

DESERT exposure



Jewelry artist Julien
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Women's History
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Knitting a community,
page 28

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- **Following the river:** Notes from a small-town environmentalist, page 24
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About the cover: "Red Hills," portrait of Georgia O'Keeffe by Silver City artist **Lois Duffy**. To see more of Duffy's work, visit her gallery at 211C N. Texas, 534-0822, or see www.loisduffy.com. Open Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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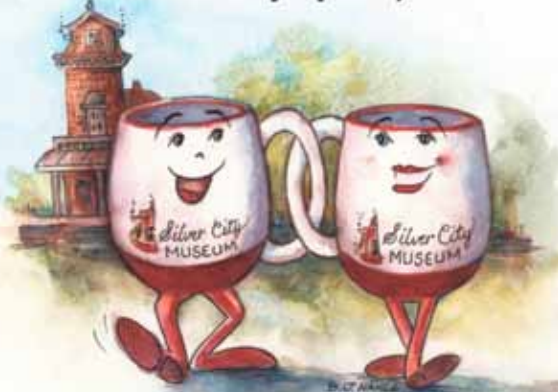
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Moneyball

In the private-equity game, a few multimillionaires win
while companies and taxpayers lose.

The campaign for the Republican presidential nomination has put the spotlight on private-equity investment firms—what Texas Gov. Rick Perry, in a rare moment of clarity, so aptly called “vulture capitalists.” Although most Americans were dimly aware of such investors, mostly as “hedge funds,” the extent of private-equity firms’ gobbling up of American business has largely gone unnoticed. More troubling, most of us have no idea how private-equity funds have scavenged on the companies they’ve taken over—often leaving the companies bankrupt while wealthy investors make billions that are taxed at the lowest possible rate.

Between 2003 and 2007, for example, private-equity firms sucked more than \$70 billion out of the companies they purchased in the form of “special dividends.” A recent *New Yorker* column details the consequences for the well-known mail-order firm Harry and David: Wasserstein & Co. purchased the then-thriving fruit catalog company in 2004, mostly with borrowed money. The next year, Wasserstein and other investors took a 23% profit, extracting more than \$100 million from Harry and David in dividends and “management fees.” In 2010, Harry and David defaulted on its debt and its pension obligations, leaving taxpayers—via the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.—holding the bag.

At least Uncle Sam is getting a big share of such “profits,” right? Wrong. A loophole called “carried interest” lets private-equity investors treat most of their billions as capital gains, taxable at a maximum rate of 15%. That’s largely how GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who made a fortune at a private-equity firm called Bain Capital, was able to pay just 13.9% of his income in taxes last year. Romney left Bain with a stunningly generous pension that paid him \$27 million in 2010 alone. But whereas ordinary pensioners might pay as much as 35% in taxes on that money, the carried-interest loophole let Romney pay no more than 15%.

None of which is to say Romney did anything wrong. But even one of his top economic advisors, Harvard professor Greg Mankiw, thinks the carried-interest loophole is bad policy. When Democrats were in charge of the US House of Representatives in 2010, they passed a change in the tax treatment of carried interest that would have helped pay for the extension of unemployment benefits; that reform failed to pass the filibuster-shackled Senate. (Our then-Rep. Harry Teague actually voted for the bill, rather than siding with his fellow “Blue Dog” Democrats and the GOP as he too often did.)

How much would such a change bring in to the US Treasury? One source calculated that the top 25 hedge-fund managers alone—who collectively earn as much as 441,000 middle-class households—would pay more than \$4 billion a year if their income were treated the same as wage-earners. (John Paulson, the top hedge-fund manager last year, makes more in an hour than most Americans earn in their lifetimes, yet pays a lower tax rate.)

But aren’t these ultra-wealthy investors “job creators” who need all those piles of cash to stimulate the US economy? Actually, pri-

vate-equity-owned firms generate jobs at a slightly lower rate than ordinary publicly held companies. (Whose record is nothing to boast about, either, as witness this recent paradoxical headline: “PepsiCo to Cut 8,700 Jobs as Part of Growth Strategy.”) And anyone who thinks private-equity firms create jobs has obviously never worked for a company gobbled up by one.

I have. My last employer before we escaped to New Mexico was a publishing company that had been in the same family since its founding about 1920. The owner told his employees—whom he all knew by name—that he would never sell the company. But his children didn’t want to carry on the family business and his wife wanted to build a museum. Rather than allow the company’s executives to buy the company through an employee stock-ownership program (ESOP), the owner sought outside buyers. He obviously hoped that a prestigious publishing company like Meredith, owner of *Better Homes & Gardens*, or Time-Warner would be the buyer. Instead, the company went to a private-equity subsidiary of Citibank.

The new company president had never worked in publishing before—a fact he told us on his first day with some pride, saying business was all about making and selling “widgets.” In his last job, he’d helped run an eyeglasses company into the ground. He stuck around, unfortunately, as one group of investors after another bought the company. Next,

I think, came Providence Equity Partners, whom we called the “Pep Boys.” After that it became hard to keep track.

If the new owners had known more about publishing, they might have better understood the “black book” containing all our financials. They might have recognized that most of our properties were fully mature, with little room for growth without additional investment. They might have known that the company was already run on the cheap, with precious little fat to cut to produce the returns they’d promised.

For awhile, the only way the company could “make the numbers”—which we had to manage every single quarter (so much for long-term investment)—was to gobble up still other companies and thus create the illusion of real growth. Revenue had to increase, even if it made no sense. At one point I was told we couldn’t cut several “one-shot” magazines, even though I’d demonstrated that they clearly lost money, because that would make the revenue number go down.

Job creation? The only people we hired were kids fresh out of college, to more cheaply replace the senior employees who got fired or pushed out (after making sure the company was covered against age-discrimination lawsuits).

There *was* a lawsuit, though, when one of the private-equity firms tried to cook the books before selling the company (again). To inflate revenue in the quarter before the sale, they shipped books and magazines to retailers far in excess of demand; when those returnable products all came back, the refunds would not be the sellers’ problem. Sometimes the “invisible hand” of capitalism seems more like sleight of hand.

The ownership shuffle seems to have settled down now, and the current owners actually understand the publishing business. Even the “widget” guy is gone, replaced by executives with deep experience in books, magazines and websites. So there’s a happy ending of sorts, and the company is certainly bigger than it ever could have been as a family-held enterprise. But I wonder about all the investors who came and went in-between, and how much (lightly

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taxed) money they made for merely moving dollars around—not actually creating anything.

Capitalism, they say, is all about “creative destruction.” Maybe one of the problems with the US economy over the past few years has been too much destruction, not enough creation. And it could be that our tax system rewards the wrong kind of capitalists—more vulture than venture.

Postscript: As for me, well, as you know I escaped to Silver City and *Desert Exposure*, where I get to be my own president, publisher and delivery boy. This issue wraps up our ninth year of owning *Desert Exposure*. While laboring under the lash of that “widget” guy and his private-equity bosses, I used to argue that if you invested in a quality product (an impossibility under their bookkeeping, of course), readers and advertisers would reward you for it. Among the many things I’ve learned in our nine years running *Desert Exposure* is this: By golly, I was right.

Us and Theme

The women of March.

Unlike many publications, we don’t do theme issues. Trying to make everything in an issue fit a theme, we’ve always felt, risks shortchanging the panoply of life and events in our corner of the Southwest—not to mention the danger that a reader uninterested in that theme might find the month’s *Desert Exposure* fit only for puppy training. (I’m still seething, for example, over the current *Food Network Magazine*’s chocolate-themed issue, which didn’t have a single recipe I wanted to cook. Or at least none that the bathroom scale said I *should* cook...)

Nonetheless, sometimes a partial theme simply organizes itself, a serendipity that plays out within our pages. Take this edition for March, which is Women’s History Month and the month of International Women’s Day, March 25. We’d long planned to have a feature by Susan Berry, the long-time and now former director of the Silver City Museum, about local history-making women. (It’s accom-

panied by a complete calendar of local events celebrating the month, including a downtown parade on International Women’s Day.)

As it happened, though, several other stories about notable New Mexico women—contemporary history-makers, if you will—also began to land in this issue. Senior Writer Jeff Berg interviewed Las Cruces jewelry artist Julianne Hadfield, best known for her *Caballo de Las Cruces* contribution to the 2004 Trail of the Painted Ponies. Frequent contributor Harry Williamson suggested a feature on Suzi Calhoun, proprietor of Yada Yada Yarn shop in Silver City and an inspirational force in the creative community, especially for women. Then Sharman Apt Russell, an occasional contributor to these pages as well as a past profile subject (she’s a noted writer of books on topics ranging from hunger to pantheism), suggested that she write an essay about her own experiences as a “small-town environmentalist,” serving on the board of the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance.

While not everything in this issue is by or about women—among other departures, regular writer Jay W. Sharp contributes another Southwest Wildlife article, about the mighty mesquite, as well as a piece for the annual Pancho Villa commemoration in Columbus—an informal theme does happily thread through these pages. So we decided to capitalize on that thread by asking one of our favorite Silver City artists, Lois Duffy, to contribute a cover. In particular, we sought out this issue’s portrait of Georgia O’Keefe—a woman whose artistic career is largely associated with New Mexico, captured here by another gifted woman artist who now lives here.

We profiled Duffy herself back in our May 2006 issue, and another of her paintings graced the cover of the very first issue of *Desert Exposure* under our stewardship, nine years ago next month.

No, we don’t do theme issues. Sometimes, though, the theme finds us—and we couldn’t be happier with the results. 🌵

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



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DESERT DIARY

Painful Assumptions, DIY Disaster and Prayerful Premonitions

Plus more church-bulletin follies and tips for the aspiring gunfighter.

When you assume... We kick off things (almost literally) with this reminder from **The Packrat Out Back** about the danger of jumping to conclusions:

“A wife comes home late at night and quietly opens the door to her bedroom. From under the blanket she sees four legs instead of two! She reaches for a baseball bat and starts hitting the blanket as hard as she can.

“Once she’s done, she goes to the kitchen to have a drink. As she enters, she sees her husband there, reading a magazine. ‘Hi darling,’ he says. ‘Your parents have come to visit us, so I let them stay in our bedroom. Hope you’ve said hello to them.’”

Home improvement... Here’s another tale of couples whose actions lead to unintended consequences. All you DIYers out there, please keep this cautionary tale from **CharlesC** in mind:

“Charlie’s wife, Lucy, had been after him for several weeks to paint the seat on their toilet. Finally, he got around to doing it while Lucy was out. After finishing, he left to take care of another matter before she returned. She

came in and undressed to take a shower. Before getting in the shower, she sat on the toilet. As she tried to stand up, she realized that the not-quite-dry epoxy paint had glued her to the toilet seat.

“About that time, Charlie got home and realized her predicament. They both pushed and pulled without any success whatsoever. Finally, in desperation, Charlie undid the toilet-seat bolts. Lucy wrapped a sheet around herself and Charlie drove her to the hospital emergency room. The ER doctor got her into a position where he could study how to free her. (Try to get a mental picture of this).

“Lucy tried to lighten the embarrassment of it all by saying, ‘Well, doctor, I’ll bet you’ve never seen anything like this before.’

“The doctor replied, ‘Actually, I’ve seen lots of them. I just never saw one mounted and framed.’”

Share your own tales of home-improvement hell, mistaken assumptions and anything else that gives you a chuckle! Fire off those jokes to diary@desertexposure.com

Kids say the darnedest things... Life on the farm can be quite educational. Just ask the little tyke in this tale from **Alleteration**:

“Little Johnny comes in late for school. The teacher asks why he’s late. Little Johnny replies that he had to take the family cow over to the neighbor’s to get her bred by a bull.

“Annoyed, the teacher demands, ‘Can’t your father do that?’

“Little Johnny thinks for a moment, then replies, ‘Well, sure... But the bull can do it better.’”

The pluck of the Irish... We couldn’t let St. Patrick’s Day pass without some Irish humor.

Here you go, courtesy of **The Santa Claran**:

“Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend, Finney. ‘Did you see the paper?’ asked Gallagher. ‘They say I died!’

“‘Yes, I saw it!’ replied Finney. ‘Where are ye callin’ from?’”

Snappy comebacks... If this little yarn submitted by **The Silver City Greek** inspires you to submit your own examples of snappy comebacks, send them along to diary@desertexposure.com:

“A Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest met at the town’s annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

“‘This baked ham is really delicious,’ the priest teased the rabbi. ‘You really ought to try it. I know it’s against your religion, but I can’t understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don’t know what you’re missing. You just haven’t lived until you’ve tried Mrs. Hall’s prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?’

“The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin and said, ‘At your wedding.’”

You’re only as old as you feel... This tale of love among the ruins came our way courtesy of **Old Grumps**:

“She’s single. She lives right across the street. I can see her house from my living room. I watched as she got home from work this evening. I was surprised when she walked across the street and up my driveway. She knocked on my door. I rushed to open it.

“She looked at me and said, ‘I just got home, and I am so hot! I have this strong urge to have a good time, get drunk, and make love all night long! Are you busy tonight?’

“I immediately replied, ‘Nope, I’m free. I have no plans at all!’

“Then she said, ‘Good! In that case, could you watch my dog?’

“Man, it’s no fun getting old.”

Sunday funnies... More church-bulletin follies, with thanks once again to **T.O.**:

“Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

“Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

“The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

“Potluck supper Sunday at 5 p.m. Prayer and medication to follow.

“The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

“This evening at 7 p.m. there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

“Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 a.m. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

“The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

“Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door.

“The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* in the church basement Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

“Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First





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Postcards from the edge... Then there's this photo from **Mary Elizabeth Pollard**, a safari-going reader in Tucson, posing by a baobab tree "somewhere in the Kalahari desert in Botswana."

Whether you're in France or Farmington, snap a picture of yourself holding *Desert Exposure* and send it to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or diary@desertexposure.com.

Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

"The associate minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge—Up Yours!'"

Persons of the blonde persuasion... We pass along this funny from **Ned Ludd** with our usual invitation to substitute the hair hue of your choice:

"An airline captain was breaking in a very pretty new blonde flight attendant; the route they were flying had a stay-over in another city. Upon their arrival the captain showed the flight attendant the best place for airline personnel to eat, shop and stay overnight.

"The next morning as the pilot was preparing the crew for the day's route, he noticed the new flight attendant was missing. He knew which room she was in at the hotel and called her up, wondering what happened to her.

"The blonde flight attendant answered the phone, crying, and said she couldn't get out of her room.

"You can't get out of your room?" the captain asked. 'Why not?'

"The blonde replied with a sob, 'There are only three doors in here. One is the bathroom, one is the closet, and one has a sign on it that says, "Do Not Disturb!"'

The cowboy way... Thanks to **RealOne** for sending along this rootin'-tootin' yarn of Wild West gunplay:

"A young cowboy sitting in a saloon one Saturday night recognized an elderly man standing at the bar who, in his day, had been the fastest gun in the West. The cowboy took a place next to the old-timer, bought him a drink and told him of his ambition to be a great shot. 'Could you give me some tips?' he asked.

"The old man said, 'Well, for one thing, you're wearing your gun too high. Tie the holster a little lower down on your leg.'

"Will that make me a better gunfighter?"

"Sure will."

"The young man did as he was told, stood up, whipped out his .44 and shot the bow tie off the piano player. "That's terrific!" said the young cowboy. 'Got any more tips?'

"Yep," said the old gunfighter. 'Cut a notch out of your holster where the hammer hits it and that'll give you a smoother draw.'

"Will that make me a better gunfighter?" asked the young man.

"You bet it will," said the old-timer.

"So the young man took out his knife, cut the notch, stood up, drew his gun in a blur, and then shot a cufflink off the piano player. 'Wow!' exclaimed the young cowboy. 'I'm learnin' somethin'

here. Got any more tips?'

"The old man pointed to a large can in a corner of the saloon. 'See that axle grease over there? Coat your gun with it.' The young man smeared some of the grease on the barrel of his gun. 'No,' said the old-timer, 'I mean smear it all over the gun, handle and all.'

"Will that make me a better gunfighter?" asked the young man.

"No," said the old-timer, 'but when Wyatt Earp gets done playing the piano, he's gonna shove that gun up your butt, and it won't hurt as much.'"

Future tense... This tale of prayerful premonitions came our way from **GeraldH**. Pay very close attention to the ending:

"A father put his three-year-old daughter to bed, told her a story and listened to her prayers, which ended by saying, 'God bless Mommy, God bless Daddy, God bless Grandma and good-bye Grandpa.'

"The father asked, 'Why did you say "good-bye Grandpa"?'"

"The little girl said, 'I don't know, Daddy, it just seemed like the thing to do.'

"The next day Grandpa died. The father thought it was a strange coincidence.

"A few months later, the father put the girl to bed and again listened to her prayers, which went like this, 'God bless Mommy, God Bless Daddy and good-bye Grandma.'

"The next day the grandmother died. 'Holy heck!' thought the father. 'This kid is in contact with the other side!'

"Several months later when the girl was going to bed, the dad heard her say, 'God bless Mommy and good-bye Daddy.'

"He practically went into shock. He couldn't sleep all night and got up at the crack of dawn to go to his office. He was nervous as a cat all day, had lunch and watched the clock. He figured if he could get by until midnight he would be okay. He felt safe in the office, so instead of going home at the end of the day he stayed there, drinking coffee, looking at his watch and jumping at every sound. Finally, midnight arrived. He breathed a sigh of relief and went home.

"When he got home his wife said, 'I've never seen you work so late. What's the matter?'

"He said, 'I don't want to talk about it. I've just spent the worst day of my life.'

"She said, 'You think *you* had a bad day, you'll never believe what happened to me. This morning my golf pro dropped dead in the middle of my lesson!'"

Grin and bear it... Wildlife encounters are of course the stuff of great stories, like this outdoor adventure related by **R1Dork**:

"I was visiting family in Southern New Mexico, and decided to go for a hike in the nearby hills. Having read about Mexican grizzlies, I asked a cousin if I'd be in any danger. 'Not much if you keep your wits about you,' he said. 'You know about whistling and singing so you walk up on and don't surprise a bear?'

"I've heard that. Is it true?" I replied.

"That's local lore, dunno how true it is,' my cousin said. 'But if you do come face to face with a bear, be sure to stop and watch him. Local smarts says you mimic anything the bear does as you back away slowly.'

"So off I went and, despite my whistling and singing, sure enough I came face to face with a grizzly. We both stopped. He spread his arms wide and he grunted, 'GRRRR!'

"So I spread my arms and grunted. He took a few steps sideways and so did I. He stretched his arms and so did I. This went on for a few minutes, me doing whatever he did.

"Then he squatted and took a dump.

"No fair!" I yelled at the bear. 'I did that the first time you went GRRRR!'" 🐻

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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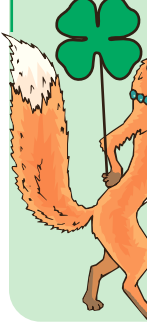
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Traffic Warning

The Border Patrol's Operation Detour hopes to show area young people a path away from involvement in the drug business.

Ryan Holden, a Border Patrol agent based in Douglas, Ariz., has spent seven of the past 10 years of service riding with a horseback unit of US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), trying to prevent narco-terrorism, illegal drugs and criminal activity from seeping across the border. In 2009, however, Holden turned in his saddle and tack for duty that takes him off the remote desert trails favored by drug smugglers and into the classroom. There Holden speaks to area students about safety issues and how to take "detours" away from criminal activity themselves.

He and dozens of other CBP agents now opt to give attention to community education, protecting kids and doing their part to promote safe towns and drug-free neighborhoods. The agency's Operation Detour is an outreach program designed for schools and kids—a program Holden hopes will keep young people from falling prey to illegal activity and its consequences.

"I would say that many kids living in border towns don't really see or know anything different," says Holden. "Some have seen and been around drugs for years. They have grown up with drug activity and drugs kept in homes. So the distribution or storing of drugs becomes common practice and they may not see this as unusual."

Operation Detour is offered to students with the support of area schools; it is meant for kids who might be encouraged to experiment with drug sales, to handle distribution and delivery. Says Holden, "What we are trying to do is to bring the issue directly to the young person, so they can understand this isn't a normal situation—and then to have them hear about the very real consequences of drug-trafficking."

Holden tells kids that they may face a future arrest or criminal record, but that the price of admission into this activity can cost lives, too. Operation Detour focuses on the nature and outcome of narco-terrorism or trafficking, what young people need to look for in recruitment trends and how to avoid becoming part of the violence data. "I tell them that this activity may not seem dangerous to them, it may be going on in the community, but we have to break the cycle—if we can."

In the classroom, Holden admits that he gets "mixed reviews" from students, who sometimes dismiss him and his message about trafficking. "I really don't have many kids raise their hands at the end of comment time," says Holden of peer pressure. "We don't get much, if any feedback from students one way or the other."

But Holden says that agencies know that recruitment of kids happens. "And young people are used for drug distribution with regularity throughout the Southwest."

While Holden can offer no hard criminal data linked to border towns, he says that Homeland Security agencies often deal with border activity that includes narco-recruitment of teens by other teens and people in their own family. "What we have to do is to let these kids know they have options," he says. "We tell them they do have a choice, and there are people who will listen if they are approached by traffickers."

According to Homeland Security intelligence re-



The border is full of temptations for teens. (Photo by Dawn Newman-Aerts)

ports, young people may initially be recruited by a cash bonus of anywhere from \$100 to \$1,000 to agree to drive, pick up or deliver drug cargo between the border and locations throughout the Southwest and beyond. Says Holden, "Most teenagers have no criminal records. They have a registered vehicle, they have a driver's license and they don't draw attention to themselves behind the wheel of a car or truck."

That, he explains, makes them attractive candidates for criminals who are in the business of transporting illegal drugs or people. "So this money sounds like a huge sum for kids who don't have many resources. It's especially tempting for kids living near the border."

Holden says he has caught juveniles with delivery packages of drugs and understands their inclination to be willing participants. "Now exactly how common this recruitment is, we just don't know the numbers—it is kept under the radar. But we absolutely know it happens and that teens are involved."

As part of the Department of Homeland Security, CBP's mission is to deter illegal entry, help prevent terrorism and maintain a high-profile security presence for people and business in the community. "Our mission is designed to reduce the 'clutter,'" says Holden, "to reduce illegal entry activity, criminal behavior and drug distribution. But we also need to reach out to these kids who live here."

He explains that CBP agents believe that border communities live on "the literal line" between stability and law, within reach of the Mexican world of drugs and crime. It is that kind of pressure for security that has moved government agencies clearly into the spotlight. "There really wasn't much attention given to CBP or law enforcement in past years. I think people knew of the mission, but today, there is a much brighter spotlight on the problems we face as a country."

Operation Detour was first developed and presented to students in Del Rio, Texas. The program has since been brought to classrooms across California and Arizona, to the Bootheel of New Mexico, and elsewhere in Texas.

Holden believes that recruitment is designed to pull kids into the narco-drug world permanently. "We know these kids come from all over, that they generally pick up drugs from border towns and then drive the drugs to all points north." He says unemployed kids are particularly vulnerable to recruitment.

While part of Holden's talk focuses on ways to recognize and avoid recruitment methods, he also asks students to take a long, hard look at conse-

The Tumbleweeds Top 10

Who and what's been making news from New Mexico this past month, as measured by mentions in Google News (news.google.com), which tracks 4,500 worldwide news sources (trends noted are vs. last month's total hits; * indicates new to the list). Number in parenthesis indicates last month's Top 10 rank. Interest in our US Senate race finally heats up (Martin Heinrich almost made the list with 95 hits), and John Sanchez drops out before ever cracking the Top 10.

1. (1) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—687 hits (▲)
2. (5) **New Mexico drought**—367 hits (▲)
3. (6) **Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson**—246 hits (▲)
4. (-) **Sen. Jeff Bingaman**—209 hits (▲)
5. (-) **New Mexico wolves**—208 hits (▼)
6. (3) **Ex-Gov. Gary Johnson + president**—203 hits (▼)
7. (2) **Virgin Galactic**—197 hits (▼)
8. (4) **New Mexico + Border Patrol**—150 hits (▼)
9. (9) **New Mexico wildfires**—143 hits (▲)
10. (10) **New Mexico driver's licenses**—139 hits (▲)

quences—from arrest and criminal history to what other kids say they’ve experienced at the hands of drug-smugglers and distribution networks. “They may do this initially as a way to make some fast money. Maybe they want to buy new clothes, shoes or an iPod,” says Holden. “But once they start, they really aren’t given an easy way out.”

Holden and other agents are not about to “sugarcoat” the possible outcomes. “We are going to tell them the truth, and what the consequence is when you serve criminal elements—that includes all kinds of crossover activity, from kidnapping and assault, to domestic violence and rape.”

Operation Detour can include actual film footage and reports on what can happen within the drug distribution network. Holden says that parents sometimes want kids to see the evidence and how this activity can lead to so much destruction in this country as well as in Mexico. “When kids see these images, they always react to it—I think they come to see how ‘one little act’ (like driving) can lead to violence. They can look at the bigger picture and what’s really at stake here.”

Holden explains that Operation Detour works

with many civic organizations, schools, counselors and others to give kids the facts and a way out of recruitment. “Unfortunately, they start to think this activity is normal, so we’ve got to break the cycle,” he adds. “We are not using this as a tool to detect problems within the home, but we’re telling them this is about you, your life and it’s an opportunity to get help if they need it.”

Like other CBP agents, Holden is optimistic about the Operation Detour project and how kids will put the information to use. “I tell them, ‘Somebody in this classroom is going to be a legislator or mayor one day—maybe a doctor, a teacher, or open up a business,’” he says. “We let them know there are adults in their lives who will listen, and give them a way out.”

For more information on Operation Detour contact CBP El Paso Sector public affairs, (915) 834-8311, or Tucson Sector at (520) 519-2659. Dawn Newman-Aerts is a former Minnesota newspaper journalist who lives in Rodeo.

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Pete Walden, Grant County extension agriculture agent,
just might be your plants' best friend.

As you and I ponder when spring might fully pop, Pete Walden's busy season is already underway. For six years, Walden has served as Grant County's extension agriculture agent, identifying plant growing problems and recommending how to solve them. Whether on a garden site or at his desk at the Cooperative Extension Service in Silver City, Walden is your plant's friend—offering remedies for unhappy ones tormented by disease or other devastation.

"We run as hard as we can," Walden says, describing the workload of the state's county agents, whose responsibilities also include advising 4-H club members and taking forage inventories for ranchers.

Walden himself is a third-generation ranch manager who studied animal science on a rodeo scholarship at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. Later, at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas, he earned a master's degree in range science.

Although Walden doesn't have an academic background in horticulture, he achieved subject proficiency after intensive sessions with well-known "hort" specialist Curtis W. Smith and urban small garden authority Ron Walser.

At age 56, Walden's appearance is too clean-cut to ever have been cast as an extra on "Deadwood." Witness the pressed jeans and vest, the belt buckle that recalls a 2003 first-place win in team roping, and his black felt Resistol (as in "resists-all-weather") hat.

For almost two decades Walden has hung his hat in county extension offices in either Texas or New Mexico. Born in Albuquerque, he retains a decided preference for southwestern New Mexico, with its easy access to public lands for camping, fishing and hunting.

"All you have to do here is pick where you want to go and take off for the weekend to enjoy the outdoors," Walden says.

At work, his most time-consuming activity is taking forage inventories, where he estimates how much native grass is available for grazing livestock.

The summer and fall is a busy time for advising 4-H youngsters on how to care for and show livestock ranging from rabbits to steers. Walden is especially fond of steers because that's what he raised in 4-H.



Pete Walden, Grant County extension agriculture agent, opens up the center of a peach tree, trimming it into a wineglass shape. (Photo by Vivian Savitt)

My chat with Pete Walden continues inside his truck driving toward a hilly subdivision west of Silver City. He is en route to a small, three-year-old fruit tree orchard where the owners seek pruning guidance.

At the destination garden, 10 semi-dwarf varieties of fruit trees stand enclosed by a chain-link fence. All appear well. The apple varieties include Fuji, gala, red delicious, black Arkansas and mutsu. The orchard is also home to peach and cherry trees.

The owners planted their orchard using the



On a site-visit with owners of a small fruit tree orchard, Walden demonstrates some trimming techniques. (Photo by Joseph Gonzalez)

site's existing soil mixed with bark mulch for moisture retention, plus manure and Jobe Fertilizing Sticks to increase soil fertility. They dug holes "four feet down and around" each tree to give the roots growing room.

As is usually the case with extra care and effort, digging through rocky soil has paid off. The trees produce good crops and display thick healthy leaders for being so young.

