposure.com

**Advertising Sales****Silver City:**

Ilene Wignall  
(575) 313-0002, ilenew@desertexposure.com

**Las Cruces/Mesilla:**

Kristi Dunn  
(575) 956-7552, kristi@desertexposure.com

**Deming:**

Marjorie Lilly  
(575) 544-3559, marjorie@desertexposure.com

**Senior Writer**

Jeff Berg

**Web Designer**

David Cortner

**Events & Social Media**

Courtney Fryxell

**Columnists**

Henry Lightcap, Larry Lightner, Marjorie Lilly,  
Vivian Savitt, Bert Stevens,  
Scott Thomson

P.O. Box 191

Silver City, NM 88062

(575) 538-4374 • fax (575) 534-4134

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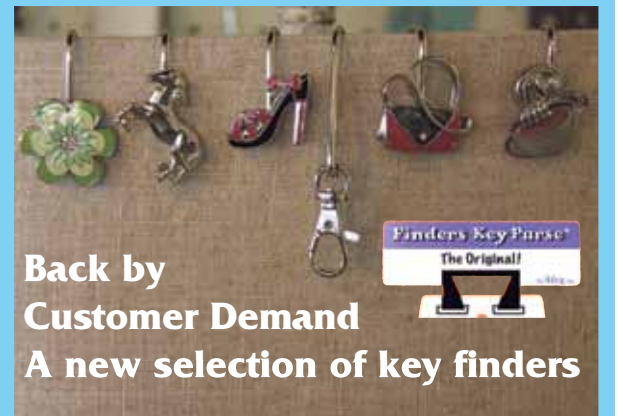
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## Parking Wars

Good news for downtown Silver City—if you can find a place to park.

Downtown Silver City, blighted too long by empty storefronts, will get a major boost from the long-awaited renovation and reopening of the Murray Hotel. (We originally reported on the ambitious project way back in October 2006.) Another shot in the arm may come from the recent purchase of the group of buildings including Tune Town by the owners of the popular Pink Store in Palomas. A Silver City-style Pink Store, if that's the plan, could fill a longstanding void downtown as a place for tourists to shop for souvenirs and soak up a little local culture.

As we pondered these positive developments, however, a question popped to mind: Where the heck will these downtown visitors park?

This question was made more pointed by our experiences at the beginning of last month, jouncing through several downtown parking lots and searching for street parking while delivering *Desert Exposure*. You'd never know there was a recession from the streets of downtown Silver City.

Alex Brown, the town manager, says parking isn't just a challenge for shoppers, diners and hotel guests. "We have that problem ourselves at City Hall, for employees and our customers," he says. "It's an ongoing struggle."

Fortunately, Brown tells us, the folks behind the Murray Hotel's rebirth thought ahead and have purchased property behind the old Gila Theatre for guest parking. Combined with additional parking off Spring Street, he believes that will solve most of the (happy) problem of additional hotel guests downtown.

The town is also looking at improving drainage on the "Main Street Plaza" lot between Bullard Street and the Big Ditch, where the Silver City Farmers' Market operates seasonally on Saturdays. Brown adds that the town is looking for funding sources to eventually pave that lot.

The lot on the other side of Bullard, between Thunder Creek and Morning Star, is privately owned, he notes.

The large visitor center parking lot off Hudson Street is actually surprisingly convenient for downtown patrons, too. But it's not intuitive that you should park there to stroll downtown, because getting to Bullard Street and beyond requires crossing the bridge across the Big Ditch. (The appearance of some of the people who hang around the bridge might also discourage visitors from choosing that route.)

Even if the Murray Hotel reopening makes no net impact on parking, given the owners' foresight, parking will remain a problem and a drag on the further development of downtown. The town also owns some Bullard Street property farther away from the core of downtown, Brown says, but that's not very convenient. Other options start to bump up against the laws of physics and geography.

What can Silver City do to make downtown more accessible for shoppers and visitors? In the long term, we'd urge the town to think more aggressively about not only paving lots but even clearing some long-empty storefronts to make room for attractively landscaped parking lots. Some vacant downtown properties are simply too far gone to be rehabilitated, while others suffer from landlords' unrealistic expectations about retail rents. We're not advocating a 21st-century urban renewal or "mall," for heaven's sakes, but a hard look at the realities might be due for the next phase of downtown's life.

In the short term, the town needs to look at improved signage to steer drivers to the places they can park. In particular, the visitor center lot needs to be promoted, its convenience made clear and its bridge to downtown cleaned up. The lot behind the museum is convenient for Yankee and Texas streets, but that may not be obvious to out-of-towners. And for drivers slowly proceeding down

Bullard in search of a place to park, a few "P" signs and arrows could spell the difference between enjoying a day downtown and saying the heck with it.

People who regularly work or operate businesses downtown also need to sacrifice their own convenience for that of potential customers, as of course many already do. Sure, it's handy to park right in front of your store or office—but that's one fewer good parking place for the people you're trying to serve. Park farther on the fringes of downtown; the walk will do you good. (Or try biking to work, if you can, which will be even better for you.)

Parking seems a small thing, especially as America struggles to move away from its dependence on the automobile. But for a small town that's not really on the way to anywhere else, which nonetheless has been able to preserve a

vibrant downtown, it's essential. How wonderful that recent developments downtown may force Silver City to think about its downtown parking challenges! Now let's try to do more than just *think*.

## Writing, Friending & Tweeting

The latest from "the biggest little paper in the Southwest."

In case you missed the announcement last month, we're once again fully in the throes of our annual writing competition. Submit your best article, short story, essay, poem or other piece of writing by **July 20**. Entries will be judged on literary quality and how well they express some aspect of life in Southwest New Mexico. You can enter as many works as you like. Maximum length per prose entry is 6,000 words. First prize is \$100, plus publication in the September issue, and four second prize winners will earn \$25 each plus see their works published.

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In other *Desert Exposure* news, now you can connect with us on **Facebook**. Check out the latest events, comment on the current issue and see what others are saying about "the biggest little paper in the Southwest." Become a friend of *Desert Exposure* at [www.facebook.com/DesertExposure](http://www.facebook.com/DesertExposure).

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But don't worry: We'll be back here with the old-fashioned dead-tree edition of *Desert Exposure* next month on July 2. It's a day later than normal because July 1 is a Sunday and our daughter is getting married in June (see this month's Continental Divide column), making the month is a tad hectic. If you're one of those folks who parks and lines up to get each month's new issue hot off the presses, please take note—and don't take up a valuable parking space until you have to. 🚗

David A. Fryxell is editor and publisher of *Desert Exposure*.



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## LETTERS

## Dollars and Incensed

Our readers write.

## Billions and Billions

Regarding “The Budget of Magical Thinking” (Editor’s Notebook, May), while the Ryan budget is far from perfect, it is unfair to criticize it because it “would cut Medicaid by \$810 billion through 2022” or because the SNAP program “would be cut by 17%, \$133.5 billion over 10 years.”

For one thing, both of these programs are highly dependent on economic conditions, and no one can say with any certainty how much they will cost over the next 10 years. A budget that forecast boom times over the next 10 years would probably show lower spending in these programs, relative to this year’s unusually high levels. However, I suspect you have made a more fundamental error.

I read that Ryan’s \$810 billion Medicaid cut is not as big as the one in a budget proposed by the Republican Study Committee, which “achieves greater savings by freezing spending at 2012 levels.” So, “freezing” spending is an even bigger “cut” in spending!

Welcome to the world of budget-speak in Washington, DC, where spending increases become spending cuts. That’s the real magic.

This is because Washington uses something called baseline budgeting. As an example, if a program spends \$2 this year and those running the program budget \$4 next year, spending only \$3 becomes a 25% cut in spending—never mind that spending has actually increased 50%.

In essence, the media and the politicians use the term “spending cuts” when they should use “budget cuts.” I don’t know if this is done to deliberately to mislead the public, or if they have just forgotten the difference.

To your credit, you did write: “Axing planned expansion of Medicaid would cut another \$1.6 trillion,” so you are not as guilty as most.

Ryan’s budget estimates the Federal government will spend \$4.9 trillion in 2022, which is about a 3% per year increase from this year’s \$3.7 trillion. Consequently, if someone complains about Ryan’s budget cuts, they’re can’t be talking about his overall budget.

By contrast, the CBO projects the Administration’s budget expenditures to be about \$5.6 trillion in 2022, a roughly 4.4% per year increase. (All these numbers change almost daily.)

Consequently, by 2022, even though the Ryan budget increases spending by about \$1.3 trillion, we are told that his budget over 10 years reduces spending by an accumulative \$4 trillion. Only in Washington. The really bad news is that even these mythical cuts may be too much to expect.

For example, Congress recently opposed modest spending cuts in the deficit-ridden Post Office, cuts recommended by the Postal Service itself, and the Republican-controlled House, instead of eliminating the totally unnecessary Export-Import Bank, increased its loan budget by \$40 billion, or 40%. The list goes on and on.

The only politician of note proposing real, significant spending cuts is Ron Paul, who would eliminate entire departments (Education, Energy, Housing, Commerce and Interior). His approach has the advantage of simplicity, plus there can be no misunderstanding what he’s talking about.

Anybody for term limits?

Peter Burrows  
Silver City

Your editorials regarding oil prices and budgetary hypocrisy (Editor’s Notebook, May) were quite good. Have considered the following also?

Our defense budget continually exceeds the defense budgets of the next 12 countries combined.

While it buys us an excellent military, it also buys something else: mafia services. Consider the Middle East. The largest oil fields in the world are in an area from Libya to Iran and north into Russia. For the past decade we have been threatening, attacking or otherwise thwarting the supplies of oil from this region into the world market. The only

people we’ve not harmed or threatened are the Saudi Arabians, who financed and manned the 9/11 attacks. All of this has been capably handled (but at terrible cost in dead and mutilated US military and foreign national personnel) by our excellent military.

So who profited? Our banks, oil, defense and construction businesses. We actually subsidized their businesses using our military to rig and control prices. We have destroyed, isolated or blockaded oil production and shipments from this area at a time when world oil demand increased.

In the conditions you described in your editorial, these actions by our military under orders from the commander in chief (the president) most certainly would increase prices. Our presidents are exerting pressure to raise oil prices. Since they seem to be purchased by our corporations, this would be expected.

The cure would be to scale our military back to where it is an excellent defense operation, which would make it comparable to the other 12 countries whose combined budgets we exceed year after year. That would save several hundred billion dollars each year, a tidy sum indeed. It would be achievable if we limited our military presence to the same number of foreign countries the Swiss do (since they are very well defended and financially sound). That would in turn relieve our budget woes. It would also relieve the strain on our tattered economy that has had to finance this nonsense with evaporating resources that have been sent to Oriental slave plantations.

The trick is to get enough politicians who aren’t owned by Wall Street together to make it happen. There’s a challenge, if I’ve ever seen one.

Charles Clements  
Las Cruces

## Palomas In-Person

I wanted to commend Marjorie Lilly for her column on the stockyards in Palomas (Borderlines, May), which was strengthened by her actually having gone to Palomas and visiting the site. I hope that she will cross the border again, as many of us do, and offer some stories of people doing good work there in the midst of all that blight. She is a fine writer and we could use that kind of responsible, first-hand journalism.

Bill Charland  
Silver City

**Editor’s note:** You’ll find just such a story in this issue, where Marjorie Lilly writes about Border Partners.

## On the Wrong Track

A heaping dose of Texas shame on Harry Williamson for his derogatory remarks directed toward 75-year-old runner Jeff Davis (“Born to Run,” April)! Who made Williamson the Great Oracle of All Things Running? In a country which has the singular boast of having a 60%-plus obesity rate in all age groups, I would think you would applaud and honor Jeff as some kind of local health icon. Your mocking tone does not escape the reader. While Jeff’s photo jogging in Silver City is current, your own is somewhat dated. And the reason is?

The story reminds me of the journalist who

criticized Russell Crowe on one of his day-long bike rides in Australia, when he stopped to eat a cheeseburger. She published an unflattering photo and derogatory remarks about Crowe’s food choice and his apparent need to lose weight. In response to her article, Crowe challenged her to accompany him on his daily ride and, well, the rest is history. She dropped out fairly early in the day and the chivalrous Crowe returned to assist her back to town for lunch.

Mr. Williamson, please write another *Desert Exposure* article on your 75th birthday describing your daily running schedule. Also, include a photo of yourself for your readers to judge. Tell me, have you jostled with humility lately, or isn’t it fashionable in New York, Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas?

Allison Wiggins  
Silver City and San Antonio, Texas

**Editor’s note:** It’s rare that we get a letter that so completely misreads one of our articles. We’re frankly stumped to find anything “derogatory” or “mocking” in Harry Williamson’s description of runner Jeff Davis. On the contrary, the author took the time and care to interview and understand a person whom passersby in their cars on Hwy. 180 might indeed view with ignorant derision. The article’s intent was to celebrate Davis’ running regimen, as it was with the other runners interviewed. After the article appeared, Davis wrote to Williamson to thank him for the accuracy and the tone of the comments about him.

As for author Williamson, whom you snipe at for his younger-than-75 age: Harry tells us that he weighed 155 pounds at the Boston Marathon in April 2006, and now weighs in at 143. He plans to run in the Amsterdam Marathon in October, when he will be age 72. We’ll be delighted to have him write about his running again after that experience, as well as when he turns 75.

## Hmmm...

I am selective in reading my copy of *Desert Exposure*. The article has to attract and entice me. So I was gently sucked into your May article on “humming” (“A Humdinger of a Project,” Tumbleweeds). I was intrigued and amused as I read on, until suddenly I realized: This is real! These people are really doing this! My God, it is sponsored by a university! There are probably college credits earned for it! It may even lead to a degree in... Interdisciplinary Expressive Art! (Now there’s a job magnet diploma in this economy!)

I hypnotically read on until the end, where I realized it is subsidized by a grant, and somewhere in the bowels of our government, I am probably paying for part of it. What’s next? Gargling to Chopin’s waltzes? Flatulence polkas?

I’ll go back to my margaritas, thank you, and hope this goes away.

Bert de Pedro  
Red Rock

## Groaner Alert!

Vivian Savitt’s “Growing Privacy” story (Southwest Gardener, May) was entertaining and informative. However, she defines and uses the word *berm* rather loosely. Berm is related to brim, and more properly describes a narrow pathway above or below a slope. For a defensive anti-trespassing earth barrier, I think the word *glacis* is more appropriate. Should you build your glacis with a decorative desert hue, it becomes a rose-colored glacis.

Joel Chinkes  
Luna County ☘

Let us hear from you! Write *Desert Exposure* Letters, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134 or email letters@desertexposure.com. Letters are subject to editing for style and length (maximum 500 words, please), and must be in response to content that has appeared in our pages. Deadline for the next issue is the 18th of the month.





## DESERT DIARY

# True Stories, Senior Moments and Canny Critters

Plus insurance, politics and pregnancy.

**O**ur pets, ourselves... As much as we adore the jokes you pass along for our amusement, we love the occasional true story that makes us chuckle—like this one from **The Packrat Out Back**:

"Several years ago we had two indoor cats, both of whom have since died of old age. As you can imagine, we accumulated a lot of used kitty litter over a week's time. One of my husband's friends at work, John, started complaining that gophers were taking over his yard and garden, and he needed to get rid of them ASAP. He said that he had read somewhere that gophers will not tolerate used cat litter in their territory and asked my husband to start saving our used kitty litter for him, which we

the subject of pets (and neighbors), here's equal time for pooches courtesy of **Ned Ludd**. The easily offended might want to look away:

"A dog lover, whose dog was a female and 'in heat,' agreed to look after her neighbor's male dog while they were on vacation. She had a large house and believed that she could keep the two dogs apart. However, as she was drifting off to sleep, she heard awful howling and moaning sounds, and rushed downstairs and found the dogs locked together, in obvious pain and unable to disengage, as frequently happens when dogs mate.

"Unable to separate them and perplexed as to what to do next, although it was late, she called the vet, who answered in a very grumpy voice. After she explained the problem to him, the vet said, 'Hang up the phone and place it down alongside the dogs. I'll then call you back and the noise of the ringing will make the male lose his excitement and he will be able to withdraw.'

"Do you think that will work?" she asked.

"It just worked for me," he replied."

*Whether it's raining cats or dogs, anecdotes or jokes, send your stories to Desert Diary at [diary@desertexposure.com](mailto:diary@desertexposure.com).*

**P**ersons of the redneck persuasion... In case your travels this summer take you to less-sophisticated sections of our fair land, keep this list from **GeraldH** handy:

"You know you're a redneck when..."

"You take your dog for a walk and you both use the same tree.

"You can entertain yourself for more than 15 minutes with a fly swatter.

"Your boat has not left the driveway in 15 years.

"You burn your yard rather than mow it.

"The Salvation Army declines your furniture.

"You offer to give someone the shirt off your back and they don't want it.

"You have the local taxidermist on speed dial.

"You come back from the dump with more than you took.

"You keep a can of Raid on the kitchen table.

"Your wife can climb a tree faster than your cat.

"Your grandmother has 'ammo' on her Christmas list.

While we're on

"You keep flea and tick soap in the shower.  
 "You've been involved in a custody fight over a hunting dog.  
 "You can spit without opening your mouth.  
 "You go to the stock car races and don't need a program.  
 "You know how many bales of hay your car will hold.  
 "You have a rag for a gas cap.  
 "Your house doesn't have curtains, but your truck does.  
 "You wonder how service stations keep their restrooms so clean.  
 "You consider your license plate personalized because your father made it."

**Y**ou're only as old as you feel... Moving on to aging gracefully, we share this tale of romance from the **Silver City Greek**:

"He was a widower and she a widow. They had known each other for a number of years, being high school classmates and having attended class reunions in the last 20 years without fail. This 50th anniversary of their class, the widower and the widow made a foursome with two other singles. They had a wonderful evening, their spirits high, the widower throwing admiring glances across the table, the widow smiling coyly back at him.

"Finally, he picked up courage to ask her, 'Will you marry me?' After about six seconds of careful consideration, she answered, 'Yes, yes, I will!'

"The evening ended on a happy note for the widower. But the next morning he was troubled: Did she say yes or did she say no? He couldn't remember. Try as he would, he just could not recall. He went over the conversation of the previous evening, but his mind was blank. He remembered popping the question, but for the life of him could not recall her response. With fear and trepidation, he picked up the phone and called her.

"First, he explained that he couldn't remember as well as he used to. Then he reviewed the past evening. As he gained a little more courage, he then inquired of her, 'When I asked if you would marry me, did you say yes or did you say no?'

"The widow replied, 'Why, you silly man, I said, 'Yes. Yes, I will.' And I meant it with all my heart.'

"The widower was delighted. He felt his heart skip a beat.

"Then she continued, 'And I am so glad you called, because I couldn't remember who asked me!'"

Then there's this senior moment passed along by **Teresa O**:

"I very quietly confided to my best friend that I was having an affair. She turned to me and asked, 'Are you having it catered?'

"And that, my friend, is the definition of 'OLD!'"



**Postcards from the edge...** Answering our call to send in photos of yourself on vacation posing with "the biggest little paper in the Southwest," **Joyce and Jim Kelly** of Las Cruces sent along a batch of pictures from a recent visit to Costa Rica. This one shows them on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua with their favorite reading material.

Whether you're in Costa Rica or Corrales, snap a picture of yourself holding *Desert Exposure* and send it to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or [diary@desertexposure.com](mailto:diary@desertexposure.com).

<h2>SILVER CITY MUSEUM</h2> <h3>June 2012 Programs</h3> <p><b>Fri. June 1</b> Open until 6 pm!  <b>First Friday 4-6 pm</b>  <b>Rodeo Family Activities</b> Coloring pages and word searches, and for \$1 color your own western bandanna!</p> <p><b>Sat. June 2</b> 10 am-12 pm at the Annex  <b>Bolo Ties Children's Craft Class</b>      2 pm at the Annex  <b>New Mexico Ghost Play Cycle Staged Play Reading: Wolves</b> by Victoria Tester</p> <p><b>Thu. June 7</b> 12 noon at the Annex  <b>Centennial Brown Bag Series: Grant County Rodeo and Rodeo Events</b> with Don Turner</p> <p><b>Sat. June 9</b> 2 pm  <b>Presentation: Red Flags on the Green Economy: Conflicts and Greener Paths in Oaxacan Indigenous Visions</b> with Kathy and Phil Dahl-Bredine</p> <p><b>Sat. June 16</b> 2 pm  <b>Book Signing: Let the Water Do the Work</b> with author Van Clothier</p> <p><i>Silver City Museum      312 West Broadway      Silver City, NM 88061      Phone: 575-538-5921  <a href="http://www.silvercitymuseum.org">www.silvercitymuseum.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Experience our "Journey to Enchantment" exhibits &amp; family activities celebrating New Mexico's Statehood Centennial</i></p>	<h2>Fourth of July Ice Cream Social</h2> <p><b>Give Us ICE CREAM</b></p> <p>The Famous Cakewalk      Ice Cream Cones      Root Beer Floats      Drinks &amp; Popcorn      Train Rides      SC Food Co-op Fruit Stand  <b>NEW! Free Historic Games</b></p> <p><b>LIVE MUSIC</b>      11 am Gila Highlanders      12 pm Jessica Juarez      1 pm Bonnie Maldonado, Poet &amp; Rising River String Band      2 pm Concert Band of the Southwest      3 pm Gravel Road</p>	<h2>Fourth of July Ice Cream Social</h2> <p><b>In the Museum Courtyard      Wednesday, July 4, 2012      11 am - 4 pm      Free admission thanks to</b></p> <p><b>Western Bank</b></p> <p><b>Commemorative reproduction of an 1898 July 4th program will be for sale. Six pages of wonderful history.</b></p>
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**Life in a state of nature...** Still on an aging theme of sorts, it's back to the animal kingdom with **Farmor the Swedish Grandma**:

"One day an old German Shepherd starts chasing rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost. Wandering about, he notices a panther heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch. The old German Shepherd thinks, 'Uh-oh! I'm in deep trouble now!' Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching panther. Just as the panther is about to leap, the old German Shepherd exclaims loudly, 'Boy, that was one delicious panther! I wonder if there are any more around here.'

"Hearing this, the young panther halts his attack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees. 'Whew!' says the panther. 'That was close! That old German Shepherd nearly had me!'

"Meanwhile, a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the panther. So off he goes. The squirrel soon catches up with the panther, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the panther. The young panther is furious at being made a fool of and says, 'Here, squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that cunning canine!'

"The old German Shepherd sees the panther coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, 'What am I going to do now?' But instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old German Shepherd says, 'Where's that damn squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another panther!'

"Moral of this story: Don't mess with the old dogs. BS and brilliance only come with age and experience."

**You're in good hands...** It's all in how you define things, as you'll see in this yarn from **CharlesC**:

"A man and his wife moved back home to Tennessee from Ohio. The husband had a wooden leg, and to insure it in Ohio cost them \$2,000 per year! When they arrived in Tennessee, they went to an insurance agency to see how much it would cost to insure his wooden leg.

"The agent looked it up on the computer and said, '\$39.'

"The husband was shocked and asked why it was so cheap to insure in Tennessee compared to \$2,000 in Ohio.

"The agent turned his computer screen towards the couple and said, 'Well, here it is on the screen. It says, 'Any wooden structure, with a sprinkler system above it, is \$39.'"

**Chicken soup for the politician's soul...**

Correspondent **Bill in the Mimbres** writes, "In light of the upcoming political season, I thought this most appropriate." We're sure our Jewish readers won't mind. (It's better than being blonde our Norwegian in our pages!)

"The year is 2016 and the United States has elected the first Jewish president, Susan Goldfarb. She calls up her mother a few weeks after election day and says, 'So, Mom, I assume you will be coming to my inauguration.'

"I don't think so. It's a 10-hour drive, your father isn't as young as he used to be, and, please, my arthritis is acting up again.'

"Don't worry about it, Mom, I'll send Air Force One to pick you up and take you home. And a limousine will pick you up at your door.'

"I don't know. Everybody will be so fancy-schmaltzy, what on earth would I wear?'

"Oh, Mom,' replies the president-elect, 'I'll make sure you have a wonderful gown custom-made by the best designer in New York.'

"Honey,' Mom complains, 'you know I can't eat those rich foods you and your friends like to eat.'

"Don't worry, Mom. The

entire affair is going to be handled by the best caterer in New York, kosher all the way. Please, Mom, I really want you to come.'

"So Mom reluctantly agrees and on Jan. 21, 2017, Susan Goldfarb is being sworn in as president of the United States. In the front row sits the new president's mother, who leans over to a senator sitting next to her: 'You see that woman over there with her hand on the Torah, becoming president of the United States?'

"The senator whispers back, 'Yes, I do.'

"Says Mom proudly, 'Her brother is a doctor.'"

**Uff-da!...** Speaking of Norwegian jokes, as we were parenthetically just above, here's one from **Jess Hossinaround in Arenas Valley**. Our Norwegian in-laws can pretend Ole and Sven are Swedes:

"Ole says to Sven, 'I'm ready for a holiday, only dis year I'm going to do it a bit different. Three years ago I vent to Spain and Lena got pregnant. Two years ago I vent to Italy and Lena got pregnant. Last year I vent to Majorca and Lena got pregnant.'

"Sven asks, 'So what are you going to do dis year?'

"Ole replies, 'I tink I'll take her vith me.'"

**Annals of law enforcement...** This yarn from **GeeRichard** may or may not be another true tale. We prefer to believe it is:

"Late one afternoon, soon after I'd bought the car, I was tooling along the freeway when I noticed a state trooper on a motorcycle tailing me. I figured he was hoping to catch me over the speed limit. Half an hour later, he was still back there, so I tromped the pedal, getting my speed up over the limit. In the mirror, there he was still tooling along behind me. I accelerated a bit, he stayed with me, so after the fourth spurt, I decided to go all out. I tromped the gas pedal and my car shot ahead like it was out of a cannon.

"I watched the rear view, but no motorcycle. I couldn't believe he'd given up. So I made a U-turn and retraced the run.

"Five miles back, I couldn't believe what I saw: There was the motorcycle crashed against a tree, and, above the machine, there was the trooper draped over a branch in the tree.

"I got out, helped the trooper down, and couldn't resist asking, 'What the heck happened to you?'

"Well,' said the trooper, 'I was keeping up, waiting to see just how fast you intended to go. But that last time, you sped away so fast, I thought my motorcycle had died, so I got off to see what was the matter.'"

**The last word...** Finally, this letter from **I Don't Compute** wraps up this month's themes of true tales and aging in one neat little package:

"I'm getting so old, few people, especially younger generations, get my jokes. Recently, I told an old joke to a group and they died laughing, so a few days later I tried it again and that group again laughed heartily. I thought, 'At last, I've got something to send to Desert Diary!'

"Now I can't remember the joke." ❄

*Don't forget to send your favorite anecdotes, jokes, puns and tall tales to Desert Diary, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax (575) 534-4134 or email diary@desertexposure.com. The best submission each month gets a brand-new Desert Exposure mouse pad, scientifically proven to take the strain out of emailing jokes to Desert Diary.*

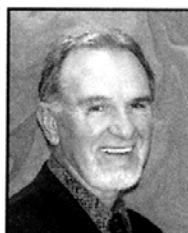


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TUMBLEWEEDS • DONNA CLAYTON WALTER

## Getting "The Scoop"

Silver Imaging's awards bonanza makes big news, good business.

Nolan Vermillion is on an adventure. Though he looks to be only six years old, he sits alone at a café table on a street in Paris, dressed in trousers, suspenders and a crisp, white shirt. His hat resembles an old-timey reporter's fedora, complete with a tag of paper—a pressman's badge, perhaps?—stuck into the band. He looks off, pencil in one hand and a notepad in his lap, apparently deep in thought over what to write.

A cup of coffee and a camera sit on the table beside him. But wait. That camera, with its unspent blue flashbulb, looks like something straight out of the '40s or '50s. And the scene behind him seems more fantasy than the real-life Paris of today. A modern-day reporter might well ask, "What gives?"

Melinda Austin, who co-owns Silver Imaging Photo Lab & Portrait Studio with her husband George, staged, photographed and printed this whimsical portrait. She smiles, obviously enjoying pointing out all the interesting features of the photo—an entry that won four awards at the recent Professional Photographers Association of New Mexico (PPA-NM) five-day convention.

The Austins have owned Silver Imaging in Silver City for 17 years (see "Picture Perfect," Business Exposure, June 2007). They have attended the PPA-NM's annual convention for the past six years and, this spring, entered three prints each. With competition stiff amongst the 50 or more attendees, the Austins are pleased to mention that all six of their works won "merits"—technical kudos—from the judges. The merits also move the pair closer to their Master's in Photography, Melinda adds.

And Melinda's portrait of Nolan was the talk of the PPA-NM event, winning a landslide of four awards, including Best Children's Portrait, Best in Show, the People's Choice Award—a high honor, as it is chosen by the photographers in attendance, the Austins' professional peers—and the Judges' Choice award.

George smiles and says, "Not only that, but it got a perfect score of 100. I've only seen that score three or four times before."

Melinda describes how she got her young subject to pose so perfectly, embodying the era and mood she hoped to convey in this piece, entitled "The Scoop."

"You have to 'play' with children when photographing them," she says, describing how she



Melinda Austin with her award-winning photo, "The Scoop." (Photos by Donna Clayton Walter)

set the scene for young Nolan. "I told him, 'Okay, Nolan, you're a newspaper reporter, you've been walking the streets of Paris all day and your feet are tired. You're sitting down to rest and have a cup of coffee and you're trying to think of how you're going to write this story.'"

Melinda agrees that the photo may have had a few good-luck charms—the old-time camera was a gift from their wedding's best man. The pad Nolan holds was one she found in a trunk of family memorabilia. "I was so pleased to find it," she says, "and written in it are my mother's old canning notes from 1944!"

But while good luck is one thing, the photo's technical perfection is what brought home the gold, the Austins agree.

"I definitely got the 'Twosies Rule' down," Melinda says, a rule of good portrait photography that holds there should never be two of the same things—feet, hands, shoulders—on the same plane. Melinda points out that even the boy's eyes are on a slightly different plane because he has cocked his head in imaginary thought. George explains that this creates interest and adds motion to the image. He adds that the photo also meets the "Rule of Thirds," which states that in every third of the image, there should be something of interest that can stand by itself.

Learning specific technique that helps the team create better photographic works is why they attend the convention, they say. Each event has notable speakers and educational workshops on cutting-edge techniques. One of George's entries, a slightly edgy senior portrait from the studio's local school contract, benefited from a special toning process they learned at one of the previous workshops they attended at a PPA convention, and from being printed on metallic paper.

