

DESERT exposure



New hiking column,
page 12



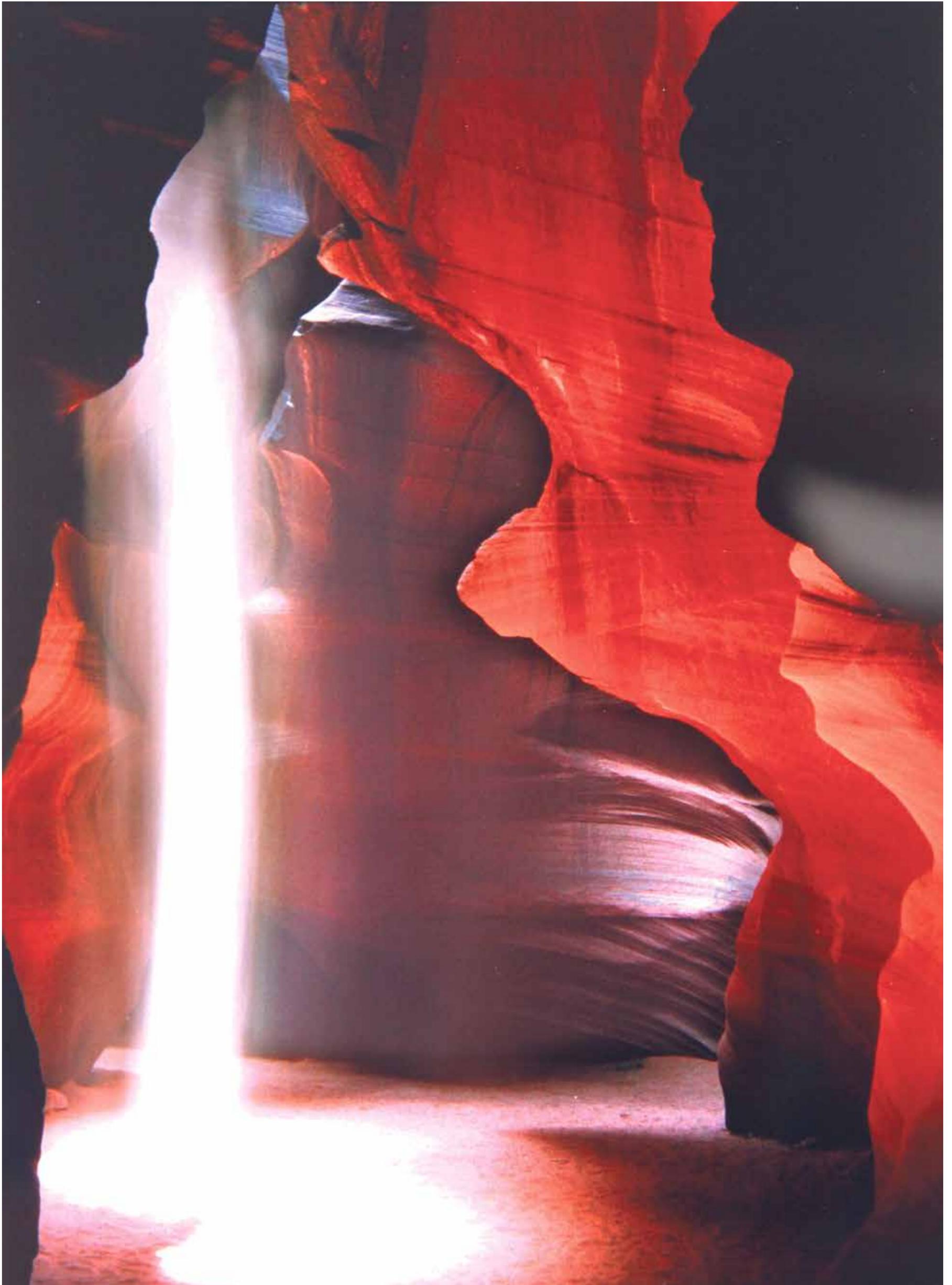
Fictional New Mexico,
page 22



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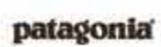
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CONTENTS

6 **EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • A FRESH START**
Instead of secession, hope for success. *By David A. Fryxell*

7 **HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • ISN'T THAT SPECIAL!**
Lightcap's annual review of New Mexico follies.
By Henry Lightcap

8 **DESERT DIARY**
Sports, seniors and more reader tales.

10 **TUMBLEVEEDS • ICARUS DESCENDING**
The long, strange fall of software mogul John McAfee, and his detour through Rodeo, NM. *By David A. Fryxell.*
Plus the Top 10.

12 **100 HIKES • YEAR-ROUND ROUTE**
NEW! Exploring the CD Trail in the Burro Mountains.
By Linda Ferrara

13 **ARTS EXPOSURE • TRUE COLORS**
Pud Franzblau uses classic film—no Photoshop tricks—to capture the beauty he sees. *By Donna Clayton Walter*

16 **ARTS EXPOSURE • ARTS SCENE**
Latest area art happenings.

18 **ARTS EXPOSURE • GALLERY GUIDE**
Where to enjoy art in our area.

20 **OUT AND ABOUT • A GOOD WALK UNSPOILED**
Walking—and painting—Silver City's Boston Hill.
By Hiram Lewis

22 **LAND OF ENCHANTMENT • LOCAL CHARACTERS**
You know many of these familiar New Mexicans—even though none is real. *By Jeff Berg*

25 **SOUTHWEST WILDLIFE • MAVERICKS AMONG US**
The ocotillo, sotol and allthorn—all highly individualistic plants—play important roles in the desert food chain.
By Jay W. Sharp

29 **BORDERLINES • THINGS TO CHERISH**
Beginning a new year with the grace of mourning doves.
By Marjorie Lilly

30 **THE STARRY DOME • ARIES, THE RAM**
What to watch in the skies this month. *By Bert Stevens*

31 **BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • NEW YEAR, NEW BREATH**
Breathing techniques from the ancient Chinese system of Qigong. *By Martha Everett*

32 **BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • PESTICIDES & YOUR CHILDREN**
Results of a new report. *EarthTalk*

34 **BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • HIDDEN TREASURE**
Madonna Kettler's new book furthers her work of helping others discover the soul's work. *By Donna Clayton Walter*

36 **BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • WEEKLY EVENTS**
Grant County support groups, classes and more.

37 **TALKING HORSES • ANATOMY LESSONS**
Let conformation help guide you. *By Scott Thomson*

38 **RAMBLIN' OUTDOORS • LIFE IS A PONDERMENT**
Questions asked out there. *By Larry Lightner*

39 **RED OR GREEN? • DINING GUIDE**
Restaurant guide for Southwest New Mexico.

40 **RED OR GREEN? • GIVE PEACE MEAL A CHANCE**
The latest healthy evolution of what's now Peace Meal Burrito Bar in Silver City. *By Peggy Platonos*

42 **RED OR GREEN? • TABLE TALK**
Restaurant news.

44 **40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS**
Complete area events guide for January and early February.

45 **THE TO-DO LIST**
Don't-miss events this month.

47 **CONTINENTAL DIVIDE • APOCALYPSE NOT NOW**
Looks like we made it.... *By David A. Fryxell*

About the cover: "Divine Light," photograph by **Pud Franzblau**, whose work can be seen at Red Earth Gallery, 108 W. Yankie St., in Silver City, (505) 850-3182, www.pudfranzblau.com. For more on Franzblau, see this issue's Arts Exposure section.

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Desert Exposure is published monthly and distributed free of charge at establishments throughout Southwestern New Mexico. Vol. XVII, number 1, January 2013. Mail subscriptions are \$19 for 6 issues, \$37 for 12 issues. Single copies by mail \$4. All contents copyright © 2013 Continental Divide Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without written permission. All rights to material by outside contributors revert to the author. Views expressed in articles, advertisements, graphics and/or photos appearing in *Desert Exposure* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or advertisers.

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A Fresh Start

Instead of secession, let's hope for success.

For those of you who enjoy the benefits of Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid, the US Postal Service, food safety inspections, national parks and interstate highways, not to mention the boost New Mexico gets from Sandia Labs and military bases, there's good news: Apparently New Mexico will not be seceding from the United States of America.

The response of many voters disgruntled by the results of November's presidential election resembled that of a spoiled child when a game doesn't go his way:

take the ball and go home. Rather than hope for the best with this month's second inauguration of President Barack Obama, some Americans signed petitions to secede from the union.

Not surprisingly, our neighbors in Texas led the way, with nearly 100,000 secessionist signatures in the first week after Obama's re-election. Ironically, among the other states most gung-ho to jettison the federal government were two that rank in the top 10 in receiving the most federal monies per dollar of taxes: Alabama and Louisiana (see "Free-loaders for Fiscal Austerity," Editor's Notebook, April 2012).

New Mexico secessionists, perhaps aware that the Land of Enchantment tops that list of federal bang-for-your-buck at \$2.02 in benefits per tax dollar sent to Washington, have been less numerous—and many petition-signers don't even live here. According to the *Santa Fe Reporter*, New Mexico's secession petition was filed online with the White House on Nov. 12 by a "Gabriel V" from New Braunfels, Texas. By the Dec. 12 deadline, only a little over 5,000 people had signed, far short of the 25,000 goal that would have triggered a response from the White House. (Presumably the official response would have been something along the lines of, "Grow up.") By the *Reporter's* count, however, only about 10% of those signers who listed their state of residence actually were New Mexicans. Some 300 Texans signed the petition. (They should perhaps mind their own business, which might start by electing a governor who's not a national joke.)

It might be a point of pride that New Mexicans, by and large, are reacting to the recent election more maturely—not to mention more patriotically. This "take your ball and go home" attitude is not, after all, how democracy is supposed to work. Even after George W. Bush's contested (to put it politely) victory over Al Gore in 2000, when Gore

actually won more popular votes, most patriotic Americans got over it and came together to hope that Bush would succeed—for the good of the country. It's puzzling why such a sentiment seems harder to come by for a few after Obama's much more decisive 2012 victory; let's just say the likeliest explanation is troubling, and leave it at that.

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Like Obama or not, you're free to disagree with his policies and vote to change them next time. In the meantime, though, he is president of all Americans, even those who

think he's leading the nation on a disastrously wrong course.

If you are among that number, here's a suggestion—or perhaps a plea: Suspend judgment for now, as Obama again takes the oath of office on Jan. 21. Wish him well and hope that, despite your convictions otherwise, his policies turn out to be the best for the country. At a minimum, pray that he continues to keep the country safe. After all, Barack Obama will never stand for election again. For good or ill, we're stuck with him; he's the only president we've got, unless that secession bandwagon picks up speed mighty fast.

Our neighbors in Texas led the way, with nearly 100,000 secessionist signatures in the first week after Obama's re-election.

Those who supported Obama with such enthusiasm in 2008 have experienced some disappointment, too. The economy proved to be in a far deeper hole than most people thought, and recovery has taken longer and been more painful. Supporters' expectations for "hope and change" have been dashed against the entrenched partisan-

ship of Washington, DC. Those who saw in Obama another FDR would now be thrilled if he turned out to be simply another Bill Clinton, minus the personal failings.

But hope—if not for revolutionary change, then simply for the best—is all we have for the next four years. Let us try to spend that time assuming that even those with whom we most fervently disagree nonetheless likewise are patriots who think their ideas (misguided though they may seem to us) would move America in the right direction. Let us proceed as though the nation's welfare—and not their own—is uppermost in the thoughts of those with whom we disagree. Rather than seeing each other as "moochers" and "vultures," let us all try, if only for a moment in history, to be first and foremost Americans and citizens of the world.

Right or left, red or blue, we could do worse than to recall the words of another American president who took the oath a second time nearly 150

years ago. Abraham Lincoln urged a nation then riven by real secession, not the pouting of sore losers: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Happy new year. Happy new beginning. ☼

David A. Fryxell
is editor of Desert Exposure.



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HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • HENRY LIGHTCAP

Isn't That Special!

Lightcap's annual review of New Mexico follies.

There are a lot of states in our union—50 at last count, and every one of them is unique in its own special way. There is only one, however, that has the distinction of being confused with a sovereign nation, and that's our humble patch of real estate. Nobody ever confuses New York with Old York or Minnesota with Manitoba, but our state is often thought of as a part of Mexico, only substantially cleaner. If news reports from the past year were any indication, New Mexico has a lot to offer the rest of the nation; sadly, most of it is of comedic value.

Our first story in our annual review of New Mexico folly comes from the Duke City up north. An Albuquerque man was getting so disgusted with elections, he decided to prove the whole process was going to the dogs by registering his pooch to vote. KOB-TV News reported on Feb. 29 that the dog's owner saw a voter registration booth and decided to see if his hound could participate in the electoral process this year. To his glee, he received a valid Bernalillo County voter registration card for "Buddy" using a made-up birth date and Social Security number, just like most everybody else in New Mexico. The county clerk's office huffily said that they don't require proof of an applicant's name, birth or social, but what Buddy's owner did was voter fraud, a serious accusation in New Mexico. Oh, wait—no, it's not. Voter fraud is more like a quaint local tradition.

A few weeks later, trouble was afoot in the austere desert paradise of Luna County. According to an article in the *Deming Headlight* of April 2, three men were arrested for cattle rustling when a deputy spotted a Honda Civic speeding at 3 a.m. After stopping the perps, the constable found four occupants in the compact car: three nefarious outlaws and a 220-pound Holstein calf sharing the backseat with one of the cattle rustlers. Lacking proper cow-rustling equipment, the inexperienced bandits whisked the confused bovine away in the Honda, which quite frankly was detrimental to the upholstery. The three men were charged with larceny of livestock and wasting oxygen that could be better used by dung beetles.

Not long afterwards, the last reader of books in New Mexico was arrested for overdue library books in Portales. The Associated Press reported on June 28 that Portales mom and renegade literary felon Lori Teel was arrested at her home, in front of her children, for an overdue copy of the mind-numbing book, *Twilight*, featuring teen vampires doing—something. With nearly \$36 of overdue fines, Teel was hauled away by jackbooted library goons and booked in the county hoosegow, where she had to spend a night cozying up to a rather large woman with a mullet haircut named "Foxy." Charges were later dismissed by Portales City Attorney Stephen Doerr, who probably decided that the library was better off without the stupid vampire books anyway, and if they couldn't

get Teel on felonious bad taste, then it wasn't really fun anymore.

Dogs are important in our proud state, which is why it's no surprise that a second canine-themed story made the list from Vaughn, New Mexico (Official Motto: "It's not our fault, it was already like this when we got here."). Nikka, no relation to Buddy in Bernalillo, is a drug-sniffing dog for the Vaughn Police Department that became the only certified member of the town's police department after Police Chief Ernest "Chris" Armijo stepped down after reports that he couldn't carry a gun because of his criminal background. Turns out that Armijo owed tens of thousands of dollars in back child support in Texas, which is kind of a no-no when you're in law enforcement. Nikka seemed indifferent to his new responsibilities as the only remaining cop in Vaughn, and he hopes an unfortunate leg-humping incident in 2007 doesn't come back to haunt him now.

In November, something really crappy happened in Las Cruces. According to an article in the *Las Cruces Sun-News*, city employees returning to work on Monday after Thanksgiving found a payment drop-off box for utility payments had been vandalized and was emitting a "foul odor." City officials determined that somebody had made an unauthorized deposit by defecating into the drop box. Exercising caution, City Treasurer Robert Scaling recognized that feces are a genuine biohazard, and declared the box and every payment in it to be voided (much like the perpetrator's colon). Since there was no way that the dookie could possibly be disposed of and the box returned to a pre-poopified state, City Manager Robert Garza said that the city might have to discontinue drop-box service. "It takes one bad apple to ruin the barrel," Garza didn't say, "and one chocolate sub to torpedo the payment box." City officials, still miffed about the whole thing, report that if people want to pay their utility bills without buying a stamp, they can tape it to the back of a carrier pigeon for all they care.

As we look forward to 2013, other states will celebrate their own unique diversity. California will find new ways to tax citizens into oblivion, and Florida will enjoy their citrus, beaches and senior citizens. South Dakota will do whatever it is they traditionally enjoy doing in South Dakota, and Alabama will continue to provide reality TV programming for the rest of the nation. In New Mexico, we can count on another fun-filled year of enchantment and amusement, and find comfort in our bottomless well of specialness. 🌵

Henry Lightcap stays out of the news in Las Cruces.



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

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DESERT DIARY

Sports, Seniors and So Forth

Plus nuns, priests and bodily functions, not necessarily all together.

Sister act... Beginning an installment of Desert Diary that seems to have an unusual concentration of religious folks, sports, senior citizens and/or bodily functions—sometimes all in the same yarn—here's this from **GeraldH**:

"Three nuns were attending a Yankees baseball game. Three men were sitting directly behind them. Because the nuns' habits were partially blocking the view, the men decided to badger the nuns, hoping they'd get annoyed enough to move to another area. In a very loud voice, the first guy said, 'I think I'm going to move to Utah. There are only 100 nuns living there.'

"Then the second guy spoke up and said loudly, 'I want to move to Montana. There are only 50 nuns living there.'

players aside and asked, 'Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?'

"The little boy nodded in the affirmative.

"Do you understand that what matters is whether we win or lose together as a team?' The little boy nodded yes.

"So,' the coach continued, 'I'm sure you know, when an out is called, you shouldn't argue, curse, attack the umpire, or call him a "pecker-head." Do you understand all that?' The little boy nodded again.

"The coach continued, 'And when I take you out of the game so another boy gets a chance to play, it's not good sportsmanship to call your coach "a dumb ass," is it?'

"Again, the little boy nodded.

"Good,' said the coach. 'Now go over there and explain all that to your grandmother.'"

A good walk spoiled... Still in the realm of sports, there's this from **The Santa Claran**:

"A golfer accidentally overturned his cart. Elizabeth, a beautiful real golfer who lived in a villa on the golf course, heard the noise and yelled over to him: 'Hey, are you okay? What's your name?'

"Willis,' he replied weakly.

"Willis, forget your troubles. Come to my villa, rest up and I'll help you get the cart up later.'

"That's mighty nice of you,' Willis answered, 'but I don't think my wife would like it.'

"Aw, come on,' Elizabeth insisted. She was very pretty and persuasive.

"Well, okay,' Willis finally agreed, and added, 'but my wife won't like it.'

"After a hearty drink and some up-close driving and putting lessons, Willis thanked his host. 'I feel a lot better now, but I know my wife is going to be real upset.'

"Don't be foolish!' Elizabeth said with a smile. 'She won't know anything. By the way, where is she?'

"Under the cart!' he answered."

Send your tales of sports, senior citizens, sisters and more to diary@desertexposure.com.

Kids say the darnedest things... Now, for a change of pace, here's **Farmor the Swedish Grandma** with some brief tales of youngsters and what comes out of their mouths in the classroom:

"Teacher: 'Why are you late?'

"Student: 'Class started before I got here.'"

"Teacher: 'John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?'

"John: 'You told me to do it without using tables.'"

"Teacher: 'Glenn, how do you spell "crocodile"?'

"Glenn: 'K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'



Postcards from the edge... Readers continue to respond to our invitation to submit photos of themselves on vacation holding "the biggest little paper in the Southwest"—so much so that we're starting the new year with three in an attempt to catch up.

First is **Barb Nelson**, who took a break from the Imagination Library of Grant County and visited granddaughter Keighly Mann, in Waconia, Minn. She writes, "Keighly decided the cats on the cover needed a little more color, so she added her own touch to the image."



Postcards from the edge... Next in our gallery of readers around the world is **Lori Forman**, who sent several photos from her recent trip to Vietnam, but we liked this one best—perhaps because she says it was taken on her birthday, in Da Nang.

"Teacher: 'No, that's wrong.'

"Glenn: 'Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.'"

"Teacher: 'Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?'

"Donald: 'H I J K L M N O.'

"Teacher: 'What are you talking about?'

"Donald: 'Yesterday you said it's H to O.'

"Teacher: 'Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have 10 years ago.'

"Winnie: 'Me!'"

It's a dog's life... Apparently romance and wooing are challenging for canines, too, at least according to this tale from **Wes the Sooner**:

"Three handsome male dogs are walking down the street when they see a beautiful, enticing female poodle. The three dogs fall all over themselves in an effort to be the one to reach her first, but end up arriving in front of her at the same time. The males are speechless before her beauty, slob-



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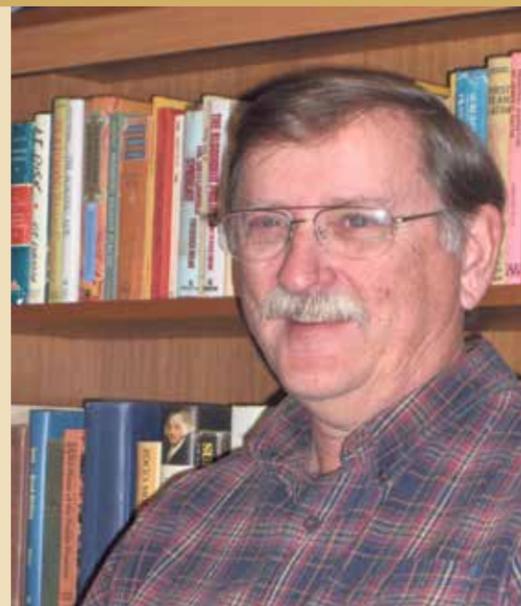
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Steve Havill is the author of four western novels, 18 contemporary mystery novels set in fictitious Posadas County, New Mexico, and two historical-medical novels set in the Puget Sound area during the 1890's. See his bio and bibliography at silverywordfiesta.org



Postcards from the edge... Finally, Tom Vaughan writes: "Here's a contribution of a *Desert Exposure* on-the-road picture. That's my wife, Sandy Feutz, holding the September 2012 issue in front of the Great Divide Ranch sign at Moose Lake in far southwest Montana. Great Divide Ranch is a former dude ranch that is now the home of Project Vote Smart, where we have been volunteering for the past week. The cabin behind is from an old gold mine complex across the road."

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

bering on themselves and hoping for just a glance from her in return.

"Aware of her charms and her obvious effect on the three suitors, she decides to be kind and tells them, 'The first one who can use the words 'liver' and 'cheese' together in an imaginative, intelligent sentence can go out with me.'

"The sturdy, muscular black lab speaks up quickly and says, 'I love liver and cheese.'

"Oh, how childish,' says the poodle. 'That shows no imagination or intelligence whatsoever.' She turns to the tall, shiny golden retriever and says, 'How well can you do?'

"Um, I HATE liver and cheese,' blurts the golden retriever.

"My, my,' says the poodle. 'I guess it's hopeless. That's just as dumb as the lab's sentence.' She then turns to the last of the three dogs and says, 'How about you, little guy?'

"The last of the three, tiny in stature but big in fame and finesse, is the Taco Bell Chihuahua. He gives her a smile, a sly wink, turns to the golden retriever and lab and says, 'Liver alone, cheese mine!'"

You're only as old as you feel... Making an overdue return to these pages is **Toni in the Vet's Office**, with this senior-citizen funny not, perhaps, for the easily offended:

"The family wheeled Grandma out on the lawn, in her wheelchair, where the activities for her 100th birthday were taking place. Grandma couldn't speak very well, but she would write notes when she needed to communicate.

"After a short time out on the lawn, Grandma started leaning off to the right, so some family members grabbed her, straightened her up, and stuffed pillows on her right side. A short time later, she started leaning off to her left, so again the family grabbed her and stuffed pillows on her left side. Soon she started leaning forward, so the family members again grabbed her, and then tied a pillowcase around her waist to hold her up.

"A nephew who arrived late came up to Grandma and said, 'Hi, Grandma, you're looking good! How are they treating you?'

"Grandma took out her little notepad and slowly wrote a note to the nephew:

"Bastards won't let me fart."

Hot around the collar... We promised more of men and women of the cloth, and here is the **Silver City Greek** to make good on that vow:

"A priest was being honored at his retirement dinner after 25 years in the parish. A leading local politician and member of the congregation was chosen to make the presentation and to give a little speech at the dinner. However, he was delayed, so the priest decided to say his own few words while they waited:

"I got my first impression of the parish from

the first confession I heard here,' the priest began. 'I thought I had been assigned to a terrible place. The very first person who entered my confessional told me he had stolen a television set and, when questioned by the police, was able to lie his way out of it. He had stolen money from his parents, embezzled from his employer, had an affair with his boss's wife, taken illegal drugs, and gave VD to his own sister. I was appalled.

"But as the days went on, I learned that my people were not all like that and I had, indeed, come to a fine parish full of good and loving people.'

"Just as the priest finished his talk, the politician arrived, full of apologies at being late. He immediately began to make the presentation and give his talk:

"I'll never forget the first day our parish priest arrived,' said the politician. 'In fact, I had the honor of being the first person to go to him for confession.'"

Annals of medicine... Two tales of seniors and what might or might not come out of them, as you'll see, beginning with this from **Ned Ludd**:

"Old Jim was sick and in the hospital. There was one nurse that just drove him crazy. Every time she came in, she would talk to him like he was a little child. She would say in a patronizing tone of voice, 'And how are we doing this morning?' or 'Are we ready for a bath?' or 'Are we hungry?' Old Jim had had enough of this particular nurse.

"One day, Old Jim took the apple juice off the breakfast tray and put it in his bedside stand. Next time he was given a urine bottle to fill for testing, well, you know where the juice went!

"The nurse came in a little later, picked up the urine bottle and looked at it. 'My, it seems we are a little cloudy today.'

"At this, Old Jim snatched the bottle out of her hand, popped off the top, and drank it down, saying, 'Well, I'll run it through again. Maybe I can filter it better this time.'

"The nurse fainted. Old Jim just smiled."

Similar and yet completely different is this one from **GeeRichard**:

"An 85-year-old man was asked by his doctor for a sperm count as part of his physical exam. The doctor gave the man a jar and told him, 'Take this jar home and bring back a semen sample tomorrow.'

"The next day, the 85-year-old man reappeared at the doctor's office and gave him the jar, which was as clean and empty as it was on the previous day.

"The doctor asked what happened and the man explained, 'Well, doc, it's like this. First I tried with my right hand, but nothing. Then I tried with my left hand, but still nothing. Then I asked my wife for help. She tried with her right hand, then with her left; still nothing. She tried with her mouth, first with the teeth in, then with her teeth out, still nothing. We even called up the lady next door and she tried, too, first with both hands, then an armpit, and she even tried squeezing it between her knees, but still nothing.'

"The doctor was shocked. 'You asked your neighbor?'

"The old man replied, 'Yep, none of us could get the jar open.'"

Our technology, ourselves... Galloping up with this technological tale is new contributor **Equinophile**:

"It all began with an iPhone. March was when our son celebrated his 17th birthday, and we got him an iPhone. He just loved it. Who wouldn't?"

"I celebrated my birthday in July, and my wife made me very happy when she bought me an iPad.

"Our daughter's birthday was in August so we got her an iPod Touch.

"My wife celebrated her birthday in September

so I got her an iRon.

"It was around then that the fight started. What my wife failed to recognize is that the iRon can be integrated into the home network with the iWash, iCook and iClean. This inevitably activates the iNag reminder service.

"I should be out of the hospital next week. iHurt."

