

# DESERT exposure

BIGGEST LITTLE PAPER IN THE SOUTHWEST



Globe-trotting  
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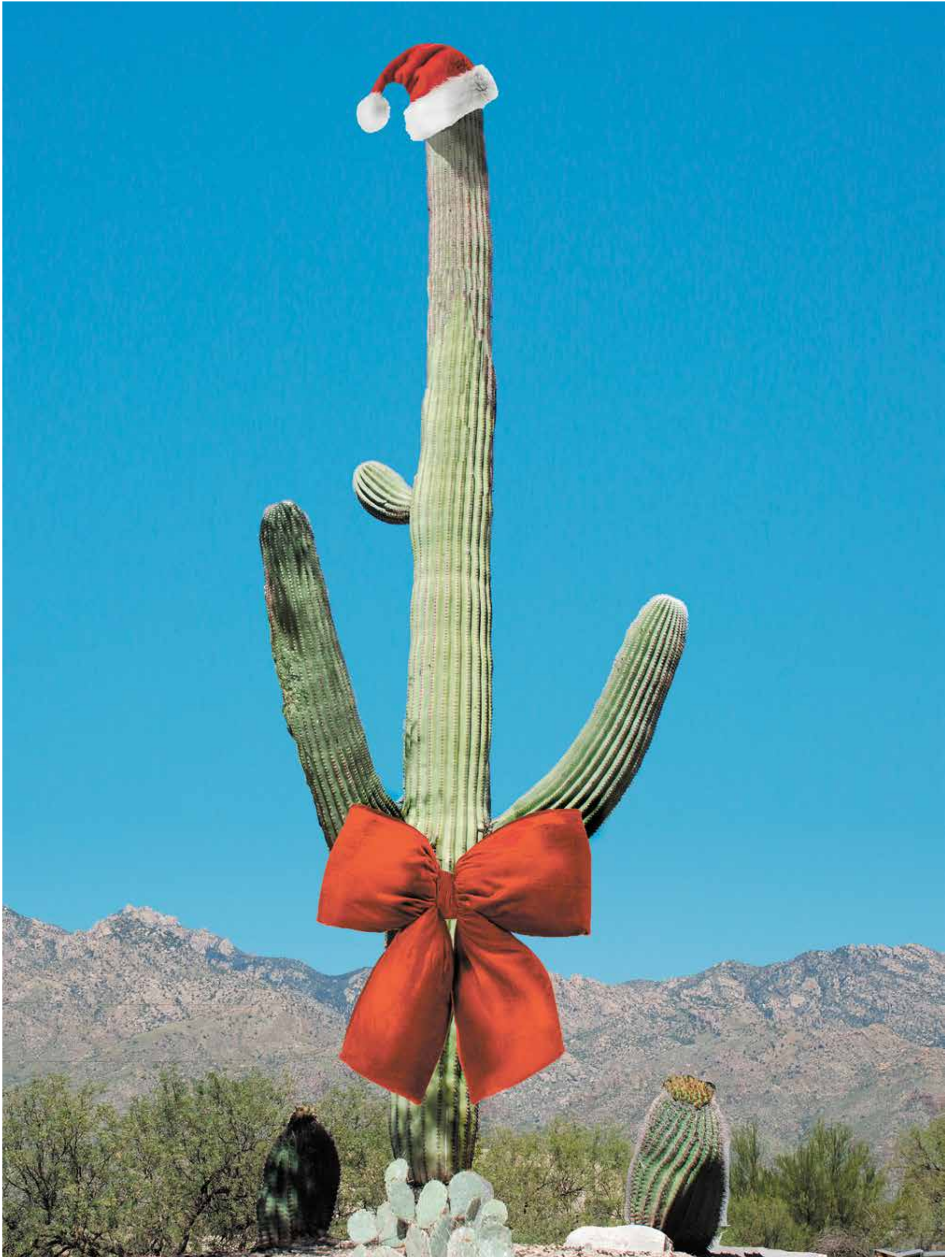
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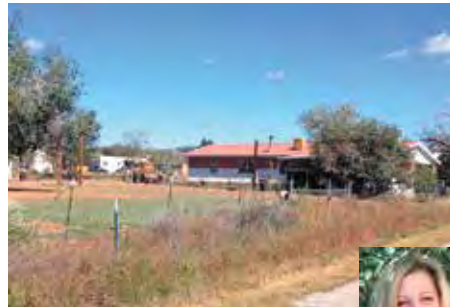
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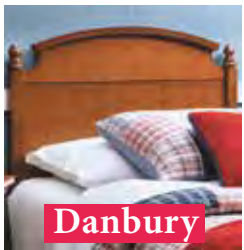
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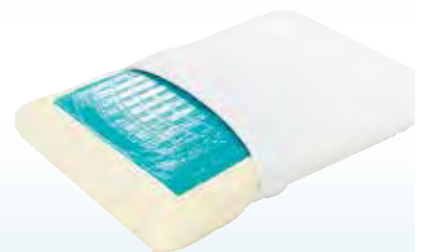
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

## A Newer World

Desert Exposure takes the next step.

Before you go ballistic and fire off a snarky email about the fact that the saguaro cactus, as depicted on this month's holiday cover, is not native to New Mexico, you might want to read on. After 12 years in southwest New Mexico, we know our cacti. But soon, as our cover subtly announces, we will be living in (semi)retirement in Tucson, Arizona, arguably the saguaro capital of the US.

Not to worry—*Desert Exposure*, “the biggest little paper in the Southwest,” will go on without us, no doubt bigger and better than ever. Like a child that's going off to college, it's time for the publication to take the next steps in its maturation. And we, the empty nesters, couldn't be more proud—or more ready to take life a bit easier.

When we bought *Desert Exposure* a dozen years ago, we often said that while we admired and respected all that had come before in the publication, we hoped to take it to the next level. To continue the parenting metaphor, *Desert Exposure* was ready to grow from childhood to adolescence. Thanks to the support of our advertisers and loyal readers, it did indeed grow beyond our most optimistic expectations.

Throughout these best 12 years of our lives, the two of us have been not only editor and advertising manager/designer, but also paper carriers, the accounting “department,” clerks, subscription fulfillment, proofreaders, IT staff, maintenance crew and customer-service reps. We couldn't have made it this long without our ad salespeople, columnists, writers and delivery help. But *Desert Exposure* is ready to grow beyond a “mom and pop” operation.

Like doting parents pondering a child's college choices, we thought long and hard about who might be the best fit to take *Desert Exposure* to new heights. The more we considered the possibilities, however, the clearer the choice became: The owners of the weekly *Las Cruces Bulletin* understand community journalism and producing a non-daily, free publication, and are already serving one of our primary distribution areas. The *Bulletin* is even printed at the same Las Cruces plant as *Desert Exposure*.

Happily, the owners of the *Bulletin* were quick to appreciate the potential of building on what we have done with *Desert Exposure*. So we have agreed to sell *Desert Exposure*, effective with the January 2015 issue, to OPC News, LLC, which acquired the *Bulletin* in 2012.

OPC News, LLC, is owned by three members of the Osteen family—Graham, Kyle and Jack—and is headquartered in Sumter, SC. The Osteen family has newspaper publishing roots going back to the Civil War and their family has published a daily paper in Sumter for more than 100 years.

During the past three years, the Osteens have acquired several media properties, including *The Las Cruces Bulletin*. Other properties include newspapers in the Gulf Shores area of Alabama, the Jacksonville area of Florida and in Sumter. The company also owns an auto magazine and a small distribution company in Jacksonville.

We'll let them tell you more about their company and their plans in the January issue, which we'll be helping to make as smooth and seamless a transition as possible. In the meantime, though, rest assured that the biggest change you'll notice is the absence



of the current headshot at the bottom of this page. *Desert Exposure* will continue to be distributed throughout the area, and our Silver City and Deming ad salespeople will remain on the job. Everything you love about *Desert Exposure* will continue, with bigger and better things to come.

Please continue to use the contact information in the box on this page, and send *Desert Exposure* your ads, event listings, letters and, of course, jokes.

As for us, well, I titled my first of these columns, in our April 2003 issue (pictured), “Desert Dreaming,” and owning and operating *Desert Exposure* has indeed been a dream come true for both of us. We got to be our own bosses and exercise our creativity in ways few in the media business—or any business—ever enjoy.

Over the years, we've shed light on topics ranging from Spaceport America to immigration and border security, from the public-lands debate to trapping. We've won 14 awards in the annual Top of the Rockies competition sponsored by the regional Society of Professional Journalists, and twice earned mention among the year's best essays in the national “Best

American Essays” anthology series. We've produced 8,404 pages and distributed more than 1.4 million copies of *Desert Exposure*.

Best of all, values we'd held all our professional lives were validated: Throughout my career working for others, I'd maintained that if we invested in a quality product, instead of trying to slash our way to success, readers and advertisers would respond and everyone would win. How rewarding it is to know first-hand that I was right all along.

But our dream come true isn't just about journalism or business. For us, as I explained in that introductory column a seeming lifetime ago, the dream was also about moving to the West of our favorite childhood TV programs, of our imagination, of our fondest hopes for open skies and endless possibilities. That dream came true as well, and will continue in our new home not so very far away, where the saguaros really do grow. Silver City in particular and southwest New Mexico in general rewarded our investment of hope and energy and trust many times over. Thank you all, long-time New Mexicans and fellow newcomers alike, for welcoming us.

And though we'll call ourselves “semi-retired,” who knows what other trails we may blaze here in the West of our dreams, once we've rested up a bit and the paper cuts have healed? When I left my last job to pursue those dreams in New Mexico, I said goodbye to my co-workers there with some favorite lines from Tennyson's “Ulysses.” A dozen years later, as the son of two English professors moving on again, those words still resonate:

“I am a part of all that I have met;  
Yet all experience is an arch where thro'  
Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades  
For ever and forever when I move....

Come, my friends,  
'Tis not too late to seek a newer  
world.”

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





LETTERS

# Guns, Ads and Photos

Our readers write.

Gun Talk

Your editorial in the October issue, “Shooting from the Lip,” invited gun owners to participate in an honest discussion about things that can be done to reduce the gun violence in this country. But then you go on to say how gun-control advocates like former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg have no intention of disarming law-abiding citizens. Well, I don’t believe that. I know they would because I see what they’ve already done elsewhere. In Mr. Bloomberg’s New York City it’s practically impossible for a law-abiding citizen to own a gun. This prohibition is enforced by their “stop and frisk” program in which the police can stop and search you, without probable cause. It turns out, though, that they stop a lot more black and Hispanic men than they do white guys with ties. Mr. Bloomberg defended this policy vigorously. Then there’s Chicago, where, like New York City, only the cops and criminals are armed. Over 2,000 people were shot there last year. Mostly it’s gangs at war, but there are a lot of innocent bystanders getting shot, too.

Your opinion that the Second Amendment limits the possession of arms to state militias under government control has been rejected by a recent US Supreme Court ruling. See *District of Columbia v Heller*. This decision says clearly that the right to keep arms is an individual right, not a right reserved for the government. The 10 amendments of the Bill of Rights were written to limit the powers of the government, not to restrict the rights of the people.

So what to do? Laws can only do so much because only the law abiding will obey them. There are already laws that prohibit anyone with a felony record from possessing a gun. But there is a huge, violent criminal underworld all around us, thriving in spite of (or maybe due to) our failed “war on drugs.” They will pay no attention to the law. There are also laws prohibiting mentally ill people from having guns. This is an area that could use some improvement. A lot of homeless people are mentally ill, and wind up either committing violence or becoming victims. But we mostly just neglect them. What about the widespread use of psychiatric drugs like Ritalin and antidepressants? There is a lot of evidence that such drugs contribute to violence and suicide. Once a crazy person or criminal gets ahold of a gun it’s too late for the law to do much about it. This country is simply awash in millions of guns, and there is no way to put this genie back in the bottle. Wishing we were like Japan and the UK is useless.

Why do so many people want to have a gun? So they aren’t defenseless against armed criminals and wackos, and aren’t totally dependent on the police for protection. After all, when seconds count the police are only minutes away.

Jeff Ross  
Glenwood

**Editor’s note:** Thanks for the thoughtful letter. It’s true that New York, for example, has stricter gun laws than some gun owners might be comfortable with. It’s also true, however, according to a recent report by the Violence Policy Center, that New York state has the nation’s fourth-lowest gun death rate. In fact, the states with the lowest gun death rates (Rhode Island, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey) all have among the lowest rates of gun ownership. Those with the highest gun death rates (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alaska, Wyoming and Montana) also are among the highest in gun ownership. Louisiana, for example, has a gun ownership rate 2.5 times that of New York, and a per capita gun-deaths rate 3.7 times greater.

Moreover, since that editorial was published, Stanford law professor John Donohue and colleagues have published an in-depth analysis that debunks the commonly held view that “more guns equals less crime,” as in right-to-carry laws. According to Donohue, “The totality of the evidence based on educated judgments about the best statistical models suggests that right-to-carry laws are associated with substantially higher rates” of aggravated assault, robbery, rape and murder.

It’s all in what you prioritize, which is perhaps an important part of the conversation the editorial called for.

Ad Nauseum

Thanks for your article on the misrepresentations and missed opportunities in the way campaigns were conducted in New Mexico (“Campaign Cons,” Editor’s Notebook, November). Somehow, substantive issues and even facts are ignored in marketing candidates. I was appalled at the totally specious claims about the Affordable Care Act when it was being debated in Congress. The remarkable thing is that there are totally factual, real problems with the ACA that Republicans never brought up.

I don’t know what the solution is, but articles like yours help. Thanks.

Bob Peticolas  
via email

Forest Photos

After reading “Big Brother Is Watching Us” (Ramblin’ Outdoors, November), I wonder if Larry Lightner could please explain this new Forest Service rule a little further, as I so want to comply and not “violate the premise... etc.”

If I take a picture of the wilderness, I am “violating,” but if I buy a permit first, I am not?

If I take a picture from just outside the border of the wilderness, am I “violating”?

If Google takes a satellite picture, are they “violating”?

If taking a picture of the wilderness “violates the wilderness,” does taking a “selfie” violate one’s self?

If I take a picture of a friend, and the wilderness is in the background, which of us is “violating”?

What if only a portion of the wilderness is in the picture? Is this a partial violation?

Can the Forest Service take pictures in the wilderness without “violating”?

If an illegal alien takes a picture, can he be deported?

If I don’t get a permit (\$1,500) but get fined (\$1,000) am I saving \$500 each time I’m caught?

Is there a “bundling” savings possible? Suppose someone gets caught taking a picture while smoking pot?

These are important questions that the public has a right to know

Bert de Pedro  
Red Rock ☼

Let us hear from you! Write Desert Exposure Letters, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or email [letters@desertexposure.com](mailto: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.

## A Special Thank You

By Lisa D. Fryxell, Creative Director

Thanks for a terrific 12 years! It has been a privilege to work with the all of the advertisers and organizations here in Silver City and southwestern New Mexico. It’s time to move to the next phase. We’ve taken the toddler (*Desert Exposure*) through the tough teen years to being a young adult and sending it off into the world to become something bigger and better (see Editor’s Notebook). Empty nest, here I come!

I plan to take a serious stab at depleting my quilt stash—Dave says “hoard”—and continue designing quilts and patterns. I’ll be available for commissions for pet quilts; just email me ([lisafryxell@gmail.com](mailto:lisafryxell@gmail.com)). I also plan to keep up my graphic design, so if you need ads or brochures, I’m just an email away. Many of you know I’m not one to sit still for very long; I may try my hand at teaching quilting, volunteering, playing my guitar (haven’t done that in 12 years) and painting.

Thanks especially to Ilene Wignall for helping us to make a leap forward with *Desert Exposure*. I’ve always said that Ilene could sell ice cubes to Eskimos. Thanks to Crystal Crowell, Randy Carr, Ward

Ruddick and Henry Cwieka for helping with delivery. Our delivery crew has saved our backs and our sanity. Thanks too to the informal delivery people who voluntarily pick up copies and distribute them far and wide. Over the years we have counted on the “kindness of strangers” to get *Desert Exposure* delivered.

Thanks to all our advertisers, because without you we wouldn’t have succeeded. These advertisers have been with *Desert Exposure* from before we took over: Ambank, Anne Veenstra, Barbara Duffy, Douglas Gorthy, Fierro Dental, Frame and Art Center, Gila Hike & Bike, Gila Regional Medical Center, Hacienda Realty (pet page), High Desert Brewing, Home Furniture, Kate Brown, Leyba & Ingalls, Lois Duffy, Mesilla Valley Film Society, Mimbres Farms, Mimbres Region Arts Council, Palace Hotel, Patrick Conlin, Shevek & Co., Silver City Food Co-Op, Silver City Mainstreet, Silver Imaging, Smith Realty, Syzygy and Western Stationers. Readers, please tell them and all our other advertisers how much you appreciate them and that you’re counting on them to continue to support “the biggest little paper in the Southwest.” ☼


Lisa D. Fryxell is creative director and advertising manager for Desert Exposure.



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“A cowboy ordered some toilet paper from a mail-order catalog. They wrote back and requested that he look in his catalog to give them the exact order number. He answered right back and told them that if he had their catalog, he sure wouldn’t need the toilet paper.”

“The lady had come to a dude ranch and was all ready to take her first horseback ride. She said to the cowboy, ‘Can you get me a nice gentle pony?’

“‘Shore,’ said the cowboy. ‘What kind of saddle do you want, English or western?’

“‘What’s the difference?’ asked the lady.

“‘The western saddle has a horn on it,’ said the cowboy.

“‘Replied the lady, ‘If the traffic is so thick here that I need a horn on my saddle, I don’t believe I want to ride.’”

“Cowboy Joe was telling his fellow cowboys back on the ranch about his first visit to the local church in the big city. ‘When I got there, they had me park my old truck in the corral,’ Joe began.

“‘You mean the *parking lot*,’ interrupted Charlie, a worldlier feller.

“‘I walked up the trail to the door,’ Joe continued.

“‘The *sidewalk*,’ Charlie corrected him.

“‘Inside the door, I was met by this dude,’ Joe went on.

“‘The *usher*,’ Charlie explained.

“‘Well, the usher led me down the chute,’ Joe said.

“‘You mean the *aisle*,’ Charlie said.

“‘Then he led me to a stall and told me to sit there,’ Joe continued.

“‘*Pew*,’ Charlie retorted.

“‘Yeah,’ recalled Joe, ‘That’s what that pretty lady said when I sat down next to her.’”

*Cowboy yarns or citified humor, whatever makes you chuckle, share it with Desert Diary at diary@desertexposure.com.*

**P**ersons of the blonde persuasion... Contributor **GeeRichard** suggests that the husband in this yarn must be a blonde, but as usual you can picture the hair hue of your choice:

“A wife yells to her husband who’s in the bathroom, ‘Did you find the shampoo?’

“‘I did,’ he replies, ‘but I’m not sure what to do. ‘The shampoo label reads, “For dry hair.” And I’ve already wet my hair.’”

**O**h, heavenly daze... When **PA**Charlie was up visiting a friend in Colorado, his buddy shared this little piece of humor since he and PACharlie’s wife are both retired lawyers:

“Seems a couple very much in love was driving

to the pastor to get married. A freak car accident happened and they both were killed. But still determined, and much in love, hand in hand, they approached Saint Peter. They asked him, ‘Can we still get married up here?’

“Saint Peter said, ‘Let me check. Stay here and I’ll be back.

“Day after day went by and finally after a week Saint Peter came back and said he had found a pastor to marry them. The couple was elated. Then, just as they were going to leave, the man said, ‘If things don’t work out, can we get legally divorced?’

“Saint Peter blew his top. He yelled, ‘I spent a week trying to find a pastor up here and now you want me to do the impossible—find a lawyer?!’”

**L**osing the battle of the sexes... Ladies, we need more jokes from your side of the gender wars, as this month’s are decidedly male-centric. Take this from **The Packrat Out Back**:

“A pastor goes to the dentist for a set of false teeth. The first Sunday after he gets his new teeth, he talks for only eight minutes. The second Sunday, he talks for only 10 minutes. The following Sunday, he talks for 2 hours and 48 minutes. The congregation has to mob him to get him down from the pulpit. They ask him what happened.