"It was edgy to begin with," Melinda says of the striking young man in the photo, "and the metallic paper just makes it pop!" The piece won the Best Senior Portrait award.

Having an edge on custom portrait photography is one way Silver Imaging has weathered the shift from print film to the digital age, the Austins agree. The business processed some 350 rolls a week in film photography's heyday—now it's about 15 rolls a week. Silver Imaging rolled with the punches and the business thrives today by virtue of the Austins being digital photo experts, focusing on portrait photography, handling the area's school picture contracts and providing custom services, like old photo copying and restoration.



George Austin with the image that won Best Senior Portrait.



TUMBLEVEEDS • KEN EMERY

Each aspect of the business brings its own satisfaction, Melinda says. The do-it-yourself digital printing station—with the Austins ready to guide customers—has proven exceptionally popular. Portraiture, of course, preserves customers' cherished memories and documents family milestones. Expert photo restoration can bring an image of, say, old Granny So-and-so back from oblivion and into a frame on the living room shelf.

Asked what aspect of "The Scoop" Melinda most enjoys, she says, "It's whimsical. And Nolan is just precious! He got exactly the mood I was hoping to convey. The image tells a story." Then she smiles and adds, "And I just love that he's holding my mother's canning notes!"

*Silver Imaging Photo Lab & Portrait Studio is at 1008 N. Pope St. in Silver City, 538-8658, www.silverportraitstudio.com. Open 9-5:30 M-F; 9-12 most Saturdays. Former Desert Exposure senior editor Donna Clayton Walter is a freelance writer in Silver City.*

# Taking Off

A historic airfield in Columbus reopens.

If you stand quietly about dusk in what is now desert waste, sometimes you can hear those old OX-2 engines running up. They are the ghosts of the First Aero Squadron, sent here in 1916 by Black Jack Pershing to aid in the hunt for Pancho Villa, who had raided the Village of Columbus a few days earlier. Flying their Curtiss JN-3s, the pilots of the First Aero took part in the first aerial unit action over foreign soil by the US military.

In the late 1920s, the southern portion of this field was improved enough to become the Columbus Auxiliary Field, with the longest of its two runways 4,200 feet. Eventually the site became the Columbus Airport, also known as ColAir. Operations here ceased abruptly with the arrest of the notorious "Columbus Air Force" by the DEA in the

late 1970s.

Now, almost 100 years after its historic beginnings and some 35 years after it was closed, the First Aero Squadron Aerodrome and Columbus Airport are undergoing a rebirth. About 2,600 feet of runway is being reopened as an initial part of the First Aero Squadron Foundation's plans to create a memorial to those early Army airmen. Included will be an interactive museum and flight line reminiscent of the times, and a modern airport to serve general aviation.

At a time when more and more airports are closing, the reopening of Columbus Airport in the heart of this economically depressed area bucks a trend. The project is being funded

**TUMBLE-WEEDS**  
continued on next page

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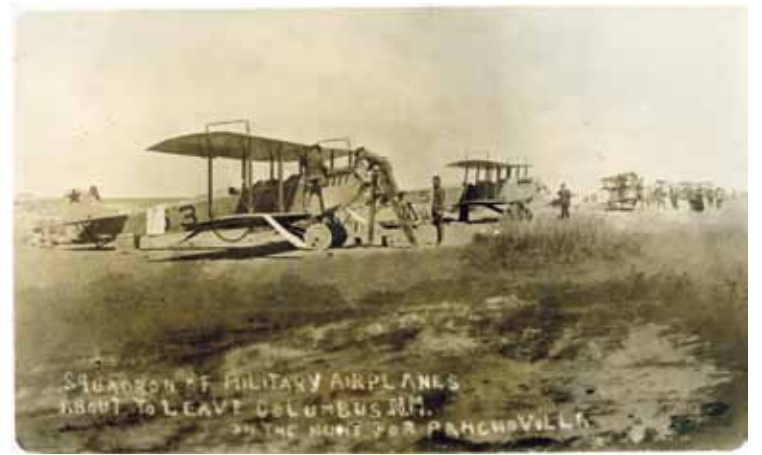
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**TUMBLEWEEDS** continued

entirely by private donations. Recruiting membership from south Luna County and from the Village of Columbus, then reaching out to pilots and history buffs around the country has produced a "bootstrap" local success story.

First Aero Squadron Foundation has been able to secure 60 acres of the historic property by borrowing the purchase price from members, who originally paid \$20 each to join. The Foundation has since acquired a small portion of additional property; erected informational signs in the village; launched educational programs through a speaker's bureau; had the site surveyed; and hired a contractor to remove brush and regrade the hard gravel runway.

According to a spokesperson for the Foundation, "Without the generosity of the local members and the general aviation community nationwide, we couldn't have gotten this far. We still need sev-



An old postcard shows pilots at the Columbus airfield, preparing to take off in pursuit of Pancho Villa. (Courtesy Lynn Geyer)

eral hundred thousand dollars to complete the dream, but we are taking it one step at a time."

For more information, see [www.firstaerosquadron.org](http://www.firstaerosquadron.org) or call (575) 531-7044.

*Ken Emery wrote about the First Aero Squadron in our April 2010 and October 2011 issues.*

TUMBLEWEEDS

# Wilderness Updates

**Jaguar plan:** Efforts to bring back the jaguar in our region (see "Chasing Shadows," September 2009) have taken another step forward. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Jaguar Recovery Team have completed a Jaguar Recovery Outline to provide a preliminary strategy for jaguar conservation until a full recovery plan is completed. The recovery outline will be used to develop a full jaguar recovery plan (scheduled for completion in December 2013) and is being used, together with other information, to inform the Service's critical habitat proposal that is under development and due this summer.

The Jaguar Recovery Team is composed of big-cat biologists and conservation scientists from the US and Mexico. Its recovery outline focuses on the Northwestern Recovery Unit, which extends from Colima, Mexico, northward into southeastern Arizona, and extreme southwestern New Mexico. It identifies the recovery needs of the jaguar throughout its range, but focuses on the role that the northwestern population plays in the conservation of the whole species. It also identifies research needs, habitat types used by the jaguar, and threats to the northwestern population, and initiates discussions on the importance of habitat connectivity.

Says Steve Spangle, the Service's Arizona Field Supervisor, "They've begun to distill what's known about the animal and initiated a thoughtful discussion on the importance of the Northwestern jaguar population to the species' survival and the roles that the US and Mexico can play in its recovery."

The Jaguar Recovery Outline is available online at [www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Arizona](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Arizona).

**Let it burn:** With moisture-bearing weather patterns coming periodically through the winter and spring keeping fire danger moderate in the higher elevations, fire managers on the Gila National Forest say they will be looking for opportunities to allow fire to occur naturally, im-

proving forest health, reducing hazardous fuels, and enhancing wildlife habitat.

"One of the reasons last year's Miller Fire didn't result in severe damage like other fires making headlines in New Mexico and Arizona is simply because fire had previously burned through most of that area on a regular basis," says Gabe Holguin, Gila Forest Fire Management Officer. "We have great opportunities on the Gila to allow fire to behave naturally because we have large expanses of land to work with while avoiding impacts or risks to private lands and homes."

Fewer than 1% of natural ignitions are managed for objectives other than suppression, however. Fire managers will assess locations, terrain fea-

tures available to help confine the fire, the amount of vegetation and predicted weather patterns as well as any potential safety issues before making the decision. For more information, contact Ellen Brown at the Gila National Forest at 388-8262.

**Forest roads:** The Travel Management Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) expected to be released last month by the Gila National Forest has been delayed. Late summer or fall of 2012 is now the anticipated date of release for the FEIS and accompanying Record of Decision (ROD). Once released, the FEIS will designate those roads, motorized

trails and areas that will be open for motor vehicle use.

Forest personnel are reviewing the more than 2,000 comments received after the release of the draft statement in January 2011 and making some changes to the proposed action based on those comments. "It is important that the appropriate time be given to adequately conduct analysis on each comment. Until this thorough analysis is completed, no decision will be made on the FEIS," says Forest Supervisor Kelly Russell.

For more information, see [fs.usda.gov/goto/gila/travel](http://fs.usda.gov/goto/gila/travel) or call (575) 388-8267.

### The Tumbleweeds Top 10

Who and what's been making news from New Mexico this past month, as measured by mentions in Google News. (Note that Google recently enlarged the coverage of its news tracker, so all the topics we're following are up sharply since last month.) Number in parenthesis indicates last month's Top 10 rank. Ex-Gov. Gary Johnson gets the Libertarian nomination, while Gov. Martinez makes headlines by taking on her own party's nominee-to-be over immigration (while certainly taking herself out of VP contention, which she'd already dismissed for personal reasons).

1. (3) **New Mexico drought**—5,470 hits
2. (5) **Virgin Galactic**—5,170 hits
3. (-) **New Mexico spaceport**—5,150 hits
4. (4) **New Mexico wildfires**—4,590 hits
5. (-) **Ex-Gov. Gary Johnson + president**—4,380 hits
6. (1) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—4,010 hits
7. (8) **New Mexico wolves**—3,830 hits
8. (2) **New Mexico Senate race**—1,310 hits
9. (9) **New Mexico illegal immigration**—847 hits
10. (-) **New Mexico + Border Patrol**—762 hits



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## Tour de Force

Two gardens on this month's Evergreen Garden Tour showcase uniquely Southwestern solutions to common outdoor challenges.

Set back from the hodgepodge of residential styles on Little Walnut Road that offer everything from fake-adobe tract homes and double-wides to corpulent houses that bespeak an Embassy of Dallas (or a narco compound—"narcotecture"?) lounges the sloping, picket-fenced garden of Ginna and Jack Heiden.

Immaculately tidy, this garden would cause snap happiness in a *Better Homes & Gardens* photographer; even a National Park Service crew would be hard pressed to find a disengaged twig on the ground.

The Heidens' spread is one of two residential gardens on this month's Evergreen Garden Tour, June 9, that display bold differences and conspicuous similarities. Both gardens are site-challenged. They also reflect the gardeners' dedication to growing organic food—testament to the phenomenon of environmentally correct horticulture.

At the Heidens', Ginna serves as plantswoman; Jack provides both muscle and construction know-how.

Also on the tour, Judith Meyer's garden-in-progress covers three lots near the top of Chihuahua Hill, highlighted by a vast, endless view to the east. The garden's three terraced grades, one constructed of stone, offer an opportunity to recreate the essence of a hillside Italian village.

This is indeed part of Judith's master plan. Over the next two years, the WNMU adjunct art professor envisions adding an allée of fruit trees and a tropical tree greenhouse. The greenhouse will enable harvesting produce year-round. A grotto may materialize on the lower terrace as well as a pergola to support grapevines.

For the Heidens, their own grand scheme began two years ago when they undertook a perimeter planting of 15 Afghan pines at the facade of their home. Fast-growing trees, the pines will soon conceal a sliver of roadway noticeable



Above: Jack and Ginna Heiden in their garden. Below: Judith Meyer and her dog, Carlos, in their domain atop Chihuahua Hill. (Photos by Vivian Savitt)



from their comfortably decked-out front porch. Meantime, the pines add a dramatic sense of enclosure to the garden itself and soften the effect of a long, paved pathway and stone-enclosed flower beds.



Napping would come easily on the Heidens' backyard terrace with its lovely, restful pond. (Photo by Vivian Savitt)

During the formative stages of both gardens, weeds and poor soil had to be reckoned with. Before addressing any grand plans, Judith dealt first with goatheads.

On the other side of town, Ginna continues to fight Bermuda grass. "Before this land was gardened," she says, "it was a hot box of hostile weeds with stickers and burrs."

The Heidens' jihad over rambling deer eased after Jack completed the fence. They believe that the sloping front garden makes jumping the barrier awkward even for ungulates. Furthermore, the couple throw dead lavender over the fence as a "scented" trespassing deterrent.

Judith's major pest issue was fire ants. Avidly anti-chemicals, she found a recipe online using vinegar (to pour into the mound) and cinnamon (to sprinkle around the edges of her property) as weaponry. "In a week's time—with a daily dose or two—the grounds



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A dramatic stone terrace lends a Mediterranean feel in the Meyer garden. (Photos by Judith Meyer)

to Rome, led for students in her travel-study course.

Garden art is quirky at Judith's place, where you will find objects collected mainly from travel abroad. Curious tile shards are plastered to bird baths and pavement. Rusted iron pieces, some vintage, materialize haphazardly throughout her garden in a playful display of chaos.

In the Heiden garden, wrought-iron objects are placed to add vertical emphasis where needed. There are also several benches at restful spots, including one where Jack requested "a primrose path" and got it.

On the Heidens' backyard terrace—gravel in a previous incarnation—Thompson seedless grapes twine through a shady pergola where Ginna and Jack frequently dine. The trickle of pond water and scent of roses complete this idealized setting.

When you take the tour, be sure to ask the Heidens about their watering setup, and Judith Meyer about her capsicum find.

How fun to both gossip and gain enlightenment in a garden!

were rid of them," she says.

As far as plantings, a visitor will find ornamentals mixed with vegetables and herbs in both gardens; roses and fruit trees are major players.

Judith's garden favorites include a passion flower inherited from a former owner and an immense blue beargrass tree (*Nolina nelsonii*) purchased at a local nursery sale. "I love that guy!" she exclaims, referring to the beargrass.

Both women learned to garden from their mothers—and, in Judith's case, two ex-husbands as well.

Ginna frequently utilizes the technique of companion planting to thwart insect pests and lure beneficial ones. "Scabiosa," she says, "attracts helpful parasitic wasps."

Judith, as an alternative act of faith, sets crystals among plants needing help.

Both gardeners are also painters. One of Ginna's acrylic landscapes won "Best in Show" at last year's Gila River Festival. Judith is currently exhibiting her work at the Seedboat Gallery in Silver City. These canvases portrayed impressions from a recent trip

This year's Evergreen Garden Tour includes Townside Farms ("Growing Closer, June 2010) and Silver Health Care's geodesic dome (Southwest Gardener, October 2010).

Tickets for the June 9 event cost \$5 and are available at Silver Heights Nursery, Alotta Gelato, AmBank, Mimbres Farms Nursery and at the Silver City Farmer's Market on June 2.

The tour gets underway at 9 a.m. and continues through noon. Proceeds benefit community gardens. 🌱

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

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## Making the Mold

Las Cruces sculptor Kelley S. Hestir, best known for her Bataan memorial, makes memories in three dimensions.

Island life is the thing of dreams for most people, but not for Kelley S. Hestir, this issue's cover artist. A one-time resident of Guam, Hawai'i, Tasmania, the Mariana Islands and the Virgin Islands, Hestir came back (as many people seem to do) to Las Cruces for its feel of "home."

Hestir is best known locally for her "Heroes of Bataan" sculpture and memorial at Las Cruces' Veterans Park, which last month won the Art in Public Places Award from the Doña Ana Arts Council. She is also an illustrator, painter and graphic artist, and co-founded Las Cruces' Art Forms Association and For the Love of Art Month.

"Even as a child, I knew I wanted to be an artist," Hestir says. "Those are some of my earliest memories. My older brother and sister were in grade school, so I entertained myself by making things, cutting things out of paper and such. I had an artistic mom who was very encouraging and I was also influenced by Miss Levine."

"Miss Levine" was a Las Cruces Public Schools art teacher back during Hestir's grade school days. According to Hestir, she was quite the instructor and was extremely active in getting students to learn art and then to get it displayed for the public.

"She would take all the best from Las Cruces Public Schools and have a big show in Mesilla. She did a thing called 'Living Pictures,' which were life-size reproductions using kids in the pictures."

This, combined with continued encouragement, sealed Hestir's fate as an art major.

"I first learned about sculpting in high school. I can also draw and paint, but I liked sculpting the most. It is a bit of an overlooked art," Hestir says.

"My dad, Bill, worked at NMSU for a while and he was very encouraging as well," she goes on. "I went to UNM for a while and lived in Albuquerque for 16 years, and later my dad went to work for the Department of the Interior and was stationed in the Marianas and then in Guam for three years."

It doesn't happen often that a place will have a shortage of artists, but that is what Hestir found in the Pacific islands. There was a genuine shortage of skilled artists in a good job market,



Kelley S. Hestir with "Heroes of Bataan" (Photo by Linda Montoya.)

and her college art experience helped her land a graphic design position.

This was back in the "old days" of cut and paste by hand with an Xacto knife and a waxing machine, when creativity wasn't done by a click of a computer mouse.

"I went to work for a magazine called *Glimpses*," she recalls. "It was a high-quality, full-color glossy that covered living and traveling in Micronesia."

"But I had a desire to return to school, so I went to the University of Hawai'i, and got my bachelor's and master's, and also taught for a while. My interests were in sculpture and jewelry."

Then a relationship ended and Hestir laughs when she says, "I went home to Mom and Dad"—and found herself back in Las Cruces in 1995.

"I found myself at home in more ways than one," she adds. "I had always felt that Las Cruces was home."

She soon found a graphics job and started settling back into Las Cruces. Her background and some mentors such as Ben Bolt, Larry Sheffield and Brian Colon helped her get a bit of recognition.

A big break came when Hestir was commissioned to do the life-size "Heroes of Bataan" statue that was dedicated in 2002 and cleaned up and



"Epiphany": encaustic, fiber, clay. (Private collection)

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The piece was from an idea by Joe Martinez, who had two uncles who took place in the horrific Bataan Death March in 1942, which included 1,800 soldiers from New Mexico, and by former Senator Pete Domenici.

Hestir says, "I knew they wanted three soldiers, two on the outside helping the one in the middle. It was the story of one brother being helped by another. Another artist did some sketch work with that and there was support for that idea."

Hestir says that she could have used at least two years to finish the work, but instead had only nine months. She worked with some "before and after" photos of Martinez' uncles, Juan and Pepe Baldonado of Tularosa, but had to interpret some of the work, since the pictures were only front views of the two men.

She adds that the work is meant to represent everybody, both Filipino and American, not just



Above: "Mother Whisperer": clay, wax, pigment. Below left: "Burden": drawing, natural and digital media.



the Baldonados. "Their faces and Joe's were used as references."

Hestir added the memorial walkway, which symbolically represents those who started the march and those who finished it. The footsteps are from actual survivors of the Death March, of which fewer than 100 of the Americans involved still survive.

"Gerry Schurtz was most instrumental in helping with the footprints," she says. "His father was from Deming and Gerry has been working to keep the survivors and their families together."

Hestir shares the bittersweet story of how she got the first set of footprints: "I was working with Gerry, getting ready to do them, and got a call from Gerry saying that one of the survivors was

HESTIR continued on next page

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Sessions will be held from 9 a.m.-noon, June 11-15, at the Fine Arts Center Theater and Webb Theater on the campus of WNMU. **Registration is Saturday, June 9 from 9 am to 5 pm at the Webb Theater on the WNMU Campus.**

A series of presentations by workshop participants for their families and friends will be held on Friday evening, June 15. The cost for the full week of morning workshops is \$35.00.



# The Common Thread

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HESTIR continued

in the hospital in intensive care, and we'd better hurry. But by the time I got to the hospital, he had passed away. But the family and IC staff let me take his footprints."

The man, Lorenzo Banegas, was one of three Death March survivors who saw Hestir's three-foot model of the proposed work and gave it their approval. Later, Hestir was surprised and pleased to find that Banegas' grand-nephew was one of her students at NMSU, where she teaches an art class.

Looking back on the Bataan sculpture, she says, "It was quite a project as you can imagine, but experience and education allowed for delivery in the end."

She adds with a smile, "Along with some help from friends."



"Sparrowhawk": oil and glazes on masonite.

Death March, so after the idea and the fundraising, there were only nine months left to finish it. I remember working on the model on 9/11 and wondering if an eight-foot enlargement could be done in nine months!"

She adds, "One of the things I'm most proud of about it is that it doesn't glorify war. It shows the tragedy—a tragic moment."

A friend of Hestir's, Stephanie Dove, made a documentary film about the Bataan Memorial, entitled *Bataan—Making of Memory*, which Hestir served as a producer for. It screened in Las Cruces as part of the rededication ceremony this past April. The film tells the story of the survivors and of the creators of the memorial who didn't want

the story to be lost to history.

When not working on her art, Hestir can be found at NMSU, where she is an academic advisor for the College of Extended Learning and teaches an art class as well, something she would like to do full time. In her free time, she appreciates bike

riding, running in the desert, gardening and the animals at her home, which include several cats, a dog and some chickens.

Hestir's other works are often inspired by animals (including her own), politics and faces. She says, "I don't do abstract work, but I sometimes will offer political allegories."

Some of Hestir's current sculptural work is inspired by a book that caught her attention, entitled *The Forever War*, by novelist Joe Haldeman. Her "Venus" series is based on the premise of the award-winning 1974 science fiction novel, wherein a "reluctant military conscript" is sent through time and space to fight a war in a distant galaxy.

"He survives, but when he returns to Earth, each time, everything is different," Hestir says.

Since the hero's war experience has taken him so many years into the future, he is unable to adjust to what society has become on Earth. He reenlists, only to find that all life on Earth is different each time he returns.

"The Venus Series is a mythical cultural concept of beauty and how it changes over time," Hestir explains. "One (particular) piece is designed to be a combination of all races."

Each of Hestir's works is unique and beautiful in its own way. Her drawings and paintings are thought-provoking without being intimidating. Her explanations of the allegorical nature of much of her work make them easy to comprehend but strong in message.

Picasso's comment on sculpting seems to fit Hestir very well: "Sculpture is the art of intelligence." ❁

When asked how she goes about creating a work, Hestir replies, "You often have to be an inventor when you do a sculpture. You have to engineer how long it will last, consider safety, lighting and viewing distance. I've also worked with chemists, electricians and optical engineers to make sure everything is done correctly. It's not like a painting with just one side, this is multidimensional.

"When you are creating a sculpture, you have to consider every view, time, time of day, and a good sculptor will consider time and space. It's not a depiction; it is actual object in space at a particular moment."

She offers two fun quips about sculpture:

"A statue is what you back into when you are looking at a painting" and "It lives in clay, dies in bronze."

Hestir notes that for modeling materials, she does prefer clay, but plaster and wax can also be used, along with stone at times.

Although she recalls carving soap as a child, she says, "I'm not a carver, unlike Michelangelo who was. You can only subtract from stone but with clay or wax you can add or subtract."

Installation can also be tricky, Hestir says. Does the piece come in parts or all at once? There are many variables that people other than the artist never consider.

"And then you hope that your piece turns out the way you thought it would. With the Bataan piece, the mold makers would come and take each piece away, so I never saw it beforehand. They were really targeting the 60th anniversary of the



"Venus and the Last Wasp": bronze, copper, glass, moonstones, gold, fiber optics (private collection).



"Wind Dog" (detail): clay, encaustic.

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Kelley Hester currently has a studio at Mikey's Place in Mesilla Park and exhibits at the Adobe Patio Gallery in Mesilla, the Main Street Gallery in Las Cruces and The Studio Space in Silver City, 109 N. Bullard St., 534-9291. For more on Bataan: The Making of a Memory, see www.2lanehighwayproductions.com. Senior writer Jeff Berg lives in Las Cruces.



ARTS EXPOSURE

# Arts Scene

The latest area art happenings.

## Silver City & Grant County

The **Seedboat Gallery** is featuring paintings by Judith Meyer (you can read about Meyer's artistic garden in this issue's Southwest Gardener column). Call for June hours or an appointment. 214 W. Yankee St., 534-1136, seedboatgallery.com.

The **JW Art Gallery** in Hurley will be featuring new work by Shannon Stirnweis. 99 Cortez Ave., 537-0300, jwartgallery.com.

The collection of **Dr. Bruce Hayward**, who recently passed away, will be sold on Wednesday, June 27, and Thursday, June 28, at the Grant County Business and Conference Center on Hwy. 180. Hayward traveled to 105 countries and accumulated many art objects. His estate contains more than 50 pieces of original art including local artists J. Stermer, T. Holt, C. Webb, H. Benjamin, M. Wilson, R. Johnson, C. Smith, M. Gendron and J. Cardona, and nationally known artists Rena Fennessy and Francis Lee Jaques. The collection also includes carved jade items as well as many carved wooden figures, costumes from many different cultures as well as furniture from Africa. Hayward was also a railroad buff and collected railroad books along with his extensive library of bird books. The collection also includes American Indian items along



Marilyn Gendron is among the artists included in the collection of Dr. Bruce Hayward, which will be sold June 27-28 in Silver City.

with Alaskan Indian items. Also included in the sale will be over a thousand 33-rpm vinyl records.

The sale proceeds will go to the University of New Mexico Foundation. An early-bird sale with an admission charge of \$10 per person will be Wednesday, June 27, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 pm. The sale will continue on Thursday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., at which time any remaining items will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. There is no charge for the Thursday sale. The sale is being conducted by Lynn Geyer Auctioneer and Estate Sale Specialist; auctioneer Geyer was a friend of Dr. Hayward.

On Saturday, June 23, **Ginny Wolf Studio & Gallery** will celebrate its second anniversary with a Summer Solstice Dance on Yankee Street, featuring the Loose Blues Band from 4-6 p.m. 108 W. Yankee St., 313-5709, www.ginnywolf.com.

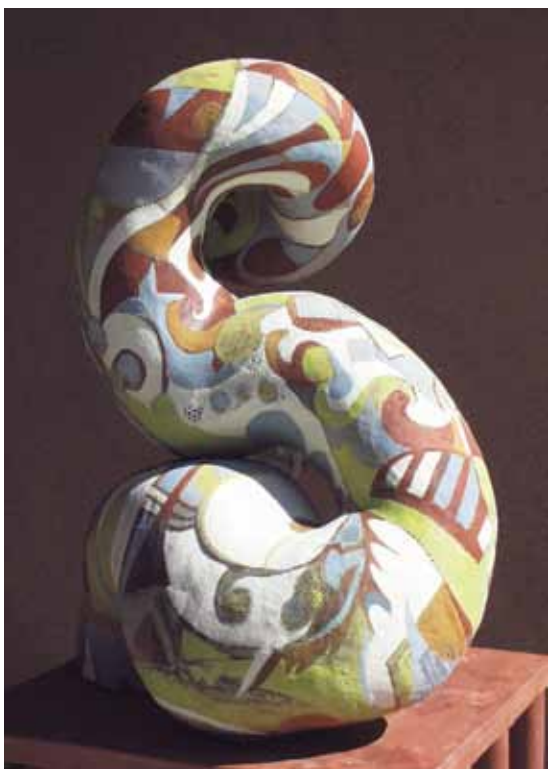
Dr. Robert Al Williams will host the seventh Biennial Art Show of the **Biological Psychiatry Institute** on Saturday, June 30, 1-6 p.m. at 20 Main St. in Pinos Altos. Featured artists are painter Roz Springer and potter Phoebe Lawrence. RSVP to (602) 279-1026.

## Las Cruces & Mesilla

Three summer exhibitions open at the **Museum of Art** on Friday, June 1: Lynn Wiley's "Where is the Stopping Place," "Chicanismo" by Gabriel Perez, and "A Surprising Similitude in Mud and Paper" with works by Sara D'Alessandro and Harriet Russell. A reception for the artists will be held on June 1 from 5-7 p.m. during the monthly Downtown Ramble. The exhibits close on Saturday, July 21.

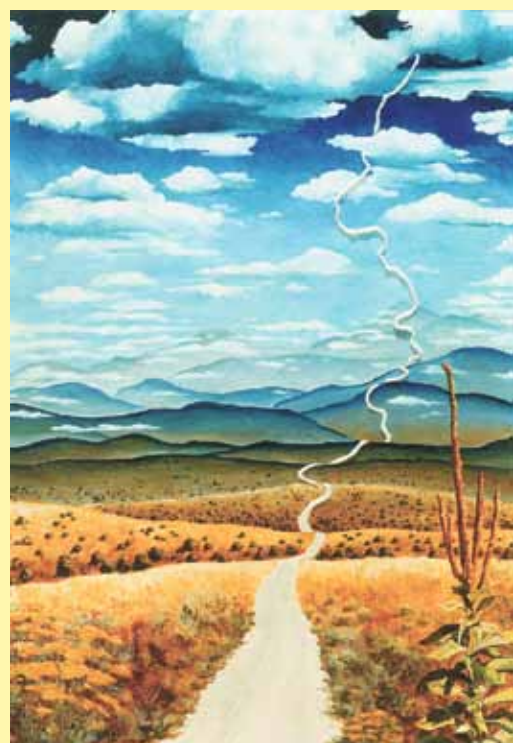
Now a resident of Las Cruces, Lynn Wiley derives her large-scale watercolors derived from her

ARTS SCENE continued on next page



"Irezume" by Sara D'Alessandro, at the Las Cruces Museum of Art.

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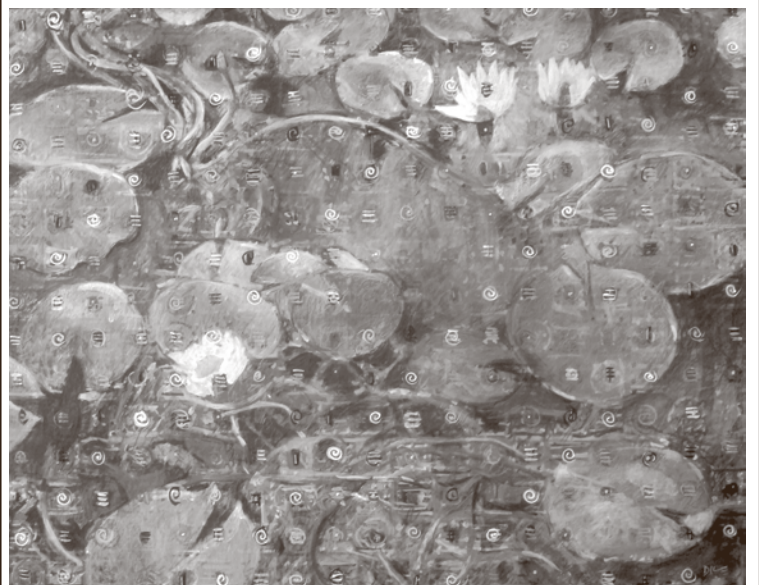


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**ARTS SCENE** continued

study of the ocotillo cactus. The images are without ornamentation so that they can be seen "as directly as possible... as you would see a landscape." Gabriel Perez, a native of Roswell who now resides in Las Cruces and Albuquerque, uses his southern New Mexico upbringing as a source for his art. His large- and small-scale works in the exhibit revolve around his "surveys of tacos and burgers" that "in a light-hearted way examine the concepts of Chicanismo or Mexican-American culture." Sara D'Alessandro and Harriet Russell work in different media creating similar images. D'Alessandro's works in clay are imbued with highly developed textures and patterns, while Russell uses paper, inks and paints to create and compose surreal images. 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, www.las-cruces.org/museums.