Consumer reports... Finally, a brief word of warning from **Judge Hazard A. Guess** for all the fellas out there:

"Be careful what you purchase on eBay. Spent \$50 on a penis enlarger. Bastards sent me a magnifying glass.

"Instructions said, 'Don't use in the sunlight.'"

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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Icarus Descending

The long, strange fall of software mogul John McAfee,
 and his detour through Rodeo, NM.

Before John McAfee was the world's most prominent techno-fugitive, on the run from authorities in Belize for questioning in the fatal shooting of his neighbor and profiled in *Wired* (a ebook special) and the *New York Times* (front of the Sunday Business section and two solid pages inside), he was a minor celebrity in Rodeo, NM. This was, of course, after McAfee founded and sold—for \$100 million—the antivirus-software company that still bears his name.

What brought McAfee and some 200 fellow "Sky Gypsies," ages 11 to 84, to a remote corner of southwest New Mexico was "aerotrekking," zipping in and out of desert canyons in souped-up ultralight aircraft. "It's the dream that Icarus had—to fly like a bird," McAfee told me in the fall of 2007, when I interviewed him ("The Dream of Icarus," November 2007).

That dream also had a deadly downside. The year before, McAfee's 22-year-old nephew and a 61-year-old flight student, Robert Gilson, had been killed when they inexplicably flew into the side of a canyon on a calm day. In April 2008, McAfee was named in a wrongful-death lawsuit filed by Gilson's family. (The plaintiffs' attorney, Frank Fleming, called me out of the blue in April 2011, cheerfully announcing he was going to "ruin my day" by subpoenaing me, if necessary, to testify to the facts in my article about McAfee. After I cited press-shield laws, while expressing a willingness to attest to the accuracy of the article in a notarized statement, I have not heard further from Fleming.) Fleming recently told the *Times* that he thinks the lawsuit was a factor in McAfee's decision to relocate to Belize: "I think he believes that because the US and Belize don't have a bilateral treaty, a judgment in a US court is worthless in Belize. I don't think he's right about that."

That's a moot point, as in mid-December McAfee returned to the US—after escaping to Guatemala, where apparently he faked a heart attack to buy time. The 67-year-old McAfee is now trying to get his 20- and 17-year-old girlfriends to America.

On Belize's Ambergris Caye, in any case, McAfee found far more serious trouble than a lawsuit. Whatever his motivations for moving there, he sold all his US property, the last piece being the Rodeo ranchland, auctioned

off in 2009. He claimed to have lost most of his fortune in the recession, his net worth down to \$4 million.



John McAfee with one of his "kite planes" in Rodeo, NM, in 2007. (Photos by David A. Fryxell)

off in 2009. He claimed to have lost most of his fortune in the recession, his net worth down to \$4 million.

In Belize, according to the *Times*, the "priapic 67-year-old, with an improbable mop of blond-highlighted hair and a rotating group of young girlfriends," may have experimented with MDPV, a powerful psychoactive drug. Or maybe his online interest in the drug was an elaborate prank, fodder for his blog. Belize's prime minister, Dean Barrow, called McAfee "bonkers."

It is clear that McAfee had words with Gregory Viant Faull, a 52-year-old American neighbor who complained about McAfee's noisy dogs. Then several of the dogs were poisoned. Then, on Nov. 11, Faull was found shot dead, lying in a pool of blood in his house. His laptop and iPhone were missing, and a 9-millimeter

shell was found nearby. Police announced that McAfee was "a person of interest" in the case. McAfee "quickly melted into the island's lush green jungle," according to the *Times*. Even as 20 police officers and members of Belize's Gang Suppression Unit pursued him, McAfee kept up a string of high-tech communications with the press, protesting his innocence and expressing fears that Belize authorities were seeking to frame and/or kill him.

None of the recent press reports sound much like the genial guy who offered to take me up in a "kite plane" over New Mexico's Chiricahua Mountains. (I politely declined.) McAfee had discovered aerotrekking on a 2002 flight to Nepal with his then-girlfriend Jennifer Irwin, 22, while reading the inflight magazine. They moved to Arizona to learn to fly ultralights, then began searching for a place to build an airstrip.

McAfee and Irwin spent a total of 17 weeks driving a yellow Hummer across the desert in search of a site removed enough from civilization to base the "Sky Gypsies." He explained the decision to pick Rodeo: "There are other, less-populous areas, in Nevada and Utah, but here you have mountains, desert, playas, canyons—it's so varied and beautiful, it makes every day a different day when you fly. You could spend a month here and go to a different place every day."

He built a 7,200-foot airstrip outside of town and ultimately invested nearly \$12 million in a network of ultralight landing spots—an 1,100-mile

The Tumbleweeds Top 10

Who and what's been making news from New Mexico this past month, as measured by mentions in Google News (news.google.com). Trends noted are vs. last month's total hits; * indicates new to the list. Number in parenthesis indicates last month's Top 10 rank. With election news fading, we can start worrying about whether Virgin Galactic will stiff New Mexico and our brand-new Spaceport.

1. (3) **New Mexico wolves**—9,550 hits (▲)
2. (4) **New Mexico drought**—7,030 hits (▲)
3. (-) **New Mexico spaceport**—5,001 hits (▲)
4. (-) **Virgin Galactic**—4,150 hits (▲)
5. (-) **New Mexico Bowl**—3,860 hits *
6. (5) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—1,890 hits (▼)
7. (2) **Ex-Gov. Gary Johnson + president**—1,460 hits (▼)
8. (-) **Sen. Tom Udall**—1,010 hits (▲)
9. (-) **Richard Branson + New Mexico**—1,002 hits (▲)
10. (6) **Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson**—933 hits (▼)



Sign on the highway outside Rodeo, in 2007.



McAfee in 2007, before relocating to Belize—and trouble.

Neighbors in Rodeo and nearby Portal, Ariz., didn't quite know what to make of all this. After complaints about the buzzing of ultralights overhead, McAfee began inviting folks over for flights and movies, whose showings were advertised at the post office in Rodeo.

Other than the recession, it's not clear what happened to turn this cheerful "Sky Gypsy" into the "horrible neighbor" with guns, armed guards, prostitutes and noisy dogs described in the *New York Times*. Always a thrill-seeker, maybe John McAfee just got bored.

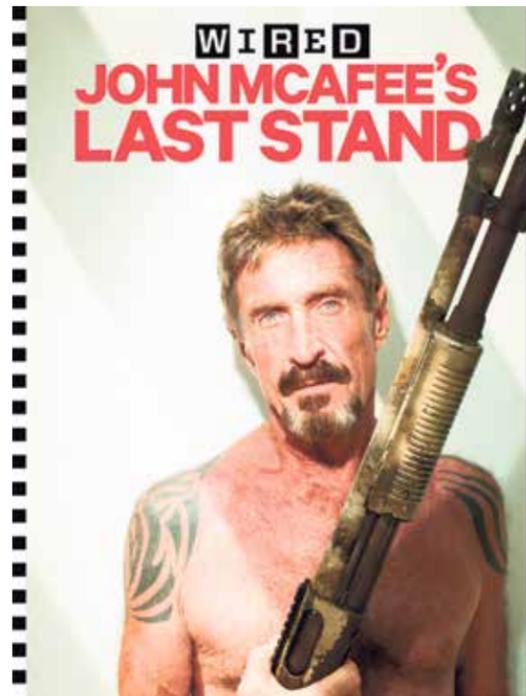
Or perhaps he failed to take his own advice and didn't foresee how badly his Belize foray would all turn out—he didn't think far enough ahead. On that sunny morning in 2007, he'd told me, "The problem with the Western world is that we don't think far ahead enough. People are ambitious, wanting to get ahead in business, and that becomes their life. Then they retire, get a gold watch, and what the heck do they do now?"

He'd also told me, however, "I encourage young people to really think about their lives. It's not just about getting lots of stuff right now. Life is a lot bigger than that. You have to recognize opportunity as it floats by... Life is a very fluid thing. Sometimes if you're willing to abandon something you hold dearly on an off chance to grasp what's floating by, you'll be more satisfied. Life becomes a moveable feast."

But sometimes you should just stay put and be satisfied with what you have. Sometimes you should let that "off chance" float on by. Maybe

John McAfee should have stayed in New Mexico, with the canyons and the coyotes, up in the clouds like Icarus. ☼

David A. Fryxell is editor of Desert Exposure. His original story on John McAfee is available online at www.desertexposure.com/200711/200711_mcafee_icarus.php.



Left: McAfee in a late-2012 special report from *Wired* magazine.

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100 HIKES • LINDA FERRARA

Year-Round Route

Exploring the CD Trail in the Burro Mountains.

Editor's note: In our November issue, Linda Ferrara wrote about her successful effort to complete 100 hikes around the Silver City area in a 12-month span ("100 Hikes in a Year"). Reader response to her article was such that we've asked her to share details of her favorite hikes in a new ongoing feature.

Name: Continental Divide (CD) Trail—Burro Mountains

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Directions: From Highway 90 at Ridge Road, take Highway 90 south 10.2 miles. Turn right onto Tyrone Road. Stay on this dirt road for 7.2 miles. There are several turn-offs and curves; just stay on the main road until you see CD Trail markers on the trees at the 7.2 mile marker.

Hike Description: We took the trail to the south (on the left), towards Jack's Peak. It is well marked in most places, easily found in others. You'll enjoy pine trees, views of the Mogollons, some sandy areas, a few gates that are closed but unlocked. The trail wanders up and down some easy hills and then after a mile or so starts its rise up towards Jack's Peak. It's a good trail for any hiker as you can turn back if it's too steep for your condition. There are many hiking options off of this road to explore.



View from the Continental Divide Trail, off Highway 90 south of Silver City in the Burro Mountains. (Photo by Linda Ferrara)

Notes: This would be a good hike for any time of the year since it is nicely shaded for much of the trail. If you are climbing up to the top, consider going early in the day if you are hiking in the heat of summer.

Helpful Hint: When I was stuck up on a ridge and couldn't find my way down, I followed a cow trail that showed me the route. Think about what animals do and need. Their trails can bring you to water, trails, roads, civilization. 🐄

Linda Ferrara is a former Silver City real-estate agent and, of course, a hiker.

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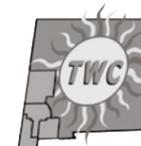
Thursday, January 17, 2013, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

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ARTS EXPOSURE • DONNA CLAYTON WALTER

True Colors

Pud Franzblau uses classic film and paper—and no Photoshop tricks—to capture the beauty of some of the world’s most stunning places.

Sitting in his new Red Earth Gallery on Silver City’s Yankee Street, surrounded by four walls filled with startlingly colorful pieces of his work, photographer Pud Franzblau laughs and throws up his hands.

“People ask me that all the time!” he says. “But how can I compare these apples to those oranges? ‘Pick a favorite?’ It’s just impossible!”

He glances at a back wall, hung with large photos of cavernous holes carved by wind and rain in wavy orange rock walls—the impressive and instantly familiar slot canyons of Utah.

“Okay, maybe that’s my favorite shot of a slot canyon. But what about the scenics?” he asks, gesturing at photos of the moon in cold, clear desert skies, of purple and blue mountain ranges, of a solitary yucca in a sea of gypsum white sand.

“How do I compare that to the ancient rock art? Or the flowers?”

He looks around the gallery, section by section. He leans back in his chair and a smile creeps across his face.

“Well, I can tell you this. That’s my luckiest shot—because of the lightning.”

The photo is eye-catching because of many factors: steep trails from every craggy rock wall lead down into a deep canyon, the dark electric blue of a stormy sky overhead visually compliments the red and brown below.

And there, right over the canyon, a single bolt of lightning strikes down, a jagged streak of white in the center of the bruise-colored sky.

As with all of Franzblau’s striking images—including the photo on this issue’s cover—there is a story behind the stunning visual beauty. This lightning-lit photo was taken in Ticaboo Canyon, west of Lake Powell in Southern Utah.

“I was trying to get a shot of these flash floods pouring down,” he says, gesturing to the silver-white rivers of water streaming down out of crags in the rock ledges. Franzblau describes how he and his brother had hiked down into the canyon. “The



Photographer Pud Franzblau in his Red Earth Gallery in downtown Silver City. (Photo by Donna Clayton Walter)

sky was dark, so we knew something was coming.” As the storm kicked up, Franzblau and his brother high-tailed it up and out.

“We ran up as best we could. Lightning was everywhere! Rocks were getting hit and just *exploding!*” he recalls. “(My brother) described it ‘like a mortar attack in Viet Nam.’ He left, but I sat in my truck. I thought, ‘There’s gonna be a shot here...’”

Franzblau pauses, then laughs. “My family swears I’m gonna get killed someday trying to get a picture.”

His camera positioned on a tripod, Franzblau activated the shutter with a remote push button device, the shot taken at the exact right moment to capture the strike.

“Sure enough, there was a shot. And there it is,” he says, pointing out the magical bolt, “at 125th of a second shutter speed.”

Franzblau got into photography as a passionate hobby. “I always wanted to be a photographer,” says the erstwhile teacher with a degree in atmospheric chemistry—knowledge that helps

him take great photos and shortened his learning curve regarding photography. But knowing exactly what he wanted to see in his prints made him a bit of a burr under the saddle of the fine folks at Kodak.

“I used to send my slides to Kodak to get them developed and printed. But I didn’t like the results and I’d send them back to be redone, sometimes over and over. Finally this guy at Kodak told me, ‘Look, if you want it better, you’re going to have to do it yourself!’ So I bought a whole bunch of dark-room equipment in the mid-80s. By 1990, I was making all kinds of photos.”

He started getting his work into galleries by the early 1990s, he says, and soon had consignments in 20 galleries all over the West. In 2004, he went to Australia for over a year, “taking a *huge* number of pictures,” he says.

FRANZBLAU continued on next page



“Five Orchids,” photograph by Pud Franzblau.



“Lightning and Flash Flood, Ticaboo Canyon,” photograph by Pud Franzblau.

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FRANZBLAU continued

Then in 2007, he and his wife landed in Bisbee where he opened his own gallery, which he operated until this past June when the couple moved to Silver City.

Franzblau is an adamant purist when it comes to creating images—no Photoshop, no filters, just him, his camera and film. He prints using the Ilfachrome process.

“They don’t make this stuff anymore,” he says of the special paper required. “It has the best color rendition and it doesn’t fade or yellow. I saw the end coming and I bought freezers full of the paper, refrigerators for the chemicals.”

Franzblau shoots with Fuji film. “I used to use Kodachrome, but now that’s not made, either.” His equipment of choice is a 35-millimeter Olympus camera, “with 10 lenses, from a 16-millimeter fish-eye up to 600-millimeters.”

He points out a particularly striking image hanging on one of the nearby walls.

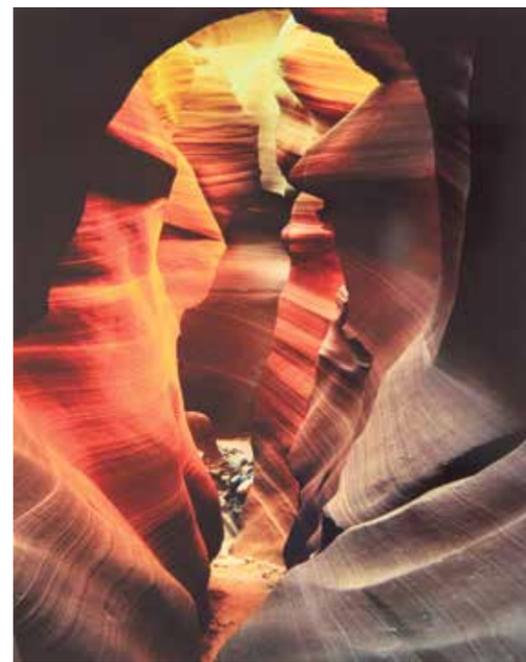
“You see that sunset? That’s exactly what I saw, in that moment,” he says. “The colors were actually like that. It’s not manipulated. No filters, no Photoshop. Just the film, the paper and that moment in time! The beauty of this (Ilfachrome) process is that you get to see what it actually looked like, at that moment.”

Getting to the moment is often a story in itself. Franzblau tells how he’s slept at the mouths of canyons to be in the right place at the right time, with just the right light to capture the image he wants. Sometimes, he says, it’s a matter of being there for hours, sometimes coming back to a site over a period of many days to find just what he’s looking for.

“Sometimes I know that I have to come back at a different season, when the sun will be exactly where I need it to see the colors,” he says.

Typically, Franzblau’s work could be divided into four distinct categories, as he describes them:

“I saw the end coming and I bought freezers full of the paper, refrigerators for the chemicals.”



“Cordescent Canyon,” photograph by Pud Franzblau.

slot canyons, ancient rock art, scenics and flowers. Each grouping brings its own special joy and challenge, he says.

“When I first started shooting the slot canyons, it just blew my mind,” he says, describing the process of hiking through cavernous valleys, on trails surrounded by winding rock walls. “It was like magic. Around every corner were things that I never even knew existed!”

The “scenics,” as he calls them, thrill him for other reasons. He goes for stark beauty—a lone yucca, a tree, the moon.

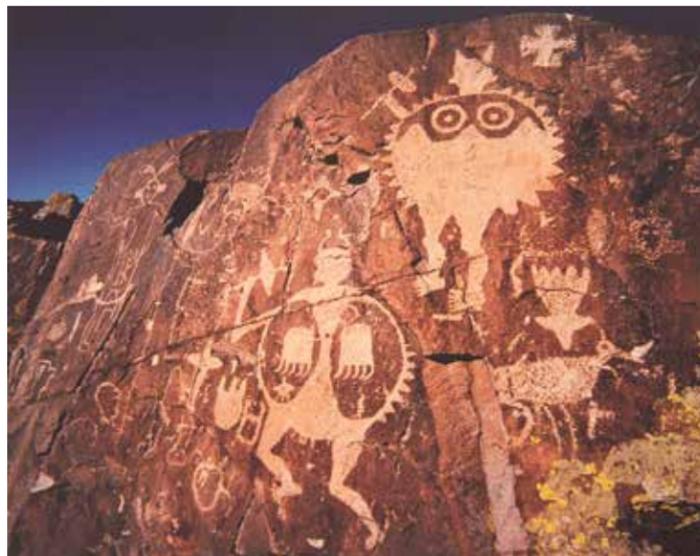
“Moons are a special challenge,” he says. “A wisp of cloud can ruin it.”

Pointing out a White Sands photo, he comments that gypsum has a particularly beautiful reflective quality. “It’s not really sand, you know. And you can see the difference,” he says.

His flower images are of “special flowers,” he says. Capturing the unique beauty of an orchid blossom, a jimson weed bloom, a tropical Heliconia means finding the perfect bloom as well as the perfect angle, lighting and focus, he says. His photos of flowers could well have been studies for some of Georgia O’Keeffe’s paintings.

And of the ancient rock art, Franzblau says, “I’m fascinated by indigenous cultures. I’m a history buff, and I would sit for hours wondering who these people were.”

He points out two different images, both from Utah, but one carved into a cave wall some 1,500 years ago, the other around 3,000 years ago.



“Gallant Warriors,” photograph by Pud Franzblau.

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"We're closer to *these* people," he says, pointing to the 1,500-year-old image, "than these people are to each other!"

Another image, taken in Australia, was carved by people during the Ice Age, he says, estimated at some 20,000-50,000 years ago.

"I find this one especially interesting because they're wearing *clothes!*" he says. "It really fascinates me. I mean, these are hunter-gatherers! How did they even find the time to create this art? And *why* did they do it? Was it just to document, as some people think, or was it to convey something they found beautiful or inspiring?"

Franzblau says that beyond the pure beauty of an image—whether a flower, a sunset or the art of ancient people—there has to be a reason behind taking the picture. What is the artist's view, he asks, and why is this vision worth capturing? What does it convey?



Above: "Heliconia," photograph by Pud Franzblau. Below left: Franzblau in his gallery. (Photo by Donna Clayton Walter)



"My guiding philosophy is that a photo, or any work of art, needs to take you somewhere you haven't been before and make you feel good."

And here, on his gallery walls, painted a dark gray—not unlike rock—so as to avoid distracting from the works or casting a colored glow to the images, hang the images that Pud Franzblau finds important to share. ❁

See Pud Franzblau's work at Red Earth Gallery, 108 W. Yankie St., in Silver City, (505) 850-3182, www.pud-franzblau.com. Donna Clayton Walter is a Silver City freelance writer.

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page

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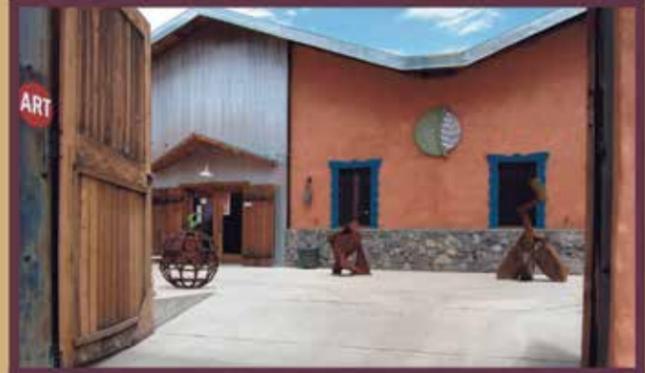


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ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene
 The latest area art happenings.

Silver City/Grant County

Mary Frances Don-
 delinger will present
 two workshops up-
 stairs at **Leyba & Ingalls Arts**
 this month. Jan. 18-21 will be
 "The Wonders of Egg Tempera"
 and Jan. 25-28 is "Learn Traditional
 Iconography." 315 N. Bul-
 lard St., 388-5725.

A new exhibit will be open-
 ing Jan. 4 in the **Mimbres Re-
 gion Art Council Gallery** in
 the Wells Fargo Bank building,
 featuring the photography of lo-
 cal "FeVa Fotos" photographers
 Sandy Feutz and Tom Vaughan.
 "Celebrate Silver" is the theme
 for this show, with many never-
 seen-before photos of local
 events, people, places and more.
 The exhibit, which runs through
 Jan. 31, opens with a reception
 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 4.

Copper Quail Gallery will be featuring mixed-
 media retablos by Rita Sherwood. 211-A Texas St.,
 388-2646.

First place in the recent **San Vicente Artists'
 Members Show** went to Luanne Brooten for a wa-
 tercolor, "The Sheltering Tree." Second and third
 places went to Sandy Feutz and Nancy Wachholz.

Our March 2008 cover artist, **Louis Baum**, died
 in mid-December in a five-car crash near Pecos,
 Texas. Baum, 79, had been a fixture in the Grant
 County arts scene since moving here in 2006, and
 operated the popular A.I.R. Coffee in Bayard for
 several years.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

The **Museum of Art** continues "Las Cruces
 Collects," an exhibition of artworks from
 private art collections in the area, through
 Jan. 19. Works of art featured in this display are
 as varied as the tastes of local art connoisseurs.
 For Ammu and Rama Devasthali, their collection
 is a reflection of personal travels and their inter-
 est in world culture. Many of the pieces they chose
 to display are from India, Canada and the United
 States. David Sudimak and Phil Born chose to fea-
 ture works from the Las Cruces arts scene. For
 David Sorenson, collecting is a personal journey
 of discovery that has had an impact on his own de-
 velopment as an artist. Works by significant Scan-



"Land of Enchantment—Truchas, NM," oil on canvas by Kathleen Squires, part of the "Las Cruces Collects" show continuing at the Las Cruces Museum of Art.

dinavian artists are represented in his collection.
 The fourth collector, Charles Townley, focuses on
 contemporary Chinese art.

As part of the ongoing exhibition, the museum
 will host a gallery talk and tour by Ammu Devasthali
 on Saturday, Jan. 12, at 1 p.m. "Art reflects the
 culture, ethics, struggles, and dreams of people
 and this varies depending on where they live," she
 says. "My husband and I have a very eclectic col-
 lection based on the fact that we purchase art from
 every country we visit. The only criteria are that
 the works speak to us on some level."

The museum will also host a lecture by art collec-
 tor and artist David Sorenson at 1 p.m. on Saturday,
 Jan. 19, the final day of the exhibition. "Art and col-
 lecting is a family tradition," says Sorenson. While
 on their honeymoon in post-World War II Paris, his
 parents purchased works by artists Joan Miro and
 Paul Gauguin. "My parents gave generously to help
 their children and grandchildren start and expand
 their own collections." 491 N. Main St., 541-2137,
 www.las-cruces.org/museums.

The **Branigan Cultural Center** continues its
 exhibit "Pueblo to Pueblo: The Legacy of Southwest
 Indian Pottery," through Feb. 16. It displays a hun-
 dred years of artifacts that date from the mid-19th
 to the mid-20th centuries. While many pieces follow
 conservative and traditional styles of this Pueblo art
 form, others are more representative of items made
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Above and below, winners in the Doña Ana Camera Club's annual contest. In "Chopper" by Rob Peinert, above, because of the overcast skies and a somewhat gray background, Peinert converted the image to a monochromatic one, boosted the contrast, and gave it some color by adjusting the tone. "Bright Night" by Lisa Mandelkern, below, is the result of many late trips to the desert, often with other camera club members. Because it was shot on a moonless night, the star trails were even more pronounced, complemented by a simple foreground.

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J. Paul Taylor will host an informal walk and talk through another continuing exhibit, "Life in Reflection: the Photography of Mary Daniels Taylor," on Jan. 23 at 10 a.m. The exhibit runs through Jan. 26. 501 N. Main St. 541-2154



Rokoko Gallery is hosting an opening reception for the artists in its "Refrigerator Art Show" on Jan. 11 from 6-9 p.m. The show continues through Feb. 23. 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877.

Mesquite Art Gallery will feature a collection of White Sands photographs in January, with a reception Saturday, Jan. 12, 4-6 p.m. 340 N Mesquite St., 640-3502.

The NMSU Art Department Faculty Triennial, organized by curator Linda Weintraub, opens on Friday, Jan. 25, from 5-7 p.m. at the **University Art Gallery**. Weintraub will also give a talk as a participant in the Material Thought, Visiting Artist/Scholar Program, on Thursday, Jan. 24, at 6 p.m. in the Health and Social Services auditorium, Room 101. The lecture and the exhibition are free and open to the public.

Weintraub, who lives near Rhinebeck, NY, is an artist, educator, author and curator focusing on contemporary art with an environmental and social consciousness. She has curated more than 55 exhibitions, many of which have toured nationally and internationally. She has authored a number of well-known essays, catalogs and textbooks used in college instruction about current trends in contemporary art. Weintraub was the first director of the Edith C. Blum Art Institute at Bard College for 10 years, and Henry R. Luce Professor of Emerging Arts at Oberlin College from 2000-2003, where she

ARTS SCENE continued on next page

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ARTS SCENE continued

taught eco-art. The gallery is located in D.W. Williams Hall, 1390 E. University, near the intersection of Solano Avenue. 646-2545, www.nmsu.edu/artgal.