“The pastor explains the first Sunday his gums hurt so bad he couldn’t talk for more than eight minutes. The second Sunday his gums hurt too much to talk for more than 10 minutes. But the third Sunday, he put his wife’s teeth in by mistake and he couldn’t shut up.”

Then there’s this shortie from **Joerock**:

“How much money do you need to satisfy your woman?

“It is always just a little bit more.”

And finally this salvo sent our way by **GeraldH**:

“A man walks into a pharmacy and wanders up and down the aisles. The sales girl notices him and asks him if she can help him. He answers that he is looking for a box of tampons for his wife. She directs him down the correct aisle.

“A few minutes later, he deposits a huge bag of cotton balls and a ball of string on the counter. She says, confused, ‘Sir, I thought you were looking for some tampons for your wife?’

“He answers, ‘You see, it’s like this: Yesterday, I sent my wife to the store to get me a carton of cigarettes, and she came back with a tin of tobacco and some rolling papers, because it’s sooo-ooo-oo much cheaper. So, I figure if I have to roll my own—so does she.’”

**C**apital pun-ishment... Groan away at this fractured fairy tale from the **Silver City Greek**:

“There lived a man who was very unhappy



**Postcards from the edge...** Going places? Take along a copy of *Desert Exposure* and snap a photo of yourself holding it “on location”—like **Esperanza Quintero**, who writes: “My friends Shari Chandler, Mark Hunter, Earl Hunter and I (left to right) completed the entire Camino to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. We started in Saint Jean Pied Port, France, crossed the Pyrenees and continued on for 33 days walking the approximately 540 miles to Santiago de Compostela. Of course, I carried the front page of the *Desert Exposure* all the way. This photo was taken in front of the cathedral in Santiago.”

because he was deeply in love with a girl who didn’t know he was alive. In desperation, he visited a coven of witches who lived nearby and presented his case before them. Touched by his tale of woe, and impressed with the young man’s appearance, manner and bearing, they decided to help him. They worked their magic and eventually presented the young man with several small objects that looked like capsules. ‘Bury these under the window of your beloved under a full moon and she will love you,’ they instructed. Doubtful, the young man resolved nevertheless to do as the witches instructed.

“On the very next full moon, he stealthily made his way over to his beloved’s house and carefully buried the capsules in the rich loam beneath her window. He made his way home safely, and trusting in the wisdom of the old ladies, he anxiously awaited whatever the next day would bring.

“In the morning, he walked hopefully over to the girl’s house and rang her doorbell. She opened the door, saw it was him, grabbed him and kissed him and invited him in for coffee and sweet pastries. Their courtship was short, passionate, and within a month they were happily married.

“Late one night, a few weeks after the wedding, he visited the coven again. ‘I just want to thank you ladies for your help,’ he said. ‘My life is everything I could have desired.’

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“No problem, dearie,’ said one of the old ladies. ‘After all, nothin’ says lovin’ like somethin’ from the coven, and pills buried says it best.”

**Pondering the imponderables...** These deep thoughts (and some shallow ones) were shared by **Old Grumps**:

“One tequila, two tequila, three tequila... floor.  
“The main reason that Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live.

“I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, ‘Where’s the self-help section?’ She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

“What if there were no hypothetical questions?  
“If a deaf child signs swear words, does his mother wash his hands with soap?

“If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?  
“Is there another word for *synonym*?

“Where do forest rangers go to ‘get away from it all’?

“What should you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

“If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

“Would a fly without wings be called a walk?

“Why do they lock gas station toilets? Are they afraid someone will break-in and clean them?

“If a turtle doesn’t have a shell, is it homeless or naked?

“Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?

“If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?

“Why do they put braille on the drive-through bank machines?

“How do they get deer to cross the road only at those yellow road signs?

“What was the best thing before sliced bread?

“One nice thing about egotists: They don’t talk about other people.

“Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?

“If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest drown, too?

“If you ate both pasta and antipasto, would you still be hungry?

“If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?

“Whose cruel idea was it for the word ‘lisp’ to have ‘s’ in it?

“Why are hemorrhoids called ‘hemorrhoids’ instead of ‘assteroids’?

“Why is it called ‘tourist season’ if we can’t shoot at them?

“Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?

“Why do shops have signs, ‘Guide dogs only’? The dogs can’t read, and their owners are blind.”

“Can an atheist get insurance against acts of god?”

**Ya shur, you betcha...** A bevy of Ole and Lena jokes from **Shanty Shaker**, who knows we’re suckers for things Scandihoovian:

“Lena called the airline’s information desk and inquired, ‘How long does it take to fly from Minneapolis to Fargo?’

“‘Yust a minute,’ said the busy clerk.

“‘Vell,’ said Lena, ‘if it has to go dat fast, I tink I’ll yust take da bus.”

“Lars, the bartender, asked Ole, ‘Do ya know da difference between a Norwegian and a canoe?’

“‘No, I don’t,’ said Ole.

“‘A canoe will sometimes tip,’ explained Lars.”

“So Lena went to the local paper to put a notice in the obituaries. The gentleman at the counter, after offering his condolences, asked Lena what she would like to say about Ole.

“Lena replied, ‘You yust put “Ole died.”’

“The gentleman, somewhat perplexed, said, ‘That’s it? Just “Ole died”? Surely, there must be something more you’d like to say about Ole. If it’s money you’re concerned about, the first five words are free. We must say something more.’

“So Lena pondered for a few minutes and finally said, ‘OK. You put, “Ole died. Boat for sale.”’”

**You’re only as old as you feel...** This category’s title was never so true as in this slightly naughty submission from **Ned Ludd**:

“An Arizona couple, both well into their 80s, goes to a sex therapist’s office. The doctor asks,



**Postcards from the edge...** Our second reader photo comes from “regular *Desert Exposure* reader **Tim Arend** of Las Cruces at the Kremlin in Moscow.”

Don’t miss the special “Postcards” catch up feature elsewhere in this issue, with a bonus bumper crop of reader photos. But that also means we need your new pictures ASAP! Snap a picture of yourself holding a copy of your favorite publication (ahem, that would be *Desert Exposure*) and send it to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or [diary@desert-exposure.com](mailto:diary@desert-exposure.com).

‘What can I do for you?’

“The man says, ‘Will you watch us have sexual intercourse?’

“The doctor raises both eyebrows, but he is so amazed that such an elderly couple is asking for sexual advice that he agrees. When the couple finishes, the doctor says, ‘There’s absolutely nothing wrong with the way you have intercourse.’ He thanks them for coming, he wishes them good luck, he charges them \$50 and he says good bye.

“The next week, the same couple returns and asks the sex therapist to watch again. The sex therapist is a bit puzzled, but agrees. This happens several weeks in a row. The couple makes an appointment, has intercourse with no problems, pays the doctor, then leaves.

“Finally, after three months of this routine, the doctor says, ‘I’m sorry, but I have to ask. Just what are you trying to find out?’

“The old man says, ‘We’re not trying to find out anything. She’s married; so we can’t go to her house. I’m married, and we can’t go to my house. The Holiday Inn charges \$98. The Hilton charges \$139. We do it here for \$50, and best of all Medicare pays \$43 of it.”

**Angling for a laugh...** Finally, it’s been some time since we’ve featured any fishing humor, so we’re delighted to let **The Santa Claran** do double duty this month:

“A fisherman from the city was out fishing on a lake in a rowboat. He noticed another man in a rowboat open his tackle box and take out a mirror. Being curious, the man rowed over and asked, ‘What is the mirror for?’

“‘That’s my secret way to catch fish,’ said the other man. ‘I shine the mirror on the top of the water, the fish notice the spot on the water above and swim to the surface. Then I just reach down and net them and pull them into the boat.’

“‘Wow! Does that really work?’

“‘You bet it does.’

“‘Would you be interested in selling that mirror? I’ll give you \$5 for it.’

“‘Well, OK.’

“After the money was transferred, the city fisherman asked, ‘By the way, how many fish have you caught this week?’

“‘You’re the sixth,’ was the reply.” ❧

*Cowboys or fishing, whatever the topic, send your favorite anecdotes, jokes, puns and tall tales, addressed to Desert Diary, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or email [diary@desertexposure.com](mailto:diary@desertexposure.com). The best submission each month gets a Desert Exposure mouse pad, scientifically proven to take the strain out of emailing jokes to Desert Diary.*



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TUMBLEVEEDS

# Life in a State of Nature

More reader critter photos.



We've got everything from bugs to birds in this month's installment of reader-submitted photos of the wildlife they've spotted in our "Southwest zoo." First, from **Patrick Conlin** in Silver City, is this foxy fella above: "This fox and his brother were snacking on grapes in my grapevine. This is in the backyard of my office behind the police and fire station. We've seen them several times."



Next, from **Gordon Berman** in Las Cruces: "These are red velvet mites taken at Hueco Tanks. Each mite is smaller than the fingernail on your pinky."



All the way from Denver comes this picture by frequent visitor **Andy Dimler**, who photographed this turkey culture in Luna County.

Share your own photos of local creatures great and small. Send to [editor@desertexposure.com](mailto:editor@desertexposure.com) or mail to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062. 📧

TUMBLEVEEDS

# Getting What They Paid For

Who paid to put Udall and Pearce back in Congress?

The dust has settled on the 2014 campaign—the most expensive in history—and the winners and losers in New Mexico have been sorted out. But who *really* won? For the answer, you have to look beyond the vote totals and dig into who paid for the candidates' campaigns. Yes, your elected representatives aim to represent you, the voters, in Washington. But if you don't think they'll be quicker to pick up the phone when a top donor calls, we have a bridge over the Mimbres to sell you.

So which donors were on the winning side this year in New Mexico? The website OpenSecrets.org calculates total giving by organization—so, for example, if three executives of the Acme Co. each contributed \$500, the line for Acme would read \$1,500. The organizations themselves did not donate; rather the money came from the organizations' PACs, their individual members or employees or owners, and those individuals' immediate families. Each organization's total includes subsidiaries and affiliates. Reports are through Oct. 15, so do not include last-minute cash influxes. Nor do these totals include "dark money" spending or funds not given directly to the candidate.

For Democrat Sen. Tom Udall, who raised a total of \$9.1 million for his campaign committee and "Leadership PAC" combined in the 2014 election cycle, the top 20 donation sources were:

1. Comcast Corp.
2. League of Conservation Voters
3. FedEx Corp.
4. National Cable & Telecommunications Assn.
5. Berkshire Hathaway



Sen. Tom Udall, \$9.1 million.

- 6-7 (tie). American Assn. for Justice
- Union Pacific Corp.
8. JStreetPAC
9. Norfolk Southern
10. CSX Corp.
11. Blue Cross/Blue Shield
12. University of New Mexico
13. Accenture
14. Honeywell International





Rep. Steve Pearce, \$2 million.

learn that Udall’s Senate committee assignments have included Appropriations, Environment and Public Works, Indian Affairs, Rules and Administration, and Foreign Relations.

Second District GOP Rep. Steve Pearce, who raised a combined \$2 million for the 2014 campaign, got the most money from individuals and PACs associated with:

1. Yates Petroleum

2. Lowells Pharmacy

3. Salopek Farms

4. PricewaterhouseCoopers

5. Occidental Petroleum

6. Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold

7. Exxon Mobil

8. Lea County State Bank

9. Intrepid Potash

10. Mack Energy

11-19 (tie). TFH Rental Co

Hunt Companies

Burleson Oil

Rockhouse

Allsup’s Convenience Stores

Glenn’s Water Well Services

Myco Industries

Gregory Rockhouse Ranch

Roswell Toyota

20. Crownquest Operating

Pearce sits on the Financial Services Committee
- in the House. ☼

15. American Postal Workers Union
16. Poarch Band of Creek Indians
17. United Parcel Service
18. Wal-Mart Stores
19. Chickasaw Nation
20. National Beer Wholesalers Assn.

Reading this list, you might not be surprised to

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. Election results dominate the headlines, with one last listing for the losers and “Susanna Martinez 2016” almost making the list at #11. Plus Virgin Galactic makes headlines, but not in a good way, with a tragic crash. Is it too soon to say we told you so? (“This is rocket science, and I do expect accidents,” Oberg concedes.... Even more serious than liability claims could be the damage to the image of space tourism, with a disaster splashed all over today’s 24/7 news media.”—“Have Spacesuit, Will Travel,” February 2006 *Desert Exposure*)

1. (2) Gov. Susana Martinez—2,152 hits (▲)

2. (4) New Mexico + immigration—347 hits (▲)

3. (5) Sen. Tom Udall—237 hits (▲)

4. (6) Gubernatorial candidate Gary King—214 hits (▲)

5. (7) New Mexico same-sex marriage—212 hits (▲)

6. (10) New Mexico + Border Patrol—196 hits (▲)

7. (1) Virgin Galactic—194 hits (▼)

8. (9) Spaceport America—173 hits (▲)

9. (-) Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson—157 hits (▲)

10. (-) Virgin Galactic crash—143 hits \*

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## Reflections

Will all those cherished "secret" spots soon be inaccessible?

The valley is remote by most standards. On the lower, south end is a high cliff-like waterfall; the eastern and western sides are guarded by two tall ridges covered with rocky slopes, boulders and heavy brush. There are no human trails crossing these ridges. On the far sides of the ridges run deep, narrow valleys that even a person on foot would have trouble negotiating.

The only easy way into this valley is via an old washed-out logging road, which ascends to a broad saddle before dipping down and through the beginning of this valley. Judging by old juniper stumps, evidently cut with axe and bucksaw, this road is over 100 years old.

Below where the road intersects the valley lies a long draw filled with huge granite-like boulders and in between the boulders are stretches of soft sand. A spring bubbles up here and flows on top and below the sand for maybe 300 yards before falling over the cliff in wet years.

Tracks in the sand reveal that deer, cougar, bear, bobcat, ground squirrels, coyote, fox and possibly a Lobo wolf come to drink here.

And it is here that I come to sit, hunting for elusive bucks. I found this remote and beautiful spot probably 25 years ago; then I used a 4WD truck to gain access to hunt and cut firewood. Maybe a decade ago, the road became washed out and large vehicle travel became treacherous, so I switched to using a more maneuverable ATV.

On this sandy stretch I have never seen the tracks of another human. In all of that time, I have seen evidence of human activity on this road only maybe a half-dozen times. In the past year it appears that I am the only human to visit the entire area.

I gaze over this "lost paradise" of a draw and suddenly realize that this may be my very last time to be here, due to the coming implementation of the Forest Service's Travel Management Plan (see "Forest Firestorm," August). You see, this road is not on the "open list."

Yes, on a flat map, the valley lies within the parameters of being within two miles of another road, but that flat map doesn't take into account the topography; in real life it is too rugged for most humans on foot, even on the road that climbs up to the saddle in a steep way. Forget about packing in a camp or hauling out big game if you're foot traveling!

Oh, sure, a person on horseback could easily make it via the road, but that is about the only way, and so far I've only ever seen the tracks of a rider on a mule and his dog on a the trail, and that may have very well been the local rancher looking for cattle. When I'm up here, I often report back to him on the condition of his bovines.

In other words, this area will pretty much be beyond the scope of the user-public. That idea triggered me into melancholy mode as I sat there; I began to think of other remote valleys that also are accessed by long-forgotten logging roads, which I discovered and frequented on my hunts or campouts.

It didn't take me but a second to realize that virtually all my "secret" roads leading to cherished spots were going to be off-limits to me.

There's the deep bowl that is surrounded by tall ridges on four sides, where Goz and I did an ATV camp years ago, as we sat beside a huge fallen Ponderosa pine, long devoid of its branches. It is a park-like setting with very little brush and many tall Ponderosas.

A spring originates here, too, that runs most of the time. Goz and I spent much time putting in spring pipes to further facilitate wildlife during dry periods. It was also here that we found an intact cougar skeleton, its ribs crushed by a critter much more powerful than it was. On another outing I found where a bear lay near the spring only to vanish when it heard me approach.

I sat here one spring day as a gale blew over the ridges, and I heard mighty trees crashing to the ground. I had to leave before I got stranded in there!

As is the habit of us both, Goz and I take great pains to hide those spots and attendant roads to them. We brush out our tracks, if any; we pull logs in front of entrances to the roads; brush is piled up to discourage access.

In fact, most of the hunter/ATV users I know do the exact same thing. We don't want those trails and logging roads to become highways, nor our "honey-holes" to be discovered! Now, I don't have a problem if you or someone else discovers it on your/their own, but I'm not going to make it easy. After all, no one made it easy for me, nor did I want it to be easy.

I have discovered at least a half-dozen of those old, bladed, forgotten roads that I have taken just to see where they go. In every case they led me to a beautifully remote spot where I could be alone to do whatever I chose to do at the time.

Once, while squirrel hunting on top of a mountain, I found an old sawmill, the rusting equipment still standing there. There was a road leading up the mountain from a spot that I never knew about. It was many years before I got back to the area, but try as I might, my memory failed to find the spot again. So I never got to use my ATV to find where the road began. Now I never will be able to.

There's the road that led to a remote swamp; I never found a sign of a person having visited it in many years. I even told friends about it, but not where it is, to see if they knew of it; no one ever gave an affirmative answer. I enjoyed the fact that it was known to me alone.

Sadly, for me and others like me, our outdoor way of life is about to come to an end. At nearly 70 years of age, I cannot negotiate cross-country as I did even a short decade ago. I need the ATV to get me around, albeit on a forgotten road. Because of these so-called pseudo-wildernesses that are being foisted upon us, I won't be able to do that any longer.

A near-ruined sacro joint prevents me from carrying more than 10 pounds on my back or hip; so that leaves out manual game retrieval. It also prevents me from hiking where I used to.

Nothing thrilled me more than to mount my ATV and go explore a road that I never knew was there, and see where it took me; it fulfilled the Celt in me. Now there will soon be no more of those adventures or the renewing of fond memories of oft-loved experiences.

I will soon be relegated to be going where others all have to go.

The only hope of me and my friends is that the impending lawsuit will see some federal judge rule in our favor, or at least throw out the current ruling because it was implemented and arrived to on an improper basis, and he/she will order a new environmental-impact study.

I hope the judge sees fit to walk in my shoes as an elderly citizen or rides my ride before he/she makes a decision that is written in stone and boulder. Yes, that is my hope.

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

*When not  
ramblin' out-  
doors, Larry  
Lightner lives  
in Silver  
City.*



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ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene

The latest area art happenings.

Silver City & Grant County

**Copper Quail Gallery** will feature works by wildlife photographer John Wachholz and watercolorist Nancy Wachholz, opening Dec. 3 and with a reception Dec. 6, 1-4 p.m. Works will be on view through Jan. 4. Texas and Yankie, 388-2646.

The **34th Annual Mimbres Hotsprings Ranch Studio Sale** will be Dec. 6 and 7. Works by more than two-dozen artists and crafts people will include pottery, glass, photography, jewelry, fiber arts, cut-paper art, toys, block-printed linens, letterpress prints, watercolor and oil paintings and more. Music will include performances by Bayou Seco. No pets, please. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Take Hwy. 152 to the Mimbres, Hwy. 61 South to Royal John Mine Road (between mile markers 19 and 20). Follow signs 2 1/2 miles. [www.studiosalemimbres.com](http://www.studiosalemimbres.com).

A group of local painters is thinking small—as in **paintings no bigger than 12 inches**—with an art exhibit Dec. 12-13. Hours are Friday, 3-7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Featured painters are Ginna Heiden, Miriam Hill, Deb Hutchings, Gay Marks, Sara McKenzie, Jane Seavers and Thia Utz. 28 Bear Creek Road, Pinos Altos.

Paula Geisler will teach “Drawing from the Still Life” at her **Common Ground Gallery**, Tuesday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon, beginning Dec. 2. \$25 weekly. 102 W. Kelly, 534-2087.

On Dec. 13, the **Silver City Holiday Market** will



The Branigan Cultural Center is showing “Desert Air: Photographs by George Steinmetz,” a National Geographic Museum traveling exhibition.

feature handmade goods crafted by local artists. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 412 W. Broadway. [SilverCityArtists.com](http://SilverCityArtists.com).

**Wild West Weaving** will present a Navajo weaving demonstration by Bronco Martinez and Judy Davis on Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. 211D Texas, 313-1032.