With bypass pruners in hand, Walden trims:

- Downward-growing limbs
- Freeze-damaged limbs below the damage line
- Young peach tree limbs, to open up the center into a "wineglass shape."

"Young apple trees," Walden says, "do not need a lot of pruning, but should be shaped like a Christmas tree that's 'rounded' on top.

"Remove the damaged branches," he continues, "but always retain three or four main lateral branches. Pruning the tops of fruit trees makes

access to the fruit easier and keeps energy and soil nutrients directed toward the fruit."

After spotting some borer holes, Walden uses a wire to jab through the hole and kill the insects. In this case, however, the borers have departed, as they often do when mature. The owners are informed that either Sevin or neem oil can be used as insecticides to control the pests.

"The mindset around here is to use organic chemicals and there are lots of good ones," Walden comments. "Treatment normally takes more time and requires diligence."

Woodpecker holes are discovered on one tree, but Walden says they won't hurt it.

The orchard owners are obviously pleased with the hands-on pruning lesson.

On the trip back to town, Walden acknowledges that most agriculture agents, including himself, love their jobs. "There's no money in it to speak of—it's a lifestyle," he adds. "Every day is different and enjoyable.

"And since everyone has to eat, the profession will continue."

Resources: Pete Walden can be reached at the Cooperative Extension Service, 2610 N. Silver St., (575) 388-1559. If you need help identifying a plant

specimen, he suggests placing it in a paper, not plastic, bag. No appointment is necessary. If Pete's not in, leave your phone number.

Check out the free handouts offered by the Extension Service, including "Fruit Varieties" for our area, and the popular "Vegetable Gardening in New Mexico." These and other pamphlets are also available on the New Mexico State University website (aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/howto/howto.html).

This month offers two Silver City events to expand your gardening know-how:

Annual Native Plant Sale—Saturday, March 10, 9 a.m.-noon, Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St.

The event, sponsored by the Gila Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, also provides landscaping advice, access to reference books and a native plant slide show. Plants may be ordered at the Silco event, or online at www.gilanps.org us-



Walden is a third-generation ranch manager. (Photo by Joseph Gonzalez)

ing PayPal. Purchases can be picked up on Friday, April 20, at the parking lot opposite Gough Park, 12th and Pope St.

Home and Garden Expo—Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Grant County Conference Center, 3050 E. Hwy. 180.

Many activities are planned, including 12 mini-workshops (45 minutes each) on topics ranging from pasturing chickens to keeping bees, hydro-



Eye-popping yellow damianita flowers can be ordered at the Native Plant Society's Plant Sale on March 10 at the Silco Theater. (Photo by Phoebe Lawrence)

ponics to using native plants in permaculture. Lloyd Kreitzer, "The Figman of Albuquerque," will talk on growing figs, pomegranates and jujubes. Other experts include Doug Smith of Townside Farm, organic herb grower Monica Rude, Judy O'Laughlin from the county extension office and Trish Hurley of Lone Mountain Native Plant Nursery. For a complete mini-workshop list, see www.silvercityfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

The expo will also feature the Silver City Food Coop's Annual Seed Share (bring seeds to share and go away with free seeds), vendors, a silent auction, kids' gardening activities with Martha Egnal, garden supervisor of the Guadalupe Montessori School, and music by Bayou Seco. Local gardening experts will also discuss crop selection for our area and year-round gardening. The \$2 entry fee (under 12 free) helps support various Grant County Farmers' Markets. 🌱

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




Get a jump-start on spring at the Home and Garden Expo, which benefits local farmers markets (pictured above).



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ARTS EXPOSURE • JEFF BERG

Taking a Bead on Art

Las Cruces artist Julianne Hadfield "paints" with beads.

Bead artist Julianne Hadfield is the real McCoy.

She's been working in art for most of her life. "I've always made jewelry; I just never knew I'd do it for a living," she says of the skill that has blossomed into a full-time endeavor.

Hadfield is of Russian and Romanian descent, and her father is a fine artist, a painter; she is thinking of displaying some of his work at her fascinating and adventurous store in Mesilla, Julianne Jewelry. She was born in Ventura, Calif., but didn't stay there for too long a time.

"I went to college at 18 to Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., and was just taken in by Colorado. It was so down to earth as opposed to California, where they talk about what they have, rather than who they are."

So California became a thing of the past, although she does retain a fondness for the beach. "We used to go there to check the waves and surf," Hadfield recalls on a chilly winter day in Las Cruces.

She arrived here in 1989, with husband Odell Hadfield, who is an associate professor of curriculum and instruction at NMSU's College of Education. His field of specialty, as noted on the NMSU website, is "quantitative research design; multidimensional models of learning, theories of learning and instruction." As his wife puts it, he "teaches teachers how to teach math."

Although she says, "I never saw myself going to college," Hadfield earned a degree in graphic design. She later used that degree to work for a local agency, but found that unsatisfying, so she tried her hand at retail at Dillard's for several years



Above: Julianne Hadfield in her Mesilla shop. Below left and next page: Samples of her beading artistry. (Photos by Bob Petticolas)

while continuing to do her beadwork.

"I took a job as a sales clerk, with the idea of getting a shop going within Dillard's," she recalls. Instead, she rose to a management position at the store, while being able to get her art placed in about 20 stores and attending juried art shows whenever possible. At various times, Hadfield's work has been available at almost 50 locations around the country.

A bit later, Dillard's became a bit of liability, as they wouldn't give Hadfield time off to attend the shows. She says that an artist can be blacklisted for failing to participate as promised in a juried show. "The store manager suggested that I should be thinking of priorities and Dillard's thought I would stay."

Nope. Instead, Hadfield went about setting up her own business in Mesilla, renting a space from one of the more prominent families of the village, the Fountains. Art Fountain rented her a space, and in spite of her own misgivings about doing what she really wanted to do, she was at least able to cover the rent from the start.

With a bit of a smile, Hadfield says, "Dillard's contacted me to come back to work for them: 'You can work nights, which would allow you to still do your art and run your shop.'"

Nope.

"Wasn't it Joseph Campbell who said 'follow your bliss'?"

Hadfield, an intelligent woman with a keen business eye, was able to work a deal with Fountain, where she paid him four months' rent in advance. That gave her some leverage that would allow her to work on building clientele and



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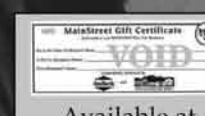


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Things went well enough for Hadfield to consider expanding. So when another store on the Mesilla Plaza became available, she struck another unusual, but very worthwhile business deal.

“Viola Tafoya was a shop owner, but she had some health issues, and was about to sell out to Emerald Isle (a local women’s clothing boutique). I told her that if could rent the store, I would also buy her inventory as well.”

She’s been there ever since, about 10 years now, and even expanded to have three stores at one time.

“If I didn’t have the money, I wouldn’t get it,” Hadfield says of her uncanny business sense.

Hadfield later sold one operation, and tragically, just over a year ago, her store in Cloudcroft burned down in a major fire that took out part of the main shopping area of the small resort town.

“On Dec. 13, I got a call at 5:30 in the morning and it was gone by 7:30,” she recalls. “We had just had a new sign installed and we got to Cloudcroft just as the roof was coming down, but the sign hadn’t burned. It was rather poetic.”

Just prior to the loss of the store, Hadfield’s

mother died in California. Recently Hadfield returned to California to scatter her mother’s ashes in a private ceremony with her brother and sister.

But now, with major setbacks aside, Hadfield can concentrate on her jewelry and eclectic Mesilla shop. The shop carries an intriguing mix of women’s clothes, small decorative items for the house, some local food treats and, of course, a lot of jewelry. Not all the beadwork is done by Hadfield, but it is all handmade by beading artists in the United States.

Today, she’s just opened up the store for business after overcoming some car trouble that made her late. It’s quiet and pleasant on the Mesilla Plaza, with *quiet* being the keyword.

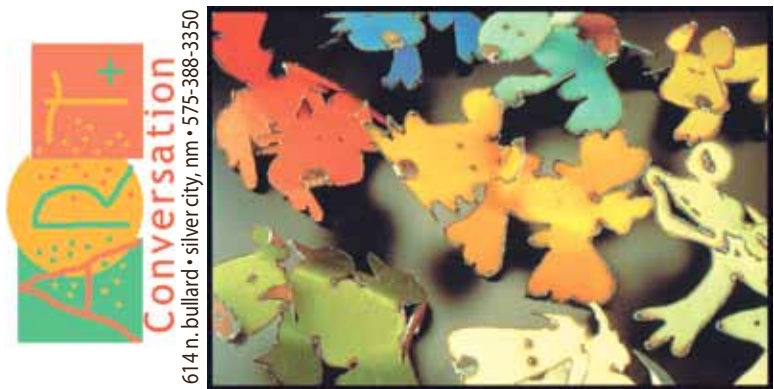
Hadfield takes out two beautiful pins from a showcase and places them on the countertop in front of me, then goes to visit with two customers who have entered the shop. Although she has four employees, none is working this morning.

The two pins are similar in design, but one is a bit larger than the other. After the customers leave, Hadfield comes back to explain her process.

“A friend who owns some peacocks had sent me some of their feathers in the mail,” she says. “I had been beading all day anyway—12 hours—and my hands were cramping. I went to bed and had just gotten to the first phase of sleeping. But the more I thought about it, the more I wondered: What if I could do the flow of the feather with movement? I got up to draw it and to figure out the technique. I always start from scratch and really wanted to achieve the flow of the feather.”

Hadfield prefaces most of her artwork ideas and designs by saying, “I got up,” and it certainly seems that a lot of her inspiration occurs when she *should* be sleeping. She sketches or paints all of her ideas before starting to work on them, and even though she enjoyed painting as a child, she no longer does it as part of her repertoire of art.

HADFIELD continued on next page



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HADFIELD continued

"I did five drawings and probably had 10 different versions of the design," she continues. "It took about 15 hours from start to finish."

And she has certainly accomplished the flow and movement she saw in her artist's vision. Both pieces have a colorful stone as a centerpiece, with rows of tiny beads encompassing all sides, allowing the piece to sway gently, and mimicking the colors of a peacock. It is delicate and not at all gaudy, and makes me think that women get to wear all of the fun jewelry and clothes.

The price indicates that Hadfield works to keep her art affordable and reasonable, even when she sometimes employs extra bead workers. (She explains, "I use beaders who don't have their own designs.") I calculate that the price of the pin doesn't even come out to \$10 an hour.

Some more browsers enter the shop. I watch as Hadfield uses her subtle but effective sales technique to sell an unusual beaded purse made by a California artist, whom Hadfield feels is a kindred spirit, to a conservatively dressed friend of one of her own friends with whom she once attended Pilates classes.

The woman had been admiring the purse, a unique undersea design, while I visited with her companion, who, as it turns out, lives in the same neighborhood as Hadfield and I. The customer didn't seem the type to admire the work—small, colorful and fragile—but the selling points that Hadfield uses make a sale.

Sale complete, Hadfield returns to talk more about her work and why she is dressed the way she is dressed the way she is this day. "Instead of dressing like a bohemian hippie chick artist—" a look that she hints has quite an appeal for her otherwise—"I try to dress a bit more conservatively to not put off customers. Today I was going to wear slacks and a silk blouse, but decided that since we were doing the photo shoot, I would dress up a bit."

Indeed, Hadfield has done so, wearing a long summery black dress that has a checkboard pattern of sorts from the knees down, alternating sheer fabric with regular fabric. It is at once both attractive and feminine, with just a touch of "bohemian hippie" to it. And her shoes are a dead giveaway....



Views of the two very different sides of Hadfield's beaded *Caballo de Las Cruces* pony.

It is not all art and business for Julianne Hadfield, however. Until recently she also ran long distance. She loves to horseback ride. She keeps a garden, as she has become more conscious of where her food comes from, and has a longing to try motorcycle riding.

She is the mother of two. Dustin, now 16, has taken an interest in acting and recently starred in a production of *The 39 Steps* at the Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces, performing 13 roles (as an adult, no less) in the play. Sandy, age 13, is an up-and-coming artist in his own right, who proudly explains to me that a drawing of his recently earned a spot in the Las Cruces School District calendar. His work graces the



Hadfield sketches or paints all of her ideas, such as these jewelry pieces, before starting to work on them. (Photo by Bob Peticolas)

month of April, and was one of only 12 such selected from all the submissions in the entire school district.

And then there is *Caballo de Las Cruces*. The famous horse, decorated with more than 2 million glass beads, galloped into

Hadfield's life after her design was selected by the Doña Ana Arts Council from about 50 submissions from other area artists. It was part of the Trail of Painted Ponies, a New Mexico public art project.

She recalls, "The arts council director asked me to submit a drawing for the horse idea, and [here it is again] I couldn't sleep, so I got up and started drawing. I had the pictures ready to turn in within 24 hours. They called and said, 'Good news, your design has been chosen!'"

After some more wrangling with various art and government agencies, Hadfield won out, and was able to continue with her vision of the horse, working the hours that she could offer to the all-

volunteer project. From the start she envisioned it as a community project, which it became.

"It was completed in 2004, and over 100 volunteers worked on the horse, with each bead being dipped in polyurethane before being attached." The project totaled some 4,000 hours of labor.

The horse depicts two different and distinct visions, with one side showing a sunrise/sunset view, to honor Las Cruces, and the other a version of "Starry Night" by Vincent van Gogh.

Proudly, Mom Hadfield says that idea "came from Dustin, who was only in second grade at the time."

The pony, which is currently on display in the lobby of the Doña Ana County Building, is still for sale, although offers have been made. Hadfield also donated the beads, all 2 million.

"Beading for me is an art, not a craft, as many people see it," she says, "as I use beads as paints for my palette."

Although it wasn't her work that left the shop a bit earlier in the morning, something that Julianne Hadfield told the customer might have been the turning point in the sale.

"Practicality is out the door—you're wearing an art piece." ❁

ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene
The latest area art happenings.

Silver City & Grant County

Seedboat Gallery is featuring photography by Robert Medina Cook. 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136.

The new **Raven's Nest Boutique** will hold a vintage kimono trunk show and sale beginning during the First Friday events downtown, March 2. 106 W. Yankie.

Copper Quail Gallery will feature "Ink Pours and Pearls," works by Jane Bowen and Gerry Gordon, with an opening reception March 10, 1-5 p.m. 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankie and Texas, 388-2646.

This month's **Artist Lecture Series** talk at WNMU's Parotti Hall, March 22 at 6:30 p.m., features printmaker Katherine Brimberry, co-founder of Flatbed Press in Austin, Texas. Her free talk is entitled "The Dance of Collaboration: Making Art at Flatbed Press." 538-6835.

Curtis Dinwiddie, a ceramics instructor at WNMU, will exhibit his master's work at an opening in the **McCray Gallery** on Friday, March 30, 4:30-7:00 p.m. A potter, Dinwiddie has expressed his art in clay for over 45 years, and has taught in the WNMU Expressive Arts Department for seven years. The exhibition, entitled "Face Value," will remain on view until May 11. 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517.

Leyba & Ingalls Arts is hosting a free acrylic painting lecture on March 30, 2-4 p.m., followed by a one-day painting workshop (\$110) with Nancy Reyner on March 31, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725, www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com.

The Silver City Gallery and Studio Artists Association is putting out a call for studio artists interested in participating in the second annual **Red Dot Studio Tour**. The tour will take place on Friday, Oct. 5, and Saturday, Oct. 6. For more in-



Curtis Dinwiddie exhibits at the McCray Gallery. (Photo: Phoebe Lawrence)



"Aurora" by Tim Read is on display outside the Frame and Art Center in Las Cruces.

formation, pick up a call to artists and application form at Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, or call Bill Blakemore at 654-5316.

Las Cruces & Mesilla

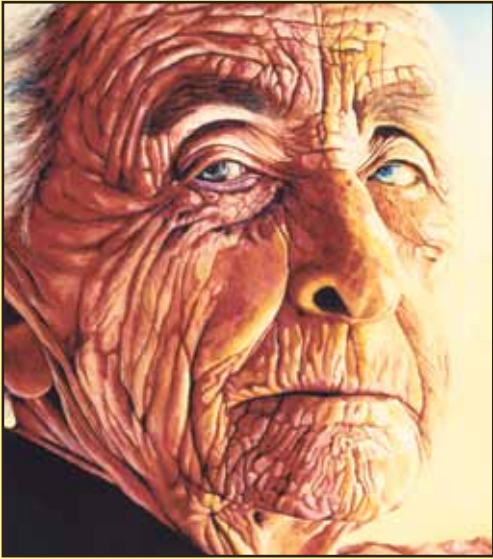
A steel-mosaic sculpture by Silver City artist Tim Read, "Aurora," is now on view outside **The Frame and Art Center** in Las Cruces. Owner Ronald Saltzman says the large sculpture is part of a series he began about three years ago, which has previously featured works by Las Cruces and Deming artists. He heard about Read, who is the first Silver City sculptor to have his work on view outside the store, through a customer of the framing and art-supply store who moved from Silver City to Las Cruces.

Read created the 900-pound sculpture in 2005; this is its first public showing other than in his Silver City front yard. Named for the Greek goddess of the dawn, "Aurora" stands nine feet tall including its base. Says Read, "I use color contrasts and openings in the broken surface to enliven the piece. These openings allow the eye to penetrate the solid form and give a sense of the interior as well as the exterior."

He adds, "I was striving for brightness and levity. 'Aurora' is an attempt to unify the form and subject matter into one powerful image. I have

ARTS SCENE continued on next page

Lois Duffy Art



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Sat. March 3
 10 am-12 pm **State Symbol T-shirt Making**
 Children's Craft Class at the Museum Annex
 12:15 pm **Fiddling Friends Concert** in the Courtyard
 2 pm **Staged Play Reading: Thousand Miles** by Victoria Tester at the Museum Annex *For Mature Audiences*

Mon. March 12 12 noon
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Sat. March 17 2 pm
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Las Cruces Arts Fair Returns March 16-18

Last year's inaugural Las Cruces Arts Fair was such a success that they've decided to do it again, March 16-18. The second annual arts fair opens Friday, March 16, with an VIP gala, 6-9 p.m. at the new convention center, introducing the 80 featured exhibiting artists. Then the fair itself continues at the convention center, Saturday, March 17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, March 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Featured artists, selected from over 178 applicants, come from across the country including Washington, Colorado, Arizona, Missouri, Oregon, Ohio, Texas and North Carolina and across New Mexico, including Santa Fe, Taos, Alamogordo, Albuquerque, La Luz, La Mesa, Silver City and Las Cruces. Art mediums include fabric, leather, weaving, mixed media, painting and drawing, glass, jewelry, photography, wood, sculpture, pottery and ceramics and metal.

Works by area artists include metal yard art by John Harris of Las Cruces and one-of-a-kind glass pieces by Phyllis Robowski of Silver City. Fine jewelry designers Rick

Elkin, a bench jeweler and designer, and Beth Elkin, whose designs focus on fused metals with textured relief, are from La Mesa. Gourds are a specialty of Kathe Starks of Las Cruces, who makes intricate designs with wood-burned inlay, stones, leather sheets and pine needles. Nancy Begin is a versatile artist from Las Cruces who does watercolors, oils and woodworking designs.

Ongoing artist demonstrations will feature regional artists as well as some exhibitors. Children ages 6 to 12 can enjoy activities including digital art, jewelry making, box creation and special drawing. Stephen Hansen, a well known humorous papier maché artist, will be featured in the Special Art Fair Gallery.

All proceeds from the fair benefit the Doña Ana Arts Council. Admission to the opening gala is \$35. General admission to the fair is \$5, under 12 free. For more information, see www.las-cruces-arts.org.



Featured artists at this year's Las Cruces Arts Fair include Austin, Texas, artist Daryl Howard (above) and George Coll from Colorado (below).



ARTS SCENE continued

used the head in a lot of my work since the 1980s. Its spherical shape offers many possibilities for expression in sculpture. People can easily relate to the human head in an outdoor setting. With their large scale, the heads have a powerful presence."

Frame and Art Center is located at 1100 S. Main, 526-2808. For more information on Read's works, see www.timreadsculpture.com.

The **Tombaugh Gallery** presents "The Power of 5," a show by the Insighters, March 4-30. The Insighters are an eclectic group of up to 25 Southern New Mexico artists. The Insighters represent all forms of studio art, media, multimedia and collage, with artwork ranging from realistic to abstract, and from traditional to nontraditional. The "Power of 5" refers to the importance of the number five throughout numerology, religion, natural science and pop culture. The artists' reception for "The Power of 5" is scheduled for Sunday, March 11, from 1:30-3 p.m. following a presentation by Michael Tomor, direc-



Works by Rayma Claessen will be featured at the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery.

tor of the El Paso Museum of Art, in the sanctuary of the Unitarian Universalist Church. Tomor's presentation at noon, "A Vision for the Future: El Paso Museum of Art" is also free and open to the public. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Dr., 522-7281.

The **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery** will feature two local artists this month. Joyce Ann Key works in watercolor, oil, acrylics and pastels. Rayma Claessen is noted for her Organ Mountain landscapes. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla, 522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

Spencer R. Herrera, assistant professor of Spanish at New Mexico State University, and professional photographer Robert Kaiser will be exhibiting photographs from their book *Sagrado: A Photopoetics across the Chicano/a Homeland* this month at **Nopalito's Galeria**. Herrera gives a talk at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 4, followed by a reception featuring Kaiser's photographs. The gallery will also have a reception on Saturday, March 17, at 6 p.m. to discuss and celebrate "Las Platicas." 326 S. Mesquite.

Mesquite Art Gallery will feature works by Greta Burger of Cathouse Glass, who specializes in functional and artistic fused and glass designs, the month of March, with a reception March 10, 4-6 p.m. 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502, www.mesquite-artgallery.com.

Unsettled Gallery and Studio will feature "Convergence," works by Carey Crane, with a re-



Mesquite Art Gallery will feature works by Greta Burger of Cathouse Glass.

ception March 10, 4-6 p.m. The show continues through April 7. 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285.

The **New Mexico Watercolor Society-Southern Chapter's** meeting on March 11, 2-4 p.m., will feature "All About Critiquing" with Victoria West, a watercolorist and former gallery owner from Silver City. West will provide information about how to critique your own paintings, what judges and galleries look for, and how to conduct a critique group. Good Sam's Arts & Crafts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. 523-2950, nmwatercolorssociety.org.

ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

Silver City

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

GINNY WOLF STUDIO & GALLERY, 108 W. Yankie St., 313-5709, ginywolf.wordpress.com.

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, Betsey 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.

LOIS DUFFY, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The studio and gallery of Lois Duffy presents a unique and thought-provoking view of the world through the eyes of an artist. Imaginative portraits, surreal places and realistic scenes of life. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.lois-duffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.

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

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

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

SEEDBOAT CENTER FOR THE ARTS, 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. info@seedboatgallery.com.

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

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

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.

TOP HAT ART, 115 N. Boyard.

TUNDAR GALLERY & STUDIO, 110 Yankie, 597-0011.

TWO SPIRIT GALLERY, 313 N. Bullard, Suite B, 534-4563. Mon.-Sat. 11

a.m.-4 p.m.

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

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

ZOE'S GALLERY, 305 N. Cooper St., 538-8983. By appointment.

Tyrone

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

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

Mimbres

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

Bayard

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

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

Hanover

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

Hurley

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

Northern Grant County & Catron County

RUNNING HORSE GALLERY, Hwy. 180, Pleasanton, 539-2403. Fri.-Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or by appointment. runninghorse@gilanet.com.

Mesilla

ELKIN STUDIO, Oñate Plaza, 635-2025, www.elkinjewelers.com.

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

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

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

MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY, 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sun. 12-5:30 p.m.

ROKOKO, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

Las Cruces

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JUSTUS WRIGHT GALERIA, 266 W. Court Ave., 526-6101, jud@delvalleprinting.com.

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

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

a.m.-6 p.m.

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

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

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

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

NEW DIMENSION ART WORKS, 615 E. Piñon, 373-0043.

NEW MEXICO ART, 121 Wyatt Dr., Suite 1, 525-8292/649-4876. Weds. 1-6 p.m., Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

La Mesa

LA MESA STATION GALLERY, 16205 S. Hwy. 28, 233-3037. Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 1-4 p.m.

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

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

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"So quietly and unostentatiously have [Silver City] women accomplished great things that the towns-people would be much surprised to hear them characterized as at all unusual."

—Silver City resident Joan Moorman, in a 1914 edition of *Council Fires*, New Mexico Federation of Woman's Clubs publication

The writer quoted above could speak with authority—her mother, Elizabeth Warren, was the ultimate role model for female empowerment in Silver City's early years. And Warren was by no means the only local woman of remarkable accomplishment. Decades before New Mexico statehood, the female population of Silver City regularly ventured beyond the limits of society's expectations, making a lasting impact on their community's future.

To be fully appreciated, these women's contributions must be viewed in a context of the late Victorian period in which Silver City developed. Social agreements

on the roles of both sexes had changed radically over the preceding century, as the Industrial Revolution edged out the old agricultural economy grounded on human and animal labor. A new middle class emerged, and with it the concept of "separate spheres" for men and women. Economics, commerce and politics belonged to the public sphere, the realm of men. Women presided in the private sphere of domestic life, rearing children, keeping house and attending to the family's moral wellbeing. Within each respective sphere, everyone theoretically knew his or her place; any who strayed too far outside the prescribed boundaries were censured or ostracized.

Within the Hispanic culture that made up the majority of New Mexico's population in the late 19th century, women's place in the domestic sphere was well established. Strong values of *familia y fe* (family and faith) reinforced close connections among relatives and communities. Although the Latinas in early Grant County rarely ventured into the public sphere (Jesusita Acosta Perrault would be a notable exception), they were hardly shrinking violets. Strong cultural ties binding the family unit took women right along with their husbands into the heart of raw frontier conditions. The US census of 1860—just six years after this section ceased to be part of Mexico—found women in almost every household in the Santa Rita and Hanover mining camps, where virtually all residents were Hispanic. These demographics contrast sharply with the typical male-dominated mining camps established by Anglos.

When Grant County Latinas emerged into the public sphere in the mid-20th century, they would



Two nurses pose on the porch of the Ladies' Hospital on Hudson Street. (Photo courtesy Silver City Museum)

do so in a spectacular, history-making way. Although the 1950-52 Empire Zinc strike and its subsequent depiction in the blacklisted film, *Salt of the Earth*, fall outside the territorial timeframe, they must be mentioned. When striking miners of the Local 890 Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers were barred from picketing by court injunction, their wives, sisters and daughters took their places on the picket line. Facing violence, harassment, jail (and, for some, their husbands' disapproval), the women stood fast, supporting one another in heartfelt opposition to the institutionalized discrimination of the big mining companies. Tarnished by McCarthy-era allegations of communism, this important chapter in American history has never been recognized for its true significance. These Grant County women not only stepped outside traditional roles within their own culture but also the 1950s norm for women in general—and they did so a decade before the Civil Rights movement and two decades before the women's movement.

Civic Engagement

There was no question into which sphere frontier mining camps fell. These largely male enclaves were rife with danger, uncertainty, rough conditions and rougher characters. Early female settlers in southwest New Mexico had to be unusually adventurous, adaptable and resourceful to survive—much less thrive—in such an environment. By all indications, their presence was welcomed and their "civilizing" influence valued by the male population. With no evident opposition, Silver City women readily directed their nurturing inclinations beyond the parlor to address the needs of their infant town. Years before reformer Jane Addams coined the term, women in Silver City were actively practicing "social housekeeping."

The first effort around which women rallied in Silver City was the organization of a public school. In 1873 (three years after the town's founding), they formed a Ladies' Educational Association and launched a building fund drive. Although it took nine years to accomplish, Silver City would have the first brick schoolhouse—and the first independent school district—in New Mexico Territory. Educational benefits offered to girls in Silver City's first school yielded far-reaching impacts in years to come.

A profoundly important woman-initiated undertaking was the establishment of a hospital for Grant County. In casual conversation at a sewing-circle gathering in 1883, someone lamented that injured miners had no proper place to receive medical care. In short order the women set aside their sewing, incorporated the Grant County Charity Hospital Society and secured the use of a cottage

for hospital purposes. Until that time, the closest thing to a hospital was a pest house for isolating smallpox victims. A local legislator secured a small annual appropriation from the territory for hospital operations, and the county commission agreed to pay the costs of care for poor county residents at a rate of \$1 per day. The county also provided free use of a larger building, and a physician contributed his services. All other costs were the responsibility of the Hospital Society.