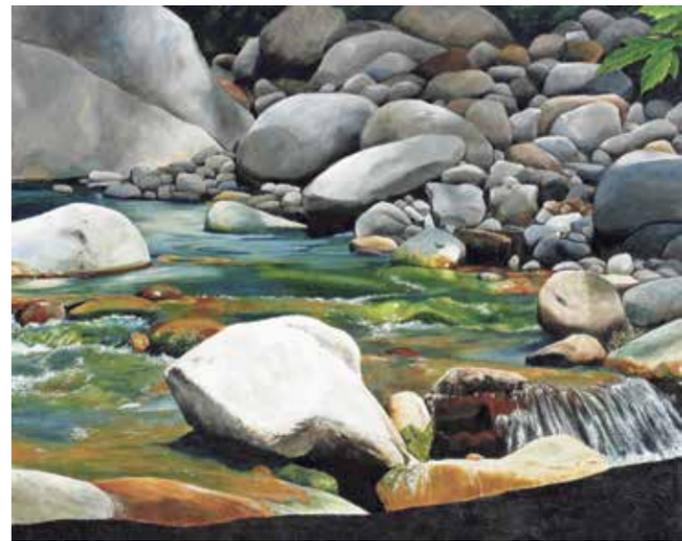
A photo of a helicopter, taken at a Texas air show by photographer Rob Peinert, was named Photo of the Year by judges in the third annual **Doña Ana Camera Club** contest. For the first time, judges also awarded a Photographer of the Year award, to club member Lisa Mandelkern.

Peinert, a freelance photographer, joined the club this year after moving to Las Cruces from Texas. His winning photo is a monochromatic rendering of a helicopter at an air show in Kingsville, Texas, with billowing clouds above the blades.

Peinert used a fisheye lens and a conversion to black and white to achieve a dramatic effect.

Mandelkern submitted three blue-ribbon-winning entries to earn the Photographer of the Year award. Color photos from a Day of the Dead observance in Las Cruces and a celebration in Columbus, plus a shot of “star trails” in the night sky made up her portfolio. “I love to photograph at public events,” Mandelkern says. “I try to see the sights, walk around and open up to environments, situations and relationships.” The results can be more understandable or more puzzling and romantic, “all interesting ways of looking at things,” she says. Her night shot was the result of many trips into the desert, often with other club members. She has perfected her night-time photography with a combination of “patience and luck,” she says.

The Doña Ana Camera Club conducts one competition each year, but more typically focuses on enhancing photo skills and encouraging members of all skill levels. The club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Southwest En-



Lois Duffy Art Gallery in Silver City is now Lois Duffy Art Studio. The Studio will be open to the public every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., showing paintings, prints and cards by Lois Duffy, whose “Catwalk” is pictured above.

vironmental Center. dacameraclub.org.

Hidalgo County

The Chiricahua Gallery has added a new artist, sculptor Barbara L. Harrison, who splits her time between Tyrone and Longboat Key, Florida. She is known for her wall and ceiling suspended sculptures of solid brass. Two large wall sculptures were commissioned by Neiman Marcus for their permanent collection. Both are on view at their store in Tampa. Other corporate commissions include the Bank of Toyko in New York City, Computervision in Boston, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Educational Testing Service, both in Princeton, NJ, and the New York Academy of Medicine in New York City. 5 Pine St., Rodeo, 557-2225. ☎

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

ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

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LEYBA & INGALLS ARTS, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media featuring artists Crystal Foreman Brown, Romaine Begay, Christina Brown, Susan Brinkley, Gordee Headlee, Diana Ingalls Leyba, Dayna Griego, Constance Knuppel, Mary Alice Murphy, Phillip Parotti, Betsy Resnick, Teri Matelson, Joe Theiman, Zoe Wolfe, Melanie Zipin. www.LeybalngallsARTS.com, LeybalngallsART@zianet.com.
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OUT AND ABOUT • HIRAM LEWIS

A Good Walk Unspoiled

Walking—and painting—Silver City's Boston Hill.



Watercolors
by Hiram
Lewis.

Boston Hill is a complex of hills that covers about nine square miles east of my house on Bremen Street in Silver City. The town of Silver City is nestled 6,000 feet up between the Burros to the south and the Gila Wilderness to the north. Boston Hill was a mining site where the earth was ripped open and despoiled, then ignored and left unclean.

There is not much man can do with such a place. But nature reclaimed it by decorating its wounds with new vegetation and softening the scars. She gave the area back to the animals and to the folks who hold their worship there.

Occasionally, the city becomes liability-conscious and drives a bulldozer up the hill to fill a mine shaft or two. Mostly officials are content to leave the shafts and surround them with chain-link fences, all of which have been breached. The place is a haven and a hope for would-be suicides and close-to-home nature walkers alike.

I have walked Boston Hill for almost 10 years. I have seen heavy rains, graffiti, poachers and trail fixers. There is a labyrinth on the hill now made from carefully placed rocks. This clever construction lies in a spot that is a pond when the big rains come, when only the stone tops of the maze peep out.

I have painted four oils and hundreds of quick loose watercolor sketches on Boston Hill. I have painted the Hurley stacks both up and gone. The stacks, left over from the Kennecott smelter, dominated the town of Hurley and provided a welcoming landmark to people driving from Deming. Now, when I look east toward Hurley, I feel a wrongness as though something has been forgotten or overlooked.

Many residents of this area believe that Boston Hill was known for silver mining. This is not true. There was scant silver on Boston Hill. The big silver was at Chloride Flats and Fleming Camp. According to Joseph Gendron in his "Boston Hill Mining History," the mines on the hill provided the flux for the furnaces in the form of manganiferous iron ore, which is used in the reduction of more precious metals. The ore turned out to be very important to the steel industry and Boston Hill was raped repeatedly during World War I and II. From 1916 until 1970 the ores were ripped from the hill to fuel US steel production by the Legal Tender Mine, the Silver Spot Mine and many surface pits. After 1937 the ores were shipped to Pueblo, Colo., to the smelter of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co.

Gendron says, "A narrow-gauge (24") railroad was built around the south and west side of Boston Hill in 1906.... The railroad ceased operations in 1908. The track was removed in 1913." Evidently, the major uploading point was near the cemeteries on the east side of Boston Hill from 1930 to 1970. This is the site of a mess of nasty black dust. I dislike walking my dogs Zelda and Conan from the cemetery trailhead, because the damned black dirt gets everywhere.

Beyond the dust are gravel paths and a complex of mazes gouged from the earth, and these are very interesting indeed. Near the center of the Boston Hill area is a vast cut right through a hill with a



trail at the bottom, a short cut from the south side to the north. This is the last refuge of snow on the rare days that it snows.

From Boston Hill I can hear the occasional truck pass on Highway 90 to Lordsburg or on Highway 180 to Cliff and Glenwood. In certain areas the percussion section of the WNMU marching band bounces off cliff faces and rocks. Golden eagles, turkey buzzards and other large raptors sail silently above. Ravens make "tok tok" noises and strange gurgles as they fly by. The coyote pups yip wildly in the spring, snug in their lairs, and once

a mother coyote came out and warned my dogs away with frantic ugly staccato barks.

I have often seen veils of rain that evaporate before hitting the ground. They are called virga, and they are especially beautiful when colored by the sunrise. Once while doing a plein-air painting a year or so ago, I saw vir-



ga while looking north across Chloride Flats from Boston Hill. A large ugly storm was toying with the hills behind the Flats, and odd colors played in the clouds. I felt a rain drop and looked behind me to see that storm's mother bearing down on me. My paint box was overflowing with three inches of water before I could fold up my easel and be on my way.

This year I saw my first tarantulas on Boston Hill. I had seen their little round holes but did not know what lived there. The people I asked were unsure. This year two male tarantulas were standing on the edge of the trail, just hanging out. Males are easy to spot because the females are shy and seldom seen. So you're safe pointing at a tarantula and saying "he." I thought they should move, but they didn't think so. Every time I moved one, he stomped back to his original position.

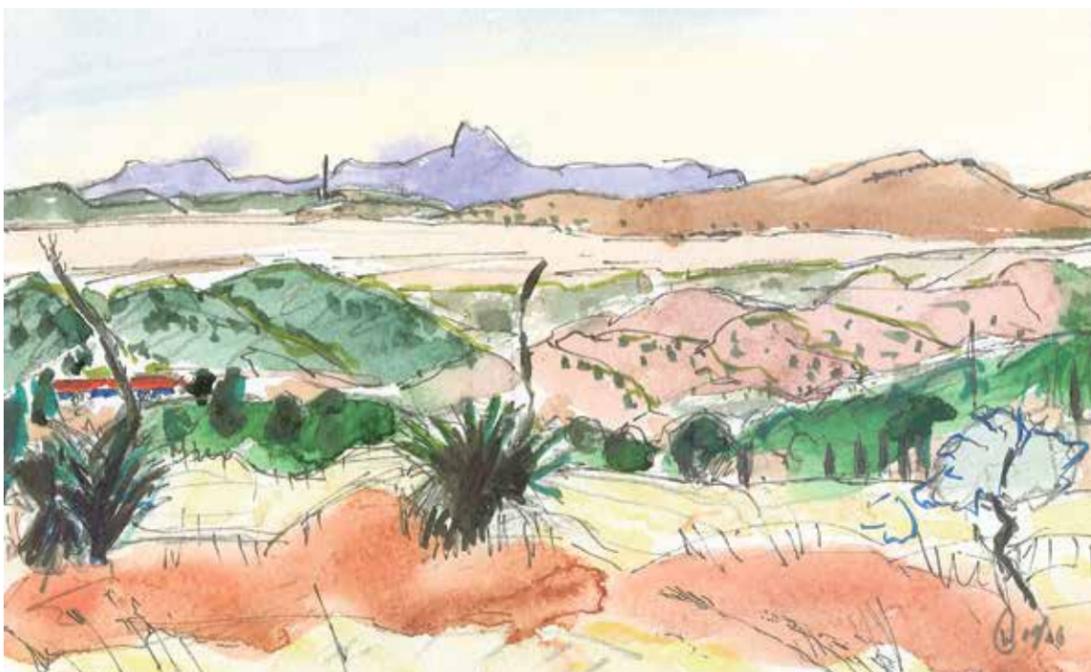
A couple of days later I came across a male eyeing one of those round holes. He approached and, raising his two front legs, brought them down to tap near the edge of the hole. He did this a number of times and I caught a glimpse of dainty tarantula feet near the mouth of the hole. The male knocked more impatiently but the lady retreated and would not be wooed.

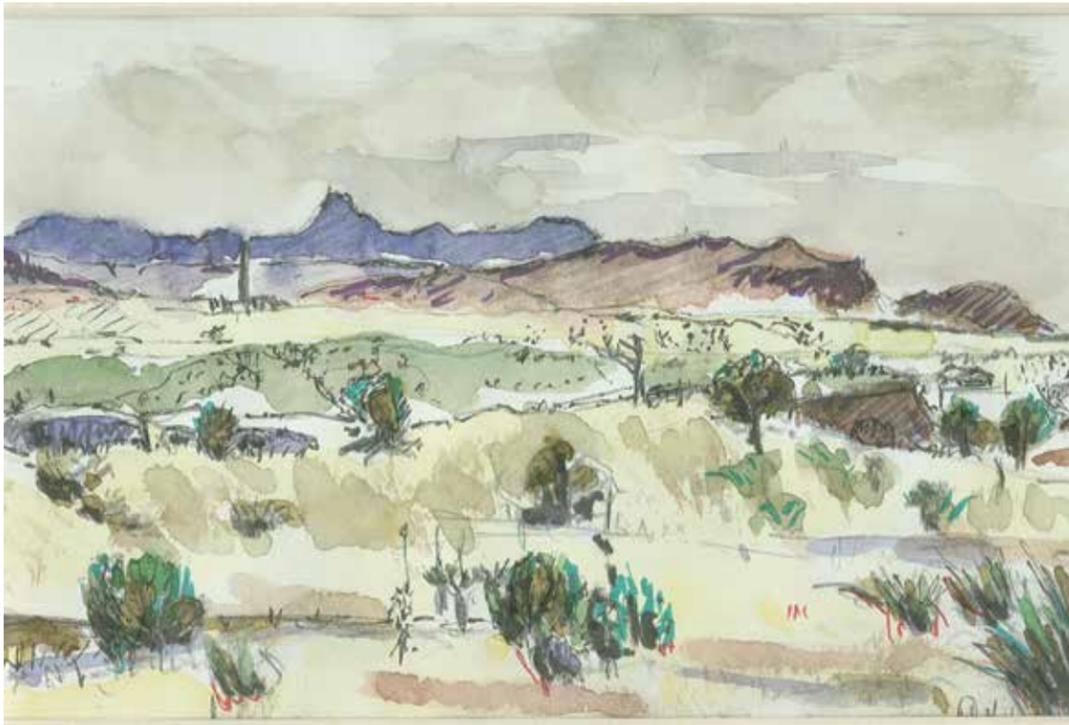
Tarantulas worry me. A few years ago my wife and I were returning from Tucson. We had turned north at Lordsburg onto Highway 90. The road appeared covered with leaves that flew up into the air with each passing car. To my horror, I realized each leaf was a male tarantula moving east to west across the road. I stopped and tried to throw the suicidal spiders west but they would turn and start back, evidently confused by the flight through the air. I got back into the car and tried to dodge them over the next 5 to 10 miles. This did not help at all. If I missed one, I hit another.

The Boston Hill area changes daily. It often becomes very cold and the moisture in the hill's paths expands and is squeezed out, forming small white curlicues. Snows grace the hills a few times a year and the dogs tear through it, scooping snow into their mouths. Their eyes are bright and festive. The yuccas wear white caps like Cossacks and the trees glisten in the sun. Sometimes, in the spring and summer, the grasses appear lavender, grayish green, bluish all in layers like an expensive cocktail.

The junipers change in the spring; the males blush a rusty red and send pollen out to their surrounding harems. Each reddish tree is circled by

*I felt a rain drop
and looked behind
me to see that
storm's mother
bearing down
on me.*





a number of green females. When it rains the hill is awash with the smell of juniper, piñon pine, grasses and aged dog waste, which smells subtly organic. If the monsoons come steadily, the grasses grow tall and green.

Everything changes in the fall. Plants that had looked just like other small shrubs and weeds become unique in their seediness. They change colors, odors and entire appearances. The tall grasses sport silvery seed-filled tufts, so that the slopes appear to be on fire.

One area of the hill, up from Cheyenne Street, actually caught fire last year. Yuccas could be seen bursting into flame and the area smelled like a

huge campfire when it was out.

I wandered the clear areas looking for rocks that might be different from the usual rocks I find, but they were pretty much the same. Everything was in shades of black with nubbins of green scattered throughout. Now, a year later, the browns and greens predominate and the smells are again clean and sharp.

The hill seems infinite to me. I love the hill. ❁

Hiram Lewis lives in Silver City at the base of Chihuahua Hill. He paints and writes.

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LAND OF ENCHANTMENT • JEFF BERG

Local Characters

You know many of these familiar New Mexicans—even though none is real.

So, what do Ethel Mertz of the early “I Love Lucy” television show and the Roswell “aliens” have in common?

Fiction. New Mexico style.

They are among a bevy of make-believe characters who have been created over the years and situated (or crash landed) in New Mexico, or said to have originated from here.



Ethel Mertz (left), pal to TV’s “Lucy,” was supposedly from New Mexico. Actress Vivian Vance actually did live in Albuquerque.

Lucy’s pal Ethel, whose entire name in the enduring show was Ethel Roberta Louise Mae Mertz, was said to have moved to New York City from New Mexico. She was played by actress Vivian Vance,

who actually did live in Albuquerque. A former flapper in the show, she was often the balancing act for star Lucille Ball’s many goofy ideas. Married to the slightly dumber Fred, played exquisitely by William Frawley, with whom she had done a vaudeville act, Ethel was also Lucy and Ricky’s landlady.

Vance herself was born in Kansas and moved to Albuquerque, of all places, to try to find work as an actress. Later on she became a founding member of the Albuquerque Little Theatre, which still puts on performances to this day.

Vance reappeared in “The Lucy Show” as Vivian Bagley. She has been named by *Entertainment Weekly* magazine as “one of the greatest sidekicks.”

A number of other notable characters have appeared in movies or television shows that are said to take place in New Mexico, but have been filmed anywhere but.

Hadleyville, New Mexico, is home to Sheriff Will Kane, played of course by Gary Cooper in the classic 1952 Western *High Noon*. Not much is available about the character development of the good sheriff, who is about to get married and leave town, if he can just get around the scourge of bad guys who are returning to New Mexico to put him six feet under.

A lesser-known but outstanding western film noir, *The Stalking Moon*, which stars Gregory Peck, features him as a retired army scout, Sam Varner, who is on his way to his farm in New Mexico. Then fate intervenes in the form of a woman and boy who are being pursued by her Apache husband. Nevada stars as New Mexico in this film.

With a somewhat similar story line, one of John Wayne’s better films, *Hondo*, has him starring as a drifter who ends up helping a “widow woman” and her sprat. It was shot in 3D, which by that time (1953) was waning. Wayne’s *Hondo* Lane character later was used in a short-lived television series in 1967, starring Ralph Taeger as the hero. The origi-

nal film was shot mostly in old Mexico and Utah, and was in the top-20 grossing films of the year.

A much more famous film, the first version of *Stagecoach* (1939), found Wayne, as the Ringo Kid, and his fellow travelers, good and bad, stranded on their way to Lordsburg. New Mexico gets short shrift again, however, as the film was shot on location in California, Colorado, and of course in Monument Valley.

How about *The Man with No Name*, *Angel Eyes* and *Tuco*? These unforgettable characters, played by Clint Eastwood, Lee Van Cleef and Eli Wallach respectively, traversed New Mexico in search of gold in the Civil War-based epic “spaghetti Western,” *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*. The epic battle scene at the bridge was loosely based on the actual Battle of Glorieta, which took place just north of Santa Fe in March 1862.

The current and very successful cable television show “*Breaking Bad*,” which will end after this season, is being shot in our fair state and is set in Albuquerque. It features a bevy of characters who have attracted quite a following, due to the show’s popularity. One assumes they will endure in the popular mind after the series ceases production.

Although none of the characters in the 2001 film *Rat Race* is remembered by anyone, this oddball comedy with a great ensemble cast was the story of a race from Las Vegas, Nev., to Silver City. Characters included Donald Sinclair (played by John Cleese), Vera Baker (Whoopi Goldberg) and Squirrel Lady (a cameo by Oscar winner Kathy Bates).

“WKRP in Cincinnati,” one of the best television shows ever, featured Andy Travis (Gary Sandy), a Santa Fe native who had also run a station in Albuquerque, as the program director transplanted to Ohio.

Any number of lesser-known films also had characters relating to New Mexico, but no fame and no connections to the state other than by imagination. Among them are Lloyd Bridges as Colonel Floyd Graham in the incredibly stupid *Rocketship X-M* (1950), which may or may not have launched from White Sands; all of the mutant characters in the cult film *The Hills Have Eyes* (1977); and Richard Egan as David Sheppard in the unbelievably brainless *Gog* (1954). Many of these films and others were connected to our state connections by atomic activity and mishaps.

Final insults are hurled at us by the characters of Chuck Raven (Richard Dreyfuss) and Dickie Pilager (Chris Cooper), who were supposedly in Silver City in the 2004 film of the same name, but were actually in Colorado, and by Cole Armin (Randolph Scott) in the dorky Sedona-shot Western, *Albuquerque* (1948).

Literature brings us a bevy of New Mexico characters, including of course Leaphorn and Chee, the reoccurring Dine (Navajo) police officers created by the late great Tony Hillerman. Although not always in New Mexico, they did appear in our fair state in several of the ongoing series of books.

Eugene Manlove Rhodes, who first came to New Mexico in 1881, later returned for a few years and placed some of his characters in the Land of Enchantment, a phrase he first used in 1914. The state motto was probably picked up from the work of another author, Lilian Whiting, whose book covered a larger region she called “land of enchantment,” but it seems that Rhodes is responsible for getting the term onto the lips of many.

Rhodes’ book *The Little Eohippus* has a young woman visitor from “back east” visiting Otero County and hiking in the Tularosa Basin. Rhodes describes what she sees thusly: “Afar, through a narrow cleft in the gray westward hills, the explorer’s eye leaped out over a bottomless gulf to a glimpse of shining leagues midway of the desert greatness—an ever-widening triangle that rose against the peaceful west to long foothill reaches, to a misty moun-



Clint Eastwood’s *Man With No Name* searched for New Mexico gold in *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*.

tain parapet, far-beckoning, whispering of secrets, things dreamed of, unseen, beyond the framed and slender arc of vision. A land of enchantment and mystery, decked with strong barbaric colors, blue and red and yellow, brown and green and gray; whose changing ebb and flow, by some potent sorcery of atmosphere, distance and angle, altered, daily, hourly; deepening, fading, combining into new and fantastic lines and shapes to melt again as swiftly to others yet more bewildering.”

Wow.

Willa Cather, another novelist, was also fascinated with the southwest and with New Mexico in particular. She visited the state in 1925 while doing research on her famed novel, *Death Comes to the Archbishop*, set in Santa Fe. Cather studied up on many real folks, including Jean-Baptiste Lamy, using different names to portray him and others in the book while slipping in real-life luminaries such as Kit Carson.

Oliver La Farge’s 1930 Pulitzer-winning book, *Laughing Boy*, had the character of the same name, a resident of the Navajo Nation, in New Mexico part time. So were other of La Farge’s characters and La Farge himself, who died in Santa Fe in 1963.

Many other notable novels are in the fictional New Mexico pantheon, of course, including Rich-



John Wayne was the Ringo Kid in *Stagecoach*, headed for Lordsburg.

ard Bradford’s *Red Sky at Morning*, John Nichols’ *The Milagro Beanfield War* and the works of Rudolfo Anaya, such as *Bless Me, Ultima*. All three novels have made it to the cinema, as well.

Slightly lighter fare, in comic-book form, brings plenty of superheroes and villains with New Mexico connections—most notably the Hulk, who got his gamma-radiation powers at the aptly named Desert Base here. Less well-known ties include Woodgod, Aqualad (a one-time resident of Silver City, obviously hopelessly lost) and Jamie Madrox, aka Multiple Man, who once received mail in Los Alamos. Then there is Alpha the Ultimate Mutant, who “finds the underground ruins of a long-lost technologically advanced civilization in New Mexico. Using the machinery and books he finds among the ruins, he began bio-engineering ‘the ultimate mutant.’” Advanced civilization? New Mexico? Must be a typo!

(*Desert Exposure*’s super-editor promises a full exploration of the state’s comic-book history in an upcoming issue.)

And now on to Roswell. Or close by, at least. What happened allegedly took place about 30 to 60 (depending on what report you believe) miles north of Roswell on a small ranch. It was there, on June 14, 1947, or so, reports vary, that ranch foreman Mac Brazel found some odd debris while working in the area where a UFO allegedly crashed.



Gary Cooper’s Sheriff Will Kane patrolled Hadleyville, NM, in *High Noon*.

Nothing is really reported about the three-week lag between the supposed crash and finding a large area of debris made up of "rubber strips, tinfoil, some rather tough paper and some sticks." Brazel placed the "large area of debris" he found in some brush and went about his business. A news release from the military in July, quickly retracted, reporting the recovery of a "flying disk" after an inspection of the site.

From this pile of tinfoil (perhaps it should be used to make tinfoil hats), sticks and rubber a whole subculture has been formed, including that of some of the more interesting fictional New Mexico characters: the alleged bodies of a handful of human-like aliens that were "discovered" and became part of the myth and legend of New Mexico.

It's pretty obvious when reading about what Brazel (and his son, who mysteriously is never talked about in stories that claim this is true) found is not the kind of material that would make up a flying saucer, yet alone one big enough for the number of saucer-occupant bodies that were supposedly found. And in fact, the story was pretty much forgotten until recent years when one of the investigating Air Force officers, a man named Jesse Marcel, in talking with that bastion of journalistic integrity, the *National Enquirer*, started things up again just prior to his death, when he said that the military's story of the debris being a weather balloon was a cover-up. Marcel was one of those who retrieved the material found by Brazel. That material is nowhere to be found nowadays.

As it turns out, Marcel was probably telling a half-truth, since the military finally fessed up in the 1990s about a Cold War gimmick called Project Mogul, which used balloon-type craft.

But the whole thing took hold, even creating a story of a midair collision between two flying saucers, with the second one crashing about 200 miles from Roswell. It was said to have a surviving "crew member," who was secreted away until he/she/it died of an unknown cause.

Not surprisingly, no fewer than 14 episodes of the conspiracy-crazed "X Files" TV series mention New Mexico.

Then there is the Roswell story by a guy named Nick Redfern that claims that the "unknown craft"



Roswell's aliens spawned a popular annual festival there. (NM Tourism photo)

was actually a "Horton Brothers Flying wing supported by a huge Japanese-designed balloon and containing disabled or genetically damaged Japanese who were used as human guinea pigs to provide data on the effects of radiation for use in the NEPA Program (Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft)."

Oh, really?

And even though the perpetrator himself admitted years ago that it was a hoax to get revenge on two conmen, the "Aztec Incident" also lives on. This second saucer crash allegedly took place near Aztec, in northwest New Mexico, and was also covered up. No information is available about surviving aliens.

Now, I'm the first to admit that there is certainly life in places other than this planet, and that it has to be intelligent life, since that often seems not to exist on Earth, but the myth and folklore of such things is often too hard to resist and also makes for a good coffee shop or barroom story. And in the case of Roswell, it has morphed into a small tourist industry, complete with a very fun annual summer celebration.

(There is an excellent article in *Psychology Today* about Roswell, which puts the whole thing in a rational perspective. You can read this first-rate piece at www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-paranormal/201205/roswell-revisited.)

New Mexico has been the home of any number of actual, non-fictional, noted "born heres," such

as Jeff Bezos of Amazon.com fame, Conrad Hilton, Dolores Huerta, Geronimo (maybe), Bill Mauldin, John Denver and Rudolfo Anaya, but sometimes it is the imagination that makes life in New Mexico just that much more interesting.

Oh, wait... something just crashed outside my office window... ☼

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Mavericks Among Us

The ocotillo, ephedra, sotol and allthorn—all highly individualistic plants—play important roles in the desert food chain.



Above: Ocotillo in full bloom. Left: Bare ocotillo stem, its leaves having been shed during a dry spell. (All photos by Jay W. Sharp)

on the Baja Peninsula as a 40- to 50-foot-tall, often thick, single-branched and sparsely leafed plant.

The ocotillo's native range spans the deserts of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico, according to the US Department of Agriculture's Fire Effects Information System website. It grows in streambed floodplains and on mountain flanks. It capitalizes on limestone-rich soils, which capture and hold heat, extending the elevation of the ocotillo's growth into the mountains. The ocotillo mixes freely with cacti, yuccas, agaves, shrubs, desert grasses and streamside vegetation.

As described by James A. MacMahon in his book *Deserts*, the ocotillo has two-inch-long green oval leaves that appear soon after a respectable rain falls and that wither and fall off as the soil dries—a cycle that may be repeated several times during the warm seasons. As the leaves fall off, they leave behind the plant's rigid, conical-shaped spines. "No other plant family makes spines in this way," according to Arthur C. Gibson in the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden's online newsletter. The ocotillo's long gray waxy stems, which sway gracefully in the desert winds, can perform photosynthesis after its leaves have fallen.