**Artesanos** gallery at 211-B N. Texas St. is closing.

Las Cruces & Mesilla

The **Branigan Cultural Center** is showing “Desert Air: Photographs by George Steinmetz,” a National Geographic Museum traveling exhibition featuring images of the world’s deserts by award-winning photographer George Steinmetz, until Jan. 17. Inspired by a 1997 assignment for *National Geographic* magazine on the

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page

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WMNU Fine Arts Center Theatre  
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575-538-2505 | [www.MimbresArts.org](http://www.MimbresArts.org)

# Navidad Ranchera Concert

## December 20, 2014

2 concerts at 2pm and 7pm  
at the Fine Arts Auditorium  
Silver City, NM

Mariachi Flores Mexicanas

Raices de America,  
director Bryant Chaffino

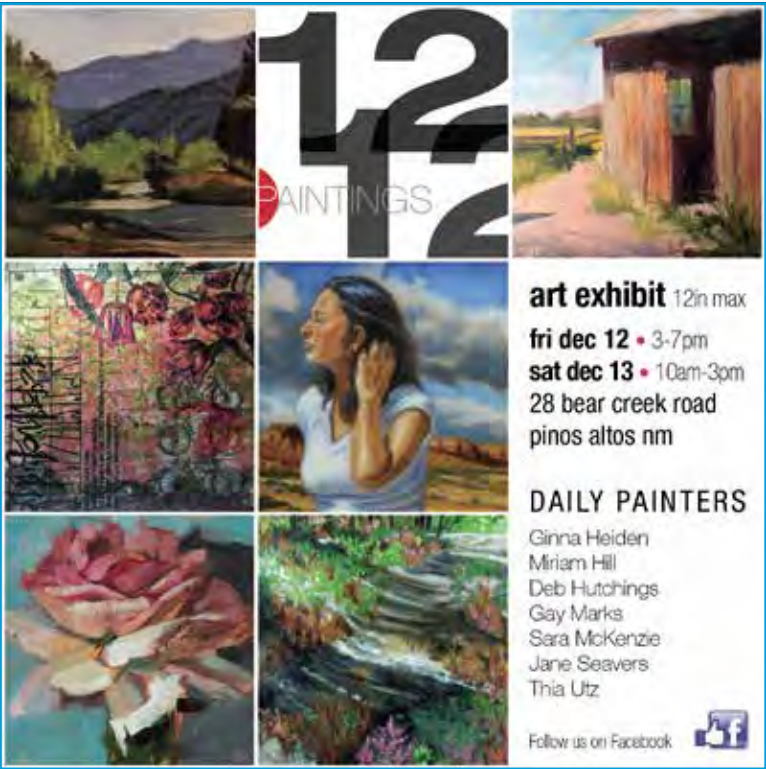
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## Tickets: \$15 per person

Posadas on campus after the 7pm concert  
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# Copper Quail Gallery

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**John Wachholz** and **Nancy Wachholz**  
Wildlife Photographer Watercolorist



**Reception:** Saturday, Dec. 6th, 1 pm to 4 pm  
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**ARTS EXPOSURE** continued

Central Sahara, Steinmetz spent 15 years surveying and photographing remote and inhospitable desert environments around the globe. To be able to capture his striking images, he learned to fly a motorized paraglider, the world's lightest and slowest-moving aircraft. The craft allows Steinmetz to fly low enough to the ground to document rarely seen places. 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, [las-cruces.org/museums](http://las-cruces.org/museums).

The **Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum** also has a new photo show, with works by Cheryl Cathcart. The Corrales artist has combined a childhood love of horses and photography and the result is an exhibit, "Cheryl Cathcart: In a World of Horses," on display in the North Corridor of the museum's Bruce King Building. Now on display, the exhibit features 32 large photographs of horses in New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming, France, Italy and Portugal. An artist's reception is planned for Jan. 8, 5:30-7 p.m., followed by a lecture by Cathcart in the museum's theater. The exhibit will be on display through Oct. 25, 2015.

Opening Dec. 12 at the Farm & Ranch museum is "Heavy Metal: Vintage Farm Equipment by Richard Ondrovic," featuring 28 photos of the museum's vintage farm equipment. Ondrovic is a former software engineer from New York who now lives in El Paso. His photographs emphasize the complex shapes that make up the machinery. There will be an artist's reception for the show on Jan. 15 from 6-8 p.m. The exhibit will be in the Arts Corridor through April 5. 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, [www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org](http://www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org).

The **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery** will feature two local artists this month: Bonnie MacQuarrie, wall tilest, and Patricia Black, gourd artist. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933, [www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com](http://www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com).

**Las Cruces Arts Association** members are displaying artwork at the Cafe de Mesilla, 2190 Avenida de Mesilla, through December.

A "Let's Go Ornamental" exhibit begins Dec. 4 at **Unsettled Gallery** with a soft opening at noon and continuing until 6 p.m. The



The Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum is showing "Cheryl Cathcart: In a World of Horses."

show features small works created by gallery artists and runs through Dec. 13. 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285, [www.unsettledgallery.com](http://www.unsettledgallery.com).

The **El Paso Electric Gallery** in the Rio Grande Theatre will have an artist's reception for a new show by Denise Barella on Dec. 5, 5-7 p.m. A graduate of NMSU with a degree in biology, Barella will display her nature drawings during the month of December.

The Black Box Theatre's lobby **thetheatregallery** will have a reception for a show of gourd artwork by Karen Currier on Dec. 5, 5-7 p.m. 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223.

**Adobe Patio Gallery** will be featuring the Border Artists in an exhibit, "Small is Beautiful," Dec. 6-Jan. 17, with an opening 6-8 p.m. In addition to the members of the Border Artists, special guest art-



Kay Susin is the newest member at the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery.

# Silver City HOLIDAY MARKET

**DECEMBER 13**  
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The **Tombaugh Gallery** presents the “UU Bee Welcome” show, an exhibit opening Dec. 7 featuring the work of this long-time quilting group and associated artists. An opening reception, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., will include demos and food. A second reception will be Jan. 11, also 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., with demos and food. The “UU Bee Welcome” is a quilting bee that has met for over five years and provides opportunities for quilters of all skill levels and techniques to gather weekly. This show will feature a variety of original quilts as well as other related pieces. Personal items such as clothing, home wares and sculptural pieces are included. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Dr., 522-7281.

**Nopalito's Galeria** will feature “Artistic Moments,” a show running the first three weekends in December, including an opening Dec. 6 from 6-8 p.m. and the annual Christmas on the Camino Real on Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Dec. 13 event will feature arts and crafts vendors at merchants all along Mesquite Street. 650-0623, plawrence13@yahoo.com.

Sierra County

Hillsboro's annual holiday celebration, **Christmas in the Foothills**, takes place on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Hillsboro Community Center. Highlights of the festival include a wide array of vendors selling specialty arts, hand-crafted gifts and food items, the annual raffle of an original work of art, and the popular \$49.99 Art Show and Sale. The \$49.99 Art Show and Sale began years ago as a way for Hillsboro's many artists, authors and craftspeople to give back to the community at Christmas time. Each item in the show will be sold for \$49.99 to a winning ticket holder, and all items are guaranteed to be worth more than that. Raffle tickets can also be purchased for a chance to win an original framed watercolor painting of hummingbirds especially created for the event by Hillsboro artist Inga McCord. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Community Center at 3:45 p.m.



Gourd art by Gloria Bachmann will be featured in the “Artistic Moments” show at Napolito’s Galeria.



Jack LeSage is among Las Cruces Arts Association members displaying artwork at the Cafe de Mesilla.

Hillsboro's Main Street merchants, including restaurants, antique shops and museums, will all be open, and musicians and singers along Main Street will provide seasonal and regional accompaniment to the festivities. Hillsboro is located on Hwy. 152 approximately 17 miles west of I-25 at exit 63. From Silver City take Hwy. 152 east 57 miles—check for road closures first. Signs and holiday greeters in Santa hats will direct visitors.

Luna County

The **Black Range Artists** group is looking for new members from throughout the region. Active for more than 50 years, the group has afforded regional artists in many media an opportunity to learn from each other, workshops, demonstrations and “paint outs” (Plein Air sessions). In addition to peer support, members show their work in many regional high-profile competition venues. Membership costs \$20 a year. 546-4650, blackrangeart@gmail.com.

The **Deming Arts Center** is looking for artists for two upcoming shows. In January, “Lines, Lines and More Lines” will represent visual art in the form of painting, drawing and photography as well as art in which impressions are printed from various kinds of blocks, plates, screens, etc. In February, a fiber arts exhibit will be open to quilters, weavers, garment designers and wood workers. For fees and details, call 546-3663. This month, the center features its Christmas Market, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through Dec. 24, and will have an artist reception Dec. 7, 1-3 p.m. 100 S. Gold. ☎

All phone numbers are area code 575 except as noted.  
Send arts news to [events@desertexposure.com](mailto:events@desertexposure.com).



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**Lois Duffy Art**  
211C N. Texas  
313-9631

**Copper Quail Gallery**  
211A N. Texas  
388-2646

**Yankie Street Artists**  
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## ARTS EXPOSURE

## Gallery Guide

## Silver City

**ANN McMAHON PHOTOGRAPHY**, 125 Country Road. By appointment. www.AnnMcMahon.com.

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

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

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

**BARBARA NANCE GALLERY & STONE-WALKER STUDIO**, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Stone, steel, wood and paint. Sculpture path. www.barbaraNanceArt.com.

**BLUE DOME GALLERY**, 307 N. Texas, 534-8671. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.bluedomegallery.com.

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

**THE CLIFFS STUDIO & GALLERY**, 205 Lyon St. & Yankie, (520) 622-0251. Diane Kleiss' encaustic multimedia art. By appointment. doart2@yahoo.com, www.dianealdrichkleiss.com.

**COMMON GROUND**, 103 W. Kelly, 534-2087. Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

**COMMON THREAD**, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733. Mon., Thurs, Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Retail and gallery space for fiber arts. www.fiberartscollective.org.

**COPPER QUAIL GALLERY**, 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankie and Texas, 388-2646. Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Fine arts and crafts.

**COW TRAIL ART STUDIO**, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley. Mon. 12-3 p.m. or by appointment. (706) 533-1897, www.victoriachick.com.

**CREATIONS & ADORNMENTS**, 108 N. Bullard, 534-4269. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Work by Diane Reid.

**DRAGONFLY STUDIO**, 508 W 6th St., 388-8646. By appointment.

**FOUR DIRECTIONS WEAVING**, 106 W. Yankie St. Mon., Wed.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 12-3 p.m. 263-3830.

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

**GUADALUPE'S**, 505 N. Bullard, 535-2624. Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

**LOIS DUFFY ART STUDIO**, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signal-peak.net.

**LUMIERE EDITIONS**, 108 W. Broadway, 956-6369. Vintage and contemporary photography. Mon-Fri.

**MARY'S FINE ART**, 414 E. 21st St., 956-7315. Mary A. Gravelle.

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

**MOLLY RAMOLLA GALLERY & FRAMING**, 203 N. Bullard, 538-5538. www.ramollaart.com.

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

**SEEDBOAT CENTER FOR THE ARTS**, 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136. Weds.-Sat 11 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment. info@seedboatgallery.com.

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

**STAINED GLASS SOURCE**, 11 Oakridge Dr., 519-4880. Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., April-Dec. www.stainedglasssource.gallery.

**STUDIO BEHIND THE MOUNTAIN**, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388-3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.

**THE STUDIO SPACE**, 109 N. Bullard St., 534-9291. www.jessgorell.com.

**STUDIO UPSTAIRS**, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.

**SUSAN SZAJER STUDIO**, Sanctuary Road, 313-7197 By appointment.

**21 LATIGO TRAIL**, 388-4557. Works by Barbara Harrison and others.

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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

# Taking a Lesson

Different worlds, similar thoughts.

I recently came across an old notebook from my first horsemanship clinic, a low-key three-day event almost 17 years ago. I didn't even have a horse at the time. I was in the early stages of deciding how involved I really wanted to get in this activity.

The first two comments recorded in my journal have stuck with me, and I always admired the clinician for having the honesty to say these things because they seemed contradictory to how she was trying to make a living.

Her first thought: "Taking a short three-day clinic once or twice a year is not a commitment to good horsemanship or improvement." Say what? Sitting there, paying good money, and being told I wasn't really making a commitment? I had to ask: Why?

She felt the only thing that really mattered is what you did with your horse for the other 362 days a year. Would you take the knowledge gained at her clinic and invest the time in quality practice, with honest self-evaluation and seeking out qualified help on a regular basis, or would you simply slip back into riding your horse with your friends when you had the time? Her point was these clinics often became just social events for people, a chance to hang out with friends or other horse people (not that there isn't some value in that), but more often than not didn't bring significant changes for people and their horses. Seeing many of the same people over and over again in the clinics I took in those early years, with virtually no improvement in their skills or riding, confirmed her observations.

Her second thought, what she called the "dirty little secret in natural horsemanship": "Everyone who teaches this approach to horsemanship pretty much does the same thing, since the approach is based on the nature of the horse, so the only factor that influences how much you improve is the person you see in the mirror."

Was she ever right about that! For years I've laughed to myself when someone would say with a straight face, "That clinician's (fill in the blank) approach or system doesn't work." I especially love it when I hear that from a relative novice, making judgments about a master horseman who has been studying and teaching for decades.

The point is this: If all approaches are pretty much the same because they're based on the nature of the horse, and if one seems more to your liking than another, then the variable is you (your personality, emotional needs, physical skills) and not the approach. If you took the best students from 10 different clinicians and put them all in an arena, I can promise you'd see amazing results and similarities with every person out there. Why? Simply because the students made a commitment to an approach, put the time in to developing themselves and got regular help—not because one approach is better than another. Accept that and you'll be more open to learning from multiple sources.

I've thought these points were mostly about the world of natural horsemanship, with so much emphasis on ground work and developing a partnership with your horse. This takes time, practice and always putting the needs of the horse first, even if that means not riding on any given day. Imagine my delight when I stumbled upon a column, "Really, You Should Take a Lesson," written by John Strassburger, a noted trainer, competitor (in disciplines ranging from eventing to endurance to foxhunting) and author. He inhabits a world far different from mine, but seems as frustrated and perplexed by the same things that get to teachers of natural horsemanship. His column is reprinted here with permission from [www.horse-journal.com](http://www.horse-journal.com) and the author:

"In all the years I've been involved in horses, one of the things that has consistently confused me is that a rather small percentage of people who ride seem to think that they need any sort of training assistance to learn how to ride and care for horses. Horses are large, reactive prey animals, and they're capable (usually unintentionally) of doing great harm to a puny human. And yet Americans, in particular, seem to feel that they're capable of managing this animal with minimal instruction or experience.

"I often think of it this way: What if, instead of drivers' training classes, when kids turned 16 we just hand-

ed them the keys to a car and let them figure out on their own how to make turns and navigate highways. And let's say some of them got weakling 1980s-era Ford Escorts, some got tank-sized Suburbans, and some got super-fast and powerful Ferraris. Oh, and let's also say that they've rarely ridden in a car, so they have only the vaguest concepts of gas and brake pedals, turn signals, steering wheels and the rules of the road.

"As Mike Rowe likes to say, 'What could possibly go wrong?'

"But I've encountered people who don't take any lesson at all, let alone work regularly with a trainer of any kind, and they're fiercely proud of that fact. I'm not saying everyone who rides needs to be in a serious training program or should be striving for some high, competitive goal, but the idea that a total novice needs no assistance is, frankly, crazy. Downhill skiing, surfing, baseball—is there another sport where someone would expect to just walk in and do it with no instruction? And yet it happens with horses all the time.

"That's why people regularly get scared of their horses, and they often get seriously hurt.

"The problem usually starts with horse selection—without a depth of understanding about horses and how to assess their individual personalities, strengths and issues, people often rely on anecdotes and emotions: 'I've always wanted a Friesian, they're so beautiful.' 'I've heard Quarter Horses are easy.' 'My cousin has Arabians.'

"While some breeds are certainly generally user-friendlier than others, every horse is an individual and the product of their personality and training (or lack thereof). There are hot Quarter Horses, dead quiet Arabians, packer Thoroughbreds—and people with a lifetime spent observing and working with horses have a much better shot at assessing that than someone with minimal experience.

"And then, once the horse is acquired, no matter how amazing its temperament and training, if none of that is consistently reinforced, it won't last forever. Just like a kid who's never asked to do math after the first grade, they'll lose the skills and the motivation to use them. Again, that doesn't mean the horse has to be ridden by the trainer all the time. But it does mean a pair of experienced eyes, and perhaps the occasional tune-up, can make sure everybody stays on the straight and narrow.

"This attitude of 'I'll do it myself with my horse' is a particularly American phenomenon. Most European countries have very regimented structures to teach people to ride—even recreational riders—and it is assumed that you will learn to ride in this manner, not just set off for the hills on your own. Even in places like Ireland, with its deep horse culture and foxhunting, kids learn to ride in Pony Club before being set loose in the wilds on their ponies.

"I believe this is why natural horsemanship-type systems are so popular. People would, apparently, rather shell out money for magic halters and sticks, and books and DVDs, to feel they're embodying the independent spirit of self-training, rather than paying a local, qualified professional for a lesson once or twice a month, or more. Perhaps it's because a DVD will never tell you that you've selected the wrong horse for your needs, that you may be in over your head, or that you need to learn to ride better.

"While there are elite trainers who often aren't interested in working with non-discipline-specific riders who lack strict goals, there are plenty of trainers happy to help a variety of recreational riders. Shop around, watch people teach, look at horse and rider partnerships created by those trainers, and pick one most in line with what you would like to accomplish with your horse.

"You and your horse will be happier for it."

For all the quality local trainers in Silver City who are here to help you every day of the year, I say, "Amen to that!"

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



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POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE

# Travels with *Desert Exposure*

Catching up on reader photos taken near and far.

As the year winds down, it's time to play catch-up with submissions of reader photos holding a copy of *Desert Exposure* while traveling. (If you've read this month's Editor's Notebook, you'll understand why we feel a particular need to acknowledge our loyal, globe-trotting readers this month.) A staple of our Desert Diary pages since 2007, "Postcards from the Edge" have shown readers enjoying "the biggest little paper in the Southwest" across the US and in every continent including Antarctica (which actually was among the first outposts to report in). We even celebrated our 10th anniversary of ownership of *Desert Exposure* back in April 2013 with a cover reproducing all the "postcards" published to date. You can check them out online at [www.desertexposure.com/201304/201304\\_postcards.php](http://www.desertexposure.com/201304/201304_postcards.php).

If you've sent a photo that hasn't yet appeared and it's not on these pages, don't panic—we've held back a few for upcoming Desert Diary pages. But that doesn't mean we aren't especially eager for fresh submissions, now that we've mostly caught up with the backlog! Getting in on the fun is simple: Take a copy of *Desert Exposure* with you on your travels, near or far, and snap a photo of yourself holding it "on location." Then email with a brief explanation to [diary@desertexposure.com](mailto:diary@desertexposure.com) or mail to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062. Once again, thank you to all the readers who've shown their affection for *Desert Exposure* by "taking us along" on their travels. It's an honor—just as it is an honor and a privilege that you've made *Desert Exposure* a part of your life.



For starters, here's **Anita Deming** (no relation to the town), who writes, "I was in Davis, Calif., where I was visiting grandchildren. Davis is a world-famous bike town."



**Carol Kane** sent this one with a note that makes us wish we'd been along in more than merely paper form: "Attached is a photo (taken by my husband Tim who was also driving!) on our recent self-piloted boat trip on the Digoin-Roanne canal in Burgundy, France. This was taken as we descended the Bourg-le-Comte Ecluse (lock) midway through our week-long trip. At 7.2 meters (approximately 21 feet), this lock is one of the deepest of all Freycinet waterways in France. On our 26-foot boat, we navigated 28 locks and enjoyed the beauty of Burgundy's countryside and, of course, sampled all the wine, bread and cheese available in numerous French villages."



These two photos came from **Madonna Kettler**, who thoughtfully recalled our own South Dakota roots. This one was taken "at the Eden, SD, centennial celebration in front of the main street's Club Eden, where they have Wednesday wings when they have sold over 8,000 wings in one evening. This is in a town of 97 population! The sign was created by my sister, Carolyn Juvland. She paid me to add that!" Of this second one, she writes, "Here I am proudly displaying *Desert Exposure* at Roslyn's International Vinegar Museum during their centennial celebration, a week later. The museum carries some of the best vinegars I have ever tasted and this also in a town of around 150. It was a great celebration and is where I graduated from high school in a class of 32! There is so much water in this lake region that the helicopter that flew over the event said there was about 50/50 land and water. Wish they could funnel some our way!"