"Tranquility" by Mathilde Holzwarth, part of the ArtForms show at the Tombaugh Gallery in Las Cruces.

Recently opened at the **NMSU Art Gallery** is "Thinking New Mexico," a celebration of 100 years of New Mexico art. It runs through Sept. 1. 1390 E. University Ave., 646-2545, www.nmsu.edu/artgal.



"Twins" by Gabrielle Perez, featured at the Las Cruces Museum of Art.

The **Main Street Gallery** will open an exhibit of photos by Brett Miller on June 1, 5-7 p.m. Miller will also present an artist's talk on Saturday, June 16, 11 a.m. to noon. A recent transplant from the seascapes of San Diego, Miller now photographs Organ Mountain landscapes, local historical architecture and nighttime scenes illuminated only by moonlight. 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

This month the **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery** features two local artists: Patricia Burnett finds inspiration in the works of the old masters and three-dimensional subjects on masonite. Ray Baird is an impressionistic expressionistic oil painter. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

The **Tombaugh Gallery** in the presents "Anything Goes," a non-themed show by members of the Las Cruces regional group

ArtForms. The show will run from June 3-29, with a reception on June 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The works include digital painting, gourd art, photography, painting, steel sculpture, blown glass, ceramics, fiber art, segmented wood turning, retablos and crosses and drawing. The artists participating will include Jan Addy, Diana Ayres, Gary Biel, Shelley Black, Joanna Bradley, June M. Decker, Les Fairchild, Liz Fisher, Sharlene Glock, Mathilde Holzwarth, David Jacquez, Ali Keyes, Susan Long, John B. Northcutt, Abby Osborn, Rosemary McKeown, Geri Muchnikoff, Storm Sermay, Kathe Starke, Mel Stone, Alice Terry, Roy van der Aa, Teri Van Huss, Kurt Van Wagner, Alice Ward, Barbara Williams, Rhoda Winters and Donna Wood. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Dr., 522-7281.

**Nopalito's Galeria** this month features the BFA exhibition of photographer Joel Gilbert, with a reception June 8, 5-7 p.m. 326 S. Mesquite, 650-5690.

Digital entries are due August 15 for the **Pastel Society of New Mexico's** 21st Annual National Pastel Painting Exhibition, to be held Nov. 2-25 at Expo New Mexico in Albuquerque. For details, see www.pastelsnm.org or send a SASE to PSNM-M, PO Box 3571, Albuquerque, NM 87190.

*Except as noted, all phone numbers are area code 575. Send updates to events@desertexposure.com.*



Ray Baird is one of this month's featured artists at the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery.

**The Biological Psychiatry Institute**  
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ARTS EXPOSURE

# Gallery Guide

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**ART + CONVERSATION**, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sundays 12 a.m.-6 p.m. Gallery and gathering space. www.artandconversation.com.  
**ARTESANOS**, 211-B N. Texas St., 519-0804. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 12-6 p.m.  
**[A]SP."A"OE**, 110 W. 7th St., 538-3333, aspace.studiogallery@gmail.com.  
**AZURITE GALLERY**, 110 W. Broadway, 538-9048, Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.azuritegallery.com.  
**BLUE DOME GALLERY**, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road (Bear Mountain Lodge, 2251 Cottage San Road), 534-8671. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.bluedomegallery.com.  
**CLAYFUL HANDS**, 622 N. California, 534-0180. By appointment. Phoebe Lawrence.  
**CLAYMOON STUDIO**, 13 Jade Dr., 313-6959. Marcia Smith. By appointment.  
**COMMON THREAD**, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733. Mon., Thurs. Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Retail and gallery space for fiber arts. www.fiberartscollective.org.  
**COPPER QUAIL GALLERY**, 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankie and Texas, 388-2646. Tue.-Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Fine arts and crafts.  
**COW TRAIL ART STUDIO**, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley. Mon., Thurs.-Sat., 12-3 p.m. www.victoriachick.com.  
**CREATIONS & ADORNMENTS**, 108 N. Bullard, 534-4269. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Work by Diane Reid.  
**DRAGONFLY STUDIO**, 508 W 6th St., 388-8646. By appointment.  
**FENESTRA'S PANES IN THE GLASS**, 102 W. Kelly St., 534-2087. By appointment.  
**FRANCIS MCCRAY GALLERY**, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517.  
**GALLERY 400**, Gila House, 400 N. Arizona, 313-7015. Tues.-Sat., 1-6 p.m. www.gilahouse.com.  
**GINNY WOLF STUDIO & GALLERY**, 108 W. Yankie St., 313-5709, ginnywolf.wordpress.com.  
**HOWELL DESIGN & GALLERY**, 200 W. Market St., 388.2993. www.anthonjhowell.com.  
**JEFF KUHN'S POTTERY**, 3029 Pinos Altos Road, 534-9389. By appointment.  
**KAREN CARR STUDIO**, 117 W Market St., 388-4505. By appointment.  
**LEYBA & INGALLS ARTS**, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media featuring artists Crystal Foreman Brown, Romaine Begay, Christana Brown, Susan Brinkley, Gordee Headlee, Diana Ingalls Leyba, Dayna Griego, Constance Knuppel, Mary Alice Murphy, Phillip Parotti, Betsy Resnick, Teri Matelson, Joe Theiman, Zoe Wolfe, Melanie Zipin. www.LeybalngallsARTS.com, LeybalngallsART@zianet.com.  
**LOIS DELONG STUDIO**, 2309 Paul Place, 388-4759. By appointment.  
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**OFF BEAD GALLERY**, 701 N. Bullard, 388-8973. Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**OL' WEST GALLERY & MERCANTILE**, 104 W. Broadway, 388-1811/313-2595. Daily 11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
**SEEDBOAT CENTER FOR THE ARTS**, 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. info@seedboatgallery.com.  
**SILVER SPIRIT GALLERY**, 215 W. Broadway, 388-2079.  
**STONEWALKER STUDIO**, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment.

Barbara Jorgen Nance.  
**STUDIO BEHIND THE MOUNTAIN**, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388-3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.  
**THE STUDIO SPACE**, 109 N. Bullard St., 534-9291. www.jessgorell.com.  
**STUDIO UPSTAIRS**, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.  
**SUSAN SZAJER STUDIO**, Sanctuary Road, 313-7197 By appointment.  
**TATIANA MARIA GALLERY**, 305 & 307 N. Bullard St., 388-4426.  
**TOP HAT ART**, 115 N. Bayard.  
**TUNDAR GALLERY & STUDIO**, 110 Yankie, 597-0011.  
**21 LATIGO TRAIL**, 388-4557. Works by Barbara Harrison and others.  
**TWIN SISTERS CYCLING**, 303 N. Bullard St., 538-3388. Mini-gallery. Tues.-Sat., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
**TWO SPIRIT GALLERY**, 313 N. Bullard, Suite B, 534-4563. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**WILD WEST WEAVING**, 211-D N. Texas, 313-1032, www.hosanaeilert.com. Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
**YANKIE ST. ARTIST STUDIOS**, 103 W. Yankie St., 313-1032. By appointment.  
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THE LITERARY LIFE • HARRY WILLIAMSON

# True Grit

New Silver City poet laureate Bonnie Maldonado explores the lyricism of ordinary people.



An avid gardener at her Pinos Altos home, Bonnie Maldonado is joined by Murphy, one of three rescue dogs and two cats owned by Bonnie and her husband Librado. (Photo by Harry Williamson)

If your idea of a poet creates images of being straight-laced and library-quiet, of snow-white clouds and perfect roses, think again.

Silver City's new poet laureate—named in April for a two-year term—might be a bit of a shock.

Bonnie Buckley Maldonado is pure grit and hard-wire. Her spirit and mettle are unyielding, even at age 80.

In her four books of poetry, Maldonado writes about places she has known and loved, especially those in northern Montana and southwest New Mexico. She writes about people, especially women, who are a lot like she is. People of extraordinary capacity and character and kindness and strength. Her red hair confirms a raw-boned Irish heritage.

"I'm influenced by the cadences of Irish voices, by Western music, by Indian singers and drummers," she says. "That was the music I grew up with."

Raised first in a fine home and then, thanks to a ruthless banker's shenanigans, in a shepherd's wagon in far northern Montana, she felt comfortable living in a tent with her two sons while she cooked for hoards of backcountry tourists when she arrived in Grant County 53 years ago.

In a poem called "Self-Study," Maldonado writes:

*Fragile does not  
describe me,  
and forget delicate.  
At one inch over five,  
I am tough and resilient,  
bermuda grass thriving  
in cracked concrete.*

As befitting her square-on approach to life, her favorite birthday gifts include a pearl-handled pistol at 18, and a chainsaw at 80.

Naturally.

Although she taught at Western New Mexico University for more than 30 years, retiring as a professor and dean emeritus in education and counseling, Maldonado avoids associating only with other academics.

"I want to be there with everyday people," she says. "I understand blue-collar workers, ordinary people, and they understand me."

She recalls a reader who wrote her a letter: "I was driving my pickup down a country road and reading

your poems. I was crying so hard I had to stop."

Another note says, "On reading your poem about the ranch, I thought about my own grandmother's kitchen. I hadn't thought about that in years.

"That's where I want to be," Maldonado says. "These are wonderful things to me."

In "Green Hidey-Holes," she likens chasing a new poem to "pursuing a feral cat/with spiky fur/and wily moves":

*It disdains  
pretty children  
in leafy hidey-holes  
preferring the company  
of ne'er-do-wells and drunks.*

*It loves a junkyard  
of tangled metal  
and rusty objects  
without names.*

*It jerks me through  
frigid prairie shacks,  
and shifty boarding houses,  
preferring hazardous places  
and unspeakable incidents,  
to marshmallow dresses  
and nursery rhymes.*

Much of what she writes are anecdotal, lyrical poems, often narratives of hardscrabble and hard-working people, her love of animals (especially one German Shepherd, now dead) of landscapes, spirits and human hearts.

"As poet laureate, I'd like more people in this area to get into Southwest literature," she says. "There is a great spirituality in Silver City. It draws people here, and it keeps them here. I think the literature and poetry of the area reflects that."

Jim Kelly, at the time a board member of the Southwest Festival of the Written Word (SFWW), came up with the idea to name a poet laureate for this area.

"I had just seen a story about a poet laureate in a little town, and I thought, 'You know, we're supposed to be an arts community, and art is more than just hanging it on a wall or setting it on a table.' The literary arts are also extremely active here," he says. "After surveying cities large and small about their poet laureate programs, we put together what we'd like to have here in terms of qualification and duties."

Kelly says a SFWW selection committee, diversified in age and background, considered several local, published poets before finally deciding on Maldonado.

"She's a cheerleader for poetry as a living thing in our world today," Kelly says.

J.J. Wilson, writer-in-residence at Western New Mexico University, who chaired the committee, says the vote was unanimous in selecting Maldonado "because of her strong connection to the community and, of course, her tremendous skill as a poet."

Wilson adds, "Silver City's first poet laureate should exemplify the idea that 'this is what a poet does'—how you live as a poet while trying to juggle a job and family—and Bonnie has clearly done that for a long, long time. She has a great deal of experience as a teacher, which we think will be invaluable as she quite literally spreads the word of poetry in Grant County."

Along with her long teaching experience, Maldonado also has a degree in counseling, with 40 years of community service work in mental health programs. For that she was inducted into the New Mexico Women's Hall of Fame, the only Grant County woman to be honored so far.

As poet laureate, Maldonado says, she is planning to go to local schools, such as Aldo Leopold High School, and ask if they would like her to sit down with interested students. She and other area poets and writers will also be reading at area businesses and other locations as part of SFWW's Random Acts of Literature. In addition, Maldonado has committed to compose up to four

poems a year, at the request of Silver City Town Council and the Southwest Festival of the Written Word, and to keep a log of her activities and experiences as poet laureate.

"Another part of what I want to do is encourage writers who are afraid to show anyone their work," she says. "I have said that I'm not afraid of anything, but for years I was afraid my writing wasn't good enough."

She encourages fledgling writers to find someone they trust to show their work to, which she did by taking a workshop offered by Victoria Tester, author of *Miracles of Sainted Earth*, which won the 2003 Willa Literary Award in Poetry.

"I told her I didn't know if I should throw this stuff in a barrel and burn it or not," Maldonado recalls. "She was the first person who said, 'Take what you have and write it.' I want to do that for other local poets."

She adds that she could never have believed where her poetry has taken her.

"So I just want to share that with other people. I do believe that anyone can actualize their dreams," Maldonado says.

Today, 42 US states have a poet laureate, along with many major cities and a multitude of smaller ones, including some tiny towns that join together to champion a poet. New Mexico, however, is one of six states that has never had one, the others being Arizona, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Michigan and Ohio. Although ancient Greece had official poets, the first person to be actually named a poet laureate was Ben Jonson in England in 1617.

The US Library of Congress has named a poet laureate—at first called a Consultant in Poetry—since 1937, including such notables as Robert Frost and Robert Penn Warren.

Philip Levine, 84, best known for his poems about working-class Detroit, was named as the current national poet laureate in August 2011. In a *New York Times* article, Levine compared being named as the nation's poet laureate to winning the Pulitzer Prize, which he did in 1995, after receiving the National Book Award in 1991.

"My editor was also thrilled, and my wife jumped for joy," Levine added. "She hasn't done that in a while."

Silver City was the second New Mexico city to have a poet laureate, following Santa Fe, which created its position, currently held by Joan Logghe, in 2005. Logghe is the author of several books of poetry, and has taught poetry workshops in New Mexico schools and prisons for many years. Albuquerque became the third city, naming Hakim Bellamy, a national and regional Slam Poetry Champion, as its first poet laureate a week or so after Maldonado was selected.

Maldonado agrees with another poet laureate—William Wordsworth—who wrote, "Poetry is made up of emotion recollected in tranquility," saying that some of her poems start as rants.

For example, she recently visited a friend who had gone into a veterans home, and she was devastated. "Oh my God, all I could see were these images of captivity, and that was the first thoughts I wrote about. I told my poetry group (Thaddeus J. McPherson Society of the Arts), 'This is terrible poetry, but please just let me read it because I need to say it to somebody,'" Maldonado recalls. "Eventually it will become a poem and the rant will be gone."

She reworks her poems over and over, cutting words like unneeded tree limbs. "I tend to get down to the essence of something. My poems are revised by the time those in the books were published probably hundreds of times. I just don't like wordiness."

She recalls writing one of her favorite poems, "Pony Check" (see box), about a Crow Indian woman whose grandmother had 100 ponies stolen by the US government at the time of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Maldonado says the woman, Russie Arrows, continued to prospect all over the mountains of Montana and Wyoming as an elder.

"When her feet were too bad for boots, she wore fuzzy bedroom slippers," Maldonado recalls.

"I rewrote that poem at least 100 times," she says, adding that it was one of her earlier ones,

Silver City's Poet Laureate Bonnie Maldonado has had four books published, including two set in Southwest New Mexico. (Photo by Harry Williamson)





done when she was still writing by hand. "I was living in Arizona in an RV on a ranch, and working at two nearby colleges. I spent an entire winter on 'Pony Check,' but I knew the story had to be told."

Maldonado says that even with all of the re-writing, she does know when a poem is as good as it's going to be. "I think that's the eye of a writer," she says. "You have to know when to let it go. That discernment, to me, is what makes a writer."

**M**aldonado wrote her first poem at age nine (about Abraham Lincoln's mother) and says she still loves the rhythms of language and how a poem looks. "I could read before I went to school, and I especially liked the way poetry looked on a page. I just thought it was beautiful to look at."

She writes poems about her family in those early days in Montana, how they were sheepherders and artists and great storytellers. Her great-great-grandfather was a *seanchai* (spelled *seanchaidhe* before the Irish spelling reform of 1948), which means a bearer of "old lore." In the ancient Celtic culture, history and laws were not written down, but memorized in long lyric poems by these professional storytellers.

Her brother Pat, still in Montana, continues the family's great storytelling tradition today.

Maldonado's days in Montana ended when, as a teenage bride, a "military man, a soldier of fortune," took her on whirlwind trips to several Pacific islands, and fathered her two boys. The family finally settled for five years as civilians in Guam, where she got a divorce, an all-expense scholarship, and a lifelong love for teaching.

Speaking of her first marriage, she says it was the only period in her life when she didn't write.

Her scholarship gave her three weeks to find a school, and she had already been admitted to Columbia and the University of Colorado when she heard about Silver City and its university, known as a "fine school" for training teachers.

"I received a handwritten letter from the dean of students who said, 'We have housing and we have a lab school where your children can go.' It was all very welcoming, and I was attracted to the remoteness of the area," she recalls.

And when she first saw Silver City, it was déjà vu all over again. "I've always known I could take care of myself, because I've worked since I was 14 years old, and I'm very much at home in the out-of-doors. When I saw this place I thought, I'm back home again in one of those western towns in Montana."

As she worked on two college degrees, she got a job teaching English at the Santa Rita school, then was hired at the WNMU lab school as supervisor of its seventh and eighth grades. She held this position for 10 years until the president decided to close the lab school, a decision she spoke out against; she was fired as a tenured faculty member, fought it, won, and was reinstated.

"I love teaching to this day, and I miss students so much," she says. "I love the interaction, and being a part of people's learning process. I love learning with them. I love the fun of seeing someone get something for the first time. It's all just so exciting for me."

Since her arrival in 1959, Maldonado has left Sil-



Maldonado reads one of her poems at the Yankie Creek Coffee House in downtown Silver City. (Photo by Harry Williamson)

## The Pony Check

*Russie on the Madison, 1960*

Waiting for a chinook,  
stove lids rattle,  
a piece of chinking falls from a log wall.

Russie points to the small piece of paper  
nailed between mantel and Henry rifle  
"That there," she points, "is a pony check.

A red cowboy hat sits straight on her head  
gray braids tied with grocery string,  
old eyes sharp as obsidian bird points,  
a Lucky Strike arranges ashes on her cooking.

"I never figured it was a check for cashing,  
even when my old man went  
and shot himself in the barn,  
no money to bury him,  
and look after Charlie.

Paid out by the US government  
for one hundred Indian ponies,  
sixty-eight cents per pony,  
stolen from my Crow grandmother  
near the Bighorn.

The way it was,  
you couldn't count the riders  
or the tribes  
boiling down prairie slopes,  
blazing over the blue and gold  
of the Horse Soldiers.

In those white man stories of the Bighorn,  
it isn't told that eagle feathers  
touched clouds that day  
and ponies flew."

—Bonnie Buckley Maldonado

ver City only for brief periods for work and education, such as when she started her doctoral degree at Boston University. After her difficult first marriage, Maldonado believed she would always remain single, but wed Librado Maldonado seven years after meeting him in a graduate course. Also an educator, principal of Cobre High School, Librado's family had settled in Grant County in the 1870s.

Bonnie has written about his Apache ancestors, and in one 2003 poem she touches on his ranching background. In the poem "Rancher" she describes seeing an older rancher:

*He tips his Stetson  
in my direction  
and I see clear gray eyes  
and worry lines acquired  
from watching for rain.*

*.....  
Among the galleries  
in quaint Silver City,  
he appears as another  
endangered species.*

*The government  
may not understand him,  
but ranchers from  
the past are closer than he knows.*

*Old Tom Lyons, Dan McMillen,  
Steve Villarrel, Pedro Maldonado,  
And Angus Campbell, on fine horses,  
swoop down Bullard Street.*

*Dipping and rising like swimmers,  
they sweep him into the mystique  
of New Mexico legend.*

**M**aldonado says she has written at least a thousand poems over her lifetime, with many contained in her four books. Two are set in Montana, *From the Marias River to the North Pole* and *Montana, Too*. Her other two books speak of Southwest New Mexico: *It's Only Raven Laughing: Fifty Years in the Southwest* (a Willa Literary Award finalist) and *Too Personal for Words: The Invisible Path of Aging*. Her work also appears in two anthologies, *Geography of the Heart*, a Willa Award winner, and in *Poetry Squared*. Her books are available at O'Keefe's Bookshop

at 102 W. Broadway in Silver City, at the Silver City Museum, and at Amazon.com.

Asked if she would ever stop writing poems, Maldonado says she writes because she has to write. "Without it, there would be a part of me that would go around crying for a pen and a piece of paper," she says. "I have to write poems like I have to eat, because I have a hunger for it. I have a need for it."

She says that as she has aged, her poetry has become freer, less formal and stiff. She cites as an example of her newer style the title poem from her third book, *It's Only Raven Laughing*. As she starts reading the poem in nicely pronounced Spanish, her voice is animated, strong and steady:

*El cuervo por ser tan negro  
relumbra mas que la plata.  
Then translates in English:  
The raven for being so black  
shines brighter than silver.*

Slid forward in the chair on the patio of her adobe home near Pinos Altos, eyes twinkling, glancing up and down at the book, she recites the poem:

*This smart bird is pure fun.  
He walks me home,  
taunting lesser birds  
as he chats about his night  
in a moonlit cottonwood.*

*He hops closer  
when I tell him  
I prefer ravens  
to academics.*

*In a fit of joy he flits  
among orange poppies,  
finds a marble of desert glass,  
vanishes with his prize  
to glide the thermals,  
wrapped in raven laughter.*

She says, "I didn't get to play much for many years; now I'm more playful. I'm letting my humor come out. I'm taking some risks with my writing."

Paraphrasing Robert Frost's comment, "A poem begins with a lump in the throat," Maldonado adds with a chuckle, "It can also begin with laughter in your throat." She goes on, "My sense of humor has saved me in the process of getting older."

As another activity of her term as Silver City's poet laureate, Maldonado is planning to conduct a fall, four-week class for the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL), with those attending doing some writing under her expert teaching and guidance.

The proposed title of the course?  
"At Play With the Poet Laureate."  
Naturally. 🐼

*Harry Williamson moved to Grant County more than three years ago after reporting and editing for newspapers in New York, Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas. Feel free to contact him at editorharrydad5@gmail.com or at (575) 534-9321.*



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LOOKING BACKWARD • CRAIG SPRINGER

# Kingston's Myth of 7,000 Souls

Was the mining boomtown really once the biggest town in New Mexico Territory?



Kingston's only church was under construction by the Methodist Mission Society to serve the town's 1,000 residents in 1888. The building was located near the west end of Kingston's Main Street, one of only two short roads in the town. (All photos courtesy Black Range Museum)

Kingston was a busy place over a century ago. The town and adjacent mines peaked in their prosperity about 1890, with a population of less than 1,500. But the town's population grew post-mortem to a mythical 7,000. That's how legends go. And that's the difference between heritage and history. That latter is what happened; the former is how we want it to be. That Kingston was New Mexico's largest territorial town has become our heritage with no basis in truth.

Kingston had its start with the discovery of silver. In the early 1880s, prospectors scratched dirt for signs of precious metal, and they found it. In October 1882, James Porter Parker, a civil engineer and General George Custer's former roommate at West Point, platted a townsite. The Nov. 11, 1882, *Tombstone Weekly Epitaph* reported on the boom, citing that 45 men were working in the Kingston mines.

Kingston sprang from a wilderness. A finely wrought prospectus, *The Mines of Kingston*, published in March 1883 by C.W. Greene, a mining investor and owner of Kingston's *Tribune*, documented a great deal of activity. He cites that "people came pouring in till not less, probably, than three thousand had come to view the promised land." Far fewer of the lookers stayed. Greene himself pulled up stakes by the end of 1883, and moved his newspaper to Deming.

The Territory of New Mexico conducted a census in 1885, counting 329 people living in Kingston and in the nearby Danville Camp combined. It was a pluralistic place that included people with

Chinese and Spanish names. A Kingston resident corroborated that the population numbered in the hundreds mid-decade in a lament in the *St. Johns Herald*, Oct. 7, 1886: "We blush to admit that Kingston, a town of several hundred inhabitants has no school, no church, no young men's Christian association, and no public institutions of any kind, in which we can place our children for moral and intellectual training."

The population ticked upward, and the Methodist church sought to rectify the lack of morals in Kingston. *The Gospel in All Lands*, published in 1888 by the Methodist Missionary Society, reported on the progress of a stone church underway to serve Kingston's 1,000 residents, as it cites. There was work to do: "If I could take the reader along the main street on our way to a school-house for evening service, he would see the typical mining town in all its wickedness," wrote Rev. S.W. Thornton.

Two years later, the US Census Bureau conducted its 1890 census. The bureau counted 1,449 people living in Kingston and near its mines. You may have heard that the 1890 census burned. That is true—it burned in 1921, long after the 1890 data were compiled and published, and those published data for population statistics are still available.

According to the 1890 census, 3,785 people lived in Albuquerque, which was more than all of Sierra County's 1890 population.

One might wonder if minorities were undercounted, which is to ask essentially: Did the Kingston enumerator overlook 5,551 minorities while counting only the 1,449 white folks? Not likely. Actually, the 1890 census parsed out minorities down to the county: 37 Chinese lived in Sierra County in 1890. Minorities were listed in Kingston in 1885, and were counted in other censuses before and after 1890.

A Territorial Bureau of Immigration publication printed in 1894 reported on the condition and prospects of New Mexico, stating, "The town [Kingston] itself is well situated, has a public water service, churches and schools, two good hotels, and a pushing, go-ahead population of about 1,000 persons."

Those prospects had already changed by the time the report saw print. Silver prices went south with the economic Panic of 1893 and Kingston decayed. The July 7, 1893, *Mohave County Miner* published a note from a Kingston correspondent: "Less than a hundred miners are employed at Kingston, New Mexico, where there were hundreds at work a few years ago. The mines at Kingston are all silver producers and the low price of silver has made it necessary to suspend operations on most of the mines in the camp." Note that the alleged largest town in territorial New Mexico is referred to a "camp."



A Chinese sojourner poses with this Kingston family ca. 1890. Some 360 Chinese were documented living in New Mexico in the 1890 census; 37 Chinese people called Sierra County home.

The myth of 7,000 walks hand in hand with another: that three newspapers kept shop in town, competing for readers and advertisers. That too is bogus. Eleven newspapers were published in Kingston from 1883-1893, but all were very short-lived, some lasting only weeks. From April 1885 to March 1886, during Kingston's alleged peak, the town lacked any newspaper at all. Albuquerque in the same 10-year period supported two-dozen newspapers, according to *The Territorial Press of New Mexico* (UNM Press).

The 1890 edition of *N.W. Ayer & Son's American Newspaper Annual* includes a report from C.T. Barr, editor of the *Kingston Shaft* (the only paper in Kingston listed in the annual). Barr said the paper served a town of 700 and a county-wide population of 3,635. Three years later, the *Shaft* reported to the same newspaper annual a Kingston population of 633. The *Shaft* had a circulation of 500 in 1893.



Doctors, lawyers, and the usual supporting industries surrounding mining made Kingston's economy. Folklore has three newspapers competing for readers and advertisers; during the mythical peak in population, Kingston actually lacked a newspaper. Eleven papers operated in the small town from 1883-93, most lasting mere weeks.

Kingston's greatest growth occurred after it died. In travel guides, state tourism office promotions and academic writings by professional historians, you will see a phrase repeated so often that a myth has turned to "memory,"

that Kingston once exceeded 7,000 residents and was the largest town in New Mexico. It's even on Forest Service signs at Emory Pass. A population of 7,000 is about as big as Truth or Consequences is today.

How such myths start is a curious mystery. The earliest writing on an inflated town size, a purported 5,000 people, that I found was in *Log of a Timber Cruiser*, published 22 years after the silver miners left Kingston. Its writer, playwright and novelist William Pinkney Lawson, visited Kingston



Folklore says that hookers paid for the Kingston church. The Methodist Mission Society's 1888 *The Gospel in all Lands* says that Rev. N.W. Chase solicited funds for the building.



Professional photographer J.C. Burge caught this moment of levity. He worked in Kingston ca. 1885-93.



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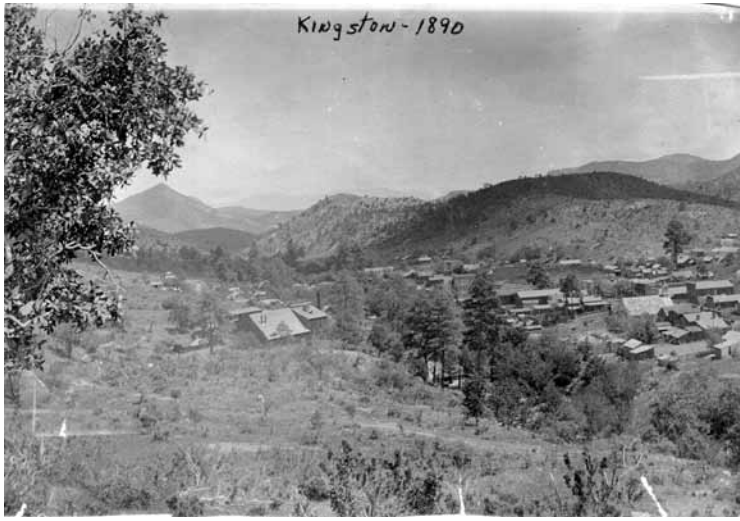
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At its maximum size ca. 1890, Kingston was 5,500 folks shy of the size it achieved in myth. Kingston's two short roads and the landmark church steeple are visible.

for one night on his way into the forest to count trees that summer, calling the town "a melancholy collection of deserted buildings." He had no direct observation of the purported 5,000.

In August 1936, WPA writer Clay Vaden interviewed former Kingston prostitute Sadie Orchard. She told Vaden that Kingston thronged with 5,000 residents in 1886. Also in 1936, Sierra County pioneer James McKenna, looking back through the haze of 50 years, published the apocryphal *Black Range Tales*. He upped Orchard by 2,000 and it's been gospel since.

"When the legend becomes fact, print the legend," the line goes from the old movie, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. And so it's been for the quaint Sierra County town.

To see the history for yourself, visit the Black Range Museum in Hillsboro and the Percha Bank Museum

in Kingston. Both are privately owned, and donations are encouraged.