Along with near-constant fundraising, the women actively managed the business affairs of the hospital, purchased supplies, hired and fired staff, and volunteered any needed assistance. Unofficially known as the Ladies' Hospital, the Grant County Charity Hospital continued to grow and meet evolving community needs well into New Mexico statehood. Several location and name changes later, the hospital (then in the facility remembered as Hillcrest) was finally turned over to local government by the Hospital Society in 1949. In its newest home, it lives on today as Gila Regional Medical Center.

As Silver City grew, women tirelessly raised funds for any number of local causes, often staging benefit concerts and performances. The 1880s saw several attempts at establishing a local library, including a reading room run by temperance advocates. The DAR public library, started in the early 1900s by the Daughters of the American Revolution, operated into the 1920s. Silver City's first park, on the block now occupied by the College Plaza complex, was another DAR project in the same period.

The organization of a Silver City Mother's Club in 1909 brought together many talented and determined women to focus their energies on civic betterment (it became the Silver City Woman's Club in 1911). Club members campaigned for the introduction of domestic science and manual arts instruction into New Mexico schools and worked closely with the county health officer in an intensive campaign to improve sanitation. With a strong concern for children, the club donated playground equipment to the public school and launched the first social welfare programs to aid the community's neediest residents.

Working Women

Occupations for the women who worked or owned businesses in the territorial period usually fell into two categories: "nurturing" professions aligned with traditional female roles (teachers, nurses, hotel keepers, restaurant operators and cooks, laundresses, child care providers, instructors in music or dancing) and services provided by women for women (dressmaking, millinery, midwifery, hairdressing). The enchilada parlors and enchilada stands that were the ancestors of Silver City's Mexican restaurants were run by women, including Simona Gutierrez, Chona Clark and Guadalupe Patton. (Local lore suggests that the practice of serving enchiladas with an egg on top originated in Silver City.) Some local women assisted husbands in running businesses. This is the avenue through which Elizabeth Warren entered the public sphere, where she would long occupy a prominent position.

Elizabeth von Wachenhusen was born in New York in 1855. At age 19 she married Orange Scott Warren, and they traveled extensively in the early years of their marriage. Ready to settle down, O.S. Warren came to Silver City in 1882 and started an insurance business, then sent for his family to join him. Elizabeth traveled to Silver City from San Francisco by stagecoach with her three young children in tow. She was among the Hospital Society organizers, assisting at the hospital's first surgery.

When her husband died suddenly in 1885, Elizabeth Warren secured the appointment as agent for the insurance companies he had represented. She excelled in this field, eventually buying out several of her competitors. Expanding into real estate, she acquired many properties and converted a mining boom-era hotel into a luxury re-



Elizabeth Warren

International Women's History Month Events

All events are in Silver City except as noted. For more information, see www.womenonthe-move-silvercitynm.com.

Women's Day Parade, Sunday, **March 25**—1 p.m. assemble at Morningstar Parking Lot on Bullard Street; 2 p.m. parade begins and moves south up Bullard to Javalina for a music celebration

Women Speaking Series,

at Silver City Museum Annex

Friday, **March 2**, 2-5 p.m.—Alexandra Todd: "Women of Dakar, Senegal, West Africa," reading and film

Thursday, **March 8**, 3-4 p.m.—Ann Marie Elder: "A portrait of Susan Glaspell: America's First Female Playwright"

Sunday, **March 18**, 2-3 p.m.—Susan Berry: "Founding Mothers (and Daughters): Some Powerful Women from Silver City's Early Years"

Friday, **April 6**, 2-5 p.m.—Lee Gruber, Bina Breitner and Diana Ingalls Leyba: "Good Grief!"

Sunday, **April 22**, 2-3 p.m.—Manda Claire Jost: "The Divine and the Devastated: A Paradox of Women in India"

Speakers

Thursday, **March 22**, 6:30 p.m.—Katherine Brimberry, fine art printmaker, Artist Lecture Series, WNMU Parotti Hall

Saturday, **March 24**, 11 a.m.—Cindy Donatelli: "History of Women Marching in the Streets," Public Library

Music

Thursday, **April 12**, 7:30 p.m.—Michelle Shocked, Buckhorn Opera House, Pinos Altos

sort for health-seekers. Despite her personal achievements, she modestly conducted business as Mrs. O.S. Warren.

Early 20th century events pushed Warren deeper into the public sphere. After the devastating 1902 flood, she oversaw construction of a massive stone wall to shore up her home and office at the corner of Market and Main Streets; this would be the first Big Ditch stabilization project, and her house the only historic Main Street building that ultimately survived. Her business activities expanded to include construction when a 1907 ordinance required property owners to install concrete sidewalks. Matilda Koehler, newly resigned as public school principal, superintended Warren's crew. Several miles of sidewalks later, the women engaged in a full-scale general contracting business, constructing and remodeling homes and businesses and tackling public works projects.

Koehler (who signed her name M.R. Koehler) originally came west in 1888 to help organize the New Mexico A & M College in Las Cruces. She served 15 years with Silver City's school and was regarded one of the best educators the community had ever known. Years later, though, she conceded that construction was the preferable job "because it paid better."

Warren and Koehler were probably the only local women of their era to have second careers, but not the only ones doing nontraditional jobs at the turn of the 20th cen-



Matilda Koehler

tury. Others included Dr. Carolyn Spangenberg, osteopathic physician; Mrs. M. Wenzel and Grace Shaw, who each operated the Santa Rita stage line; Victoria Carroll, who ran a boot and shoe repair shop; Miss E.F. Rondquist, telegrapher; Martha Bryant and Alva Argenbright, photographers; Kate Crawford, greenhouse operator; and Margaret Lohman, who took over her late husband's barbershop. Artie E. Galloway became Silver City's first female postmaster in 1898; Agnes Morley Cleaveland (future author of *No Life for a Lady*) bought the Rosedale Dairy in 1907; Frances Leach discovered radium deposits near White Signal in 1920.

By the 1890s new fields of employment began to open up to women, including stenography and clerical work. A number of young women worked as compositors, setting type for the two weekly newspapers. Silver City was selected in 1893 as the site for the New Mexico Territorial Normal School, the predecessor of WNMU. This reinforced the community's long-standing value for education and provided students—mostly young women—with higher education and training for teaching careers.

Anita Scott, the daughter of a former Buffalo Soldier, was the Normal School's first African-American graduate in 1909. Although her prolific writing career went largely unnoticed in Silver City, today she is considered an important contributor to the Harlem Renaissance. Born in Guaymas, Mexico, she was raised from an early age on her father's homestead south of Silver City (present site of the municipal golf course) and attended the public school. After several years of teaching, Anita married James Harold Coleman and they lived on the family homestead until moving to Los Angeles in 1926. Her first 13 short stories, published while she lived in Silver City, marked the beginning of a 30-year writing career.



Anita Scott Coleman about 1948.

Anita Scott Coleman published stories, poems and essays in a number of national magazines and two books. Her work lent a distinctly Southwestern voice to issues of racism, war and the definition of patriotism.

Getting Political

Women in territorial New Mexico were not entirely without legal rights. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo upheld the property rights of women, long guaranteed under the Mexican land-grant system. Women could initiate lawsuits, file for divorce and obtain custody of minor children, administer the estates of deceased persons, and serve on corporate boards. Those who broke the law were subject to the same punishments as their male counterparts. But they could not vote or—in theory—run for public office.

In 1892 a local newspaper noted some talk of nominating ladies for the office of county school superintendent, something that had apparently been tried in other parts of the country. Elizabeth Warren was suggested (one editor candidly remarked, "Mrs. Warren was really the first superintendent Grant County ever had, as she did the work while her husband, Mr. O.S. Warren, filled the office"). At the county Republican convention Warren's name was placed in nomination, but she withdrew it because of legal doubts "as to whether a woman could qualify under our statutes." Professor R.H. Theilman received the nomination. The county Democrats selected Kate Thompson, a popular young health-seeker, as their candidate for school superintendent. She was reportedly the first woman ever to run for an office in the territory, but despite her strong campaign Theilman won the election.

Silver City teacher Isabel Eckles was placed in the running for Grant County school superintendent in 1911 and was elected, taking office just as New Mexico entered statehood. A product of the



Isabel Eckles

WOMEN
continued on
next page



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Silver City public school (and the Normal School's first graduate), Eckles served as superintendent for seven years. She then became registrar at the Normal School, and served as acting president of the institution for several months.

In 1922, Eckles was the second-highest vote getter on the Democratic ticket when she was elected state superintendent of schools. After two terms in that office, she superintended the Santa Fe schools for 10 years and then completed her career in the Women's Division of the WPA for New Mexico. Eckles was the first woman to head the New Mexico Education Association, served as president of the 1,800-member National Council of Administrative Women in Education, and was appointed by President Coolidge as New Mexico representative for Education and Health. Urged to accept the presidency of the National Education Association by its nominating committee, she declined due to other commitments.

Educator, author and politician Jesusita Acosta Perrault became one of New Mexico's most influential women in the early statehood period. Born to a prominent family in Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1877, she was educated in Silver City in the public school and the Academy of Our Lady of Lourdes. After graduating from the Normal School in 1898, she married Charlie May, but her young husband soon died. Jesusita taught for several years at the San Juan and San Lorenzo public schools in the Mimbres Valley, followed by a brief teaching stint in three state schools in Chihuahua. She returned to Grant County and in 1909 married Edward A. Perrault, member of a pioneering area family. The couple had four daughters.

Jesusita Perrault worked as a translator for the Selective Service in 1915, and in the early 1920s was Grant County deputy assessor. She also became active in the Alianza Hispano-Americano, a *mutualista* (community-based mutual aid society for Mexican-Americans) with many chapters in Grant County. Widowed a second time in 1926, she entered politics as Republican candidate for county school superintendent. In 1928 Perrault was named the area's juvenile court and probation officer, and the following year became secretary of state for New Mexico. This position took on extra significance when the lieutenant governor resigned and Perrault—the next in line—acted as governor on several occasions while the chief executive was away. In 1931 President Hoover appointed Perrault as federal employment commissioner for New Mexico, and the



Jesusita Acosta Perrault

same year she was named to the State Board of Education. During 15 years on that board, she authored a textbook on New Mexico geography that was used widely in public school classrooms. She also served on the national board of the Alianza Hispano-Americana.

Sadly, New Mexico statehood in 1912 did not grant women the right to vote—in fact, it was the only Western state not to do so prior to passage of the 19th amendment to the US Constitution in 1920. The state constitution did include a provision for school suffrage, permitting women to vote only in local school elections (and these were required to be held separately from “other” elections). Another

constitutional provision, however, allowed counties to opt out of the school suffrage provision. One only has to imagine what the women of early Silver City could have accomplished if they'd had the vote! ❀

The long-time director of the Silver City Museum, Susan Berry also co-authored an architectural history of the town, Built to Last. As part of March's Women's History Month events (see box for complete schedule), she will speak on Sunday, March 18, 2-3 p.m., at the Museum Annex on “Founding Mothers (and Daughters): Some Powerful Women from Silver City's Early Years.”

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Thurs., March 22 at 6:30pm

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WNMU Parotti Hall

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Following the River

Notes from a small-town environmentalist:
Why I am on the board of the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance.



Scenes of the
Gila River.
(Photos by
Dennis Weller)

At a certain age, we can look back at our life and see, more clearly, its arc and narrative shape. I was raised by a single mother in apartment buildings in the suburbs of Phoenix. As a child, my nature was a square of Bermuda grass and a highly chlorinated swimming pool. I didn't go camping. My relationship to animals centered around a Siamese cat. Even so, in 1976, I graduated from college with a degree in Conservation and Natural Resources; in December of 1980, I had my Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing; and one month after that, my husband and I moved to southwestern New Mexico with the idea of becoming "back-to-the landers." Four months later we owned property on an irrigation ditch in the Mimbres Valley and were reading up on how to make adobe bricks.

We believed we were on the cutting edge of environmental change. It was in the air. Earth Day. Deep ecology. Bioregionalism. We were part of a larger cultural conversation, rooting our lives in soil and sun, making the world better by making our personal connections to the world more direct—in the shape of an onion or a house made of mud. So we built our adobe home and had a too-big garden and too many goats and too much goat cheese in the refrigerator. We had two homebirths, a daughter and son. Our illusion that we could live off the land lasted two weeks, or maybe a few years, and then we got jobs and in 1995 moved to Silver City where our children could walk to school and play in high school sports. Recently we have built a home in the Gila Valley and look forward to living there fulltime.

Meanwhile, the larger cultural conversation shifted to green cities, the hope now for our relationship to the planet. Cities are where 85% of Americans live (worldwide, the percentage is about 50% and climbing), where humans use the least resources and produce the fewest greenhouse gases per person, where creativity sparks in the diminished spaces between us, and where we'll contain the damage of overpopulation.

In my opinion, at least, the important changes will not happen here in the rural West, my chosen home, a place I love deeply and will continue to love for the rest of my life.

I'm not unhappy that the ideas of my youth have been proven wrong. I'm just relieved that the cultural conversation is alive. I'm pleased—against the drumbeat of climate change—that hope exists. As an environmentalist, I also believe that although my relationship to nature won't help save the world, those of us who choose the small Southwestern town or the Mimbres or Gila Valley or the

villages of Gila Hot Springs and Glenwood and Reserve have real value as stewards on the ground. We are caretakers of the vast public and private lands that surround and nurture the city. We represent an important minority, still living in or near a wild landscape with wild animals. We are part of the diversity of human culture, and we preserve some part of our human selves by preserving these places where rivers still flow and mountain lions still hunt and willow flycatchers build their nests undisturbed.

In the late 1980s, a young couple named Steve and Nena MacDonald in the Gila Valley formed a conservation group called Friends of the Gila River, a name partly taken from their ties to Quakerism and Quaker philosophy. The group documented how overgrazing on public lands was denuding parts of the national forest, places where the river had turned into sweeps of gravel punctuated by a few old trees. They made phone calls, wrote letters, pole-planted willow, and pointed out where the fences were down. They prompted the Forest Service to enforce its no-cow policy on a nearby bird refuge. They submitted a petition asking the government to make restoration of the Gila River a priority. Eventually they became part of a Forest Service management team that included ranchers and environmentalists, sportsmen and bureaucrats. They were forceful but Quakerly. "We are all rural people here," Steve would say. "What we share is important." They never forgot their priority to be part of a larger and diverse community of human beings, animals and plants. "We need to listen," Nena would say, "to break down the barriers."

Friends of the Gila River evolved into the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance (UGWA), whose mission is to "promote the long-term health of the Upper Gila Watershed and its communities of life." I joined the board of UGWA in 1996, left for eight years to serve on the Silver City Consolidated School Board, and returned in 2006, continuing to the present. The work of past executive director Melanie Pierson and present executive director Donna Stevens, with the help of many energetic volunteers and board members, has created an extraordinary grassroots organization, engaged in active restoration projects on the Gila River as well as community outreach and education.

Importantly, UGWA partners successfully with other local and national environmental groups such as the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP), Gila Conservation Coalition (GCC), Gila Conservation Education Center (GCEC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance (NMWA), Sky Island Alliance (SWA), the Center for Biological Diversity, The Wilderness Society, and others. That such a bouquet of acronyms exists in this corner of southwestern New Mexico is remarkable and inspiring and speaks to the heart of why so many of us are here. We all want to be part of this community of land.

A typical UGWA board meeting includes an up-

date on ongoing projects, and at some point—in the middle of this long list—I often feel a *frisson* of satisfaction. It's as if I were doing this work myself (which I am definitely not, being only a board member)—lifting a shovel, digging holes for willow, scattering grass seed, moving boulders.

At a recent meeting, for example, we discussed our grant in the Burro Mountains to restore a major wildlife watering hole. When we are done, the degraded riparian area will be protected from cattle and will retain surface water for a longer time, with native plants and animals returning quickly to the site. For our executive director Donna Stevens, a botanist who often leads hikes for groups like WILL or the Gila Native Plant Society, this area has a particular subtle beauty. "I really love this little stream," she says, "partly because it's one of the first places I visited when I was learning to identify native plants and also because water in the desert is so special. There are old towering cottonwoods here but very few young ones. I always knew this place had a lot of potential. So when an opportunity came along to protect it, I jumped."

Donna also reports that UGWA has finished the first year of a three-year inventory of invasive plants in the Aldo Leopold Wilderness, helping the Forest Service know whether and where non-native species are causing a problem: "Our first season, we found a few elms along the creeks and, of course, horehound and mullein, which are so widespread that most people don't realize they are not native to this area. My main impression, though, was not of degradation but of the beauty of the area."

In the meantime, we have two other ongoing studies. In Black Canyon Creek in the Aldo Leopold Wilderness, we are trying to determine why the temperature of the stream is too high to support healthy populations of native fish like the Gila trout. At Mogollon Creek in the Gila Wilderness, we are taking water samples at several places and different times of year to see why the stream exceeds the state standard for the potentially toxic metal aluminum.

A project we are winding down is a joint effort



with The Nature Conservancy to remove invasive non-native trees along the Gila River such as Russian olives, tamarisk, Siberian elm and Tree of Heaven, and to plant native willow. We have also completed reinforcing a barrier of boulders at the Mogollon Box Campground, preventing trucks and ATVs from driving into the river. Last spring, UGWA built a similar barrier to another road into the riparian area.

Protecting fragile streams from motorized traffic continues to be one of our major concerns. We believe in the rights of ATV users to recreate on public land. In the travel management plan currently favored by the Forest Service, some 3,300 miles of legal roads in the forest would remain open and accessible. But indiscriminate off-road driving into sensitive meadows and waterways creates erosion, damages native plants, decreases water quality, and disturbs wildlife. In the ongoing process of developing a fair and reasonable road system in the national forest, UGWA represents the interests of quiet users—hikers, campers, anglers, birders—not to mention deer, elk, javelina, bear, toads, frogs and tiger beetles.

Another longtime goal of UGWA has been the reintroduction of the river otter to the Gila River. For the last 12 years, many conservation groups in New Mexico have worked together to return this native to its natural habitat—after a 50-year absence and long after all other Western states have already achieved this goal. Last winter, UGWA volunteers met in a celebratory mood





Matthews and retired biologist Harley Shaw. Past and future programs include the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, a Chautauqua presentation on Aldo Leopold, and a riveting (we promise) discussion of skunks.

to build wooden pods or holding containers for the animals’ capture and release. Otters were on the verge of coming home to southwestern New Mexico. Then a new state administration and the new director of the Department of Game and Fish came up with last-minute objections and withdrew their support.

Those concerns legitimately include the effect otters might have on the Gila River’s threatened and endangered native fish populations. But Steve MacDonald, a mammalogist as well as founder of UGWA, points to studies showing that otters prefer to prey on introduced game fish, which are slower and larger than the native chubs, spikedace and loach minnow. As well as eating the highly predatory exotic fishes, otters also love snacking on non-native crayfish and bullfrogs, which continue to spread throughout the watershed, degrading habitat and impacting native species. “If we really want to protect our native fish,” Steve says, “then we need to not only improve their habitat but also reduce their primary threat, the non-native predators and competitors that now dominate the Gila’s waters. The otter remains our best and, realistically, most doable option.”

As Donna tells the board, “We are rethinking our strategy, and we are not going away.”

UGWA is also partnering with other environmental groups to prevent the construction of an expensive diversion on the Gila River—what we believe to be a wildly inappropriate use of the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA) money soon to be coming to the four-county area. The image of a concrete pipeline transporting New Mexico’s last free-flowing river to satisfy unchecked consumer demand elsewhere in the state is a likely end scenario of that diversion. Instead, we could use this money in so many productive ways, including new municipal water wells in Silver City and an infrastructure that shares water between Silver City and the villages of Bayard and Hurley, improved conservation methods across southwestern New Mexico, the establishment of water rights for outside domestic use in the Gila Valley basin, and better irrigation systems for local farmers. We could have all this and still keep the Gila River as an ecological treasure that will only become more precious in the coming years.

For UGWA, advocacy and watershed health also mean education and community outreach. As is often the case, we are motivated by our own desire to learn more. Recent mountain lion activity in the Gila Valley has prompted us to host this March 24 an afternoon forum at the Gila Senior Center and an evening forum at the Silco Theatre on the ecology of this predator, with state biologists Rick Winslow and Mike

like most nonprofit work, done on a shoestring. UGWA depends on the volunteer work of its 200-some members and on their donations. We also get grants from conservation groups, and we apply for restoration and study projects with agencies like the Forest Service and state Environment Department. We never know if we will get enough donations or grants to last another year or—more than once in the organization’s lifetime—another six months. Nonprofits learn to live with this financial insecurity. We scramble. We are frugal. We hope for the best.

At the end of this board meeting, held at someone’s home here in the Gila Valley, we walk out to a wintry view of the river. The curve of cottonwood trees is soft-gray, gray-green and gray-brown, against a blue sky. We can still hear the calls of sandhill cranes, not yet migrated north. If we are very lucky, we might see a bald eagle, also a winter resident. We will likely see the tracks of javelina or deer or raccoon or fox in the paths leading to the irrigation ditch. We know we are not alone here.

Some years back, the conservationist William DeBuys came to Silver City (a presentation sponsored by GRIP, UGWA and the Center for Biological Diversity) to speak about the impact of climate change. His advice to those of us facing a hotter and drier American Southwest: conserve water, love the desert, protect your rivers.

The best advice is often this simple.

In my daily life, conserving water is a battle against habit and cultural norm, a way of making conscious my relationship to the earth—from not letting the faucet run while I brush my teeth to choosing which plants to grow in my yard.

Loving the desert is easy, perhaps especially for someone born at Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert, raised on the edge of the Sonoran Desert, and living—for the last 30 years—in the transition from grassland Chihuahuan Desert to scrub-oak and juniper. The curve of a mesquite pod. A pinacate beetle standing on its head. Stalks of yucca like candles in July. What’s not to love?

Protecting rivers in the American Southwest is a more difficult task, and that’s where I turn to my membership and participation in the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance. This is not something I can do on my own. This requires a community of environmentalists, teachers, parents, ranchers, farmers, hunters, hikers, voters—all of us who call this landscape our home. This is where we must take our role as stewards seriously. What we lose now could be lost forever. What we have now—this beauty, this wealth—is to be celebrated, the rhythms of the natural world twined into

our days and nights, the bright stars overhead, the desert blooming, the forest and streams rich with life. ❧

For more information on UGWA, contact Donna Stevens at (575) 590-5698 or director@ugwa.org or visit the website ugwa.org. To join UGWA, send your name, address, email and check (anything from \$10 on up) to UGWA, PO Box 383, Gila, NM 88038.

Sharman Apt Russell is the author of a number of books and articles on the environment, most recently Standing in the Light: My Life as a Pantheist (Basic Books, \$18). She is currently working on a project on being a citizen scientist studying tiger beetles—hence the earlier reference and inside joke.


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Saturday March 24, 2012


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Gila Senior Center, Gila

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FREE Admission

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Moderator: Sharman Apt Russell, Author

Contact UGWA for more information: 575-590-5698



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LOOKING BACKWARD • JAY W. SHARP

Small Town, Big History

On March 10, Columbus once again remembers that day in 1916 when Pancho Villa put the community in the history books.



Above: Pancho Villa on the attack. Statue in the placita of Palomas, Mexico, south of Columbus. (Photo by Jay W. Sharp)

Every year in the month of March, Columbus, New Mexico—an isolated Chihuahuan Desert village three miles north of our border with Mexico—recalls its outsized role in the history of America.

The story behind Columbus' place in the history books began on March 9, 1916, a time when revolution raged across Mexico. In the pre-dawn hours of that day, Pancho Villa and some 500 to 600 revolutionaries—*Villistas* wearing their signature high-crowned sombreros and crossed bandoliers—cut the border fence, rode quietly northward, and took up positions near the southern and western edges of Columbus. Villa himself, with reserves, commanded his forces from near Cootes Hill—now a part of Pancho Villa State Park, a National Historic Landmark.

His men in place, Villa—possibly driven, at least in part, by a desperate need for provisions for his men and by a thirst for revenge against a supposed double-dealing Columbus merchant—said to his officers, “*Váyanse adelante, muchachos!*” “Go get ‘em, boys!”

The Villistas fell on the community and its downtown business area like piranhas in a feeding frenzy, screaming “*Viva Villa! Viva Mexico! Muerte a los Americanos!*” (“Death to the Americans!”), firing their weapons, torching buildings, terrorizing men, women and children.

Columbus' residents had known, of course, that Villa—*El León del Norte*, the Lion of the North—and his revolutionaries played a key role in the Mexican conflict, especially in the northern Chihuahuan Desert. They knew, too, that the revolutionary violence—it would claim a million lives in Mexico—could, conceivably, spill across the border. Villa's forces, after all, had attacked United States interests in northern Mexico. Nevertheless, the residents had felt reasonably secure. Brigadier General John J.

“Black Jack” Pershing, headquartered at Fort Bliss in El Paso, had posted the US 13th Cavalry Regiment—about 350 troopers—to the nearby Camp Furlong to protect the community.

Villa's attack came as a shock. Panicked residents fled from their homes into the darkness, seeking refuge in thick-walled structures, a local hotel, a local schoolhouse, the desert emptiness. Three men, dragged from a hotel, fell to Villista bullets. A storeowner died of 17 rifle shots and a slit throat. A pregnant woman and her unborn child died by Villa weapons. Men and women struggled heroically to protect the children and save the wounded.

Meanwhile, even though the 13th Cavalry's commanding officer, Colonel Herbert Slocum, and several other top officers had driven northward, to Deming, for a polo match, the regiment quickly recovered from initial chaos and confusion. The Officer of the Day, James P. Castleman, promptly organized the troops for a counterattack. Soldiers retrieved weapons from storage, including their well-proven Springfield rifles and four new and unproven Benet-Mercie machine guns.

Under Castleman, the regiment swiftly secured the post headquarters, drove back Villa's right flank, then turned on the downtown raiders. Machine-gun troops, posted south of the village, and riflemen, posted east of the village, opened fire. They caught the Villistas, illuminated by the flames of burning buildings, in a lethal crossfire. They discharged more than 20,000 rounds—a veritable hailstorm of lead. The Camp Furlong kitchen detail turned shotguns, axes and boiling water on the raiders. One trooper used a baseball bat.

Within less than two hours, Villa's raid had collapsed, to his immense frustration and consternation. His bugler sounded retreat. The Villistas fled pell-mell for the border with US troopers on their heels. The chase would not end until the US force returned to Camp Furlong, having exhausted its ammunition and supplies.

In the aftermath, the heart of Columbus lay in smoldering ruins. Ten US civilians and eight US soldiers had died. Two civilians and several soldiers had suffered wounds. By contrast, dozens of Villistas lay dead in the streets of Columbus and in the thorny brushlands of the surrounding desert. Many more died at the hands of the pursuing troopers and from the severity of their wounds. Finding the bodies of the Villistas in the light of the early morning, the citizens of Columbus and the soldiers of Camp Furlong felt stunned. They saw that many of Villa's raiders were no more than 14 to 16 years old. Just kids. The troopers gathered the bodies of the Villistas and stacked them in a pile at the edge of town, where they cremated them.

Ironically, the supposed double-dealing Columbus merchant had left town. He had missed the whole thing.

The Punitive Expedition

The entire nation felt outraged by the audacity of Villa. President Woodrow Wilson—with the tacit approval of Mexican President Venustiano Carranza—ordered the US Army to dispatch a punitive expedition into Mexico to capture El León del Norte and bring him to justice. Pershing, even though he had just lost his wife and three daughters in a devastating fire at his family home in San Francisco, would lead the expedition.

Within days, Pershing, relying heavily on the El Paso Southwestern Railroad for transportation, marshaled thousands of troops, thousands of horses and mules, and fleets of armored vehicles, trucks, cars and motorcycles at Camp Furlong—making Columbus the most populous city in New Mexico at the time. He moved the entire United States air force—eight Curtiss JN-3 “Jennies”—to Columbus, where they landed at a hastily leveled and cleared dirt airstrip in the desert just east of



El Paso Southwestern Railroad Depot, where troops arrived en route to Camp Furlong and Pershing's punitive expedition into Mexico. The building is now a museum. (Photo by Jay W. Sharp)

the community. (See “First in Fighting Flight,” April 2010, and “Crash Program,” October 2011.)

He put together his team of officers, which would include George S. Patton, who would become a legendary four-star general in World War II, and Omar N. Bradley, who would become perhaps the most venerated general officer of World War II.