This was snapped by **Samarpan David** and **Beatriz Giraldo** of Tyrone, while visiting Leh, Ladakh, India



**Bill and Diane Armstrong** sent this one with a note: “Here’s a photo of your far-flung paper in Coinjock, North Carolina, a fuel stop for boats plying the Intracoastal Waterway along the US East Coast. The proprietor of the marina/bar/restaurant there told us that ‘Coinjock’ is a name once used by local Native Americans for mulberry trees. He also said the village is mainly supported by yachtsmen and duck hunters, seasonal visitors both. We found it friendly and quiet, offering good seafood and a surprising variety of souvenir T-shirts.”



**Kyle Meredith** shared two photos from a South American trip: “One is taken on the top of Huaynapicchu with Machu Picchu barely visible far below, and the other is taken with our guide at the Toro Muerto Petroglifas near Arequipa.”



Finally (and appropriately), there’s this photo from **Esperanza Quintero**, with friends **Shari Chandler**, **Mark Hunter** and **Earl Hunter** (see Desert Diary for details about their trip). It was taken in Muxia, Spain, at “end of the world.”

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SOUTH OF THE BORDER • MARJORIE LILLY

# Purgatory in Palomas

Interviewing deportees from the US stuck in a town of broken hearts.

I stopped at a house in Palomas where dozens of second-hand shirts, dresses and jackets were hung on a wrought-iron fence for sale. A good-looking, 30-ish man who spoke English without an accent came out.

He was a deportee from Colorado, where he had married an American citizen. But he never got his US citizenship papers because, as he said a little wryly, “I didn’t want people to think I got married so I could get citizenship. A lot of people do that, you know.”

As if trying not to feel sorry for himself, he said, “My 11-year-old daughter can get my papers for me when she’s 20.”

A job as a manager with fruit growers waited for him in Nuevo Casas Grandes, where he was headed in a few days.

Before his controversial decision last month to defer deportation for more than 4 million people, President Obama removed a record 438,421 illegal immigrants in 2013 and returned them to their home countries, especially Mexico. Over the last decade fewer than half of the deportees from the US (sometimes close to a third) were apprehended for a criminal offense. In Palomas, the majority of those I happened to speak to had committed a crime.



Carlos Mireles with his wife. (Photos by Marjorie Lilly)

Palomas is full of deportees, and has been for years. In the US some of them have earned something like \$20 an hour in construction, and many others

have earned \$50 a day in the fields or in some other job. When they come back to Mexico they’re reduced to a \$12-a-day job, when there’s work. The streets of Palomas are strewn with broken hearts.

One of the major problems that the American Civil Liberties Union focuses on in its publications is the broken families that result from deportations. This is always going to be an issue with immigration, but the number of those deported without their family has increased, not decreased, in recent years. The border mangles the family structure.

Whenever someone is deported, they forfeit the Social Security benefits they’ve accrued over years or decades, even though they’ve contributed substantially to the Social Security system.

The following interviews with four deportees in Palomas will give a better picture of what is going on than any statistics that could be quoted.



The plaza in Palomas.

When Carlos Mireles was about 16 or 17, he left Palomas with his brothers to work in Phoenix in construction without papers. In the late 1980s he received amnesty with millions of other illegal immigrants.

In 2005 he went back to Palomas to visit his family, and when he left, a friend without papers asked if he could get a ride across the border with him. Mireles agreed, and they were caught by the Border Patrol. “I didn’t realize that he had drugs on him,” Mireles says with a big, ironic smile.

He ended up in jail for three months. “I didn’t have a bad record or anything,” he says.

Mireles had never been in jail and felt very uncomfortable there. “The only thing I wanted was to get out,” he says. So he signed the voluntary departure papers when he had the option of staying in jail six more months and then appearing before a judge with the possibility of getting his papers again.

About his deportation he says, “You feel awful, but you eventually get used to it.”

It’s been almost 10 years now, and Mireles believes his daughter in the States can somehow get papers for him by writing Washington. But people involved with immigration issues say that such papers are very hard to get.

Ruben Garcia went to the US when he was 11. “When I left here, we went to Juarez,” he says. He went with family members. “We fixed our papers. I had a green card.”

Garcia went through sixth grade in Palomas, but dropped out of Phoenix schools when he was in 10th grade. He speaks English with a pretty strong accent.

For most of the 40 years he spent in the US, he painted cars and did auto body work.

“We were in another country,” he says. “We fell in love with it. Remember September 11? I felt it in my heart.”

He adds, “I was never illegally in the US.”

But on Nov. 8, 2008, he jumped over the fence of a tire store and stole a set of used tires worth about \$80, and was caught. He says he was low on money and decided to sell these to someone he knew.

“I lost my green card because I went to jail,” he says. He spent about five years in jail.

Garcia was deported to Palomas a year and a half ago, and he says he arrived “lost and scared.” He lives now in a tiny two-room house.

He remembered only a couple of guys in Palomas from when he was young. “Everyone is in a different state of mind,” he says. “They’re lost—lost in drugs or somewhere else. No way I can go hang with them.”

“There’s no way I can get used to it,” he says, and adds, “Palomas is a dump.”

“It’s hard, man,” he says. “It’s hard. And no one can feel it, just the people that are going through it.”

In Palomas he worked in construction for a while. “They pay you \$12 a day, and they work you hard, you understand?” He was used to getting more than that *per hour* in the US, even at one point getting \$800 in three days, he claims.

He’s been having severe problems recently. “On May 30 I got sick,” he says. “I was 230 pounds; right now I’m 140 pounds. My sisters [visiting from Arizona] bought me \$5,000 in medicine. I didn’t think I was going to make it.”

His family feels that he was sick because he couldn’t hack living in Palomas. He thinks that’s part of the reason. “I feel a little better. But right now I don’t have no strength. The only thing I have is the Bible.”

About the crime that got him deported, he almost shouts, “I did something wrong, but I didn’t think they should be so hard on me!”



Ruben Garcia: “I was never illegally in the US.”

Unless someone is a full citizen, they can often be deported for even minor crimes.

Salvador (not his real name) is a young man of 21 who was deported from Hatch this past summer. He works in the fields and also as a welder. He has a wife and two children, ages one and two.

Since being brought to the US by his parents from Zacatecas when he was very small, he lived without papers in Hatch. “If you know really good English, they don’t bother you,” he says, alluding to the Border Patrol.

He stayed three months at the holding facility in El Paso and was deported in Piedras Negras, just south of Eagle Pass. From there he made his way to Palomas “to be closer to my family.”

Salvador looks fresh-faced and cheerful, but says, “I can’t get used to the Mexican life.” Except as an infant, he had never stepped foot in Mexico until he was deported.

“At first it seemed like a life-twister,” he says. “You come from a wealthy country, and you go to a third-world country. There the police officers are there to protect you, but here it’s the other way around.”

I ask him if he’s getting to know people in Palomas. “I try to avoid getting to know them, in case they’re ‘going in bad steps’ [following evil ways],” he says.

“Mexico is basically a place where the people run it, not the government,” he comments.

He’s been in Palomas for three months, working in the fields of Colonia Victoria. “I eat two or three times a day, but in Hatch I was used to eating five times a day—big meals.”



The port of entry at the border in Palomas, from the US side.

“If you were earning \$50 there, here you would earn \$10,” he says.

He realizes there are better work opportunities in more southern Chihuahuan towns, or in tourist towns on the coast, especially for bilingual people, but he needs to stay close to his family. He is considering doing welding in Palomas for \$10 a day and is intending to check out the Pink Store soon.

He plans to appeal his case. About his chances for winning, he says, “The cards are not on my side. My lawyer told me it could take up to two years.”

Salvador is definite on one point, that he doesn’t want his children to live in Palomas. “There’s no possibility of bringing my kids here,” he states.

The main reason is the danger, as he sees it. “You’ll walk down the street and get shot,” he says. The economy in Mexico is the second reason for him.

Salvador’s wife in Hatch is basically supporting the family by working at a grocery store. “I feel really awkward because this is the first year she’s working,”



he says. “Now we’ve got to pay a baby sitter there.”

She has come to visit him five times over the three months he’s been there.

You can only hope that this fragile arrangement can thrive somehow despite the immutability of the border.

Juan Rascon grew up in Palomas and came to the US with his brothers when he was 14. He lived and worked in Gallup and Farmington for a while, and later went to Colorado. He worked as a mechanic most of the time, but also in restaurants and packing sheds for fruit in Colorado, in picking fruit, cotton-gin work and construction.

“I never went to school over there,” he says, but he read newspapers every day, and also read books. He



Juan Rascon with kids from the learning center.

speaks good English with a strong Spanish accent.

“One problem I had with my ‘exes’ is that I was always trying to help someone else,” he says.

When he was in his late 40s he was finally caught while driving drunk and sent to a detention center for eight months. “I started going to Bible courses, and that helped me,” he says. “In the detention center I started helping people who were depressed all the time.”

He was later deported through Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in 2010, at the height of the drug violence. He then came to Palomas, where his elderly mother lives.

I almost didn’t interview Juan, as I had already outlined his story in a Borderlines column. But I knew he was someone who would make intelligent comments about immigration problems.

When I ask him what his ideas are for changing immigration policy, he launches into a scheme to create a “humanitarian permit” for deportees to visit the US.

“People ought to be able to bury their sons or daughters,” he says. “Or for children to bury their mothers and fathers. They should be able to say goodbye to them.”

“I think what they can do—they should review their policy to have a humanitarian permit. They could make deportees wear electronic bracelets on their ankles so they can monitor them, and have them pay a \$200 or \$300 fee.

“They should have permits to be able to visit in extreme cases. A US citizen could sign for them.”

He went on to talk about his life in the US. I ask him if he had felt uncomfortable living there illegally.

“I did—of course,” he says. “Every time I got into my car I’d be looking over my shoulder for the police. I lived the most stressful life. When I came here I got to breathe, I got my driver’s license.”

In Palomas he makes good money as a mechanic for Americans. He is now a teetotaler, and he works three hours a day at the Border Partners Education Center, where his heart is. Part of his teaching is to tell the kids the difference between right and wrong.

As he was before his deportation, he is a perpetual-motion machine for helping people in town with clothes, food or whatever else they need.

I ask him about his family. I wondered about the effect of his deportation on his children.

He tells me, calmly, “I had three kids. One kid died—he shot himself.”

So that’s why he made the point about the “humanitarian permit.” He tells his story with a steady voice.

An autopsy was performed on Rascon’s son, and the investigation was called “inconclusive.” “He was depressed because I was deported,” Rascon says. He believes strongly that’s why his son committed suicide. He was 20 years old.

Rascon has two other children living in different states, in different families.

For about four years I watched with horror as the violence in Juarez and Palomas rose to unbelievable levels. A second wave of horror came a few months into the violence, when I learned that the police in Juarez were so intertwined with the drug gangs that the people couldn’t trust them.

The emotion is mostly gone now, but I remember clearly thinking how Mexico has an *absolutely desperate* need for the rule of law.

I’m not a scofflaw, but anyone with any sense of fairness knows that a punishment should be proportionate to the crime. Coming to the US without papers to work isn’t a felony.

Immigration reform needs to be carried out soon, with all its complexity and paradoxes and difficulties. A path to citizenship needs to be created. There needs to be more respect for family unity. People brought here as children need to be get some kind of legal status. And maybe Rascon’s idea of creating temporary permits for deportees in extreme cases should be considered. ❧

Marjorie Lilly writes the Borderlines column.

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ANNALS OF ARCHAEOLOGY • JAY W. SHARP

# Enduring Mysteries

The early peoples of the Southwest deserts left a legacy of questions.



Gila Cliff Dwellings, a national monument north of Silver City, in the Gila National Forest. The ruin lies at the northern edge of the range of the Mimbres branch of the Mogollon Puebloan peoples. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)

Casa Grande National Monument, a Hohokam Puebloan ruin located between Phoenix and Tucson. The tallest building, covered for protection, may have served as a prehistoric observatory.



“The Southwest is one of the most heavily studied archaeological regions in the world,” said University of Colorado archaeologist Steve Lekson in an interview with *New York Times* writer George Johnson. Yet, after investigations by generations of scholars, the prehistoric human adventure in the desert basins and mountain ranges of North America—including southwestern New Mexico—remains a largely unresolved detective story, one in which the broad outlines are often clouded by puzzling clues, many suspects and no living witnesses.

Some unknown thousands of years ago, during the last of the great Ice Ages, human beings appeared for the first time in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico, including southwestern New Mexico. Scattered in small bands across hundreds of thousands of square miles, these people, whom we call the Paleo Indians, tracked and hunted—with spears—big game animals such as mammoths and bison.

Some 8,000 to 10,000 years ago, as the last Ice Age drew to a close and many big game species fell into the black hole of extinction, people who came to be called the Desert Archaic Indians—cultural descendants of the Paleo Indians—adapted to the environmental change, the new animal populations and the new plant communities. Although still primarily spear-carrying hunters and wild plant gatherers, the Desert Archaic peoples adopted new technologies, tasted a rudimentary village life, planted the earliest fields, and, possibly, embraced a new spirituality—stimulated, perhaps, by the great Mesoamerican city states to their south.

Early in the first millennium, true village farmers began to sprout from their Desert Archaic roots. They built small hamlets of semi-subterranean houses, or “pit” houses. They refined their technology, even embracing the bow and arrow. For the first time, they came to rely more heavily on their crops—primarily corn, beans and squash—than on hunting and gathering.

Late in the first millennium, pit-house villagers

began to give up semi-subterranean structures in favor of contiguous and multistory stone and mortar buildings on the surface. Over the next several centuries, they evolved, culturally, into the Puebloan peoples—for instance, the Mogollons here in our northern Chihuahuan Desert, the Hohokam of the northern Sonoran Desert, the Anasazi of the Four Corners region, and the Sinagua of north-central Arizona. The Puebloans left an archaeological record of well-planned and constructed stone and adobe communities, enriched spiritual symbolism, irrigated farmlands and Mesoamerican interactions. From the 12th into the 15th centuries, however, the Puebloans across their range grew restless, abandoning historic settlements, reaching out beyond traditional homelands, and, often, re-settling and restructuring their lives.

Meanwhile, other groups chose to continue the ancient hunting and gathering or the village farming ways of life. Still another group, called the Trincheras people, lived on rocky terraces and built stone and adobe communities and farmed the lands below, but they held no immediately apparent cultural relationships with the Puebloans. Still other groups chose a rambling life of hunting, gathering and trading, effectively becoming the gypsies of the deserts and mountains, from Arizona across New Mexico and Texas.



Foundation of a small Mogollon Puebloan ruin near the Three Rivers Petroglyph Site, which lies north of Tularosa and south of Carrizozo, on the western flanks of the Sacramento Mountains.

Apparently sometime during the first half of the second millennium, Athapaskan-speaking peoples—Navajos and Apaches—filtered from the Northwest into the arid lands of the Southwest. The Navajos, by historic times, would find their cultural niche as semi-nomadic herdsmen in the southern Colorado Plateau. The Apaches would establish their place as nomadic hunters and gatherers and notorious raiders.

The Chiricahua branch of the Apaches made their home in southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona, and the Mescalero branch in south-central New Mexico and western Texas. Both the Chiricahua and Mescaleros extended their range southward, well into Mexico. Meanwhile, the Utes, from Colorado, and the Kiowa and Comanches, from western Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle, preyed mercilessly on desert Indians and Euroamerican settlers until late in the 19th century.

Over these thousands of years, into historic times, the range of prehistoric cultures in the Southwest—including in our corner of New Mexico—left behind a long trail of bewildering mysteries.

**When did human beings first appear in the deserts of North America? Who were they? Where did they come from? How did they get here?**

Legendary archaeologist R.S. “Scotty” MacNeish believed that, in the early 1990s, he found evidence for human presence some 50,000 years ago at his Pendejo Cave archaeological site—in south-central New Mexico’s Tularosa Basin. That is tens of thousands of years earlier than the traditionally accepted dates for the arrival of humans anywhere in the



Exhibit depicting a pit house, home for the earliest true village farmers of the desert Southwest, El Paso Museum of Archaeology. While they still hunted and gathered, they came to rely more heavily on their crops for sustenance.

Americas. It is, in fact, thousands of years earlier than the extinction of the Neanderthals or the arrival of modern man in Europe. As MacNeish fully anticipated, his work has drawn fierce criticism.

Traditionalists debunk MacNeish’s work. They insist that most of the evidence—for instance, a cluster of dates established for Paleo Indian spear points and tools as well as skeletal material—argues for an arrival of perhaps no more than 9,000 to 15,000 years ago, during the latter stages of the last Ice Age.

In recent years, however, some researchers have been exploring the possibility that the earliest humans could have arrived some 50,000 years ago—not, say, as hunters traveling over Ice Age land bridges, but rather as fishermen coming by hide boat along continental shorelines, both from Asia and even from Europe. (Some early American skulls have characteristics that are more European than Asian.) That could help explain an increasingly mystifying range of dates for early occupation sites across the Americas.

Although Scotty MacNeish’s dates for the human occupation of south-central New Mexico’s Pendejo Cave may yet prove reasonable, the arrival times, identities, origins and migration routes for the first human beings to appear in the deserts of North America will likely remain a controversial archaeological issue for a long time to come.

**When and how did the Mesoamericans first make contact with the Southwestern peoples? What impact did they have on the cultures of the Southwest?**

Some archaeologists believe that influences from Mesoamerica, probably conveyed in the form of ideas and goods by itinerant traders or possibly by long-distance trader/missionaries, lay like a cultural skein over the history of the Puebloans and their ancestors. Others suspect that those influences, while



Young Apache at a celebration in Mescalero, NM, in the Sacramento Mountains. His Athapaskan-speaking ancestors struck fear into the hearts of Puebloan communities and European settlers across the Southwest, especially in southwestern New Mexico.



undeniable, moved more like localized and transitory currents through the history, with relatively little lasting effect.

Archaeologists have found irrefutable evidence of contacts. For instance, on the fabled ceramics produced by Southwestern New Mexico's Mimbres branch of the Mogollon Pueblos, horned serpent figures appear to evoke memories of the Mesoamerican plumed serpent deity Quetzalcoatl. At the Pony Hills prehistoric rock art site northeast of Deming, the graven image, or petroglyph, of a macaw—a bird native to southern Mexico and Central America—apparently recalls a revered subject of barter with Mesoamerica. In a stone alcove at the Hueco Tanks State Historic Site in far western Texas, prehistoric paintings, or pictographs, of goggle-eyed, snarling-mouthed figures may suggest the Mesoamerican storm god Tlaloc. At Puebloan village sites in southwestern New Mexico's Bootheel, outlines of stones on the ground suggest that the residents may have played ball games similar to those of Mesoamerica.

At one end of the investigative spectrum have stood researchers like archaeologist Kay Sutherland, who thought that the most fundamental Puebloan religious beliefs owed a heavy debt to Mesoamerican influences. At the other end of the spectrum have stood much more provincial investigators. They believe, as archaeologist Michael S. Foster pointed out in his paper, "The Mesoamerican Connection: A View From the South," that Mesoamerican "cultures had little if any influence on the development and character of southwestern societies."

It is inescapable, however, that on the surfaces of stone, ceramics and ceremonial chamber walls across the desert, archaeologists find images of icons and designs that seem to have Mesoamerican roots. In Hohokam and other Puebloan ruins, they find ceremonial platform mounds and sunken ball courts much like those in the Mesoamerican region. At Chaco Canyon ruins, they find architectural features that have apparent counterparts in Mesoamerica. At various Puebloan sites, they find macaw and parrot remains, shell trumpets, copper bells (or "tinklers") and other trade goods that, no doubt, originated in Mesoamerica. Perhaps most important, we know that corn—the paramount crop of the Puebloan farmers—had its beginnings in Mesoamerica.

Although archaeologists agree that Mesoamericans left their fingerprints in the deserts of North America, we have no consensus on the full effects that the contacts and the timing may have had on



Wall structure of Pueblo Bonito, one of the Anasazi Puebloan ruins in Chaco Canyon, in northwestern New Mexico. The extraordinary masonry was a hallmark of the Anasazi.

the cultural development of the Pueblos.