Like the cacti, the ocotillo has a shallow radiating root system that puts itself first in line for any rainwater. The ocotillo produces a brilliant red cluster of flowers at the end of its stems during the spring. It yields an abundance of small, flat, feathery seeds during the early summer, casting them to the desert winds. The minuscule percentage of the seeds that germinate during the desert's rainy season and survive over the next two years may yield plants that live for up to two centuries, according to a website developed by Annette Lamb and Larry Johnson.

The ocotillo has developed several strategies for survival in the desert environment. For instance, its leaves, during their short lives, act swiftly to produce



Ocotillo blooms.

plant sugars needed for growth, according to Lamb and Johnson. The plant sheds its leaves during drought, becoming dormant and minimizing transpiration (the evaporation of water through the leaf tissues). A "stem succulent," it stores water in the central tissues of its stems, which are covered by bark that is essentially waterproof. Its shallow roots intercept rainfall before it reaches competing plants with deeper root systems. Its showy blooms attract a host of pollinating insects. Its abundant seeds increase the chances for future generations.

The ocotillo's blooms serve as a major food source for hummingbirds during their spring migration northward, especially in the northern Sonoran Desert. The blooms also attract other birds such as the verdin, as well as insects such as carpenter bees. The flowers are "tasty to humans as well—straight or soaked in cold water," notes the Pima County College Desert Ecology of Tucson website.

Ephedra

The ephedra—also called Mormon tea, squaw tea, cowboy tea, whorehouse tea, canyon tea, jointfir, joint-pine, yellow horse, country mallow and numerous other names in our deserts—looks much like a three-dimensional game of pickup sticks. Typically standing waist to chest high, it has "numerous jointed green, apparently leafless, branches," according to MacMahon. Its joints are quite distinct. A "strange-looking plant," authority Clark Champie calls the ephedra in his small book *Strangers in the Franklins*. (The "Franklins" are a mountain range of the Chihuahuan Desert, in far west Texas.)

Various species grow, not only in our Southwest, but also in the arid regions of Mexico, South



America, the Mediterranean and Asia. In our deserts, ephedra grows in well-drained, sandy, rocky soils in flood plains and in mountain foothills. "It occurs in large pure stands and in mixed piñon-juniper woodlands, salt-desert, sagebrush and hot-desert transitional shrublands, and mountain

and desert grasslands," writes Stanley G. Kitchen, a USDA research botanist.

The ephedra's scale-like leaves, which grow at the joints of the stems, measure no more than a small fraction of an inch in length. Its older stems may be sheathed with a gray bark, and the newer and greener branches can perform photosynthesis. Its roots, notes Kitchen, "are deep [perhaps six or seven feet] and fibrous extending from an expanded root crown." Classified as a gymnosperm, which means that it is a non-flowering plant, like the pines, the ephedra produces minute cones and seeds.

Ocotillo with the Organ Mountains in the background.

If you come from, say, the Eastern Woodlands or the Great Plains or the Pacific Northwest to visit the deserts of southwestern New Mexico or southeastern Arizona, you will be taken immediately by prickly characters such as the cane cholla or the barrel cactus or the prickly pear. You will quickly notice the signature yuccas such as the torrey or the soap tree and agaves such as the lechuguilla or the century plant. You will soon notice the dominant (and aggressively expanding) shrubs such as creosote bush, tarbush, the various acacias and the mesquites. In the few areas spared from overgrazing by domestic livestock, you will see remnant stands of desert grasses. With good timing and good luck, especially during the spring and early summer, you may discover—and thrill to!—a landscape awash in the colors of desert wildflowers.

Given some time with the desert plant community, you will also begin to discover other, less showy, less dominant but highly individualistic plants that play important roles in the food chain. These mavericks among our desert plant community include, for a few examples, the ocotillo, ephedra, sotol and allthorn.

Ocotillo

The ocotillo, sometimes called the "devil's walking stick," has several long, whip-like, spiny stems that spray upward for perhaps 20 to 30 feet from a root crown. It bears a close familial relationship with Mexico's strange and geographically restricted boojum tree, which grows



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PLANTS continued

The ephedra's desert adaptations include its small leaves and special-shaped stomata, or pores, which restrict transpiration; its stems, which conduct photosynthesis; and its root system, which reaches for both new rainfall and the deeper groundwater. Given the right conditions, it produces an abundance of small seeds that help assure the future of the species.

The ephedra provides a welcome source of browse for wildlife, particularly during prolonged drought and hard winters. Its stems, for example, are eaten by deer and pronghorns and its seeds, by various birds and small mammals. According to author Jane SpottedBird, the ephedra's stems were used by prehistoric peoples of the Southwest in making teas, and its seeds were ground into meal or flour for making mush, breads and cakes. Its stems were used in Utah for making tea, hence the common name "Mormon tea."

The ephedra has become most well-known for its medicinal uses. It served indigenous peoples, who, says Kitchen, "used... various concoctions from seeds and stems to treat a variety of symptoms including coughs, headaches, cold, fever and kidney ailments." Historically, according to Spotted-Bird, ephedra found a place in Spanish colonialists' herbal treatments for fever, kidney problems and venereal disease. It even was used in medicinal teas brewed up by cowboys, who contracted venereal diseases in frontier bawdy houses—hence the common names "cowboy tea" and "whorehouse tea."

In modern times, ephedra has been used as a source for extracting high concentrations of ephedrine, a popular constituent in dietary supplements and weight-control products. Moreover, ephedra, says Cathy Wong, ND, on her website, "is a common ingredient found in herbal preparations for asthma, weight loss, athletic performance and cold and allergy medications."

Unfortunately, according to the Federal Drug Administration, "155 deaths, including that of Baltimore Orioles pitcher Steve Bechler, as well as



Ephedra, or Mormon tea, on the desert floor. (All photos by Jay W. Sharp)

dozens of heart attacks and strokes have been attributed to the use of ephedra." Wong adds, "Researchers examined the safety of popular dietary supplements containing ephedra and concluded that they pose serious health risks to come consumers." It has been banned as a dietary supplement in the National Football League since 2001.

Sotol

At first look, you might think that the sotol bears a close relationship to the narrow-leaf yuccas or the agaves. All have similar rosette leaf arrangements. But the sotol's ribbon-like leaves have barbed, or saw-toothed, edges and, usually, a frayed point, and the plant produces a 10- to 15-foot bloom stalk with a dense cluster of tiny greenish or whitish flowers. By contrast, the yuccas' leaves have smooth margins and a dagger-like point, and the yuccas produce bloom stalks with large bell-shaped blossoms. The sotol may produce a bloom stalk and flower cluster nearly every year during its lifetime, given favorable conditions. By comparison, the agaves typically produce a bloom stalk and flower cluster only once, signaling a climactic end to their lives.

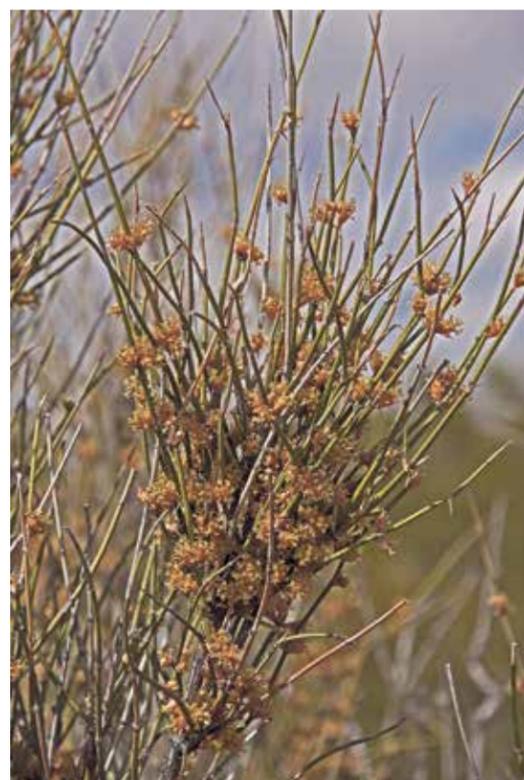


Ephedra branches.

Fairly recently, scientists have decided that sotol holds a closer relationship with sacahuista, a grassy-looking plant with serrated leaves that grow in thick fountain-like clumps. The sotol and the sacahuista have both given rise to the common name of bear-grass—presumably, someone said, because their blooms smell like a bear's breath. I don't recall who might have verified that claim.

The sotol, with a range extending across the desert landscape from western Texas to southeastern Arizona and well down into Mexico, likes shallow and rocky soil with good drainage. According to the USDA's Fire Effects Information System, sotol "grows on hillsides and slopes in chaparral, desert and semi-desert grasslands and southwestern oak... woodland communities at 3,000 to 5,000 feet... in elevation."

The mature sotol has hundreds of long, narrow, flattened, armed leaves that flair into a spoon-like shape at the bases. (The plant is sometimes called the "desert spoon.") Typically, the sotol leaf rosette emerges from a very short stem, but occasionally, says the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum in its website, mature plants may develop a five- or six-foot-long stem, occasionally branched. According to some very limited sources, its roots, apparently coarse and carrot-shaped, extend straight down for several inches, then branch radially. Its flower cluster, which emerges in late spring and early summer, extends for several feet along the top of the bloom stalk, and it yields an abundance of



Ephedra blooms.

seeds that are contained in three-winged capsules that scatter with the wind.

The sotol's adaptations to the desert's harshness include the leaves' rosette arrangement and spoon-shape bases, which serve to funnel rain water and snow melt to the plant's roots. Further, as a succulent, its leaves have tissues and a waxy coating to retain water. Like the cacti, yuccas and agaves, the sotol's leaves close their stomata during the day to minimize transpiration, opening them at night to collect the carbon dioxide necessary for photosynthesis. Its abundant seeds help assure the propagation of the species.

The sotol plays a diverse role in the food chain. According to the Texas Parks & Wildlife website, for instance, "Black bears [presumably with the right breath odor] in Texas especially relish the succulent base of the sotol plant.... In desert environments, it's common to find partially eaten sotol plants where bears have been." Additionally, according to the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum, the blooms "attract huge numbers of insects, including flies, bees, wasps and butterflies." In fact, if you stand near a blooming sotol in the middle of the summer, you can sometimes hear the hum of insects around its flowers.

Among indigenous peoples, according to the National Park Service's Big Bend National Park website, "The young flower stalks were eaten, as were the seeds. The heart of the plant was cooked along with agave hearts in a stone-lined pit for several days and then eaten." Additionally, the leaves, stripped of their thorns, were woven into baskets and mats, twisted into ropes, and made into sandals.

Most famously, perhaps, the sotol became a source for a fiery wine-like drink of the desert. Weston La Barre of Yale University, writing in *American Ethnologist* in 1938, noted, "The watery juice is easily pressed out [from the fleshy crown at the apex of the stem], and is not unpalatable, but cooking alone sweetens it. As with mescal, the name of the drink derives from that of the plant, though it is sometimes called mezcal de sotol."

According to an unnamed source, mezcal de sotol affects you "differently, but positively, like no other



Sotol with bloom stalks.

liquor." As far as I know, mezcal de sotol has not yet made the list of dietary supplements banned by the National Football League.

Allthorn or Crucifixion Thorn

"No cactus plant can claim to be spicier than this weird plant," observes Clark Champie in *Strangers in the Franklins*. "No one, having seen it, will wonder why it is called allthorn." Virtually leafless, green, intricately branched, stunningly thorned, the allthorn, or

PLANTS continued on next page



Sotol leaves with barbed margins.



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 <p style="font-size: x-small;">Dr. John Fancher recently joined Silver Health CARE in October. He is an internist, and sees patients in Silver City and Deming.</p>	 <p style="font-size: x-small;">Nellie Gallegos has been practicing in SW New Mexico since 2007. She sees patients in Silver City, Deming, and Bayard, and welcomes Spanish-speaking patients.</p>
 <p style="font-size: x-small;">Isaac Saucedo has practiced in SW New Mexico since 2006. He joined Silver Health CARE in 2010 and sees patients in Silver City and Deming.</p>	
 <p style="font-size: x-small;">Marvin White, a recent graduate, joined Silver Health CARE in 2011. He sees patients in Silver City and Deming.</p>	



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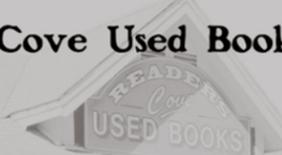


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PLANTS continued

crucifixion thorn, sometimes grows in thickets that would have well served Br'er Rabbit, who, as you will recall, pleaded with Br'er Fox, "I don't care what you do with me... just so you don't fling me into the briar patch."

As biologist Arthur H. Harris said in *Desert Diary*, a website produced by the Centennial Museum and National Public Radio at the University of Texas at El Paso, the allthorn "seems to consist of little but thorns, though a botanist will tell you that they're really branches whose ends constrict abruptly to sharp points. As if this armament wasn't enough, the shrub sends its branches in all directions, intersecting in a virtually impenetrable tangle of branches and spines."

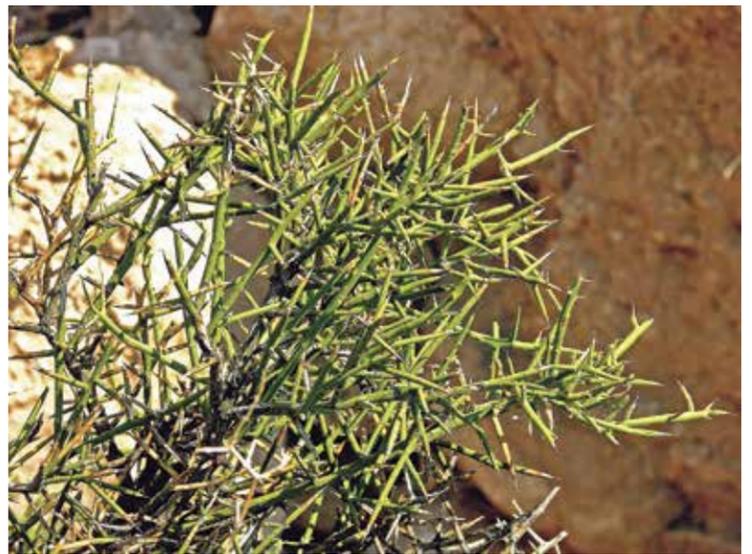
Native to the northern Chihuahuan and Sonoran Deserts, the allthorn grows on "sandy or gravelly mesas in the upper desert and the desert grassland at 2,400 to 5,000 feet elevation," according to Lyman Benson and Robert A. Darrow in the University of Arizona's "Manual of Southwestern Desert Trees and Shrubs." It also "occupies medium- to fine-textured soils of broad intermountain plains of the Chihuahuan Desert and related outlying areas in southeastern Arizona." Another species, of the northwestern Sonoran Desert, grows on "rocky foothills and upper bajada [adjoining alluvial fans] slopes in the desert at 1,500 to 2,000 feet elevation." The allthorn may grow in dense thickets or in creosote bush-dominated desert shrublands.

Typically, the allthorn grows as a shrub 5 to 10 feet tall, but occasionally it reaches more than 20 feet in height. According to the National Register of Big Trees, one allthorn plant, at Arizona's Boyce Thompson Arboretum, has grown to 23 feet in height, with a spread of 21 feet.

The allthorn's leaves, which appear briefly after a spring rain, according to the Virginia Tech Forestry Department, measure about a quarter of an inch in length. They disappear promptly with the resumption of dry weather. The plant produces small and generally inconspicuous whitish flower clusters and one-quarter-inch-diameter shiny black berries. The allthorn's phalanx of rigid green to greenish-gray branches bristles with one- to two-inch-long twigs that end in dark sharp points—a formidable botanical armament.

The allthorn's roots, according to an article in the *Journal of Arid Environments*, penetrate

Below: Closeup of allthorn plant's pointed stems.



Allthorn. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)

The allthorn's phalanx of rigid green to greenish-gray branches bristles with one- to two-inch-long twigs that end in dark sharp points.

to extraordinary depths. Secondary roots have been known to penetrate deeply then turn around and, remarkably, "grew vertically upward [and] branched profusely" near the surface. The authors believe that "occasional deeply penetrating soil water moves down channels once occupied by roots and other openings in the soil, and that this is a source of water for growth of the deeply penetrating roots, as well as for the roots that grow upward."

The allthorn's desert survival strategies center on its small leaves and its incredible root system. With small and quickly shed leaves, the plant minimizes transpiration. (Its branches and spines, equipped with stomata, perform the function of photosynthesis.) Its roots reach into the soil both at shallow and deep levels to reach water.

Its spines discourage browsing by the larger animals, but the allthorn's seeds, according to several sources, are eaten by quail and other birds. Its more tender branches are browsed by jackrabbits. The seeds were also

apparently eaten by some indigenous peoples.

If the allthorn would seem to form a barrier in the food chain, "those animals able to wend their way into these fortresses delight in all of this," says biologist Harris. "What coyote or fox would dare trying to poke its nose into this world of hurt merely to snack on bird eggs or young? On the other hand, what's impenetrable to one, may be a virtual heaven for others—it does seem like the perfect feeding ground for an enterprising snake." ❧

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 plants and animals of the Southwest, see www.desertexposure.com/wildlife.



BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

Things to Cherish

Beginning a new year with the grace of mourning doves.

I put off my usual "summer vacation" article all last year because there were too many other urgent things to write about. But this piece is kept free of the anxieties and criticism and cares of life among humans and looks toward the relatively pristine world of nature.

January is a good time to sweep the year clean and to look, like Janus, in both directions at the same time.

The birds of the Chihuahuan desert that populate my neighborhood are what interest me often. I'm not a real bird-watcher, but I notice them and consult my *Peterson Field Guide* with questions once in a while.

I watch quail with their water-drop sounds, hummingbirds shimmering, sparrows and more sparrows shawling the air and the scrubland, the roadrunner running and spouting its electronic gobbledygook, the black-and-white lark bunting who comes in winter, western bluebird families that flit from branch to branch of the mesquite, the occasional falcon with a black teardrop in the corner of its eye.

I'm writing this mainly from memory because now that I have two cats, some birds make themselves scarce around my house. The mourning doves and house finches, at least, stay away.

Last year I discovered to my surprise two baby mourning doves in a nest in the cholla plants in front of my house. They were the first doves I'd seen in a few years there, since I got my cat Leppy. I was completely delighted and eager to witness the development of the babies.

One afternoon I saw a large raven swirling around in the air above my cactus garden. I was admiring its luxuriant blue-black feathers, when I realized that my hopes to see the mourning doves grow were being dashed before my eyes.

I turned away from looking at it, but that was the last I saw of the babies. (Okay, this article is not totally free from negativity.)

One reason birds draw my attention here is that the landscape is more naked and open to sight in the desert than in the woodlands where I grew up.

I never saw a mourning dove nest before I moved here, although I knew the birds well. But in the cholla their careless housekeeping is open for everyone to see. They just toss a few twigs and pieces of straw in the crook of a branch and expect their offspring to survive somehow. Too often their sweet-looking white eggs are found lying broken on the ground with the yellow yolk seeping out.

I don't remember seeing where crows or ravens lived when I was young, although they were common. There were so many trees that I didn't know where they came from. But here, about two years ago, there were two ravens near where I live that were inhabiting the 50-foot-tall pine trees serving as a windbreak at a neighbor's house across a field from me.

Although not extraordinarily tall, the pines look lofty in this flat-as-a-pan landscape. I had often heard the ravens making a sound as if they're gargling carbolic acid, or falling out of the trees.

I had also never seen birds nesting in windows as I have here, although that has nothing to do with the landscape.

Not long after I moved here a house finch laid some eggs in a nest in my narrow crank-open-type bathroom window. A house finch looks like a sparrow that's blushing up to the top of its head.

They're common in Mexico, and are sometimes called *gorriones mexicanas*—Mexican sparrows. Their name in Nahuatl is *nochtotol*, "prickly pear bird."

When the eggs hatched, the babies were a gawky mess. They sprawled without

strength enough to hold up their heads

When they were a little bigger I saw the father putting insects or caterpillars in the mother's mouth and the mother in turn processing the bugs and pushing them into the spread-open mouths of the babies.

One summer afternoon, I swear, when there were triple-digit temperatures, I saw the mother house finch standing with her feet straddling the nest, her wings held out straight like a paper parasol over her babies to shield them from the heat.

It's hard to understand how little creatures with a few feathers and a few bones light as sticks could express such tenderness.

In a 60-miles-an-hour gale one evening, I saw the house finch absolutely immutable and calm as she rode out the storm while covering her babies in their window nest. It was as if she didn't notice the wind. I'd creep into the room without turning on the light, so I wouldn't scare it.

This house finch acted as if she were the eye of the storm for two or three hours.

As I understand it, there are mourning doves, white-winged doves (which look like their name), and the smaller inca doves in this area. Inca doves have only been known to live in human settlements. Mourning doves are the most common, and they're my favorites. Palomas, Mexico, is named after these birds (*paloma* being Spanish for "dove").

When they are very young, and you get a chance to see them peering over the edge of their nest, mourning doves look just like Groucho Marx with their thick, frizzy eyebrows and grumpy expressions.

When they get a couple weeks older, they've already developed the wise, sorrowing, compassionate eyes that give them a grace nothing else has. I've had one inside my house perched on a curtain rod. She looked down at me so kindly and condescendingly, even though she was helplessly trapped.

They get almost as large as the mother before they learn to fly. Somehow she squashes them under her body until they're ready. That's the way my mother treated me, I said to two female co-workers in the public schools once, and they said their mothers were the same. It's a nice way to relate to friends.

I think there's no more beautiful image of maternal devotion than the mourning dove. With her big gray bosom she settles onto her babies the whole day long without budging in the searing summer heat that bears down like metal. She doesn't leave the nest for about 12 hours on the longest days of the year. She is unselfconsciously patient beyond even thinking.

I know she is covering the whole world, although I'm not sure if she knows it. It's something we all could use.

The mourning dove and other desert birds keep the featureless landscape alive all year 'round. They give breath to our human hearts by performing their impossible, miraculous acts of flight day after day. They give us a standard to set our devotion by, and shield things that need to be cherished. ❀

Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.



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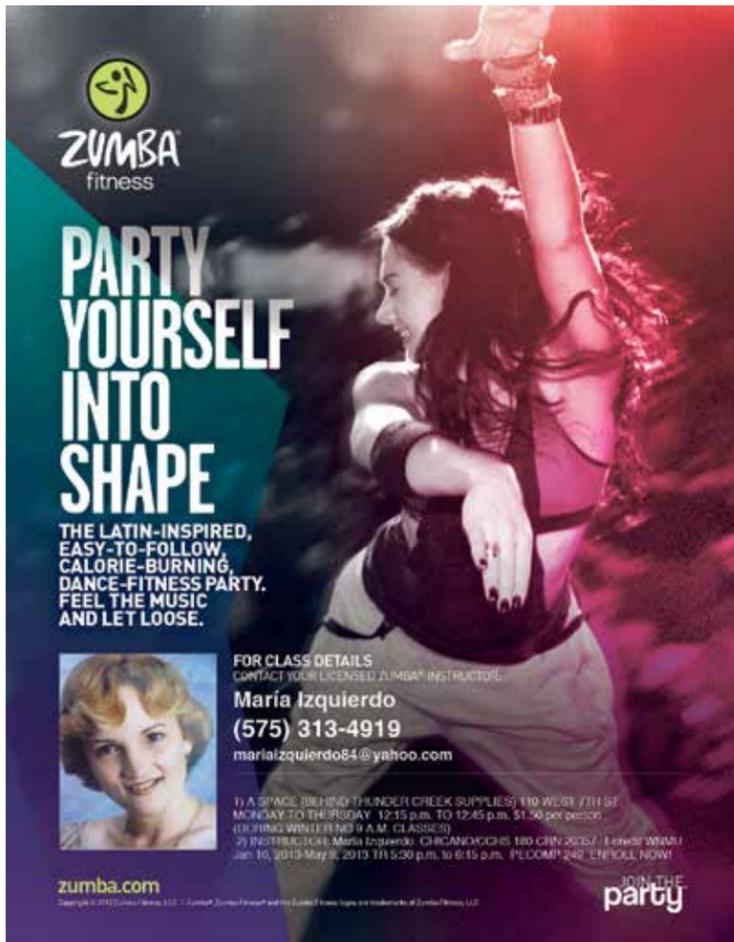
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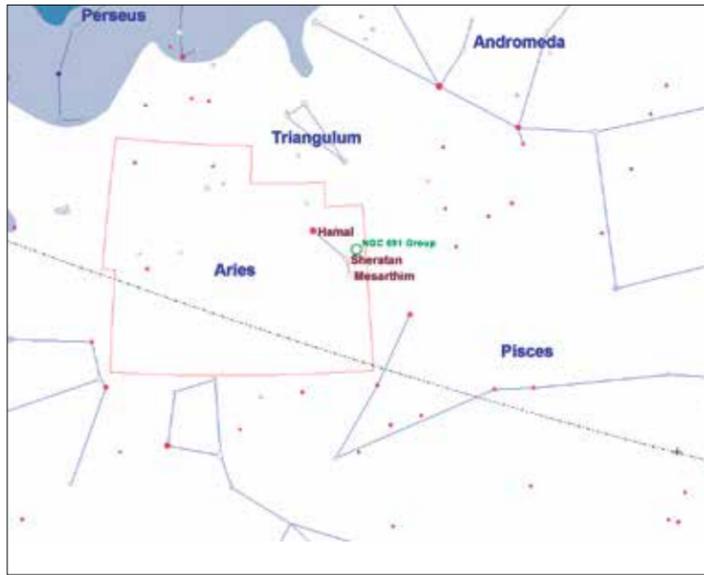
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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Aries, the Ram
 Plus the planets for January.



Aries, the Ram, is high in our southern sky on January evenings. Most of the stars in this constellation are rather faint, so this is a difficult constellation to locate in the sky. Two millennia ago, this constellation contained the First Point of Aries, where zero degrees declination and zero hours of right ascension is defined by the intersection of the ecliptic and the celestial equator. Precession has moved the First Point eastward into Pisces, but it still retains that name.

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

This month we are looking at the constellation Aries, the Ram, which is high up in our southern sky in January. Unlike some bold constellations such as Orion, this constellation is a little hard to find, with mostly faint stars that do not seem to form much of a constellation figure. The brightest star in this constellation, Hamal (Alpha Arietis), is barely second magnitude.

The Greek myth behind this constellations starts with the sea god Poseidon pursuing the beautiful maiden Theophane. After she rejects him, Poseidon changes her into an ewe and himself into a ram. The product of their union is a magical ram with a golden fleece.

Meanwhile, in Boeotia, King Athamus married Nephele, the goddess of the clouds, and they had a pair of twins, a son, Phrixus, and a daughter, Helle. King Athamus later divorced Nephele for Ino. Ino hated the twins and decided to do away with them, but Nephele got wind of Ino's plot, and sent the magical golden ram to rescue them. Phrixus and Helle climbed on the ram's back and flew east into Turkey. Helle could not hang on and fell into the sea. When the ram landed safely, he told Phrixus to sacrifice him to the gods and remove his golden fleece. Eventually, Jason and the Argonauts came to procure the fleece and take it to Thessaly.