Only a week after Villa's raid, Pershing sent two “flying columns” into Mexico, one from Columbus, the other from near the New Mexico/Arizona border. His forces immediately ran into problems. Villa's men had already scattered, melting into a familiar land. Mexico's Sierra Madres, a rugged, unmapped region of desert basins and 10,000- to 12,000-foot-high mountain ranges, raised a formidable barrier for motor vehicles and even for mounted troops. Trails amounted to little more than primitive mountain and desert pathways, often rocky and craggy, sometimes quagmires. Logistics proved nearly impossible, with fuel for the motorized vehicles, for example, having to be transported hundreds of miles on the backs of mules. Dust and wind raised almost impossible flying conditions for the fragile, cloth-covered Jennies, which Pershing had intended to use in reconnaissance missions. Local residents, offended by the US Army's invasion, offered minimal help. Carranza's government proved largely uncooperative.

Still, in the course of passing months, Pershing's forces managed to fight several engagements and skirmishes with Villa's forces, including his-



Top: Columbus' downtown street, now called “Broadway,” where the center of the raid occurred. Above: The Hoover Hotel, built in 1912, was the scene of some of the most bitter fighting. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)

tory's last true charge of a cavalry unit. They took a toll on the revolutionaries. Pershing's young lieutenant, George S. Patton, with 15 men and a few armored cars, attacked one of Villa's key officers—Julio Cárdenas—and several of his men near the hamlet of Rubio, Chihuahua. Patton personally shot Cárdenas and two of his subordinates. He strapped them, like trophy deer, to the hoods of the armored vehicles and drove them back to headquarters to show to General Pershing, who dubbed his young lieutenant the “Bandito.”

After 11 months, however, Pershing—even though armed with a force of thousands of troopers and the latest in equipment—had failed in his primary charge of capturing El León del Norte and bringing him to justice.

The Return Home

By early 1917, the specter of war loomed large in Europe, overshadowing Villa's invasion. President Wilson withdrew Pershing and his



Above: Villista re-enactors at a previous Cabalgata Binaciona. (Photo by Elly Read) Below: Campaign truck, Pancho Villa State Park Exhibit Hall. (Photo by Jay W. Sharp)





Cabalgata Binacional entering Columbus. (Photo by John Read, Heritage Educator, Pancho Villa State Park)

troops from Mexico to be reassigned overseas.

Although he failed to capture Villa, Pershing, his officers and his men, some 11,000 altogether, had learned valuable lessons in the new art of mechanized warfare. They learned how to capitalize on motorized vehicles and aircraft in battle. They learned how to deal with logistics. They learned the value of machine guns. They bade goodbye to the cavalry and ushered in a new era in the art of human conflict—an epic transition in warfare.

John J. “Black Jack” Pershing would become General of the Armies of the United States, an honor bestowed by the US Congress for his service in World War I. Pancho Villa, a Robin Hood to many and a villain to others, became a world-famous legend, a folk hero, especially in northern Mexico and even in the Southwestern United States. (My wife and I have seen a restaurant named for Pancho Villa in London.) He fell to assassins’ bullets in Parral, Chihuahua, in 1923.

On May 15, 1975, Columbus—the isolated Chihuahuan Desert village three miles north of our border with Mexico and the launchpad for modern mechanized warfare—would become a National Historic Site.

Ninety-Six Years Later

This year, on Saturday, March 10, Columbus and Pancho Villa State Park will recall the history of the Columbus raid and its after-

math. The village will host its annual Cabalgata Binacional, or Binational Cavalcade, when 100 riders from Mexico and a host of riders from the United States will retrace Villa’s route from the border to Columbus. At the village plaza, the community will commemorate—with music and dance—human bonds that transcend the Villa raid and its tragic consequences. The park will stage its annual Camp Furlong Day, offering a program of well-known authorities, headlined by Pulitzer Prize winning author Eileen Welsome, who will speak on the history of the raid and the punitive expedition. Welsome is the author of *The General and the Jaguar: Pershing’s Hunt for Pancho Villa: A True Story of Revolution and Revenge*.


Throughout the year, Columbus’ Railroad Depot Museum and the park’s Exhibit Hall offer displays that recall the raid and Pershing’s expedition as well as early 20th century civilian and military life in this isolated part of the United States. Historic buildings remain both in Columbus and in the park.

For additional information, contact the Village of Columbus at (575) 494-1535 or (575) 494-5815 and Pancho Villa State Park at (575) 531-2711. ☞

Las Cruces author Jay W. Sharp also wrote this issue’s feature on the mesquite.



Ballet Folklórico, part of the commemoration activities. (Photo by John Read)



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The 9th Annual Camp Furlong Day

Pancho Villa State Park (575-531-2711) in Columbus, New Mexico. On Saturday, March 10, 2012. The event commemorates Villa’s raid on Columbus in 1916. Pancho Villa State Park will host a series of special guest speakers in the park’s Exhibit Hall as follows:

9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. –Historian Ken Emery speaks on the origin of the U.S. Air Force in Columbus, NM and tells stories about several of the 1st Aero Squadron pilots’ amazing experiences.

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Break to watch the Cabalgata riders arrive in Columbus.

11 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Dr. Robert Bouilly, military historian with the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy in El Paso will give a presentation on the Battle of Carrizal—a major skirmish between U.S. Buffalo Soldiers and Mexican federal forces during the Punitive Expedition.

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. – Interim Park Manager Alex Mares talks about General Pershing’s forgotten (Apache) scouts who helped in the pursuit of Pancho Villa in Mexico in 1916.

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.– Meet Pulitzer Prize winner Eileen Welsome, author of *The General and the Jaguar*. She will talk about her intriguing book and have a book signing.

4 p.m. – 5 p.m. – Meet David D. Romo, author of *Ringside Seat to a Revolution*. From El Paso, David is a sought after speaker and expert on Pancho Villa and the Mexican Revolution. A book signing follows David’s presentation about the Mexican Revolution.

5:10 p.m. – 6 p.m. – Watch a documentary on recently discovered movie film of Pancho Villa.

On the same day, the **13th Annual Cabalgata Binacional** will be hosted by citizens of Columbus and will be held in the **Village of Columbus plaza**. The Cabalgata horse riders are expected to arrive in Columbus at approximately 10:00 a.m. Food will be available and a variety of entertainment happenings will be held in **Village of Columbus plaza**. For more information about the Cabalgata and events to be held in the Village of Columbus plaza, please contact **575-494-1535 or 575-494-5815**.

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CULTURAL CONNECTIONS • HARRY WILLIAMSON

Knitting Together

At Suzi Calhoun's Yada Yada Yarn in Silver City, they're knitting a community.

Located in what was once the showroom of a Nash Auto dealership, Yada Yada Yarn in downtown Silver City is today one of the premier yarn shops in the Southwest. The bright and varied colors of almost every yarn imaginable line the aisles, along with all the tools and accessories needed for knitting, crocheting, spinning and weaving. Hand-knit and crocheted hats and other items of clothing are displayed.

But the store's heart and soul is in a small alcove near the back, where several comfortable chairs sit grouped around a large coffee table.

This is the home of the knitting circle. This is where people come in and simply sit and knit (or crochet or spin) and chitchat.

At Yada Yada Yarn these circles have a great chumminess, a swelling of laughter and talk that flows everywhere as people in twos or threes or fours or more converse, eyes mostly looking downward as fingers flutter through knit and purl, knit and purl, knit and purl.

other, a beginner.

For example, after she had been weaving for only six or seven months she decided to have a show of her work. A couple of the more proficient weavers, slightly stunned, asked if she was *really* going to show her first weavings.

"I told them I thought it is very important to show what you did in the beginning," she recalls, adding that most artists show only their best work—you never see the sketchbook, or the early pots or the first weavings that were lopsided and crazy.

"Your typical consumer can relate much more to that first work than to your award-winning pieces," she says.

"It's amazing how people come together in this little town to help you," Calhoun says, recalling her early days here after she and her partner, Janey Katz, bought a vacation cabin in Pinos Altos, traveling back and forth from their home in Santa Fe County.

She was trained in recreational therapy and psychology, working as a rec therapist in Madison, Wisc., for years before moving to New Mexico in the late 1980s.

"I just fell in love with the friendliness and the sense of community that Silver City had, plus it was a very interesting little arts town," Calhoun says. "Since Janey does metal sculpture and I'm a potter, it was an interesting community for us to think about relocating to."

Even though she had never been a retailer, once they made the move, Calhoun began to plan opening a little shop under the name "Art & Conversation," at her current location, 614 N. Bullard, which was then used as studio space for her pottery and Katz' recycled metal work. At first she thought she could continue doing her pottery in a room at the back of the shop, now and then coming out to talk with customers. She soon realized that wouldn't work. Clay dries out too quickly, and a potter's clothes always get dirty.

"Since I needed something clean to do, I had always wanted to learn how to knit. So I went up to Walmart and bought my first set of needles and some yarn and started to knit in the gallery," Calhoun says. People helped her learn and, as she improved, she wanted to branch into other fibers. Looking for wool yarn, she found that none was available in Silver City.

"So, I finally said, 'Okay, I'm going to jump in with two feet and open a yarn shop even though I don't really know how to knit,'" she recalls.

Even though she had lived in Silver City for a few years, and was known as a board member of the arts council and other local activities, she was so nervous she waited three hours before opening the door on her first day, June 6, 2005, in an historic brick house just two blocks south at the corner of Kelly and Bullard.

"I was very scared in my shop. I thought, 'Oh my God, what if nobody comes?' Then I got even more nervous when I thought, 'Oh my God, what if somebody *does* come!'" Calhoun says.

Finally, she looked out the window and her first customers, Barbara and Gilbert Mora, were waiting on the porch. Gilbert, who has since passed away, was also a knitter, fashioning hats, socks and other items without using a pattern.

Barbara was one of the women Calhoun asked to help her learn knitting, crocheting, spinning and weaving. The others were Jan Merchant, Jacque



Suzi Calhoun, owner of Yada Yada Yarn in downtown Silver City, spins yarn during the spinning circle, which meets at her store on the first Friday of each month from 5-7 p.m. (Photo by Tyler Bingham)

Cusick, Awish Baechtle and Mary Dearhamer.

"They volunteered in the shop, and I sold their finished products, giving them the whole amount. When we had time, I would sit with them and pick up some skills myself," she says. "Knitters remember learning and they really enjoy passing that on."

Calhoun says she knew from the very first her store would have space reserved for a knitting circle. "When I went to look at other yarn shops before I had mine, you always saw a little area in which there were knitters, so I knew I had to have this."

Before she opened, she always imagined that she would sell yarn, and people would come in and she would show them what they wanted and teach them how to knit and do other things. "All of that has happened," she says, "but what I didn't know was how important it was going to be for people that I have knitting circles."

Why are the circles so important?

Sitting in a circle on a recent Sunday afternoon, one woman says this is where you can come in

and from the very first "make friends and just relax."

Pat Bouchard, a retired special education teacher from Massachusetts who also works in the store, says it is "really a neighborhood in a lot of ways, a community, honestly, we all look out for each other."

Another woman adds, "This is our home away from home."

Sitting in the circle, Doris Steiger says she is a lifetime knitter ("I didn't just come in from the barn.") She goes on, "And this is where I have met a circle of

women that truly enjoy their community.

"This is a such a lively place," Steiger adds. "Many people have learned to knit here and it is just a wonderful resource."

"People from Las Cruces come here all the time," one woman says.

"And Tucson," another woman adds.

A third circle member talks about a woman from El Paso who comes to Silver City every year during her vacation: "She comes up here, knits for a few days, and then she picks up her yarn and goes back home happy."

Circle regular Peggy Hutchinson says, "It's a constant circle of giving and Suzi is right in the middle of it. I came here to do one thing, and got the whole world."



Above: A few of the participants of a recent Monday evening knitting circle at Yada Yada Yarn in downtown Silver City sit and stitch and chat. Below: Calhoun, left, does a little teaching during the Monday evening knitting circle at Yada Yada Yarn, showing a more complicated stitch to Starr Belsky. (Photos by Harry Williamson)

And in an odd way, the first and perhaps the finest creation of these circles was the store owner herself, Suzi Calhoun.

"Basically what I did by opening a yarn shop and not knowing how to knit was to just put myself out there as my first piece," she says. "I was saying I don't know how to do this, but with your help we will create a store that Silver City wants and needs."

She adds that now, almost seven years later, the store has, indeed, "morphed" into exactly that.

"Suzi can do anything with the patterns," says one circle member. "Many of us, even the experienced ones, will come in and Suzi will help us, not only with the stitches, but with the esthetics."

Calhoun says anyone can learn the technical aspect of knitting if they are willing to practice. "But there is a sense of artistry in it when you start to combine colors and textures that is very hard to teach," she adds. "You either have that or you don't."

She is a natural teacher, with an ability to encourage and cheer people on. "I'm passionate and excited about whatever it is I'm doing," she says. In short, she is the type of upbeat, people-loving person who, when faced with a glass either being half-full or half-empty, wonders why the question is even being asked.

The glass is—obviously—just waiting to be filled to the brim. Just as Calhoun and her fellow circle-members have been striving to build community—both inside and outside of her store.

Now an accomplished knitter, spinner and weaver, Calhoun still never forgets that everyone was, at one time or an-



Checking out some of the extensive yarn selection available at Yada Yada Yarn are store owner Suzi Calhoun, on the right, and store employee Pat Bouchard. (Photo by Harry Williamson)

“Suzi is always friendly and positive, and she helps you learn,” another adds. “If there is a problem, she’ll fix it.”

Also sitting in the circle that Sunday is seven-year-old Erin Davis, who had convinced her mother to bring her after being introduced to knitting in a recent class at school. In the circle Barbara Mora is assisting Erin with her knitting.

“Attention, attention,” Mora says at one point, indicating Erin’s hands, each of which is now holding two needles.

“Those of you who thought she couldn’t learn four needles, just look,” Mora adds.

Many of the circle members clap and cheer. “How wonderful.”

“Look at that.”

“You chose the right needles to use. You definitely get it,” one knitter says, speaking to Erin.

“She definitely is a fiber person,” another adds.

Later, raising her small voice against the cascade of conversation, Erin says, “Excuse me. Excuse me. One of my needles is missing. The blue one is missing!”

The needle is quickly found, having rolled under her chair.

Still later Erin looks at Suzi Calhoun and asks if she could borrow the needles and take them home.

“You can check them out,” Calhoun answers. “I have a card and you can sign for them, just like a library.”

Calhoun says she could write a book about all of the things that have happened in the knitting circles.

She recalls the circle being moved for a while to the home of a member whose husband was very ill and she couldn’t leave the house.

There was a woman member who suddenly died of an aneurism, and her husband came and said, “I know you guys were her friends. What would she want me to do?”

There have been baby sheep and lambs that have visited the circle, and the lady whose cat was sick, when all of the animal lovers in the circle got together to help.

“If someone doesn’t show up, somebody calls to make sure they’re okay,” Calhoun says.

“It all turns into this real sense of community,” she adds. “You know these people on a more intimate level simply because all of us knit or crochet. It gives a sense of security because everyone has something in common.”

Calhoun says the circles are meant to be a “safe haven” from the cares of the world, and therefore certain topics, such as religion and politics, are off limits, along with some of the news of the day, if it’s too controversial.

“As I remind people, these are just loops and sticks. They have noting to do with anything life threatening,” she says. “This is supposed to be fun and light and we try to keep it that way. For the most part everyone wants it like that.”

Calhoun has even asked people to remove their political buttons, and while cell phones are not prohibited, they rate lower than a dropped stitch on her list of favorite things in the circle.

Although people come into the store at all hours it’s open (11 a.m. until 5 p.m., seven days a week) just to sit and knit for a while and see who is there, there are three scheduled times for the circles to meet. These are on Sundays, from noon until 3 p.m., on Mondays from 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m., and a spinning circle on the first Friday of each month, from 5-7 p.m.

The circles are also the starting place for numerous projects that benefit the local community. Some are ongoing, such as knitting



Seven-year-old Erin Davis receives one of her first knitting lessons from Barbara Mora during the Sunday afternoon knitting circle at Yada Yada Yarn. (Photo by Harry Williamson)

hats for the newborns and other children in Silver City’s First Born Program every month.

“This is an easy project because there are all kinds of hats we can do, for the tiny little babies, and then sometimes, for brothers and sisters,” Calhoun says.

Another recent, cooperative project was with the Silver City Public Library and the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society at the WNMU School of Education, which does a reading program for children at the library. “This past June we were approached by representatives of the society who said over the Christmas holiday they wanted to read the book, *The Mitten*, and then give each child a pair of mittens. They asked if we could knit them 20 pair of mittens. At Thanksgiving we gave them almost 40 pair.”

Calhoun adds that as they were finished, the mittens were hung from wires attached to the ceiling. The First Born hats are also placed on a circular hanger located over the circle group’s table.

“People were always coming in and saying, ‘What’s with the mittens?’, or ‘What’s with the hats?’”

In another somewhat sadder effort, Calhoun says that beautiful little baby blankets are made to give as a remembrance to the parents of stillborn babies.

Pat Bouchard says the circle’s charity projects are a win-win for everyone: “You take something you love to do, buy yarn from the store, and turn it in a way so you are helping others.”

Calhoun calls the projects, “random acts of kindness.”

Asked why she stays open on Sundays, Calhoun says that since Silver City as a whole has expressed interest in having tourism as part of its economy, it’s important to be open on Saturday and Sundays, the only time many people can travel.

“So, for me as a downtown store, it’s very important to be open on Sundays,” she says. “Plus I love having one of my knitters’ circles on Sundays when it’s very easy for them to come downtown and to park.”

On a Sunday, while working on this story, sitting in the knitting circle, I innocently ask what would happen if Yada Yada Yarn were to one day close. There is stunned silence.

As the ladies stare open-mouthed at me, I feel I’m about to have my own mouth washed out with soap.

“That’s a bad thing,” one lady says, shaking her finger at me.

“Watch what you say there, mister,” adds another.

“That’s not even an option,” a third retorts, thereby ending *that* discussion, stuffing it neatly into the closed container—along with religion and politics. ❧

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 with comments or story ideas.

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Something That Belongs

Whether seen as uninvited guests or welcome neighbors, the mesquites belong to the desert.



Honey mesquite tree on a desert mountain slope. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)

"As a tree it seems to me as graceful and lovely as any tree in the world. When, in the spring, trees and bushes put on their delicately green, transparent leaves and the mild sun shines upon them, they are more beautiful than any peach orchard.... The green seems to float through the young sunlight into the sky."

—J. Frank Dobie, "The Mesquite," *Arizona Highways*, November 1941

Like the coyotes, the black-tail jackrabbits, western diamondbacks, scorpions and the prickly pear cacti, the mesquites symbolize our Southwestern deserts. Like the Indian peoples and the Hispanic and Anglo settlers, the mesquites define the very notions of individuality, adaptability, opportunism, toughness and stubbornness. Occurring as respectable trees or as small shrubs, the mesquites cover a monumental range, spanning tens of millions of acres from the southern Rolling Plains and the Texas Gulf Coast westward across the Chihuahuan, Sonoran and Mojave Deserts. While common to dominant in the desert environment of southwestern New Mexico, the plants actually prosper in a diversity of habitats, from humid and sandy coastal plains to the grassy prairies, from perennial and intermittent streambeds to arid basin shrublands and dunes, from flattop mesas to mile-high rocky mountain slopes.

The mesquites, including the three species in our Southwestern deserts, belong to the legume family, which ranks near the top of plants especially well adapted to an arid environment. Typically, the legumes, which have woody stems and branches, produce small bipinnately compound leaves (leaves with two or more secondary veins, each with two rows of leaflets). They bear flowers that have five petals. They produce abundant large seedpods that serve as a nutritious food source for wildlife. They grow wide-spreading and deep-reaching root systems that host colonies of bacteria that can fix nitrogen, one of the elements most

important to plant germination and growth.

The three species of Southwest mesquites—the honey mesquite, velvet mesquite and screwbean mesquite—share various characteristics. They range from a few feet to 10 to 15 feet in height, although the honey and velvet mesquites may reach 30 to 60 feet in especially favorable settings. They may have single or multiple

branched stems, with each plant assuming its own distinctive shape. They come armed with thorns on the smaller branches. They shed their leaves in the winter. They bloom from spring into summer, bearing small, frothy-looking clusters—called "catkins"—of tiny, five-petal, pale green or yellowish flowers, which lure numerous pollinating insects. They produce pods that contain hard and long-lasting seeds that must be scarified before they will germinate. Mesquites have lateral roots that extend far beyond the canopies of the plants and taproots that penetrate well below the surface of the soil. Some mesquites may live for more than two centuries, according to a US Forest Service report.

The honey mesquite, distinguished by smooth-surfaced leaflets, makes its primary home in the Chihuahuan Desert, east of the Continental Divide, although its outer range extends into the Sonoran Desert as well. The closely related velvet mesquite, marked by velvet-surfaced leaflets, has as its primary residence the Sonoran Desert, west of the Continental Divide. The screwbean mesquite, identified by its tightly spiraled bean pods, has established as its basic range much of the Chihuahuan Desert, including southwestern New Mexico and western Texas; much of the Sonoran Desert, including southern and western Arizona and southeastern California; and even some of the Mojave Desert. Where distributions of the species overlap, the plants may hybridize, often making identification of the specific species difficult, according to the Forest Service.

Adaptations to the Desert Environment

From crown to root tips, the mesquites have evolved a number of adaptations especially designed to help assure survival in the desert environment. Their thorns, sharply pointed and strong, challenge browsing by desert herbivores. ("They will not decay in the flesh or gristle as will prickly pear thorns," Dobie wrote, "but will last longer than any flesh in which they become embedded.") Their leaves, small and wax coated, minimize transpiration (evaporation of the plant's water into the atmosphere). During an extreme drought, as we experienced in 2011, the mesquites may shed their leaves to further conserve moisture. Their flowers, fragrant and delicate, attract the insects, especially the bees, necessary for prolific pollination. Their seeds, abundant and protectively coated, may last for decades, serving as seed banks that improve the odds for wide distribution and successful germination.

Most notably, mesquites' root systems give the plants a competitive botanical edge in the desert landscape. As hosts to nitrogen-fixing bacteria, they help enrich otherwise impoverished desert soils in which the plants and their progeny grow. In lateral reach, they out-compete other plants in the battle for soil moisture. In their taproots' downward reach, they find subsurface water, sometimes 150 feet or more below the surface. According to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum website, "The mesquite's root system is the deepest documented; a live root was discovered in a copper mine over 160 feet (50 meters) below the surface."

The three species of Southwest mesquites—the honey mesquite, velvet mesquite and screwbean mesquite—share various characteristics. They range from a few feet to 10 to 15 feet in height, although the honey and velvet mesquites may reach 30 to 60 feet in especially favorable settings. They may have single or multiple

The Reach for Range

During the Ice Ages, which lasted from about 1.8 million to some 10,000 years ago, the mesquites "coevolved with large herbivores, such as mastodons and ground sloths, which ate the pods and then dispersed them wide-



Honey mesquite seedpods, which serve as a nutritious food source for wildlife.

ly in their feces," according to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. The mesquites found the arrangement to be ideal. The seeds became scarified by mastication, preparing them for germination. Seed parasites died when exposed to the animals' gut juices. The seeds found moisture and nutrients in the animals' dung. It proved to be a perfect formula for expansion.

Over time, the mesquites expanded their range to correspond largely with the herbivores' range, which extended from flood plains and washes up into prairies, mesas and mountain slopes. When the Ice Ages ended, however, the large herbivores died out, becoming extinct, and rainfall diminished. Deprived of their animal agents for distribution and faced with intensifying competition for water and nutrients, mesquites retreated

to the flood plains and washes, forfeiting the higher elevation landscapes to the grasses. Further, the mesquites remained contained by frequent wildfires fueled by the grasses, which recovered within a season.

When descendants of European immigrants moved into the desert Southwest, mesquites found a new ally—the new arrivals'

domesticated livestock, especially the cattle. The new herbivores not only ate and dispersed the mesquite pods, the great livestock herds stripped away the desert grasses, eliminating competition and wildfire fuel. In many areas, the opportunistic mesquites moved in to displace grasses. They reclaimed much of their Ice Age range, expanding from the flood plains and washes again up into prairies, mesas and mountain slopes. Mesquites grew up along the historic cattle trails, defining the routes to this day. In fact, mesquites have become established in borrow ditches along modern desert roadways traveled by cattle trucks.

Botanical Enemies

The mesquites' encroachment into pasturelands and displacement of grasses have frustrated cattlemen, who unwittingly fostered the advance in the first place by overgrazing. "Because dense mesquite outcompetes grass for water and light and because mesquite groves don't support fire, this conversion is permanent (on a human time scale) without physical intervention," notes the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum website.

The mesquites have largely thwarted any attempt at control, including, for instance, planned burns, herbicides or physical removal—all methods that mean high cost and potential environmental damage.

Fire has been used as a management tool to control mesquite distribution for decades, the

Honey mesquite's small, frothy-looking clusters—called "catkins"—of tiny, five-petal, pale green or yellowish flowers, which lure swarms of pollinating insects.



Forest Service notes. But one authority “determined that within five years of a fire in southern Arizona [mesquite] biomass [the total dry weight of the mesquite population] had attained preburn levels.” The mesquites may succumb to frequently repeated burns, but so do the native grasses, making way for imported invasive species such as the extremely aggressive Lehmann lovegrass.

Herbicides, usually applied by aircraft, have also been used for decades in attempts to control the mesquites. But the Forest Service says, “To completely remove mesquite or at least limit its spread in open rangeland using herbicides only, multiple treatments are required; otherwise, the long-term viability of mesquite seeds and their abundance with the seed bank would ensure continual recruitment.” Moreover, “these multiple applications could create adverse side effects to rangeland species diversity and biomass.... With the attendant costs of herbicides and aerial application over large areas, a viable long-term management strategy using only herbicides may be impractical.”

Physical removal—by methods such as dozing, root plowing, chaining, roller chopping or shredding—has reduced mesquite density in pasturelands for brief periods, but the plants soon re-sprout from their bases, more dense than ever. And the Forest Service warns, “driving large mechanical equipment through rangeland can cause soil compaction, crush animals, destroy animal burrows, and uproot desirable plant species such as perennial grasses.”



Honey mesquite tree's thorny armament.



Honey mesquite lateral root, which has been uncovered by winds in a desert sand dune “blow-out.” It is in the winter season, when the mesquite has lost its leaves.

“The white man,” wrote Dobie, “sowed with over-grazing; he is now reaping thickets of mesquites that are stabbing millions of acres of land into non-productiveness.”

Botanical Friends

If mesquites have arrived as intruders in the view of cattlemen of the Southwest, they have, by contrast, long been a welcome presence in the larders, livestock feed bins, workshops, gardens and medicine cabinets of many desert residents.

Cabeza de Vaca, in his *Adventures in the Unknown Interior of America* (translated and ed-

MESQUITE continued on next page



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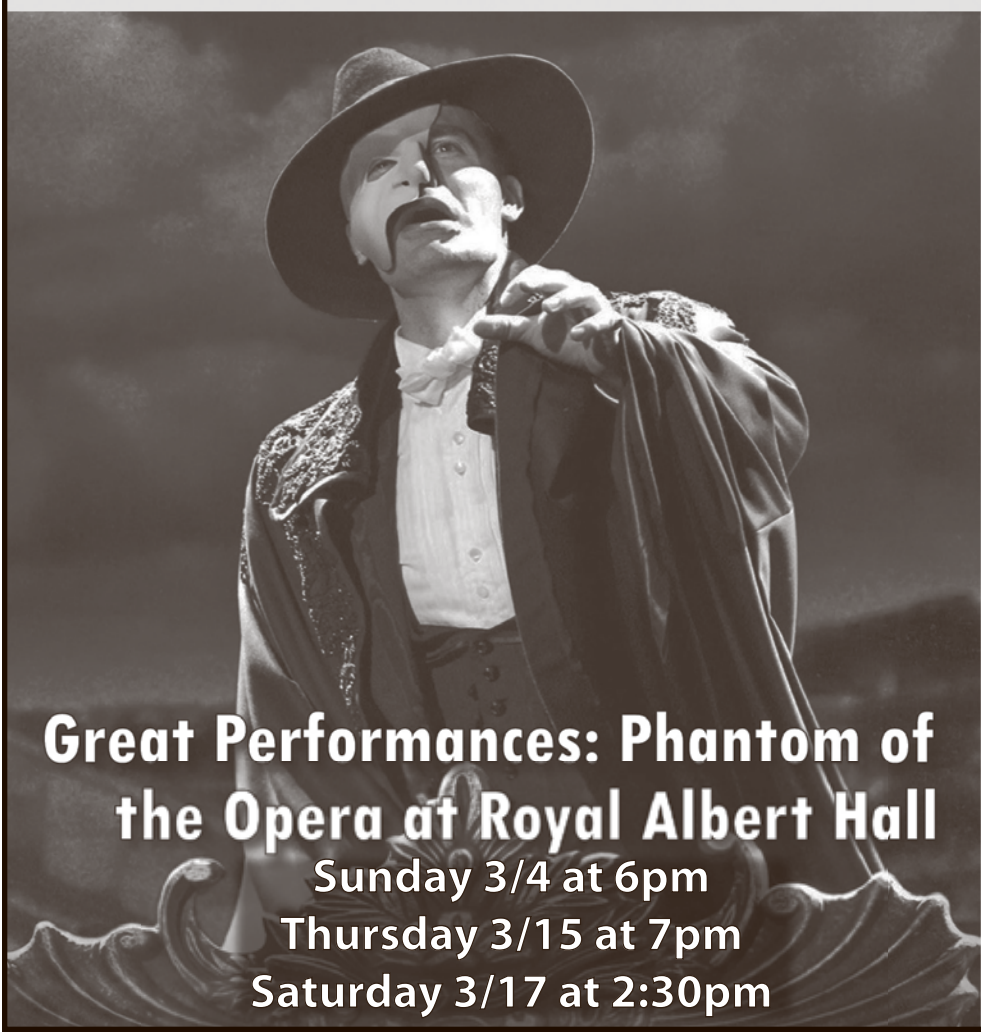
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Thursday 3/15 at 7pm
Saturday 3/17 at 2:30pm

THIS MONTH ON KRWG TV

Great Performances: Tony Bennett: Duets II




At age 85, the legendary Tony Bennett is the oldest person to have reached the number one position on Billboard's Hot 200 chart with the release of another album of duets -- which, amazingly enough, also marks Bennett's first number one album. Yet another career triumph, Duets II teams Bennett with a diverse roster of contemporary stars, including Queen Latifah, Aretha Franklin, Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow, Andrea Bocelli and Michael Buble, performing more classics from the Great American Songbook, including "Body and Soul," "The Lady Is a Tramp," "On the Sunny Side of the Street," "Speak Low" and "Stranger in Paradise."