*Craig Springer is the co-author of the book Around Hillsboro.*

*He's a member of the Hillsboro Historical Society. His historic home in Hillsboro is made from gold slag and the wood from the home of photographer J.C. Burge (who likely took several of the pictures on these pages). That's documented, Springer notes, in the 1894 contract that directs the carpenter to fetch and use the Burge studio wood. Burge left Kingston when the miners left ca. 1893. Springer adds, "The contractee, George Miller, the first owner of our home, was a professional photographer himself, and he bought out Burge, studio, negatives and cameras. The Burge images eventually went to the Black Range Museum. Miller bought the drugstore in Hillsboro (the present-day Country Store and Cafe) and made his living there. The man he bought the place from went on to Columbus, NM, and was murdered by the Villaistas."*



Starr Peak in the distance, halfway to Hillsboro, stands like a sentinel over what writer William Lawson called "a melancholy collection of buildings" ca. 1915. Today's Black Range Lodge and Percha Bank Museum are near this site.

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GOOD NEIGHBORS • MARJORIE LILLY

# Putting Heads Together

Border Partners comes up with bright ideas to help the people of Palomas.



Border Partners founders Peter and Polly Edmunds. (Photos by Marjorie Lilly)

In Juana Flores' small house lot in Palomas there is now a 40-by-7-foot garden that uses "gray water," or used water, from her washing machine to water the furrows. The water tank, the hoses, the simple technology and some of the labor were provided by Border Partners.

With seeds donated by Border Partners, Juana Flores cultivates tomatoes, broccoli, onions, fava beans, chile piquin, radishes, lettuce, carrots, tomatillos and cabbage. Along a cement-block wall she grows alfalfa (for rabbits and for her diabetic husband) and wheat to feed baby chicks and for making tortillas.

When I ask her whether she's growing this garden because she needs the food or because she wants better nutrition, she laughs and answers, "Los dos!" (Both!)

In late April, during a morning meeting, 26 people show up to get seeds and other supplies at the house of the coordinator of the garden group, Juana Lozoya. Adding those who sign up at the meeting, the number of members of the gardeners' group reaches 40. Last winter there were just 15 gardeners.

The directors of Border Partners, Deming residents Peter and Polly Edmunds, find this news a little staggering. "We'll do what we can to help them," Polly says. "This is exciting."

The adviser of the garden project, US volunteer Helena Myers, is delighted but suggests they cut off the membership at this point.

In Palomas' crisis economy, these gardens are a great help to families. Juana Lozoya believes that every member family has lacked food at some point in the past year or so.

Border Partners is the name of a group that has been at work in Palomas since the fall of 2008. Its focus, as articulated by Polly, is on health and recreation, education, sustainable technology, and economic development. Their board consists of three people from the United States and three from Mexico.

The gardening group is an especially active part of Border Partners right now, and Peter is hard at work with two local men creating gray-water recycling systems in 15 private homes to water the

gardens. The group of women who make oilcloth aprons, totebags and other items (see "Viva la Cooperativa," May 2009) is still very active and is standing on its own two feet now, more successful than ever.

Border Partners has helped create and improve playground equipment in two parks and at the library in Palomas. The group is starting a wood-working shop. The volunteers are working on a solar hot water heater project "because they don't get hot showers here very often," says Peter. He adds, "Eventually this is going to be a business."

Border Partners is the only organization of foreigners in Palomas that is doing "development projects" right now. The other organizations are doing vital work, but more in the line of distribution of food and clothing and providing services.

Polly and Peter Edmunds come from Minnesota, where they operated a construction business making log cabins. When their last child graduated from high school, they started making trips to a retreat center in Cuernavaca, Mexico, during their idle winter months.

They once made a trip to a village in the mountains nearby, where "people lived in houses made from palm fronds and corn stalks," Polly recalls. "They had no real source of clean water. We were forever changed from that day forward."

Polly tells another story about an American woman working in Mexico who influenced them by the way she listened to and respected people "no matter what their income is." With the collaboration of numerous people they created a project that dealt with children's diarrhea.

That friend's approach exemplified to the Edmunds a "meshing of talents and energies." This theme repeats itself in Border Partner's methodology. Polly says, "Putting heads together, that's what Border Partners is about."

This approach might involve a consultant from the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC), who came to Palomas to help design water conservation techniques appropriate to the town, using local builders to carry out the techniques in individual homes.

It might be students from Palomas schools who helped build a "climber" for a playground in a park, and some neighbors who put another one in the same park themselves. Border Partners installed a popular volleyball court there. "That was a nice joint effort," says Polly.

It involves employing low-income people as coordinators, or *promotores*, of the garden project. These include Juana Lozoya, who was already a good gardener, and Juana Flores, who is "outgoing, flamboyant and seems to know everybody in town," according to Peter.

"Juana Lozoya puts a teaspoon of seeds in baggies and passes them out," he says. "She got a big



Juana Flores works in her garden in Palomas.

backpack, and labels each baggie."

It's not surprising that the garden group has had such rapid growth. Lozoya also teaches members how to cultivate plants, and Flores teaches them how to save water.

Border Partners' style is spontaneous and inventive. Things they construct are often jerry-built, using any available materials or donated things. "We're always looking for 'stuff,'" says Peter. "My main job is to look for 'stuff.'"

Fences around gardens use donated chicken wire, part of an old wrought-iron fence, or a bedstead. Juana Lozoya's rabbit coop is partly built with an old bathroom sink.

Large shelves that Peter whacked together for the oilcloth group were made from wood paneling donated by Tierra del Sol in Las Cruces. A security gate for a building they use was made from an old fence. Someone donated 30 doors ("ultimately from Home Depot"), which they haven't quite decided how to use.

I ask Peter where he learned about the technology he uses with such enthusiasm, and he says, "From the Internet. I find things with my diddling fingers."

Another technology buff is Joel Carreon, a member of the Border Partners board and an engineer with a degree in animal science from the University of Chihuahua. He's the current director of the high school in Palomas.

Joel does a bit of development work himself. He is experimenting with Afghan pine trees. There are a lot of respiratory diseases in Palomas due to the high level of dust in the air, and he says these trees "retain many particles in the air." They also require very little water (an important plus). He'd like to plant a lot of these trees throughout Palomas.

Border Partners helped Juana Lozoya build the greenhouse on her parcel of land. The walls are made of "papercrete"—bricks made from paper plus sand plus cement plus water. It's the material Peter and Polly used to make half of their own house in Deming because of its phenomenal insulating qualities. "We have no AC or swamp cooler," says Polly. "It's exponentially better [than adobe]."

The northern wall of Lozoya's greenhouse is of papercrete and the southern wall is glass, to get the sun in the winter. She can slide a shade over the roof and open the windows (which were all donated) in the blazing summer heat.

The seven women in the oilcloth group—christened Palomas Aprons... and More!—now own the business and have paid back their loan to Border Partners. They have their own bank account.

At the beginning they got some donations of oilcloth ma-



The oilcloth group has its own well-stocked space.

Below: Juana Lozoya in front of her greenhouse. Below right: The group who came to Lozoya's house to get seeds.





Other organizations helping those in need in Palomas, Mexico, include:

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terial, but now they have a full supply of the lusciously designed fabric that they buy themselves. The women meet every other Wednesday and then work in their homes during the week.

Ludi Loya is the coordinator of the group and writes down notes from the group's meeting while she nurses her three-month-old baby girl, Ximena. Several people bring food, so there's always a meal for everybody. The workplace is spacious, and the women get along.

Polly says the women made an average of \$75



Joel Carreon, a member of the Border Partners board and director of the high school in Palomas.



Ludi Loya, coordinator of the oilcloth group, with her baby and mother-in-law Marta Chavez.

a week in 2011, while they made only \$45 in 2010. This group is really in business now.

Border Partners helped some men start a papercrete-making business, but that fizzled out. Peter sees the manufacture of solar hot water heaters turning into a business, and maybe a business will spring out of the woodworking shop.

"My dream is that we would have a little farmers' market," Polly adds.

But for now only the oilcloth group really thrives economically.

**B**order Partners is always spinning out new projects and variations on projects, wherever the group sees a need. It has provided many revamped computers to the library and schools. The group may build an extension on the Palomas library, where courses on using computers and online courses on different subjects may be given by the librarian, Benita Saenz, who is also on the board of Border Partners.

In his mind Peter is formulating a new rainwater catchment project.

Border Partners recently got a volunteer whose hobby is rock-climbing. "He plans to design a climbing wall for bigger kids, so they stop beating on the equipment for little kids," says Peter. (Vandalism of the parks is a problem.)

A woman named Marisol sometimes gives free aerobics classes in the building where the oilcloth group meets.

Border Partners can always use volunteers and donations. This very creative group may just be hitting its stride.

*To contact Border Partners for information, to volunteer or make a donation, write 406 S. Granite St., Deming, NM 88030, call (575) 546-1083, email info@borderpartners.org, or visit www.borderpartners.org. Creations by the oilcloth group are currently featured at The Raven's Nest, 106 W. Yankie St. in Silver City, 534-9323. Marjorie Lilly writes the Borderlines column.*

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## Art on the Move

Silver City painter Eric Carrasco puts automotive art into high gear.



Eric and Emily Carrasco (far right, photo by Pat Young) and some of his creations.

Eric Carrasco was just a first grader when the road to his future art career started on its course. He earned rave reviews for a composite of a semi tractor trailer on construction paper. Today, Eric has followed that road to a thriving Silver City business in automotive art. The likeable 32 year old, who believes in having a personal interaction with every single customer, took a few "side roads" before Thunder 1 Rod Dezigns took off, however.

Eric says he got his first airbrush for his 12th birthday, just before Christmas in the early 1990s. (His birthday falls on Dec. 21, so he always gets one big "birthday/Christmas present," he explains.) That began his love affair with airbrush art, which started showing up on everything from T-shirts to license plates. He says he became the "go-to-guy"

for airbrush artwork at Silver High School.

His first "real job," he continues, was doing painting and general labor for Ed Stevens in Hurley. Then, at age 19, he worked at Bright Funeral Home. Recognizing his artistic talent, the funeral home had him do artwork for the business. He also hand-painted new business signs for the funeral home, which stood there for many years. "This was the first time I applied art to work," he says.

"I thought about going to art school right after high school," Eric goes on. But he says his friend and former boss, Stevens, was instrumental in his career choice. "I decided to put my art into the automotive field. I always loved cars."

Eric took the money he would have used for tuition and built a shop behind his parents' home in 2003. As he puts it, "I started applying my art work 'automotively.'"

He borrowed money from Western Bank, taught himself how to repair sheet metal, and began working on friends' cars. All this time, he also worked for Luis Terrazas at a sign shop.

In 2006, he opened Thunder 1 Rod Dezigns. Actually, Eric says, he didn't have a name for the business. But he and wife Emily had two Thunderbirds. He was airbrushing his Thunderbird at the time, when his father, Robert Carrasco, called Eric's car "Thunder 1."

"I did a lot of drag racing at the time," Eric recalls, "so I called it "Thunder 1 Racing." This evolved into Thunder 1 Rod Dezigns.

His father taught Eric the art of hard work; at 77, he still works in Eric's shop.

Most of Eric's artwork is now emblazoned on cars and motorcycles, but a few examples are still displayed on canvas. He created an oil painting, a southwest landscape with an Indian woman in the foreground, as a gift for his godparents. And some of his high school artwork, mostly pencil sketches, hangs in his home.

His high school sweetheart and wife of seven years, Emily, kept it. "When I saw his high school



drawings, even the ones from grade school, they were so detailed," Emily says. "I fell in love with his artwork and then the man." She laughs and adds, "I asked him out."

Emily serves as the friendly office manager at his shop. Their two-year-old son, Jaxon, serves as "live entertainment" as he toddles around the shop or "drives" his push car. "One day Jaxon picked up some sandpaper and just started sanding," Eric says. "He looked up at me like, "This is what we do, right, Dad?"

The Carrascos recently moved their business from an industrial park east of Silver City to a spacious building they purchased at 1605 Corbin, just west of AmBank, as their business has grown. It features a state-of-the-art spray booth, a major plus for Eric. It also has a "playroom" for Jaxon, a plus for both parents.

Eric does paint jobs on cars, including paint work for the Lawley Ford and Toyota dealerships in Silver City. Most often, his talent is displayed in flames (traditional flames, true-fire flames and ghost flames), and in murals "ghosted" on the sides of vehicles. He also paints "portraits" on vehicles. Re-



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a while to even find it.

Eric frequently works at night, when it is quiet and he can concentrate on his latest project. He has won many awards for his work, including "Best of Show" and "Best Paint." He also creates and awards a "Best Flames" trophy at the annual Copper Country Cruizers car show in August at Gough Park.

"Sometimes I look back and think, I can't believe I'm

doing this," Eric says. "And I would like to thank my high school art class and Spanish class teachers. They were my mentors."

He also credits Stevens for helping with his career decisions, combining art and the automotive field.

"Anyone I ever worked for, I learned a lot from," he adds.

"After a job is done, that's when I really think, that (art) wasn't there two weeks ago," he muses. "A joy comes over me when I think, I get paid to do this, and it doesn't feel like work." ❁

Contact Thunder 1 Rod Dezigns, 1605 N. Corbin St. in Silver City, at (575) 388-1992. Pat Young is a retired journalist who lives in the mountains near San Lorenzo.



cently, a man brought in a motorcycle given to him by his deceased uncle, and is having Eric put his uncle's portrait on the bike, as a tribute.

Sometimes, Eric says, he starts with a pencil sketch, or fine-line marker. Then he uses an airbrush, and sometimes a striping brush. And on custom jobs, he adds a very subtle logo or his signature.

"I try not to take away from the artwork," this unassuming artist says. Usually the signature or logo is so subtle it might take the vehicle owner



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9 AM	Performance Today			9 AM
10 AM		Car Talk	Marketplace Money	10 AM
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# Water, Water... Nowhere

Thirsty for knowledge about desert survival (and the alternative)?  
Drink your fill here.

Above: Even the Río Grande can go bone dry during drought. Below: The parched soil at the bottom of a dry desert playa lake. (All photos by Jay W. Sharp)



Above: A cow skull on the Jornada del Muerto. Below: White Sands National Monument and its blinding dunes symbolize the aridity of the desert.



**W**arming! In this story, you will find nothing about the magnificence of our Southwestern desert sunsets. Nothing about the splendor of our mountain ranges. Nothing about the extravagance of spring wildflower blooms. Nothing about the uncanny adaptability of desert basin wildlife and plants; the unfolding story of the prehistoric peoples and their long-abandoned communities; the fascination of frontier tales; the grand adventures of the Argonauts; the intriguing explanations for ancient geologic formations and exotic rocks; the spirituality of primal alcoves in rock walls and secluded overlooks on mountain slopes; the unforgettable vistas of the Grand Canyon or the Canyonlands or Monument Valley or Big Bend.

Rather, you will find some grim details about the risks you can run if you take leave of cities and pavement and venture into the desert wilderness without full preparation for contingencies. You will learn something of what can happen in a desert basin where—by definition—no more than a few inches of rain fall in a typical year; where dependable natural water holes and streams lie far apart; where summer daytime air temperatures can soar to well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit and the soil temperatures to well over 150 degrees; and where small-leaf, spiny, low-growing and widely scattered plants offer scant shade or comfort.

“It is not a place to fall down, exhausted,” as Tom Cahill put it in *National Geographic Adventure*. “People on the ground are literally roasted alive.”

## The Cost of Misfortune or Carelessness

**T**hose who came to the Southwest in pursuit of conquest, treasure, minerals, trade, land, furs or just sheer adventure sometimes

learned of something far more valuable—specifically, water.

Gaspar Pérez de Villagrà, chronicler of Spanish colonizer Juan de Oñate’s Southwest expedition in 1598, spoke, in his epic poem, of the hardships of travel across the Chihuahuan Desert. In “Historia de la Nueva México,” written in 1610, he wrote:

“Four complete days did pass away

In which we drank no drop of water there,

And now the horses, being blind,

Did give themselves most cruel blows

And bumps against the unseen trees,

And we, as tired as they,  
Exhaling living fire and spitting forth

Saliva more viscous than pitch,  
Our hope given up, entirely lost,  
Were almost all wishing for death...”

Mountain man

James Ohio Pattie, with a party of mountain men trapping beaver on the Gila and Colorado Rivers in 1828, gave an account of a grueling march across the north central Baja (recounted in *History of San Diego* by Richard F. Pourade):

“What with the fierce sun and the scorching sand, and our extreme fatigue, the air seemed soon to have extracted every particle of moisture from our bodies. In this condition we marched on until nearly the middle of the day, without describing any indication of water in any quarter...”

“We attempted to chew tobacco. It would raise no moisture. We took our bullets in our mouths, and moved them round to create a moisture, to relieve our parched throats. We had traveled but a little farther before our tongues had become so dry and swollen, that we could scarcely speak so as to be understood...”

“Two of our companions here gave out, and lay down under the shade of a bush. Their tongues were so swollen, and their eyes so sunk in their heads, that they were a spectacle to behold. We were scarcely able, from the condition of our own mouth, to bid them an articulate farewell. We never expected to see them again...”

## The Human Body and Water

**W**ithin your body, water—which accounts for well over half your total weight—plays an essential role in sustaining life. It facilitates the physiological and chemical processes essential to life. It serves as a transportation medium, carrying dissolved nutrients, hormones, oxygen, carbon dioxide and wastes to their respective destinations within your circulatory systems. It helps regulate your temperature, primarily through perspiration.

You ingest water, of course, in the liquids you drink and the foods you eat. Normally, you lose water by sweating, respiration or waste elimination. If ill or stressed, you may lose considerable water by vomiting and diarrhea, which can lead to a dangerous level of dehydration.

In the first stages of dehydration, an individual may not experience any significant symptoms, but as it continues, he will feel thirst set in and his mouth go dry. If it intensifies, he will feel his thirst increase, his saliva thicken, his face flush, his skin wrinkle, his head ache, his arms and legs cramp, his strength dwindle and his temperament sour. If his dehydration becomes severe, his tongue swells. His eyes grow sunken and tearless, possibly cracking and bleeding. His stomach bloats. His hands and feet grow cool and moist. Major muscles contract severely and painfully. Blood pressure falls. Urination ceases. His pulse rate becomes feeble and rapid. Consciousness fades. He may experience convulsions and heart failure. Without prompt and

careful rehydration, he faces death.

## The Ordeal of Pablo Valencia

**T**he ordeal of Pablo Valencia, who lost his way while hunting for lost treasure in southwestern Arizona, was chronicled by researcher W.J. McGee in a still-classic paper, “Desert Thirst as Disease,” published in the *Interstate Medical Journal* in 1906. Terribly dehydrated, Valencia stumbled into McGee’s encampment in “the gray-ing dawn of Wednesday, August 23,” days after searchers had given up hope of finding him.

“Pablo was stark naked,” wrote McGee, “his formerly full-muscled legs and arms were shrunken and scrawny; his ribs ridged out like those of a starveling horse; his habitually plethoric [full] abdomen was drawn in almost against his vertebral column; his lips had disappeared as if amputated, leaving low edges of blackened tissue; his teeth and gums projected like those of a skinned animal, but the flesh was black and dry as a hank of jerky; his nose was withered and shrunken to half its length; the nostril-lining showing black; his eyes were set in a winkless stare, with surrounding skin so contracted as to expose the conjunctiva, itself black as the gums; his face was dark as a Negro,

and his skin generally turned a ghastly purplish yet ashen gray, with great livid blotches and streaks...”

“His extremities were cold as the surrounding air; no pulsation could be detected at the wrists, and there was apparently little if any circulation beyond the knees and elbows; the heartbeat was slow, irregular, fluttering, and

almost ceasing in the longer intervals between the stertorous [heavy] breathings.”

Under the careful nurturing of McGee, who administered a series of home remedies, Valencia recovered: “In a week he was well and cheerful, weighing 135 pounds or more—though his stiff and bristly hair, which had hardly a streak of gray a fortnight before, had lost half its mass and turned iron gray.”

## The Desperation of the UDAs

**I**n thousands of individual dramas every day, undocumented aliens (“UDAs,” as they are sometimes called by the Border Patrol)—men, women and children—put their lives on the line, crossing the desert from Mexico into the US. They come in the darkness, in remote areas, responding to the promise of America—jobs, family reunifications, running water, indoor toilets, medical care, education, a future. Of course, some come for



A long-empty cistern at an early house on the Jornada del Muerto. The author once saw a large gopher snake that had somehow fallen into the cistern and was doomed.





Edge of a lava flow, located in the Potrillos Basalt Field in the Chihuahuan Desert southwest of Las Cruces. A indication of how rugged the landscape can be.

more sinister purposes—human trafficking, drug sales, possibly terrorism. They raise a dilemma for the Border Patrol, which struggles with the complexities of enforcing our laws, protecting our border and saving human lives.

The UDAs may not know the grim story of Pablo Valencia, but they know well the dangers they face, especially the prospect of a lonely and agonizing death from dehydration in the desert. According



A Chihuahuan Desert mountain trail, which looks inviting but can be dangerous for the unprepared.

to the Latin American Working Group website, nearly 2,000 would-be border crossers died during the years 2000 to 2006 in the borderlands between San Diego and the Big Bend area, most of them from dehydration. No one knows how many bodies still lie undiscovered on the desert floor.

The lucky UDAs find help. One man “sat hunched over on the side of the road, unable to lift his head or even his hand to take a sip of water,” said Kate Lynch, a Latin American Working Group intern who volunteered to help migrants in need in the summer of 2005. “He had been wandering the Arizona desert alone for days searching for help. His eyes, bloodshot and hazy, stared through a misty glaze towards the ground. He was no more than five feet tall and weighed around 100 pounds. He wore a red baseball cap and carried a heavy pack filled with clothes and family memorabilia.

“The group with whom he had begun this disastrous journey had now abandoned him because he was too slow. The \$1,500 he paid for a smuggler was now lost. He hadn’t eaten in three days and his water bottle had been empty for hours. He was conserving his last drops for a day and a half. He mumbled as he spoke of his failure to make it, of his young daughters who will go hungry, and of the dying man he was unable to help. He wanted to go home.”

Lynch’s UDA was lucky. He had been found.

#### Desert Savvy

If you plan a trip into a remote and unfamiliar area of the desert, especially during the summer, you should—as you have

likely read in other articles—make sure that you:

1. Drive a reliable vehicle, full of fuel, and carry a tool kit, critical spare parts, a tire pump, a tow-rope, a shovel and extra engine coolant and oil.
2. Carry an up-to-date map and a compass.
3. Pack emergency items such as a first aid kit, a metal signaling mirror, a whistle, a good knife and waterproof matches.
4. Wear protective clothing, including a wide-brim hat and good hiking shoes.
5. Carry enough water for each person in your party to drink at least a gallon a day, especially when temperatures range upwards of 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Below: Hikers crossing Aden Crater, located in the Potrillos Basalt Field in the Chihuahuan Desert southwest of Las Cruces. Our desert brims with fascinating sites—and risk for the unwary.



6. If possible, convoy with another vehicle so that you have backup transportation.

7. Most important, tell a relative or a friend where you are going and when to expect your return.

If—in spite of your precautions—you become stranded or lost a long ways from help, experts in desert survival recommend that you:

1. Trust that your relative or friend will alert authorities if you fail to return at the planned time.

2. Establish a base and/or distress signals at a site—preferably at a high, open location—where searchers can find you most easily. A raised car hood, a mirror flash, three fires, three gunshots,

**THIRST**  
continued on  
next page



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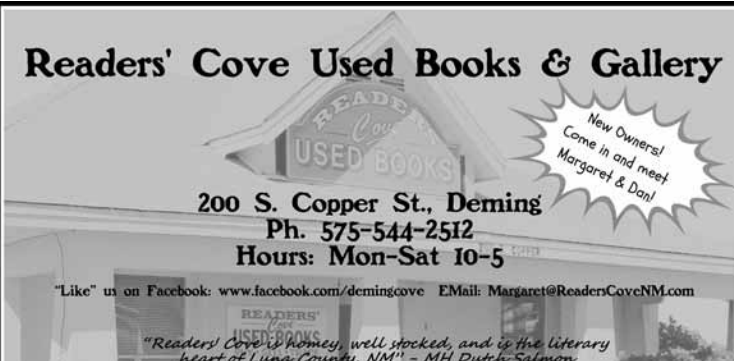


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Columbus, New Mexico

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**THIRST** continued

three whistles all serve as universal indications of a need for help.

3. Construct a shelter with shade, possibly something as simple as a tarpaulin or blanket draped over brush, and stay in the shade, especially during the hottest part of the day.

4. Stay completely dressed so that your clothing can restrain evaporation from your sweat and the consequent loss of moisture.

5. Rest in your shade on iceboxes or cots or logs, on anything other than on the hot soil, which can bake you, causing you to sweat and sacrifice moisture.

6. Scout for nearby water sources—in the cooler parts of the day—knowing that damp sand in an arroyo bottom, concentrations of willows or cottonwoods, flocks of birds and tracks of animals may signal moisture. You may find some moisture in cacti fruits if they are available.

7. Husband your expenditure of energy and breathe through your nose to minimize moisture losses due to sweating and respiration.

8. Minimize food intake because the digestive process consumes water.

9. Do not drink alcoholic beverages because they accelerate dehydration.

10. Conserve your sweat, not your water. Drink enough to slake your thirst. Mere occasional sips do not meet the needs of vital organs.

11. Unless you have a compelling reason to leave your shelter to look for help, remain at



El Capitan Peak, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, which offers spectacular views but hot, dry, summer hikes for the unprepared. (All photos by Jay W. Sharp)

your base, where searchers can find you most easily.

Should one of your party begin to show symptoms of dehydration, you will have to move promptly to get him cooled and rehydrated. Place him prone under shade, above the hot desert soil if

at all possible. Loosen his clothing. Keep him still and quiet. Swab his body with water, even if it is from an undrinkable source. Fan his body to hasten the cooling. Have him sip water and, if possible, nibble salty foods frequently.

While the American Southwest is a wonderland of sunsets, mountain ranges, color, natural history, pre-history, history

and awesome vistas, it exacts a discipline on those—hikers, rockhounds, treasure hunters and adventurers—who would venture into its remote regions, beyond the cities and paved highways. In the hardships it has imposed on

colonizers, adventurers, treasure hunters, adventurers and today's border crossers, it has given us a forceful lesson in the need for forethought and knowhow if we are going to explore dim trails into the desert wilderness. ❁



Primitive foundation for early house on the arid Jornada del Muerto, where settlers struggled daily with the needs for water.



A gravesite on the Jornada del Muerto, which was once marked along its entire length by tombstones, many marking death by thirst.

Jay W. Sharp is a Las Cruces author who is a regular contributor to *DesertUSA*, an Internet magazine, and who is the author of *Texas Unexplained*, now available as an e-book from Amazon or iTunes. To read all his guides to wildlife of the Southwest, see [www.desertexposure.com/wildlife](http://www.desertexposure.com/wildlife).

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BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

## Too Much Red, Not Enough Green?

The abrupt shutdown of Proper Foods in Deming leaves questions and disrupted lives.

Near the middle of May, Proper Foods in Deming shut down, putting 131 employees out of work.

The decision was sudden. Town authorities didn't hear that it was going to happen until May 1, and work was over for most by about May 15. There are now more people out of work in Luna County, where unemployment hovers at 20%, the highest rate in New Mexico.

In 2008 a well-publicized crisis at the plant occurred, and the town ended up using a \$500,000 loan from state economic development funds to keep the food processor afloat. But the business couldn't hang on.

The inconspicuous white cinder block building is right on Pine Street, or Motel Drive, as it's called. I've often seen workers come and go there at the shift change in late afternoon.

Some of the same crowd who worked at Border Foods (where I worked a few months) worked there. But there is more English spoken at Proper Foods than at Border Foods, for some reason.

Proper Foods was the second-largest employer of manual labor in Deming after Border Foods. The latter hires many more people, but the number varies widely, depending on the season. During the chile season last year, Border Foods hired 11,000 people (including many temporary jobs), but during the off-season it usually hires between 100 and 200.

Proper Foods specialized in prepared Mexican foods, while Border Foods processes raw chile peppers.

While Border Foods employees swelter in the summer heat, Proper Foods is air-conditioned and even refrigerated for some positions.

Proper Foods has existed at least since 1995, as I can tell from my old news clips. No one from the office is interested in talking right now, and no one else knows the date it started.

A woman I know named Ana who worked at Proper Foods lives at a "women's transitional home" after getting out of prison about six months ago. The organization helped Ana get the job, and she was close to having enough money to pay for her own apartment. She is disappointed, but looking for more work.

I stopped by the plant a few days after most employees had already been laid off. Several stopped by to pick up their last paychecks and leave their white hard hats. Most were women.

The gist of what they said was that if they couldn't find work in Deming, they'd move away. No one sounded terribly worried, just a bit depressed.

"A lot of young girls are moving to Albuquerque," said Sandra Baca, who was already getting \$133 a week in unemployment. She had applied for a job as manager of Wendy's in Deming.

A woman who'd worked there 11 years and didn't want to be named said, "There's no work here." She was considering moving to Hobbs, where she'd heard there's work in hotels and restaurants. She's single with two kids.

Candelario Gonzales, with a red bandana around his head and a black moustache, was still cleaning up the place. He had worked in construction and in the mines, and said he would go "wherever there's work."

A woman from Puerto Rico who lived alone said she might find work at Border Foods or at an onion shed in town.

As she spoke, an official-looking Anglo man with a moustache walked down the ramp toward us and positioned himself near us with his hands on the metal railing. He smiled broadly at me but said nothing. The Puerto Rican woman smiled wryly and left.

The man told me he could give me no information about the shutdown, and that I should call the company's main office in Ruidoso. "No one knows better than in Ruidoso," he claimed.

During the next days I called Proper Foods to be connected to Ruidoso. I left a few messages and no one ever called back.

I'm really not sure why the man was so defensive. The closing is unfortunate for everyone involved, it seems to me. I wasn't looking for dirt.

Luna County Commissioner Jay Spivey, in an interview at the courthouse, said, "They were probably embarrassed."

Spivey didn't know the exact cause of the closure. "They haven't mentioned bankruptcy," he said. "They've been serving their loans right along."

I had the impression that there would be several official players in Deming who would swing into action to rescue the plant. But according to Spivey, Linda Smrkovsky, Economic Development director for the county, is basically running a one-woman show. She's trying to find a buyer for the facility.

Spivey and I talked about how the schools would be affected, with families supported by Proper Foods employees averaging between four and five members, according to Spivey. Businesses will be affected, especially Walmart and K-Mart.

As county commissioner, Spivey was more involved in the issue of the Columbus stockyards that were closed down in April. He spelled out the effect of their closure, beyond the job loss for nine individuals, and beyond the \$3 per head of cattle the county received, which Spivey said was negligible in the county's \$45 million budget.