For saving Phrixus, the golden ram was put in the sky as the constellation Aries. Without his golden fleece to provide illumination, this constellation has only faint stars to mark the ram's position in the heavens.

Not only are the stars faint in Aries, but so are the galaxies. Not far from the star Sheratan (Beta Arietis) in northeastern Aries is the NGC 691 galaxy group. This group contains seven galaxies (NGC 691, NGC 694, NGC 680, NGC 678, NGC 697, IC 167, and IC 1730). These galaxies are 117 to 130 million light-years away from us. They all reside in a 45-minute-of-arc circle in the sky.

These galaxies are kept together in space by their mutual gravity. But if you measure the masses of these galaxies, you will discover that there is not enough mass in the visible galaxies to generate enough gravity to keep them together. There must be some other mass in the cluster holding them together. X-rays show a very hot gas between them. But the total mass of the hot gas and the galaxies still produces only one-sixth of the gravity needed to hold the cluster together. The typical explanation for the missing mass is dark matter. This strange material has mass but does not interact with normal matter, so we cannot see it or measure it.

A more novel theory was proposed by Joel Brownstein and John Moffat, researchers at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics and the University of Waterloo in Ontario. A theoretical particle called a graviton, which carries the force of

gravity from one mass to another, appears in large numbers in regions crowded with massive objects like stars. This appearance out of the vacuum of space is called a "quantum fluctuation," where particles just come into existence (or go out of existence) without any specific cause. The increased number of gravitons makes gravity much stronger in these galaxy groups, making dark matter unnecessary. Which of the two theories represents reality will need to be decided by astronomers in the future based a better understanding of our universe.

The Planets for January

Mars is still in our evening sky, just 12 degrees above our west-southwestern horizon as it gets dark. With a diameter of only 4.2 seconds-of-arc across, Mars is a difficult target for your telescope. Shining at magnitude 1.2, the God of War starts the month in western Capricornus, moving eastward into Aquarius as the month ends. Mars sets around 7 p.m.

Watch the Skies

(all times MST)

- Jan. 1**, 10 p.m.—Earth closest to the Sun for 2013
- Jan. 4**, 8:58 p.m.—Last Quarter Moon
- Jan. 10**, 5 a.m.—Venus 3 degrees south of the Moon
- Jan. 11**, 12:44 p.m.—New Moon
- Jan. 18**, 4:45 p.m.—First Quarter Moon
- Jan. 21**, 7:30 p.m.—Jupiter 20 minutes-of-arc north of Moon's disc
- Jan. 26**, 9:38 p.m.—Full Moon

Jupiter is moving westward in Taurus, just north of the Hyades star cluster. Jupiter will be 50 degrees up in the east as it gets dark, and sets at 3:45 a.m. The King of the Gods glows at magnitude -2.7 and its disc is 45.0 seconds-of-arc across. Jupiter is still a good view in a telescope, especially when high in the sky around 9 p.m.

Saturn rises around 1:15 a.m. in Libra, where it is moving slowly eastward. The Ringed Planet's disc is 16.7 seconds-of-arc across, while the Rings are tilted down 19.2 degrees with the northern face showing. They are 37.9 seconds-of-arc across. Saturn shines at magnitude +0.6.

Venus is ending its run in the morning sky, rising around 6 a.m. in the east-southeast, barely six degrees above the horizon as it gets light. Venus starts the month in south-central Ophiuchus, moving rapidly eastward into Sagittarius, traveling almost all the way across that constellation by month's end. The Goddess of Love is a beacon glowing at magnitude -3.9. Venus' disc is almost full, 95% illuminated, and 10.4 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth.

Mercury is too close to the Sun to be visible this month, but will be back in the evening sky in February.

On Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m., the northern edge of the Moon's disc will pass just 20 minutes-of-arc south of Jupiter. The pair will be high in the southeastern sky and should be visible with or without a telescope. Enjoy this pairing and "keep watching the sky!"

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



BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • MARTHA EVERETT

New Year, New Breath

Breathing techniques from the ancient Chinese system of Qigong can boost your oxygen and sense of peace.

Qigong is an ancient Chinese system that uses movement, breath and mindfulness to gather intrinsic life force energy, or Qi, for healing, meditation and exercise. Qigong is said to be over 4,000 years old. Over those thousands of years, many varieties of Qigong were formed, using Chinese medicine for curing and preventing disease, using philosophy for reaching enlightenment, developing longevity and meditative practices.

Contemporary Qigong blends these principles together, using physical training in either static postures or dynamic movement. It engages mental training, using visualization and focusing on the movement of Qi and practicing slow, rhythmic breathing or other Qigong breath exercises. Qigong is also supported by the ingestion of medicinal herbs, foods with high Qi content or those that interact with the elemental forces.

Qi travels within the blood, true to the adage, "Where the blood flows, the Qi goes." Qi does not flow as well through areas of tension, tightness, injury and restriction, as the blood is not able to penetrate these areas as deeply. This creates an area of stagnation, which Chinese medicine believes is the root of disease.

Qigong can be a great way for people of all ages to increase blood flow and circulation, because the practitioner is using breath, movement and visualization to increase the flow of Qi. Breath work can be especially beneficial to bring more Qi and oxygen to the blood, as well as aiding in the shifting of the emotional composition in the areas of tension or tightness.

The Breath Empowerment breathing exercise is the first part of the Supreme Science Qigong Foundation system. This technique is also known as Pranayama in the Indian Vedic system. It uses a Warrior's Breath, initiated by the contraction of the diaphragm, which draws in a full breath to the chest. The breath is performed in and out through the nose, with a strong focus on the inhale, filling the lungs deeply.

For a moment, hold in your mind the image of a warrior or an athlete in their preparation for battle or sparring. Where is their breath? It is not the deep, relaxed breath to the belly, but rather a full chest breath. It has a strong inhale, with sound through the nasal passages. It is not a hyperventilation breath, but controlled and deliberate.

This type of breath brings a lot more oxygen into the lungs than normal respiration. This oxygen is for both the respiration process of breathing and for fueling all metabolic processes of the body. The oxygen is shared through the process of diffusion from the lungs to the blood. Transfer to the blood allows the hemoglobin protein in the blood to distribute the oxygen throughout the body.

The repetition of this Warrior's Breath to create a 30-40 minute Breath Empowerment will greatly amplify the amount of oxygen coming into the body, thereby oxygenating every cell.

With this breath, as it increases more blood flow in the body, Qi is simultaneously increased. The Qi can be felt in the body as heat, pulsing, or a sense of inflation to the limbs. The Qi and breath can help move through emotional blocks, as the emotions and the breath are so closely related.

The Breath Empowerment ends with returning to slow, deep breathing, to relax and feel the increased Qi, blood flow and a new sense



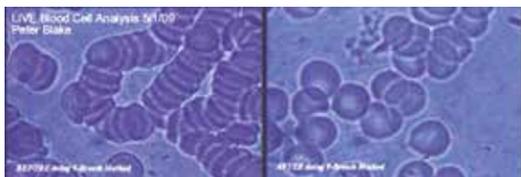
Martha K. Everett, certified Qigong facilitator.

of peace. Most people who have done this breath have reported feeling more energy (Qi) in their body than they have ever had and a great deal of peace and love, as they have let go of old traumas and emotional pain.

The oxygenation of the cells that occurs in the Breath Empowerment is very important for the health and wellbeing of the physical body. There have been many studies about the relationship to oxygen and diseases, especially cancer. Dr. Otto Warburg, who won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1931 for his work on respiration, also theorized that there is a close link between oxygen and cancer. He sought to show that the primary cause of cancer is directly related to a deprivation of oxygen in the cells. Dr. Warburg found that cancer cells are anaerobic, that the cells go through their

metabolic processes with no oxygen. This meant cancer cells actually thrive in an oxygen-deprived environment. Performing breath exercises like the Breath Empowerment will flood the body with oxygen, creating an environment in your body that cancer cells cannot live in.

There are many forms of breath work to bring more oxygen to the body. Another method used in the Supreme Science Qigong system is the 9 Breath Method, which brings a rush of Qi and oxygen to the body in just 45 seconds, as opposed to the 30-40 minute process of Breath Empowerment. This technique helps increase the circulation of the blood, as you can see from the live blood analysis photo taken in 2009 at a Supreme Science Qigong Foundation event. This was after one cycle of the



Blood analysis shows the changes after just one cycle of the 9 Breath Method.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

9 Breath Method. You can see the roundness of the blood cells after the 9 Breath Method, allowing them to hold more oxygen and function properly. Completing a series of 9 Breath Method breaths can bring the same amount of Qi, oxygen and peace as felt in the Breath Empowerment.

One of the most unique and powerful pieces of the 9 Breath Method is creating the 9 Breath Prayer Circle, where the participants are breathing together for the same concept, idea or location. For example, we begin the circle focusing and sending Qi around the circle to the participants to build the connection, expanding out as we breathe for the town, the country, to every man, women and child on the planet. In this prayer circle, where two or more are gathered together in minds and hearts, the units of Qi are amplified up to 10-fold. Healing can happen in this group field, as the energy vibration is raised high enough to push through the blocks in the nervous and circulatory system of each person in the circle.

Supreme Science Qigong Foundation has certified hundreds of facilitators in sharing this system



World Tai Chi Qigong Day event in Silver City in 2012.

in a three-hour workshop. The foundation's website is www.qirevolution.com.

Martha K. Everett, certified Qigong facilitator, will be holding a three-hour breath workshop Saturday, Jan. 19, from 1-4 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 3845 N. Swan in Silver City. The price is \$35, \$25 if you've attended a previous Breath Empowerment with Martha, and advanced registration is required. For information, call (575) 388-2098 or (575) 574-7268 or email martha@abundancetherapeutics.com.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • EARTHTALK

Pesticides and Your Children

A new report says pesticides are taking a heavy toll on our children.

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that children are sicker today than they were a generation ago and that pesticides have played a major role?

It's impossible to say with certainty that our modern reliance on pesticides is directly causing more of our children to get sick more often, but lots of new research points in that direction. An October 2012 report by Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA) entitled "A Generation in Jeopardy" examines dozens of recent studies and concludes that the influx of pesticides in our society is taking a heavy toll on our kids' health and intelligence.

"Children today are sicker than they were a generation ago," reports the group. "From childhood cancers to autism, birth defects and asthma, a wide range of childhood diseases and disorders are on the rise." PANNA's assessment of the latest science "leaves little room for doubt: pesticides are one key driver of this sobering trend."

Pesticides are all around us today. We are exposed to them via the foods we eat and the air we breathe. As a result, we all carry trace amounts of them in our bloodstreams. Children's bodies, since they are still developing, are particularly suscep-

tible to health problems from pesticide exposure. Kids routinely come in contact with pesticides inside their homes and schools and out in their backyards, schoolyards and parks. Even family pets, many of which wear pesticide-laden flea collars and powders, can be a source of pesticide exposure for children. According to PANNA, even extremely low levels of pesticide exposure can cause significant health problems, particularly during pregnancy and early childhood. New research links pesticide exposure to harm to the structure and functioning of the brain and nervous system.

"Pesticides may harm a developing child by blocking the absorption of important food nutrients necessary for normal healthy growth," reports the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). "Another way pesticides may cause harm is if a child's excretory system is not fully developed, the body may not fully remove pesticides." Exposure to pesticides during certain critical developmental periods can permanently alter a growing child's biological systems. The result, warns PANNA, is an increase in birth defects and early puberty and noticeable increases in asthma, obesity, diabetes and some cancers.

What's appalling is that we have known about these dangers for decades yet have done little about

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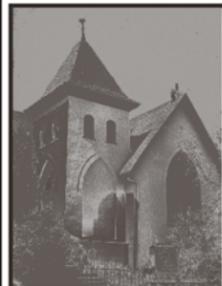
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it. "Nearly 20 years ago, scientists at the National Research Council called for swift action to protect young and growing bodies from pesticides," says PANNA. "Yet today, US children continue to be exposed to pesticides that are known to be harmful in places they live, learn and play."



An October 2012 report by Pesticide Action Network North America examined dozens of recent studies and concluded that the influx of pesticides in our society — omnipresent in the air we breath and the foods we eat—is taking a heavy toll on our children's health and intelligence. (Photo: iStockPhoto)

For its part, the EPA does evaluate children's exposure to pesticide residues in common foods and evaluates new and existing pesticides to assess risks, creating guidelines and regulations accordingly. But many would like to see the EPA take a stronger stand against the widespread use of pesticides across the US.

There are several ways individuals can minimize pesticide exposures for themselves and their loved ones. Buy organic food whenever possible. Avoid chemical sprays and bug traps inside and out of the home. And steer clear of farms and other agricultural lands that regularly get sprayed with pesticides.

CONTACTS: PANNA, www.panna.org; EPA, www.epa.gov.

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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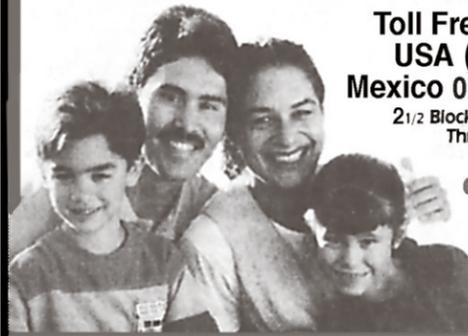
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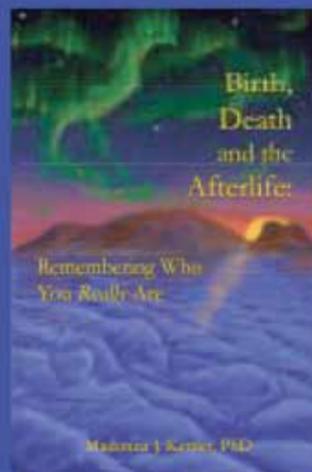
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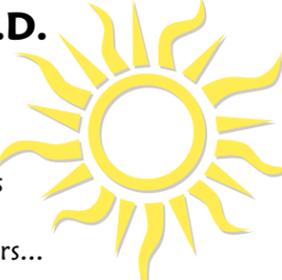


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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • DONNA CLAYTON WALTER

Hidden Treasure

Madonna Kettler's new book furthers her work of helping others discover their soul's work and empowering them to lead richer lives... and have more fun!

Think of it as kind of treasure map—leading the way to a more fun and fulfilling life, guiding you to answers you feel you've searched for, well, maybe forever. And at the end of the journey, the treasure you find is your very own soul.

Weaving together a tapestry of case studies, her own experiences and the transformational tools she has created and developed over her many years of practice, Madonna J. Kettler, a Silver City-based author, hypnotherapist and founder of The Center for Inner Peace, has just published her second book, *Birth, Death and the Afterlife: Remembering Who You Really Are*.

"I hope it will help people see life a little differently," she says of the book. "The messages we literally get bombarded with, from TV, billboards and the like, all tell us to 'make, do, accomplish!' All that may be true, but it's not why we're here. It's about being," she stresses.

To show that this lesson she brings home in her book is not just for her students and reading audience, but for herself as well, she adds, "This was true even for the book! It was the capstone project for my PhD and certainly a big 'Do!'" she adds with a good-natured laugh. "But I actually gave myself permission to not complete it!"

But complete it she did, and now the book is in print through Balboa Press, a division of Hay House.

Sitting in the serene surround of her Center for Inner Peace, Kettler reflects on the book and how it may extend her work to a much larger audience.

"It takes the reader down the path, step by step, and gives him or her the tools they need for their own transformation," she says.

"My whole life has been about empowering people from a spiritual perspective. My own journey has been the same—finding answers, remembering..." She pauses, and then laughs again. "And having fun!" she adds. "There may be some work involved, but this process doesn't have to be heavy weather! There is a great lightness to it all when one gets the information they need."



Hypnotherapist and author Madonna J. Kettler. (Photos by Donna Clayton Walter.)

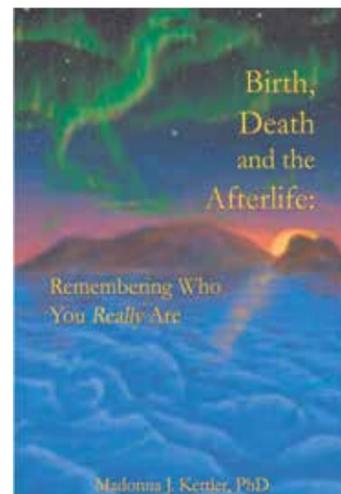
In her private practice, Kettler uses regressive hypnotherapy as a tool to help her clients release blocks to their happiness, such as addictions and fears. The book includes numerous transcripts from those hypnotherapy sessions, some with the clients' names changed for anonymity, all of them included because they illustrate a key point in self-discovery and transformation, Kettler says.

"All of the stories are powerful and true and valid," she says. "I remember the power of one man telling me afterward, 'I'll just never be the same.' His session showed him so much. It inspired him to worry less and see how joyful life can be."

As the sessions' transcripts bring out and address different aspects of transformation, Kettler then introduces the "Spirit Directives," encapsulated lessons taken from her "Be In Love Oracle Deck," an illustrated deck of cards she created.

Also described in the book is another tool of Kettler's: the "I AM WOWED" program, a workshop format she created and facilitates to groups around the country. An acronym for "I Am Worthy of Whatever Empowerment Desired," the program is tailored to the participants in each group, and lasts anywhere from four to 24 weeks, depending on the participants' goals and process, she says. Kettler was recognized by the National Association of Transpersonal Hypnotherapists (NATH) for the "Outstanding Transpersonal Contribution" of the I AM WOWED program.

Included at the end of *Birth, Death and the Afterlife* are articles by contributing authors, describing their work and experience with complimentary healing modalities. (Donna Clayton



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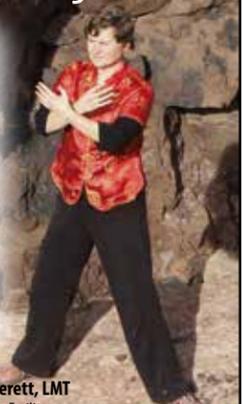
Wednesday
Qi 8-9am

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Qi 6:30-7:30

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Kettler at her Center for Inner Peace in Silver City.

Walter is one of the contributing authors.) These modalities and methods are other valuable tools for transformative work, Kettler says, and can enhance the process facilitated by her book.

Going forward, Kettler says she hopes the book will be a great springboard and tool for her continuing transformative work. She has lined up speaking engagements and plans a number of workshops.

To whatever degree her audiences are “open,” Kettler says she plans to give attendees a taste of the transformative experience. Audience members need not fear they will be hypnotized and lose control of themselves—the stereotypical “clucking like a chicken” scenario comes to mind—but rather they will get a taste of the relaxation and expanded consciousness that hypnotherapy can bring. Not only in her tailor-made workshops, but also in speaking engagements, Kettler’s readings will be geared to whoever is present.

“They will have an experience of whatever they are open to and ready for,” Kettler says with a smile. “My wish is that each one will get what they need and have some fun!”

She also may start writing a blog, she says. “I’m not going to ‘work’ with it so much as play with it,”

she adds with a smile. She hopes to write at least one more book, a compilation of clients’ brave stories—“things they were previously too scared to tell for fear of being ostracized, criticized, or even thought of as crazy,” Kettler says. And she currently is in talks with a local radio station to host a show on which people can share their stories.

“As people share their stories, they release them,” she says. “The fear goes away and then there’s room for the love... and for more fun!”

Madonna Kettler will read from and sign copies of her book at the Silver City Woman’s Club, 1715 Silver Heights Blvd. (Hwy 180), on Friday, Jan. 18, 4-7 p.m. There will be refreshments and live music at the event. Birth, Death and the Afterlife: Remembering Who You Really Are is available online at BalboaPress.com and Amazon.com, and can be ordered through local bookstores and Barnes and Noble, as well as through Kettler’s website, www.madonnakettler.com. It is also available in Kindle, Nook and other ebook formats. In Silver City, it is for sale at Bear Creek Herbs and other local outlets.

For more information about Madonna Kettler’s classes and speaking engagements visit her website, www.madonnakettler.com, email her at madonna@madonnakettler.com, or call (575) 534-1291 or (612) 709-5578 (cell). She also teaches certification courses in Transpersonal Hypnotherapy and will be teaching classes in hypnosis at the Billy Casper Wellness Center in Silver City in February.

Donna Clayton Walter is a Silver City-based freelance writer. She also copy-edited Madonna Kettler’s book.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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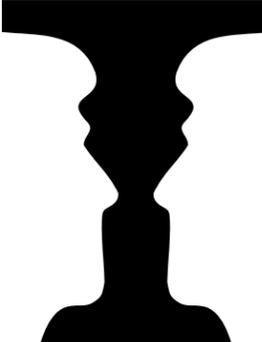
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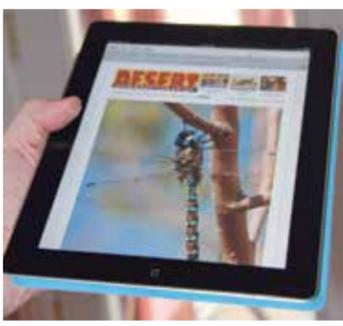
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Grant County Weekly Events

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SUNDAYS
ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—First Sun. of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.
BEAD SOCIETY—1 p.m. Alotta Gelato 388-1362.
BINGO—1st and 2d Sun. Doors open 12:30 p.m., games start 1:35 p.m. Benefits Salvation Army and Post 18 charities. American Legion Post 18, 409 W. College Ave. 534-0780
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 Sally, 537-3643.
AL-ANON—12:05 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, Silver City. Contact Valerie, 313-2561.
ART CLASS—9-10:45 a.m. Silver City Senior Citizen Center. Beginners to advanced. Contact Jean 519-2977.
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.
TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE—1 p.m., Senior Center. Call Lydia Moncada to register, 534-0059.

TUESDAYS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS—Men's group, 7 a.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall. 3845 N. Swan. Jerry, 534-4866.
ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT—1-3 p.m. Senior Center. Margaret, 388-4539.
BAYARD HISTORIC MINE TOUR—2nd Tuesday. Meet at Bayard City Hall, 800 Central Ave., by 9:30 a.m. \$5 fee covers two-hour bus tour of historic mines plus literature and map; call 537-3327 for reservation.
COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS—4th Tuesday. 6:30 p.m. Support for those who've lost a child. Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 7th and Texas St. Charlene Mitchell, 534-1134.
FIGURE/MODEL DRAWING—4-6 p.m. Contact Sam, 388-5583.
GILA WRITERS—6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. Trish Heck, pheck@grmc.org, 538-4072.
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.

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.
CURBSIDE CONSULTING—Free for nonprofits. 9 a.m.-noon. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard, Lisa Jimenez, 534-0665, ext. 232, lisa@wellnesscoalition.org.
FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS WOMEN'S GROUP—6:30 p.m. 1000 N Hudson St., 519-1070.
GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY—2nd Weds. Potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sen. Howie Morales' building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180.
GROUP MEDITATION—5:30 p.m., A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St. 388-2425.
LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION—8 a.m. tee time. Silver City Golf Course.
PFLAG—(Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) 1st Weds. 5:30 p.m. 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.
BAYARD AL-ANON—6:30 p.m. Bayard Community Center. 575-537-3141.

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.

(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 Tues. 6 p.m. Red Barn Steakhouse, 708 Silver Heights Blvd. 388-4143.

FRIDAYS
KUNDALINI YOGA—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center conference room. 313-9400.
SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB—2d Fri., 10 a.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-9326.
TAIZÉ—2d Friday. Service of prayer, songs, scripture readings and quiet contemplation. 6:30 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 538-2015.
WOODCARVING CLUB—2d and 4th Fridays except holidays. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 313-1518.
YOUTH SPACE—5:30-10 p.m. Loud music, video games, chill out. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.

SATURDAYS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BEGINNERS—6 p.m. Lions Club, 8th & Bullard (entrance at Big Ditch behind Domino's). Newcomers and seasoned members welcome.
ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT—10 a.m.-noon. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Margaret, 388-4539.
BEGINNING SALSA—7-8 p.m. Javalina's. Instructor Gail Willow, 388-3332.
BLOOMING LOTUS MEDITATION—1 p.m. Details: 313-7417, blooming-lotus-sangha@googlegroups.com.
DOUBLE FEATURE BLOCKBUSTER MEGA HIT MOVIE NIGHT—5:30-11 pm. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.
EVENING PRAYER IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—5 p.m. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.
KIDS BIKE RIDE—10 a.m., 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. ☼

Victoria St. Kyle, 538-5706.
HATHA YOGA—5:30 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St. Lori Zitzmann.
HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOURISM MEETING—Second Thurs. 10 a.m. Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.
KUNDALINI YOGA—5:30 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.
MOUNTAIN DULCIMER JAM—6:15 p.m., Public Library.
PROGRESSIVE PILATES—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.
TOPS—5 p.m. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.
VINYASA YOGA—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.
YOGA CLASS—Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, 7th and Texas.

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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Anatomy Lessons

Let conformation help guide you.

For more than a year I've been reading with great interest a regular column in *Equus Magazine* written by Deb Bennet, PhD. Her area of expertise is in the anatomy and biomechanics of the horse. She is a well-known horsewoman who has competed and judged in virtually every riding discipline. Her new book, *Principles of Conformation Analysis*, volumes I, II and III, pulls together many of her past writings into one source.

Now, I'll admit that if you failed high-school geometry or if you're not competing in the show ring, much of this might seem far too complicated or even irrelevant for the recreational rider. What I love about her work, though, is she's always quick to point out that in the end the horse will tell you, if you are willing to listen, what he does best and where he's most comfortable. This is why I think her work has relevance for any horse person. Combining some of her insights with those of Linda Tellington-Jones, who has studied the relationship between conformation and behavior/personality, can truly help you understand why a horse does what it does.

Using my own horse as a real-life example, I thought it might be interesting to show how some understanding of conformation and biomechanics can help you develop a better working partnership with your horse.

I bought my quarter horse, Cody, when he was 5; he's now turning 18. I was his ninth owner (!) so he obviously had a few issues. In our early days together, he clearly showed why so many people had given up on him. He'd throw you a nice big buck from time to time for no apparent reason. He was pretty clumsy, especially on the trail. This was bad enough that my trainer thought he was showing early signs of the dreaded EPM. Cody would come back from most rides with dings on his fetlocks and heel bulbs. He would toss his head, mostly when going downhill. He got nervous when asked to canter in collection, and collection actually seemed difficult for him. He felt like he had a "flat tire" when tracking to the left, but never tested lame.

People I was working with at the time attributed most of this to either his personality or my riding. I'd hear things like "he's lazy, he needs to go forward, he has a lousy work ethic, he needs a job." Or comments aimed at me like "you're riding on your pockets, you're leaning forward, you need to kick him, you're riding him downhill into the ground, your reins are too loose, your reins are too tight, blah, blah, blah." As expected, I also heard the inevitable "your saddle doesn't fit and this is why he tosses his head." There was no discussion about his conformation and how that might play a part.