**H**ow do you explain the "Chaco Meridian"? "In 1999," wrote archaeologist David A. Phillips, Jr., in his article, "The Chaco Meridian: A Skeptical Analysis," Steve Lekson "gave Southwest archaeology one of its most stimulating books in years. In *The Chaco Meridian* [Lekson] argued that three important prehistoric centers—Chaco Canyon, Aztec and Paquimé—were consciously placed on the same degree of longitude." (Chaco and Aztec lie in northwestern New Mexico; Paquimé, or Casas Grandes, in northwestern Chihuahua.)

Lekson argued, reported George Johnson, that "for centuries the Anasazi leaders, reckoning by the stars [for instance, the North Star, or Polaris], aligned their principal settlements, or 'capitals,' along this north-south axis—the 108th meridian of longitude."

MYSTERIES continued on next page

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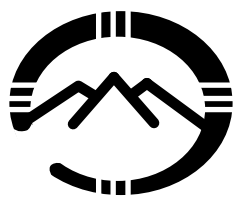
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### MYSTERIES continued

(In southwestern New Mexico, the Chaco, or 108th, meridian transects the San Augustine Plains and the Gila Wilderness, crossing into Mexico about 20 miles west of Columbus.)

Lekson suggested that the Anasazi alignment of major settlements, with their ruling classes and "great houses," reflected a cosmological component in their belief system. "I think," he said in his *A History of the Ancient Southwest*, "that celestial orientations directly mirror ancient cosmology."

But archaeologist Brian Fagan, in an article on Chaco Canyon, argued that "Chaco, Aztec and other great houses were profoundly local phenomena." He regarded the Chaco Meridian as "an archaeological myth."

"Ouch!" said Lekson. But he also said, "The meridian, unfortunately, seems to be real."

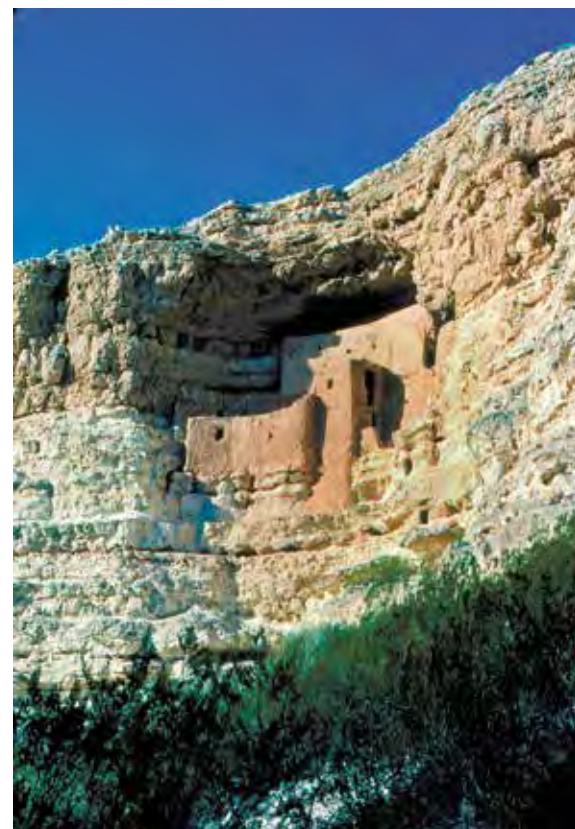
"What exactly did it mean?" Lekson wrote in "Amending the Meridian," in the magazine *Archaeology*. "I don't know—yet."

### What underlay the Puebloan abandonments and migrations in the first half of the second millennium?

In the archaeological record of the first half of the second millennium, scholars have learned that Puebloan populations in different regions across the Southwest followed comparable, although ragged and unsynchronized, patterns of abandonment, movement, expansion, contraction, concentration and cultural fusion. Archaeologists have suggested that pueblo communities, which typically lasted no more than several decades to a few centuries, may have moved because of the effects of drought, failure of springs and streams, depletion of resources, exhaustion of arable soil, ravages of epidemics, the threat of inter-cine violence, warfare with neighboring communities and assault by invaders. Other causes could have included collapse of leadership, decline of political systems, loss of religious faith, the fear of witchcraft, some combination of factors, or simply the promise of greener spiritual and material pastures.

In spite of clues that sometimes hint at stresses in the environment, escalation in violence and searches for renewal, investigators have not yet been able to reconstruct a comprehensive scenario that fully accounts for the widespread restlessness of the Puebloan peoples.

Strangely, various Puebloan centers reached a crescendo just before collapsing. For instance, in the last century before the Mimbres branch of the Mogollon Puebloan people abandoned southwestern New Mexico, around 1150, the potters produced what is perhaps the most complete visual record of the nonmaterial dimensions of the lives of the Mogollon or any other Puebloan peoples. They gave us, for instance, intriguing glimpses of connections with distant Mogollon



Montezuma's Castle cliff dwelling, a Sinagua Puebloan ruin located north of Phoenix. (It had nothing to do with Montezuma.)

rock art, celestial watches and shamanistic celebration and ritual.

Then they vanished.

When the Spaniards arrived in the deserts of North America in the 16th century, the Puebloan peoples had already left many of their traditional cultural centers. The newly arrived Europeans would discover a blend

of Puebloan cultures in the 100 pueblos scattered (at the time) across west-central New Mexico, the upper Rio Grande drainage, and east-central and northeast Arizona.

### Still More Mysteries

- Among the most baffling cultural features of the prehistoric American deserts are the **road systems of the Chaco Anasazi**, who had no wheeled cargo vehicles and draft animals or even pack animals to use the roads. According

to authority John Kantner, the Chaco road system consists of two types of roads: The first includes several long arteries—up to 30 miles in length—that radiate outward in a series of aligned segments from Chaco Canyon to outlying areas. The second type comprises several dozen short segments—typically one and a half to two and a half miles in length—that extended from major Chacoan pueblo structures to "springs, shrines or other local features."

If they can classify the roads, archaeologists still do not understand why the Anasazi spent the monumental effort required to construct them. Navajos told Marietta Wetherill, wife of famous early archaeologist Richard Wetherill, that the roadways were actually "race courses." Renowned archaeologist Neil Judd thought the roads could have been "ceremonial highways." Fact is, no one yet can fully explain the system.

- T-shaped doorways** stand as one of the more distinctive—and mysterious—architectural features in Pueblo ruins across the desert Southwest. They were incorporated in the walls of Puebloan settlements ranging from the Four Corners and northern Arizona areas southward deep into Mexico, including isolated sites far up in the Sierra Madres. They could have practical or mystical explanations.



The petroglyph of a macaw, located at the Pony Hills Mogollon rock art site northeast of Deming. This bird, a revered Mesoamerican trade item, was native to southern Mexico and Central America, not to the desert Southwest.



Pueblo Bonito, the most famous ruin of all the Chaco Canyon pueblos, which were the original Anasazi communities on Steve Lekson's Chaco Meridian. Aligned with the North Star, or Polaris, the line bore due south, through the heart of southwestern New Mexico.



Some might, for example, have simply provided more convenient entranceways for those carrying large bundles on their backs. They could also, suggested Gary A. David in his *Eye of the Phoenix: Mysterious Visions and Secrets of the American Southwest*, have symbolized the “Sacred Tree at the Center of the World”—a portal to the spirit world. They remain a mystery.

• **Corn**—or maize—first appeared in the deserts of North America as much as 4,000 years ago, conveyed to the region by unknown hands over an unknown route to an unknown location. Developed by early Mesoamericans from a grass called “teosinte” in the plateau region of central Mexico some 7,000 years ago, corn would fuel the profound cultural transition from nomadic Desert Archaic hunting and gathering to settled Puebloan communities and farming. As important as it was in the transformation of a people, the story of the introduction of corn into the southwestern United States and northern Mexico may never be known.

• **Ceramics**, or pottery, almost certainly introduced from Mexico, appeared in the deserts through unknown circumstances over 2,000 years ago, either as an item of trade or as a product of an acquired skill. Over time, pots would not only replace baskets for ordinary carriage, transportation and food preparation, they would become clay and “canvas” for the ceramic artist (such as the Mimbres), a signature and time-marker for a culture, an instrument and icon for ritual, the currency of trade. Although it signaled the establishment of village life and agriculture, the record of the earliest pottery in the desert may be forever lost.

• On surfaces of stone, pottery and ceremonial chamber walls across the desert, a bewildering galaxy of images of human figures, celebrations, historical events, deities, animals, birds, reptiles, insects, mythological creatures and geometric designs suggests a **religious universe** with roots no less ancient or complex than that of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism or Hinduism. The symbols seem to represent a spiritual passageway for shamanistic entry into a spectral world of vision and ritual in quests for tribal and individual prosperity, health, ancestral connections and remembrance. Unfortunately, the beliefs and ceremonies that gave rise to the images leave no traces in the archaeological records. They are now a lost chapter in the pre-history of the desert.



T-shaped doorway, on second floor of the Gila Cliff Dwellings Mogollon ruin.



Quari Pueblo, with 17th century Spanish mission in the background. The village was probably settled by people with Anasazi Puebloan forebears in the 14th century, late in the period of abandonment and migration.

• Prehistoric **trade** raises another category of mystery. As Marc Thompson—at one time, director of the Museum of Archaeology in El Paso—has pointed out, the exchange of goods between the peoples from Mesoamerica and those from the desert seems disproportionate and, in fact, inexplicable. From the archaeological record, it appears that Mesoamerican traders exchanged significant numbers of macaws, copper bells and marine shells—certainly highly valued items—for minimal amounts of turquoise, a “poor man’s jade,” says Thompson. He asks, “What were the Mesoamericans getting out of the deal?”

• The **Trincheras** peoples left what are some of the most substantial but least understood ruins in our entire desert region, including southwestern New Mexico. For perhaps 20 centuries or more, until late prehistoric times, they lived in stone and adobe dwellings on massively terraced slopes of hills and mesas across the northwestern Chihuahuan Desert and the northern Sonoran Desert, and they cultivated nearby fields. Their archaeological record has revealed little about their origins, their cultural affiliations, their regional interactions, their beliefs, their economy, their life concerns or their ultimate fate.

• The **Athapaskan-speaking peoples**—the Navajos and Apaches—evidently appeared in the desert region sometime in the first half of the second millennium. Some archaeologists believe that the arrival may have been later, possibly during early Spanish colonial times. But based on their oral histories, Navajos and Apaches believe it occurred much earlier, long before the Europeans arrived. The Navajos and Apaches clearly had cultural and linguistic roots in the Northwest, where Native American peoples still use commonly understood Athapaskan words. The archaeological data recovered so far don’t tell us when, or why, ancestral Athapaskan-speaking people migrated from traditional ranges to the deserts, what routes they followed, or whether they arrived as an intermittent trickle of small bands or in waves of immigrants. We have lost whole chapters of their pre-history.

Researchers look to the past to explain the present. They try to understand the prehistory and history of the long procession of peoples who have crossed the deserts of North America. Most of all, they try to solve that greatest mystery of all—the human species. ❧

*Jay W. Sharp is a Las Cruces author who has been a contributor for various print and Internet publications over the past several years and who is the author of Texas Unexplained, now available as an e-book from Amazon or iTunes.*

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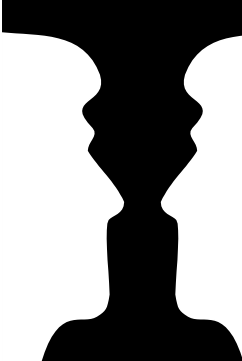


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100 HIKES • LINDA FERRARA

A Town of Trails

Hiking Boston Hill in Silver City with Adrienne Booth.

To wind up the 2014 hiking articles, I was lucky enough to hike with Adrienne Booth, a vivacious woman who is involved with many organizations in Silver City including: Grant County Trails Group, Tamal Fiesta y Mas, SWNM Green Chamber of Commerce, and the Grant County branch of AAUW-Expanding Your Horizons. I felt an immediate connection with her since we both grew up in urban areas (she in Illinois and me just outside Newark, NJ) and at early ages found connections to the outdoors.

Her first outdoor experiences were exploring the urban neighborhoods and public parks around her childhood home on the South Side of Chicago. As she spent more and more time outside, she came to love nature, and when she visited a new place her first inquiry was about hiking in the vicinity. “Being outside was fun, inexpensive entertainment,” she recalled. “In college, I didn’t own a car, and I explored much of urban and rural New England on foot.”

One of the many things that drew her to the Silver City area was the potential for hiking. She told

hike all of these trails in 2015.” Here is a partial list of some the trails currently available right in the Silver City area: Boston Hill, Big Ditch Park, La Capilla Vista, San Vicente Creek, Big Tree Trail, Dragonfly Trail, Gomez Peak Trail System. You can get a more extensive list at: [prescriptiontrails.org/TrailsofGrantCounty-WalkingandHiking-GuideSmall.pdf](http://prescriptiontrails.org/TrailsofGrantCounty-WalkingandHiking-GuideSmall.pdf).

**Name:** Boston Hill  
**Distance:** various  
**Difficulty:** easy to moderate  
**Directions:** There are sev-

eral trailheads in the Boston Hill trail system. One entrance is at the top of Market Street, near Hwy. 180. The others are on Cheyenne Street (off Market), Spring Street (off Cooper) and Cooper Street (north of the cemetery).

**Hike description:** This is a pleasant, meandering trail system over the 550 acres of Boston Hill. You will enjoy long-range, panoramic views of the area, various mine evidence to explore, and wildlife and plants of the area. Since it is a series of three hills, there is some climbing. But it’s still easy and doable for most people.

**Notes:** In 1879 a mining claim was made on the smallest of the hills by the “Boston Company.” Within four years they had sold the mine, but

me, “This is the best urban trail system I’ve seen, including places with highly praised greenways such as Austin, Texas, and Portland, Oregon. As a community, we need to appreciate and use this special opportunity.”

Adrienne earned a degree in Visual and Environmental Studies from Harvard in 1980, and later did graduate work in geography and interpretive media. She has worked for educational publishers, coordinated manager training programs for Texas State Parks, and recently served as manager for the Gila Conservation Education Center here in Silver City. One of her current interests is with the Grant County Trails Group in our area. This group, along with many other organizations, helps create and promote a system of greenways in and near Silver City to provide local residents with places to enjoy nature and get exercise.

On many local trails you will get a flavor for the past and how Silver City developed into the unique place it is today. Maybe we should call this hike the “Health, History and Heritage Tour.” When she hikes regularly, Adrienne finds that she feels better. By walking just half an hour daily, she has seen her bad cholesterol numbers go down and her lipid numbers get in check. Her glucose numbers have gotten under control, she sleeps better and doesn’t crave junk food, her clothes fit better and the 56-year-old feels mentally sharper.

Both Adrienne and I want to encourage readers to get out and explore these trails. Instead of sitting and having coffee with a friend, why not get a to-go cup and walk one of the trails? Rather than playing video games, why not bring the kids to the trails and show them one of the many paths in the area? Are you thinking of a New Year’s resolution for 2015? Consider making this yours: “I’m going to get out and

the name remained. In 1999 the Town of Silver City purchased the property with intentions of preserving it as open space.

It is popular with locals because it allows dogs on leashes, is open to bicyclists and pedestrian traffic, and is close to town yet still provides the feel of nature. There are benches for resting and numbered trail junction signs. If you’re going in hot weather, bring water and wear a hat. If you would like to have a map to take with you, you can get one at the Visitor’s Center on Hudson Street, or online at [www.swnmaudubon.org/images/Greenways.pdf](http://www.swnmaudubon.org/images/Greenways.pdf).

**Tell us about a particularly memorable hiking experience:**

“In both 2013 and 2014, I worked with the Hispanic Access Foundation to bring about 30 urban kids from Catholic youth groups to experience the Gila River for the first time. We hiked near the Cliff Dwellings and in the Mogollon Box area.

“For many participants, it was a spiritual and life-changing experience. They turned off cell phones except to take photographs of the river to share with their friends, and they talked about wanting to come back on their own to explore the outdoors again. It was very rewarding for me to share my love of nature with them and to have them enjoy it and want to share it with others.”

To read more about Linda Ferrara’s 100-hike challenge, check out her blog at [100hikesinayear.wordpress.com](http://100hikesinayear.wordpress.com). See a collection of her previous 100 Hikes columns at [www.desertexposure.com/100hikes](http://www.desertexposure.com/100hikes).



BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

# Rules for Helping Hands

A hill of beans, and hunger in Palomas.

“The mayor tells us that no one is hungry in Palomas,” Pat Noble of Casa de Amor said wryly.

Mayor Talaco Sanchez was basing what he said on the arrival of a couple of new government programs that are helping poor people in town.

I relayed the mayor’s comment to the woman working at La Favorita bakery, and she responded a little giddily at the thought.

This woman told me about her daughter at the Deming schools—how they didn’t seem to be giving clothing to students any more. People in Palomas are in need of clothes, too.

Palomas still has the same level of poverty since the tightening of the border in the summer of 2006 decreased the number of border crossers headed north and the violence that soared in 2008 decreased the number of tourists heading south. The recession also shut down the Japanese car-parts factory in 2008.

The life-blood of Palomas’ economy was cut off. The town’s population plummeted, and a lot of people are still basically destitute.

For maybe a year now I’ve been hearing about a 2,000-pound pile of donated beans in Columbus that the US-based orphanage Casa de Amor has been trying to transport across the border.

A special problem in Palomas right now is that Mexican Customs (*Aduana*) officials are not letting people bring more than two kilos (4.4 pounds) of beans across in one trip.

I found this out a few weeks ago, when I tried to transport 40 pounds across in my back seat to bring down to people in Colonia Modelo. I’d been told by Tom Bates, who is a volunteer for Casa de Amor in Silver City, that you could get away with bringing that amount across.

But the Aduana agents told me that the current administrator, Cesar Fregoso, had decided to be even more rigorous in enforcing the law. He himself was there at the place where they check the cars. He confiscated most of my beans, but was courteous enough to let me pick them up again at his office before 5 p.m., which was really earlier than I wanted to go home. I brought some of the beans across bit by bit and gave the rest away in Deming.

Casa de Amor has been trying to bring its pile of beans across the same way. “I feel like flying over in an airplane and dropping the beans,” said Pat Noble. “It just seems so silly that there are people who are hungry in Palomas, and they don’t allow it to be brought across. *Hello*—give me a break!”

About a year ago Tom Bates wanted me to write something about the situation with the Aduana. He said he had been told that US beans were forbidden because the law prohibits seeds from being brought across, and beans were considered “seeds.”

To him this seemed like a really asinine rule, when it’s obvious the purpose of Casa de Amor is to feed people.

Jim Noble, Pat’s husband, said the restrictions on beans are due to the fact that Mexico’s trying to protect itself from GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms) beans. This at least makes the rule seem less bone-headed.

So for now Casa de Amor is not distributing beans during its monthly food distributions.

Jim and Pat Noble have learned to take the rules of the Aduana in stride. “They don’t consistently apply the rules,” Jim said. “For one thing, they have a new administrator about every six months.”

Pat added, “Every month it’s different—what they want at the border, what they’re letting through, and what they’re not letting through.”

She said they once were bringing two brand-new tires across for a vehicle that was part of their operations. They were told, “You can’t bring tires across.” But they were then asked to pay \$30 “tax” in order to get them across.

“It’s not as if you grease somebody’s hand,” Jim said. “The difference is it is being recorded.”

“You get a receipt,” Pat said.

“For Christmas they relax the rules,” Jim said. In

Contact info for humanitarian organizations helping in Palomas:

**Border Partners**, 406 S. Granite St., Deming, NM 88030, (575) 546-1083, (715) 292-9557 (cell), info@borderpartners.org, www.borderpartners.org

**Our Lady of Las Palomas**, PO Box 622, Columbus, NM 88029, (575) 531-1101, ourladyoflaspalomas.org/palomas\_hunger\_project.html

**Casa de Amor Para Ninos** (House of Love for Children), The Light at Mission Viejo, c/o Jim Noble, 4601 Mission Bend, Santa Fe, NM 87507, (505) 466-0237, info@casadeamorparaninos.org, www.casadeamorparaninos.org

**Rio Grande Borderland Ministries**, PO Box 216, Columbus, NM 88029, (267) 322-1708, susan1028@aol.com

the long line waiting to get through the Port of Entry just before Christmas, officials will often wave cars through that have a lot of food and clothing.