He described the ripple effect of businesspeople or cattlemen visiting Columbus who go to restaurants and stay at motels (supplying Lodgers' Tax funds), shop at the San Jose grocery store or have a drink, or have their flat tires fixed, and the gross receipts tax the town gets from the stockyards.

Things are up in the air right now in Luna County. Two businesses, one very important in employment capacity, have closed down, and nobody seems to know why in either case. No one even knows if these closures have anything to do with the recession.

Both the stockyards and Proper Foods may resurrect or reincarnate in a few months. But maybe they won't. The fate of many is being played out at this moment.

The current recession is not as visible as the Great Depression was. We don't have people selling apples in the streets, or hobos on trains, or even people lined up at soup kitchens. It's more as if someone has quietly pulled a plug on the hopes of thousands. There's just silence.

What's interesting is that several new local businesses started up in the past year despite the recession. Off the top of my head I can think of a restaurant, a stationery store, two nail salons, two dress shops, and an ice cream parlor in Deming, and a few greenhouses growing vegetables in Columbus.

Hope keeps bubbling up like little soda bubbles in an ice-filled glass in summer. It can't be stopped.

But it's also not enough to raise the economic tide in Luna County. That will probably happen only when the US economy grows again, whenever that may be. ❁

*If they couldn't find work in Deming, they'd move away. No one sounded terribly worried, just a bit depressed.*

*Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming. She also wrote about Border Partners in Palomas in this issue.*



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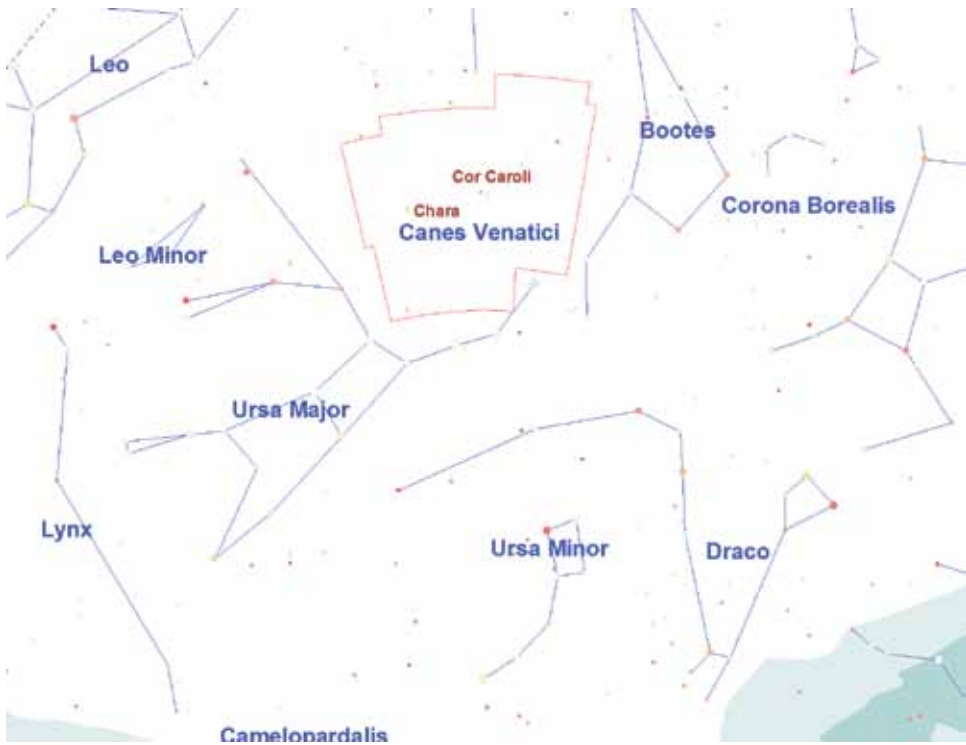
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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

# La Superba

Plus the planets for June.



Looking north, Canes Venatici, the Hunting Dogs, is almost overhead. There are a number of interesting objects in the constellation, including four bright galaxies, including the famous M51, The Whirlpool Galaxy, a face-on spiral with a companion pulling off some of its outer stars. There is also a bright globular cluster (M3). The brightest carbon star in the sky, Y Canum Venaticorum, can also be found in this constellation. This extremely red star is so striking that it has been called La Superba, the Superb One.

around the orbit of Mars. Y CnV is not very bright in the visible part of the spectrum, but if you include the infrared part of the spectrum, Y CnV would be over

4,000 times brighter than our Sun.

In this stage of their life, these stars are still fusing hydrogen into helium, but also creating heavier elements like oxygen and carbon. The heavier elements get dredged up from the core into the outer atmosphere. Because these stars are so huge, the outer atmosphere is cooler, only some 4,500 degrees Fahrenheit (compared to our Sun at almost 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit). This coolness allows the formation of molecules like carbon monoxide and other carbon compounds that give the star its reddish color.

The huge size of the star also lets its outer layers easily get lost into space. Y CnV is surrounded by a cloud of gas two and a half light-years across, indicating that in the past it must have been losing mass some 50 times faster than it is now. If only people could lose mass as they get older like carbon stars do....

### The Planets for June 2012

**M**ercury makes an appearance in our evening sky in June. Appearing out of the twilight glow during the first week of the month, Mercury continues to move away from the Sun until June 30 when it is 26 degrees from the Sun. The Messenger of the Gods starts the month in Taurus and moves rapidly into Gemini and finally ends the month in Cancer. On June 30, Mercury sets at almost 10 p.m. and shines at magnitude +0.6. Its disc is 40% illuminated, 8.1 seconds-of-arc across and increasing as it swings out from around the Sun.

Mars starts the month in southeastern Leo, moving eastward into Virgo on June 20 to end the month there. You can find Mars 50 degrees up in the southwest as it gets dark; it sets around 1 a.m. At midmonth, the God of War's disc is 7.2 seconds-

### Watch the Skies

(times MDT)

- June 4**, 5:12 a.m.—Full Moon/Partial Lunar Eclipse
- June 5**, late afternoon—Transit of Venus
- June 11**, 4:41 a.m.—Last Quarter Moon
- June 19**, 9:02 a.m.—New Moon
- June 20**, 5:09 p.m.—June Solstice
- June 26**, 9:30 p.m.—First Quarter Moon
- June 30**, 8 p.m.—Mercury greatest distance from Sun (26 degrees)

of-arc across and it is magnitude +0.7.

By the end of June, Saturn shares the constellation Virgo with Mars. At midmonth, the Rings are tilted down 12.5 degrees with the northern face showing. They are 40.7 seconds-of-arc across while the disc is 17.9 seconds-of-arc across. Saturn is 50 degrees up in the south as it gets dark and sets around 3 a.m.

Jupiter and Venus are too close to the Sun to be visible, but Venus is going to be visible for a brief time on the evening of June 5, when it crosses the Sun's surface as seen from Earth. This transit of Venus is a rare event. Transits of Venus occur in pairs, eight years apart. The last one was June 8, 2004, the first of this pair. The current one will be followed by a period of 105.5 years before the next one in December 2117, followed by another in December 2125. There will be another gap of 121.5 years before the next one, and the pattern will repeat again.

For this year, Venus will start to enter the Sun's disc at 4:06 p.m. It will take 17 minutes for Venus' entire disc to slide onto the Sun. The middle of the transit occurs at 7:27 p.m. While the transit goes on for another three hours, for us the Sun will set around 8:11 p.m., with Venus still on its disc.

If you plan to view the transit, you will need a solar filter. This filter will block most of the Sun's light, allowing you to safely view the transit. Do not look at the Sun directly or you could damage your eyes.

In another noteworthy event, the Moon travels through the northern portion of the Earth's shadow on the morning of June 4. The penumbral phase starts at 2:48 a.m., followed by the umbral phase beginning at 4 a.m. The greatest eclipse will be at 5:04 a.m., when 37% of the Moon will be in the umbral shadow. The Moon leaves the umbral shadow at 6:06 a.m., just three minutes before it sets.

The June Solstice is June 20 at 5:09 p.m., marking the end of spring and the beginning of summer in the northern hemisphere. In the southern hemisphere, autumn ends and winter begins. For us, this is the shortest night of the year, with the longest day. The Sun will be in far eastern Taurus, just about to move into Gemini.

With all this activity, this will be an exciting month for astronomers, beginner, amateur and professional, to "keep watching the sky"! ☼

**J**ust underneath the tail of the Big Bear (Ursa Major) is a medium-sized field of faint stars that form the constellation of Canes Venatici, the Hunting Dogs. This constellation started out in ancient times as the Club of Boötes, the neighboring constellation representing a herdsman. In translating Ptolemy's *Almagest* to Arabic, it was mistranslated as a "spear shaft." Much later, it was again translated into Latin, and once again it was mistranslated into "dogs." Polish astronomer Johannes Hevelius solidified the mistranslation when he named the constellation Canes Venatici, the Hunting Dogs, in his star atlas *Firmamentum Sobiescianum*, published posthumously in 1687.

One of the reddest stars in the sky is located in this constellation. It is a variable star, so it has a letter designation, Y Canum Venaticorum (for short, Y CVn, typically pronounced "Y Can Ven"). It varies in brightness from magnitude +4.8 down to +6.3 over a 160-day cycle. Nineteenth century Italian astronomer Angelo Secchi, impressed with its beauty, gave the star its common name, La Superba.

In addition to varying in brightness, this star is a carbon star, the brightest such star in our sky. Carbon stars are older giant stars that have more carbon than oxygen in their upper atmosphere. The carbon combines with all the available oxygen to form carbon monoxide. The remaining carbon atoms form other carbon compounds that float around in the star's atmosphere. These tend to absorb the bluer colors in the starlight, leaving the redder colors to escape into space. We see these reddish colors when we look at these stars, giving them an intense red appearance.

These older stars are huge: If Y CnV were in our solar system, its outer surface would be out

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



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# Getting to Know You

The importance of having a relationship with a primary care practitioner.

In our lives, we enjoy relationships with friends and family, but when we fall ill and need to see a doctor, our relationship with our primary care physician comes into high relief. If you see any practitioner who happens to be available, thinking that doctors are all the same or that anyone who fits into your schedule will do, you are missing out on a whole host of health benefits that come only with having an established long-term relationship with a local primary care practitioner.



Over time, practitioner and patient get to know each other, which results in an openness and rapport so that you can state your health concerns openly and honestly, and get your questions about your health answered in clear, understandable terms. A practitioner who knows your health history and has a good idea of how you usually look and behave is also in a better position to assess changes, even minor ones, and to come up with the right diagnosis.

For example, I saw an elderly patient recently, well into his 90s. He came into the office requiring assistance. He spoke hesitantly, and had considerable difficulty in making his points and phrasing his questions. I knew instantly that something was drastically wrong, because, even though he was behaving in a way not unlike others of his advanced age, I knew this was not him! Indeed, his usual complaint when he came to my office was that he had cut back to working *only* nine-hour days. I hospitalized him immediately, and he is now recovering from his pneumonia, and returning to his usual remarkable vigor.

According to a 2007 study, primary care physicians are closely identified with preventative and proactive health benefits. The same study speaks of the effectiveness of primary care in the early detection of disease, specifically, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, cervical cancer and melanoma. With the advantages of primary care, there is less of a chance that you will be admitted to the hospital: "Geographic areas with more general and family physicians... have lower hospitalization rates for conditions that could be preventable or detected with good primary care, e.g. diabetes, congestive heart failure, hypertension and pneumonia."

Yet not everyone sees the benefits of preventative care. Men, in particular, seem to have a hard time coming in to a medical office. Our culture encourages men to be strong, independent and self-sufficient—in a word, not to be "wimps"—and to tough it out. Yet these very same traits can present challenges to their health, for they are less likely to seek preventative care for themselves.

Recently, I found myself trying to convince a middle-aged gentleman to get a screening colonoscopy. He resisted the idea and could not be convinced. So I changed tactics. I knew that he loved his truck and took meticulous care of it. So in the middle of a medical interview, we found ourselves talking about oil changes:

"Do you change your oil regularly?"  
"Yup," he answered.  
"Is there anything wrong with it?"  
"No!"  
"So, then, why change the oil? Why not just wait until the truck breaks down?"  
When his wife had finally stopped laughing, he agreed to have the colonoscopy. The results showed that an early cancer was found and it was removed uneventfully, with a complete cure expected.

The primary care practitioner's role in delivering preventative care raises yet another issue that is very much on the mind of healthcare consumers—the high cost of healthcare. With many people having lost their insurance coverage or finding themselves with high-deductible policies, we are all looking for ways to spend our healthcare dollars effectively and wisely. A primary care physician can prove to be a valuable ally in achieving your goal for a number of reasons.

First of all, someone who has an overview of your health records and lab tests results is less likely to order unnecessary tests and procedures that might be ordered by a practitioner who doesn't know you. To cite one example, I saw a patient recently who had been having chest pains. Having read some magazine articles and done a search on the Internet, she decided she should see a cardiologist, who dutifully did an echocardiogram, followed by a stress test, and then a cardiac catheterization. After this last in-

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

According to a 2007 study, primary care physicians are closely identified with preventative and proactive health benefits.

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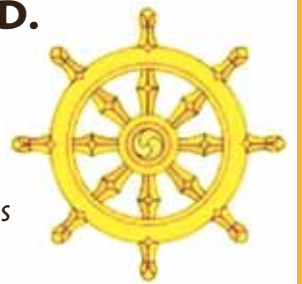
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**BODY, MIND & SPIRIT** continued

sive test, the cardiologist came by to see her with a big smile on his face: "Your heart is fine; it is not the cause of your pain." "But then what is causing my pain?" she asked. He replied, "I don't know, but you can be sure it is not your heart."

So she went to see her primary doc. After a detailed history and exam, I was convinced it was simply GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease). I prescribed appropriate medications and her problem was cured. Cost of the primary care work-up was about \$100. The cost of the cardiology workup was about \$20,000, not to mention her worry and discomfort!

Insofar as a primary care physician is able to address health issues as they come up, you have a better chance of not finding yourself in a hospital, where the cost of care, by comparison, is astronomical. This is especially true when it comes to emergency room visits. While emergency care has its place when there is a true medical emergency, those who resort to the emergency room when they have minor illnesses or injuries are misusing the facility, and paying dearly for it.

I saw a patient recently who also had some nagging chest pain. She went to the ER because, after speaking with her family at dinner, they convinced her that she should go, even though she had been feeling that way for weeks. In the ER, they did the usual poking and prodding, did EKGs, serial blood tests and finally a CAT scan to rule out blood clots. After seven hours, she was sent home with the assurance that "everything was fine" and she was given a bottle of pain pills. But she still had no clear understanding of what was going on inside of her.

She came to see me subsequently. After a history and an exam, it was clear that her chest pain was localized to the cartilage joining her ribs to her breast bone. She had costochondritis, probably caused by a virus, and felt much better after a few days' treatment with anti-inflammatories.

This case illustrates how turning to a primary care practitioner rather than the ER in the first instance might provide far more effective treatment. Indeed, recently studies estimate that between 27% and 56% of all visits to the emergency room are non-emergency visits; moreover, the costs of an ER visit were on average \$580 higher than an



office health care visit, and that doesn't include costly procedures and tests.

**H**uman beings are very complex, with many things that can go wrong. Our healthcare delivery system is also complex. In the midst of all this complexity, having a relationship with a trusted healthcare advisor who knows you will bring multiple benefits to you as a patient: peace of mind, better health, savings to your pocketbook. It is a relationship that could even save your life.

The primary care provider can be a family practitioner, internist, pediatrician, nurse practitioner or a physician assistant. Moreover, there are indeed times when integrative medicine and alternative therapies can turn out to be a better fit for someone, and they are equally effective routes. The important thing is not the provider's title, but the relationship that has been built up over time. In the process of that relationship, you will learn more about yourself, your health, and what medical services are appropriate—in a word, you will become a more informed and wise consumer.


The leading physician of the 12th century was Maimonides, who sagely declared: "Live sensibly. Of a thousand people, only one dies a natural death. All the rest succumb to irrational modes of living." Be sensible. ☼

*Those who resort to the emergency room when they have minor illnesses or injuries are misusing the facility, and paying dearly for it.*

*Dr. James Skee is a board-certified internist at Silver Health CARE, who sees patients at the Silver City, Deming and Bayard locations. For appointments, call (575) 538-298, and in Deming, (575) 544-4422. Cindy Donatelli is in charge of advertising and marketing at Silver Health CARE.*




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## What CAN You Eat?

If you have food allergies or intolerances, it's time to get creative.

Last month we looked at various digestive issues, information about food intolerances, some preventive measures and general guidelines ("Reinventing Your Diet," May). Now, down to the dirt: What CAN you eat?

It can seem daunting, but think back to earlier times when there was not so much fast, processed food available. People ate real food, and they cooked. Cooking is an engaging avocation. Witness the plethora of food shows on cable TV. Ethnic cuisines are a good place to start, because most countries haven't bastardized their food system the way the US has, so indigenous foods are still mainstream, and—no surprise—they are generally healthier than we are. (Unless, that is, we have introduced our agricultural methods and "surplus" food into their culture.)

Anyway, as Roseanne Rosannadanna would say, if it's not one thing it's another. Which is pretty much the story when figuring out what works for you. If there's one thing I've discovered in 40 years of nutritional pursuits (starting with macrobiotics in 1971), everyone is truly different. Genetically. What works for one person does not necessarily work for another. So, it's worth checking out what other people have discovered and seeing if it fits you. It may not.

Let's start with dairy intolerance. It helps to know if the problem is lactose, the milk sugar, or casein, the milk protein. If it's the former, you are lacking lactase, which is available in pill form and can be taken just before ingesting the dairy product. I tend to think that if the body doesn't want it, however, trying to fool it might not be a good idea. If the problem is casein, then you can not only not digest cow's milk, but other mammal milk products as well (goat and sheep, buffalo).

In any case, this problem is the simplest to deal with because there are so many wonderful alternatives, in the forms of milk, creamer, yogurt, ice cream, cream cheese, sour cream, cheese and margarine. Because most soy is GM (genetically modified), buying organic is safest. The watchword here is whey, which is a byproduct of cow's milk cheese production, and is used widely in the food industry. You have to READ LABELS.

Next, gluten, the protein in wheat that makes it elastic and makes wheat bread so desirable. There is another protein, gliadin, a component of gluten, which is often problematic, and the disappointment here is that oats, which so many people eat for breakfast, contain gliadin, though not gluten. So you have to try it, or get a blood test to see if you are sensitive to it. With regard to tests for food allergies, however, I have to point out that they are not always reliable.

So, what can the gluten-intolerant person eat? Not wheat, rye, barley, pumpernickel, and perhaps not the ancient forms of wheat such as spelt, faro, emmer, einkorn, durum. Gluten is a stabilizer, and is therefore found in processed foods such as imitation meats, ketchup, ice cream, mustard, soups and sauces, salad dressings, soy sauce, malt, candy and lots more.

Alternatives to gluten are becoming widely available, but usually are heavy on added starches such as tapioca, corn, rice and potato. If you have starch sensitivity (next topic), beware. I have



If you can't tolerate gluten, buy gluten-free flours and bake your own products—even bread.

found that it's better to buy the gluten-free flours and bake for myself. Rice flour is usually the base, and other flours such as sorghum, oat if you can do oats, quinoa, amaranth and millet can be added. Xanthan gum is the binding agent in lieu of gluten. There are some great ready-made products that are nut and seed based. And you can create some fabulous things without wheat, like cheesecake, muffins, cookies, even crackers!

That is, unless you have the next biggie: inability to digest starches. Well, specific starches, namely polysaccharides. Our bodies run on glucose, which is a monosaccharide. In fact, the digestion process breaks apart polysaccharides into glucose—if it is working properly. But some people have a condition that involves imbalance of microbes in the gut, and resulting excess mucus, which blocks that process. So the complex carbohydrates (polysaccharides) do not get broken apart, but remain in the digestive tract creating holy havoc. Further, the walls of

the intestinal tract are usually damaged (the villi that absorb nutrients get worn) so that even the monosaccharides are not well assimilated. The fix is to avoid all polysaccharides until the gut is well healed.

What does that mean? All grains, beans (including soy products), corn, all sugars except honey, most dairy products, potatoes, and many hidden sources such as processed foods, seaweed, stevia, baking powder and cocoa (damn). What is allowed: meat, poultry and fish, most vegetables (not canned), fruit (fresh or frozen), eggs, homemade

**BODY, MIND & SPIRIT** continued on next page

It's worth checking out what other people have discovered and seeing if it fits you. It may not.

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**BODY, MIND & SPIRIT** continued

yogurt, nuts, honey. That's a lot to work with, and one can eat very well from this list. In addition, here's a great opportunity to break the sugar addiction and probably lose some weight.

If you've tried everything and are still having problems, I suggest checking out the Specific Carbohydrate Diet. Search for it on the web and you'll get the official website of the woman who developed it. Actually, the condition and remedy have been around for quite a while and are well-documented in the medical world, but this person brought it to light again, and updated it.

**O**ne final thought: genetically modified foods (GMs) are widespread and may have inundated the food chain. Almost all soy and corn are GM. Lots of other crops are right behind them. The problem is that either we eat the food directly, or animals are fed it and we eat the animals, and it appears that these organisms affect the normal microbial environment in the gut. It is hard to get good data because the molecules are hard to track, and because opposition research is suppressed. But remember that a large part of our immune system originates in the gut, so many of the apparent food allergies, which are often an immune-system response to suspected proteins and sugars, may be, in fact, GM-related. The answer at this point is to buy organic, and grow your own.

So, how to make this fun? Start gardening to grow some of your own beautiful vegetables. Then you'll want to eat them! Go to the farmers' market regularly. Have dinner parties where the participants all understand the underlying dietary guidelines. Dry wine (no residual sugar left from



If you can't digest starches, you'll have to skip potatoes.

the fermentation process) is allowed! Catch a food show on TV now and then—some of them are fascinating, especially the food science-related and ethnically oriented ones. Flip through some colorful cookbooks for ideas. You might have to make modifications, and that's the creative part.

Finally, if you're just not into it, work with someone who can help you map out what you can eat, take you shopping and provide a running dialog of the foods you encounter, and then teach you to cook, or cook for you regularly. Yours truly does all that.

If you have questions or comments, I'd like to hear from you. ✨

*Samaya Jones is a natural foods private chef in Silver City, specializing in restricted diets, who can help meal plan, shop and teach; cook for you in your home; and lead structured wine tastings. She has a background in nutritional science, has written for websites and newspapers, has a degree in wine from Napa Valley College and taught wine education classes. Catch her new radio show, "All About Food," on KOOT 88.1 FM on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. She can be reached at ncsamayaj@gmail.com.*

**BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • EARTHTALK**

## Air Assaults

Airborne dangers from air fresheners and drifting pesticides.

**D**ear EarthTalk: I've heard that many air fresheners contain toxic chemicals. Are there any green-friendly, non-toxic air fresheners out there, or how can I make my own?

**I**t is true that some air fresheners on the market today make use of harsh chemicals to eliminate or overpower odors. "Many air fresheners contain nerve-deadening chemicals that coat your nasal passages and temporarily block your sense of smell," reports *National Geographic's The Green Guide*. Some of the most offensive ingredients—volatile organic compounds (VOCs), benzene and formaldehyde—can cause headaches and nausea and aggravate asthma, and have been linked to neurological damage and cancer.

Perhaps even more worrisome, though, are dispersants known as phthalates that cause hormonal and reproductive issues, birth defects and developmental disorders. A 2007 review by the non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) found that 12 out of 14 widely available air fresheners contained phthalates. Some of the air fresheners that tested positive for phthalates were labeled as "all-natural" or "unscented." Two of the worst offenders analyzed by NRDC were sold at Walgreens stores under that company's own generic label. As a result, Walgreens removed the products from its shelves, and the manufacturer that made them reformulated their product line without phthalates.

Given such problems with air fresheners, many of us are looking for non-toxic alternatives. Of course, first and foremost would be opening a window or two, as nothing beats good old fresh air for shooing away offensive odors. But sometimes the weather doesn't cooperate for leaving windows and doors open. The website greenhome.com suggests filling a small spray bottle with a mixture of four teaspoons baking soda and four cups of water and then spraying the solution in a fine mist to



Many air fresheners use harsh chemicals to eliminate or overpower odors or coat your nasal passages to temporarily block your sense of smell. But there are nontoxic alternatives, including make-your-own concoctions, indoor plants and simply opening the windows and letting fresh air in. (Photo: iStock/Thinkstock)

neutralize odors. Similarly, The Green Guide suggests mixing a few drops of an organic essential oil (lemon, orange and lavender are popular choices) with distilled or purified water and spraying with a mister.

Another all-natural way to get rid of nasty





Pesticide drift is an insidious threat to human health as well as to wildlife and ecosystems in and around agricultural and even residential areas where harsh chemicals are used to ward off pests. Children are especially vulnerable. (Photo: iStock/Thinkstock)

smells is by wrapping cloves and cinnamon in cheesecloth and boiling them in water. Yet another consists of leaving herbal bouquets standing in open dishes where the fragrance can dissipate throughout a room. And don't underestimate the air-cleansing power of houseplants, which can improve indoor air quality by filtering toxins out of the air. Mother Nature Network reports that aloe vera plants can filter benzene and formaldehyde out of the air, that spider plants are known for their ability to take xylene and carbon monoxide out of the indoor environment, and that gerbera daisies excel at removing the trichloroethylene that may come home with your dry cleaning.

Greenhome.com also sells a variety of non-toxic air fresheners for those less inclined to making their own. EcoDiscoveries AirZyme makes use of natural enzymes to eliminate smoke, pet or other smells with a few sprays. Other options include The Natural's Air Freshener & Deodorizer and Tru Melange's Beeswax and Soy candles.

**CONTACTS:** The Green Guide, <http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/green-guide/>; Greenhome.com, [www.greenhome.com/](http://www.greenhome.com/); Mother Nature Network, [www.mnn.com/](http://www.mnn.com/).

**Dear EarthTalk:** What is "pesticide drift" and should I be worried about it?

If you live near a big farm or an otherwise frequently manicured landscape, "pesticide drift"—drifting spray and dust from pesticide applications—could be an issue for you and yours. Indeed, pesticide drift is an insidious threat to human health as well as to wildlife and ecosystems in and around agricultural and even residential areas where harsh chemicals are used to ward off pests. The biggest risk from pesticide drift is to those living, working or attending school near larger farms that employ elevated spraying equipment or crop-

duster planes to apply chemicals to crops and fields. Children are especially vulnerable to these airborne pesticides, given that their young bodies are still growing and developing.

"When pesticides are sprayed they can drift and settle on playgrounds, porches, laundry, toys, pools, furniture and more," reports the non-profit Pesticide Action Network (PAN). "Some of the most toxic pesticides in use in the US today are also the most drift prone, and yet this common route of exposure remains largely invisible.

"Even the most careful, responsible pesticide sprayer cannot control what happens to pesticide droplets once they are released from his plane or tractor," the group adds. "And when conditions are right, these droplets can end up settling on someone's yard, on another farmer's crops, or on the skin of someone who happens to be at the wrong place at the wrong time."

PAN cites research showing that upwards of 95% of applied pesticides miss their target, reaching nearby people and wildlife, waterways, soil and air instead. Besides this "spray drift," PAN also warns of so-called "volatilization drift"—whereby pesticides evaporate into the air off of crops or out of the soil for up to several days following an application.

Thanks in large part to advocacy by PAN and other groups, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made strides in protecting more of us against pesticide drift. In late 2009 the agency rolled out new guidelines directing pesticide manufacturers to include labeling on their products indicating how to minimize off-target spray and dust drift. Any spray pesticides manufactured or labeled as of January 2012 and for sale in the US must display the warning on its label: "Do not apply this product in a manner that results in spray (or dust) drift that harms people or any other non-target organisms or sites."

The EPA is also conducting and monitoring new research on the science of pesticide drift to better understand how it works so regulations can be tailored to mitigate its impact. The agency's Drift Reduction Technology Project is working with three leading universities to test a wide range of nozzles, hoods, shields and other aids to minimize drift during ground and aerial applications of pesticides.

Even though spray pesticides are now labeled and 28 states (including New Mexico) have drift spray regulations on their books, pesticide drift

**BODY, MIND & SPIRIT** continued on next page

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For more information, call the Grant County Community Health Council at (575) 388-1198 ext. 10



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**BODY, MIND & SPIRIT** continued

www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/spraydrift.htm. ☼

continues to be a problem wherever crops are grown. If pesticide drift is an issue where you live, work, study or play, contact PAN. The group can send out a "Drift Catcher"—a device that collects air samples which can then be analyzed for pesticides. "It enables farmworkers and community members to document and draw attention to otherwise invisible chemical exposures," says PAN.  
**CONTACTS:** PAN, www.panna.org; EPA,

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**BODY, MIND & SPIRIT**  
**Grant County Weekly Events**  
 Support groups, classes and more.

**Sundays**  
**AL-ANON HEALING GROUP**—4 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Art, 313-9400.  
**ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY**—First Sun. of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.  
**BEAD SOCIETY**—1 p.m. Alotta Gelato 388-1362.  
**BINGO**—1st and 2d Sun. Doors open 12:30 p.m., games start 1:35 p.m. Benefits Salvation Army and Post 18 charities. American Legion Post 18, 409 W. College Ave. 534-0780  
**GENTLE YOGA**—5:30-7 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.  
**HOLISTIC PRESENTATIONS**—11 a.m. PeaceMeal Coop Deli. 534-9703  
**PRAYER AND STUDY IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION**—Sunset. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.  
**RESTORATIVE YOGA**—4-5:30 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.

**GROUP**—1st Tues. 6 p.m. Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180 E. (next to Ace). 388-1198 ext. 10.  
**REIKI CIRCLE**—First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. 2035 Little Walnut. Treatment for those in need of healing. Vicki, 388-8114, or Virginia, 388-4870.  
**RESTORATIVE YOGA**—10-11:30 a.m., 5:30-7 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.  
**SLOW FLOW YOGA**—11:30 a.m. 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.  
**SOCIAL SERVICES**—Noon. Red Barn, 707 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-5666.  
**TEA PARTY PATRIOTS**—2nd and 4th Thur. 6 p.m. Red Barn Steakhouse, 708 Silver Heights Blvd. 388-4143..  
**Wednesdays**  
**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. 536-2953.  
**FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS**  
**WOMEN'S GROUP**—6:30 p.m. 1000 N Hudson St., 519-1070.  
**GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**—2nd Weds. Potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sen. Howie Morales' building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180.  
**GROUP MEDITATION**—5:30 p.m., A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St. 388-2425.  
**LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION**—8 a.m. tee time. Silver City Golf Course.  
**PFLAG**—(Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) 1st Weds. 5:30 p.m. Wellness Coalition, 509 N. Bullard. 590-8797.  
**PING PONG**—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.  
**PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**—3rd Weds. 6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.  
**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF GRANT COUNTY**—Third Weds. 6 p.m. Red Barn.  
**TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP**—3:30-5 p.m. All-Purpose Room, Billy Casper Wellness Center, Hudson St. & Hwy. 180. James, 537-2429, or Danita, 534-9057.

**HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOURISM MEETING**—Second Thurs. 10 a.m. Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.  
**KUNDALINI YOGA**—5:30 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.  
**MOUNTAIN DULCIMER JAM**—6:15 p.m., Public Library.  
**PROGRESSIVE PILATES**—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.  
**TOPS**—5 p.m. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.  
**VINO Y VINYASA (WINE AND YOGA)**—6:30 p.m. La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery, off Hwy. 61, turn on Royal John Mine Road, then left on DeLaO Road. (206) 940-1502, www.laesperanzavineyardandwinery.com.  
**VINYASA YOGA**—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.  
**YOGA CLASS**—Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, 7th and Texas.  
**Fridays**  
**KUNDALINI YOGA**—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.  
**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS**—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center conference room. 313-9400.  
**SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB**—2d Fri., 10 a.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-9326.  
**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.

**Mondays**  
**A COURSE IN MIRACLES**—6:30 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.  
**AARP CHAPTER #1496**—Third Monday, 12:30 p.m. Senior Center, 205 W. Victoria. Contact Marcia Fisch, 388-1298  
**AARP WIDOWED PERSONS**—Second Mondays. 11 a.m. Glad Tidings Church. Contact Donna, 538-9344.  
**AL-ANON**—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.  
**KUNDALINI YOGA**—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.  
**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.

**Tuesdays**  
**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**—Men's group, 7 a.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall. 3845 N. Swan. Jerry, 534-4866.  
**BAYARD HISTORIC MINE TOUR**—2nd Tuesday. Meet at Bayard City Hall, 800 Central Ave., by 9:30 a.m. \$5 fee covers two-hour bus tour of historic mines plus literature and map; call 537-3327 for reservation.  
**COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**—4th Tuesday. 6:30 p.m. Support for those who've lost a child. Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 7th and Texas St. Charlene Mitchell, 313-7362.  
**FIGURE/MODEL DRAWING**—4-6 p.m. Contact Sam, 388-5583.  
**GILA WRITERS**—6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. Trish Heck, pheck@grmc.org, 538-4072.  
**INTERBODY YOGA**—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.  
**KIWANIS CLUB**—Noon. Red Barn, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 590-0540.  
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**Saturdays**  
**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BEGINNERS**—6 p.m. Lions Club, 8th & Bullard (entrance at Big Ditch behind Domino's). Newcomers and seasoned members welcome.  
**BEGINNING SALSA**—7-8 p.m. Javalina's. Instructor Gail Willow, 388-3332.  
**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., Bike-works, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 590-2166.  
**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**—6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.  
**SADHANA MORNING PRAYER, MEDITATION, YOGA**—Last Sat. 5-7 a.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.  
**SPINNING GROUP**—1st Sat., 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.  
**VINYASA FLOW YOGA**—10 a.m. All levels. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425. ☼

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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

# Horse Sense

Learning about life... from your horse.

We spend most of our time with our horses trying to teach them what we want them to do—stop, be safe, don't spook, be calm with the grandkids. If you're a competitor, you may add lessons in how to run the barrels, work a cow, or ride a dressage pattern. It's a one-way relationship where we are always teaching and expect them to always be listening and learning.

Given this crazy world we live in, where it's virtually impossible to predict what the next day will bring, maybe it's time to take a breath and let our horses teach us a few things.

You are probably aware of the incredible things horses are doing in therapeutic riding programs, helping returning vets with the emotional and physical scars of war work their way back to improved levels of confidence and self-esteem. In these same programs, horses help children challenged by physical and mental issues gain the positive energy necessary to face the lives in front of them.

You may not know as much about the contributions horses are making in Equine Assisted Therapy programs, where they play an integral part in helping couples, individuals and even groups deal with emotional conflicts that can influence or destroy lives. In some enlightened areas of the country, counselors will even write prescriptions for equine programs that might help a person work through a troubling event or issue.

There are even some interesting programs out there where horses help corporate leaders and executives learn to communicate better with their employees or customers, or to develop better problem-solving techniques to keep a company or organization thriving.

If horses are capable of giving this much back to us, maybe it is time for us to start looking to them a bit more for valuable input to our own lives. Let the horse sit at the head of the class for once, passing along the practical knowledge gained from millions of years of experience.

What has my horse taught me, and what does he continue to teach me every day?

**Patience**—This may not seem like much of a virtue these days given the drive for immediate solutions for everything, but I think we'd all do better if we had a bit more of it. When I started working with horses, I was a consultant and managing partner of a small firm in the Bay Area, with a lifestyle to match. I had clients all over the US and overseas as well, and was always on the go, stuck in traffic, running through airports, going to meetings and pretty much on call 24/7. People used to ask me how I stayed so calm and even tempered with all the stress, and I had one simple answer—my horse. I realized early on that working with a horse required you to slow down and put everything else aside for the time when you were with your horse. I also saw that you needed to learn a different language, be far more observant of little things, and be able to work at the pace of another living thing to get anywhere. To me, it is no coincidence that the most productive years I ever had in business came after horses came into my life.

**Collaborative problem solving**—It is impossible to get through life every day without the help and guidance of someone else. Two heads usually are better than one, especially when another point of view or more extensive experience can help solve the problem. I took this same path with horses, feeling that developing a horse to its highest level of physical and mental capabilities, and to the greatest level of safety, requires you and your horse to work together—and that his point of view and needs are equal to yours. He knows how he sees the world and how he would solve a problem if you weren't there, and he knows how his body works, so things get done a lot faster and with more permanence when he is involved in the process. Think about this the next time you're trying to get something done with your employees, your volunteer organization, or even your mate or family.

**Focus on and praise the behaviors you want, don't dwell on the negative ones**—I can't

count the number of times I've heard a story about the kid who comes home with a report card with three A's and a B, and the parents focus on the B rather than praising the A's. Same in business—"this was a good thing you did, but you should have also done that." The same thing happens with horses. If you want your horse (or human) to consistently exhibit a desired behavior, you need to recognize and praise that behavior. Don't dwell on the fact it took 10 steps to get there, and maybe he bucked a bit on the way, but stop everything and praise him excessively for the last step that was perfect. I'm not talking about false praise or recognition just for the sake of giving it, but making sure when there is obvious success and effort that it is clear to horse and human alike.

**Living in the moment**—I think if there was one thing I learned immediately with horses, it was that when you are with them you need to be 100% there and focused on them—if not, you literally could get killed. I was amazed at the number of injuries and wrecks I saw because the human took a call or was gabbing with a friend or simply daydreaming about something else, and didn't see a dangerous situation developing. I found this need to be centered and focused very relaxing and calming. No worrying about the future or moaning about the past, just living here and now for your horse for a few hours. I think most people would admit they exert far too much energy thinking and worrying about things beyond their control, at the expense of enjoying the moments right now. Watch your horse and let him teach you about living in the moment—that's all that matters to him.

**Setting boundaries**—A lot of current political rhetoric seems to indicate that we should all be able to do whatever we want, whenever we want to. Interesting thought, but society or businesses could never work like that. I believe most of us need to know there are some boundaries and some rules that you can rely on and that will be consistent. This is certainly a challenge for parents—how do you set boundaries, how firm should they be, what should the consequences be for ignoring them, etc. This may be one of the most valuable lessons we can learn from a horse. The safest, most reliable and most responsive horses are those that know what and where the boundaries are. It goes to their most basic need of living in a herd—how to get along to belong. Boundaries make them feel safe and secure, and this allows them to grow and develop. Maybe we need that, too.

**Clear communication**—Maybe it is just that we're in a major election year, but I get really tired sometimes about the "gray" world we live in. Rarely does anyone say what they really think about something. I think parents and kids, bosses and staff, teachers and politicians are all so worried about saying the wrong thing that it becomes impossible to clearly communicate things that need to be said and understood. This isn't the way it is in the horse's world. Things are or they aren't; there is no room for maybes or mights. For a prey animal that relies on flight for survival, clarity is all important. It is no coincidence that the best owners or trainers are the ones who use clear, consistent and precise communication in the horse's language, making it easy for the horse to understand what is being asked and to respond based on that understanding, not on fear, confusion or intimidation.

Next time you're with your horse, pay a bit more attention to what he is saying and doing—then take that home and try to apply it to your life. I've never found a better teacher or advisor. 🌿

*Scott Thomson lives in Silver City and teaches natural horsemanship. He can be reached with comments or questions at [hsthomson@msn.com](mailto:hsthomson@msn.com) or (575) 388-1830.*



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## Camping Trip

An excursion to Snow Lake.

For as long as I can remember, I've had people share with me about the beauty of the area around Snow Lake in Catron County on the border of the Gila Wilderness. The opportunity came for me to find out for myself when I was invited to be one of the chaperones for our church youth group's annual hunting and fishing trip to the lake.

Since it was to be quite a drive along some rough and dirty roads, I opted to leave my camper at home and use a tent. The price of gas helped give me incentive to do such since my gas mileage is reduced by about 40% when I'm pulling a trailer.

It has been six years since I have tent camped; I had to choose between the three varieties that I owned. The smallest was a 40-year-old job from the 1970s, a one-man nylon contraption without a fly. It is great for backpacking or an overnigher, but it tends to sweat on the inside a lot and I usually wake up somewhat moist, along with any gear stored inside.

My second tent is a rather large affair, a dome-style two-room abode also made of nylon and with a fly. I have used it twice for past hunting trips and I like it a lot, but the dang thing is so huge that it is hard to put up by myself, and I preferred to be self-sufficient in front of the youth.

The third tent is also a dome and of nylon and with a fly and it is supposed to be for three adults. I rather doubt that, though, unless each was three feet tall and weighed 60 pounds or so. Even two men would be a tight and way too intimate affair, but it would be great for just me and still have room for some extra gear. The gear consisted of a double-wide sleeping bag of 1960s vintage, but still in excellent condition. The Coleman would afford me the opportunity to toss and turn at leisure.

Along with it, I took a duffle bag in which I had a pillow and an old comforter, no longer fit for our bedroom but just fine for me to camp with! I also brought a very small table, an electric lantern, an alarm clock, a small cooler, a gallon of water and my duffle bag with clothes and other gear.

It all fit rather nicely inside. The only drawback was that the setup didn't allow me to stand erect; I would have to change clothes on my knees. Avoiding that is the reason I went to the two-room tent in the first place! But it would do for two nights.

I folded the comforter in half on top of the bag and used three safety pins to secure it to the bag so it wouldn't slip off as I tossed to and fro. Been there, done that.

After assembling all the gear and depositing it in the truck, I made a phone call to the Glenwood ranger station to find out if the shortcut from Mogollon to Snow Lake (the Bursum Road) was open. She told me that it wasn't; it had six inches of ice and many blown-down trees across the pathway. If it had been open, it would have saved me an hour and a half traveling time, 70 miles and about a half a tank of gas!

Now I had to drive the long way, up to the town of Reserve, then back southeast again, a distance of about 50 miles from Reserve. (The way from Mogollon is 40 miles).

I had been on this road once about 15 years ago while hunting, and at that time it was all improved dirt. Now I found that the first 22 miles are a crude blacktop with a whole bunch of potholes. The last 28 miles were gravel, and not bad, but there were a myriad of rocks and stones on the surface; one has to drive somewhat slowly to avoid the stones and not get a flat. My advice: Don't go faster than 20 mph and make sure your tires have excellent tread! Also I would advise you to take two spares with good tread.

A friend who went along in his own vehicle got a flat, shredded the tire, and had to drive on eggshells the entire time for fear of getting another flat.

Because of the lack of moisture for a very long time, it was also quite dusty, which precluded keeping the windows down.

If you're traveling the speed limit, from Silver City it's two hours to get to Reserve, then two more to Snow Lake.

Upon arrival at our destination, I was shocked to see the level of the lake was down to about 30% capacity due to the drought. That low level made for some great fishing, with the youth catching rainbow trout of about nine inches or so.

I was also surprised that there were a heck of a lot of folks visiting the area; I saw two other parties from Silver City, and in the campground proper were at least five other camps. I also encountered many people on the various roads and two-track trails—odd, I thought, for the first weekend in May.

Even though I struggled remembering how to erect the tent and trying not look like an idiot (I hadn't used the contraption in over seven years), I still managed to get it up in under 30 minutes and have the gear inside, too.

That next morning in the predawn I was certainly glad that I had brought the "big bag" and comforter; it was downright frigid! My truck thermometer registered 24 degrees on Saturday morning and 23 degrees on Sunday morning. I wore sweatpants, too, but neglected to bring headgear, which would have kept my ears warm. I had a hoodie but never thought to use it to sleep in; the boy I was mentoring had thought to sleep in his and his head stayed warm, he told me.

Even though the surrounding areas of the mountains were quite dry and brown, it was still beautiful. There are lots of hiking trails everywhere, and two-track roads to explore by foot or ATV, and with the lake so low, fishing is excellent.

You can use a small rowboat or canoe on the lake, but the upper boat ramp is now about 40 yards from the water's edge. The lower ramp still meets the water.

The campground is very nice and clean, with many campsites that have concrete picnic tables and steel fire grills and/or pits. The campsites are far enough apart to give a modicum of privacy.

Firewood is scarce, but if you drive three miles to the Bear Wallow Burn, you can retrieve all the wood you need. Remember that you want oak or juniper for cooking, and not pine! Use the pine for campfires to sit around.

There are modern, primitive outhouses that are clean and well maintained. But when we were there, all of the hand-pump water wells were shut off, so I'd advise you to take water as we did.

On Saturday, we found out that the Bursum Road had been re-opened completely on Friday night, so we all opted to take it home. I named it the "road from Hell." It was freshly graded but the surface was scattered with rocks and stones able to puncture even really good tires. I drove no faster than 15 mph the entire way.

The last half of the way, the road was covered in a fine, gray, talcum-like powder, probably caliche, which choked and permeated everything. I drove with the windows up tight yet the dust infiltrated the entire interior, coating it with a fine layer. It was slightly gritty, too.

Once past the town of Mogollon the road is paved, but it is a narrow, curvy road where two vehicles meeting may not get past each other in most spots. There were many blind curves, too, to make the trip interesting.

If I go to Snow Lake again, I will take the long way and breathe much easier, and just allow for the other inconveniences.

All in all, though, it was a pleasant experience and I'm glad I did it. If you've never been to Snow Lake, you need to try it once. Plan for no less than two days, and three would be about just right.

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 in Silver  
City.*





HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • HENRY LIGHTCAP

## Giving Dad His Due

A thoughtful belch in honor of Father's Day.

In the pantheon of venerated national holidays, few hold as much gravitas as Father's Day. Slotting in somewhere between Groundhog Day and National Dyspeptic Ulcer Awareness Day, Father's Day is nearly as sacrosanct as Mother's Day, just without all the pomp and subservient attitudes. As a father of 18 years myself, I cannot tell you how much I am looking forward to another shaving mug or tie-dye "#1 Dad" T-shirt to confirm my importance to the child-rearing process. Of course, a father doesn't need material things from his children as testament to his parental efficacy, but—well, actually, maybe we do. In which case, you ingrates better step up your game this year.

The role of a father is complex and often overlooked because the mother steals the limelight by enduring nine months of painful discomfort and disgorging something the size of a microwave oven. The entire gestation and whelping process is all about the mother, which is fine since men don't like attending baby showers anyway. Once the child is born, the role of father becomes absolutely vital: We must learn to prepare Hamburger Helper, lovingly wake the mother up when the baby's crying, and act like we don't notice when the diaper is overflowing. At this critical time, the presence of a father is as important to the baby's development as, say, a stapler. Fathers serve no purpose for the child other than a transport mechanism to convey them to the milk machine.

After the first year or so, the baby begins to bond in a more meaningful way with the father. This stage is also known as "teething," when the baby screams for hours on end for no reason other than to drive the mother out of the house to have lunch with her girlfriends while daddy does "his share" and stays with the caterwauling organism. This is a special time when children first connect with their fathers, as they are greatly amused by his red face, bulging eyes and penchant for alcohol.

It gets better when they start talking, so you can tell them to be quiet. At this point, a father really begins to shine: Sons are secretly taught the manly art of peeing outside, and girls teach daddy the feminine art of playing with Barbie. Fathers love to take kids to animated movies in dark theaters where dads can nap, a special memory that children will cherish forever. From teaching them how to play video games to shooting a BB gun, a father's guidance is appreciated.

It's not all fun and games, however: Sometimes, a father has to be stern. Children must be properly taught on how to bring a beer from the cooler without shaking it up. They must always show respect

for their elders, even the stupid ones. A proper emphasis on homework and the importance of chores is not only invaluable to character building, but it lets a father retain possession of the remote control longer.

Despite all of the invaluable inspiration a father can provide, the day will come when the child leaves home. This can be a melancholy time, when a father becomes emotional and feels himself getting choked up. Once he repurposes the kid's bedroom into a home theater with big-screen wonderfulness and surround sound, the moment passes and fathers can luxuriate in the freedom of being able to watch TV in their underwear again. The mother might insist on having the kid over for dinner or—worse yet—go visit them

out of town, but a loving father will realize that the child needs his or her space.

Given all that we fathers do, it would behoove society as a whole to revisit the importance of Father's Day. When Mother's Day rolls around, all of civilization falls over itself to pay tribute with flowers and candies and special meals and little greeting cards that play music when they are opened. Restaurants are booked solid, and street vendors sprout up on every corner selling detritus like stuffed bears,

chocolate flowers and helium balloons in whimsical shapes. Telephone circuits are overloaded with simpering children reaching out to reconnect with their dear mothers.

Yet, Father's Day suffers no such excessiveness. Homer Simpson boxer shorts and Charles Bronson DVDs don't convey affection as clearly as the caliber of bounty the mother receives. And there isn't a father alive who ever said, "I wish I had another paperweight made out of a painted rock."

Speaking as a dad, there are two approaches to ideal Father's Day gestures: The first would be a ride to the strip club in a monster truck with a bed full of twenties, Chuck Norris as your wing man, and bacon frying on the engine. For me, the second, more preferable option would be sitting on the porch, watching the sun set and just talking to my own dad and my kids, sharing a glass of iced tea and telling stories about growing up and raising kids. 🍷

*Henry Lightcap will be rendezvousing with Chuck Norris in Las Cruces. Bring bacon.*



*The role of a father is complex and often overlooked because the mother steals the limelight by enduring nine months of painful discomfort and disgorging something the size of a microwave oven.*

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# Red or Green?

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**R**ed 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.desert-exposure.com](http://www.desert-exposure.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](mailto: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.desert-exposure.com](http://www.desert-exposure.com). Bon appétit!

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**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, Cajun catfish, seared Ahi tuna, authentic Greek gyros, and pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven and featuring a wide range of innovative toppings." (November 2010) Barbecue, pizza, gyros, pasta: Tues.-Fri. D. Sat.-Sun. L D. Italian nights Weds., Sat.\*

**BRYAN'S PIT BARBECUE**, Mimbres Valley Self Storage and RV Park, (660) 247-3151 or (660) 247-3160. "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

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**CHINESE PALACE**, 1010 Highway 180E, 538-9300. Chinese: Mon.-Fri. L D.

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

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

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

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**LA MEXICANA**, Hwy. 180E and Memory Lane, 534-0142. Mexican and American: B L.  
**LION'S DEN**, 208 W. Yankie, 654-0353. Coffeeshop.  
**MARGO'S BAKERY CAFÉ**, 300 S. Bullard St., 597-0012. Made-from-scratch traditional and specialty breads, pastries and other baked goods, savory and fruit empanadas, quiches. (November 2011) Bakery: Wed.-Sat. B L.\*  
**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.\*  
**MI CASITA**, 2340 Bosworth Dr., 538-5533. New Mexican cuisine: Mon.-Thurs. L, Fri. L D.  
**MILLIE'S BAKE HOUSE**, 215 W. Yankie, 597-2253. Soup, salads, sandwiches, baked goods.  
**NANCY'S SILVER CAFÉ**, 514 N. Bullard St., 388-3480. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.  
**OFF THE HOOK**, 1700 Mountain View Road, 534-1100. Country-style Southern cooking: B L D.\*  
**THE PARLOR AT DIANE'S**, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Beer and wine bar, sandwiches, light bites: Tues.-Sun. afternoons.  
**PEACE MEAL DELI**, The Hub, 6th and Bullard, 388-0106. Vegetarian: Mon.-Sat. L.\*  
**Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO**, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. American, steaks, barbecue: Mon.-Sat. L D.  
**RED BARN**, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5666. Steakhouse: L D.\*  
**SHEVEK & CO.**, 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168. "Shevek & Co. will take your taste buds on a culinary tour from Spain to Greece, with delicious destinations all along the Mediterranean in-between. The sheer ambition of the offerings is astonishing." (March 2009) Mediterranean: D, brunch on selected weekends.\*  
**SILVER BOWLING CENTER CAFÉ**, 2020 Memory Lane, 538-3612. American, Mexican, hamburgers: L D.\*  
**SUNRISE ESPRESSO**, 1530 N. Hudson, 388-2027. 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.\*  
**VICKI'S EATERY**, 315 N. Texas, 388-5430. "Serving hearty breakfasts, sandwiches both cold and grilled, wraps and salads that satisfy in a homey yet sophisticated way. Don't miss the German potato salad." (Dec. 2009) American: Mon.-Sat. B L Sun. B.\*  
**WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL**, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D.\*  
**YANKIE CREEK COFFEE HOUSE**, 112 W. Yankie St. Coffeeshop, coffee, home-made 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. "If you want to know how special a hot dog can be... these Sonora-style hot dogs are masterpieces that please the eye as well as the taste buds. First, the beef hot dogs are wrapped in bacon and grilled, then nestled into a special soft, ever-so-slightly sweet bun custom-made especially for Los Compas at a state-of-the-art bakery located in Palomas. The dogs are topped with beans,

melted cheese, guacamole, mustard, ketchup, grilled and raw onions, diced tomatoes, and then the whole thing is finished off with decorative squiggles of mayonnaise." (May 2012) Sonoran-style Mexican, hot dogs, portos, menudo: L D.  
**M & A BAYARD CAFÉ**, 1101 N. Central Ave., 537-2251. "A down-to-earth, friendly, unpretentious place—kind of a cross between a Mexican cantina and a 1950s home-style diner, serving tasty, no-frills Mexican and American food at reasonable prices." (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**  
**PARKEY'S**, 8414 Hwy. 180W, 535-4000. Coffeeshop: Mon.-Sat.  
**Hurley**  
**GATEWAY GRILL**, 2705 Hwy. 180E, 537-5001. "From Friday Steak Night to everyday American and Mexican food, worth hitting Hwy. 180 for." (December 2011) American and Mexican: Sun.-Thur. B L, Fri.-Sat. B L D.\*  
**Lake Roberts**  
**LITTLE TOAD CREEK INN & TAVERN**, 1122 Hwy. 35, 536-9649. See review next page. Steaks, sandwiches, American: Fri.-Sun. D, Sat.-Sun. brunch. Tavern with soups, sandwiches, Scotch eggs: B 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**  
**MIMBRES VALLEY CAFÉ**, 2964 Hwy. 35, 536-2857. Mexican, American, burgers: Mon.-Tues. B L, Wed.-Sun. B L D, with Japanese tempura Wed. D.  
**Pinos Altos**  
**BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE**, Main Street, 538-9911. "The Buck," as most locals affectionately call it, has a history of satisfying at the dinner plate with its long-favored menu including generous slabs of meat, hearty green chile stew with kick and 'honest pours' at the full bar." (December 2010) Steakhouse, pasta, burgers: Mon.-Sat. D.  
**DOÑA ANA COUNTY**  
**Las Cruces & Mesilla**  
**ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT**, 500 S. Main St. #434, 523-5911. American: Mon.-Fri. B L.  
**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, sushi: D.  
**BAAN THAI KITCHEN**, 1605 S. Salano Dr., 521-2630. Thai: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. L.  
**THE BEAN**, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 523-0560. Coffeeshop.  
**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.\*  
**BRAVO'S CAFÉ**, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: Tues.-Sun. B L.  
**BREAK AN EGG**, 201 S. Solano Dr., 647-3000. Breakfasts, burgers, salads, sandwiches: B L.  
**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. Coffeeshop, deli, pastries, soups, sandwiches: B L early D.  
**CATTLEMEN'S STEAKHOUSE**, 2375 Bataan Memorial Hwy., 382-9051. Steakhouse: D.  
**CHINESE KITCHEN**, 2801 Missouri #29, 521-3802. Chinese: 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. 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.  
**EMILIA'S**, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Burgers, Mexican, soup, sandwiches, pastry, juices, smoothies: L D.  
**FORK IN THE ROAD**, 202 N. Motel Blvd., 527-7400. Buffet: B L D 24 hrs.  
**FOX'S PIZZA DEN**, 1340 E. Lohman Ave., 521-3697. Pizza: L 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.\*  
**HOTEL ENCANTO**, 705 S. Telshor, 532-4277. Southwestern, Continental: B L D.\*  
**INTERNATIONAL DELIGHTS**, 1245 El Paseo Rd., 647-5956. Greek and International: B L D.  
**JAPANESE KITCHEN**, 141 Roadrunner Parkway, 521-3555. Japanese: L D.  
**JOSEPHINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ**, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. 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.  
**KIVA PATIO CAFÉ**, 600 E. Amador Ave., 527-8206. Mexican, Southwestern, American: B L D.  
**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



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DINING GUIDE continued on page B47



**Tre Rosat Café**

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## RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

# Rustic Gourmet

The new Little Toad Creek Inn and Tavern offers dinner, brunch, tavern food and, soon, its own beer and vodka.

There's a new restaurant in town—well, not actually IN town, and it's more than just a restaurant.

**Little Toad Creek Inn and Tavern** is located on the upper end of Hwy. 35, where it joins Hwy. 15—a scenic half-hour drive from Silver City. In its previous incarnations, the place has been known as Grey Feathers Lodge and the Breathe Inn. But those who have visited those restaurants in the past will hardly believe their eyes when they pull in now. The exteriors of both the restaurant building and the adjacent “bunkhouse” building have been totally and tastefully re-done, and I don't know of anyone who has caught a first view of the result without breathing a spontaneous “Wow!”

The restaurant is still located on the upper level of the main building, but it too has been beautifully remodeled in a simple yet classy style that reflects the character of the food being offered—a culinary style that executive chef Russell Mortensen says he and owners David Crosley and Teresa Dahl-Berdine have decided to call “rustic gourmet.”

It's a style that is 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.

Dinner is served from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. The menu ranges from “The Bourbon Cowboy” for \$29 (a 12-ounce ribeye steak served with bourbon maple demi-glace) to the “Sapillobella” for \$13 (a portabella mushroom stuffed with herbed goat cheese and sautéed spinach) and the “Vaquero,” also for \$13 (a New York strip steak sandwich served on a grilled baguette with caramelized onions and gorgonzola sauce).

The dinner menu also includes char-broiled New York strip steak in three sizes; chicken stuffed with green chile, cheddar and bacon; pork chops rubbed with spices and stuffed with grilled apples; and a “fish of the day” selection.

Brunch is served Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Options range from New Mexico-style biscuits and gravy (\$6.95) to chicken-fried steak with eggs and green chile sausage gravy (\$10.50). In between, price-wise, you'll find basic breakfast eggs with bacon or sausage, blintzes, “eggy” tacos, a daily frittata and house-smoked salmon on a whole-wheat bagel.

There's also a wide assortment of sandwiches available for brunch—all creative and pretty upscale, including “The Carvery” (\$8.95), with in-house roasted turkey, homemade cranberry chutney, herbed cream cheese and seasoned stuffing on a fresh baked baguette; the “Upstream” (\$8.95), with house-smoked salmon, caper cream cheese, caramelized red onion, crisp romaine and cucumber slices on toasted rye bread; and “The Cliff Dweller” (\$8.50), with a marinated grilled portabella mushroom, herbed goat cheese, spinach and roasted red bell peppers.

A variety of appetizers and salads are available for both brunch and dinner, as well as dessert options that include ginger crème brûlée, tiramisu, apple crumble and New York cheesecake.

Well, that's just the restaurant. On the ground floor of the main building, there is now a tavern open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The tavern features a “decently wide” selection of New Mexico beers, according to David Crosley, as well as a number of wines from La Esperanza Winery in the Mimbres Valley. There are also wines from Italy and California



Little Toad Creek Inn and Tavern owners David Crosley and Teresa Dahl-Berdine stand outside the tavern entrance on the ground floor of the main building. The restaurant is located in the floor above. The couple have completely renovated the exterior of this building and the adjacent “bunkhouse” building since purchasing the property in December. (Photo by Peggy Platonos)

available, and name-brand beers and lagers.

The food in the tavern includes soups, salads, sandwiches, wings and house-specialty Scotch eggs. Prices range from \$3.50 for a Scotch egg to \$8 for a prime rib sandwich. (Prime rib is also served in the restaurant all day on Sundays.)

For Teresa and David, all this is only the beginning. The couple's plans, in addition to their own wedding in September, include the establishment of a brewery and distillery on-site. They are currently in the process of procuring the necessary licenses, and hope to have everything in place by July.

“After that, we'd like to specialize in three brews, with an additional four specialty, seasonal brews,” David says. “It's amazing how many ways you can make beer, and each produces a slightly different flavor and character. And that's just the basic beer. You can then infuse beer with other flavors, as well. And that, to me, is going to be a lot of fun.”

Then there will be the distillery. “Once our licensing comes through, we'll be only the third distillery in New Mexico,” David says.

Vodka will be the first product they will be aiming to produce. “It's simply a matter of logistics,” he says. “Vodka takes only 10 days to produce, from grain to glass. We'll be making whiskey, too, but it has to spend three years in barrel before you can legally call it whiskey. And we'll be experimenting with gin.”

No tequila, however—“because blue agave, the only thing used to make tequila, is a protected species,” David explains, adding, “protected by guards with machine guns hired by private growers.”

The couple's plans also call for setting up an event center by the end of July, complete with lawn and pavilion, and completing renovation of the conference room in the main building by the beginning of July.

“We really just wanted to live out in this area, in this environment. Here, the idea is to have so many businesses in one place that kind of integrate and help each other keep alive,” Teresa says.