Using Deb Bennet as my guide, here's what I saw: Cody has a slight club foot on his left front, making it boxy and tall. Over time this caused a different-shaped hoof on his right front—lower and flatter. This led to a shortening of his right side from shoulder to hoof, not an enormous difference but enough to affect gait when combined with the hoof shape. He has a broad chest, which can cause a horse to be slower in his gaits, but tends toward being narrow-based front and rear. Combined with a slight toe turn in on his front feet, more on the right than the left, his athletic ability is limited and he is set up to interfere.

His shoulder movement is characterized as "flat" by Bennett, meaning there is minimum flex in the knee and hock during movement. This is deemed "efficient," as there is less wasted or upward movement and is typical of the quarter horse breed. In his hindquarters, his legs fall slightly behind the vertical, making it uncomfortable for him to canter in collection. He over-reaches and also interferes in front and back, so much so that if you looked at his prints in the sand you'd think he's walking on a tightrope.

There were two other significant issues. He has a slight "ewe neck," which can make it difficult for any horse to collect or carry that collection for very long. Also, and more telling, is that he has a definite "downhill balance" to his body. In fact, the angle of

this measurement is at the upper limit of what Bennett considers acceptable for a riding horse.

The fact that bucking and head tossing almost always happened going downhill in steep or bad footing made sense now given his downhill build, the shape and angles of his front feet, and the interference. He'd stumble, his legs would cross, and flight-animal fear would surface. His clumsiness is influenced by the shape of his front hooves (especially the turned-in toes), his flat shoulder movement causing low ground clearance, and the interference and over-reaching. Anxiety at the canter in collection could be tied to the positioning of his hind legs and ewe neck. The feeling of a "flat tire" on his right front when tracking left was definitely a result of the shape and length of his right shoulder and foreleg. The small dings on his legs came from his style of movement. His speed, or lack thereof, was influenced by the conformation of his chest and forelegs, and his overall conformation. The severe downhill build clearly contributed to his "heaviness" on the forehand.

Given all these issues it would have been easy for me to say I need another horse, but Cody was doing so many good things for me and my students it seemed smarter to accommodate his physical limitations instead.

What have I done? I've worked with my farrier to gradually achieve the best possible shape for the hoof that causes many of the clumsiness issues. It'll never be perfect but it is much improved. I've developed arena routines focusing on agility and lifting his feet, such as work over ground poles and caveletti, and some low jumps. I've added basic dressage exercises to improve balance, hindquarter engagement and strength. I do a lot of my collected work from the ground, either in long lines or work in hand, so that Cody can develop strength and suppleness without the weight of a rider.

On the trail, I pay particular attention to how we go down hills, especially given the steep and rocky terrain around here. I ride slowly, focusing on engaging his hindquarters, keeping him straight, and using my leg and hand aids to prevent his front legs from crossing. He wears splint boots and front bell boots whenever I ride, even on the trail, so the inevitable bumps don't lead to injury or silly behavior.

I also take the time to go walk a new trail to check out the footing. I'm willing to cross a trail off my list if it's beyond his ability. I've seen too many accidents where a horse is physically frustrated by conditions and a rider forces the issue. I've even made the decision to rarely ride with anyone other than my wife or a student on a teaching ride; I ride to the level of my horse and don't think it's fair to other riders to have to alter their style or pace to fit what I'm doing.

This might seem like a lot to go through for a horse. I choose to look at it another way. There are no perfect horses. Accept that not every horse can do everything well. If your horse's assets far outweigh his liabilities, and you really want to help him, then study his anatomy to see how he is put together. It might lead you to some easy adjustments in your approach. Rather than get frustrated by what he can't do, focus instead on helping him succeed with the physical abilities he has.

And Cody—he's still slow and deliberate in certain situations and trips from time to time, but I haven't seen a buck in years, he rarely tosses his head, he goes down hills engaging his back end and stays pretty straight, his legs are ding-free and he can carry collection for much longer periods. He's never been lame or sore-backed. He's a happy boy!

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



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RAMBLIN' OUTDOORS • LARRY LIGHTNER

Life Is a Ponderment

When ramblin' outdoors, finding more questions than answers.

I suppose that if the truth be known, I was born to ponder; I'm always wonderin' about this subject or that object or that person.

If you know me very well, or if you find yourself around me for but a short time, you will quickly find out that I like to ask questions. No, I'm not being nosy; questions and the answers to them help me to understand how people (and even things) tick.

When I'm outdoors I'm constantly questioning how or why something came to be; I thirst for that kind of knowledge.

For instance, while hunting deer back in late October, I stopped in a spot in the woods for reasons that I'd rather not discuss. I was a mile or more from the nearest house and at least a good half-mile from the nearest human-traveled trail.

Yet as I peered down at this spot on the earth, something caught my eye. I leaned over and picked up the tarnished, spent brass casing from a .22 rim-fire cartridge.

I pondered, and still ponder, over the odds of that happening. I was standing where another human had stood in that vast sea of forest—simply amazing.

Similarly, today I went for a hike where recently I had opened up a 30-foot new section. This part of my trail follows the erosion ditch that I had dug by a dozer operator some four to five years ago. The ditch is about 18 inches deep and at this place it is overgrown with vegetation.

I had traversed this new place about a dozen times or so before, but today something manmade caught my attention: two black, rectangular pieces about four inches in length, partially concealed by grass.

Of course, I picked them up and was startled to find that they were two halves from a 1970s-style Kodak Instamatic camera!

That find got me to pondering: How long had the pieces lain there? Were they lying on the surface and washed down into the ditch by a long-forgotten rain? Or had they somehow been buried in the soil some 30 to 40 years ago, only to be unearthed by the dozer?

Now, before you scoff at this last ponderment, permit me to relate to you this story. Back in the early 1990s, I was traveling in my truck over a frozen bit of January two-track. On my way back the way I had come in, the sun had now melted the frozen soil and I hit a subterranean spring of water that quickly buried my Ford F150 4X4 up to its belly! I had no choice but to lie on my own belly and use a trenching shovel to dig out the entire undercarriage of said vehicle. Please realize that a trenching shovel isn't all that handy, being narrow and short in blade and only 18 inches in total length.

Not too long into the adventure and about a foot down into the muck, I came upon a manmade object; it turned out to be a bullet, the kind used in military weapons of 100 years ago. Now, it may have been deposited there in more recent years, I freely admit, but there it was nonetheless.

I've often pondered the odds of me finding that bullet. In fact, I've pondered many a pleasurable hour away thinking over it and other similar finds.

But back to the present. Recently I returned from a hunting trip to Missouri. Right there next to my open gate lay a weath-

ered, yellow, empty shotshell casing of the 20-gauge variety. It was somewhat squashed and obviously had been out in the elements for a very long time.

This case lay six feet inside of my web fencing and three feet or more from my driveway, and it definitely had not been there when I closed the gate on my way to Missouri! Where in the heck did the dang thing come from and why was it there?

Last week, in the arroyo below the house and mostly within the property fence, I discovered a series of soil disruptions both inside and outside the fence. I chalked it up to a roaming skunk foraging for food.

But then I came upon three very deep and large holes in the bank on my side of the web fence. The first was but six inches deep and a foot wide; the second was a foot deep and a foot wide; the third was over two feet deep and a foot wide. The soil

was so disturbed that I couldn't identify the digger's tracks, but my suspicions indicated a gray fox or a dreaded badger! Were they the beginnings of a new den? I hoped not.

I went about gathering up a shovel and soon had the holes filled back in. It has been a week and they are still untouched. Oh, the ponderment of it all.

That find got me to pondering: How long had the pieces lain there?

I've recently pondered over our early-December weather. Is the obvious lack of rain the result of the very fine temperatures we're experiencing? I mean, I can't ever remember such great temperatures in December, not in the 24 years I've lived here. I sure ain't complaining, but it just isn't natural, folks!

On the other side of the slope, could the fine temperatures be from the fact that it isn't raining? Go ponder.

Speaking of nature, in normal times, which means every winter except this one, come February a curious plant named filaree makes its appearance; it is a sought-after food of quail. This past 2012, though, the plant showed up in early November. What's up with that?

Here's another phenomenon I can't quite place my finger on. On several occasions at dawn, two thermometers showed temps of 36 degrees and one morn they showed 39 degrees. Yet we had skim-ice on the four water bowls, and one time there was a quarter-inch of solid water on one bowl while the other three were ice-free, including one sitting not three feet away. Isn't ice supposed to form at 32 degrees?

I mean, pondering the state of these liquids could force me to imbibe another form of liquid!

And then there is that last and most formidable kind of ponderment that was summed up best by actor Will Geer in the ancient cinema *Jeremiah Johnson*. In it, Geer's character, a wizened old mountain man, is emoting with Jeremiah and the latter asks if the old man had ever had a full-time-night woman?

Somewhere in his answer, Gere replies (and this is a loose paraphrase by me) that "a woman's breast was the hardest soil that he ever had found and he could find no track on it." I take that to mean that the human male can never ponder how a woman thinks! Nuff said.

Keep the sun forever at your back, the wind forever in your face, and may The Forever God bless you, too! ☼



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



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.desert-exposure.com—include some of our favorites and restaurants we've recently reviewed. We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service.

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

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

BILLY'S BBQ AND WOOD-FIRED PIZZA, Hwy 180E, 388-1367. "A 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.*

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

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

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

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

DIANE'S RESTAURANT, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. "As they serve Diane's fresh, inventive dishes, the staff will make you subtly aware you are indeed enjoying a big-city-caliber dining experience—without the least bit of

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.desert-exposure.com. Bon appétit!

snootiness to detract from the fact that you are, nonetheless, in small-town New Mexico." (Sept. 2007) Home-made 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. "Top-notch pastries in the morning, deli lunch or...dinner. . . Diane's new Deli has it all—to go!" (Sept. 2007) Artisan breads, sandwiches, deli, baked goods: 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. Catering.*

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

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

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

DINING GUIDE continued on page 41

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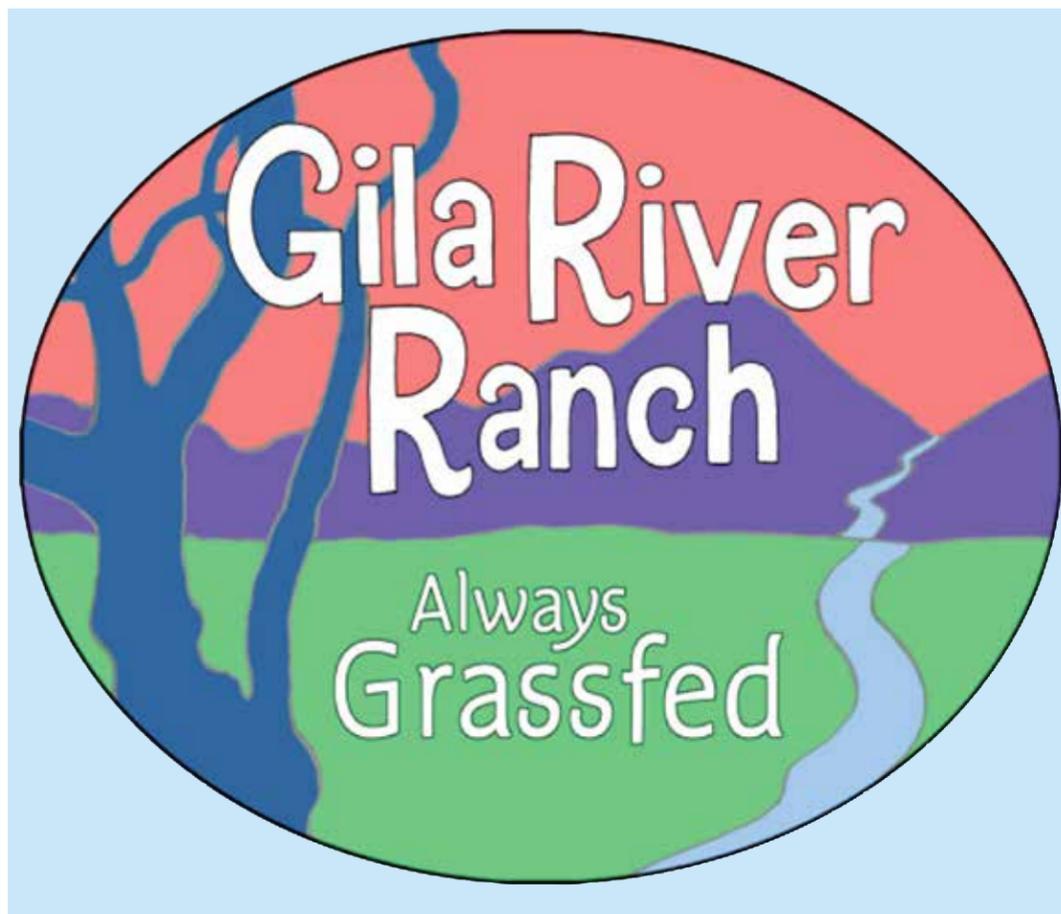
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Alotta Words about ALOTTA GELATO

We will be CLOSED FOR VACATION during part of January. Be sure to call our answering machine or check our Facebook page for the days and hours we'll be closed.

We've noticed that a lot of our customers are acting a bit sheepish lately-- many of them are apologetic and embarrassed to admit that they crave our gelato even in the dead of winter. For those of you needing reassurance, now hear this: THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU— IT'S PERFECTLY OK TO EAT OUR WONDERFUL FROZEN TREATS ANYTIME! If you still feel a little funny being seen eating gelato on a wintry day, we have a solution: we will happily hand-pack a pint or quart container of the flavors of your choice and place it in a plain, unmarked bag for you to devour in the privacy of your own home with the shades discreetly drawn.

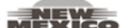
If you need to shake off the winter doldrums, we suggest one of our music CDs from local artists such as Melanie Zipin, Bayou Seco or Brandon Perrault to name but a few, or wonderful World Music CDs from the Putumayo label. Also, we'd like to point out that gift certificates are available for all occasions, can be purchased in any amount, and can be used a little at a time to stretch the delicious experience throughout the year.

Don't forget: 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 warm your insides when it's chilly outside, and we also carry delicious dessert items such as Key Lime Bars, Raspberry Streusel Bars, Chocolate Chip Brownies, Triple Lemon Cheesecake, slices of flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, cookies, and big honkin' wedges of triple-layer Carrot Cake!

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RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

Give Peace Meal a Chance

Silver City's Peace Meal Burrito Bar is a new incarnation of the health-conscious eatery.

Always a fluid work-in-progress, with new ideas welcomed and enthusiastically embraced, the Peace Meal eatery in Silver City has evolved, in the six years of its existence, from a worker-cooperative with an uncompromisingly vegetarian menu to its current incarnation as a single-owner Burrito Bar that offers slow-roasted beef, pork and chicken options in addition to vegetarian and vegan fare. What has not changed over the years is the commitment to provide food that is organic and healthy.

"I think organic is really important," says Peace Meal owner Lynne Aldin, known to most people as Lynno. "My goal is to help people find their way to healthy food. I have been vegetarian, and I appreciate vegetarian and vegan food. I do include some meat in my diet now, but I stick with organic food, and with whole-grain products."

On Labor Day, she introduced the change from a strictly vegetarian restaurant to a Chipotle Grill-style Burrito Bar that includes meat options. It is an effort, Lynno says, to expand the appeal of the downtown restaurant and offer more choice to customers, while remaining true to the original goal of providing healthy, organic food.

"The beef and pork are both organic and locally grown. The beef comes from the J-Six Ranch in the Mimbres Valley, and the pork comes from the EZ Does It! Farm in Gila," Lynno says. "The chicken we use is antibiotic- and hormone-free, but, at the moment, is not available from local sources. Gila Chicken is working toward establishing a mobile processing unit that will meet processing requirements for restaurant use, and hopefully, we will soon be able to purchase local, pasture-raised chicken from them."

Buying meat and produce locally is a high priority for Lynno. "Organic is very important, but we focus on locally grown food, as well. All our vegetables are organic, and, as much as possible, we use local produce—whatever is in season at the time."

Lynno says, with a chuckle, that she is a "television- and community-trained" cook. "For years, I watched cooking programs on television—especially the 'Great Chefs of the World' series. I learned a lot about seasoning, making wine sauces, reductions. I learned how to chop things—and it turns out that's the skill I use most now."

The "community" part of her training took place at the Silver City Food Coop, where she worked as the sandwich-maker for several years before Peace Meal came into existence.

"I learned a lot about vegetarian and vegan cooking at the Coop—how to cook with tofu and use ingredients like eggless mayonnaise and 'Spike' seasoning," she recalls. "A lot of the recipes we started with here came from the Coop or from people who worked here at Peace Meal in the beginning."

In the Peace Meal kitchen, Lynno still prepares food that is sold at the Coop, including sandwiches, wraps, salads, coleslaw, pasta salads, spreads like hummus and a tuna alternative whimsically named "Happy Tuna"—so-named to indicate that the tuna is still swimming happily in the sea, rather than being included in the spread, which is made instead of soaked almonds, walnuts and sprouted sunflower seeds. The Coop also carries her popular vegetarian sushi, her chile-lime cashews and her flax crackers in both the chile-garlic and Thai-sesame flavors.

The Javalina Coffee House in Silver City will soon be selling Peace Meal soups, which are always vegan and range from Lynno's versions of such Southwestern favorites as Green Chile Stew and 3-Bean Texas Chili to more internationally-



Peace Meal Burrito Bar owner Lynne "Lynno" Aldin displays a small "loaded" Beef Frito Pie combo, with Lentil-Vegetable Soup, with the posted Salsa Bar selections behind her. (Photo by Peggy Platonos)

inspired soups like Thai Coconut Stew, Butternut-Ginger Soup and Shitake Mushroom & Miso Soup. Lynno also features a Soup-of-the-Day at the Peace Meal Burrito Bar, where customers can choose to add some of the slow-cooked meat or Salsa Bar ingredients to any of the soups, if they so choose.

In addition to soup, the Peace Meal Burrito Bar menu now offers Frito Pies, Rice Bowls, Salad Bowls and, of course, burritos. Each burrito is huge and easily provides two meals for people with normal-sized appetites. The basic Rice-&Beans burrito costs \$6.50, while the "loaded" burrito costs \$9.50 and includes a choice of meat or a special vegetable option (roasted butternut squash and sweet potato most recently) in addition to the basic long-grain brown rice and pressure-cooked whole black beans.

All burritos, whether basic or loaded, come with the Salsa Bar options, which are posted and include such things as guacamole, sour cream, grated pepper jack cheese, diced tomatoes, shredded lettuce, chopped green onions, sliced jalapeños, and three different homemade salsas: Red Chile Salsa (the mildest, but still nippy), Fresh Red Salsa (hotter) and Tomatillo Salsa (hottest). Not only can customers choose which of these items get added to their burritos, but people who are sharing a burrito can get completely different Salsa Bar ingredients added to their respective halves of the same burrito.

The Frito Pies actually contain authentic Fritos, along with the same filling options as the burritos, and the same is true of the Rice Bowls, which are similar to the Frito Pies but without the corn chips. Both types of meals offer the same choice of basic or "loaded" options, and the same choice of Salsa Bar ingredients, and both come in large and small sizes. For basic Rice & Beans Frito Pies or Rice Bowls, the cost is \$6.50 for the large size and \$3.75 for the small size. For "loaded" Frito Pies or Rice Bowls, the cost is \$9.50 for the large size and \$5.25 for the small size.

Combos of soup and a small Frito Pie or Rice Bowl are sometimes offered for \$7 for the basic version or \$8.50 for the "loaded" option.

Salad Bowls come in one size only, and the cost is \$6.50 for the basic Rice & Beans version, and \$9.50 for the "loaded" version. Again, customers are offered the full range of Salsa Bar choices.

Lighter meals are available, too. Soup can be purchased for \$3.50 per 8-ounce cup or \$7 for a 16-ounce bowl. Flaxseed crackers are also available, along with a variety of spreads, including "Happy Tuna."

Peace Meal Burrito Bar is located in the Hub on Bullard Street, between Java Hut and the Marketplace. It is open Wednesday through Monday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and is closed on Tuesdays. For more information, call (575) 388-0106.

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

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DINING GUIDE continued

just like in the food court." (February 2007) Chinese: L D.

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

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

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

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.

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

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

MILLIE'S BAKE HOUSE, 215 W. Yankie, 597-2253. "From pies to pizzas, the food is oven-fresh and innovative." (November 2012) Soup, salads, sandwiches, baked goods: Tues.-Sat. Deep-dish pizza: Thurs.-Mon. D.*

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

THE PARLOR AT DIANE'S, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Beer and wine bar, sandwiches, light bites: Tues.-Sun. afternoons.

PEACE MEAL BURRITO BAR, The Hub, 6th and Bullard, 388-0106. Chipotle-style burrito bar featuring local and organic foods: Weds.-Mon. L early D.*

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

cream: Mon.-Sat.*

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

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

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

THREE DOGS COFFEEHOUSE, 503 N. Bullard St. Coffeeshop, lunch specialties, pizza: L.

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

Sat. D.*

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

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

YANKIE CREEK COFFEE HOUSE, 112 W. Yankie St. Coffeeshop, coffee, home-made pastries and ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies.*

BAYARD

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

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

LOS COMPAS, 1203 Tom Foy Blvd, 654-4109. "If you want to know how special a hot dog can be... these Sonora-style hot dogs are masterpieces that please the eye as well as the taste buds. First, the beef hot dogs are wrapped in bacon and grilled, then nestled into a special soft, ever-so-slightly sweet bun custom-made especially for Los Compas at a state-of-the-art bakery located in Palomas. The dogs are topped with beans, melted cheese, guacamole, mustard, ketchup, grilled and raw onions, diced tomatoes, and then the whole thing is finished off with decorative squiggles of mayonnaise." (May 2012) Sonoran-style Mexican, hot dogs, portas, menudo: L D.

M & A BAYARD CAFÉ, 1101 N. Central Ave., 537-2251. "A down-to-earth, friendly, unpretentious place—kind of a cross between a Mexican cantina and a 1950s home-style diner, serving tasty, no-frills Mexican and American food at reasonable prices." (October 2011) Mexican and American: Mon.-Fri. B L D.

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

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

CLIFF

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

DINING GUIDE continued on next page



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Bear Mountain Romaine Salad
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January 10th
Cream Of Chicken or Cream of Asparagus served with a side of Bleu Cheese whipped potatoes
Bear Mountain Romaine Salad
Poached Pears with Chocolate Sauce \$22.

January 17th
Chicken Tortilla or Veggie Tortilla Soup served with all the fixings (tortilla chips, sunflower seeds, monterey jack cheese, lime, and avocado)
Bear Mountain Romaine Salad
Tres Leche Cake with berries \$22.

January 24th
Mussels and Chorizo Stew served a side of black beans in the bowl
Bear Mountain Romaine Salad
Pear -Membrillo Cake served with real Whipped Cream \$22.

January 31st
Hot and Sour Soup with homemade wontons stuffed with orange zest and pork
Bear Mountain Romaine Salad
Rice Pudding \$22.

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DINING GUIDE continued

4000. Coffeeshop: Mon.-Sat.

HURLEY

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

LAKE ROBERTS

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

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

MIMBRES

MIMBRES VALLEY CAFÉ, 2964 Hwy. 35, 536-2857. "You won't go home hungry from the Mimbres Valley Café, an oasis of down-home good food in a friendly atmosphere. The menu is simple and hearty, a blend of American and Mexican." (Jan. 2009) Mexican, American, burgers: Mon.-Tues. B L, Wed.-Sun. B L D, with Japanese tempura Wed. D.

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. "Las Cruces' smashing, elegant sushi restaurant is more than dinner—it's a dining adventure.... Though Aqua Reef bills itself as serving 'Euro-Asian cuisine,' the menu feels (delightfully!) hard-core Asian, excelling in the fresh and raw." (April 2008) Asian, sushi: D.

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

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

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

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

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

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

BOBA CAFÉ, 1900 S. Espina, Ste. 8, 647-5900. "The signature Bubble Tea is just the beginning of an inventive eating experience. The menu—with a long list of soups, salads, sandwiches, appetizers, wraps and 'other stuff'—is the same for lunch and dinner, although Tuesday through Thursday nights Boba lays on special Caribbean fare and Friday nights are Asian-themed, with sushi." (June 2009) Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: 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. "Dedicated to owner Janice Williams' love of movies and theater, movie posters and stills dot the walls. The menu uses groan-inducing but fun movie-related puns, such as

"The Ommies," for the nice selection of omelets. Lunch offers a full range of sandwiches, salads, burgers and a few wraps. Portions are done right—just enough to fill the gap without emptying your wallet." (Sept. 2008) 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EL PATRON CAFÉ, 1103 S. Solano Dr. Mexican: Tues.-Thurs., 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

GARDUÑO'S, 705 S. Telshor (Hotel Encanto), 522-4300. Mexican: B L D.*

GO BURGER DRIVE-IN, 1008 E. Lohman, 524-9251. Burgers, Mexican: Mon.-Fri. B L

GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD, 1420 El Paseo, 523-2828. Chinese: L D

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

GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING, 1345 El Paseo Rd., 526-4803. Ameri-

can: B L D

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

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

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

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

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

J.C. TORTAS, 1196 W. Picacho Ave., 647-1408. Mexican: L D

JESSE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ, 230 S. Church, 522-3662. Barbecue: Mon., Tue., Thurs.-Sat. L D

JIREH'S, 1445 W. Picacho. Mexican, American: B L early D

JOSE MURPHY'S, 1201 E. Amador (inside Ten Pin Alleys), 541-4064. Mexican, American: L D

JOSEPHINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. "A delicious change of pace. There are a variety of classic deli sandwiches to choose from, all served on freshly baked bread, as well as the soup of the day in a cup or bowl, and salads." (October 2008) Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Mon.-Thurs. L, Fri.-Sun. B L

KATANA TEPPANYAKI GRILL, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-0526. Japanese: Mon.-Fri. L D, Sat. D

KEVA JUICE, 1001 E. University, 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D

KIM-CHI HOUSE, 1605 S. Solano, 652-4745. Korean: Tues.-Sun. L D

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

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

LA 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

LET THEM EAT CAKE, 2001 E. Lohman, Suite 136, 649-8965. Cupcakes: Tues.-Sat

LORENZO'S PAN AM, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. "Homey, classic Italian fare.... Also features ravioli dishes, in half and full portions, served with salad and a basket of warm, fresh bread. Save room for dessert." (July 2008) Italian, pizza: L D

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

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

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

LOS MARIACHIS, 754 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D

MAIN STREET BISTRO AND ALE HOUSE, 139 N. Main St., 524-5977. Bistro fare, beers: L, D Mon.-Sat

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. Coffeeshop: B L D.*

MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS, 1001 E. University Ave. #D4, 532-2042. "For a true taste of Tokyo, a classic curry, a Vietnamese tidbit or big bite of Australia—all served up with the sophistication of San Francisco—head to Mix Pacific Rim Cuisine for an international dining experience that satisfies." (March 2008) Asian, Pacific: Mon.-Sat. L D

MOON-GATE CAFÉ, 9395 Bataan Memorial, 382-5744. Coffeeshop, Mexican, American: B L

MY BROTHER'S PLACE, 334 S. Main St., 523-7681. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D

NELLIE'S CAFÉ, 1226 W. Hadley Ave., 524-9982. Mexican: Tues.-Sat. B L

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

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

OLD TOWN RESTAURANT, 1155 S. Valley Dr., 523-4586. Mexican, American: B L.*

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

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

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

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

PARKER'S BBQ, 850 E. Madrid Ave., 541-5712. Barbecue carryout: L, early D

PASSION ULTRA LOUNGE, 201 E. University Ave. (inside Ramada Palms), 523-7399. Steaks, burgers, salmon: L D

PEPE'S, 1405 W. Picacho, 541-0277. Mexican: B L D

PEPPERS CAFÉ ON THE PLAZA (IN THE DOUBLE EAGLE RESTAURANT), 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. "Creative handling of traditional Southwestern dishes.... [plus] such non-Mexican entrées as Salmon Crepes and Beer Braised Beef Carbonnade." (March 2012). Southwestern: L D.*

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

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

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

PULLARO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 901 W. Picacho Ave., 523-6801. Italian: L D

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

RASCO'S BBQ, 5580 Bataan Memorial E. (inside Shorty's gas station). Barbecued brisket, pulled pork, smoked sausage, ribs.