(Pictured: Tenor Andrea Bocelli (right) joins Tony Bennett in a duet.)

Saturday 3/3 at 8pm, Thursday 3/8 at 7pm & Wednesday 3/14 at 8pm

Big Band Vocalists




This special looks back at the greatest "crooners" and "canaries" of the 1940s, featuring the greatest vocalists of the period when they started their careers performing with orchestras and dance bands, with the most popular singers ultimately becoming stars on their own. Among the legendary artists and timeless hits included in the rare, vintage footage are Louis Armstrong, Perry Como, Doris Day, Helen Forest with the Harry James Orchestra, Peggy Lee with The Benny Goodman Orchestra, Johnny Mercer & Margaret Whiting, Jo Stafford & The Pied Pipers with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, and many more favorites from the World War II era. Hosted by Nick Clooney & Peter Marshall.

Beloved crooner Perry Como sings "I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now," a hit from the big-band era, with the Ted Weems Orchestra.

Saturday 3/3 at 6pm, Friday 3/9 at 9pm & Monday 3/12 at 7pm

Straight No Chaser- Songs of the Decades



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MESQUITE continued

ited by Cyclone Covey), wrote, "The Indian method of preparing [mesquite beans] is to dig a fairly deep hole in the ground, throw in the beans, and pound them with a club the thickness of a leg and a fathom and a half [approximately nine feet] long, until they are well mashed. Besides the earth that gets mixed in from the bottom and sides of the hole, the Indians add some handfuls, then pound awhile longer. They throw the meal into a basket-like jar and pour water on it until it is covered....

"Then all squat round, and each takes out as much as he can with one hand... To the partakers, the dish is a great banquet."

During the inevitable droughts and deprivations of desert frontier days, mesquite trees served up the primary food source for caravans and settlers. Mesquite beans became "manna from heaven" for the suffering men of the 1841 Texas Santa Fe Expedition, wrote George W. Kendall (quoted by Ken E. Rogers in *The Magnificent Mesquite*) in his journal: "When our provisions and coffee ran out, the men ate [mesquite beans] in immense quantities, and roasted or boiled them!" During the Civil War, when groceries often ran short, mesquite beans made a passable coffee substitute. Mesquite blooms, pollinated by bees, yield a connoisseur's honey.

Mesquite beans, durable enough for years of storage, became the livestock feed of choice when pastureland grasses failed due to drought or overgrazing. They were carried by early freighters, who fed the beans to their draft animals, es-



Screwbean mesquite tree seed pods. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)

pecially in Mexico.

Although often crooked in shape, mesquite tree branches, stable and durable, filled needs for wood during the construction of Spanish missions and colonial haciendas, ranch houses and fencing. Its wood serves artisans in the crafting of furniture, flooring, paneling and sculptures. "Of the tree mesquite," wrote Dobie, "there is one kind of yellowish wood and another of a deep reddish hue as beautiful when polished as the richest mahogany." In some areas, mesquites provide a bountiful harvest of wood for use in fireplaces, barbecue grills and food smokers.

Mesquites, requiring little water and only low maintenance, have found a place in Southwest xeriscaped gardens and parks. They not only produce beans and blooms that attract wildlife, they provide perches and nesting sites for birds, including even hummingbirds.

In the frontier days, according to Dobie, the mesquites were used by the Indians and the settlers as a source of many remedies for a host of ailments. Indians and settlers believed a tea of mesquite root or bark cured diarrhea. Boiled mesquite roots yielded a soothing balm that cured colic and healed flesh wounds. Mesquite leaves, crushed and mixed with water and urine, cured headaches. Mesquite gum preparations soothed ailing eyes, eased a sore throat, cleared up dysentery and relieved headaches.

A Tree That Belongs

Uninvited guest or welcome neighbor, the mesquites belong to the desert. They evolved in the desert. They play a core role in the desert ecosystem. They both provoke and delight the people of the desert.

"It comes as near being characteristic of the whole Southwest, including much of Mexico, as any species of plant life known to the region," wrote Dobie.

"I ask for no better monument over my grave than a good mesquite tree." ❁

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.



Screwbean mesquite tree near the Rio Grande in south-central New Mexico.

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BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

Inside Stories

A new warden addresses concerns about treatment of inmates at the Luna County Detention Center.

The Luna County Detention Center in Deming, a stark, boxy building made of dark grey concrete blocks, is a couple miles east of the main road north of town, in the poor Hispanic section. It's just before you get to the town landfill, which closed a year or two ago.

Relatives of inmates saw notices early last summer that the ACLU was going to have an open meeting at the La Fonda restaurant about the conditions in the jail.

"The way it happened was very surprising to us," says Peter Falley of the ACLU chapter based in Silver City. "We got there at 5:30, and there was this mob at our meeting. They were all relatives of inmates who were dying to talk with us."

For a while the women—"mothers, sisters, aunts" as Shelly Barshaw, informal leader of the group, described them—acted as delegates to the ACLU and gathered testimony from their relatives. Barshaw has a fat manila folder of pages with handwritten or typed notes.

Allegations by inmates or their relatives may not be completely trustworthy, and these people may not understand the security reasons behind some of the conditions, but I will try to give a full picture of the multiple claims made by them. One especially well-educated inmate, whom I'll call John, wrote up a lengthy, minutely described list of complaints in August 2011.

A leading issue is the lack of a proper grievance process. Some detainees claim they wrote many letters to authorities with no response. A woman named Camilla, whose brother was detained for a time, claims that grievance letters were sometimes "torn up in front of them" by the guards.

A repeated theme is that there was retaliation by guards for speaking up about problems. Camilla claims, for example, that if inmates spoke to the ACLU, guards "would give them their food cool or block special orders, like hamburgers on special days."

One issue with important consequences is that the correctional officers who dispensed medication weren't certified and had little training. Sometimes the prescription would say "take with food" and the medication would be taken between mealtimes. John had a prescription that said "take four times a day" and he was given it three times per day.

John says he never got a handbook of rules for detainees. He claims one guard told him the guards themselves even asked for one and didn't get it. John says because of this there is a "lack of consistency" in the guards' behavior related to what is or is not contraband, what mail can be withheld, and the amount of "yard-time" detainees get.

John never learned any evacuation procedures. Exit doors are locked from the outside, he says. He claims that three smoke detectors were inoperable.

During the hard freeze in 2011, ice formed on the inside of some walls. A female inmate said she was given two blankets and told she would be put in solitary confinement if she complained. For days on end in the summer there was no air conditioning.

Emergency calls to attorneys were delayed as much as a week.

"Whites" (underwear, socks and T-shirts) were sometimes not washed for a whole week, according to Camilla.

John tried to get someone to administer communion and perform baptisms, but got nowhere.

Barshaw claims the guards "tossed" her son's cell—took away books, letters and pictures—and then put him in a suicide cell. The emergency button in his cell didn't work. The son is now at the Santa Rosa facility, where "he doesn't get the harassment, the teasing," and the food is much better.

As of November last year, there's been a new warden, Matthew Elwell. He arrived after a tur-

bulent period of officials being fired in relation to detention center issues. These include a prisoner dying after a tasing incident in March 2011 and three prisoners escaping in April last year (and later caught).

Elwell was quick to allow me to tour the facility, and said I would be welcome to come back. Barshaw says former warden John Krehbiel wouldn't let her take a tour.

The new warden is affable, approachable, and says a lot about his plans to improve the place. "He knows his stuff," comments the ACLU's Falley.

Elwell says that the facility holds about 300 inmates right now, including about 30 women and maybe 17 juveniles.

Elwell talks much about the need for volunteers and all-day rehabilitation programming, including classes, religious services and substance-abuse training (80% of inmates have substance abuse issues, he says).

Falley told me that a lot of the previous guards have been high school graduates with very little training. Elwell says he plans to "start the first academy class to meet accreditation standards of 160 hours of training."

When asked if he needed accreditation to get more grant money, he says, "No, no, no. It gives staff pride—it's really prideful."

There will be special training in taser use, too, stressing different levels of security, from pepper spray to tasing. "Your arsenal is pretty much verbal," he says.

Elwell says that medications were dispensed just two times a day, which may be a problem for some inmates.

He says he hadn't heard about threats of retaliation by guards. Whatever happened before he arrived he claims to know little about.

The security of guards and prisoners is a constant concern. When I notice that the windows in one of the rooms for detainees are covered, Elwell says that's because "we don't want people signing to them from outside." Prisoners wear sandals because they can't run when wearing them and also can't hide things in them as they could with shoes. There's a preoccupation with weapons prisoners may be concealing.

The laundry room is being renovated and the door to the room modified so detainees can work there. The air conditioning has reportedly been repaired.

Falley says the grievance process has been to some extent reformed. "I'm convinced it has improved," he says, but he's not sure by how much.

Camilla says the meetings of the relatives "faded out" because most of their relatives were either released or moved to another facility.

At least for the time being, there is a happy ending to this story. The detention facility is taking a turn for the better, but of course the situation needs monitoring always.

Falley and other ACLU chapter members are planning to return to the Luna County Detention Center by April. They'll try to decide then how much the situation has improved. ☼

Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.



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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Volans, the Flying Fish

Plus the planets for March.

Below our southeastern horizon is the constellation Volans, the Flying Fish, another creation of Petrus Plancius. Working from the observations of two southern hemisphere explorers, Pieter Dirkszoon Keyser and Frederick de Houtman, Plancius created 12 constellations, including Piscis Volans, later shortened to just Volans. Volans first appeared on a 14-inch-diameter celestial globe published in 1597. Johann Bayer's *Uranometria* of 1603 was the first celestial atlas to chart Volans among its constellations.

Volans has two relatively bright galaxies, NGC 2442 and NGC 2434. In the sky, these two galaxies are only 17 minutes-of-arc apart, close enough to view both within the same telescope field. They are almost the same brightness, magnitude 11.0 for NGC 2442 and 11.2 for NGC 2434.

NGC 2434 is an elliptical galaxy 2.6 by 2.2 minutes-of-arc across—actually almost spherical, with a bright core and a fainter halo around it. It is about 74.31 million light-years away and 26,000 light-years across, much smaller than our Milky Way

galaxy, which is about 120,000 light-years across.

Like all galaxies, NGC 2434 is surrounded by a “dark halo.” When astronomers measure the motion of the stars and gas in a galaxy, the measured velocities never match the mathematical predictions. In their calculations, astronomers take into account only the mass of the stars and gas they can see; the stars farther out from the center of the galaxy should travel more slowly than those near the center. But actual observations show the velocities of the stars farther out are about the same as the stars near the center. This can be explained by a large amount of matter around the outside of the galaxy we cannot see. This “dark matter” appears to be around most galaxies; we can only observe its effects on the stars of the galaxy we can see.

Astronomers are still not sure of the composition of this dark matter, since we can't make any measurements of it. Theories about dark matter include the possibility that it is composed of WIMPS (Weakly Interacting Massive Particles). These particles do not interact with normal matter or with the electromagnetic spectrum. They interact only through gravity or the weak nuclear force. The weak nuclear force is one of the four fundamental forces of nature and is responsible for the radioactive decay of subatomic particles and for beginning hydrogen fusion in stars.

Another theory is that dark matter is composed of MACHOs (Massive Astrophysical Compact Halo Objects). These objects are made of normal matter, but are so far from any source of light or heat that they emit no, or very little, energy. In trying to find MACHOs around our galaxy, astronomers have looked for any sudden brightening of background stars. If a MACHO passes between a star and the observer, the MACHO's gravity bends the light from the background star around itself, focusing it on the observer here on Earth. This is called gravitational microlensing. By measuring how often this happens, astronomers can estimate how many MACHOs exist.

Several groups have made these measurements, and they find that the number of MACHOs accounts only for about 20% of the dark mass of our galaxy. This rules out MACHOs as the primary source of dark matter. So in the battle to explain dark matter in our universe, WIMPS may win!

The Planets for March

For the first half of the month, Mercury will be visible low in the west as it gets dark. It popped into our evening sky last month and will reach its farthest point from the Sun on March 5. Late in the month, the Messenger of the Gods heads rapidly toward the Sun, dropping out of sight into the Sun's glare. On March 5, Mercury will be 43% illuminated and shining at magnitude -0.2. Mercury's disc is 7.4 seconds-of-arc across and it

Always below our southern horizon is the constellation Volans, the Flying Fish. A modern constellation, it has few notable objects, mainly two brighter galaxies and a few double stars. (A larger, printable map is on our website, www.desertexposure.com.)

Watch the Skies

(times MST/MDT)

- March 3, 1 p.m.—Mars at opposition
- March 5, 3 a.m.—Mercury greatest distance east of the Sun (18 degrees)
10 a.m.—Mars closest to Earth
- March 8, 2:39 a.m.—Full Moon
- March 11, 2 a.m.—Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 13, evening—Venus 3 degrees north of Jupiter
- March 14, 7:25 p.m.—Last Quarter Moon
- March 19, 11:14 p.m.—March Equinox
- March 22, 8:37 a.m.—New Moon
- March 26, 12 p.m.—Venus 1.8 degrees north of the Moon
- March 27, 2 a.m.—Venus greatest distance east of the Sun (46 degrees)
- March 30, 1:41 p.m.—First Quarter Moon

sets at 7:33 p.m. (MST). Mercury spends the entire month in Pisces.

Above Mercury is the brilliant Venus. The Goddess of Love starts the month in Pisces and quickly moves eastward into Aries. Traveling all the way across Aries, Venus enters Taurus just before March ends. At midmonth, Venus' disc is 57% illuminated and it is becoming less illuminated. Venus' disc is 21.0 seconds-of-arc across and it sets around 10:53 p.m. (MDT).

Jupiter is moving slowly eastward in southern Aries. On March 13, Venus, moving in the same direction but much faster, will sail just three degrees north of Jupiter. These are the two brightest planets in our sky and they will be only six full moons apart. At that time, Jupiter's disc is 35 seconds-of-arc across and shines at magnitude -2.2. The King of the Gods is about 40 degrees up in the west as it gets dark and sets around 10:46 p.m. (MDT).

After 26 months, Mars again reaches opposition on March 3. Two days later, Mars is actually closest to the Earth, only 62,621,000 miles away. Mars is moving westward in Leo and is magnitude -1.2 at opposition. The God of War's disc is 13.9 seconds-of-arc across and it is fully illuminated. It will be visible all night. Mars will be shrinking and fading for the rest of the year.

The Ringed Planet rises around 9:30 p.m. (MDT). Shining at magnitude +0.4, Saturn is moving westward in central Virgo. Its disc is 18.7 seconds-of-arc across. The Rings are 42.3 seconds-of-arc across and tipped down 14.6 degrees with the northern face showing. Saturn rises at 9:30 p.m. (MDT) and is visible the rest of the night.

The Sun passes through zero degrees declination traveling northward on March 19, putting it right over our equator. This makes day and night have equal lengths, giving us the March Equinox. In the northern hemisphere, the season of spring begins and winter ends. It's time to put the winter observing gear away and get ready for warmer weather to “keep watching the sky”!

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





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Hungry Ghosts

Four keys to coping with the needy people who haunt your life.

In the Tibetan Buddhist theory of the universe, there is a realm of beings who suffer terribly from insatiable hunger and thirst because of past misdeeds. These needy beings are known as “hungry ghosts,” and offerings are made to them in Buddhist ceremonies in compassion for their endless suffering.

Whatever your spiritual beliefs may be, the image of hungry ghosts can be useful to symbolize the needy and demanding people who frequently play roles in our day-to-day difficult interactions. Hungry ghosts represent the people we all encounter who demand more than their share of resources and attention and create conflict over minor details. They are takers, though they do not see themselves as such because there is always someone else to blame.

Hungry ghosts are driven by emotional neediness, so they are constantly looking at their environment, and at us, for opportunities to fill those needs. They cannot see beyond the demands of the need they are fixated on at the moment, so they treat those around them as objects to be used to satisfy these hungers. They often wear us out tremendously.

Examples of those whom this label might apply to include people who:

- Call on us to rant about their problems, but never take responsibility for their part in them.
- Collect injustices.
- Constantly borrow money or things of value.
- Frequently invite themselves to dinner or mooch from your food stash.
- Don't pay their debts (when they could).
- Have frequent heartbreaks about unmet expectations or someone “doing them wrong.”
- Won't forgive a past mistake or transgression.
- See themselves as chronic victims.
- Have constant misunderstandings in their communications.
- Find fault in whatever service, gift or advice you have given them.
- Perceive everything negatively.

Stuck in Drama

Because of their intense drive and focus on satisfying their needs, hungry ghosts become unable to see the discomfort and other problems caused by the pressure of their needs. This blindness keeps them from understanding why others often disappoint them or turn against them. So they stay stuck, acting out unhappy roles in dramas that keep repeating the same plot with different actors over the years.

These neediness dramas usually have emotional themes of infatuation, joy, betrayal, revenge and abandonment that repeat and shift. Needy people may not have a clue how the role they play and the drama that causes their suffering are connected, because there is always someone else they hold responsible. If they understand they have a role in creating their suffering, they may feel helpless to know how to stop. Either way, they seldom have the clarity and emotional strength to get out of the unhappy movie they are writing, directing and starring in.

It's almost impossible to

avoid getting tangled with hungry ghosts. There are needy, wounded people all around us, and we may even draw those with similar wounds to ourselves. Once you have loosened one needy person from your life, another comes around the corner.

Draining Entanglement

One thing that is frequently reported about interactions with needy people is that they are highly stressful. Generally they demand a great deal of energy and have little consideration for the costs they exert on others.

Phrases that are commonly used to describe needy people range from the practical “high maintenance” to the biting labels of “emotional vampires” and “suck.” Such labels are often negative because the impact of the negative drama and intense expectations that needy people throw around is difficult to tolerate. Putting them down helps justify

the urge to push them away. But there are alternatives to being drained, pushing them away, or even pitying them that begin with seeing these hungry ghosts as fellow human beings who are seeking the same things we are seeking (though in self-defeating ways).

Understanding Hungry Ghosts

Knowing how best to cope with people comes from understanding them, and this is especially true for needy people. Knowing more about their motivations can help us to cope more effectively with them and avoid getting wrapped up in their dramas. When we can see the energy dynamics at work with them, we have more choices and can become more strategic when things get out of balance. While there are many types of needy people, when neediness becomes a life pattern there are several dynamics that tend to be at work.

The habit of neediness is usually established in infancy through abuse or deprivations of care that threaten survival. The deep fear that results shapes the mind to pull constantly at the environment for survival, and to view the world as withholding. Emotional hunger becomes so ingrained that there is no way of satisfying it; it never goes away, no matter how generous the person's environment.

Hungry ghosts are constantly haunted by their hungers due to being shaped by truly awful begin-

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page



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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

nings, harsh circumstances their families had no control over. They may have lived in an area that was plagued by war or violence, where families feared for survival and children were a burden. They may have been born into poverty and/or hard living, where parents did not have the time or resources to care for them adequately. They may have been born into predatory families or communities where children were treated as things and abused harshly.

Another source of deprivation is a lack of emotional bonding in infancy. Early neglect can lead to fearful clinginess, grasping and tremendous demands for closeness. Such needy people often report feeling very empty inside, a painful void that they try to fill with passion, dedication to work, pleasure and/or drama.

This emotional emptiness often causes needy people to exert a controlling pressure on the people they become dependent on. This pressure can lead to extreme power struggles and primitive emotional reactions such as intense anger, fear and/or despair. Needy people are more likely to overreact because they have trouble tolerating negative emotions or even common stressors that occur in relationships, such as changeable moods and occasional need for space. These unhappy dynamics often harm one or both partners in the same painful ways that happened in their early years, deepening their early wounds.

Coping with Hungry Ghosts

Coping with needy people is tricky and demanding, but there are a few guidelines that can help. Here are four keys to healthier interactions with hungry ghosts in your life:

- 1. Be generous when you can.** If you have time or resources to share with a friend, family member or coworker who comes to you with a need, then giving is a compassionate response that will help them in the short term. Giving is also a beautiful gesture of kindness and community spirit that acknowledges that you are both connected through family or community bonds.
- The spirit with which you give the gift of your time, money or material goods has a major influence on the quality of the gift to the receiver. If you give with discomfort, frustration, pity or disgust, the gift will be tainted by such feelings. For example, if you loan money to your brother with the attitude that he is a big loser, his accepting that money will require him to swallow his pride and accept that judgment to some extent. Then a subtle dynamic will occur that empowers a self-fulfilling prophecy of low expectations.
- In healthy giving, it is good to express interest in how the gift will help them. If it is money, for example, how will that change things? Don't interrogate them, but do ask questions out of interest

and concern about their lives. If you care, then you want to know that your gift will make a difference, so try to convey that.

Often what needy people ask for is to give our time to listen to their troubles. If you have the time to listen, then consider doing that without offering advice, which assumes they are not mature enough to figure out their own answers. Giving personal support does not require you to be passive, though. It's good to ask questions to help bring out the dynamics at work and other choices they could make.

If you've given them support before and they did not change harmful behaviors, it might be time to say something instead of listening to the same stories repeatedly. Sometimes being a sympathetic listener can make it too easy for them to continue in a helpless role and not look at their negative thinking and habits. Be careful if you choose to say something, because hungry ghosts may not like honesty, even when given with the best intentions and care. Though the most loving and kind thing may be to tell the truth about what you see is hurting them (dysfunctions, substance abuse,

mismatch between their behavior and their perceptions...), they often reject truthful confrontations and may turn against you in hurtful ways. Still, this may be a better option than supporting pointless drama.

Remember that being generous with loving honesty, or even with praise or money, ultimately works only if you also detach from the results of your giving. Once you impose your expectations, the magic of giving may become tainted, making them feel obligated to please you instead of achieve what's right for them.

2. Monitor give-and-take balance. Whenever you give the gift of your time or resources, it's important to give with self-respect so that you are not putting your needs below theirs. If giving stresses you too strongly or too often, that means your interaction pattern is becoming unhealthy. It is essential to be aware how giving affects the balance of your needs, and not to give (or even loan) money or things that are essential to your survival or health. Your ultimate well-being should not be sacrificed for someone else's benefit.

This requires listening closely to hear inner signals that notify you that you are getting out of balance and to use that awareness to reconsider. Your awareness of what you require must be factored in and you can resist requests and demands when they are harmful to you.

The gift of time should be given as judiciously as giving money, because draining time and energy harms relationships just as much as draining money. The judgment calls for how much supportive time to give are more subtle and complicated, involving issues like past history with the person, mental capacity, truly bad luck and emotional/

financial burdens. Some key questions to consider include: "Are they trying to give back?" "Do they take responsibility for their problems as opposed to blaming?" and "Are they repeating a drama cycle they've complained about before?"

Giving too much may also lead you to expect results that gratify you or send out guilt if they don't please you with how they use your gift. Both of these responses are invitations to continue in the drama and they signify you are caught in the drama's net.

3. Stay out of the drama. Whether you give support to a needy person or not, it is important to not get swept into the dramas that they tend to carry with them.



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This is essential if you want to avoid messiness in the outcome.

One way to avoid drama is to be disinterested in it, not to care about the painful storylines of hungry ghosts. A more kind option is to react with a caring attitude while knowing it is not necessary to give them what they are asking for—meaning you know you are not responsible for their needs. Kindness does not mean reinforcing their being helpless or accepting their demonization of whoever they think has done them wrong.

You can refuse to rescue them or otherwise participate in the drama while stating that you care and you know that feeding the drama is not to their benefit. This is important if you don't want to reinforce the victim role and to give them a chance to step back from it. Hungry ghosts are trapped in their own prison of negative expectations, and you can invite them to find another way, to be free. Often this is hard to say so they can hear it, so the better option might be to describe stories of how others have broken free from hungry and grasping lives.

Avoid rescuing them from their troubles if you can, because needy people do not learn how to stand up for themselves or fix their own messes. It is better to help them develop their own strengths and skills by walking them through the steps but not doing things for them.

4. Don't take it personally. Staying out of dramas you are invited into may also require skillful detachment. Detachment means you don't take what they say and do personally and you don't intend what you say and do to be taken personally. There are no put-downs intended, no judgments held, no rights or wrongs, and no expectations to be met on either side.

Assume they are whole and capable, not broken and helpless. You might try to respond with centering attitudes, such as, "That's such a tough battle you have chosen" or the ever-helpful, "I'm OK, you're OK and you'll be OK." You can try talking to them as if you are talking about a movie plot, such as, "I hear you say that you want love from someone that you can't have and you seem very upset."

Sometimes you have to let go, stop trying to help, and let

them have their suffering. The world is full of immense suffering, many things go wrong and good people make terrible mistakes, so there is always reason to feel bad if someone wants to wallow. It is better for you to model caring while moving on than to stay stuck in bad feelings along with them.

Hurting Themselves

It helps to remember that hungry ghosts ultimately hurt themselves far more than they hurt others. Their focus on others prevents them from changing their own unhappy thinking and behavior—the only real way out of their suffering. Also, their obsession with their desires keeps them from appreciating the gifts of life, so they seldom enjoy the moment or feel at peace.

Unfortunately, needy people can recognize the faults and grasping minds of others, but seldom see their own thinking that keeps them enslaved to desires and negative expectations. They seldom stick with the work of changing their own behaviors that contribute to their misery (money foolishness, lack of planning, unrealistic expectations, drinking...).

Complaining and demanding are usually ineffective if they are used exclusively or without concern for others, for family, work and community needs. The real prizes that lead to sustainable happiness, such as love, kindness, forgiveness and gratitude, get lost when only their needs count.



Hungry ghosts demand a great deal of energy and have little consideration for the costs they exert on others.

Dr. Joanie Connors is a counseling psychologist who specializes in interpersonal issues and trauma from an ecosystems perspective. She has a private practice in Silver City (phone 575-519-0543) and occasionally teaches as an adjunct faculty member at WNMU.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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Over the years, Dr. Skee, a board-certified internist, has always been there when they needed him. He treated Leo when he suffered a heart attack, ordering all the necessary tests and providing "excellent care." Pam recalls when she was visiting in Alaska and Dr. Skee called in a prescription for her. Pam drove her own parents back and forth from Hillsboro, at times on a daily basis, so that Dr. Skee could treat them. Leo and Pam also singled out the Silver Health CARE staff as unfailingly attentive and helpful over the years.

Leo's mother, Evelyn Mae Davidson was Dr. Skee's patient for more than twenty years. She had worked cheerfully at the Dairy Queen owned by Leo, where she was affectionately known as "Aunt Bea" to the employees. Very recently, at ninety-one years old, Evelyn suffered a fall last year and seemed to be disoriented by it. Leo and Pam are thankful that Dr. Skee "was right there for her" both in the hospital and when she returned home. The Davidsons saw that over Thanksgiving "she didn't seem quite right." Alarmed, Pam called Dr. Skee at home, and the Davidsons marvel at how he came over to their house that weekend, assessed Evelyn's medical condition, and "helped us make huge decisions that we didn't know how to make." Sadly, Evelyn passed away a few days later, but the Davidsons are immensely grateful to Dr. Skee for his help in getting them through this very difficult time.