With their energy, enthusiasm, creativity and vision, it's hard to imagine David and Teresa will do anything other than succeed.

Incidentally, “Little Toad Creek” is simply the English translation of the name of the creek that runs by the property: Sapillo Creek.

For more information about Little Toad Creek Inn and Tavern, call (575) 536-9649. ☘

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



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**DINING GUIDE** continued

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.

**LEMONGRASS**, 2540 El Paseo Rd., 523-8778. Thai: Tues.-Fri. L D, Sat.-Mon. D.

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

**LORENZO'S**, 1750 Calle de Mercado, 525-3170. Italian, pizza: L D.

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

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

**LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 603 S. Nevarez 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.

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

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

**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. Coffeehouse, Mexican, American: B L.

**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 Missouri 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.\*

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

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

**PAISANO 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.

**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.

**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 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 kftedes and pork shawarma. Vegetarian options are numerous." (July 2010) Greek, Mediterranean: Mon.-Sat. L D.

**SARA'S PLACE**, 1750 N. Solano Dr., 523-2278. Mexican: B L.

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

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

**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.\*

**SMOKY DICK'S BBQ**, 2265 S. Main St., 541-5947. Barbecue: 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. 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

**DINING GUIDE** continued on next page

*Margo's Bakery Cafe*

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**June is Beef Month in New Mexico**  
The Copper CowBelles Support America's Farmers and Ranchers!

Ranchers are America's everyday environmentalists! They have a personal stake in the quality of their environment—so they are always looking for new ways to improve the air, water and land on and near their property. For the American families raising cattle, sustainability means ensuring that the land will provide for the next generation by focusing on the well-being of their animals and maintaining the natural resources on their land. Nearly 90% of U.S. cattle farms and ranches are family-owned and operated, with two-thirds of them in the same family for two or more generations. Farmers and ranchers take the same energy saving actions in their homes that

their town and city neighbors. Many beef producers embrace using alternative energy sources, including solar, wind and biofuels. U.S. beef producers' and farmers' livelihoods are closely connected to preserving a healthy, safe and clean environment for food production. Today's producers use fewer natural resources to create a more abundant and affordable supply of great-tasting, nutrient rich beef. The average American farmer feeds about 144 people worldwide.

For more information and a list of 40 different ways that raising cattle can contribute to environmental sustainability, go to [www.explorebeef.org](http://www.explorebeef.org).



**Grant County Copper CowBelles**  
Copper CowBelles are women of diverse interests!

- We work to educate the public on the beef industry from raising beef, getting it to the marketplace and to your dinner table. We stress the significance of smart eating, good nutrition and purchasing "quality beef."
- Copper CowBelles are committed to keeping the Western heritage alive and active in our community. Volunteerism is at the heart of the Copper CowBelles organization. We're involved in the Ranch Days at Alma, The Wild, Wild West Rodeo Parade in Silver City, and State and County Fairs. Other avenues of service include the "Choose Wisely" nutritional program in the classroom, Beef for the backpack school program, beef for high school culinary programs and donations to El Refugio. We assist local agriculture related students further their education with our annual scholarship program. The Copper CowBelles finance these activities with our annual Shindig dance and auction fundraiser (6/23/2012). Members of the Copper CowBelles are also members of the NM CowBelle organization and are interested in the welfare of the Beef industry and the conservation of the natural resources required for its continued viability. Become a CowBelle today! Membership for the local and state organization is \$25 per year. For more information go to [www.coppercowbelles.com](http://www.coppercowbelles.com).




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## Table Talk

As promised last month, Silver City favorite **Tre Rosat Café** will open in June at its new location, 304 N. Bullard St. in downtown.

Tina Klassen has opened **Millie's Bake House**, named for her grandmother, at 215 W. Yankee St. in Silver City. She'll be serving soups, sandwiches, salads and of course baked goods. Don't miss her special chocolate cupcake filled with chocolate whipped cream—a tipoff that Klassen was first inspired to open the bakery during this year's Chocolate Fantasia festival. 597-BAKE (-2253), millies-bakehouse@yahoo.com.

Las Cruces also has a new bakery, Kathy Hester's **BakeHouse**, specializing in traditional European sourdough bread baked in a wood-fired oven,

which you can now find at the Las Cruces Farmers Market. Hester uses a slow-rise method, allowing the final loaves to proof in a cool environment for an additional 12 hours after they are formed. The loaves are then baked early the following morning; from start to finish it can take between 24 to 30 hours to produce a loaf.

After extensive repairs and renovations, Don Fidencio Mexican restaurant in Silver City will reopen as **Gallo Pinto**. 901 N. Hudson St.

The Mimbres is minus one eatery, as the **Elk Crossing Café** has closed, its owner off to Alaska. ☘

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

### DINING GUIDE continued

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. "An authentic taste of the Emerald Isle in a delightfully authentic pub atmosphere." (December 2008) Irish pub: L D.

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

**VINTAGE WINES**, 2461 Calle de Principal, 523-WINE. 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.

**Organ THAI DELIGHT**, 16151 Hwy. 70E, 373-3000. Thai, steaks, sandwiches: 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, barbecued pork ribs, Duck L'Orange, Alaska King Crab legs, broiled salmon steak, shrimp scampi, pork chops, osso buco, beef kabobs." (March 2010) Bar, deli, steaks: L D.\*

**BALBOA MOTEL & RESTAURANT**, 708 W. Pine St., 546-6473. Mexican, American: Sun.-Fri. L D.

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

**CAMPOS RESTAURANT**, 105 S. Silver, 546-0095. "Owner Albert Campos prides himself on the authentic Mexican and southwestern food he cooks up, inspired by his home in the Mexican state of Zacatecas—such as the fantastic BBQ Beef Brisket Sandwich, a family recipe. But the restaurant has much more than Mexican fare." (June 2007) Mexican, American, Southwestern: L D.\*

**CANO'S RESTAURANT**, 1200 W.

Pine St., 546-3181. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.

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

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

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

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

**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.\*

**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

**MIMBRES VALLEY BREWING CO.**, 200 S. Gold, 544-BREW. Craft beer, burgers, wings, paninis: Tues.-Fri. D, Sat.-Sun. L D.

**PALMA'S ITALIAN GRILL**, 110 S. Silver, 544-3100. "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: American, Mexican, steaks: Mon.-Thur. B L, Fri. B L D.

**TACOS MIRASOL**, 323 E. Pine St., 544-0646. Mexican: Mon., Wed.-Sat. B L D, Tues. B L

**Akela APACHE HOMELANDS RESTAURANT**, I-10. Burgers, ribs, "casino-style" food: B L D.\*

### Columbus

**PATIO 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. Mexican, American: Tues.-Fri. B L D, Sun. B mid-day D.

#### Animas

**PANTHER TRACKS CAFÉ**, Hwy. 338, 548-2444. Burgers, Mexican, American: Mon.-Fri. B L D

#### Rodeo

**RODEO STORE AND CAFÉ. 195 Hwy. 80**, 557-2295. Coffeeshop food: Mon.-Sat. B L

**RODEO TAVERN**, 557-2229. Shrimp, fried chicken, steaks, burgers, seafood: Weds.-Sat. D.

### CATRON COUNTY

#### Reserve

**ADOBE CAFÉ**, Hwy. 12 & Hwy. 180, 533-6146. Deli, American, Mon. pizza, Sunday BBQ ribs: Sun.-Mon. B L D, Wed.-Fri. B L

**BLACK GOLD**, 98 Main St., 533-6538. Coffeehouse, pastries.

**CARMEN'S**, 101 Main St., 533-6990. Mexican, 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.-Wed., Fri.-Sat. B L

**BLUE FRONT BAR AND CAFÉ**, Hwy. 180, 539-2561. Mexican, American, weekend barbecue, Friday catfish fry: L D.

**GOLDEN GIRLS CAFÉ**, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. 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

**LYNN NUSOM'S KITCHEN**, Main St., 896-5602. Soups, paninis, burritos, tacos, pies: Wed.-Sun. B L, early D.

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



40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

# What's Going on in June

Plus a look ahead into early July.

**JUNE FRIDAY**

**1 Silver City/Grant County Wild Wild West Pro Rodeo**—Through June 2. Southwest Horsemen's Arena, Hwy. 180 E & Cabellero Road, 534-5030.

**CONSERVATORY OF DANCE**—Spring 2012 Recital. Dancing Along Route 66 and Coppelia Ballet. 6 p.m. \$5, \$3 ages 3-11 and seniors. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. 538-5865, 534-4324.

**FIRST FRIDAY AT THE MUSEUM**—Family activities around the rodeo. 4-6 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercity-museum.org.

**FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN**—Rodeo! Street dance and special activities. Downtown Silver City, SilverCity-MainStreet.com.

**RHYTHM MYSTIC**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla BRETT MILLER PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION**—Opening reception. 5-7 p.m. Main Street Gallery, 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

**DRIFTWOOD PRODUCTIONS**—Items celebrating 30 years of theatrical productions under the direction of the late Art Haggerton. Reception, 5-7 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**IN DARKNESS**—Through June 7. Directed by Agnieszka Holland, this Holocaust film was Poland's candidate for the best foreign film Oscar. It deals with real-life events in the city of Lvov, in the last year of the German occupation. Leopold Socha is a Polish Christian who works as a sewer worker but augments his income with shady deals and thievery. One day, a group of Jews comes to him and asks for his help because he knows the sewers better than anybody, and he can hide them there. He agrees, but for a price. He has no apparent human sympathy and, at first, even considers double-crossing them. But something happens inside Socha, as his life becomes increasingly taken up with bringing food and provisions to the Jews in hiding, despite considerable personal risk. In Polish, German and Yiddish, with subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE**—Fri-

days, Saturdays and Sundays. 6 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

**SUMMER EXHIBITIONS**—Through July 21. Opening reception. Featured exhibits include Lynn Wiley's "Where is the Stopping Place," "Chicanismo" by Gabriel Perez and "A Surprising Similitude in Mud and Paper" by Sara D'Alessandro and Harriet Russell. 5-7 p.m. Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 522-3120, museums.las-cruces.org.

**Deming**

**FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC**—Buzz Tunes plays country, old rock and variety. 5:30-8:30 p.m. St. Clair Winery, 1325 De Baca Rd SE, 546-1179, www.stclairwinery.com

**SATURDAY 2 Silver City/Grant County RODEO PARADE**—Broadway and Bullard streets. 11 a.m. 538-5555, silvercitymainstreet.com.

**WILD WILD WEST PRO RODEO**—Through June 2. Southwest Horsemen's Arena, Hwy. 180 E & Cabellero Road, 534-5030.

**BOLO TIE CRAFT CLASS**—The class will give children an opportunity to learn about the New Mexico state tie while using their hands and imaginations to make a unique craft. 10 a.m. \$5, \$4 members. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway.

**COBRE FCCLA GOLF TOURNAMENT**—Four-man scramble. Includes cart and lunch. 8 a.m. \$55. Silver City Golf Course, 774-218-3818.

**LATCH KEY KIDS**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**SILVER CITY ART MARKET**—Saturdays. Local handmade arts and crafts. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, silverartmarket@live.com.

**SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET**—Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Main-street Plaza, N Bullard at 7th St.

**WOLVES**—Eleventh play in Victoria Tester's 15-act New Mexico Ghost Play Cycle, being performed monthly as a staged reading series in celebration of the New Mexico State Centennial. Mature audiences. Free. Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla BIRD TOURS**—Saturdays. Please bring binoculars, water, sunscreen and wear hiking shoes. 7:30 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

**BIRDS OF THE BOSQUE**—Children are invited to come to the park and go on a ranger-led bird walk. 9-11 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

**BOB EINWECK**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**DIRT TRACK RACING**—Modifieds, UMP late models, street stocks, legends, hornets 7:45 p.m. \$7-\$10. Southern New Mexico Speedway, 12125 Robert Larson Blvd., 524-7913.

**FRIENDS OF BRANIGAN LIBRARY BOOK SALE**—Of special interest are many children's and young adult books for teachers and students, as well as adult fiction, nonfiction and media. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave., 528-4000, library.las-cruces.org.

**OLD GRINGO**—Harriet Winslow (New Mexico resident Jane Fonda) is a school teacher and spinster who lives a stifling and boring life with her widowed mother in 1913. She wants to leave it all behind for adventure in Mexico as governess for a wealthy family. Much to her surprise, she arrives to assume her new position and lands right in the middle of Pancho Villa's revolution. She is used by General Tomas Arroyo (Jimmy Smits) to gain access to the government-held mansion. Meanwhile, the elderly American writer Ambrose Bierce (Gregory Peck) is also in the area. This world-weary author has come to Mexico to die.

Together, this odd threesome must deal with the past, love, death and the ties that bind them together. The film is based on an inventive novel by Carlos Fuentes. Immediately following the film will be screened the 28-minute Oscar-winning 1962 short film, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," based on a story by Ambrose Bierce. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$5, \$2 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**Deming**

**PAUL BOSLAND**—NMSU Chile Pepper Institute director on "Fabian Garcia, Who Developed the Chile What We Know Today." Centennial speaker. 9 a.m. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

**SUNDAY 3 Silver City/Grant County 324 CLUB HOME TOUR**—Five houses on the tour plus refreshments at the Tea House. 1-4 p.m. 534-9484.

**MUSIC OPEN MIC**—With the

EVENTS continued on next page

**BUCKHORN Opera House**  
2nd Annual New Mexico Music Series  
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**BUCKHORN SALOON & OPERA HOUSE**  
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Fri 1	Rhythm Mystic Our Very Own	Fri/Sat 22 & 23	Bob Einweck Tucson
Sat 2	Latch Key Kids Funky- Alternative	Wed 27	The Oversouls Local Rock-Soul
Wed 6	Esther Jamison Finger Style Guitar	Fri 29	Ezza Rose Duo Folk, Pop—Portland
Fri 8t	Stephanie Fix Singer Songwriter—Austin	Sat 30	TBA
Sat 9	Terry Wolf & Back Porch Swing Bisbee	<b>Opera House Events</b>	
Wed 13	Peter & Michele	Sat June 9 Ana Egge in Concert	
Fri 15	Sean Ashby Singer Songwriter & Guitarist for Sarah McLachlan—Canada	Sat June 24 Anthony Leon & the Chain	
Sat 16	Eric from Philly! Folk Rock		
Wed 20	Davis Coen Country Blues—Memphis		

buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com or 575-538-9911

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**Mesilla Valley Film Society**  
June 1-7 **In Darkness** (2012, 145 min., Polish, German, and Yiddish, w/ subtitles)  
June 8-14 **The Fairy** (2012, 93 min., French, w/ subtitles)  
June 15-21 **The Salt of Life** (2012, 90 min., Italian w/subtitles)  
June 29-July 5 **Monsieur Lazhar** (2012, 94 min., French and Arabic w/subtitles)  
**Theatre is OPEN July 4**  
2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla • www.mesillavalleyfilm.org • (575) 524-8287  
Shows nightly at 7:30- Sunday Matinee at 2:30.  
The Fountain Theatre—featuring the best independent, foreign and alternative films in the Southwest. Home of the Mesilla Valley Film Society since 1989!

**CineMatinee**  
All Showings Saturdays @ 1:30 pm at the Fountain Theatre 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla Admission is \$5, or \$2 for MV Film Society members.

**June Shows**

June 2	<b>Old Gringo</b> (1989, 120 min., R) & <b>An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge</b> (1962, 28 min., Oscar winning short film) based on a story by Ambrose Bierce.
June 9	<b>Oh, Brother, Where Art Thou?</b> (2000, 106 minutes, rated PG-13)
June 16	<b>Soylent Green</b> (1973, 97 minutes, rated PG)
June 23	<b>Deaf Jam</b> (2011, 75 minutes, not rated, in American Sign Language, subtitled for the hearing) Sponsored in part by Julienne Jewelers and Toucan Market!
June 30	<b>Young Guns</b> (1988, 107 minutes, rated R, made in New Mexico)

For more information call 575-524-8287 • www.mesillavalleyfilm.org



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 Thu 6/7 Sweet Wednesday (Massachusetts)  
 Sat 6/9 Walker & The Texas Dangers (Ft. Worth)  
 Thu 6/14 Bourbon Legend  
 Sat 6/16 Ty Elwin  
 Thu 6/21 Davis Coen (Memphis, TN)  
 Sat 6/23 Dan Lambert (El Paso)  
 Thu 6/28 Ezza Rose (Portland)  
 Sat 6/30 Alma y La Tierra Muerta (LC)

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# THE TO DO LIST

Summer in full swing.

**I**n Silver City, June starts off with rodeo. The annual **Wild, Wild West Pro Rodeo** continues through **June 2** at the Southwest Horsemen's Arena. Also on **June 2**, the popular **Rodeo Parade** returns to downtown starting at 11 a.m. But the rodeo spirit won't vanish when the bronco busters move on to the next town, as the Silver City Museum plans a **Centennial Brown Bag Lecture** on **June 7** with Don Turner talking about Grant County's varied rodeo past. Did you know there was a rodeo arena in Hurley that hosted some of the toughest ropers in the country in the 1950s? Or that the site of the current Army Reserve Center hosted the rodeo for 30 years?

Summer may not officially arrive until the solstice, but one look at the thermometer should convince you it's time to **Jump into Summer**. That's the HMS/LaVida community fun and fitness day at Gough Park in Silver City on **June 9**. The Silver City Farmers' Market will be joining the fun that Saturday with a one-time-only relocation from its usual downtown digs.

Also on **June 9**, Pancho Villa State Park in Columbus is sponsoring a **Creatures of the Desert** event, featuring critters in the exhibit hall plus a live birds of prey demonstration with

Learn a little rodeo history at the Silver City Museum Annex.

**Shop** with free food and music by the Latchkey Kids.

On **June 23**, the Grant County Copper CowBelles present a **Centennial Shindig** at the Flame Convention Center. Enjoy a brisket dinner and silent auction and then dance to the western music of the Yarborough Band, while celebrating 100 years of New Mexico's statehood and Grant County's ranching heritage.

Then on **June 29**, Gila/Mimbres Community Radio brings local favorite **Greg Brown** back to town for a fundraiser at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater. The Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter's songs have been covered by music stars including Willie Nelson, Carlos Santana, Ani DiFranco, Shawn Colvin, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Joan Baez.

**FRIDAY**  
**Silver City/Grant County GREEN DRINKS**—Southwest NM Green Chamber of Commerce and Silver City Chapter of the NM Solar Energy Association. 5:30 p.m. Isaac's, 200 N. Bullard St.  
**SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB**—Monthly meeting. A pot-luck luncheon will follow the meeting. All women in the area are invited to attend and help start the summer project of collection of school supplies. Bring pencils, paper, underwear and socks, or any other items that could be used by students. 10:30 a.m. Silver City Woman's Club, 411 Silver Heights Blvd., 313-1091.  
**STEPHANIE FIX**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla ADULT WEIGHT MANAGEMENT**—Rosa Lopez, registered dietitian with the New Mexico Department of Health. 12-1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.  
**NUNSET BOULEVARD**—Through June 17. The seventh in the award-winning Nunsense series by Dan Goggin. 8-10 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.  
**THE FAIRY**—Through June 14. Continuing the French new wave of near-silent cinema, this is the third in a series of clownish comedies made by a trio of writer-director-actors: Belgian Dominique Abel, Canadian Fiona Gordon and Frenchman Bruno Romy. The sad-sack presence in the eye of the movie's farcical hurricane is a hotel night clerk named Dom (Abel). After his bicycle chain slips off repeatedly as he is commuting to work in the rain, Dom dares indulge a dream: He'd like a motor scooter. Luckily, the second guest to arrive that evening is Fiona (Gordon), who identifies herself as a fairy and offers to grant him three wishes. He can think of only two. The next day, Fiona delivers: a Vespa and a lifetime supply of gasoline. But there is reason to suspect

**EVENTS continued**

Oversouls. 5 p.m. Diane's Parlor, 510 N. Bullard.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla NATIVE PLANT TOUR**—Ranger LuAnn Kilday will give a visual tour about native plants in the park gardens. Learn which species attract hummingbirds, butterflies and birds. 9 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

**SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET**—Sundays. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**Deming DPAT JAM SESSIONS**—Sundays. Dance and socialize. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

**TUESDAY**  
**Primary Election Day**  
**5 Silver City/Grant County GILA FARMERS' MARKET**—Tuesdays. 3-6:30 p.m. 414 Hwy 211, 535-2729.  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla DOÑA ANA CAMERA CLUB**—Ron Wolfe on preparations for the club's photo exhibit at the Branigan Cultural Center. 7 p.m. Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall, 532-1919, dacameraclub.org.  
**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. TRINIDAD TRIGGERS**—7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave., 680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.  
**TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN AND FERAL CAT CARE**—Nationally recognized expert on feral cat care, Joe Miele. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**6 Silver City/Grant County ESTHER JAMISON**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla IN DARKNESS**—See June 1. With special guest Major Richard Armour (retired), who has been a docent at the El Paso Holocaust Museum and

Study Center, and Maribel Villalva, executive director of the museum. 7 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors, students and MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.  
**FARM VOLUNTEER DAYS**—Wednesdays. Call the co-op for details and directions. 9-11 a.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.  
**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. TRINIDAD TRIGGERS**—7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave., 680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.  
**SELF MASTERY BOOK CLUB**—7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**Deming FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC**—Rhythm Mystic playing jazz and R & B. 5:30 p.m. St. Clair Winery, 1325 De Baca Rd SE, 546-1179, www.stclairwinery.com.

**THURSDAY**  
**7 Silver City/Grant County GRANT COUNTY RODEO AND RODEO EVENTS**—Centennial Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series with Don Turner. Grant County has been home to many different rodeo arenas, some which hosted only one event, and some of which lasted for years. The location of the current Army Reserve Center hosted the rodeo for 30 years. Come and learn about many of rodeo's Grant County homes, big and small. 12 p.m. Free. Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla BIG BAND DANCE CLUB**—Ron Theilman's High Society Orchestra. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 West Court St., 526-6504.  
**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. TRINIDAD TRIGGERS**—7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave., 680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.  
**PSYCHIC READINGS AND ENERGETIC HEALINGS**—Reiki master, Reverend Dawn Cheney. 12-3 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.



she is more maniacal than magical. In French, with subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors, students and MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**WATER TANKS**—Joel Gilbert, photographer, BFA show. Opening reception. 5-7 p.m. Nopalito's Galeria, 326 S. Mesquite, 524-0003, nopalitosgaleria.com.

**SATURDAY**  
**9 Silver City/Grant County**  
**JUMP INTO SUMMER FUN DAY**

Free games and activities for all ages including the National Guard climbing wall, Sumo suits, obstacle courses, bike rodeo and many more fun and informational booths. Free prize giveaways throughout the day including several bikes. Entertainment provided under the pavilion by local performers. Featuring a food court where you can purchase healthy meals and snacks. Free blood pressure, BMI and cholesterol checks at the Project Hope Van. HMS/LaVida. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Gough Park, 534-0248 ext 262.

**ANA EGGE**—Buckhorn Opera House, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**EVERGREEN GARDEN TOUR**—See Southwest Gardener column in this issue. 9 a.m.-noon. Tickets \$5 at Silver Heights Nursery, Alotha Gelato, AmBank, Mimbres Farms Nursery and Silver City Farmer's Market (June 2).

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE**—Westerns, classics and cookbooks will be half price. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 1500 W. Market St.

**RED FLAGS ON THE GREEN ECONOMY**—Presentation and discussion. Kathy and Phil Dahl-Bredine. 2 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercity-museum.org.

**SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET**—Saturdays. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Special change of venue for this Saturday only to be held in conjunction with HMS/LaVida's "Jump into Summer" fitness event.

**SWAP MEET**—A mixture of old and new items, including handcrafted items from local artisans. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Mimbres Valley Roundup Lodge.

**TERRY WOLF AND BACK PORCH SWINGS**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**ASCS CANYON REGION/NMMRA**  
**NON-WING SPRING CARS**

The American Stock Car Series Canyon Region will compete. Including street stocks, super trucks, legends, limited and X-modifieds. Southern New Mexico Speedway, 12125 Robert Larson Blvd., 524-7913.

**JUKEBOX SATURDAY NIGHT**—Under the direction of Dave Kinkaid, the 30 voices of the Desert Harmony Singers will perform some of the greatest hits from the Big Band era. The second act moves forward a few years with Billboard hits from the 1960s and beyond. The NMSU Contemporary Dance Theater group, choreographed and directed by Debra Knapp, will bring a number of the tunes to life. 7 p.m. \$10. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

**LEARN HOW TO GEOCACHE**—Learn how to use a GPS to geocache. Family friendly. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, 56501 N. Jornada Road, 524-3334, asombro.org.

**NUNSET BOULEVARD**—See June 8. Through June 17. 8-10 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**OH BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?**—Based roughly on Homer's Odyssey, this is a Depression-era musical about three convicts who escape a prison farm and become overnight musical sensations at the same time they elude a bloodthirsty team of Mississippi lawmen. George Clooney is the ringleader, a glib smoothie who uses the lure of a bogus hidden treasure to con two of his simple-minded chain-gang buddies (John Turturro, Tim Blake Nelson) into escaping with him. On the lam, they encounter a series of obstacles and lucky breaks, bizarre characters and aberrations of nature. Joel Coen directed the film and Ethan Coen produced and co-wrote it. The soundtrack of bluegrass and country blues includes both vintage recordings and reproductions of period music with musicians like John Hartford, Dr. Ralph Stanley, Emmylou Harris, Alison Krauss and Gillian Welch. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$5, \$2 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**SUBJECTIVE COLLAGE THERAPY**—Class hosted by Kay Steen, licensed professional clinical counselor health

counselor. Experiential therapy using the art of collage with subjective and objective observations to gain personal insight and growth. 1-3 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**WALKER AND THE TEXAS DANCERS**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**Columbus**  
**CREATURES OF THE DESERT**—Friends of Pancho Villa State Park invite you to see some of the creatures in the Chihuahuan Desert. Live birds of prey presentation at 1 p.m. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Pancho Villa State Park, 531-2711.

**SUNDAY**  
**10 Silver City/Grant County**  
**MUSIC OPEN MIC**—With Peter and Michele. 5 p.m. Diane's Parlor, 510 N. Bullard.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**ANTIQUÉ TREASURES DAY**—The only day each year visitors get the opportunity to enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the facility's collections and preservation program. Guided tours into the museum's enormous collections storage room where more than 9,000 artifacts are housed in a climate-controlled environment. Museum curators will talk about the process of donating artifacts along with their care and preservation once they arrive at the museum. 12-4 p.m. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

**ANYTHING GOES**—Reception for exhibit June 3-29. Opening reception. A non-themed show by members of the group ArtForms. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tombaugh Gallery, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solono, 522-7281.

**NATURE TREK**—Caddisflies, mayflies and more. Kids are invited to come collect pond specimens with nets and observe what they collect through Magiscopes. Check out the invertebrates that live in the ponds of the Bosque and try to identify them. 9-11 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

**NUNSET BOULEVARD**—See June 8. Through June 17. 2 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET**—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**Deming**  
**ARRAY OF ART OF NEW MEXICO**—Luna County Artists. Reception. 1-3 p.m. Deming Arts Center, 100 S. Gold, 546-3663, demingarts.orbs.com.

**MONDAY**  
**11 Silver City/Grant County**  
**WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE**—Andrea Jaquez will talk about Fort Bayard. 11 a.m. \$10, includes lunch. Glad Tidings Church, 538-9344.

**YES! SUMMER THEATER CAMP**—Through June 15. Ages 6-10 and 11-18. 9 a.m.-noon. \$35. Register June 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at WNMU Webb Theatre.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**DR. ARTHUR BERKSON**—Talk on evidence behind the use of common dietary supplements and botanicals. Dr. Berkson incorporates traditional and alternative medicine as an attending physician at the Integrative Medical Center of New Mexico. 6:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**TUESDAY**  
**12 Silver City/Grant County**  
**EDEN ENERGY MEDICINE**—Also June 14. "Health Assurance for the 21st Century." An introduction to basic self-help techniques for keeping your energies strong and vibrant. With Allee Barr, RN, Eden Energy Medicine Clinical Practitioner 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Food Co-op, Community Room, 111 6th St., 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

**GILA FARMERS' MARKET**—Tuesdays. 3-6:30 p.m. 414 Hwy 211, 535-2729.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY**—Al Galves concert. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**FRIENDS BOOK REVIEW**—1:30 p.m. Free. Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave., 528-4000, library.las-cruces.org.

**HEALTH CONSCIOUS SINGLES**—These gatherings are open to all, but geared towards area singles looking to take responsibility for their own physical, emotional and spiritual health. 6-7

p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**13 Silver City/Grant County**  
**PETER AND MICHELE**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE**—Let's laugh together at the state of the world and Wes Scoop Nisker in "Crazy Wisdom Saves the World Again" movie and discussion. 7 p.m. Free. St. Mary's, 1809 N. Alabama St., 590-5561.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**BIKE CURIOUS**—Monthly workshop teaching the fundamentals of bicycle repair and maintenance. This month's focus: brakes. 6-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**FARM VOLUNTEER DAYS**—Call the co-op for details and directions. 9-11 a.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**TAROT READING**—Spiritual psychic readings with Linda Marlena Carr. 1-4 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**THURSDAY**  
**Flag Day**  
**14 Silver City/Grant County**  
**EDEN ENERGY MEDICINE**—See June 12. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City

EVENTS continued on next page


  
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**JUMP**
  
**INTO SUMMER!**
  
**COMMUNITY FUN DAY!**
  
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Eden Energy Medicine Clinical Practitioner*

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EVENTS continued

Food Co-op, Community Room, 111 6th St., 388-2343, silvercityfoodcoop.com.

**ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETING**—Assembling specimen cards to sell at the annual Gem and Mineral Show during Labor Day weekend. 6 p.m. Senior Center, Victoria St., 534-1393.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**AN EVENING WITH CACTUS CHRIS**—Cowboy humorist and “artistic geezer” Cactus Chris Buethe is featured in this month’s lecture series. He tells stories, sings songs, recites cowboy poetry and provides plenty of laughs. 7 p.m. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

**BAYOU SECO**—6-9 p.m. St. Clair Winery and Bistro, 720 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-2408.

**BIG BAND DANCE CLUB**—CDs. Sadie Hawkins Day Broom Dance. 7-10 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

**BOURBON LEGEND**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY

**15 Silver City/Grant County**  
**SEAN ASHBY**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**NUNSET BOULEVARD**—See June 8. Through June 17. 8-10 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**THE SALT OF LIFE**—Through June 21. Directed and co-written by Italy’s Gianni Di Gregorio, who also stars as Gianni, a man of a certain age named after himself, who has to deal with a formidable mother, played by the 96-year-old Valeria de Franciscis Bendon. The mother, a self-centered spendthrift, lives with young caretaker Kristina (Kristina Cepraga) in an elaborate Roman mansion while her son lives in an apartment across town and has trouble making ends meet. A tireless womanizer named Alfonso tells Gianni he should have some romance in his life (the fact that he is already married doesn’t seem to cross anyone’s mind). Suddenly this middle-aged man starts to notice all the attractive women in his neighborhood. In Italian with subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors, students and MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**Deming**  
**CENTENNIAL EVENT WORKSHOP**—“Gift of the Desert” with Dr. Eric Blinmann, state Office of Cultural Affairs. 9 a.m. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

**FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC**—Chain of Fools plays blues rock and country. 5:30-8:30 p.m. St. Clair Winery, 1325 De Baca Rd SE, 546-1179, www.stclairwinery.com.

SATURDAY

**16 Silver City/Grant County**  
**ERIC FROM PHILLY**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**LET THE WATER DO THE WORK**—Van Clothier presentation and book signing. 2 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

**OUR PAWS’ CAUSE THRIFT SHOP FIRST ANNIVERSARY**—Music by the Latchkey Kids. 12-2 p.m. High Desert Humane Society Thrift Shop, 910 Pope St.

**ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP**—Call for details, 388-2010.

**SILVER CITY FARMERS’ MARKET**—Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Main-street Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**BRETT MILLER PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION**—Artist’s talk. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Main Street Gallery, 311 N. Main St., 647-0508.

**DESERT BABY-WEARERS**—Learn the art of baby-wearing, practice new methods, try different carriers and meet other baby-wearers. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**DIRT TRACK RACING**—Modifieds, UMP late models, street stocks and hornets. 7:45 p.m. \$7-\$10. Southern New Mexico Speedway, 12125 Robert Larson Blvd, 524-7913.

**EXPLORE: MATH**—Family-friendly program will investigate bath through demonstrations and discussions led by Vincent Gutschick of the Las Cruces Academy. 2 p.m. Museum of Natural History, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., 522-3372, museums.las-cruces.org.

**CENTENNIAL CHORAL CELEBRA-**



The Winter Sounds play High Desert Brewing in Las Cruces July 7.

**ALBUQUERQUE CIVIC CHORUS**, directed by noted composer/arranger Verallen Kleinhenz; **Singing Out**, directed by Ruth Ann Hanlin Mesilla Valley Chorale, directed by Nancy Ritchey. Music features many New Mexico composers, including works by Christine Sanders and Robert Diven. 3 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**NUNSET BOULEVARD**—See June 8. Through June 17. 8-10 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**SOYLENT GREEN**—Guest host Charles Horak, creative director of El Paso’s Plaza Classic Film Festival, presents this classic sci-fi film. It tells the story of New York in the year 2022, when the population has swollen to an unbelievable 80 million, and people live in the streets and line up for their rations of water and Soylent Green. That’s a high-protein foodstuff allegedly made from plankton cultivated in the seas. But is it? Charlton Heston plays a gritty detective who gets called in when a top official of the Soylent Corp. (Joseph Cotten) is murdered. He gets on a trail that leads to a most unappetizing conclusion, but before he gets there, the movie paints a fascinating and scary picture of population growth run wild. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$5, \$2 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**TY ELWIN**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**Deming**  
**CENTENNIAL SPEAKERS**—Dr. Eric Blinmann and Michael Darrow. 9-11 a.m. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

**LIFEWAYS HERE A THOUSAND YEARS AGO**—Dr. Eric Blinmann. 2 p.m. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

**MUSIC IN THE PARK**—Loose Blues Band. 6-8 p.m. Free. Rockhound State Park, www.FriendsofRockhound.org.

SUNDAY

**Father’s Day**  
**17 Silver City/Grant County**  
**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY HIKE**—Signal Peak. Hikes are free and open to the public. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen and good hiking shoes. 8 a.m. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater parking lot, 388-5192.

**BINGO**—2-5 p.m. \$5, three cards for \$10. Mimbres Valley Roundup Lodge.

**MUSIC OPEN MIC**—With Greg Renfro. 5 p.m. Diane’s Parlor, 510 N. Bullard.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**MUSIC IN NATURE**—Join the band Desert Blend on the park plaza and enjoy folk, bluegrass, soft rock, easy listening and contemporary music. 6-8 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

**4TH ANNUAL SOUTHWEST SOLAR COOK-OFF**—Bring your solar oven and favorite recipe, or enjoy the great solar-delights made by others. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**NUNSET BOULEVARD**—See June 8. 2-4 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**SUNDAY GROWERS’ MARKET**—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**Radium Springs**  
**FATHER’S DAY CELEBRATION**—10 a.m. Fort Selden, 526-8911, nmmonuments.org.

MONDAY

**18 Silver City/Grant County**  
**YOUTH MURAL CAMP**—Through June 29. “Many Hands” at Gough Park. Register at Leyba & Ingalls Arts. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$150 two weeks, \$100 one week. Mimbres Region

Arts Council, www.mimbresarts.org/ym\_camp.html.

TUESDAY

**19 Silver City/Grant County**  
**GILA FARMERS’ MARKET**—Tuesdays. 3-6:30 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**DOÑA ANA CAMERA CLUB**—Storm Sermay will discuss converting digital photos to black and white. Epp Harmon will present photos of children made in Estonia. 7 p.m. Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall, 532-1919, dacameraclub.org.

**EVENING WITH A DOCTOR**—Dr. Elkins will focus on looking at today’s health issues and present ideas that can assist you to alter, change or correct your concerns easily and inexpensively. 6-7 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY

**20 Silver City/Grant County**  
**DAVIS COEN**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE**—Eco-Cities: Movie and discussion. Richard Register talks about imaginative ways in which cities are being rebuilt. Ecological Economics: Richard Norgaard surveys the history of human economies. 7 p.m. St. Mary’s, 1809 N. Alabama St., 590-5561.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**RAIL READERS BOOK CLUB**—11 a.m. Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St., 647-4480.

**FARM VOLUNTEER DAYS**—Wednesdays. Call the co-op for details and directions. 9-11 a.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY

**21 Silver City/Grant County**  
**MEDITATION FOR PAIN RELIEF**—Health talk by Jeff Goin. 1-2 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St., 538-4879, www.grmc.org.

**MIMBRES FARMERS’ MARKET**—Solstice Celebration. 3:30-5 p.m. Hwy. 35 and San Francisco St., at La Tienda.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**BIG BAND DANCE CLUB**—Ron Theilman’s High Society Orchestra. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

**DAVIS COEN**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. WHITE SANDS PUPFISH**—7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave., 680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.

**PSYCHIC READINGS AND ENERGETIC HEALINGS**—Reiki master, Reverend Dawn Cheney. 12-3 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

FRIDAY

**22 Silver City/Grant County**  
**BOB EINWECK**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**ADULT WEIGHT MANAGEMENT**—Rosa Lopez, registered dietitian with the New Mexico Department of Health. 12-1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**COURT YOUTH CENTER YOUTH IN FILM FESTIVAL**—Open to youth 6th to 12th grade. The all-day festival will include an awards ceremony, “wrap party,” and a workshop from actor consultant Carol Schorre, who has been in the business for 20 years. Schorre’s workshop, “Acting for the Camera,” will be geared towards youth. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504, courtyouthcenter.com/film.

**FOOTNOTE**—Through June 28. A film by Israeli writer-director Joseph Cedar about Talmudic research, close analysis of the ancient writings on Jewish law.



Talmudic scholars are detail oriented by trade, and the two in close-up here are a father and son long at odds, both emotionally and intellectually. Eliezer Shkolnik, the father, is the traditionalist who compares himself to an archaeologist combing through pot shards. Uriel Shkolnik is the successful, admired, cutting-edge son, who gets the accolades, the academy membership, the adoring looks from women. Eliezer's biggest triumph is a footnote: his name in the masterwork of a revered scholar. In Hebrew, with English subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors, students and MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**SAND PAINTING**—Also June 23. Create an intricate and detailed sand painting. Participants must be at least eight years old; families are welcome! 2-4 p.m. \$8. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

### Columbus

**HALFWAY TO NOWHERE**—Through July 1. Dinner theater. All proceeds benefit EMS. 6 p.m. Columbus Community Center, 200 N. Boundary Rd., 494-0009.

### Deming

**FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC**—Desert Trio. 5:30 p.m. St. Clair Winery, 1325 De Baca Rd SE, 546-1179.

### SATURDAY

**23 Silver City/Grant County**  
**ANTHONY LEON AND THE CHAIN**—Country rock. Opening by Melanie Zipin and the Sugar Leafs. New Mexico Music Series. 7 p.m. \$10. Buckhorn Opera House, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**BOB EINWECK**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**CENTENNIAL SHINDIG**—The event will feature a brisket dinner cooked and served by Laureate Beta with homemade desserts by the Copper CowBelles. Kick up your heels to the western music of the Yarborough Band. Silent auction. 6 p.m. \$20 advance, \$25 at door. Flame Convention Center, 534-7649.

**SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET**—Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Main-street Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St.

**SUMMER SOLSTICE DANCE**—Loose Blues Band on Yankee Street. 4-6 p.m. Ginny Wolf Studio & Gallery, 108 W. Yankee St., 313-5709.

### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**DAN LAMBERT**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**DEAF JAM**—American Sign Language (ASL) poetry must be seen, not heard. In the film, a group of teachers at Lexington School for the Deaf in Queens, NY, are assembling an ASL poetry team to compete at poetry slams. Through poetry, the students reveal their struggles with deafness, their family life, and even their love lives. In American Sign Language, subtitled for the hearing. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$5, \$2 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**PLANT AND TREE SALE**—Mostly trees and shrubs. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmdranchmuseum.org.

**COLUMBUS HALFWAY TO NOWHERE**—Through July 1. Dinner theater. 6 p.m. Community Center, 200 N. Boundary Road, 494-0009.

### SUNDAY

**24 Silver City/Grant County**  
**MUSIC OPEN MIC**—With Brandon Perrault. 5 p.m. Diane's Parlor, 510 N. Bullard.

### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. WHITE SANDS PUPPISH**—7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave., 680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.

**SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET**—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**USED BOOK SALE**—Through June 25. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Temple Beth El, 3890 Sonoma Springs Ave., 524-3380.

### Columbus

**HALFWAY TO NOWHERE**—Through July 1. Dinner theater. 2 p.m. Community Center, 200 N. Boundary Road, 494-0009.

### MONDAY

**25 Las Cruces / Mesilla**  
**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. SANTA FE FUEGO**—7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave.,

680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.

**USED BOOK SALE**—10 a.m.-3 p.m. Temple Beth El, 3890 Sonoma Springs Ave., 524-3380.

### TUESDAY

**26 Silver City/Grant County**  
**GILA FARMERS' MARKET**—Tuesdays. 3-6:30 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY**—James T. Kirk. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**HEALTH CONSCIOUS SINGLES**—6-7 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. SANTA FE FUEGO**—7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave., 680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.

### WEDNESDAY

**27 Silver City/Grant County**  
**THE OVERSOULS**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE**—Permaculture: Penny Livingston leads viewers through the history and significance of permaculture. Indigenous Ways of Knowing: David Begay and Nancy Maryboy describe ways of knowing that are place-based. 7 p.m. St. Mary's, 1809 N. Alabama St., 590-5561.

**DR. BRUCE HAYWARD ESTATE SALE**—Also June 28. See Arts Exposure section. \$10. 5:30-8 p.m. Business & Conference Center, Hwy. 180E. 538-2341.

### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**TAROT READING**—Spiritual psychic readings with Linda Marlena Carr. 1-4 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**FARM VOLUNTEER DAYS**—Call the co-op for details and directions. 9-11 a.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

### THURSDAY

**28 Silver City/Grant County**  
**MIMBRES FARMERS' MARKET**—3:30-5 p.m. Hwy. 35 and San Francisco St., at La Tienda.

**DR. BRUCE HAYWARD ESTATE SALE**—See Arts Exposure section. Free. 8-11 a.m. Business & Conference Center, Hwy. 180E. 538-2341.

### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**BIG BAND DANCE CLUB**—CDs. 7-10 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

**EZZA ROSE**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. SANTA FE FUEGO**—7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave., 680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.

### FRIDAY

**29 Silver City/Grant County**  
**GREG BROWN**—Fundraiser for Gila/Mimbres Community Radio. 7 p.m. \$25 reserved, \$20 general admission, \$15 students, \$5 children under 12. Advance tickets at Mountain View Market in Las Cruces, Gila Hike & Bike, Alotta Gelato or online. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. grmc.org.

**EZZA ROSE DUO**—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. SANTA FE FUEGO**—7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave., 680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.

**MONSIEUR LAZHAR**—Through July 5. Based on a one-person play by Quebec's Évelyne de la Chenelière, this film was one of the five contenders for Best Foreign-Language Film at the 2012 Academy Awards. Simon and Alice are both outsiders at their school. One morning, Simon is shocked when he discovers the hanging body of their teacher in their classroom. When Bashir Lazhar, an Algerian immigrant who claims to have taught school for 19 years, expresses interest in the empty teaching position, the school principal hires him. His favorite student turns out to be Alice, who loves the beautiful colors of Algeria and shares her raw feelings about the suicide in a courageous speech. The film opens a window to the knotty problem of suicide. In French and Arabic with subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors, students and MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

**VANS WARPED TOUR 2012**—More than 80 bands on eight separate stages. 11 a.m. \$34-\$36. NMSU Intramural Field, corner of Stewart and Locust. 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

**ALZHEIMER'S PROGRAM**—"10 Warning signs of Alzheimer's and Unraveling the Web of Alzheimer's Disease." C. Faith Lester, executive director of Arbors of Del Rey, and Ruth Dennis, social services director. Free. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

### Columbus

**HALFWAY TO NOWHERE**—Through July 1. Dinner theater. 6 p.m. Community Center, 200 N. Boundary Road, 494-0009.

### Deming

**FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC**—Ty Elwin, acoustic guitar, folk and soul. 5:30 p.m. St. Clair Winery, 1325 De Baca Rd SE, 546-1179.

### SATURDAY

**30 Silver City/Grant County**  
**BIENNIAL ART SHOW OF THE BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY INSTITUTE**—Featured artists are painter Roz Springer and potter Phoebe Lawrence 1-6 p.m. 20 Main St., Pinos Altos. (602) 279-1026.

**SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET**—Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Main-street Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St.

### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**6TH ANNUAL BORDER BOOK FESTIVAL BOOK AND ART SALE**—Through July 4. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Cultural Center de Mesilla, 2231 Calle de Parian, 523-3988, borderbookfestival.com.

**ALMA Y LA TIERRA MUERTA**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY SHOW**—MVT's Night at the Races will include modifieds, street stocks, super trucks and legends. 7:45 p.m. \$7-\$10. Southern New Mexico Speedway, 12125 Robert Larson Blvd, 524-7913.

**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. TRINIDAD TRIGGERS**—7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave., 680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.

**VERMICULTURE FOR BEGINNERS**—Worms are an easy, inexpensive way to recycle kitchen waste and harvest your own nutrient-rich compost. Participants will learn to create a safe, healthy habitat for their worms, how to harvest worm castings and brew compost tea. Each participant will receive their own worm farm, complete with freshly harvested worms! 9-11 a.m. \$40 non-members, \$35 members. Mountain View Market Farm, 523-0436.

**YOUNG GUNS**—Made in New Mexico. The story of Billy the Kid's early days, the period in which he first made his reputation as a dangerous outlaw. Emilio Estevez gives Billy a convincingly humorous side and some of the other actors—Kiefer Sutherland and Casey Siemaszko—also help to keep things genial. The stars, who also include Lou Diamond Phillips and Charlie Sheen, appear as the Regulator gang, a group originally deputized to help fight crime, until their enthusiasm got out of hand. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$5, \$2 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

### Columbus

**HALFWAY TO NOWHERE**—Through July 1. Dinner theater. 6 p.m. Community Center, 200 N. Boundary Road, 494-0009.

### JULY

#### SUNDAY

**1 Las Cruces / Mesilla**  
**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. TRINIDAD TRIGGERS**—1 p.m. and 7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave., 680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.

**SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET**—10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

#### Columbus

**HALFWAY TO NOWHERE**—Dinner theater. 2 p.m. Community Center, 200 N. Boundary Rd., 494-0009.

#### MONDAY

**2 Las Cruces / Mesilla**  
**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. TRINIDAD TRIGGERS**—7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave, 680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.

#### TUESDAY

**3 Silver City/Grant County**  
**GILA FARMERS' MARKET**—Tuesdays. 3-6:30 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

### Las Cruces / Mesilla

**4TH OF JULY ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE**—9 p.m. Free. Apodaca Park to Hadley Complex, 541-2000, lascruces.org.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**4 Silver City/Grant County**  
**FOURTH OF JULY PARADE AND FESTIVITIES**—Parade downtown begins at 10 a.m., followed by a day-long arts/crafts festival at Gough Park until 5 p.m. Kiwanis Club annual cowboy breakfast, 7-10 a.m., also BBQ lunch. 538-3785.

**ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL**—A full slate of live entertainment, hot and cool treats, and old-fashioned fun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS IN MESILLA**—A beautiful display of fireworks; bring your family, lawn chairs and a picnic. Free. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext. 116, mesilla-nm.org

**4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION**—Entertainment, fireworks, vendors. Free. Hadley Complex, 1801 E. Hadley Ave., 541-2000, las-cruces.org.

### Deming

**FIREWORKS DEMING**—7 p.m. Southwestern New Mexico Fair Grounds, 4100 Raymond Reed Blvd.

### THURSDAY

**5 Silver City/Grant County**  
**MIMBRES FARMERS' MARKET**—3:30-5 p.m. Hwy. 35 and San Francisco St., at La Tienda.

### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. WHITE SANDS PUPPISH**—7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave., 680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.

### FRIDAY

**6 Silver City/Grant County**  
**THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER**—Street dance, children's activities, pet parade. First Friday downtown. 6-9 p.m. Downtown Silver City, SilverCity-MainStreet.com.

### Deming

**FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC**—Buzz Tunes plays country, old rock and variety. 5:30-8:30 p.m. St. Clair Winery, 1325 De Baca Rd SE, 546-1179, www.stclairwinery.com

### SATURDAY

**7 Silver City/Grant County**  
**SILVER CITY FARMERS' MARKET**—Saturdays. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Main-street Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**DIRT TRACK RACING**—Renegade sprints, UMP late models, street stocks, limited and X-modifieds. 7:45 p.m. \$7-\$10. Southern New Mexico Speedway, 12125 Robert Larson Blvd., 524-7913.

**LAS CRUCES VAQUEROS BASEBALL VS. WHITE SANDS PUPPISH**—7 p.m. \$6. Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave., 680-2212, lascrucesvaqueros.com.

**THE WINTER SOUNDS**—With their catchy melodies, perfect harmonies, and addicting synth lines, the Winter Sounds successfully marry the 80s and the present, with none of the hairspray. 8 p.m. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

### SUNDAY

**8 Las Cruces / Mesilla**  
**SUNDAY GROWERS' MARKET**—Sundays. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

### TUESDAY

**10 Silver City/Grant County**  
**GILA FARMERS' MARKET**—Tuesdays. 3-6:30 p.m. 414 Hwy. 211, 535-2729.

### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY**—Jackson Lane. 6:30-7:30 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@desertexposure.com, fax 534-4134, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062 or **NEW**—submit your event online at [www.desertexposure.com/submitevents](http://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.

## VISIT HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SILVER CITY

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Photo courtesy of Tyrah Hamill

# THE HISTORIC SILCO THEATER

♦ **Wed, June 27** Progressive Voters Alliance of Grant County monthly meeting. 7 pm. PVA-GC is a non-partisan group designed to serve as a clearinghouse, point of contact and carrying agent for advocates of social and economic justice, political equality, and environmental stewardship issues.

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CONTINENTAL DIVIDE • DAVID A. FRYXELL

# The Pride Undisguised

Finding a father-daughter wedding dance song that's just right.

Our daughter called last night to have The Talk. No, no, not *that* Talk—I'm referring to the question of what song to choose for our father-daughter dance at her wedding, which is the middle of this month.

Given that my dancing experience is limited to the hokey-pokey in grade school gym class and a brief community-college class shortly after my own wedding ("Get out and never come back!" were, I believe, the instructor's encouraging parting words), perhaps we should choose, "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat" from *Guys and Dolls*. My daughter confesses to not being much of a dancer herself—ah, the power of genetics, gifting her with



Father and daughter on the family's first trip to New Mexico, 1996.

her dad's two left feet!—so the actual dancing is not going to be, say, YouTube-worthy. (Except perhaps in the sense of "Hilarious video of father and daughter dancing and crashing into the dessert buffet at her wedding.") Besides, I'm going to be so weepy that my feet are unlikely to cooperate even if I brought Fred Astaire-like skills to the party.

Nonetheless, there is tradition to think of. As one website I consulted in search of appropriate song titles put it (unhelpfully in the weepiness department), "Is there a more emotional moment in a father's or a daughter's life than when they dance at her wedding or reception? Maybe, but I can't think of one."

Without the assistance of Google, I could come up with only two, equally maudlin ideas (perhaps reflecting my overall lack of musical with-it-ness, a perfect match for my dancing ability). Reaching into the Broadway repertoire for something a tad more appropriate than *Guys and Dolls*, of course there's "Sunrise, Sunset" from *Fiddler on the Roof*: "Swiftly fly the years/ One season following another/ Laden with happiness and tears/ What words of wisdom can I give them?/ How can I help to ease their way?/ Now they must learn from one another/ Day by day."

Oy vey. I don't think so.

In much the same vein is the other song that popped into my head, "Turn Around" by Harry Belafonte: "Where are you going my little one, little one/ Where are you going my baby my own/ Turn around and you're two, turn around and you're four/ Turn around and you're a young girl going out of the door."

OK, to be honest, I'm bawling just copying and pasting those lyrics from the Internet.

Other suggestions I found online, frankly, ranged from the surprising to the downright bizarre. One list of top 10 father-daughter wedding dance songs (based on an "informal survey of other fathers of the bride") was topped by

Bob Carlisle's "Butterfly Kisses." Perhaps even more maudlin, it goes down the "Turn Around" path ("She'll change her name today/ She'll make a promise and I'll give her away"). On the bright side, since I don't know it, I'd be less likely to sob openly—too busy trying to follow the lyrics.

That site served up some more weepy, little-girl-grows-up selections, such as "Through the Years" by Kenny Rogers and Natalie Grant's "Always Be Your Baby." The latter mention included the cautionary note, "One bride told us, 'It is the most tear-jerking father/daughter song I have ever heard! My father and I danced to this song at my wedding, and I cried the entire time!'" Great, just what I'm looking for. I checked to see if the website was sponsored by Kleenex.

I was more familiar with others among the suggestions, but if not "Turn Around"-ish they seemed like just ordinary songs: James Taylor's "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)," "The Way You Look Tonight" as sung by Frank Sinatra, "Unforgettable" crooned by Natalie Cole. Apparently my choices were either to be dissolved in sappy tears or to sing along with something that could be on any ol' playlist—like a bad episode of "Glee."

Another, more exhaustive list at the "Project Wedding" website (don't even get me started on the whole wedding industry!) had most of these plus some more off-the-wall suggestions. "Celebration" by Kool & The Gang—are you kidding me? I will consider absolutely nothing by Miley and Billy Ray Cyrus, either, sorry—just too creepy. And no, I will not be dancing to any tune immortalized by Ozzy Osbourne.

Rod Stewart's "Forever Young"? What's the idea—kind of the anti-"Turn Around"? And a sappy remembrance of going fishing with your daughter (Trace Adkins' "Just Fishin'") probably isn't the right tone for a wedding: "Throwin' back what we couldn't fry/ Drownin' worms and killin' time..." Unless your daughter happens to be named "Michelle," the Beatles' song by that name seems a tad peculiar, too. The Beatles' "When I'm 64" works only if that age is a long ways off and you don't mind sounding kinda needy in the meantime.

I don't think our future son-in-law would appreciate the title sentiment of Neil Sedaka's "Should Have Never Let You Go." Ditto for the already-rejected Cyrus duo's "Ready Set Don't Go." (Apparently there's no song titled, "He's Not Good Enough for You," or it'd be listed, too.)

"Bridge Over Troubled Water" by Simon and Garfunkel? I guess the "I'm on your side" and "sailing right behind" lyrics suggest a supportive dad, but I simply have too many other associations with Simon and Garfunkel. (Remember that the duo did the soundtrack for *The Graduate*, which climaxes with Dustin Hoffman *interrupting* a wedding. Not good karma there.)

Similarly, "Pretty Woman" by Roy Orbison suggests the movie by that name, in which the title character was a prostitute. Oh, my daughter would love *that!* ("But she was played by Julia Roberts, honey!") Movie associations also spoil "Stand By Me," originally recorded by Ben E. King: I think of the film adaptation of the story by another King, Stephen, which involved boys going to see a dead body. Great movie, not exactly wedding material.

Several suggested songs run toward the self-glorifying (if I'm helping to pick, that is): "You

Are My Hero," "Wind Beneath My Wings," "On My Father's Wings." Then of course there's the Eddie Fisher oldie, "Oh, My Pa-Pa," which praises Dad while also putting the "sap" in "sappy": "Oh, my pa-pa, to me he was so wonderful/ Oh, my pa-pa, to me he was so good..."

Fortunately, all my Googling was unnecessary. Our daughter already had a song in mind, which, besides being a perfect waltz number that perhaps even I could fake it through, expresses just the right sentiment. Turns out I'd actually picked it out myself, unwittingly, several years back for her 21st birthday.

I'd half-forgotten, but she'd remembered and even saved the card on which I'd transcribed the lyrics. The song was penned by folk singer Ann Reed, but I think the version sung by Bill Staines will be more appropriately paternal-sounding.

It's called "Every Long Journey" and speaks to what I think every parent ought to aspire to for their children. Your job as a parent, after all, is to send your child out into the world as a capable, sensible, loving adult. As much as you might be tempted to cling or to think "Sunrise, Sunset" and "Turn Around"-type thoughts, keep those to yourself. I always remind myself how the poet and philosopher Kahlil Gibran put it: "Your children are not your children./ They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself./ They come through you but not from you./ And though they are with you yet they belong not to you."

That's tough for a clingy, weepy parent to hear, but as Gibran goes on, "You may house their bodies but not their souls./ For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow.../ You are the bows from which your children/ as living arrows are sent forth."

So back to the song. It speaks to life's journey, and of course this wedding is a big step along that way. The journey that your child must make can't be held back, any more than Gibran's archer can resist the loosing of that arrow. You can send your child on her way, but you can't go along with her to the house of tomorrow.

This is how the song we'll be dancing to, father and daughter, begins:

"Every long journey is made of small steps  
Is made of the courage the feeling you get

When you know it's been waiting, been waiting for you

The journey's the only thing you want to do..."

The point is, that's OK. That's the way it's supposed to be. As hard as it might be for a father to waltz with his daughter and then give her hand to the new man in her life, that's what being a dad is all about. It doesn't mean I don't love her—it means I love her enough to let her go off on her own life's journey.

And I know already that our daughter knows the unshakable truth of the song's chorus:

"We cannot know what you go through or see through your eyes

"But we will surround you, the pride undisguised

"In any direction whatever you view

"You're taking our love there with you." ❀

Desert Exposure editor David A. Fryxell is stocking up on Kleenex.



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**Silver City's #1 Selling Office for 2011**



**MLS 29149 • \$139,000**

Park like backyard with mature trees. Living room features fireplace. Cathedral beamed ceilings throughout the home. Kitchen located in Great Room with Breakfast bar, skylight and mahogany cabinets. Deluxe appliances included; lower freezer refrigerator, stove is dual fuel gas stove top with electric/convection oven. Sliding doors to patio. Custom lighted window valances in bedrooms. Master bathroom has new paint and vanity. Stack washer and dryer also included.



**MLS 29138 • \$40,000**

This is a great lot! City Water on site already (tap fee must be paid.) Electricity, Septic and Propane tank in place for your RV! This property has good southern exposure, views, well maintained driveway. Easy access, good buildability. Minutes to hospital, businesses, etc.



**MLS 29088 • \$155,000**

This charming home is located in the Sapillo Creek area, only minutes from Lake Roberts. Living room has rock fireplace, beamed ceiling and an alternate wood burning stove. Two bdrms and one bath. Kitchen with dining area. Off the kitchen is a laundry room with extra space for storage or pantry. Workshop has a wood burning stove. Large trees and views of nearby cliffs.



**MLS 29131 • \$285,000**

Clean Bright One-Owner home near Pinos Altos! Open Floor plan, Metal Roof, Stucco Ext., main level master with separate his/her bath areas. Tile floors, pellet stove plus fireplace with insert, high ceiling, lots of parking, Large Deck with VIEW to south overlooking Silver City and Mountains beyond. Southern Exposure, end of road PRIVACY, Tall Pines, City Water.



**MLS 29053 • \$268,000**

This property is at the end of the road, surrounded by a large ranch. The home is 3 bedroom, 2 bath, with lots of storage late 70's ranch style. A walk in pantry off the kitchen. Roof was redone in 2007 and all the windows are Pella with built-in shades. Attached one car garage and two carports, a Morgan and storage building, play house and small animal shelters. Property is wire fenced with a gate.



**MLS 29093 • \$120,000**

20 acres minutes to town with city water tap/meter included. Southern exposure, gentle rolling hills with arroyo down the middle.



**MLS 29092 • \$119,900**

Large 3bd/2ba Bayard home on 0.6 acres, detached 2 car garage, storage shed, fenced yard. City utilities plus well. Established landscaping including large trees providing plenty of shade. Private location yet in town.



**MLS 29065 • \$17,250**

1 acre lot in Silver Acres subdivision. Site-built only, 1,500 sq. ft. minimum. Panoramic views, southern exposure, close to town. City water available.



**MLS 29114 • \$62,999**

Wooded, private yet minutes from town. Abundant trees, rock outcroppings and wonderful views. Leveled building site. 5 acres with horses and livestock allowed. Electric nearby and community water available.



**MLS 29133 • \$185,000**

The old Elias Ranch homestead! 20 acres is offered with fixer adobe house, electric available, and a seasonal stream! Wooded, views, southern exposure, minutes to town & very close to Ft. Bayard game refuge. Additional acreage available.

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**Good Luck and Thanks**  
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