One Christmas, Pat recalled, “We were told, ‘You can’t bring any toys made in China.’ We had toys for 350 kids. How many of those toys were made in China? So we ended up parking the truck right near the border, and kids came to the border. We literally lined up the kids and handed them the toys. The rule was that you can’t bring them in bulk.”

The two national programs that have been brought to Palomas during the past year look like they will help a lot of people. But the many residents who will fall through the cracks of the system can’t be forgotten.

One program is called *Comedor Comunitaria* (Community Restaurant). They serve lunch to children, the elderly and pregnant women in a place where long tables and chairs are set up. People are required to pay just three pesos (25 cents). The day I went last summer there were just a few families present.

The other program is called *Oportunidades*, which started in July. It’s basically food stamps for families. Yalia Romero at City Hall said that 273 families were part of the program.

She said families in general get an average of \$83 per month, and families with children under nine years old get an average of \$243 a month. There’s just one grocery store in Palomas where they can use their cards.

Three other US organizations are currently helping Palomas:

**Border Partners**—Look up their projects on their excellent website (www.borderpartners.org).

**Our Lady of Las Palomas**—Director Judith Lethin said, “During the past four months we have placed seven Blessing Boxes (\$2,100 worth of donations) to support our Hunger Project!”

**Rio Grande Borderland Ministries**—“The compassionate response of RGBM is simple: everyone eats, everyone is clothed, everyone has a safe and healthy habitat, and everyone is loved.”

Casa de Amor is holding a big dinner at noon on Dec. 13, and everyone is welcome. Every year Palomas residents line up for this free meal. For US residents it would help to speak a little Spanish so you can find the place (in the southwest corner of town) and if you bring toys or other donations.

Pat Noble told me of some silly stuff they’ve received from Americans who want to give in-kind donations: ice skates, a Tom Clancy novel in English, cranberry sauce and canned pumpkin. You are safe if you donate flour, rice and cooking oil. Shoes and clothes are always accepted gratefully. ❄

Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.





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HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • HENRY LIGHTCAP

# Tree Time

A brief history of the Christmas tree, from “O Tannenbaum” to black (yes, black) artificial trees.

There are many sacrosanct traditions surrounding the celebration of Christmas, such as untangling strings of Christmas lights and stuffing six pounds of holiday cookies into your mouth at once. One of the mandatory rites of yuletide commemoration requires the decapitation of an innocent evergreen from its roots and creating a festive display of its withering carcass in a family setting. Because nothing says peace on earth, goodwill toward men like killing an outdoor organism and dragging it indoors for a month where it can catch fire and burn the entire house down. Ninety-five percent of Americans agree: It just ain't Christmas without a Christmas tree.

Curious about the origin of the Christmas tree, I spent several minutes and a tumbler of single malt searching the Intertubes for a bit of background. It turns out that Rudolph delivered the very first Christmas tree to the manger where Jesus and Santa were born, and they all danced around while singing “O Tannenbaum” and decorating it with bits of donkey hair, fruitcake and Amazon gift cards. The web teaches us amazing things.

It wasn't long before Ukrainians and Scandinavians started propping up trees in their homes, either to celebrate baby Jesus, commemorate the winter solstice, or mask the horrible stink of a cabin stuffed with snowed-in proto-Eskimos. Later, the Germans got involved, and to everybody's surprise, the French didn't surrender. They started adding fruits and nuts as decorations to the tree, which was a fairly poor substitute for a pantry. Finally, those uptight English Victorians adopted the arboreal tradition, and put actual lit candles on the trees, demonstrating an amazing talent for holiday lighting and a colossal indifference towards fire safety.

When Americans may have shown up late to the Christmas-tree tradition, but when we did, we super-sized it. What started as a seedling of yuletide cheer transformed into a veritable sequoia of opulence and bad taste. From bubble lights and tinsel icicles to multimedia ornaments and electric snowflakes, the humble Christmas tree has become so much more than a plugged-in tribute to the Christ child. It's become an altar of tchotchkes and shiny-sparklies, and the bar is raised each year.

I remember aluminum trees when I was a wee lad—shiny abominations of metal poles and shiny foil foliage. The faux trees were so metallic that you couldn't safely put electrical lights on them (are you paying attention, candle-wielding Victorians? Safety first!) for fear of electrocuting small pets and chil-

dren, so celebrants had to purchase the optional color wheel, projecting an ever-shifting spectrum of red, blue and yellow onto the spire. Later came “flocked” trees, artificial trees sprayed with some sort of asbestos-laced expanding foam that gave the impression of wet snow on the tree. Housecats that chewed on the branches of a flocked tree died of mouth cancer within 12 minutes.

So Christmas trees have become fashion items. Trends change over the years, and there have been occasional returns to simplicity, which meant real, natural trees hacked from the earth. Global warming and the environment be damned, you can't get that kind of pine scent with a \$1.99 can of Glade spray!

Americans started feeling guilty, so there was a return to artificial trees that looked more lifelike than ever, but that was deemed boring. Too lazy to untangle the lights each year, we now buy artificial trees that come with the lights pre-installed so that decorators can get back to important holiday stuff, like watching NFL playoffs and languishing over Jaeger bombs. When I first saw complete, pre-decorated and fully accessorized trees for sale, I began to become a touch cynical.

My ire was fully piqued recently when my lovely wife and I were shopping at the local Mal Wart. Incredulous that Christmas trees were out when it was still sandal weather outside, we noticed a new item among the stench of plastic trees and depleting ozone: a black tree. You still have your choice of spruce blue, scotch green, New England snowfall white and sleigh-bell silver, but finally, there is a yuletide option for Goth kids and disaffected nihilists. A black Christmas tree, for chrissakes. Rudolph is rolling over in the manger.

Having just come off the American festival of Thanksgiving, it's important to consider how those same Puritans who originated the annual feast celebrated Christmas. It wasn't with a gaudy tree, shedding flammable Chinese-manufactured debris in the corner of the living room. To the Puritans, Christmas was a big damn deal; Governor William Bradford tried hard to stamp out pagan mockery of the occasion, penalizing any frivolity, which is probably why he was never invited to the office Christmas party. Later, Oliver Cromwell preached against the heathen traditions like decorated trees that desecrated the sacred event, and the General Court of Massachusetts enacted a law making any observance of Christmas outside of church a penal offense. (Hee-hee... they said “penal.”)

That seems a bit severe. I mean, I don't know why we drag dead shrubbery into the house every year and festoon it with lights and baubles. I'm not much of a church-going man, but I do know there's something akin to spirituality going on every now and again at this time of year. The world was full of Christmas magic when I was a kid, and it's been diminished with every trip around the sun, but the idea of a tree in the house is still magical. It makes no sense, and maybe that's why it's so important to all of us.

From the Lightcap family bunker to yours, Merry Christmas, pilgrim, and keep your tinsel shiny. ❄️

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Body, Mind & Spirit • Shirley Pevarnik

# Telling the Universe Story

Celebrating a century of wisdom by Thomas Berry, father of ecological spirituality.

Excerpt from one of Thomas Berry's *Riverdale Papers: The Spirituality of the Earth*:

"By this title I am not speaking of a human spirituality with special reference to the planet Earth. I am speaking of a quality of the Earth itself. Earth is the maternal principle out of which we are born and whence we derive all that we are and all that we have. In our totality we come into being in and through Earth. We are earthlings. The Earth is our origin, our nourishment, our educator, our healer, our fulfillment.

"If there is no spirituality in the earth, then there is no spirituality in ourselves."



The author with Thomas Berry, one of the first world religious leaders to suggest that Earth's ecological crisis was primarily a spiritual crisis.

Thomas Berry (1914-2009) would have been 100 years old this year and is sometimes referred to as the father of ecological spirituality. He was also an eco-theologian, cultural historian and self-proclaimed "geologist"—one who studies the spirit of Earth. Described by *Newsweek* as "the most provocative figure among the new breed of eco-theologians," he was the author of the Riverdale papers, now housed at Harvard, and many other books including *Dream of the Earth* and *The Great Work*. Berry taught at Seaton Hall University, St. Johns' University and Fordham University, and started the Riverdale Center for Religious Research along the Hudson River.

Berry was one of the first world religious leaders to suggest that Earth's ecological crisis was primarily a spiritual crisis. He believed that we humans have come to see ourselves as above the natural world; indeed, he believed we have become autistic to it. He would also say that if we are spiritual, it is only because everything in the Universe is spiritual. Most indigenous peoples recognize these spiritual connections and honor the "more than human world." However, most modern humans have a different story—one of separation that allows us to plunder the planet. Berry often said our real crisis was one of story. We need a new story, one that places us in a mutually enhancing relationship with Earth, our larger self.

Despite the seriousness of our environmental problems, Berry was hopeful and pointed out that a new story is beginning to be told all around the world by Cosmological Science. His book *The Universe Story*, co-authored with mathematical cosmologist Brian Swimme, celebrates this new story that is now being uncovered by science and which describes the unfolding of the cosmos. This is the story he believed

would bring the human/Earth relationship back to a communion relationship rather than a use relationship. When we understand that we humans fit into this unfolding story of the Universe, that we are in relationship with everything, we begin to feel the sacredness of everything.

This year, 2014, communities around the world including in Australia, Great Britain, California, North Carolina, Connecticut and many other places are celebrating the centennial of the birth of Thomas Berry. Although Thomas passed five years ago, his groundbreaking work on human/Earth relationship has inspired thousands of academics, ecologists, religious leaders and many people, like myself, who are simply trying to figure out why we are in the mess we are in on the planet.

I met Thomas the summer of 1996 although I had fallen in love with him long before I met him. Friends had shared with me his books and tapes, and I felt like this great man had saved my life or at least my soul. I had been working in social services for many years, and after seeing the pain and poverty and the slow process of shift in our society's thinking, I had become frustrated and wondered about the very nature of humanity. Most of my peers had simply decided that humans were basically greedy and evil, but somehow that didn't feel right to me.

So, when I finally heard Thomas talk about the crisis of our time being one of story, well, that made sense to me. It gave me hope again and changed my life. I pretty much gave up social work and went off to learn as much as I could

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page



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**BODY, MIND & SPIRIT** continued

about this New Story. I was lucky enough to meet Thomas Berry at the Holy Cross Center for Ecology and Spirituality in Canada, where I worked for four summers. We became friends, and I started making a pilgrimage to North Carolina every summer to visit Thomas. He was a shaman, really, one who acts as a medium between the human world and the spirituality of the natural world. I would be changed forever.

There are a few stories about Thomas, I will share them with you:

- Thomas was having lunch with a group of people one afternoon and was in deep conversation, talking about his Buddhist soul and his Christian soul when the woman across the table abruptly interrupted. "Just what do you believe in, Thomas?" she demanded. He thought for a moment and replied, "I believe in everything, madame. Just tell me something, and I'll believe it." He might have added that we humans are the self-reflective species, the believing species, the story species, and when we limit what we believe, we limit our possibilities and separate ourselves from others with different beliefs. And, of course, he might have said, everyone naturally has a unique belief system.
- When Thomas was a young man, 16 to 19, he became increasingly aware of the economically driven, industrial destruction of the planet and the system that required everyone to participate. He said he had to think, think about this system and why it was the way it was. He said there were only two places one could really have the time and space to think: one was prison and the other the monastery. He choose the latter.
- Once when Thomas was visiting Canada and was being interviewed by their BBC, they asked him, "Thomas, you are getting old; where do you think you will go when you die?" (Thomas was a priest but never talked about heaven or hell.) He thought a moment and answered, "I will be where I have always been, in the Universe."

**The Universe Story**

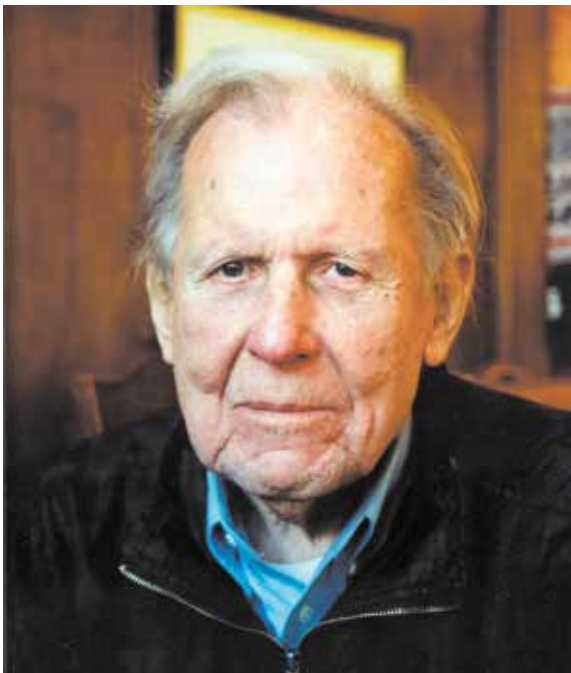
Thomas Berry often said, "To tell the story of anything you need to tell the story of everything."

There are millions of ways to tell any story; indeed this new creation story needs to be told a million times in a million ways.

Here's one:

Once upon the beginning of time and space, about 13 billion years ago (give or take a billion), there was a flaring forth. This is often referred to as the Big Bang, but that term is much too militaristic, too limited. The primordial fireball flared forth total energy, and in that energy was the potential of everything that would ever be. This pure energy was so thick and hot, no particles could emerge. But finally it cooled down enough for the first particles and then the first atoms of Hydrogen. We might call these first material beings our first ancestors. Everything that would ever emerge in the Universe would come from those first atoms of Hydrogen!

Well, Hydrogen was very happy just floating around the Universe. (Remember this is a story.) However, because the Universe is a self-organizing system, it began to pull that Hydrogen into bundles and bundles of bundles. These bundles became the first stars and the first grouping of stars or galaxies. Now, a star, a first-generation star, is simply H (an atom with one electron) being pushed together so tightly fusion takes place. Two H atoms merge together to create an atom that has two electrons, which is Helium. The energy that is given off in that process is a photon of light. When all the Hydrogen in a star is used up, the star implodes with



Thomas Berry. (Photos by Carolyn Webb)

enough heat and energy to create the other atoms in our periodic table. In short, the first implosion or supernova event created all the atoms we now know. So we can say, with certainty, we are all star dust.

Around 5 billion years ago (give or take a billion), our grandmother star or stars went supernova, imploded, and all of the atoms we now know were spewed into space. Again, because we live in a self-organizing Universe, the atoms started to be pulled back into a second-generation star—our Sun. (This happened multiple times, billions of times around the universe, and this is how each solar system formed.) The atoms that didn't make it back into the Sun self-organized and became the eight planets and the asteroid belt of our solar system. Our comfy home, the only living planet we know, our Earth, was born.

Shortly after this monumental event, life began on our planet around 4.5 billion years ago (give or take a million or so). The first cells probably ate the chemical soup that was being made as all of the atoms from the supernova were joining together to create molecules—the greatest one being H<sub>2</sub>O, water. This made life possible. We should have a holiday celebrating water! Anyway, after a few million years (give or take a million), life on earth had its first big crisis. It began running out of food. Too many single-cell beings and not enough chemical soup. So evolution happened yet again. Cells began to eat photons from our Sun, and photosynthesis began. This was no small feat. Scientists today still can't create photosynthesis, and those single cells didn't even have brains or college educations.

This photosynthesis was just fine for a few million years or so, but it led to another major life crisis. One of the byproducts of photosynthesis is Oxygen—another amazing molecule we should have a holiday for. Too much Oxygen is dangerous because it is explosive, and so our ancestors, the first life on the planet, were literally burning up. Then another great evolutionary event occurred. One of the single-cell life forms evolved to deal with the Oxygen—what we call today mitochondria. Other single cells learned how take this cell into their own bodies, so they could deal with Oxygen. Hence, every living cell in our bodies and all living bodies have a mitochondria cell inside of them with a different DNA. Deoxyribonucleic Acid—a better term might be "Divine Natural Abundance."

Wow, what creativity! Take in the cell that learned how to deal with your enemy, and you have the first eukaryotic cell that not only can deal with Oxygen, but is also the first cell that eats other cells—heterotrophy. Remember, the first single cells on the planet digested the chemical soup of the planet, the next learned how to use photosynthesis for energy, and now the eukaryote cell had learned to eat its neighbor. Life seems determined to evolve new ways to get the energy it needs. The eukaryote cells also learned to live in communities and created the first multicellular beings. (Yes, for the first 3 billion years of life on the planet there were only single-cell beings.)

Okay, now those eukaryotes

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got really wild. They were the first life forms to create meiotic sex, which was no small creation because now two genetically different beings can come together and create a radically different being. Unfortunately, with sex came death. You see, the first life on the planet, those single cells that were on the planet for so long, didn't have a lifespan. In fact, it is possible that some are still alive today. They didn't die of old age. That started happening only after sex began. (Bummer!)

Well, multicellular beings really did well. It seems working in community really helped life explode on the planet. Not only did we get an amazing variety of plants and animals, life began to get very big. At first, we had life in the sea—flat worms and jellyfish—but then life went on land, and we had our first amphibians, insects and trees, around 400 million years ago (give or take a million). Life kept evolving as it faced all the challenges of a planet that had extremely fluctuating temperatures, violent collisions with all the debris left over from the supernova, and the violent churning of our Earth's inner core. There were many extinctions but always more and more adaptations and more variety.

Around 235 million years ago, life got really big and the first dinosaurs appeared, and along with them came the first flowers. Shortly thereafter came the first mammals who probably succeeded because of the nutritious flowers. Then, 65 million years ago Earth was hit with an asteroid. It was also a time of great volcanic activity, and together these two things made the Earth almost impossible to survive on. Some species did, and those little mammals were able to start on their evolutionary journey into primates. Earth entered into its latest geological era, the Cenozoic Era, the most fecund time in Earth's history. So much variety and so much beauty!

It was as though the Earth needed a species to appreciate this amazing beauty, and so it took a chance in creating a species that had self-reflective consciousness, a species that knew that it knew. The first human predecessors emerged around 4 million years ago and became *homo sapiens* a mere 200,000 years ago. Because of this self-reflection, this species was able to adapt through learning and then teach its offspring rather than waiting for the genetic coding to evolve new ways to deal with Earth's ever-changing challenges.

We did this through our stories; we have problem-solving strategies in our stories rather than in our genes. This self-reflective consciousness allowed us to see the future, to plan, to celebrate, but also to fear suffering and death. Most tribal humans found strength in their relationship with the natural world, a spiritual world, to help them deal with human suffering. But we modern humans have sought to remove the painful elements of life by exercising control over the natural world. This separation from the more-than-human world has led us to the end of the Cenozoic. We have changed

the chemistry and biology of the planet so much, we are entering a new geological era.

If we were to take this Universe Story and condense it into a single year, humans would appear only about an hour before midnight on the last evening of the year. We are young, and it took 13.7 billion years to make us.

We can be forgiven our hubris because we are such a young species. Any species with these gifts and challenges might do the same. However, this gift of self-reflection has also given us the desire to discover where we came from and where we are to go. It has given us this new story that shows us we are not separate but connected to the whole. At a time when our planet is in crisis, we are given this astounding insight that we are part of the larger story and what we do matters.

Thomas Berry saw this as a "moment of grace," when humans have a choice in the era they are entering. As the Cenozoic is ending, we can participate in the Technozoic, where humans try to control the Earth even more with greater technology, or we can enter a new era of deep relationship with Earth and begin what he termed the Ecozoic.

Yes, we will need technology, but we need to understand our reciprocity with Earth even more. The psychic energy needed for this shift into the Ecozoic is in our new story: the Universe Story. When we see our connection with the larger story of the Universe, it compels us to become our greater self. Who is that self? Thomas might pause a moment and then say: **We are the universe becoming aware of itself!** (It's a pretty big shift in perception. Take a moment and think about it. Thomas did.)