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Cashing Out

Are cash register receipts hazardous to your health?

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that Bisphenol A (BPA)—which is harmful to human health—was found to be present in retail cash register receipts and that, since those receipts get recycled, the chemical may also be present in toilet paper and other paper products?

Many of us already know the risks associated with regular use of products containing the plastic hardener and synthetic estrogen Bisphenol A (BPA)—and have switched over to BPA-free water and baby bottles and food storage containers. But the recent revelation that many of the receipts handed around every day in the US contain the chemical has been a real shocker to those already worried about BPA exposure.

Many thermal papers used in the US—receipts, event tickets, labels—contain so-called “free” BPA (that is, not bound into resin or plastic), which helps “develop” the inks to make the printed information visible. “While there is little concern for dermal absorption of BPA, free BPA can readily be transferred to skin and residues on hands can be ingested,” reports the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Laboratory tests commissioned by the non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG) and carried out by the University of Missouri Division of Biological Sciences Laboratory in 2010 found high levels of BPA on 40% of receipts sampled from major US businesses and services, including McDonald's, Chevron, CVS, KFC, Whole Foods, WalMart, Safeway and the US Postal Service, among others.

“The total amounts of BPA on receipts tested were 250 to 1,000 times greater than other, more widely discussed sources of BPA exposure, including canned foods, baby bottles and infant formula,” reported EWG. Wipe tests conducted by the lab easily removed BPA, “indicating that the chemical could rub off on the hands of a person handling the receipt.”

While BPA contamination of food is still a bigger problem, says EWG, a large number of Americans—especially the 7 million who run cash registers—are nonetheless exposed to additional amounts of BPA through handling receipts. An EWG analysis of US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data found that retail workers carry an average of 30% more BPA in their bodies than other adults.

Another, more exhaustive study of BPA in thermal paper receipts and 14 other types of papers found the chemical in a whopping 94% of samples from the US, Japan, Korea and Vietnam. The State University of New York researchers behind the study, which was published in September 2011 in the peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, estimate that receipts and other thermal paper products contribute around 33.5 tons of BPA to the environment in the US and Canada each year. Even more disturbing was their finding that BPA in thermal paper receipts also contami-



nates paper recycling and is showing up in napkins, toilet paper and other common papers with recycled content. (Photo: iStockPhoto/Thinkstock)

nates paper recycling and is showing up in napkins, toilet paper and other common papers with recycled content.

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

On a more encouraging note, Wisconsin's Appleton Papers, the world's largest thermal paper maker, removed BPA from its products in 2006. And the EPA has since launched a program to evaluate the safety and availability of alternatives to BPA in thermal paper. Public health advocates and environmentalists, of course, would like to see BPA phased out entirely.

CONTACTS: EPA, www.epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals/pubs/actionplans/bpa_action_plan.pdf; EWG, www.ewg.org; “Widespread Occurrence of Bisphenol A in Paper and Paper Products: Implications for Human Exposure,” *Environmental Science & Technology*, www.pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es202507f.

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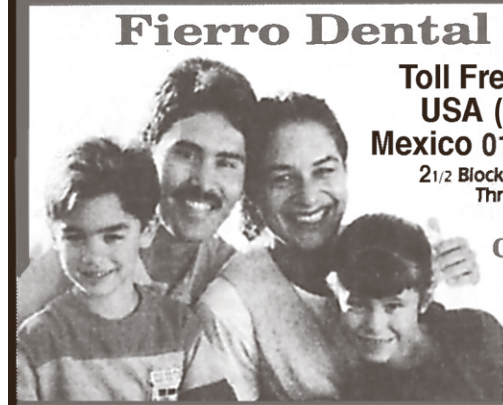
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Sundays

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.

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.

BELLY DANCE WITH ZOE—5:30-6:50 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St. 654-4910.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS—4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Support for those who've lost a child. Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 7th and Texas St. Charlene Mitchell, 313-7362.

FIGURE/MODEL DRAWING—4-6 p.m. Contact Sam, 388-5583.

GILA WRITERS—6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. Trish Heck, pheck@grmc.org, 538-4072.

INTERBODY YOGA—5:30-6:30 p.m.,

315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.

KIWANIS CLUB—Noon. Red Barn, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 590-0540.

LOS COMADRES CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Tues. 6 p.m. Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180 E. (next to Ace). 388-1198 ext. 10.

REIKI CIRCLE—First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. 2035 Little Walnut. Treatment for those in need of healing. Vicki, 388-8114, or Virginia, 388-4870.

RESTORATIVE YOGA—10-11:30 a.m., 5:30-7 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.

SLOW FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m. 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.

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

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

Wednesdays

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.

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) 2nd 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.

Thursdays

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—2nd Thurs. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Board Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.

CARDIAC SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Thurs. 4 p.m. Grant County Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy 180E, 590-2578.

CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL—First Thurs. 5:30 p.m. Grant County Admin Bldg.

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

GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—2nd

Thurs. 6 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria St. Kyle, 538-5706.

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.

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

Saturdays

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

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

Tool Time

Use your tools—be a horse.

I was sitting on the porch of my barn the other day, having a late-afternoon beer and watching my horses in their field, destroying the last bits of the oak trees that used to grow there. This is something I do a lot—not the afternoon beer, just watching my horses. I get many of my training ideas from observing how they move and interact with each other. Sometimes I've tried little experiments like leaving a new or unfamiliar object out there to see how they would evaluate it without any guidance or interference from me. One time, I measured the distance from various spots in the field where I leave small piles of hay, and then counted the distance they covered over a couple of hours. Horses will cover many miles—15 or more—in a day given space and good pasture, as part of their natural grazing and browsing. My little experiment confirmed that even in my one-acre field they would move about five miles if they were there for 24 hours and there was hay out there the whole time.

One of my real interests is watching and understanding how horses move one another, since much of riding and good horsemanship is based on trying to duplicate that instinctive equine language. What struck me on this particular day was how the design of the basic teaching tools of natural horsemanship gives you the ability to interact in a way that means something to a horse. I often think that if more riders would look at their tools a bit differently, they would be able to get a lot more done on the ground and they would see the direct correlation to the responsiveness and understanding they want from their horse under saddle.

As you look at a horse, you see the obvious long neck and big head. At times they seem to be able to extend that part of the body to an even greater length, almost giraffe-like. They have long legs that they can use for kicking out in almost any direction, or even for scratching the top of their head. They can clearly express emotion and intent with their ears. They can focus their energy at a specific part of another horse in a request for that horse to move that body part or the whole body, and they have an amazing ability to follow up that request with a stronger request, and even contact, in a split second. If you watch long enough, you realize they can do all this from a distance, and both horses understand exactly what is being communicated and what behavior will avoid any physical contact.

I watch my wife's horse look at my horse, pin his ears, take a couple of steps, then extend his head and neck like an accordion and give a nice little bite to the butt. My poor little horse Cody—all of 16 hands high and 1,200 pounds—walks around with a permanent bruise from the bites that came because he didn't move quickly enough. He could choose to move away after the look or pinned ears from a distance, but sometimes just doesn't respond quickly enough. Such is the language of horses.

As humans, we really don't have the same gifts for non-verbal communication. Relative to the horse, we have short necks, small heads, small teeth, fixed ears, and we're pretty slow. Other than Jackie Chan, our kicking range is small and doesn't pack a whole lot of force.

This is where the tools of natural horsemanship—the stick, string, rope halter and 12-foot lead—can help us. This simple equipment gives you a bigger presence in the eyes of the horse, and allows you to safely mimic the movements and actions of a horse. The tools also allow you to be calmer and more relaxed with your body, and much more precise and focused with your requests, key elements to the basic communication between horses.

Let's talk about the stick. As with most people who do this work, I like to use a firm stick that is a little more than three feet long. I like to think of the stick as giving me the head, neck and teeth of the horse. If the stick is three feet long and my arm is two feet long, that allows me to communicate with the horse from five feet away. If the horse does not respond, the stick allows me to tap the exact spot I'm focused on to get the response while still

keeping my body a safe distance away. Adding the string to the stick, typically six feet long, gives me the ability to do the same thing from 11 feet away.

This is *never* about hitting the horse with a tool, something I never allow in my work, but about clear and focused communication from a safe distance, just like another horse. Your goal is to move a horse or get a response the same way a horse does—with focused energy and intent from body language. If you don't get this, then you need to reach out with your neck, head or hoof—that is, your stick or tool—to apply direct pressure while keeping yourself safe.

Because the stick is also such a strong visual cue to the horse, it becomes a strong positive reward for correct, desired behavior. As any good rider knows, the horse learns when pressure is released or stopped. In a herd, a horse knows he is doing the right thing when he looks around at the horses nearest to him and they have soft eyes and ears, and their heads are down and necks relaxed. Putting the stick down at your side and relaxing your grip and your overall body language accomplishes the same thing for the horse. He knows he's "doing the right thing" from your posture and the position of the tools.

The lead rope is used in exactly the same way, with the added advantage of being able to position the horse's head through the rope halter, and therefore his body, to respond successfully to your request. You can again duplicate the conversations horses have with one another every day, but from a distance that keeps you much safer.

For some riders, thinking of these basic tools as giving you the reach, focus and precision of another horse is a bit of a stretch. Try thinking of them as riding tools. For example, your lead rope is really a rein in terms of how you use it. You give direction with it, you position the head for softness or body shape and movement, and you send energy down it to slow or stop the horse. I like to teach people to think of and use the lead rope as the inside rein, even to the point of holding it like a rein and using it with the kind of hand and grip movements you would use with your reins. Used correctly, it can also duplicate the responsibilities of an inside leg.

With the stick, I try to get people to think of it as your leg when riding. You can use it to direct and encourage lateral movement like a single leg cue, or to encourage forward movement like a double leg cue/squeeze. You can also use it to encourage backwards movement by positioning it in front of the chest, using it like a back-up leg cue. The stick can also be used as a powerful support tool, in the way you would use an outside rein or your legs to keep a horse straight and balanced. When circling a horse on the lead rope, your lead rope acts very much like your inside rein when riding a circle, and your stick acts like an outside rein and leg to keep the horse balanced on the circle and moving forward.

I often tell my students that the only difference between a great horseman and the average horse owner is how they use their tools as extensions of themselves, to help them act more horse-like with less dust and drama. Whichever way you want to look at your tools, what is most important is that you start to think of them not just as equipment but as important parts of the teaching and learning process for the horse. It is your responsibility to learn how to use them for effective and precise communication with your horse, to apply focused pressure that starts small and builds to the point necessary to get a positive response, and to quickly quiet them to convey reward and praise for success. Used correctly, they are also the best insurance you have for keeping yourself safe. 🌵

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





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It's a Dog's Hike

Out on a hike, dogs can teach us a lot.

We can learn a lot from watching domestic dogs and even some wild canines, when it comes to enjoying the outdoors and living a healthy lifestyle.

As you all know, I hike often, usually five times a week, and almost always, I have my two dogs, Huey and Buko, along with me.

I got to watchin' them and what they do when they're with me, and I've come to a bunch of conclusions that may well be tied in with human health and happiness.

First off, I have noticed that within the first 10 to 15 minutes of our hikes, both dogs have to take a dump. I've also noticed that when I'm on a rather strenuous hike, I've gotta do the same. I figger that in both the dog's and my case, it is because with strenuous exercise, all of the body parts are in motion, including the intestinal tract, and that movement causes the body to expel toxins and waste that would otherwise make us feel rather blah. Therefore walking is a great way to keep our innards healthy! (That can be said for peeing as often as possible, too.)

The dogs never avoid the difficult places to travel; they aren't afraid to exert themselves nor do they prefer the easy way. And I seldom see them walking; they always prefer to trot or run.

Have you ever seen coyotes on the move? They, too, always seem to move at a fast pace.

That tells me that strong exertion is good for us humans when on a hike. It will make us more fit. I have never understood all those folks who casually walk around the high school track and never get the heart rate up or break even a slight sweat. One needs to get off the track and into the rugged and uneven terrain of the nearby hills to get a good cardio workout.

I've developed a cross between a walk and jog; I call it the shuffle. I move at a faster-than-walk pace and bend my knees with each step (sorta bouncing as I go) and carry my arms ape-like and down, swinging them to and fro. I can cover ground quite quickly and still not feel overexerted. My feet are only inches off of the ground and as I bounce, they slide.

My dogs will pant with exertion; that's their way of dispersing heat. We humans need to work up a sweat, and that will cause us to disperse heat, too. I think sweating is good for the body. I once saw a program featuring Sarah Palin and she was jogging in Alaska. She said that she wants to get to the point where she is sweating freely; then she knows the workout is doing her some good. I agree heartily. Sweating is another way to open up body pores and rid ourselves of toxins.

When Huey and Buko get up in the morning, one of the first things they do is to take a long and deep stretch. I watched the Steelers-Broncos game in January, and noted that they all stretched thoroughly before the game. Stretching warms and loosens the muscles so we don't pull or twist a muscle or tear a ligament.

The dogs stop about every half-mile and take a deep drink of water. When they get back to the house they each take long draws at the water bowl. We need to stay hydrated, too, even if we are going less than a mile. It also serves to cleanse the blood.

Sometimes I'll take Gatorade along to re-supply lost or spent electrolytes to keep me from getting nauseous or dehydrated.

If I go on a long quail hunt or an all-day outing, I take cooked meat chunks and biscuits for Huey, who is my bird dog. I regularly stop and we rest and I give him some treats. Meat protein helps to give him energy for the long haul.

I take along cooked meat for myself, too, for the same reasons. Protein builds energy and strength. Mine is usually smoked wild turkey or game or beef jerky. I also will carry a granola bar or two.

good for us humans to rest once in a while, too. If you begin to feel tired or fatigued, for goodness sake, sit down! A 10-minute sit will do wonders on a hike.

Sometimes I've even been known to stop at a stream or spring and take my shoes and socks off and soak my feet in the cold liquid. That can really revive the old body!

My old pal, Barney-Dawg, would always go right into streams and dirt tanks and lie down in them while taking a drink at the same time. Sometimes only his big ol' head would be out of the water.

Dogs have four legs to get around on, and not only can they move with speed but with agility. Huey and Buko will charge both up and down 20-foot, steep banks and never miss a step.

Now, I don't often get down on all fours when I'm hiking, but I have learned that a third leg in the form of a hiking staff can do wonders for my balance and agility. I seldom have to worry about twisting an ankle if I am using a staff.

As far as happiness, I've never seen a sad dog when out hiking or even outdoors at all! That tells me it is good for me, too, to keep a happy and positive attitude when doing anything outdoors. After all, even the worst day outside is better than the best day working!

Did you ever notice that most coyotes travel in pairs? My dogs are inseparable when we hike; they seem to enjoy each other. Where one goes, the other follows and vice versa.

As I get longer in the tooth, I find I am enjoying human companionship more and more when traversing the outdoors—a pal to share a sight or a new treasure find, or a hunt. In the book of Ecclesiastes, it says, "When one falls, the other is there to help pick them up; a two-stranded cord is strong, but a three-stranded cord is even better."

My dogs seem to use all of their senses when on a hike—a couple more than others. Smell ranks number one, followed closely by sight and then taste. Sometimes they'll step on a cactus thorn and touch comes into play. Hearing is important, too, especially when I'm trying to get their attention!

Have you ever stopped to "smell the roses"? Often when I rode a mountain bike, I would stop at a particularly lovely flower and inhale its aroma. The smell of pines is exhilarating, too. It all adds to the outdoor experience.

I've never seen a domestic or wild canine that didn't like to explore; that goes for me, too. The same old pathway can get pretty dull and boring after a trip or three. Don't be afraid to venture forth and try the unusual. I've made some great memories when I do just that.

Over the years, I've had a dog or two that likes to sit down, tilt its head back, and give a long mournful or joyful howl. Coyotes and wolves will do the same. I've tried that, too, although not when I thought any folks could hear me. Ya know what? It sure feels good! It is always very stress-relieving.

The one thing dogs and canines of all sorts do that I haven't been able to force myself to try is this: They never wear clothes! I'll just bet that if I could convince myself to do so, that too would be very liberating. But then, who wants to see a white-haired, old fatman running around naked? It would probably wither the vine and dry up the water holes!

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

Finding a “Soul Friend”

Lightcap gets hitched. Yes, *that* Lightcap.

Those who know me best know that, at best, I am an imperfect carbon-based life form. In spectacular defense of the Jungian philosophy that perfection belongs only to the gods, I demonstrate my mortal origins with outstanding frequency and enthusiasm. For example, I am constantly depositing crucial items like my wallet, keys, sunglasses, cell phone and other daily items in mysterious locations that elude me for days at a time. I eat greasily and dress shabbily. I am sometimes careless with the feelings of others. I forget to put out the trash more often than not. On top of those imperfections, I am impatient with crying babies, I don't like small cars, and I can be churlish at times. I honestly have no idea how anybody can stand me, much less love me. To paraphrase Walt Whitman, I no doubt deserve my enemies, but I don't believe I deserve my friends. I also don't know how I deserve the love of the woman who agreed to marry me on Feb. 18.

I sometimes feel that romantic ruminations from a man with a failed marriage on his record are spurious, sort of like taking lessons on humility from Charlie Sheen. But from that experience I learned what really matters in a successful, lasting relationship. People have to talk and, just as important, they have to listen, too. Words have power, and a power handled recklessly is apt to cause harm. Judgmental attitudes are toxic to those who prefer tolerance and acceptance, and without mutual respect, there can only be singular disdain and silent dinners.

So, like an oil-covered pelican retrieved from a gulf-coast beach, I was eventually re-released into the general population after a lot of people fussed over me. I had a lot of self-doubt, unsure if those around me would smell the stink of failure on my skin, but either they didn't notice or my new sport deodorant works exceedingly well. They all seemed to accept me, even if I wasn't ready to forgive myself.

Time marches on, as time will do, and I resolved to march with it. I went out on dates and even lived with a woman for a while who perfectly illustrated all the reasons to never, ever date a redhead. After that, it just got tedious—friends wanting to set me up, awkward dates, uncomfortable conversations. One woman even ran a background check on me and pronounced me “clean” on a date. Fabulous.

It was exhausting, so I stopped worrying about it. Which, of course, is when I met Karen.

The first time I met her, it was at her place of work. I was just another face to her, but I was struck by her stature and her beauty. I tried to be clever, but to little effect. The second

time I met her, she was at a social event with some mutual friends I didn't know we shared. This time we talked quite a bit, and our entire group made plans to attend a Halloween party a few weeks later. The third time I met her, she was dressed like Barbie and I was dressed like Tom Joad from *The Grapes of Wrath*. (I've always been terrible at costumes. Nobody ever gets mine.)

But there was magic afoot this night: Some impish miscreants had cracked open countless glow sticks and spattered the toxic, luminescent stuff inside throughout a grove of trees we walked through. It was like a tunnel of stars, the soft green dots spread all around us like a canopy of expatriated stars blurring the lines between heaven and earth. We couldn't stop talking about it, even the next day via electronic communication. Before that Christmas, we went out on our first date. She

was smart and beautiful and funny, and has the largest, most mesmerizing eyes I have ever seen. That is to say, she was way outside of my league.

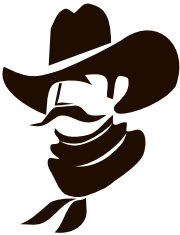
Over the past year, she has given me so much more than I have given her. With her help and patience, I have finally come to terms with my past. My failures

aren't failures at all, but were instrumental to my growth as a human being. If I have any doubt of the positive outcomes of my history, I need only consider where I am now. I took a long, somewhat circuitous route to get where I am today, and that's a pretty amazing string of events. Call it fate or karma or even serendipity if you want.

The Celts call it Anam Cara. According to Celtic spiritual tradition, the soul radiates around the physical body. When a person becomes completely open and trusting of another, the souls flow together, and you have found your “soul friend”—your Anam Cara.

It has been a long path for an imperfect man, and I am blessed to have found such a kind, empathetic and loving person to be my soul friend. Sometimes, the haunts of my past send out echoes of self-doubt and recrimination, but her love overpowers their sad, irrelevant moans. I am far more excited about our future than I am concerned about my past. In a world of amazingly random chaos, we have found each other, and there is a reason for that. Whitman was right—I certainly don't deserve her, but I fully intend to earn her.

Henry Lightcap recently celebrated his nuptials in Las Cruces.



I had a lot of self-doubt, unsure if those around me would smell the stink of failure on my skin.

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Red or Green?

Southwest New Mexico's best restaurant guide.

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

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

If we've recently reviewed a restaurant, you'll find a brief capsule of our review and a notation of which issue it originally appeared in. Stories from all back issues of *Desert Exposure* from January 2005 on are available on our Web site.

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

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

GRANT COUNTY

Silver City

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

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

ASIAN BUFFET, 1740 Hwy. 180E, 388-0777. 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 food in a form that most of our mothers would never have thought of producing." (March 2011) Weekend brunch, weekday L by reservation only.*

CAFÉ UN MUNDO, 700 N. Bullard, 956-8752. "The sandwiches,... [made with] special home-made rolls, along with the long list of salads that now appear on the café's menu, are as creative as the building's décor.

And, of course, there's always a tasty soup-of-the-day available.... The menu describes the soups as 'Flavour-Driven Concoctions' and the description fits everything else on the menu, as well." (January 2012) Vegetarian and vegan dishes available. Mon.-Fri. L.*

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

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

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

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

DELI-SSH, 801 N. Hudson St., 388-2737. Sandwiches, wraps, Italian: Mon.-Sat. L early D.

DIANE'S RESTAURANT, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Homemade American, Euro and Pacific Rim: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. D only, weekend brunch, catering.

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

DON FIDENCIO'S, 901 N. Hudson St., 597-3663. Mexican: B L D.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ISAAC'S GRILL, Bullard and Broadway, 388-4090. American, burgers, sandwiches: Fri.-Sun. L D, Sun. brunch, Mon.-Wed. D only.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

LA MEXICANA, Hwy. 180E and Memory Lane, 534-0142. 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.

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

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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. “The unique and healthful food is tasty, and the only such of its kind around for miles—maybe even galaxies.” (February 2007) Vegetarian: Mon.-Sat. L.*

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

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.*

SILVERADO HEALTH FOOD SHOP, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Sandwiches, burritos, salads, smoothies: Mon.-Fri. L.

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

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

TERRY’S ORIGINAL BARBEQUE, Hwy. 180 and Ranch Club Road. Barbeque to go: L D.

3 DOGS COFFEEHOUSE, 503 N. Bullard St. Coffeeshop.

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. Yankee St. Coffeeshop, coffee, home-made pastries and ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies.*

Bayard

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

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

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

LOS COMPAS, 1203 Tom Foy Blvd. 654-4109. Sonoran-style Mexican, hot dogs, portos, menu: 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 Ameri-

can: 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

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

Mimbres

ELK X-ING CAFÉ, 3668 Hwy 35, (352) 212-0448. American, burgers, meatloaf: Thurs.-Sun. B L.

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

Pinos Altos

BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE, Main Street, 538-9911. “‘The Buck,’ as most locals affectionately call it, has a history of satisfying at the dinner plate with its long-favored menu including generous slabs of meat, hearty green chile stew with kick and ‘honest pours’ at the full bar.” (December 2010) Steakhouse, pasta, burgers: Mon.-Sat. D.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

Las Cruces & Mesilla

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

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

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

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

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

BAAN THAI KITCHEN, 1605 S. Solano 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.

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

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

CAFÉ AGOGO, 1120 Commerce Dr., Suite A, 636-4580. Asian, American, sandwich, salad, rice bowl: Mon.-Sat. L D.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

DINING GUIDE continued on page B47

Alotta Words about ALOTTA GELATO



Spring is on its way! And that can only mean one thing: the return of Girl Scout® Mint Cookie Crunch! Delicious mint gelato is taken up a notch by the addition of real Girl Scout Thin Mint cookie pieces. It earns a merit badge in yummysity, for sure! Stop in and have a taste, while supplies last! (Note: no Girl Scouts were harmed in the making of this gelato.)


In case you haven't heard, we have yet another fabulous flavor available now: Cherries Jubilee! It's a rich vanilla cream with tart, imported Amarena cherries swirled in. We served it for the first time during last month's Chocolate Fantasia, and it's been a top-seller ever since— stop by, give it a try, and you'll know why!

We'd like to point out that our gift certificates are perfect for all occasions, can be purchased in any amount, and can be used a little at a time— a gift that keeps on giving!


ALOTTA GELATO is open 7 nights a week until at least 9:00 PM (10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday nights). We have all kinds of hot drinks (such as coffee, 20-plus kinds of tea, hot cocoa, hot cider and even ramen noodles) to take away the last, lingering chill of the March winds, and we also carry delicious dessert items such as Key Lime Bars, Chocolate Chip Brownies, Triple Lemon Cheesecake, slices of flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, Chocolate Chip cookies, and big honkin' wedges of triple-layer Carrot Cake!

Wake up those taste buds from their long winter nap! Buy a pint or a quart of Girl Scout Mint Cookie Crunch, Cherries Jubilee, Gila Conglomerate, or any of our incredible flavors, take it home to share with your friends and family, and enjoy the best gelato in the state, made right here in Silver City!

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Reservations Required.
Banquet seating at 6:30pm.
See website for menu.

11th Anniversary Celebration

2012 is the year of our 11th anniversary. To **celebrate** we're holding **drawings** on the **11th & 22nd** of each month all year. **Enter** each time you **dine** with us!

RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

Double Your Pleasure

Mesilla's Double Eagle and Peppers Café make a delicious duo.

Tradition and innovation go hand-in-hand at the Double Eagle Restaurant in Old Mesilla.

Originally built as a private residence in the late 1840s just after the Mexican-American War, the well-preserved hacienda-style adobe building that houses the restaurant is recognized by the US Department of the Interior as the oldest structure on the historic old Mesilla plaza. It was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places by Robert O. Anderson, who purchased the property in the early 1970s.

It was Anderson who converted the building from a private residence into a restaurant, and named it the Double Eagle after the \$20 gold coin minted in the mid-1800s. In 1984, he sold the business to the current owner, C.W. "Buddy" Ritter, and his wife, Margaret.

Ritter expanded the restaurant's culinary horizons and carried out major renovations in the building. Today, the Double Eagle's formal, fine-dining, white linen-clad tables meander through a warren of rooms clustered around a glass-roofed central courtyard that has acquired a life of its own and even a name of its own: Peppers Café.

Whereas the Double Eagle portion of the building is sedate and sophisticated, the courtyard where Peppers Café exists is bright, airy and vibrantly colorful, with small tables nestled in amongst a forest of small palm-tree-like plants called cycads. The chairs are brightly painted with traditional New Mexico folk symbols, the work of local artist Priscilla Sandoval.

The food at Peppers Café is as refreshingly free-spirited as the décor. Though a fifth-generation New Mexican, Ritter insisted on pushing past the traditional boundaries of Southwestern cuisine, and came up with a menu that includes a freewheeling assortment of familiar Southwest dishes with unexpected departures from tradition.

"Buddy was really a pioneer in 'fusion' food," says long-time general manager Jerry Harrell. "He brought in West Coast ideas, and introduced Mexican food with a West Coast twist."

Where else will you find Green Chile Cheese Wontons with Pineapple-Jalapeno Salsa, or BBQ Chicken Breast Quesadilla served with chopped jalapeños and sour cream? Or how about a Chicken, Chile & Cheese Egg Roll with Pineapple-Jalapeno Salsa?

If you have room after indulging in one or more of these taste-tempting appetizers, you can move on to a Chile Relleno Burger, a Cactus Roasted BBQ Brisket Sandwich, or a lunch entrée like Seafood Stuffed Chile Rellenos or Shark Tacos Baja. Or try the Enchiladas Especial with your choice of fillings—mushrooms and caramelized onions, spinach and prosciutto, sautéed garlic shrimp, fajita beef or fajita chicken.

These examples illustrate the creative handling of traditional Southwestern dishes that you can expect to find at Peppers Café. There is much, much more to choose from, including such non-Mexican entrées as Salmon Crepes and Beer Braised Beef Carbonnade.

If you have trouble making decisions, you will find the menu a challenge. And heaven help you if you visit Peppers Café for dinner, because you will be faced with the additional temptation of a selection of the aged steaks that have made the Double Eagle famous.