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

ROBERTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 908 E. Amador Ave., 523-1851. Mexican: B L D.*

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

SAENZ GORDITAS, 1700 N. Solano Dr., 527-4212. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D

SANTORINI'S, 1001 E. University Ave., 521-9270. "An eclectic blend of Greek and Mediterranean dishes—gyros with different meats, such as lamb or chicken, hummus with pita, Greek salads—plus sampler plates and less-familiar items such as kftedes and pork shawarma. Vegetarian options

Table Talk

After having its building at the corner of Bullard and Broadway in downtown Silver City on the market for a long time, **Isaac's** closed just before Christmas. Also closing in downtown—for now—is **Café Un Mundo**, which is said to be "shutting down for a year."

On a happier note, **Curious Kumquat** is celebrating a stellar mention in *Saveur* magazine's "Saveur 100" issue. The "Travel Edition" of the annual list ranged far and wide and even found its way to Silver City, where the magazine noted, "The award for most far-flung modernist cuisine may go to Rob Connoley of the Curious Kumquat... the 'Quat, as locals call it, incorporates hydrocolloids and other standbys of molecular gastronomy into globally influenced dishes—Thai red curry duck, Korean-spiced elk shank—but Connoley's food is just as inspired by his own town."

In Las Cruces, the funky downtown eatery **SB's Late-Night Lunchbox**, which we featured in our July 2011 Tumbleweeds column ("Brave New Food"), has closed.

Also downtown, the former location of **La Iguana**, 139 N. Main St., is now the **Main Street Bistro and Ale House**. Owner Gary Ebert, of Zeffiro Pizzeria Napoletana and the Popular Artisan Bakery, will be serving up 50 different beers, burgers, sandwiches and bistro fare. Hours are daily 11 a.m.-2 p.m. for lunch and for dinner, Monday-Thursday 5-9 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 5-10 p.m. 524-5977.

A new outpost of the **Jason's Deli** chain is now open at 3845 E. Lohman Ave., 521-0700. ☘

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

are numerous." (July 2010) Greek, Mediterranean: Mon.-Sat. L D

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

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

SI ITALIAN BISTRO, 523 E. Idaho, 523-1572. "Wood-fired pizzas are the star of the show, along with plenty of authentic pasta dishes." (February 2006) Italian: Mon.-Sat. L D

SIMPLY TOASTED CAFÉ, 1702 El Paseo Road, 526-1920. Sandwiches, soups, salads: B L

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

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

SPANISH KITCHEN, 2960 N. Main St., 526-4275. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D

SPIRIT WINDS COFFEE BAR, 2260 S. Locust St., 521-1222. Sandwiches, coffee, bakery: B L D.*

ST. CLAIR WINERY & BISTRO, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-0390. "A showcase for St. Clair wines... rooted in the same attention to detail, insistence on quality and customer-friendly attitude as the winery." (July 2012) Wine tasting, bistro: L D

SUNSET GRILL, 1274 Golf Club Road (Sonoma Ranch Golf Course clubhouse), 521-1826. American, Southwest, steak, burgers, seafood, pasta: B L D

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

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

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

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

VINTAGE WINES, 2461 Calle de Principal, 523-WINE. "The atmosphere is casual and relaxed, the handful of tables situated snugly as in a real French bistro to encourage conversation. Kick off the evening with wine and tapas inside, or wrap up the night out on the charming, cozy patio with a dessert wine or port." (June 2008) Wine and cigar bar, tapas: L D.

WOK-N-WORLD, 5192 E. Boutz, 526-0010. Chinese: Mon.-Sat. L D.

ZEFFIRO PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA, 136 N. Water St., 525-6757. "Owner Gary Ebert and his very attentive and efficient staff serve up gourmet-style pizza on hand-tossed crusts." (August 2009) Pizza, pasta, also sandwiches at adjoining Popular Artisan Bakery: Mon.-Sat. L D.

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

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

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

CHAPPARAL EL BAYO STEAK HOUSE, 417 Chaparral Dr., 824-4749. Steakhouse: Tues.-Sun. B L D.

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

DOÑA ANA BIG MIKE'S CAFÉ, Thorpe Road. Mexican, breakfasts, burgers: B L D.

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

RADIUM SPRINGS COUNTRY CUPBOARD, 827 Fort Selden Rd., 527-4732. American: B L D.

SANTA TERESA BILLY CREWS, 1200 Country Club Road, 589-2071. Steak, seafood: L D.

LUNA COUNTY

DEMING ADOBE DELI, 3970 Lewis Flats Road SE, 546-0361. "The lunch menu features traditional deli-style sandwiches... The dinner menu is much grander, though some sandwiches are available then, too. Dinner options include filet mignon, flat iron steak, T-bone, ribeye, New York strip, Porterhouse, barbecued pork ribs, Duck L'Orange, Alaska King Crab legs, broiled salmon steak, shrimp scampi, pork chops, osso buco, beef kabobs." (March 2010) Bar, deli, steaks: L D.*

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

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

BENJI'S RESTAURANT, 821 W. Pine, 546-5309. Mexican, American: Mon., Tues. Thurs, Fri. B L D, Weds. B L

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

CANO'S RESTAURANT, 1200 W. Pine St., 546-3181. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CHINA RESTAURANT, 110 E. Pine St., 546-4146. Chinese: L D.

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

ELISA'S HOUSE OF PIES AND RESTAURANT, 208 1/2 S. Silver Alley, 494-4639. "The southern-style fare is a savory prelude to 35 flavors of pie." (April 2012) American, barbecue, sandwiches, pies: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

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

GOLDEN SUN STAR, 500 E. Cedar St., 544-0689. Chinese: L D.

GRAND MOTOR INN & LOUNGE, 1721 E. Pine, 546-2632. Mexican, steak, seafood: B L D.

IRMA'S, 123 S. Silver Ave., 544-4580. Mexican, American, seafood: B L D.

LA FONDA, 601 E. Pine St., 546-0465. "Roomy, bright and airy, La Fonda is no mere taco joint. The extensive menu features all the Mexican favorites at bargain prices, plus a wide range of Anglo fare and a breakfast that's worth the drive to Deming. Famous for its fajitas: Choose chicken, beef or both, fajitas for two, or try the unusual stuffed fajita potato or seemingly contradictory fajita burrito." (September 2009) Mexican: B L D.*

LAS CAZUELAS, 108 N. Platinum Ave. (inside El Rey meat market), 544-8432. "This gem of a restaurant turns out perfectly cooked steaks and seafood, as well as a full line of Mexican fare." (June 2011) Steaks, seafood, Mexican: Tues.-Sat. L D.*

MANGO MADDIE'S, 722 E. Florida St., 546-3345. Salads, sandwiches, juice bar, coffee drinks.

MANOLO'S CAFÉ, 120 N. Granite St., 546-0405. "The menu offers breakfast, lunch and dinner choices, and it's difficult to convey the immense range of food options available. In every section of the menu, there's a mixture of American-style 'comfort' food items and Southwest-style Mexican dishes which no doubt qualify as Hispanic 'comfort' food. There's nothing particularly fancy about the food, but it's fresh and tasty. And the prices are reasonable." (February 2012) Mexican, American: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L

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. "The famed burgers are ground fresh daily from 85% lean beef—a half-pound apiece before cooking—and formed for each order. You can adorn your burger in any of a dozen different combinations of cheese, bacon, chiles, pico de gallo, sautéed onions, barbecue sauce, fresh mushrooms, even ham." (February 2006) 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. "Good-quality comfort food. There's nothing on the menu that is really exotic. But all the familiar dishes, both American and Mexican, are done well, and it's that care in preparation that lifts the food above the ordinary. This is not a freezer-to-fryer type of restaurant." (September 2012) American, Mexican, breakfasts: Mon.-Thur. B L, Fri. B L D.

TACOS MIRASOL, 323 E. Pine St., 544-0646. Mexican: Mon., Wed.-Sat. B L D, Tues. B L

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

COLUMBUS PATIO CAFÉ, 23 Broadway, 531-2495. Burgers, American: B L.*

HIDALGO COUNTY

LORDSBURG EL CHARRO RESTAURANT, 209 S. P Blvd., 542-3400. Mexican: B L D.

FIDENCIO'S, 604 E. Motel Dr., 542-8989. Mexican: B L early D.

KRANBERRY'S FAMILY RESTAURANT, 1405 Main St., 542-9400. Mexican, American: B L D.

MAMA ROSA'S PIZZA, 1312 Main St., 542-8400. Pizza, subs, calzones, salads, chicken wings, cheeseburgers, shrimp baskets: L D.

RAMONA'S CAFÉ, 904 E. Motel Dr., 542-3030. "Lordsburg's quit Mexican food treasure offers some unusual takes on traditional recipes." (December 2012) Mexican, American: Tues.-Fri. B L D, Sun. B mid-day D.

ANIMAS PANTHER TRACKS CAFÉ, Hwy. 338, 548-2444. Burgers, Mexican, American: Mon.-Fri. B L D

RODEO RODEO STORE AND CAFÉ. 195 HWY. 80, 557-2295. 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. "Plentiful appetizer platters, perfectly done and tender ribeye, weekend special barbecue dishes smoky sweet and ample." (Nov. 2007) Mexican, American, weekend barbecue, Friday catfish fry: L D.

GOLDEN GIRLS CAFÉ, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. "Dig into an honest taste of the local scene and a down-home breakfast you'll surely wish your mama had made. The specials listed up on the whiteboard all come with biscuits and gravy, and the ample menu has all the usual suspects—omelets, pancakes, French toast and, of course, breakfast burritos—clueing you into the rib-sticking satisfaction ahead." (Nov. 2007) Breakfast: B.

MARIO'S PIZZA, Hwy. 180, 539-2316. "This unpretentious eatery serves up better pizza than you'll find in many a big city. But a recent visit to the tiny, scenic mountain town will forever be remembered as the time I had, absolutely, the best calzone of my life." (Nov. 2008) Italian: Mon.-Tues., Fri.-Sat. D.

OTHER CATRON COUNTY SNUFFY'S STEAKHOUSE AND SALOON, Quemado Lake, 773-4672. Steakhouse: D (Dec.-April: closed Mon.-Tues.)

SIERRA COUNTY

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HILLSBORO GENERAL STORE & CAFÉ, 100 Main St., 895-5306. American and Southwestern: Sun.-Wed., Fri.-Sat. B L

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

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January 2013 Classes

Jan. 14: Audacity Radio Editing Program with Tater Todd Dennehy of New Potato X Radio Show. Great for beginners and those needing a refresher course!

Jan. 21: Radio 101 with Tater Todd Dennehy. Learn how to make an entertaining radio show while learning the rules and regs! Perfect for wanna be DJs and radio hosts!

Jan. 28: Movie Maker Video Editing with a CATS staff person. Great for beginners and those that need a refresher course!

February 2013 Classes

Feb. 11: Premiere Pro Video Editing with a CATS staff person. For advanced editors!

Feb. 18: Audacity Radio Editing Program with Tater Todd Dennehy of New Potato X Radio Show. Easy, beginner editing class!

Feb. 25: Movie Maker Video Editing with a CATS staff person. Great for beginners and those that need a refresher course!

All Classes are **free** to CATS/KOOT 88.1 members. \$10 fee per class for non-members.

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Sat., Jan. 5	David Vidal (Los Angeles)
Thu., Jan. 10	La Prole (El Paso)
Sat., Jan. 12	Miss Izzy Cox (Austin)
Thu., Jan. 17	Sofia Talvik (Sweden)
Sat Jan 19	Paul Tyler (Chicago)
Thu., Jan. 24	The D.A.M.N. Union
Sat., Jan. 26	Stefan George (Tucson)
Thu., Jan. 31	Lillis Urban

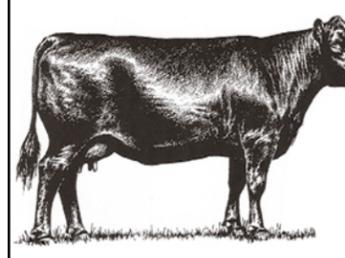
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Mondays Open Mic Night @ 7pm JANUARY 2013 Wednesdays Saloon Spaghetti

Wed 2 Esther Jamison Finger Style Guitarist
Fri/Sat 4 & 5 Trevor Reichman Singer Songwriter —Big Bend
Wed 9 Emily Elbert Jazz & Blues - Texas
Fri 11 David Vidal Americana Blues, Slide - Texas
Sat 12 Bob Einweck Folk Rock, Singer Songwriter
Wed 16 Melanie & Jeff Acoustic Duo
Fri 18 HalleyAnna & the Tennessee Volunteers Americana, Singer Songwriter - Texas
Sat 19 The Oversouls Local Rock & Soul
Wed 23 Barb & Joe Jazz Standards
Fri/Sat 25 & 26 Steve Reynolds Finger Style Guitarist - Flagstaff
Wed 30 The Oversouls Local Rock & Soul

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40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going on in January

Plus a look ahead into early February.

January TUESDAY
NEW YEAR'S DAY
Las Cruces / Mesilla
1 ARBITRAGE—Through Jan. 3. A troubled hedge-fund magnate desperate to complete the sale of his trading empire makes an error that forces him to turn to an unlikely person for help. Stars Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon and Brit Marling. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.
ARGENTINE TANGO—Tuesdays. 6-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 525 E Lohman, 620-0377.

WEDNESDAY
2 Silver City/Grant County
ESTHER JAMISON—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.
Las Cruces/Mesilla
SELF MASTERY BOOK CLUB—Wednesdays. With Siddeeq Shabazz. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
TAROT SESSIONS—Wednesdays with Faye Dancing Cloud. 3-5 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY
3 Silver City/Grant County
LEGACY MINING IN GRANT COUNTY—Lecture and slide show. Brown bag. Claire Catlett presents the history of Boston Hill and the Silver City Reduction works as a part of the fabric of mining culture that defines Silver City. 12 p.m. Free. Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ANAHATA MASSAGE AND BODY-WORK—12-5:30 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs. DJ Mike D'Arcy. 7-10 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.
DEMING FUSILIERS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
NMSU AGGIES BASKETBALL VS. UTSA—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, nmstatesports.com.
PSYCHIC READINGS—12-3 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El

Paseo, 523-0436.
TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN: FERAL CAT CARE—With Joe Miele. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

FRIDAY
4 Silver City/Grant County
CELEBRATE SILVER—Exhibit through Jan. 31. Featuring the photography of Sandy Feutz and Tom Vaughan. Opening reception, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Mimbres Region Art Council Gallery, Wells Fargo Bank Building.

FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN—Mid-Winter Frolic. Community Contra Dance with Family Fiddlers, The Fiddle Club, The Irish Seisun Group of Co. Grant. Free. 6-9 p.m. 534-1700.

TREVOR REICHMAN—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ANNA KARENINA—Through Jan. 9. The surging romantic tragedy of a woman who dies for love. Anna (Keira Knightley) leaves her dull husband, Karenin (Jude Law), and their beloved son to experience unbridled passion with Count Vronsky. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

SATURDAY
5 Silver City/Grant County
BONNIE MALDONADO AND ELISE STEWART—Poetry reading. 3 p.m. Bayard Public Library, 1112 Central Ave., 537-6244, bayardpubliclibrary.org.

CREATE A HANDMADE BASKET—Basket-making craft class for children, eight years and older. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5, preregistration required. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE—Joyous circle dances celebrating the sacred uniting all beings. Live music. No experience or partners needed. Pot-luck following. 3 p.m. 1st Church of Harmony, 7th and Arizona St., 534-1441.

FORKS OVER KNIVES FILM—Presented by the Silver City Seventh-day Adventist Church. The film examines the claim that most, if not all, degenerative diseases can be controlled, or even reversed, by rejecting animal-based and processed foods. Free. 6:30

p.m. Silco Theatre. 545-8832
TREVOR REICHMAN—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ACUPUNCTURE—With Ryan Bemis, Director of Crossroads Community Acupuncture. 3-4:30 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

DAVID VIDAL—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

LASAGNA GARDENING—Easy, no-till way to create garden beds full of nutrient-rich, fluffy, crumbly soil that plans will thrive in. 2-4 p.m. \$20, \$15 MVM members. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

NMSU AGGIES BASKETBALL VS. TEXAS STATE—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, nmstatesports.com.

PANCHO VILLA'S RAID—Join John Read, Park Ranger at Pancho Villa State Park, and learn about the history of the Mexican Revolution and some of the possible motivations behind Pancho Villa's raid on Columbus in 1916. 10 a.m. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle del Norte, 523-4398.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Douglas Jackson. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Downtown, 317 N. Water St.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Nancy Banks. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Solano, 1101 S. Solano.

Deming
JOHNNY BENCOMO—An authentic cowboy playing authentic western tunes. 2 p.m. \$10, DPAT members \$8. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St. 545-8872.

SUNDAY
6 Silver City/Grant County
BILINGUAL STORYTELLING—Bring the family and enjoy the bilingual story of Benito's Bizcochitos. The storyteller is Maria Vigil, a retired educator. 2 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
THE TELEPHONE—Also Jan. 7. A one-act comedy performed by a pair of singers with piano accompaniment, the story revolves around the problems technology causes in relationships. In the opera buffa style, this show is set in a contemporary setting and sung in English. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

Deming
DPAT JAM SESSIONS—Sundays. Come out and dance, socialize and

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Photo: Nancy Smith-Blackwell

have a great time. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

MONDAY

7 Las Cruces / Mesilla
THE TELEPHONE—See. Jan. 6. 3 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

TUESDAY

8 Silver City/Grant County
ALL ABOUT WINTER SQUASH—Also Jan. 10. Taste different squash dishes and take home recipes. Learn everything you need to know to incorporate this delicious, nutritious and abundant food into your life. 12-1 p.m. Free. Co-op Community Room, 388-2343.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ARGENTINE TANGO—6-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 525 E. Lohman, 620-0377.

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY—Alyssa Newton. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

WEDNESDAY

9 Silver City/Grant County
EMILY ELBERT—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

LIVING THE LIFE YOU WANT TO LIVE—Also Jan. 16. "An Introduction to Psychological Wellness" with retired psychologist Al Galves. 6-7:30 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

READING ART BOOK CLUB—*The Passion of Artemisia* by Susan Vree-land. 2:30 p.m. Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, las-cruces.org/museums.

THURSDAY

10 Silver City/Grant County
ALL ABOUT WINTER SQUASH—See Jan. 8. 12-1 p.m. Free. Co-op Community Room, 388-2343.

ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—Potluck and program. Mary Soule will show a video on the formation of caves. 6 p.m. Senior Center, Victoria St., 534-1393.

SPRING SIGN-UP SOCIAL—Meet WILL course facilitators, learn about programs that are free and open to the public. Course sign-up, food, and visiting. 5-7 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Jim Helder Septet. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

KIT CARSON: THE LIFE OF AN AMERICAN BORDER MAN—Author David Remley will discuss his new book, which strikes a balance between prevailing notions about this polarizing, quintessential western figure. 7 p.m. \$2. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

LA PROLE—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY

11 Silver City/Grant County
NUTCRACKER BALLET—School performance by Conservatory of Dance. 10 a.m. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. 438-5865, 534-4324, ConvsDance@aol.com.

2ND ANNUAL WNMU DOWNTOWN DASH—6-7 p.m. Downtown, 538-6675.

DAVID VIDAL—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BLESS ME, ULTIMA—Through Jan. 17. Set in rural New Mexico and based on Rudolfo Anaya's revered novel, this film is the World War II-era story of a special year in the life of an inquisitive farm boy and the aged midwife and curandera, or medicine woman, who arrives to live out her last days with his family. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

REFRIGERATOR ART SHOW—Exhibit through Feb. 23. Opening reception. 6-9 p.m. Rokoko Gallery, 1785 Avenida de Mercado.

SATURDAY

12 Silver City/Grant County
NUTCRACKER BALLET—Public performance by Conservatory of Dance. 2 p.m. \$5, seniors and under 12 \$3. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. 438-5865, 534-4324, ConvsDance@aol.com.

ANNUAL 12TH NIGHT DANCE—This event features some of the Privy Tipper Band from Tucson, and more musical friends. They will be joined by Bayou Seco and the Fiddling Friends. A family-friendly dance with simple instructions for some contradances and lots of polkas, waltzes, two steps, etc. 7-9:30 p.m. \$8, \$3 12 and under. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 3845 N. Swan St.

BOB EINWECK—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

FT. BAYARD HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY—Annual membership meeting and dinner. 6 p.m. \$15, \$25 family. Woman's Club, 411 Silver Heights Blvd.

SECOND SATURDAY BOOK SALE—Benefits Friends of the Library. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 1510 Market St.

SILVER CITY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY—"The United States Forest Service Dark Skies Astronomy Campground," by SCAS member Bill McCabe of Glenwood. 1 p.m. Free. Billy's BBQ, 2138 Hwy. 180 E. silvercityofstars@gmail.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

AMMU DEVASTHALI—Talk as part of "Las Cruces Collects." 1 p.m. Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, las-cruces.org/museums.

BASIC DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SERIES—Also Jan. 19 and 26. This basic class will explore and provide a solid foundation for getting better photographs. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle del Norte, 523-4398.

DESIGNING PAQUIMÉ POTTERY WORKSHOP—Explore the techniques, designs and materials used by potters from the ancient site of Paquimé, in Chihuahua. Ages 9-12. All materials provided. Pre-registration required. 10-11 a.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

LEARN TO PRUNE ROSES—11 a.m. or 2 p.m. \$7.50, free to members. Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-1886, gardens@zianet.com, nmenchantedgardens.com.

MISS IZZY COX—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

WHITE SANDS PHOTOGRAPHS—Reception, 4-6 p.m. Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Loni Todoroki. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Downtown, 317 N. Water St.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Gloria Hacker. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Solano, 1101 S. Solano.

SUNDAY

13 Deming
DPAT JAM SESSIONS—Come out and dance, socialize and have a great time. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

MONDAY

14 Silver City/Grant County
WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE—Jim Essick will talk about the Korean War. 11 a.m. Lunch \$10. Glad Tidings Church. 537-3643.

TUESDAY

15 Las Cruces / Mesilla
ARGENTINE TANGO—6-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 525 E. Lohman, 620-0377.

WEDNESDAY

16 Silver City/Grant County
HEALTH TALK—"First Food: Improving the Health of Families," by Molly Pessl. 6-7 p.m. Free. GRMC Conference Room, 538-4870, www.grmc.org.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT FOR INDIVIDUALS—Practical information session by Nandini Pillai Kuehn, president of the board of New Mexico Health Connections. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Wellness Coalition. WNMU Global Resource Center. 534-0665 x231, brenna@wellnesscoalition.org.

MELANIE & JEFF—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

LIVING THE LIFE YOU WANT TO LIVE—See Jan. 9. 6-7:30 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY

17 Silver City/Grant County
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT FOR EMPLOYERS—Practical information session by Nandini Pillai Kuehn, president of the board of New Mexico Health Connections. 9:30 a.m. Wellness Coalition. WNMU Global Resource Center. 534-0665 x231, brenna@wellnesscoalition.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ANAHATA MASSAGE AND BODYWORK—12-5:30 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THE TO DO LIST
Ring in the new.

The calendar may say 2013, but the holidays aren't over hereabouts: The Conservatory of Dance's annual performance of *The Nutcracker Ballet* is Jan. 12 at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre (following a Jan. 11 school performance).

Or you can get a jump on spring at **WILL's Spring Signup Social** on Jan. 10 at the WNMU Global Resource Center. And while you're looking into learning, writers out there can get tips from novelist **Steve Havill** on Jan. 26 at a workshop sponsored by the Southwest Festival of the Written Word; it's at Bear Mountain Lodge.

To learn about what's up with **Gila/Mimbres Community Radio**, check out the open house at the nonprofit station's new studio at 519B N. Bullard in Silver City on Jan. 18.

This month has music, too. Join in the **Annual 12th Night Dance** on Jan. 12 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall in Silver City, featuring members of the Privy Tipper Band from Tucson, with local legends Bayou Seco and



Pianist Yana Reznik performs Jan. 25.

the Fiddling Friends. Or sit and listen to versatile concert pianist **Yana Reznik** at WNMU on Jan. 25, the latest from the Community Concert Association. 🎹

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs. DJ Mike D'Arcy. 7-10 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

FROM FIRE AND EARTH—Pueblo Pottery Traditions of the Southwest. Archaeologist Jeffrey Romney. 1 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

NMSU AGGIES BASKETBALL VS. UTAH STATE—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, nmstate-sports.com.

PSYCHIC READINGS—Dawn Cheney. 12-3 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

SOFIA TALVIK—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY

18 Silver City/Grant County
HALLEY ANNA & THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

MADONNA KETTLER—Reads and signs her book, *Birth, Death and the Afterlife: Remembering Who You Really Are*. See story in Body, Mind & Spirit section. 4-7 p.m. Woman's Club, 411 Silver Heights Blvd., 534-0505.

OPEN HOUSE—Gila/Mimbres Community Radio. Refreshments, music, latest developments. 519 B N. Bullard, 597-4891, gmcr.org.

RED PAINT POW WOW—Through Jan. 20. Educational Day. Indian Market open 9 a.m. Performances begin at 10 a.m. \$5, students and teachers free. WNMU Intramural Gymnasium, 534-1379, redpaintpowwow.net.

WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY—5:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY—7:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

A ROYAL AFFAIR—Through Jan. 24. A gripping chapter of European history is recounted in this film, which examines the clash between liberal idealism and reactionary self-interest in a tale of romance, tragedy and court intrigue. Mads Mikkelsen and Alicia Vikander play the romantically entwined royal physician and the queen of Denmark, who orchestrate radical social reforms. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

THE FANTASTICKS—Through Feb. 3. A musical telling the story of two fathers who decide that they want their children to fall in love with each other. Matt is a romantic, Luisa a fantasist. In an attempt to unite their children, the fathers feign a feud, hoping that once the children are in love, their dissension and disapproval of the relationship will spark an even greater love between them. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

Deming

TEN-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL—Also Jan. 19. 7 p.m. \$5. Deming Depot Theater, 694-1666, nacioherbbrowntheater.org.