Excerpt from the *Great Work* by Thomas Berry:  
"The great work before us, the task of moving modern industrial civilization from its present devastating influence on Earth to a more benign mode of presence, is not a role that we have chosen. It is a role given to us, beyond any consultation with ourselves. We did not choose. We were chosen by some power beyond ourselves for this historic task."  
"Yet we must believe that those powers that assign our role must in that same act bestow upon us the ability to fulfill this role." ❧

*Shirley Pevarnik has studied at Naropa University, the University of Arizona, Holy Cross Center for Ecology and Spirituality, California Institute of Integral Studies, and the University of Creation Spirituality. A student and long-time friend of Thomas Berry, she lives in Silver City, and has facilitated study groups on the Universe Story, Earth Spirituality and the work of Joanna Macy. Contact her at ticcus@hotmail.com.*

*There will be a small group showing of the movie about Thomas Berry, The Great Story, the evenings of Dec. 3 and Dec. 4. If interested, call (575) 590-5561 for details.*



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# Infinite Kindness

Buddhist spiritual master Wangchen Rinpoche will speak in Silver City Dec. 6.

Even as a very small child, Wangchen Rinpoche refused to eat meat. One of five children, he was born in northeastern India to a Tibetan refugee family. The family had left before most realized the terrible destruction that the Chinese invasion would bring and so they were relatively well off. They could afford to eat their traditional Tibetan foods including meat, but Rinpoche refused. His compassion was so strong, so innate, even pre-verbal, that he would not intentionally cause harm to any living being.

Rinpoche (pronounced *rin-po-chay*) means “precious one” and is a title given to those who have been recognized as having unusual spiritual powers. Venerable Wangchen Rinpoche has those special qualities. Despite Rinpoche’s low profile, his close students attest to his unique qualities, his infinite patience and his ability to give just the right advice at the right time. Yet he treats all his students, and everyone he comes in contact with, with infinite kindness. He is unwavering in his motivation to help.

The Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) is sponsoring a talk by Rinpoche on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 2-3:30 p.m. at the WNMU Global Resource Center, Room ABC. He will speak on “The Buddhist Worldview” and answer questions. His talk is free and open to the public.



The Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) is sponsoring a talk by Wangchen Rinpoche on Saturday, Dec. 6,

Rinpoche’s monasteries and nunneries in Kham, the eastern region of Tibet. In the summer of 2004, he officiated at the grand opening of Began Monastery and its schools for higher Buddhist studies and, in 2005, the official opening of Gesar Monastery. His new nunnery is very close to completion.

Wangchen Rinpoche settled in Los Angeles in the late 1980s and today his Rime Ling center plays an essential role in the growth of the Buddha Dharma in North America. He is unusual among traditional Tibetan lamas in that he teaches in fluent English, so his students, and everyone he meets, can engage with him directly about their personal situation.

“Spreading the Dharma in America has not been an easy thing to do. Nevertheless, I myself never gave up,” Rinpoche explains. “After many years of sincere effort by many enlightened masters, spiritual roots have taken hold in American soil for the benefit of all mankind. For that I am truly happy.”

In addition to being the current lineage holder of the Shangpa Kagyu tradition, Wangchen Rinpoche feels a personal responsibility for furthering the Buddha’s teachings in the world and for helping every being in any way he can. In Bodhgaya, India, he sponsored a major prayer festival, the Monlam, for three consecutive years. He has taken full responsibility for rebuilding Shangpa Monastery in Tibet, as well as rebuilding and overseeing his own and Kalu

One of the practices that is flourishing as a result of Rinpoche’s efforts is the fasting practice of Nyungne. This is a long-cherished practice of purification begun by the nun Gelongma Palmo over 1,000 years ago. Born a princess, she gave up the royal life early to lead a purely spiritual life. As a young woman, she developed leprosy, was thrown out of her nunnery and shunned by society. This devastating disease caused her to lose her fingers and toes, reducing her almost to an animal. As a result of her devotion, Chenrezig, the Buddha of Compassion, came to her and taught her the practice of Nyungne. This powerfully transformative practice restored her health and her limbs grew back.

Rinpoche is one of the few living masters of the Nyungne practice. Nyungne literally means “abiding in fasting.” One of Rinpoche’s aspirations is to introduce as many people as possible to the Nyungne practice. “This practice is perfect for Westerners,” he says, “because it can be accomplished in one weekend and has tremendous benefits which will last forever.”

The Nyungne practice has

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Cheryl

6 mos., Female, Dilute Torti



Emma

Adult, Female, Terrier-X



Owsley

Adult, Female, Shi Tsu/Llasa Apso



Yael

Adult, Spayed Female, DSH



Chino

2 mos., Male, DMH



J.J.

6 mos., Female, Shepherd-X



Inca

1-2 yrs., Female, Terrier-X



Codio

Adult, Male, DSH



Eddie

2 mos., Male, DLH



Missy

1 1/2 yrs., Female, Boxer



Willy

Adult, Male, Doberman

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WORLD HEALING DAY  
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Every year people around the world meditate on World Healing Day to heal each other & the world. Many walk a labyrinth. The time set is 12 noon GMT. In New Mexico this is 5 o'clock in the morning on 31st December.

Whitewater Mesa Labyrinths will be open all day from 4:30 am for everyone who would like to participate in this international day of healing & walk one or all five of our labyrinths. If you would like to come in time for the 5am group walk of the classic labyrinth, bring a flashlight and dress warmly. Labyrinths will be lit with fairy lights so that you can see your own and others' feet walking the path.

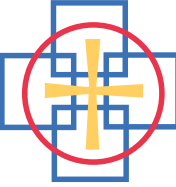
**Admission:** Free. Or a donation towards upkeep.

**Directions:** Between Glenwood and Alma turn east off Hwy 180 onto Rt 159 towards Mogollon. Stay on the paved road. Second and last house on the left east of mile marker 3. Or, to find a labyrinth near you go to the World Wide Labyrinth Locator at [www.labyrinthlocator.com](http://www.labyrinthlocator.com)

**Accommodations:** go to About Us at [www.wmlabyrinths.com](http://www.wmlabyrinths.com)

More information: Cordelia Rose at 575 313-1002

Who was a famous Swedenborgian?  
"JOHNNY APPLESEED" An American Legend

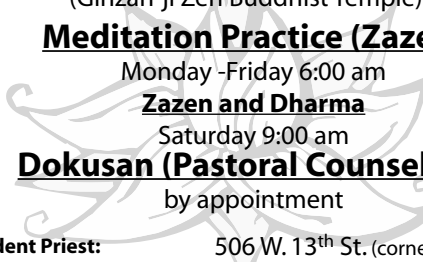


He planted trees in PA, OH, IN & IL.  
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Meditation Practice (Zazen)  
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Saturday 9:00 am  
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by appointment



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Quaker Meeting  
for Worship  
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for more info: 575-538-3141  
marionbowersnewton@sbcglobal.net

Church of Harmony  
Corner of 7th & Arizona, Silver City



Silver City Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
12 Peterson Drive (Arenas Valley)  
(575) 538-3882  
HWY 180 east to Peterson Dr.  
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Come out for worship service every Sabbath  
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Sabbath School 9:30 AM  
Church service 11:00 AM  
Vegetarian pot luck every Sabbath at 12:45PM  
Tuesday "Bible Study" at the church 6:30PM

December Presenters  
6th: Mary Mackey  
13th: Norma Gonzalez  
20th: Pastor Quiniones  
27th: Connie Peralta

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

been gaining increased attention in Buddhist centers across North America; participants say the practice purifies them both physically and spiritually. It involves the keeping of strict vows for two days. Says one of Rinpoche's newer students, "Nyungne is known for its healing powers and the purification of negative deeds from the past. This seems a reasonable result given the physical deprivations of the practice. But I soon saw how it opened my heart. When I finish Nyungne, I notice that people out in the street are smiling at me all the time."

The specific practices include prayer, mantra recitation, prostrations and guided visualizations of Thousand-Armed Chenrezig, the embodiment of all the Buddha's loving-kindness and compassion. Each morning participants take the Eight Precepts Vow, or Mahayana Restoring and Purifying Ordination. The two days follow the same schedule, with four sessions beginning early in the morning. On the first day, there is a vegetarian lunch, and students can drink liquids all day. The second day is a silent fast that is broken in early morning the third day.

"People are often afraid of the fasting day because they've never done it before. I was surprised at how easy it was," says one student. "My life is very hectic, so having a day of silence was an unexpected luxury."

Wangchen Rinpoche leads a monthly Nyungne weekend at his center in Los Angeles, in addition to a set of 25 Nyungne in Los Angeles every spring. He also travels to Taiwan annually to lead a set of eight sessions of Nyungne. One student comments, "Rinpoche doesn't just sit on his throne in the front of the room; he is right there with us, doing the prostrations, doing the fasting, and leading the prayers."

To introduce students to the practice and help them understand its intricacies, Rinpoche wrote *Buddhist Fasting Practice, the Nyungne Fasting Method of Thousand-Armed Chenrezig*. His Holiness the Dalai Lama says, "In this book, Wangchen Rinpoche has given clear and comprehensive instruction on how to undertake the Nyungne practice. Not only that, but by including stories of the great past masters who have undertaken the practice, accounts of the benefits it has brought, as well as auxiliary practices and recitations, he offers a wealth of background information that will serve as a rich source of knowledge and inspiration." ❀

For more information on the Dec. 6 talk, contact Michu at (575) 313-1075 or email at [michu@gi-lanet.com](mailto:michu@gi-lanet.com). For more about the Rime Ling center, go to [www.rimeling.org](http://www.rimeling.org).

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • EARTHTALK

Lunch Time

Aiming for healthier school lunches.

**Q** Dear EarthTalk: I hear that many school cafeterias have nutrition standards no better—even worse—than those of fast food chains. What can be done about this?

**A** Americans have done a great job making sure that our kids have something to eat at school regardless of socioeconomic status, with the National School Lunch Program providing low-cost or free lunches to upwards of 31 million students at 92% of US public and private schools.

But that doesn't mean the food has been especially nutritious, and public health experts say it's no wonder our kids are more obese than ever when we feed them trans fats, salts and sodas for lunch. Kids get half their daily calories at school, so what's for lunch there has a big impact on health and lasting eating habits.

A 2008 analysis of school lunches by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) concluded that American kids consume very few fruits and vegetables in their cafeterias—with potatoes accounting for a third of all vegetables consumed. IOM also found that kids were eating many refined grains and too much saturated fat and sodium. A 2009 study by USA Today found that meat used by McDonald's and Burger King was tested for bacteria and unsafe pathogens up to 10 times as much as meat bound for U.S. school cafeterias.

In response to these stark findings, along with vigorous advocacy by First Lady Michelle Obama, things are starting to improve. In 2010, Congress voted to revamp the nation's school lunch program by enacting the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA). The higher standards in the new law seek to align school meals with the federal 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans by upping the availability and portion sizes of fruits, vegetables and whole grains (and requiring students to select a fruit or vegetable), establishing calorie ranges, removing trans fats and limiting sodium levels. The law also incentivizes schools to take part with generous meal reimbursement funds. The new standards went into effect in 2012 and have been working their way through school districts

from coast-to-coast and getting rave reviews in the process.

Researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health who collected plate waste data among more than 1,000 students in four schools in urban, low-income school districts both before and after HHFKA took effect found that fruit selection increased 23% following implementation: "Average per person fruit consumption was unchanged," said researchers, "but because more students selected fruit overall, more fruit was consumed post-implementation." Also, per student vegetable consumption went up 16.2%.

But just because public health researchers think the program is going well doesn't mean Congress will keep it going. The Republican-dominated House of Representatives has included waivers for school lunch nutrition standards in its fiscal-year 2015 Agriculture Appropriations bill. "The provision would allow schools with a six-month net loss of revenue to opt out of providing the healthier meals outlined by the HHFKA," Dr. Jennifer Woo Baidal writes in the New England Journal of Medicine. "A deficit of any amount from any cause could allow schools to return to the same meals that the IOM found in 2008 to be nutritionally lacking." Consumers interested in protecting the new nutritional standards should weigh in by calling, writing or e-mailing their Congressional representatives and speaking up for healthier kids.

**CONTACTS:** National School Lunch Program, [www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/national-school-lunch-program-nslp](http://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/national-school-lunch-program-nslp); IOM, [www.iom.edu](http://www.iom.edu); HHFKA, [www.fns.usda.gov/initiative/hhfka](http://www.fns.usda.gov/initiative/hhfka). ❀

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575-313-7417  
[blooming-lotus-sangha@googlegroups.com](mailto:blooming-lotus-sangha@googlegroups.com)

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Body, Mind & Spirit

Grant County Weekly Events

**Sundays**  
**ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY**—First Sun. of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.  
**BINGO**—1st and 2d Sun. Doors open 12:30 p.m., games start 1:35 p.m. Benefits Salvation Army and Post 18 charities. American Legion Post 18, 409 W. College Ave. 534-0780  
**HOLISTIC PRESENTATIONS**—11 a.m. PeaceMeal Coop Deli. 534-9703  
**PRAYER AND STUDY IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION**—Sunset. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.  
**Mondays**  
**AARP CHAPTER #1496**—Third Monday. 12:30 p.m. Senior Center, 205 W. Victoria. Contact Marcia Fisch, 388-1298  
**AARP WIDOWED PERSONS**—Second Mondays. 10:30 a.m. Glad Tidings Church. Contact Sally, 537-3643.  
**AL-ANON**—12:05 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, Silver City. Contact Valerie, 313-2561.  
**ART CLASS**—9-10:45 a.m. Silver City Senior Citizen Center. Beginners to advanced. Contact Jean 519-2977.  
**GENTLE YOGA**—5:30-7 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.  
**OLD-TIME COUNTRY DANCING**—3rd Mon., 7-9 p.m. Pin Room, Silver Bowling Center. Free.  
**PING PONG**—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.  
**SILVER CITY SQUARES**—Dancing 7-9 p.m. Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. Kay, 388-4227, or Linda, 534-4523.  
**TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE**—1 p.m., Senior Center. Call Lydia Moncada to register, 534-0059.  
**Tuesdays**  
**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**—Men's group, 7 a.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall. 3845 N. Swan. Jerry, 534-4866.  
**ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT**—1st Tues. 1:30 p.m. Senior Center. Margaret, 388-4539.  
**BAYARD HISTORIC MINE TOUR**—2nd Tuesday. Meet at Bayard City Hall, 800 Central Ave., by 9:30 a.m. \$5 fee covers two-hour bus tour of historic mines plus literature and map; call 537-3327 for reservation.  
**COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**—4th Tuesday. 7 p.m. Support for those who've lost a child. Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 7th and Texas St. Mitch Barsh, 534-1134.  
**FIGURE/MODEL DRAWING**—4-6 p.m. Contact Sam, 388-5583.  
**KIWANIS CLUB**—Noon. Red Barn, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 590-0540.  
**LOS COMADRES CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**—1st Tues. 6 p.m. Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180 E.

(next to Ace). 388-1198 ext. 10.  
**MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP**—First Tuesday. 11:30 a.m. at local restaurant; email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.  
**REIKI CIRCLE**—First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. 2035 Little Walnut. Treatment for those in need of healing. Vicki, 388-8114, or Virginia, 388-4870.  
**SLOW FLOW YOGA**—11:30 a.m. 5:30-7 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.  
**SOCIAL SERVICES**—Noon. Red Barn, 707 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-5666.  
**TEA PARTY PATRIOTS**—2nd and 4th Tues. 6 p.m. Red Barn Steakhouse, 708 Silver Heights Blvd. 388-4143.  
**Wednesdays**  
**ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY**—Third Weds. of every month. Oct.-Nov., Jan.-April 7 p.m. Silver City Women's Club. Summers 6 p.m. location TBA. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.  
**BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN**—2nd Weds. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Subject to change. 574-2888.  
**BAYARD AL-ANON**—6 p.m. Bayard Housing Authority, 100 Runnels Dr. 313-7094.  
**A COURSE IN MIRACLES**—7:15 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.  
**CURBSIDE CONSULTING**—Free for nonprofits. 9 a.m.-noon. Wellness Coalition, 409 N. Bullard, Lisa Jimenez, 534-0665, ext. 232, lisa@wellnesscoalition.org.  
**FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS WOMEN'S GROUP**—6:30 p.m. 1000 N Hudson St., 519-1070.  
**GIN RUMMY**—1 p.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House.  
**GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**—2nd Weds. Potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sen. Howie Morales' building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180.  
**LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION**—8 a.m. tee time. Silver City Golf Course.  
**LEGO CLUB**—Ages 4-9. 4 p.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.  
**PING PONG**—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.  
**PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**—3rd Weds. 6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.  
**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF GRANT COUNTY**—Third Weds. 6 p.m. Red Barn.  
**STORYTIME**—All ages. 10:30 a.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.  
**TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP**—3:30-5 p.m. All-Purpose Room, Billy Casper Wellness Center, Hudson St. & Hwy. 180. James, 537-2429, or Danita, 534-9057.

**Thursdays**  
**ARTS ANONYMOUS**—5:30 p.m. Artists Recovering through the Twelve Steps. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3845 N. Swan St. 534-1329.  
**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**—1st Thurs. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Board Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.  
**DE-STRESSING MEDITATIONS**—12-12:45 p.m. New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.  
**GILA WRITERS**—2-4 p.m. Silver City Public Library. Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com, 534-0207.  
**GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY**—2nd Thurs. 6 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria St. Kyle, 538-5706.  
**HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOURISM MEETING**—Second Thurs. 10 a.m. Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.  
**PROGRESSIVE PILATES**—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.  
**TOPS**—5 p.m. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.  
**WOMEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**—1st Thurs. 6-7 p.m. GRMC Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. 388-1198, ext. 10.  
**VINYASA FLOW YOGA**—11:30 a.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.  
**YOGA CLASS**—Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, 7th and Texas.  
**Fridays**  
**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS**—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center conference room. 313-9400.  
**SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB**—2d Fri., 10:30 a.m., lunch 12 p.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-3452.  
**TAIZÉ**—2d Friday. Service of prayer, songs, scripture readings and quiet contemplation. 6:30 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 538-2015.  
**WOODCARVING CLUB**—2d and 4th Fridays except holidays. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 313-1518.  
**YOUTH SPACE**—5:30-10 p.m. Loud music, video games, chill out. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.  
**Saturdays**  
**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BEGINNERS**—6 p.m. Lions Club, 8th & Bullard (entrance at Big Ditch behind Domino's). Newcomers and seasoned members welcome.  
**ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT**—10 a.m.-noon. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Margaret, 388-4539.  
**BLOOMING LOTUS MEDITATION**—12:45 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona. 313-7417, geofarm@pobox.com.  
**DOUBLE FEATURE BLOCKBUSTER MEGA HIT MOVIE NIGHT**—5:30-11 pm. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.  
**EVENING PRAYER IN THE EASTERN OR-**

**THODOX TRADITION**—5 p.m. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.  
**KIDS BIKE RIDE**—10 a.m., Bikeworks, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 388-1444.  
**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**—6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.  
**SPINNING GROUP**—1st Sat., 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.  
**STORYTIME**—All ages. 10:30 a.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.  
**VINYASA FLOW YOGA**—10 a.m. All levels. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331. ☸  
All phone numbers are area code 575 except as noted. Send updates to events@desertexposure.com.



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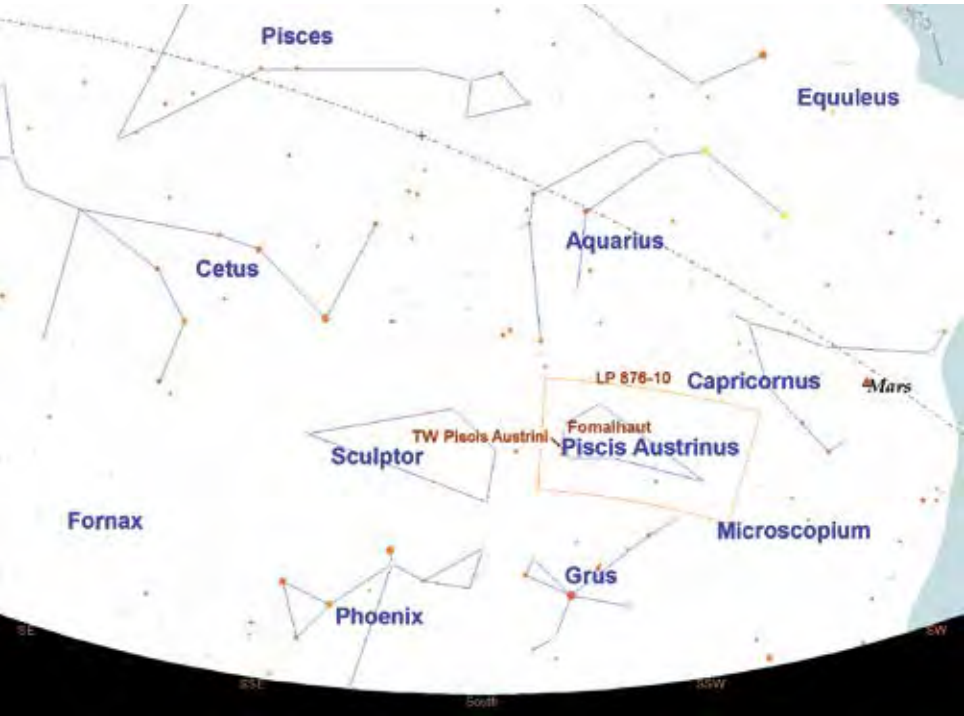




THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

# Piscis Austrinus, the Southern Fish

Plus the planets for December.