All the steaks served at the Double Eagle are aged on the premises in the restaurant's own dedicated beef aging room. This is a special refrigerated room where the temperature is kept at 34 to 37 degrees, the optimum level for natural enzymes to break down the collagen in the meat and make it tender.

Although Peppers Café and the Double Eagle



Double Eagle general manager Jerry Harrell stands in the glass-roofed area that was the central courtyard of the old adobe hacienda that now houses The Double Eagle restaurant. The enclosed courtyard is now known as Peppers Café. (Photos by Peggy Platonos)

Restaurant are both open seven days a week, the café serves lunch and dinner, while the restaurant serves dinner only.

As you might expect, the menu for the Double Eagle is classier... and more expensive. Steaks range in price from \$22.95 for an eight-ounce top sirloin to \$45.95 per person for Chateaubriand Bouquetiere for Two. Seafood options include shrimp, scallops, salmon, sole and halibut, each offering a choice of two different preparation styles, ranging in price from \$22.95 to \$26.95. Roasted Pork Tenderloin and several chicken dishes cost \$20.95, and Duck Breast with Red Chile-Pomegranate Sauce is \$26.95. All the entrées are à la carte except the Chateaubriand; side dishes cost \$3.95 each.



Server Leslie Miles pauses with a plate of Beer Braised Beef Carbonnade at lunchtime in Peppers Café. She has worked at the Double Eagle and Peppers Café for 19 years, and was named Employee of the Year in 2007 and again in 2010.

Steaks on the café's dinner menu cost the same as on the Double Eagle menu, but only the smaller cuts are offered. The most expensive is the six-ounce filet mignon at \$36.95.

Well, we haven't mentioned the array of award-winning margaritas or the deliciously decadent desserts available in both the café and restaurant. But we must mention the Double Eagle's Champagne Sunday Brunch Buffet, served each week in the Isabella Ballroom. There are two seatings—one at 11 a.m., the other at 1:30 p.m. The buffet is touted as "the finest Sunday Brunch Buffet to be found in the entire Southwest." The cost is \$24.95 for adults, \$10.95 for children 6 to 12, no charge for children 5 and under. Reservations are recommended.

The Double Eagle, with Peppers Café nestled inside, is located on the plaza in historic Old Mesilla. The telephone number for both establishments is (575) 523-6700. There is a website—www.double-eagle-mesilla.com—where full menus for both Peppers Café and the Double Eagle can be found and drooled over. ☘

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



Grand Opening

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DINING GUIDE continued

American: L D.
EDDIE’S BAR & GRILL, 901 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-8603. Pub food, American, Southwestern: B L D.
EL COMEDOR, 2190 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-7002. Mexican: B L D.
EL PATRON CAFÉ, 1103 S. Solano Dr. Mexican: Tues.-Thur., Sun. B L, Fri.-Sat. B L early D.
EL SOMBRERO PATIO CAFÉ, 363 S. Espina St., 524-9911. Mexican: L D.
EL TIBURON, 504 E. Amador, 647-4233. Mexican, seafood, steak: L D.
EMILIA’S, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Burgers, Mexican, soup, sandwiches, pastry, juices, smoothies: L D.
EMPIRE BUFFET, 510 S. Telshor Blvd., 522-2333. Asian: L D.
ENRIQUE’S, 830 W. Picacho, 647-0240. Mexican: B L D.
FARLEY’S, 3499 Foothills Rd., 522-0466. Pizza, burgers, American, Mexican: L D.
FIDENCIO’S, 800 S. Telshor, 532-5624. Mexican: B L D.
FORK IN THE ROAD, 202 N. Motel Blvd., 527-7400. Buffet: B L D 24 hrs.
FOX’S PIZZA DEN, 1340 E. Lohman Ave., 521-3697. Pizza: L D.
GAME BAR & GRILL, 2605 S. Espina, 524-GAME. Sports bar and grill: L D.
GO BURGER DRIVE-IN, 1008 E. Lohman, 524-9251. Burgers, Mexican: Mon.-Fri. B L.
GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD, 1420 El Paseo, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.
GOOD LUCK CAFÉ, 1507 S. Solano, 521-3867. Mexican, seafood: B L early D.
GRANDY’S COUNTRY COOKING, 1345 El Paseo Rd., 526-4803. American: B L D.
GUACAMOLE’S BAR AND GRILL, 3995 W. Picacho Ave., 525-9115. Burgers, pizza, salads, sandwiches, Hawaiian appetizers: L D.
HIEBERT’S FINE FOODS, 525 E. Madrid Ave. #7, 524-0451. Mexican, American: B L D.
HIGH DESERT BREWING COMPANY, 1201 W. Hadley Ave., 525-6752. Brew pub: L D.*
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.
J.C. TORTAS, 1196 W. Picacho Ave., 647-1408. Mexican: L D.
JESSE’S KANSAS CITY BBQ, 230 S. Church, 522-3662. Barbecue: Mon., Tue., Thurs-Sat. L D.
JIREH’S, 1445 W. Picacho. Mexican, American: B L early D.
JOSE MURPHY’S, 1201 E. Amador (inside Ten Pin Alleys), 541-4064. Mexican, American: L D.
JOSEPHINA’S OLD GATE CAFÉ, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Mon.-Thur. L, Fri.-Sun. B L.
KATANA TEPPANYAKI GRILL, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-0526. Japanese: Mon.-Fri. L D, Sat. D.
KEVA JUICE, 1001 E. University, 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D.
KIVA PATIO CAFÉ, 600 E. Amador Ave., 527-8206. Mexican, Southwestern, American: B L D.
LA COCINA, 204 E. Conway Ave., 524-3909. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L.
LA IGUANA, 139 N. Main St., 523-8550. “An interesting combination of styles, with elements of coffeehouse, deli and fine dining imaginatively woven together.” (February 2011) Sandwiches, soups, salads, coffee bar: Wed.-Sat. L D, Sat.-Sun. also brunch.*
LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA, 1300 N. Solano Dr, 541-9617. Mexican: L D.
LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ, 195 N. Mesquite, 523-5434. Mexican and American: B L.
LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. “A restaurant with history hard-wired into the fiber of its being. Through building, menu and ownership, its roots extend all the way back to the 1840s.” (September 2011) Mexican , steakhouse: L D, Sat.-Sun. and holidays also B.
LAS TRANCAS, 1008 S. Solano Dr., 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Sat.-Sun. also B.
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, 2790 Avenida de Mesilla, 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. Coffeehop, 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. 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.

DINING GUIDE continued on next page

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March [5]	March [6]	March [7]	March [8]	March [9]
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March [12]	March [13]	March [14]	March [15]	March [16]
OPEN FOR CATERING BY ORDER	Travel to Hawaii for: LOCO MOCO [ground beef patty, over rice w/fried egg and brown gravy] YUMMM Tossed Salad Hawaiian Roll 10.00	Spaghetti - Meatballs Tossed Salad Garlic Bread 10.00	Green Chile Chicken Enchiladas Pinto Beans Vegetable Salad Cornbread 10.00	OPEN FOR CATERING BY ORDER
March [19]	March [20]	March [21]	March [22]	March [23]
OPEN FOR CATERING BY ORDER	Baby Back Ribs Fried Potatoes, Onions and Peppers Cabbage Slaw Dinner Roll 10.00	Oven Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Tossed Salad Dinner Roll 10.00	Roast Beef Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Vegetable Dinner Roll 10.00	OPEN FOR CATERING BY ORDER
March [26]	March [27]	March [28]	March [29]	March [30]
OPEN FOR CATERING BY ORDER	Chicken Pot Pie w/ Vegetables & Potatoes Tossed Salad Dinner Roll 10.00	Brisket w/ BBQ Macaroni Salad Baked Beans Crusty Roll 10.00	Fajitas [Chicken or Beef] and all the sides Pinto Beans Fruit Salad 10.00	OPEN FOR CATERING BY ORDER

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

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

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Table Talk

Billy's BBQ near Bealls on Hwy. 180 in Silver City has a slightly different name, **Billy's Wild West BBQ & Steakhouse**, and is now serving cocktails. Fans of the wood-fired pizza and fresh pasta dishes needn't fear, however, as those are still on the menu if not in the moniker. It's open for lunch as well as dinner on Fridays and Saturdays, closed Sundays and Mondays. 388-1367.

The Friday Winter Nights concert series at **Yankie Creek Coffee House** in Silver City wraps up March 16 with Amos Torres' "back porch country blues." Sunday-morning music continues, 9:30-

11:30 a.m., skipping only March 18. Sister eatery **Vicki's** offers "soft Sunday breakfast music" weekly, 9:30-11:30 a.m. 112 W. Yankie St. and 315 N. Texas, 388-5430.

In Las Cruces, **Los Mariachis'** move to its new location at 750 N. Motel Blvd., across from the county government complex, is imminent if it hasn't happened by the time you read this. The old restaurant at 2790 Avenida de Mesilla will close when the switcheroo is final. 523-7058. ☞

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

DINING GUIDE continued

(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... plus sampler plates and less-familiar items such as keftedes and pork shawarma. Vegetarian options are numerous." (July 2010) Greek, Mediterranean: Mon.-Sat. L D.

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. 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 suits you.... The restaurant is clean, comfortable, casual in a classy sort of way, and totally unpretentious." (January 2011) Thai, salads, sandwiches, seafood, steaks, German: L D.*

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

UMP 88 GRILL, 1338 Picacho Hills Dr., 647-1455. Irish pub: L D.

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

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

WOK-N-WORLD, 5192 E. Boutz, 526-0010. Chinese: Mon.-Sat. L D.

ZEFFIRO PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA, 136 N. Water St., 525-6757. 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.

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

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. 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 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. Coffeeshop, pastries.

CARMEN'S, 101 Main St., 533-6990. Mexican, American: B L D.

ELLA'S CAFÉ, 533-6111. American: B L D.

UNCLE BILL'S BAR, 230 N. Main St., 533-6369. Pizza: Mon.-Sat. L D.

Glenwood
ALMA GRILL, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, Mexican: Sun.-Weds., Fri.-Sat. B L.

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. "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:

40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going on in March

Plus a look ahead into early April.

MARCH THURSDAY
1 Las Cruces / Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs. Dance lessons included. 7-10 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.
BAT—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
PSYCHIC READINGS AND ENERGETIC HEALINGS—Reiki Master and Reverend Dawn Cheney. 12-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
STORE TOUR—Get to know your cop. 6-7 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
THE INTERRUPTERS—7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesilavalleyfilm.org.

FRIDAY
2 Silver City/Grant County
FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN—Dr. Suess' birthday. Special events and entertainment. Downtown Silver City, SilverCityMainStreet.com.
DR. SEUSS CRAFT AND FUN DAY—Build a Dr. Seuss World and make a Dr. Seuss hat, mask or finger puppet. 4-7 p.m. Free. Silver City Museum.
LOOSE—Coffee House Concerts. Country and rock on guitar and harmonica. 6:30 p.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.
PAT PANTHER—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.
SWNM AUDUBON MEETING—Renowned local photographer and naturalist Elroy Limmer will present a photographic view of Alaska, based on a six-week visit there last summer. 7 p.m. WNMU Harlan Hall, 534-1115.
WOMEN OF DAKAR, SENEGAL AND WEST AFRICA—Alexandra Todd. Women Speaking Series. A reading and film. 2-5 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway.
WNMU TENNIS VS. NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE—wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BAXTALO BENG WITH ALMA-ZAZZ!—6:30-9:30 p.m. St. Clair Bistro, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 534-0390.
BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS—Through March 11. It's 1937 and 14-year-old Eugene Morris Jerome must face a demanding mother, liver for dinner, a house over-filled with relatives, and puberty! By Neil Simon. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.
DOWNTOWN RAMBLE—Do the Main Street Downtown Ramble through galleries, shops, businesses and restaurants. Enjoy art openings, exhibits, music, entertainment, open mic opportunities, shopping, refreshments and more. 5-7 p.m. Free. Downtown Mall, 523-2950.
MELANCHOLIA—Through March 8. As Justine (Kirsten Dunst) prepares for her wedding at a mansion owned by her sister Claire (Charlotte Gainsbourg) and her know-it-all husband, John (Kiefer Sutherland), the planet Melancholia is on a crash course with Earth. Director Lars Von Trier opens with a surreal hint of things to come, then reverts to Justine's wedding to Michael (Alexander Skarsgard), her battles with her bickering, divorced parents (John Hurt and Charlotte Rampling), and the palpable tension between Justine and Claire. 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, mesilavalleyfilm.org.
RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—Bring binoculars, water, sunscreen and wear hiking shoes. 3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

Deming
FIRST FRIDAY—5 p.m. Luna County Courthouse, 3rd floor, 700 S. Silver, 546-2674.

SATURDAY
3 Silver City/Grant County
CHILD FIND FREE SCREENING—Ages 3 and 4. Child Find's purpose is to identify children with developmental delays. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Stout Elementary School, 2601 N. Silver, 956-2041.

FIDDLING FRIENDS—12:15-1 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.
THOUSAND MILES—Staged reading of play by Victoria Tester. 2 p.m. Museum Annex.
STATE SYMBOL T-SHIRT MAKING—Children's craft class. To pre-register and for info call 538-5921. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway.
RHYTHM MUSIC—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.
SWNM AUDUBON BIRDING TRIP—Spring Canyon and Deming. The trip will be looking for a range of desert and other birds and will involve some walking. All welcome. Bring lunch. 7:30 a.m. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. 388-4210.
THE MATTOCKS RUIN ON THE MIMBRES—Talk by Marilyn Markel. A tale of Mimbres Indians, homesteaders, murder, insanity and early life along the Mimbres River. 11 a.m. Public Library, 515 W. College, 538-3672.
TONY FURTADO—Folk rock, blues to bluegrass. New Mexico Music Series. Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ANNUAL WE ARE ONE DANCE AND DRUM—Students, teachers and professional performers of Middle Eastern dance and drum will perform Middle Eastern and African dance



The Fiddlin' Friends perform March 3 at the Silver City Museum.

and music with a variety of drumming groups. \$8. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.
BAXTALO BENG WITH ALMA-ZAZZ!—6:30-9:30 p.m. St. Clair Bistro, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 534-0390.
BEMP'IN IT UP AT MVBSP—Come learn about the park's new Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program Site and become a hands-on scientist. This is a chance for adults to come out and learn what BEMP is and experience the Bosque as students do—field sampling, collecting and identifying critters. 10 a.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.
BIRD TOUR—Bring binoculars, water, sunscreen and wear hiking shoes. 8:15 a.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.
BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS—See March 2. Through March 11. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.
DIRTY NAMES—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
RAG RUG FESTIVAL—Through March 4. New Mexico Women's Foundation showcases works by nearly 100 women artisans. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, (505) 983-6155, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org, frieda@nmwf.org.
RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.
SUNSHINE CLEANING—Made in New Mexico film. Amy Adams plays a cleaning woman who finds herself breathing down the barrel of age 35, with a life nothing like she'd hoped. She's in a go-nowhere relationship with a married man. She still has a dream of herself, but the dream comes into daily collision with reality. Then she and another woman decide to make some money by becoming biohazard cleaners—the people who come onto a crime scene, after the police have gone, and clean up all the

blood and gore. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesilavalleyfilm.org.
WILLOW GIRL—Free puppet show by New York-based Catskill Puppet Theater. The tale of a young Chinese girl who immigrates to the American frontier, where she finds herself facing discrimination in a swirl of other immigrants and cultures. Sponsored by the Branigan Cultural Center as part of its "Journey Stories" exhibit programming. 2 p.m. Free. Amador Hotel, 180 W. Amador Ave. 541-2219.

Deming
DEMING PHOTO CLUB—Yodeling Grandma. 2 p.m. Luna Mimbres Museum, 301 S. Silver.
DR. RICHARD MELZER—Centennial speaker: "New Mexico's Harvey Houses." 9-11 a.m. Marshall Memorial Library, 100 S. Diamond, 546-9202, yousemore.com/marshall.
SILVER SPIKE CENTENNIAL EVENT—10 a.m. Chamber of Commerce, 800 E. Pine St.

SUNDAY
4 Silver City/Grant County
AMOS TORRES—9:30-11:30 a.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.
FULL MOON DRUMMING—Performance, fire and open drum circle. Dance to traditional West African drumming troupe. 6 p.m. Free. Western Stationers Parking lot, 519-9232, gilacirclewayproject.org.
THE OVERSOULS—Music and open mic. 5 p.m. Diane's Parlor, 508 N. Bullard.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS—See March 2. Through March 11. 2 p.m. \$10-\$15. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

CHAMBER CONCERT—Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra and violinist Eva Leon perform Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5 in A major, K. 219 and Symphony No. 35 in D major (Haffner), K. 385. 3 p.m. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.
RAG RUG FESTIVAL—See March 3. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.
RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.
ROBERT KAISER PHOTOGRAPHY—Spencer R. Herrera, NMSU assistant professor of Spanish, and Robert Kaiser, professional photographer, talk and exhibit of photographs from their book *Sagrado: A Photopoetics across the Chicano/a Homeland*. 3 p.m. Nopalito's Galeria, 326 S. Mesquite, 524-0003, nopalitosgaleria.com.
THE POWER OF FIVE—The Insighters display an eclectic show. Opening reception. 1:30-3 p.m. Tombaugh Gallery, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solana, 522-7281.

Deming
DPAT JAM SESSIONS—Every Sunday. Come out and dance, socialize and have a great time. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

TUESDAY
6 Las Cruces / Mesilla
50s SOCIAL EVENING—Every other Tuesday. Enjoy an evening of conversation in an artful and relaxing environment with friends and future friends of similar age. 7-9 p.m. Café de Mesilla, 2051 Calle de Santiago, 652-3019, 520-2954.

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY—Alma de Arte theatre students. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.
TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN AND WINTER FERAL CAT CARE—Taught by nationally recognized expert on feral cat care Joe Miele. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY
7 Silver City/Grant County
FUNDING SEARCH I: FOUNDATION DIRECTORY ONLINE—12-1 p.m. \$10. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard St.
EVENTS continued on next page



BUCKHORN Opera House
2nd Annual
New Mexico Music Series

Advance Tickets available @the MRAC & the Buckhorn Saloon
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March 2011

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Fri 2—Pat Panther
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Sat 3—Rhythm Mystic

Wed 7—Esther Jamison

Fri 9—Latch Key Kids

Sat 10—Sarah Petite
Singer Songwriter - San Diego

Wed 14—Peter & Michele

Fri 16—Melanie Zipin & the Sugar Leafs

Sat 17—Happy Saint Paddy's Day
with Baxtalo Beng
with Alma Zazz!

Wed 21—The Red Roots

Fri 23—Danielle French
Singer Songwriter- Canada

Sat 24—J Wagner
Singer Songwriter- Austin

Tues 27
Special Tuesday Performance:
with The Dead Pigeons
Bluegrass

Wed 28—Scott Helmer
Pop, Songwriter- Chicago

Fri/Sat 30 & 31—Steve Reynolds
Flagstaff

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p.m. \$10-\$15. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

CARNAGE—Through March 15. Roman Polanski’s film covers one late afternoon in the lives of two upscale Brooklyn couples, the Longstreets (John C. Reilly and Jodie Foster) and the Cowans (Kate Winslet and Christoph Waltz). Their two young sons have had a playground set-to, and little Cowan has knocked out a few of young Longstreet’s teeth. The parents sit down to discuss the matter in civilized fashion, but civilization, Polanski knows, is a thin veneer over self-interest and rage. 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.

CRAIG CHILDS—A writer who focuses on natural sciences, archaeology and journeys into the wilderness. He has published more than a dozen critically acclaimed books on nature, science and adventure. 7-9 p.m. \$8-\$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL—Through March 11. An evening of short plays. Plays and directors to be announced. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

THE NEW DEAL IS STILL A BIG DEAL IN NEW MEXICO—Dr. David Kammer, retired from the University of New Mexico, presents a lecture on the impact of the New Deal on New Mexico from the time people were actually working in New Mexico and the impact of their work on us today. 7 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

Deming

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP—Through March 11. Gem and mineral show. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Southwestern New Mexico Fair Grounds, 4100 Raymond Reed Blvd.

SATURDAY

10 Silver City/Grant County

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY SECOND SATURDAY BOOK SALE—Kids get three books free. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 1510 Market St., 538-3672.

GUN AND AMMO SHOW—Through March 11. New, used and antique guns, ammo, reloading components and equipment, knives, collectables, turquoise and silver Indian jewelry. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$4, under 12 and military/law enforcement free. Grant County Business & Conference Center, 544-4937.

HISTORIC FORT BAYARD TOUR—Meet at the Commanding Officers Quarters. 9:30 a.m. Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, 956-3294, fortbayard.org.

MYSTICAL DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE—Joyous circle dances from various traditions celebrating the Sacred which unites all beings. Chanting, live music. No experience or partners needed. 7 p.m. \$5. 1st Church of Harmony, 7th and Arizona St., 534-1441.

NATIVE PLANT SALE—Expert gardeners and landscapers will be available for consultation about your landscaping needs. A sketch or plan of a property may be brought to assist the experts in answering questions. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, gilansp.org.

SARAH PETITE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY—Ron Kramer, president of the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces, on “Astronomy in Da Vinci’s Time,” including a brief discussion of astronomers in history between 1200 and Da Vinci’s time. Kramer will cover Leonardo Da Vinci’s scientific achievements relative to what was known of the scientific world in his lifetime and will bring Da Vinci’s discoveries into focus with what astronomers then believed about the universe. 1 p.m. Isaac’s, 200 N. Bullard St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE GIRL SCOUTS—Booths, games, activities, prizes, campfire sing-a-longs, living history, heritage display. Girl Scout Centennial Bridging Ceremony. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5, children 4 and under free. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

30TH ANNUAL HOME AND GARDEN SHOW—Through March 11. Attractions for 2012 include a plant sale at the Pond-S-Scares booth to benefit the LCPS Ponds for Kids Program and a car show Saturday featuring the Las Cruces

Roadrunners, benefiting the youth of Las Cruces. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., 522-1232, lascrushomeandgarden.com.

BECKY’S NEW CAR—See March 9. Through March 25. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

BIRD TOUR—8:15 a.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS—See March 2. Through March 11. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

CLARINETES DEL SOL—An all-wind quartet based in Las Cruces, whose various members come from such notable musical groups as the Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, El Paso Wind Symphony and Mesilla Valley Concert Band. 5 p.m. \$20. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

DON’T FORGET WINONA: THE IMPORTANCE OF JOURNEY STORIES—This lecture will begin by Dr. Jeanne Whitehouse Peterson reading her children’s book *Don’t Forget Winona* and end with a lecture and discussion on the importance of journey stories in our lives and in American history. 11:30 a.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

FARM VOLUNTEER DAY—Come get your hands dirty and help out your community farm. 1-3 p.m. MVM Farm, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

GRETA BURGER—Exhibit through March 31. Artist’s reception. Functional and artistic fused and glass designs. 4-6 p.m. Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St.

CAREY CRANE—“Convergence” exhibit through April 7. Reception 4-6 p.m. Unsettled Gallery and Studio, 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285, u@unsettledgallery.com.

ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL—See March 9. Through March 11. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

PHILLIP GIBBS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SHORT FILMS—Nine selected short films united by a common thread of exceptional storytelling by, for and about women, but with appeal for all genders. All proceeds will benefit the Breast Cancer Fund. For information on the films and Lunafest’s fundraising efforts, see lunafest.org. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

Columbus

13TH ANNUAL CABALGATA BINACIONAL—Cabalgata horse riders. See story in this issue. 10 a.m. Columbus Village Plaza, 494-1535.

CAMP FURLONG DAY—Commemorating Pancho Villa’s 1916 raid. Series of special guest speakers in the Exhibit Hall. See story in this issue. 9 a.m. Pancho Villa State Park, 531-2711.

Deming

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP—Through March 11. Gem and mineral show. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Southwestern New Mexico Fair Grounds, 4100 Raymond Reed Blvd.

SUNDAY

11 Daylight Savings Time Begins

Silver City/Grant County

ESTHER JAMISON—9:30-11:30 a.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.

GUN AND AMMO SHOW—See March 10. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$4, under 12 and military/law enforcement free. Grant County Business & Conference Center, 544-4937.

THE OVERSOULS—Music and open mic. 5 p.m. Diane’s Parlor, 508 N. Bullard.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

30TH ANNUAL HOME AND GARDEN SHOW—See March 10. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., 522-1232, lascrushomeandgarden.com.

BECKY’S NEW CAR—See March 9. Through March 25. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS—See March 1. 2 p.m. \$10-\$15. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

NEW MEXICO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY—Monthly meeting. “All About Critiquing” with Victoria West. 2-4

p.m. Free. Good Samaritan Arts and Crafts Room, 3011 Buena Vista Circle, 523-2950, nmwatercolorssociety.org.

ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL—See March 9. 2 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SCENE SHOWCASE—Beginning and advanced students of actor and teacher Algernon D’Amassa perform. 2:30 p.m. \$5. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

Deming

ARTS COUNCIL RECEPTION—Photo display of symbols and icons of New Mexico. 1-3 p.m. Arts Center, 100 S. Gold.

DPAT JAM SESSIONS—2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP—Gem and mineral show. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Southwestern New Mexico Fair Grounds, 4100 Raymond Reed Blvd.

MONDAY

12 Silver City/Grant County

WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE—Monthly meeting. 11 a.m. \$10 lunch. Glad Tidings Church. 538-9344.

SANTA RITA—Brown bag presentation by Terry Humble. 12 p.m. Free. Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ARRIVING IN AMERICA—David Gutierrez, University of California-San Diego, concludes this series with a capstone lecture on “The Suppression of Immigrants’ Rights and the Impending Crisis of Citizenship.” 7:30 p.m. Stan Fulton Center.

TUESDAY

13 Silver City/Grant County

TEA PARTY PATRIOTS—6 p.m. Red Barn Family Steak House, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-3848.

COMMUNITY FORUM—Also March 15. “New Mexico Organic Farming Conference 2012 Revisited.” 12-1 p.m. Free. Co-Op Community Room, 520 N. Bullard, 388-2343.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BROWN BAG LUNCH LECTURE—Local author Billy Kiser presents “John Russell Bartlett, James Gadsden, and the Movement to Construct a Transcontinental Railroad in Antebellum Southern New Mexico.” RSVP requested. 12 p.m. Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St., 647-4480, www.las-cruces.org/public-services/museums.

FRIENDS BOOK REVIEW—*The Berlin Wall, A World Divided, 1961-1989* by Frederick Taylor. 1:30 p.m. Free. Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave., 528-4000, library.las-cruces.org.

HEALTH-CONSCIOUS SINGLES—Open to anyone but geared towards area

singles looking to take responsibility for their own health. 6-7 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY

14 Silver City/Grant County

PETER & MICHELE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

WNMU SOFTBALL VS. NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY—12 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY/CLIENT’S NEEDS—With Mariam Weidner. 12-1 p.m. \$10. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard St.

WILL LUNCH & LEARN—“Life in the Universe” by Gary Emerson, who will discuss the possibility of life elsewhere in the universe. Narrated with slides and Emerson’s humor. Bring a bag lunch. 12-1 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

FARM VOLUNTEER DAY—9-11 a.m. MVM Farm, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

YOURDAY LAS CRUCES—Book club. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY

15 Silver City/Grant County

GRMC HEALTH TALK—Learn about sleep disorders with Dr. Donald J. Stinar. 5-6 p.m. Free. GRMC Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St., 538-4870, grmc.org.

COMMUNITY FORUM—See March 13. 12-1 p.m. Free. Co-Op Commu-

nity Room, 520 N. Bullard, 388-2343.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BECKY’S NEW CAR—See March 9. Through March 25. 7 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

PSYCHIC READINGS AND ENERGETIC HEALINGS—Reiki Master and Reverend Dawn Cheney. 12-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

STORE TOUR—6-7 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

STRESS-BUSTERS—Health coach Connie Gayhl will discuss accessible strategies and dietary changes that can help reduce stress in your life and limit its effect on your health. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THE O’KEEFE BROTHERS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY

16 Silver City/Grant County

AMOS TORRES—Coffee House Concerts. Back porch country soul, singer-songwriter guitarist. 6:30 p.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.

GETTING TO OUTCOMES THROUGH EVALUATION—9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$25. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard St.

MELANIE ZIPIN AND THE SUGAR LEAFS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

EVENTS continued on next page



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Mesilla Valley
Film Society

March 2-8 **Melancholia** (2011, 135 min, in English)

March 9-15 **Carnage** (2011, 80 min, USA, in English)

March 16-22 **A Dangerous Method** (2011, 99 min, USA)

March 23-29 **Albert Nobbs** (2012, 113 minutes, UK)

Mar 30-Apr 5 **A Separation** (2011, 123 minutes, from Iran, in Persian w/ English subtitles)

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CELEBRATE WOMEN’S HISTORY!