SATURDAY

19 Silver City/Grant County
MARTHA K. EVERETT—Qigong facilitator, three-hour breath workshop. Advanced registration required. See story in Body, Mind & Spirit section. 1-4 p.m. \$35. 388-2098 or 574-7268, martha@abundancetherapeutics.com. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 3845 N. Swan St.

RED PAINT POW WOW—Through Jan. 20. Indian Market open 9 a.m. Gourd Dancing 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Contest Powwow/Grand Entry 1 and 7:30 p.m. \$10; WNMU students, seniors, under 12 \$5. WNMU Intramural Gymnasium, 534-1379, redpaintpowwow.net.

ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP—Contact for details. rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

THE OVERSOULS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CHADRON STATE COLLEGE—5:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

WNMU BASKETBALL VS. CHADRON STATE COLLEGE—7:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

MARTINA MARTINEZ—Noted Native American pottery maker demonstrates the traditional San Ildefonso ways of pottery making. 1-2 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

DAVID SORENSEN—Discusses his collection. 1 p.m. Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, las-cruces.org/museums.

DESERT BABY-WEARERS—10 a.m.-12 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

NMSU AGGIES BASKETBALL VS. SAN JOSE STATE—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, nmstatesports.com.

PAUL TYLER—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

SEED SHARING—Discuss and demonstrate the basic process of saving your own seeds, including planting, selection, harvesting, cleaning and storage. Optional potluck with fellow growers. 12-3 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THE FANTASTICKS—See Jan 18. Through Feb. 3. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Louise O'Donnell. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Downtown, 317 N. Water St.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Sarah Addison and Sharlene Wittern. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Solano, 1101 S. Solano.

Deming

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BANQUET—5:30 p.m. Learning Center, 2300 E. Pine, 546-2674, deming-chamber.com.

TEN-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL—7 p.m. \$5. Deming Depot Theater, 694-1666, nacioherbbrowntheater.org.

SUNDAY

20 Silver City/Grant County
RED PAINT POW WOW—Through Jan. 20. Indian Market open 9 a.m. Gourd Dancing 11 a.m. Contest Powwow/Grand Entry 1 p.m. Awards

and closing 6 p.m. \$10; seniors, under 12 \$5. WNMU Intramural Gymnasium, 534-1379, redpaintpowwow.net.

COMPASSION & CHOICES—Erin Marshall, New Mexico campaign manager for Compassion & Choices, will discuss the current status of the lawsuit attempting to clarify and protect an individual's freedom of choice at the end of life. 1:30-3 p.m. Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave., 528-4000, library.las-cruces.org.

Deming

DPAT JAM SESSIONS—2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

MONDAY

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
21 Las Cruces / Mesilla
SOMETHING TO DO—Music and stand-up comedy. 7 p.m. \$10, \$5 students. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

TUESDAY

22 Las Cruces / Mesilla
EVENING WITH A DOCTOR—A look at today's health issues with information we may not all have access to. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY—Salty Dogs. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

ARGENTINE TANGO—6-9:30 p.m. \$5, NMSU students free with ID. 525 E. Lohman, 620-0377.

WEDNESDAY

23 Silver City/Grant County
LUNCH & LEARN—Dr. Julian Lee, "From Bloomington, Indiana, to Balankanche, Yucatan: Reflections of a Naturalist in Tropical America." Lee contends that small, seemingly inconsequential events can profoundly affect a person's attitudes toward amphibians and reptiles, and even influence an entire career trajectory. 12 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com.

YOUR WISHES: ADVANCED DIRECTIVES—GRMC Foundation seminar; space limited, pre-register. 10-11 a.m. Free. GRMC Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St., 538-4138.

BARB & JOE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

A WALK AND TALK WITH J. PAUL TAYLOR—Informal walk and talk through the exhibit "Life in Reflection: the Photography of Mary Daniels Taylor." 10 a.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

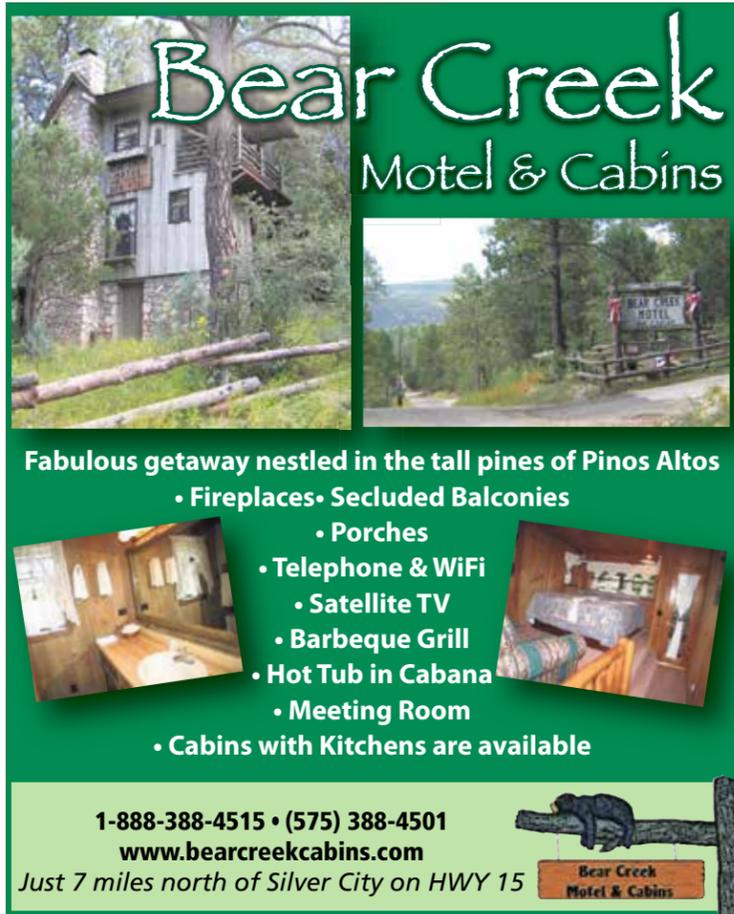
LIVING THE LIFE YOU WANT TO LIVE—See Jan. 9. 6-7:30 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

NMSU AGGIES BASKETBALL VS. DENVER—9 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, nmstatesports.com.

THURSDAY

24 Silver City/Grant County
HEALTH TALK—"Hypnosis for a Better You," by Jeff Goin. 1-2 p.m.

EVENTS continued on next page



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JANUARY FILMS

Jan. 4-9 **Anna Karenina** (129 min. in English)
Theatre Closed Thursday, Jan. 10 For Private Event

Jan. 11-17 **Bless Me, Ultima** (105 min. English/Spanish with Eng Subs)

Jan. 18-24 **A Royal Affair** (137 min. Danish/German/ French w/Eng Subs)

Jan. 25-31 **The Sessions** (95 min. in English)

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Jan. 4 6-9 pm **AmBank First Fridays Downtown: Mid-Winter Frolic**—Community Contra Dance: Family Fiddlers • The Fiddle Club • The Irish Seisiun Group of Co Grant—Free. 575-534-1700

Jan. 5 6:30 pm **Forks Over Knives Film.** Presented by the Silver City Seventh-Day Adventist Church. The film examines the claim that most, if not all, degenerative diseases can be controlled, or even reversed, by rejecting animal-based and processed foods. Free. 575-545-8832

Feb. 1 **AmBank First Fridays Downtown: Chinese New Year Preparation.** Celebrate the upcoming Chinese New Year in Silver City! Free. 575-534-1700

Feb. 2 **Wild and Scenic Film Festival.** Sponsored by the Gila Conservation Coalition. 575-538-8078

Host your meeting, party, or concert at the historic Silco Theater! Rates from \$70 - \$200 for eight hours. AV equipment use included at no extra cost. Theater seating or tables and chairs available. Call for a viewing appointment.
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EVENTS continued

Free. Billy Casper Wellness Center Education Room, 538-4870, www.grmc.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Oldies But Goodies Band. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

MATERIAL THOUGHT, VISITING ARTIST/SCHOLAR PROGRAM—With Linda Weintraub. 6 p.m. Free. NMSU Health and Social Services auditorium, Room 101.

GLUTEN-FREE PIZZA PARTY—5-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

NMSU ART & SCIENCES CULTURAL SERIES—H'SAO. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

PSYCHIC READINGS—Dawn Cheney. 12-3 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THE D.A.M.N. UNION—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY
25 Silver City/Grant County
STEVE REYNOLDS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

YANA REZNIK—Versatile concert pianist with a modern view on presenting classical music. 7:30 p.m. \$20, \$5 students. Tickets at Alotta Gelato or Thunder Creek/Western Stationers. Grant County Community Concert Association. WNMU Fine Arts Theater, 538-5862, www.gcconcerts.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
GIVE US THIS DAY—A stage adaptation of the 1956 memoir by Sidney Stewart, relating a first-person account of the Battle of Bataan, the infamous march that followed and the brutal treatment American soldiers endured for three and a half years. 7-9 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

NMSU ART DEPARTMENT FACULTY TRIENNIAL—Opening reception 5-7 p.m. NMSU Art Gallery, 646-2545.

THE FANTASTICKS—See Jan 18. Through Feb. 3. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

THE SESSIONS—Through Jan. 31. The story of poet and polio survivor Mark O'Brien, who left behind an oeuvre of life-affirming writing. Writer-director Ben Lewin's film focuses on perhaps the most unusual chapter of O'Brien's life, in which the iron lung-bound writer (John Hawkes) arranges to lose his virginity with the help of a sex therapist (Helen Hunt). Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

SATURDAY
26 Silver City/Grant County
STEVE HAVILL—Southwest Festival of the Written Word presents a hands-on workshop for writers of all types and levels with noted novelist Steve Havill. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$75 includes lunch. Bear Mountain Lodge, 313-3172, silverywordfiesta@gmail.com, silverywordfiesta.com.

STEVE REYNOLDS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BLACK ON WHITE: SIGNS AND SYMBOLS WORKSHOP—Explore the concept of visual language through Native American pottery. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

ORGANIC GARDEN SOIL PREPARATION—Learn about additions that can be made to soil for more flowers and vegetables. 2 p.m. \$7.50, free to members. Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-1886, gardens@zianet.com, nmenchantedgardens.com.

STEFAN GEORGE—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

THE FANTASTICKS—See Jan 18. Through Feb. 3. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Douglas Jackson. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Downtown, 317 N. Water St.

STORYTELLERS OF LAS CRUCES—Sonya Weiner. 10:30 a.m. Coas Books Solano, 1101 S. Solano.

Deming
OPEN RANGE—Guitars, dobro,

Native American flute; music includes songs from the old western standards, 1940s western swing, contemporary Americana/folk. 2 p.m. \$10, DPAT members \$8. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St., 545-8872.

SUNDAY
27 Las Cruces / Mesilla
LEE TRIO—Since their critically acclaimed Wigmore Hall London debut in 2002, this dynamic ensemble, made up of sisters and native San Franciscans Angela (Cello), Lisa (Violin) and Melinda (Piano), continues to win plaudits. Las Cruces Civic Concert Association. 2:30 p.m. \$20. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

NMJE ALL STATE JAZZ BAND—1 p.m. Free. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

THE FANTASTICKS—See Jan 18. Through Feb. 3. 7 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

Deming
DPAT JAM SESSIONS—2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

TUESDAY
29 Las Cruces / Mesilla
ARGENTINE TANGO—6-9:30 p.m. \$5. NMSU students free with ID. 525 E. Lohman, 620-0377.

WEDNESDAY
30 Silver City/Grant County
LUNCH & LEARN—Xinyan Weeks, "China Through Chinese Eyes." Xinyan Weeks grew up in China as an ethnic minority outside the dominant Han culture. She has a special perspective on that powerful nation so tied with ours. 12 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com.

THE OVERSOULS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
AWAKENING TO FULL POTENTIAL—An experience of Matrix Energetics with Rev. Dr. Kelley. 6-7 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY
31 Las Cruces / Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs. DJ Dale Ellis. 7-10 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

LILLIS URBAN—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

THE FANTASTICKS—See Jan 18. Through Feb. 3. 7 p.m. \$7. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

February
FRIDAY
1 Silver City/Grant County
FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN—Chinese New Year Preparation. Celebrate the upcoming Chinese New Year in downtown. Free. 535-1700.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
CHICKEN WITH PLUMS—Through Feb. 7. Largely set in 1958 Tehran, the story, adapted from Mariane Satrapi's graphic novel, is a tale of lost love. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

FANTASTICK ART EXHIBIT—Wine and cheese reception. Art inspired by the song titles of the musical. 5-7 p.m. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

THE FANTASTICKS—See Jan 18. Through Feb. 3. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

THE MOUSETRAP—Through Feb. 17. Agatha Christie's classic about a group of strangers stranded in a boarding house during a snowstorm, one of whom is a murderer. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, lctnm.org.

SATURDAY
GROUNDHOG DAY
2 Silver City/Grant County
WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL—Sponsored by the Gila Conservation Coalition. Featured films: *Chasing Water, The Mono Lake Story, A River Runs Through Us, Yelp, The Wolf and the Medallion, Bhutan: Land of the Black-Necked Crane.* 6:30 p.m. \$8, GCC members \$5, students free. Silco Theater. 538-8078, www.gilaconservation.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BASIC LOOM WEAVING FOR CHIL-

DREN—Children from fourth grade through high school are invited to join instructor Ric Rao for this fun class to learn basic loom weaving. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$20, \$16 members. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, nrfarmandranchmuseum.org.

NMSU WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING vs. UNM—12 p.m. NMSU Aquatics Center, 646-1420, nmstatesports.com.

THE FANTASTICKS—See Jan 18. Through Feb. 3. 8 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

THE MOUSETRAP—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 17. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, lctnm.org.

SUNDAY
3 Las Cruces / Mesilla
THE FANTASTICKS—See Jan 18. 7 p.m. \$10, \$9 students and seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, no-strings.org.

THE MOUSETRAP—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 17. 2 p.m. \$7-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, lctnm.org.

THURSDAY
7 Las Cruces / Mesilla
MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR—NMSU Outdoor Rec's Adventure Arts Series. 7-9 p.m. \$8. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, riograndetheatre.com.

NMSU AGGIES BASKETBALL vs. IDAHO—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, nmstatesports.com.

NMSU ART & SCIENCES CULTURAL SERIES—7:30 p.m. \$10-15. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

FRIDAY
8 Silver City/Grant County
WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL vs. FT. LEWIS COLLEGE—5:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.
WNMU BASKETBALL vs. FT. LEWIS COLLEGE—7:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
JAZZ ENSEMBLE—7:30 p.m. Free. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

THE MOUSETRAP—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 17. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, lctnm.org.

SATURDAY
9 Silver City/Grant County
CHOCOLATE FANTASIA—Silver City residents and visitors from across the country can stroll the town's historic streets and visit 30 participating Chocolate Stops inside various galleries and shops, many decorated for the occasion. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$20. www.mimbresarts.org.

MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE BALL—With the Gras Daddies. 7 p.m. \$12. Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL vs. ADAMS STATE COLLEGE—5:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

WNMU BASKETBALL vs. ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY—7:30 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
NMSU AGGIES BASKETBALL vs. SEATTLE—7 p.m. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, nmstatesports.com.

NMSU WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT—7:30 p.m. Free. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

THE MOUSETRAP—See Feb. 1. Through Feb. 17. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, lctnm.org. ❄️

Send events info by the 20th of the month to: events@desertexposure.com, fax 534-4134, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062 or **NEW**—submit your event online at www.desertexposure.com/submitevents.

BEFORE YOU GO:
Note that events listings are subject to change and to human error! Please confirm all dates, times and locations.



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Apocalypse Not Now

Looks like the Mayan doomsayers were wrong.
They're hardly the first.

If you're reading this, then the worst fears/hopes of the doomsday "preppers" so ably chronicled by Larry Lightner in three articles last year have failed to materialize—yet. Although it's certainly possible the world will end any day now, the most popular recent prediction was that apocalypse would arrive when the Mayan calendar ran out last month.

Never mind that the Mayans themselves insisted this wasn't what was intended by their calendar; that the reality was no more apocalyptic than having to visit the stationery store and buy a new "World's Cutest Puppies" calendar. Even if the Mayans really did predict the end of the world would arrive in December 2012, why should we have believed them? They were wrong about a whole bunch of stuff, including the advisability of blood-letting sacrifice by piercing the tongue, ear or foreskin. Their civilization pretty much collapsed. Why should they be right about doomsday? What special power did they possess to gaze into the future—and if so, why didn't they foresee the demise of their civilization and maybe do something about it?

Just in case, though, I've held off pointing this out in print until after Doomsday 2012 had safely come and gone. True, I'm actually writing this in early December, before the big day. But if the world ends between now and the day we deliver the January issue, readers will never know how cocky and wrong I was. Thank goodness, though, I postponed my dental checkup until after Doomsday. Why get your teeth cleaned and flossed if the world's about to end? (I guess some people might want to greet the end with a nice smile.)

If you are indeed reading this, however, then I can safely say: Ha-ha. The joke's on you, believers in the Mayan apocalypse! If only you'd had enough faith in December's doomsday to sell all your worldly possessions and, preferably, give the proceeds to me.

It turns out, though, that this isn't exactly the first time we've been told The End Is Near when, well, it wasn't. And, indeed, some of those doomsday believers did cash out, though none had the wisdom to set that money aside for me.

Besides such professional prognosticators as Nostradamus, who forecast that Armageddon would arrive in July 1999 (oops!), amateur doomsayers ranging from physicist Isaac Newton to preacher Jonathan Edwards have tried their hand at predicting The End. (Newton calculated that we have until sometime after 2060, so that jury's still out.)

Early Christians, of course, thought the apocalyptic return of Jesus was right around the corner, likely in their own lifetimes. But Christians didn't have a monopoly on apocalypse. In 448, Moses of Crete, a rabbi, claimed to be the Messiah as predicted by Talmudic calculations and led his followers to the sea, which was supposed to part so they could reach Palestine. Having given away all their possessions, the rabbi's followers cast themselves into the Mediterranean. As the rabbi saw his followers crash on the rocks or drown, however, he declined to do likewise and "suddenly disappeared," leading some to conclude he had been "some malignant fiend" in human form.

Much later, based on his interpretation of the Kabbalah, Rabbi Sabati Zevi of Smyrna predicted spectacular miracles in 1648, when he would be

revealed as the Messiah. Zevi later updated his prediction to 1666, then converted to Islam.

My own Norse ancestors foretold Ragnarök, a battle in which the gods would perish, after which the world would be flooded. Although these oral traditions were written down in the Eddas of the 13th century, the Norse were canny enough not to specify a date for Ragnarök.

Surprisingly, given our own recent Y2K craziness, the Western world didn't go off the deep end over the year 1000. Most accounts of millennial madness, in fact, were probably exaggerated by later scribes. But the new millennium did soon see a parade of predictions of impending doom.

In 1179, for example, an astrologer named John of Toledo predicted the world would end when all the planets assembled in the constellation Libra, in September 1186. The Archbishop of Canterbury proclaimed a day of atonement, just in case, and the Byzantine emperor walled up his windows in Constantinople. But it turned out that the only future John of Toledo could see was the similarly mistaken 20th century warnings about planetary alignment and the "Jupiter effect."

Astrologers tried again in 1523, predicting that a planetary alignment in Pisces would produce an apocalyptic deluge the following year. People in Germany built boats, including a three-story ark constructed by a Count von Iggleheim, and residents of port cities took refuge afloat. When doomsday arrived with only a light drizzle, angry crowds outside the ark stampeded, trampling hundreds, and stoned the count to death.

Anger, rather than relief, seemed to be a common reaction to missed prophecies of the end. In the early 16th century, groups of Anabaptists came to believe the world would end on Easter Sunday, 1534. One sect, led by Jan Matthyss, seized control of the German city of Münster, proclaiming it the "New Jerusalem." They expelled or forcibly baptized all Catholics and Lutherans and then waited for Judgment Day. It was indeed the end for Matthyss, who led a small band of believers against an army besieging the city: He and his troops were hacked to death. Münster fell in 1535 and the remaining Anabaptist leaders were tortured, executed and displayed in cages, which still hang outside the Church of St. Lambert there.

The Reformation continued to mix the apocalypse with politics. Following the English Civil Wars of the 17th century that put Oliver Cromwell in power, a group called the Fifth Monarchists preached that Christ would soon return. They cited the Book of Daniel's reference to four ancient monarchies preceding the Day of Judgment, and counted these as Assyria, Persia, Macedonia and Rome. In the approach of the year 1666, the Fifth Monarchists saw the Biblical "number of the Beast." Far from being out of the mainstream, however, these doomsayers played key roles in the trial and execution of Charles I and Cromwell's Protectorate. After the Restoration in 1660, the Fifth Monarchists were among the first to be hanged, drawn and quartered for treason.

Other doomsayers drew on a different Biblical math. Most famously, in 1654 Anglican Bishop James Ussher calculated that the first day of Creation began at nightfall preceding Sunday, Oct. 23,

4004 BC. Since it was commonly believed that the world would last only 6,000 years (as in the six days of creation, figuring "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years"), this meant our clock would run out in 1996.

There's a lesson there: If you're going to predict something, put it far enough off that you won't be around to be proven wrong.

Not everyone thought we had so much time, though. Another numerical interpretation of the Bible led Johann Jacob Zimmermann, a German nonconformist theologian and astronomer, to predict the apocalypse would arrive "on the edge of the wilderness" in 1694. He planned to lead 11 families to await the end in North America, and negotiated with Pennsylvania Governor William Penn to obtain land near Wissahickon Creek. Zimmermann died on the day the group was to depart Rotterdam, but his widow and the rest of "the Hamburg Group" went on to establish a religious community in the New World.

They would hardly be the last "millennialists" in America. The Millerites followed Baptist preacher William Miller who, once again consulting the Book of Daniel, concluded Christ would return in 1844. Another Millerite pegged it more precisely as Oct. 22, 1844, a day that came to be known as "the Great Disappointment." Thousands of followers gave away their possessions and awaited the end. When Jesus didn't appear, one wrote, "I lay prostrate for two days without any pain—sick with disappointment." Even children in the streets would taunt the disappointed Millerites, "Have you not gone up [to heaven]?"

Another new denomination, the Jehovah's Witnesses, made repeated predictions of Christ's return and the subsequent "day of wrath." When the world didn't end in 1914, Armageddon was moved to 1918 and then 1925. As late as 1974, church publications praised believers who sold their homes and prepared to "finish out the rest of their days in this old system" by preaching until the end, reset for 1975.

The 20th century brought believers of another kind—in UFOs. Marion Keech, a Chicago woman who claimed to channel "Guardians" from the planet "Clarion," predicted an apocalyptic flood on Dec. 21, 1954. Though of little impact at the time, Keech and her devotees made history of a different sort when they were infiltrated by academics led by Leon Festinger. Publishing their observations in a book, *When Prophecy Fails*, Festinger and colleagues helped lay the foundation for modern social psychology.

So perhaps something good will come out of the early 21st century's apocalyptic fever. I'm thinking something along the lines of some believers donating their worldly goods to "the biggest little paper in the Southwest," but that's just me. ☘

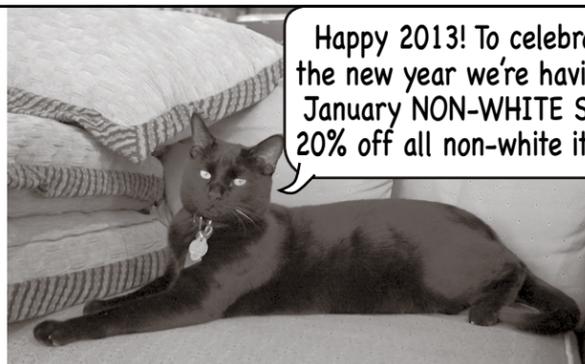
Desert Exposure editor David A. Fryxell awaits the end in Silver City.



If the Mayans were so smart, why didn't they predict the collapse of their own civilization?



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Pray for Snow



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RURAL, SECLUDED with VIEWS and needs work. The views from this property are breath taking. 2.51 acres on a sloping hillside with lots of trees. The home has been brought in from a site above Hanover. Owner has been slowly remodeling the inside. Exterior needs TLC. Two bedrooms, only one has a closet. Large windows in the living and dining room offer great views. Kitchen is a "work in progress".



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Custom home on 1/2 acre minutes to downtown & all city utilities! Passive solar design with views, energy efficient, sun room, bonus room. Metal roof, colored concrete floors, custom finishes. Andersen windows, Syzygy tiles, concrete & paperstone counters, raised garden beds. Home is plumbed for a future active solar system.



MLS 29684 • \$119,900

3BD/1BA TYRONE HOUSE WITH attractive family room addition. Vaulted wood-trim ceiling with skylights, pellet stove, updated kitchen, laminate & tile flooring in living areas. Enlarged storage/ workshop area behind carport, double-pane windows, private backyard, all appliances convey.



MLS 29676 • \$185,000

Gila horse property is 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 baths on 7.7 acres with some of the best views around. Property is bordered on two side by state land, house has new metal roof, huge hay barn with fenced stalls for horses and cargo storage container. Very comfortable house that is heated almost exclusively with a wood stove, although there is a conventional heater.



MLS 29647 • \$295,000

CUSTOM BUILT BEAUTY with VIEWS. This Southwestern Ranch home is located in the Mimbres Valley. 4 bedrooms and 2 1/2 bath. Large master bedroom with a kiva fireplace. The living room has another kiva fireplace and oversized windows that offer views of the mountains. The kitchen is spacious with much cabinetry and a separate pantry. A wet bar with an adjoining breakfast bar offers many opportunities for great entertaining. The property comes with two additional lots for added privacy. A circular driveway leads to a two car garage.



MLS 29659 • \$39,500

GREAT PROPERTY at a GREAT PRICE! 6+ acres above San Lorenzo with Southeast exposure. Super nice sloping acreage with some trees. Ideal property for a solar or passive solar dream home. Enjoy the peace and quiet of a private country life shared with abundant wildlife. Horses are welcome.



MLS 29663 • \$128,500

1994 single-wide with two additions in good condition. 2.88 acres with metal garage, additional single-wide used as a studio (no bathroom). Greenhouse, shed, RV parking. Fenced garden area/dog run, fruit trees, wooded & private.



MLS 29653 • \$77,000

Minutes from town, Beautiful Sunny 20+ Acre Land parcel! Many potential building sites. Privacy, Southern Exposure, Views. Survey in file (assoc. docs) with GPS Points noted. If you're going for a look on your own, call listing office for a SURVEY and MAP (print or email). Directions will bring you to the Southeast corner of subject property. Priced to sell!



Price Reduced!

MLS 29694 • \$12,500

2 acres Bordering National Forest in Quemado Lake Estates Subdivision. Site-built or manufactured homes, community water system & electric, phone to lot line. This property is one of the least expensive in the subdivision.



MLS 29656 • \$69,900

11.468 acres on the ridge with excellent views to the gila wilderness area. Electric & private well are in. 1/4 acre water right included. Property is divided into two tracts.

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