PARADE: March 25 – 1 pm—Downtown Silver City


Katherine Brimberry
Fine Art Printmaker
WNMU Parotti Hall —March 22 - 6:30 pm

**Founding Mothers & Daughters:
Powerful Women from Silver City’s Early Years**
Susan Berry, Author
Museum Annex—March 18 - 2-3 pm

History of Women Marching in the Streets
Cindy Donatelli
Silver City Public Library—March 24 - 11 am

Michelle Shocked
Singer Songwriter
Buckhorn Opera House—April 12 - 7:30 pm
Mimbres Region Arts Council
575-538-2505

More Women’s History events info:
womenonthemove-silvercitynm.com
silvercitytourism.org | 575-538-5555



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EVENTS continued

Las Cruces/Mesilla
A DANGEROUS METHOD—Through March 22. Director David Cronenberg's movie is about the personal and intellectual rivalry between Jung and Freud in the early years of the 20th century, and the woman who upset both men's apple carts. Michael Fassbender is the Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung. Relatively new to the profession, Jung is looking for a suitable patient to treat with the experimental talking cure, or psychoanalysis, developed by mentor and father figure, Sigmund Freud (Viggo Mortensen). Keira Knightley is Sabina Spielrein, the young woman in the coach who arrives from Russia to be Jung's patient—she's frequently seized by violent episodes of hysteria—and then his lover in an unethical and tortured romance. 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.

BAYOU SECO—Journey Stories concert/lecture/discussion concerning our families' journey to where we live. 7:30 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

BECKY'S NEW CAR—See March 9. Through March 25. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

LAS CRUCES ARTS FAIR GALA—See story in Arts Exposure section. 6-9 p.m. \$35. Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., las-cruces-arts.org.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

ART SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AND JURIED STUDENT SHOW—Opening reception for exhibit through April 4. 5 p.m. NMSU Art Gallery. 646-254.

Deming
RIO GRANDE GUITAR QUARTET—7 p.m. \$10, \$8 DPAT members. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine, 546-8872, dpat.org.

SATURDAY
17 St. Patrick's Day Silver City/Grant County
BAXTALO BENG WITH ALMA ZAZZ—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

PADDY'S BIRTHDAY BASH—Serenity Acres Horse Rescue is celebrating their orphaned colt Paddy's first birthday. Horseback rides, games and refreshments. Children's relay race. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thunder Creek Traders Parking Lot, 703 N. Bullard, 590-4843.

WNMU SOFTBALL VS. COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY—12 p.m. wnmustangs.com.

THE SAPILO VALLEY—Talk by Marilyn Markel. Focus on historian and anthropologist Adolph Bandelier: The Brannin Family and the GOS Ranch; colorful people and historic events in what is now the Lake Roberts area. 11 a.m. Public Library, 515 W. College, 538-3672.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
2ND ANNUAL LAS CRUCES ARTS FAIR—Also March 18. See story in Arts Exposure section. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$5, under 12 free. Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., www.las-cruces-arts.org.

BECKY'S NEW CAR—See March 9. Through March 25. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

BIRD TOUR—8:15 p.m. Free, \$5

per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

Co-Op Rocks—Concert and art show. 6-11 p.m. Free. GreenWorks, Downtown Mall, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

COWBOY DAYS—Also March 18. Award-winning cowboy musicians, charreada (Mexican-style rodeo), gunfight re-enactments, horseback and stagecoach rides, Western arts and crafts sale, Western movies, children's activities, cowboy and ranching demonstrations, greenhouse plant sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$4. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

CREATE A HUMMINGBIRD HABITAT—Discover plants and garden tips for inviting hummingbirds to live in your garden by creating a healthy habitat. 2 p.m. \$7.50, free to members. Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-1886, gardens@zianet.com, nmenchantedgardens.com.

JAMES LEG—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

PLUG INTO THE SUN—Positive Energy Solar free solar energy seminar. 3-4:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436, 524-2030.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

LAS PLATICAS—6 p.m. Nopalito's Galeria, 326 S. Mesquite, 524-0003, nopalitosgaleria.com.

WAKING NED DEVINE—A tiny village in Ireland's quaint west named Tully More (Tuliagh Morh) has only 52 inhabitants. They're poor but live rich lives in the wet green by the sea. Two characters are the focus of this film: Jackie O'Shea and Michael O'Sullivan, aging lifelong buddies. Smirking at their senior-citizen status, they've got good-natured mischief on their minds. They find out that somebody in the village holds the winning ticket to the Irish National Lottery, and the news sets their cunning hearts racing. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

SUNDAY
18 Silver City/Grant County
FOUNDING MOTHERS (AND DAUGHTERS): SOME POWERFUL WOMEN FROM SILVER CITY'S EARLY YEARS—Talk by Susan Berry. Women Speaking Series. See article in this issue. 2-3 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway.

WNMU SOFTBALL VS. COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY—11 a.m. wnmustangs.com.

THE OVERSOULS—Music and open mic. 5 p.m. Diane's Parlor, 508 N. Bullard.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
2ND ANNUAL LAS CRUCES ARTS FAIR—See story in Arts Exposure section. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$5, under 12 free. Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., www.las-cruces-arts.org.

BECKY'S NEW CAR—See March 9. Through March 25. 2:30 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

COWBOY DAYS—See March 17. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$4. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

Deming
DPAT JAM SESSIONS—2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

MONDAY
19 Silver City/Grant County
AARP STATE REPRESENTATIVES—Reservations required. Representatives from the state AARP with information about changes. Membership not required. 11 a.m. Senior Center, Victoria St., 534-1393.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
NEW YEAR, NEW YOU—Herbs and supplements for digestion and internal cleansing. 6-7 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

TUESDAY
20 Silver City/Grant County
INTRODUCTION TO EXCEL 2007 AND 2010—Blair McPherson. This three-hour workshop will teach absolute beginners the basics of using Excel as a spreadsheet, simple database and graphing tool. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$25. WNMU Computer Lab Room 250, 534-0665 ext. 208, wellnesscoalition.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
50s SOCIAL EVENING—An evening of conversation with friends and future friends of similar age. 7-9 p.m. Café de Mesilla, 2051 Calle de Santiago, 652-3019, 520-2954.

Doña Ana Camera Club—Photographer Lon Shelton, of Deming, will discuss astrophotography techniques and equipment. 7 p.m. Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall, 532-1919, dacameraclub.org.

EVENING WITH A DOCTOR—Dr. Kelley Elkins. 6-7 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY—Big Band on the Rio Grande. 5:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

KIDS' PASSPORT TO THE DESERT—Get a Nature Park Passport, explore the desert, and learn about the amazing place you live in. Get passport stamps at each stop to turn in for a prize at the end of the event. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$1. Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, 56501 N. Jornada Rd., 524-3334, asombro.org.

SPRING BREAK CAMP—Content targeted for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Registration requested. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

YOURDAY LAS CRUCES—Book club. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY
21 Silver City/Grant County
FUNDING SEARCH II—"Finding Federal Grants" with Nikki Zeuner. 12-1 p.m. \$10. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard St.

JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE—Movie and discussion. An epic story of cosmic, earth and human transformation. 7 p.m. St. Mary's, 1809 N. Alabama St., 590-5561.

THE RED ROOTS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
FARM VOLUNTEER DAY—9-11 a.m. MVM Farm, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

THURSDAY
22 Silver City/Grant County
ARTIST LECTURE SERIES—"The Dance of Collaboration: Making Art at Flatbed Press" by Katherine Brimberry, printmaker. 6:30 p.m. Free. WNMU Parotti Hall, 538-2505, mimbresart.org.

CHASING THE CURE IN NEW MEXICO—"Tuberculosis and the Politics of Health" by Dr. Nancy Owen Lewis. Thousands of health seekers came to New Mexico in search of a cure for tuberculosis, helping to lay the foundation for the state's current health system, and leaving a rich legacy of photos and writings. 5 p.m. Free. WNMU Light Hall Auditorium, 538-6835, will-learning.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BECKY'S NEW CAR—See March 9. Through March 25. 7 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

QUANTUM BIOFEEDBACK TECHNOLOGY—Karen Barnett. 4-6 p.m. \$25, \$20 co-op members. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

SHADY REST BAND—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY
23 Silver City/Grant County
DANIELLE FRENCH—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

THE WATER COOLERS—With original music and parodies of familiar songs, on-point material about life and work, and superior comedy writing, this group of five New York City comics and singers celebrates the insanity of everyday life. 7:30 p.m. \$20. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ADULT WEIGHT MANAGEMENT—Cheryl Neeley. 12-1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

ALBERT NOBBS—Through March 29. Albert Nobbs, a Dublin hotel waiter in this film set in the 19th century, is not a man but a woman (Glenn Close), her breasts tightly corseted into submission under a shabby black suit. Having passed as a man for nearly 20 years, Nobbs is so lost to her true self that we never learn her real name. Nobbs is tragically repressed, as we soon find out when his cover is blown by Hubert Page (Janet McTeer), a house painter who's assigned to share Nobbs' bedroom overnight. 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,



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BECKY'S NEW CAR—See March 9. Through March 25. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

PAISLEY AND ITS GLOBAL JOURNEY—Indian printmaker and artist Sudeshna Sengupta discusses how the universally popular paisley pattern/motif traveled the globe for centuries before landing in the US. 2 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

Deming
GRAND OL' OPRY DEMING STYLE—7 p.m. \$10, \$8 DPAT members. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine, 546-8872, dpat.org.

SATURDAY
24 Silver City/Grant County
HOME AND GARDEN EXPO—See Southwest Gardener column. 12 mini-workshops and more. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$2. Grant County Conference Center, 3050 Hwy. 180E, www.silvercityfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

HISTORIC FORT BAYARD TOUR—Meet at the Commanding Officers Quarters. 9:30 a.m. Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, 956-3294, fortbayard.org.

HISTORY OF WOMEN MARCHING IN THE STREETS—Cindy Donatelli. 11 a.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

J WAGNER—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

LITERACY ALIVE—Centennial Essay and Illustration Contest. Meet the authors from "Voices of New Mexico" and celebrate the cash awards and recognition given to student winners. 2-3:30 p.m. Silco Theater.

LIVING WITH LIONS—Harvey Shaw, author of *Soul Among Lions*, joins Rick Winslow and Mike Matthews of the state Department of Game and Fish. Moderated by Sharman Apt Russell. 2:30-4 p.m. at the Gila Senior Center. 6:30-8 p.m. at the Silco Theater. Free. 590-5698, www.ugwa.org.

MYSTICAL DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE—Joyous circle dances from various traditions celebrating the Sacred which unites all beings. Chanting, live music. No experience or partners needed. 7 p.m. \$5. 1st Church of Harmony, 7 & Arizona St., 534-1441.

WINE EXPERIENCE UNDER THE STARS—Members of the Silver City Astronomical Society will treat attendees to views of the skies through telescopes and other equipment. With clear skies, we'll identify constellations and asterisms, look at passing planets, and search for a few deep sky objects. If it's cloudy, an indoor program will be "Life in the Universe" by Gary Emerson. La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery will offer four samples to sip while enjoying the stars. La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery, Mimbres, (206) 940-1502.

WOMEN THROUGH HISTORY—Concert featuring local singers and songwriters. 7:30 p.m. A Space Gallery, 110 W. 7th, 618-6425.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BASIC DOWSING CLASS—Learn the basics of dowsing (questing, divining, water witching), how to use the four basic dowsing tools, and the benefits associated with dowsing. Pre-registration required. 1-3:30 p.m. \$15, \$12 friends of the museum. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

BECKY'S NEW CAR—See March 9. Through March 25. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

FARM VOLUNTEER DAY—1-3 p.m. MVM Farm, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

MICHAEL FRACASSO—Austin singer songwriter. 7 p.m. \$12. Rokoko Art Gallery, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877, www.rokokart.com.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

RUSSELL CLEPPER—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

SEARCH AND RESCUE DAY—Local search and rescue teams will provide demonstrations on tracking basics and the basics of using a compass. Come see what these volunteers do and how they save lives. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY—Based on New Mexico history, though not filmed here, this is the definitive "Spaghetti Western." Director

Sergio Leone's epic end to the Clint Eastwood "Dollars" trilogy is a view of the West during the Civil War, with a deceptively simple story detailing the efforts of three drifters, the Good (Eastwood), the Bad (Lee Van Cleef), and the Ugly (Eli Wallach), to find a fortune hidden in an unmarked grave. This version of the film includes 19 minutes of newly restored sequences cut for the film's original US release. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

THE ESSENTIALS OF ESSENTIAL OILS—Denise Rinehart, LMT. 1-4 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436

Deming
GRAND OL' OPRY DEMING STYLE—2 and 7 p.m. \$10, \$8 DPAT members. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine, 546-8872, dpat.org.

Hillsboro
LE CHAT LUNATIQUE—"Filthy, mangy jazz." 7-9 p.m. \$5. Community Center, Eleonora St., 895-3300, maxyeh@windstream.net.

SUNDAY
25 Silver City/Grant County
AMOS TORRES—9:30-11:30 a.m. Yankee Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankee St.

LYOYD KREITZER—Learn how to grow and care for fig, pomegranate and Chinese date trees. Starts indoors and moves outside. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$25. Food Co-op Community Room, 388-2343.

THE OVERSOULS—Music and open mic. 5 p.m. Diane's Parlor, 508 N. Bullard.

WOMEN'S DAY PARADE—See story in this issue. 1 p.m. assemble, 2 p.m. parade. Downtown, beginning at Morningstar Parking Lot on Bullard St. Followed by a music celebration at Javalina coffeehouse. www.womenonthemove-silvercitynm.com.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CERT—Honoring and featuring female performers. 4 p.m. The Parlor.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BECKY'S NEW CAR—See March 9. 2:30 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

CICLOVIA HEALTH EVENT—Bike riding, walking, jogging, dancing, aerobics, gymnastics. Skates welcome. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

Deming
DPAT JAM SESSIONS—2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

White Sands
ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH—Challenging march through the high desert terrain of White Sands Missile Range, conducted in honor of the heroic service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II. White Sands Missile Range, Stallion Gate off Hwy. 380, 678-1134, wsmr.army.mil.

TUESDAY
27 Silver City/Grant County
TEA PARTY PATRIOTS MEETING—6 p.m. Red Barn, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-3848.

THE DEAD PIGEONS—Bluegrass. Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
HEALTH CONSCIOUS SINGLES—The meeting is open to anyone but geared towards area singles looking to take responsibility for their own health: physical, emotional and spiritual. 6-7 p.m. 6-7 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

YOURDAY LAS CRUCES—Book club. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY
28 Silver City/Grant County
APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY AND ASSET MAPPING—"Tools for Developing Local Resources." 12-1 p.m. \$10. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard St.

PROGRESSIVE VOTERS ALLIANCE OF GRANT COUNTY—Monthly meeting. 7 pm. Silco Theater.

SCOTT HELMER—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
FARM VOLUNTEER DAY—9-11 a.m. MVM Farm, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—High Society Orchestra. Lessons included. Semi-formal dance to celebrate 31st anniversary. 7-10 p.m. \$9 non-mem-

bers, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

THURSDAY
29 Las Cruces / Mesilla
ERNE TINAJERO—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY
30 Silver City/Grant County
ACRYLIC PAINTING LECTURE—2-4 p.m. Free. Leyba & Ingalls Art, 315 Bullard St., 388-5725, leybaingallsarts.com.

CURTIS DINWIDDLE—Exhibit through May 11. Reception. A potter, Dinwiddle has expressed his art in clay for over 45 years. 4:30-7 p.m. WNMU McCray Gallery.

STEVE REYNOLDS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

THE MILK CARTON KIDS—A combination of back-porch Americana and classic pop. MRAC Folk Series. 7:30 p.m. Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, www.mimbresarts.org.

WNMU TENNIS VS. CSU-PUEBLO—wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
A SEPARATION—Through April 5. Written and directed by Asghar Farhadi, this film from Iran focuses on the sophisticated, well-educated, middle-class residents of Tehran, people who have problems and personal situations much like our own. But gradually, bit by bit, the ordinary gets devastatingly out of hand and minor misunderstandings, confusions and evasions morph into a slow-motion nightmare. In Persian 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—3 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SATURDAY
31 Silver City/Grant County
DISCO DANCE PARTY FOR PFLAG—A benefit fundraiser for parents, families and friends of lesbians and gays. 8 p.m. Buffalo Dance Hall.

GOLD LEAF AND ACRYLIC PAINT—A one-day painting workshop with Nancy Reyner. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. \$110. Leyba & Ingalls Art, 315 Bullard St., 388-5725, leybaingallsarts.com.

WNMU TENNIS VS. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY—wnmumustangs.com.

WNMU SOFTBALL VS. FORT LEWIS COLLEGE—12 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

STEVE REYNOLDS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

THE WILD WEST ON THE WEST FORK—Marilyn Markel on historian and anthropologist Adolph Bandelier: Tales of the Upper Gila and the Gila Wilderness. 11 a.m. Public Library, 515 W. College, 538-3672.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BASIC BIKE MAINTENANCE DEMYSTIFIED—1-3 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

BECOMING A BIRDER SERIES—8:15 a.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

CLASSICS FIVE—Also April 1. Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, with featured pianist Jeffrey Biegel, performing works by Gioacchino Rossini, Camille Saint-Saëns and Edward Elgar. 7:30 p.m. \$35-\$45. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

GROWING UP IN THE GARDEN—Explore the many opportunities to create a vertical garden from supports to plants. 2 p.m. \$7.50, free to members. Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-1886, gardens@zianet.com, nmenchantedgardens.com.

MYSTERY MOVIE!—Partially shot in northern New Mexico, this is a comedy, rated G. It goes against the grain of the powerful esoteric dramatic films that were shot around the state during this same time frame and all of the important roles are filled by women, some of whom are still active in film. It is a sequel and involves one of the popular protest topics of the 1960s. Got a guess? Deduce it correctly and you get free admission and some free popcorn. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

STEFAN GEORGE—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

WHEELS OF DREAMS CAR SHOW—See more than 250 show-class vehicles. Family fun, themed raffle

baskets, 50/50 drawings, engine/transmission raffle, automotive swap meet, food vendors, music. Field of Dreams parking lot.

Deming
SMOK'N OLDIES CAR SHOW—Also April 7. Brisket dinner. 1980 and older cars. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$7 for dinner. Courthouse Park, 700 S. Silver.

APRIL
1 Palm Sunday
Silver City/Grant County
WNMU SOFTBALL VS. FORT LEWIS COLLEGE—11 a.m. wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
CLASSICS FIVE—See March 31. 3 p.m. \$35-\$45. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—Bring binoculars, water, sunscreen and wear hiking shoes. 3 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

Deming
DPAT JAM SESSIONS—Every Sunday. Come out and dance, socialize and have a great time. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

TUESDAY
3 Las Cruces/Mesilla
50s SOCIAL EVENING—Every other Tuesday. Enjoy an evening of conversation in an artful and relaxing environment with friends and future friends of similar age. 7-9 p.m. Café de Mesilla, 2051 Calle de Santiago, 652-3019, 520-2954.

FRIDAY
6 Good Friday
Silver City/Grant County
GET MUGGED DOWNTOWN—Purchase a limited edition Silver City Museum Society mug and fill it at one of the participating restaurants. \$12. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

GOOD GRIEF—Women's history talk by Lee Gruber, Bina Breitner and Diana Ingalls Leyba. 2-5 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway.

SWNM AUDUBON MEETING—Birding hotspots of central New Mexico. Judy Liddell, freelance writer and birding blogger. 7 p.m. WNMU Harlan Hall, 534-1115.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
DOWNTOWN RAMBLE—Do the Main Street Downtown Ramble through galleries, shops, businesses and restaurants. Enjoy art openings, exhibits, music, entertainment, open mic opportunities, shopping, refreshments and more. Downtown Mall.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SATURDAY
7 Passover
Silver City/Grant County
BAYOU SECO—Send-off for the Europe Tour. 7:30 p.m. Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsa-

loonandoperahouse.com.

SWNM AUDUBON BIRDING TRIP—Pitchfork Ranch, looking for migrants and resident birds along a stretch of riparian habitat at the southern end of the Burros, on a ranch being restored to pre-farming habitat. It will involve off-trail walking, with two to three miles including possible stream crossings; dress appropriately. 7:30 a.m. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. 388-4210.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ANNUAL SPRINGFEST—Egg hunt, free children's activities (giant Legos, chalk board area), Springfest mural for kids to paint, beading area, jumping balloons, and Easter Bunny photos for a small charge. Live music throughout the day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

Deming
SMOK'N OLDIES CAR SHOW—Swap meet. 1980 and older cars. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$7 for dinner. Courthouse Park, 700 S. Silver.

Glenwood
FUN KITE FLYING PICNIC—Plenty of space without fences to celebrate the spring winds. Walk a labyrinth, tailgate. 12 p.m. Whitewater Mesa Labyrinths, Route 159, 539-2868, wmlabyrinths.com.

White Sands
TRINITY SITE OPEN HOUSE—Location of the first atomic bomb test. White Sands Missile Range, Stallion Gate off Hwy. 380, 678-1134, wsmr.army.mil.

SUNDAY
8 Easter
Las Cruces/Mesilla
VOZ VAQUEROS—Easter Concert. Singing men of Las Cruces. Grab your coffee thermos, folding chair, dress warmly and come out and enjoy this colorful men's chorus. 7 a.m. Free. Young Park. 522-1934.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398. ☼

Send events info by the 20th of the month to: events@desertexpo-sure.com, fax 534-4134, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062 or **NEW**—submit your event online at www.desertexpo-sure.com/submitevents.

BEFORE YOU GO:
Note that events listings are subject to change and to human error! Please confirm all dates, times and locations.





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Spoiler Alert!

They just don't make movies like they used to—thank goodness!

By the time you read this, the Academy Awards will all have been handed out and the Oscar buzz subsided. I'm typing this, of course, when Hollywood's biggest night is still in the future and anything is possible, even that the show won't go on way too long. (To read what I predicted would win Best Picture, check out this column online. The winner will be...)

I confess, of the Oscar contenders I've seen so far, I'm underwhelmed—*The Descendants*, *Moneyball* and *The Artist* were all enjoyable enough, but nothing special. I kept saying, "Well, that was good, but it was no *Lawrence of Arabia*."

On the other hand, I'm now afraid that not even *Lawrence of Arabia* was *Lawrence of Arabia*—that is, on viewing again after all these years, some of history's greatest films might seem flat and dated. In-between our Oscar-candidate viewing, you see, I happened to notice that one of my favorite Westerns from my childhood, *Rio Bravo*, was on cable.

"You'll love this one, honey," I assured my wife, who indulgently lets me be king of the remote control and plan our video entertainment schedule. "It's got John Wayne, Angie Dickinson and Ricky Nelson. Yes, *that* Ricky Nelson, from 'Ozzie and

the dusty trail to cancellation. Subtract the famous faces and the popcorn, and we might as well have tuned in to a grown-up version of "Hey, Dude!" (also filmed in Tucson, by the way).

I'm not just talking about the production values, which were hardly as creaky as you might expect. It's true that audiences today are spoiled, and we yawn at visuals that once amazed theatergoers with the marvels of Technicolor and Panavision. But *Rio Bravo*, if no longer anything special, looked at least as good as, say, *Octoshark vs. Megascorpion* on the Syfy channel on Saturday night.

Surprisingly, though, given the all-star cast, the acting was barely passable by the standards of any Lifetime made-for-TV movie. Let's be honest: John Wayne, though an iconic figure on the screen, wasn't much of an actor. Ricky Nelson, of all people, pretty much ate up all the scenes he shared with the Duke. Ozzie and Harriet must have been proud.

But it was the screenplay that seemed most clunky after all these years. How can that be? Shakespeare's writing still moves us after some 400 years. Even if some of the narrative on the page moves slowly for today's readers, Dickens' plots continue to grab us 200 years after his birth. *Rio Bravo's* screenwriters may not exactly be in that league, but they were no slouches, either: Jules Furthman was nominated for an Oscar for *Mutiny on the Bounty*, and his credits also include *The Big Sleep* and *To Have and Have Not*. Leigh Brackett, also a well-known science fiction and fantasy writer, wrote the screenplay for *The Empire Strikes Back*, for gosh sakes!

Nonetheless, any Screenwriting 101 class would have given *Rio Bravo* a C-minus at best. Indeed, I kept waiting for the dramatic payoff that I thought I remembered from seeing the movie as a kid—the payoff that anybody with any sense of drama could see the movie had to deliver—and it never came.

OK, bear with me here. Dean Martin plays a gifted gunfighter whose fatal flaw is booze. His hands shake—not so good in an Old West shootout. So in the end he has to overcome this flaw and save the day, right? Maybe he's tempted by the bottle. Maybe he even falls off the wagon. But at the critical point in the plot, Dean Martin's suddenly steady hands have to whip out that six-shooter and blow away the bad guys. John Wayne, whose character of the sheriff gives Dean a second chance, has to have his faith in the drunken gunfighter rewarded. Right?

Only it never happens. The climax—and, trust me, I'm not spoiling anything here—comes after a prisoner exchange. Dean, the captive good guy, manages to scuffle his way free—yes, his redemptive moment involves fisticuffs, not a suddenly steady

gun hand—and John Wayne and company besiege the bad guys, who are holed up in a warehouse. This warehouse just happens to have a case of dynamite outside. How convenient for our heroes, who start tossing sticks of dynamite in the general direction of the bad guys, who almost immediately surrender!

So you have a movie that's partly about a second chance for a washed-up gunfighter, and it ends with him tossing punches and dynamite instead of using his gun? It's like if Leigh Brackett had written Darth Vader saying, "Luke, I am your third cousin twice removed."



Here's what worries me. What if *Rio Bravo* wasn't a fluke? Could it be that all the old movies I most fondly remember—Hitchcock, Bogart classics I watched on TV when I was supposed to be in bed, heck even *Lawrence of Arabia*—would seem equally clunky on re-viewing? I can accept that *Creature from the Black Lagoon* probably won't thrill me today the way it did when I was seven. Ditto for *Son of Flubber*. But what about movie "classics"? Might *Citizen Kane* feel plodding and obvious if I watched it again? I'm also scared to check what's on the American Movie Classics (whose slogan, ironically, is "Story Matters Here") cable channel any more.

We've tested this worry in a small way by watching old episodes of "Hawaii Five-O"—a pretty darned good TV series, as I'd recalled it—on Netflix. Not only in production values but also in acting and writing, the update of the show now airing on CBS seems like a masterpiece by comparison, like a Rembrandt compared to your kid's drawing on your fridge.

Could it be that they really don't make movies and TV series like they used to, back in the good old days—because those "classics" would be almost unwatchable today?

We'll keep on watching the occasional original "Hawaii Five-O," for the nostalgia value and the scenes of 1960s and 1970s Honolulu. We might even try another old Western on cable, especially if it was filmed around here and we can point and say, "That's the old saloon!"

I'm thinking, though, that perhaps it's better to remember *Lawrence of Arabia*. If Peter O'Toole really just ends the whole thing by tossing a few sticks of dynamite at the Turks until they surrender, please don't tell me! ☘

In-between watching movies and TV shows, David A. Fryxell pays the cable bill by editing Desert Exposure.



The saloon at Old Tucson (top) was originally built for the 1959 movie *Rio Bravo*. The saloon has held up better over time.

Harriet! And Dean Martin, believe it or not, as a gunfighter battling the bottle."

Better yet, a little Internet research revealed that *Rio Bravo*, released in 1959, was filmed at the Wild West set of Old Tucson, not so far from

our own neck of the woods—er, desert. Built by Columbia Pictures in 1939 to film the \$2.5 million (a fortune back then) movie *Arizona*, this "Hollywood in the Desert" was the setting for such western classics as *Gunfight at the OK Corral* and *Cimarron*. The saloon, bank building and doctor's office—all of which we'd visited on a tour a couple of years ago—were actually added for the filming of *Rio Bravo*.

A Western classic with an all-star cast, filmed almost in our backyard! Even Wikipedia, that source of all knowledge, says, "The film is considered one of the masterpieces of American cinema." Time to pop some popcorn, sit back and enjoy in all its modern flat-screen, high-definition glory.

Or maybe not so much. What passed for a "classic" in my early childhood looks today like a rerun of a second-rate TV series on

What passed for a "classic" in my early childhood looks today like a rerun of a second-rate TV series on the dusty trail to cancellation.



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