Piscis Austrinus, the Southern Fish, is often portrayed as drinking water poured out of a jar being held by Aquarius. The brightest star in this constellation is Fomalhaut, a first-magnitude star that is a nearby 25.1 light-years away. It is actually a triple star system, with the other two stars being TW Piscis Austrini and LP 876-10.

For a larger, printable version of the star map, visit [www.desertexposure.com](http://www.desertexposure.com).

Our sky has two constellations representing fish, both in our evening sky. One is Pisces, which is usually depicted as a pair of fish. The other is just a single fish, Piscis Austrinus, the Southern Fish. Piscis Austrinus is located only about 25 degrees up in our evening southern sky. It is marked by the first-magnitude star Fomalhaut, which is at the top of the kite-shaped figure, lying on its side, that forms this constellation.

Piscis Austrinus was originally a Babylonian constellation. There does not seem to be any Greek mythology associated with it; however, the Greek scholar Eratosthenes relates a story where the Syrian goddess Derceto fell into a lake. She could not swim and might have drowned, except that a big fish grabbed her and dragged her to shore. In gratitude, Derceto made the fish sacred and put it in the sky. From that day on, Syrians would not eat fish, but the eating of fish became part of the daily rituals for their priests.

Piscis Austrinus' brightest star and the 18th brightest star in the whole sky is Fomalhaut. The name comes from the Arabic, translated as "Mouth

of the Fish." The Arabs translated the Greek astronomer Ptolemy's descriptive location of this star and that name is what we use today. Fomalhaut is a class A3 star, so it is almost twice as massive as our Sun and puts out 16.6 times the energy. This star is only 25.1 light-years away and shines in our sky at magnitude 1.16.

Fomalhaut is not a loner in the sky; it has two companions. The brighter one is TW Piscis Austrini, which is 0.91 light-years away from the primary. This corresponds to almost two degrees in our sky. TW is a designation for a variable star, and this star is a flare star. It is unusually large for a flare star, since most are M class red dwarfs, while TW is a larger K4 class orange dwarf. It has a slight variation in brightness, varying from magnitude 6.44 to 6.49 over a 10.3-day period. But it also brightens quite a bit more during a flare.

The third star in the triplet is a red dwarf of class M4, named LP 876-10. It is 5.7 degrees away from Fomalhaut (2.5 light-years) in the constellation Aquarius. LP 876-10 is a faint magnitude 12.6, but astronomers knew it was fairly close. It was just in 2013 that astronomers recognized that this star's properties made it a member of the Fomalhaut system.

But Fomalhaut's story does not end there. This is a young stellar system. All three stars are only about 440 million years old, roughly a tenth of the age of our solar system. These young systems have not been around long enough to clean out all the dust and gas left over after they formed.

When a star forms from a giant cloud of dust and gas, a good deal of it drops to the center of the cloud to form the protostar. The rest of it continues to orbit around this protostar. When nuclear fusion starts in the protostar's core and it becomes a young star, the new energy heats the entire star and a stellar wind forms from the outer atmosphere of the star. As the stellar wind flows outward, it hits the dust and gas that has not clumped up into rocks or various sizes that will eventually aggregate to form planets. The unclumped gas and dust are pushed out of the system by the stellar wind, clearing the system.

The clearing process takes time. In Fomalhaut and LP 876-10's case, there are still dusty discs surrounding these stars. These can be detected by an excess of infrared light coming from the system. The dust is warmed by the central star and in turn emits infrared light that we can detect.

Fomalhaut has at least three discs of dust. The inner disc of small-grain dust is around 9 million miles from the star. The next one is composed of larger particles starting between 40 and 93 million miles from the star. The outermost disc starts around 12 billion miles from the star and is about 2 billion miles wide. It is composed of fluffy grains, indicating the disc resulted from the collisions of comets orbiting in that area.

In 2008 astronomers announced discovery of a planet orbiting just inside that outer disc, dubbed Fomalhaut b. Later analysis indicated that it is just a clump of dust, gas and planetesimals held together by their mutual gravity. There may be two actual planets in this system, but they have not been identified as yet.

## The Planets for December

Venus begins its run in the evening sky this month. Swinging out from the far side of the Sun, Venus can be found low in the southwest as it gets dark, barely four degrees above the horizon at midmonth. The Goddess of Love sets around 6:45 p.m. During the month, Venus travels from south-central Ophiuchus to eastern Sagittarius. Venus' disc is 10.1 seconds-of-arc across and 98% illuminated and decreasing.

Mercury joins Venus in the evening sky during the last week of the month. Starting in the northern panhandle of Scorpius, Mercury moves eastward through Ophiuchus and into eastern Sagittarius. On New Year's Eve, Mercury will be three degrees below Venus as it gets dark, shining at magnitude -0.8 as it sits just three degrees above the southwestern horizon. The Messenger of the Gods' disc will be 91% illuminated and 5.3 seconds-of-arc across.

Still hanging in the southwestern evening sky is Mars. With just a few months left in our evening sky, the God of War's reddish disc is only 4.9 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth. As it gets dark, Mars is 27 degrees above the southwestern horizon, glowing at magnitude +1.1. It sets around 9:30 p.m. During the month, the God of War moves from eastern Sagittarius to eastern Capricornus.

Shining at magnitude -2.4, Jupiter rises at 10:30 p.m. in the east-northeast. It starts the month moving eastward in western Leo, but halts on Dec. 9 and turns back westward for the rest of the month, ending the month back where it started. The King of the Gods' disc will be 41.6 seconds-of-arc across at midmonth.

The December Solstice occurs on Dec. 21, marking the beginning of astronomical winter in the Northern Hemisphere. That day will have the shortest day and longest night of the year. The Earth's gyroscopically stabilized axis is tilted 23.4 degrees to the Earth-Sun plane and in December it tilts the northern hemisphere away from the Sun, giving us the Solstice. The long nights will give you plenty of time to "keep watching the sky"! 🌌

### Watch the Skies

All times MST

- Dec. 6, 5:27 a.m.—Full Moon
- Dec. 9, midnight—Jupiter stationary
- Dec. 14, 5 a.m.—Geminid meteor shower peaks
- 5:51 a.m.—Last Quarter Moon
- Dec. 21, 4:03 p.m.—December solstice
- 6:36 p.m.—New Moon
- Dec. 28, 11:31 a.m.—First Quarter Moon

An amateur astronomer for more than 45 years, Bert Stevens is co-director of Desert Moon Observatory in Las Cruces.






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### Information

**Schedule & Hours**  
Open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
After business hours, on weekends and holidays, page the on-call nurse to assist you.

**Areas Served**  
Our team serves greater Grant and Hidalgo Counties. Due to the rural area we reside in, we may not be able to offer services to all clients and determination of coverage will be on a case by case basis based on practicality of providing services.

**Insurance**  
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**Fax:** (575) 388-1768  
**Toll Free:** 1-877-534-1801  
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# Red or Green?

Southwest New Mexico's best restaurant guide.

Red or Green? is *Desert Exposure's* guide to dining in southwest New Mexico. The listings here—a sampling of our complete and recently completely updated guide online at [www.desertexposure.com](http://www.desertexposure.com)—include some of our favorites and restaurants we've recently reviewed. We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service. With each listing, we include a brief categorization of the type of cuisine plus what meals are served: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner. Unless otherwise noted, restaurants are open seven days a week. Call for exact hours, which change frequently. All phone numbers are area code 575 except as specified. We also note with a star (\*) restaurants where you can pick up copies of *Desert Exposure*. If we've recently reviewed a restaurant, you'll find

a brief capsule of our review and a notation of which issue it originally appeared in. Stories from all back issues of *Desert Exposure* from January 2005 on are available on our Web site. Though every effort has been made to make these listings complete and up-to-date, errors and omissions are inevitable and restaurants may make changes after this issue goes to press. That's why we urge you to help us make Red or Green? even better. Drop a note to Red or Green? c/o *Desert Exposure*, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134, or email [updates@red-or-green.com](mailto:updates@red-or-green.com). Remember, these print listings represent only highlights. You can always find the complete, updated Red or Green? guide online at [www.desertexposure.com](http://www.desertexposure.com). Bon appétit!

**GRANT COUNTY**  
**Silver City**  
**ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ**, 1617 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-3665. "Under new ownership and refocusing on what has made it a longtime Silver City favorite: excellent breakfasts and lunches." (April 2011) Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: Mon.-Thur. B L, Sat. & Sun. B L D.\*  
**ALOTTA GELATO**, 619 N. Bullard St., 534-4995. Gelato, desserts and hot drinks: All day.\*  
**BILLY'S WILD WEST BBQ & STEAKHOUSE**, Hwy 180E, 388-1367. "A free-wheeling mixture of barbecued ribs and brisket, freshly made pasta and pizzas baked in a genuine Italian brick oven featuring a wide range of innovative toppings." (November 2010) Barbecue, steak, pasta, pizza: Tues.-Fri. D. Sat. L D. Italian nights Weds., Sat.\*  
**BRYAN'S PIT BARBECUE**, Mimbres Valley Self Storage and RV Park, (660) 247-3151 or (660) 247-3160. "Authentic Southern-style barbecue..... Brisket, pork ribs, chicken and sausage dinners, pulled pork and chopped brisket sandwiches." (August 2010). Now also BBQ tenderloin and smoked turkey. Barbecue: L D.  
**CAFÉ Oso AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE**, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. "Bear Mountain Lodge blends food, art and natural beauty into a memorable experience that pleases all the senses.... The menu changes daily, with entrées that are always imaginative and tasty—comfort food in a form that most of our mothers would never have thought of producing." (March 2011) B L, special D by reservation only.\*  
**CHINESE PALACE**, 1010 Highway 180E, 538-9300. "All the food is cooked to order. This means that not only does every dish arrive at the table freshly cooked and steaming, but also that you can tailor any dish to suit your taste." (October 2012) Chinese: Mon.-Fri. L D.  
**COURTYARD CAFÉ**, Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American: B L, with special brunch Sundays.\*  
**CURIOUS KUMQUAT**, 111 E. College Ave., 534-0337. "A hotspot of modern culinary innovation. Lunch features soups, salads and sandwiches. Dinners are elaborate, imaginative, exotic five-course culinary creations. Entrées always include vegetarian and vegan options... plus others determined by what local ranchers have available." (July 2010) Contemporary: Mon. L, Tues.-Sat. L D.\*  
**DIANE'S RESTAURANT**, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. "Always evolving, always interesting, Diane's has it all." (Sept. 2013) Fine dining (D), steaks, seafood, pasta, sandwiches (L), salads: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. D only (family-style), weekend brunch.  
**DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI**, The Hub, Suite A, Bullard St., 534-9229. "Always evolving, always interesting, Diane's has it all." (Sept. 2013) Artisan breads, sandwiches, deli, baked goods: Mon.-Sat. B L early D, Sun. B L.\*  
**DON JUAN'S BURRITOS**, 418 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5440. Mexican: B L.  
**DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE**, 711 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-2916. Breakfast, American: B L, breakfast served throughout.

**EL GALLO PINTO**, 901 N. Hudson St., 597-4559. "Breakfast dishes are served all day, along with all the other traditional Mexican favorites like burritos (with a long list of filling options)... plus a vertical grill cooks sizzling chicken and carne al pastor." (October 2013) Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.  
**GIL-A BEANS**, 1304 N. Bennett St. Coffeshop.\*  
**GOLDEN STAR**, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. "If you sometimes long for the guilty pleasures of the Chinese food served at a mall food court—think Panda Express—or just want your wontons without waiting, there's good news.... Normal appetites will find the three-item combo tough to finish, so plan on leftovers whether you're eating in or taking out. All of it's plenty tasty, and you can enjoy it just like in the food court." (February 2007) Chinese: L D.  
**GRANDMA'S CAFÉ**, 900 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2627. American, Mexican: B L.\*  
**GREEN TURTLE NOSHERY**, 601 N. Bullard St. in The Hub, 200-6895. "The menu varies somewhat from day to day, and reflects the seasonal availability of local fruits and vegetables. Most of the items on the menu are vegetarian, but several non-vegetarian dishes have turned out to be popular and are likely to remain regular options." (July 2014) Baked goods, organic breakfast and lunch items: Thurs.-Sat. B L, Sun. B L brunch.  
**GRINDER MILL**, 403 W. College Ave., 538-3366. Mexican: B L D.\*  
**HEALTHY EATS**, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Sandwiches, burritos, salads, smoothies: L.  
**JALISCO CAFÉ**, 100 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. "Four generations of the Mesa family who have been involved in

a restaurant that remains family-friendly." (June 2014) Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.  
**JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE**, 117 Market St., 388-1350. Coffeshop.\*  
**KOUNTRY KITCHEN**, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. "Since 1978, Kountry Kitchen has been serving up Mexican food that is considered to be some of the best that can be found in the area. All the dishes are tasty, unpretentious, attractively presented and reasonably priced." (February 2013) Mexican: Tues.-Sat. B L D, Mon.-Sun. B L.\*  
**LA COCINA RESTAURANT**, 201 W. College Ave., 388-8687. Mexican: L D.  
**LA FAMILIA**, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tues.-Sun. B L D.\*  
**LA MEXICANA**, Hwy. 180E and Memory Lane, 534-0142. "Carrying on the legacy of unpretentious but tasty and authentic Mexican food established many years ago at the family's restaurant in Chihuahua." (April 2013) Mexican and American: B L, closed Tues. Lion's Den, 208 W. Yankee, 654-0353. Coffeshop.  
**LITTLE TOAD CREEK BREWERY & DISTILLERY**, 200 N. Bullard St., 956-6144. "The menu offers what they call 'pub food'—but always with a bit of a twist." (March 2014) Burgers, wings, salads, fish, pasta, craft beers and cocktails: Weds.-Mon. L D.\*  
**MEXICO VIEJO**, Hwy. 90 and Broadway. "A remarkably extensive menu for a small roadside food vending stand, and the dishes are not what one normally finds in other Mexican restaurants." (July 2013) Mexican food stand: Mon.-Sat. B L early D.  
**MI CASITA**, 2340 Bosworth Dr., 538-5533. New Mexican cuisine: Mon.-

**DINING GUIDE**  
continued on next page

# Diane's

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La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery is located off Royal John Mine Road off Hwy 61, a 30 minute scenic drive from Silver City.



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## Open Christmas Eve

featuring traditional holiday fare

## Open Christmas Day

traditional holiday fare—buffet style

*Reservations recommended*

## Open New Year's Eve

dinner & champagne—or regular menu

*Reservations recommended*



### Winter Hours

Monday	5pm to 8:30pm
Tuesday	5pm to 8:30pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	Closed
Friday	5pm to 9pm
Saturday	5pm to 9pm
Sunday Brunch	10:30am to 2:30pm
Sunday	5pm to 8:30pm

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## DINING GUIDE

continued

Thurs. L, Fri. L D.

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

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

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

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

**Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO AND BREWERY**, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. "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 STEAKHOUSE**, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5666. Steakhouse: L D. \*

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

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

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

**STREETSIDE FOOD**, College and Bullard. "Its menu rarely offers more than three or four items on any particular day, yet it features an eclectic variety of food from all over the world on a revolving basis." (October 2014) Fusion: Mon.-Sat. L.

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

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

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

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

**TRE ROSAT CAFÉ**, 304 N. Bullard St., 654-4919. "The menu ranges from humbler (but not humdrum) fare like burgers, pizzas (at lunch and happy hour) and pastas to seasonal specials like duck confit, rabbit blanquette and Elk osso buco." (August 2012) International eclectic: Mon.-Sat. L, D. \*

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

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

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

### Bayard

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Cliff

**D'S CAFÉ**, 8409 Hwy 180. Breakfast dishes, burritos, burgers, weekend smoked meats and ribs: Thurs.-Sun. B L.

**PARKEY'S**, 8414 Hwy. 180W, 535-4000. Coffeeshop: Mon.-Sat.

### 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

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

**MIMBRES VALLEY CAFÉ**, 2964 Hwy. 35, 536-2857. Mexican, American, burgers: Mon.-Tues. B L, Wed.-Sun. B L D, with Japanese tempura Wed. D.

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

**3 QUESTIONS COFFEE HOUSE**, Hwy. 35, 536-3267. "Consistently good food based on the success of the family's Living Harvest Bakery." (December 2013) Buffet: Tues.-Sat. B L.

### Pinos Altos

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

### DOÑA ANA COUNTY

#### Las Cruces & Mesilla

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

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

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

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

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

**AQUA REEF**, 900-B S. Telshor, 522-7333. "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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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 Om-mies,' 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. Coffeehouse, deli, pastries, soups, sandwiches: B L early D.

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

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

**CHA CHI'S RESTAURANT**, 2460 S. Lohman, 521-8888. Gourmet hot dogs and smoothies: Mon.-Sat. L D.

**CHICAGO SOUTHWEST**, 3691 E. Lohman, 521-8888. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

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

**CHIITOS**, 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.

**CRAVINGS CAFÉ**, 3115 N. Main St., 323-3353. Burgers, sandwiches, wraps, egg dishes, salads: B L.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**GAME BAR & GRILL**, 2605 S. Espina, 524-GAME. Sports bar and grill: L D.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**JOSEPHINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ**, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. "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.-Thur. L, Fri.-Sun. B L.

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

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

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

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

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

**LA GUADALUPANA**, 930 El Paseo Road, 523-5954. Mexican: Tues.-Sat. B L D. Sun. B L.

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

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

**LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA**, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. “A restaurant with history hard-wired into the fiber of its being. Through building, menu and ownership, its roots extend all the way back to the 1840s.” (September 2011) Mexican , steakhouse: L D, Sat.-Sun. and holidays also B.

**LAS TRANCAS**, 1008 S. Solano Dr, 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Sat.-Sun. also B.

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

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

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

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

**LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 603 S. 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.

**MARIA’S**, 1750 N. Solano Dr., 556-9571. Mexican: B L D.

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

**MESILLA VALLEY PIZZA & SUBS**, 3961 E. Lohman Ave. #21, 521-9293. Pizza, sandwiches: Mon.-Sat. L D.

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

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

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

**MI PUEBUTO**, 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. Coffee-house: B L D.\*

**MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS**, 1001 E. University Ave. #D4, 532-2042. Asian, Pacific: Mon.-Sat. L D.

**MOONGATE CAFÉ**, 9395 Bataan Memorial, 382-5744. Coffeeshop, Mexican, American: B L.

**MOUNTAIN VIEW MARKET KITCHEN**, 120 S. Water St., 556-9856. Sandwiches, bagels, wraps, salads and other healthy fare: Mon.-Sat.: B L early D. \*

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

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

**NOPALITO RESTAURANT**, 2605 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.\*

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PEPPERS CAFÉ ON THE PLAZA (IN THE DOUBLE EAGLE RESTAURANT)**, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. “Creative handling of traditional Southwestern dishes.... [plus] such non-Mexican

entrées as Salmon Crepes and Beer Braised Beef Carbonnade.” (March 2012). Southwestern: L D. \*

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

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

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

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

**Q’S**, 1300 Avenida De Mesilla, 571-4350. Brewhouse with steak and pasta: L D.

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

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

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

**RENOO’S THAI RESTAURANT**, 1445 W. Picacho Ave., 373-3000. Thai: Mon.-Fri. L D, Sat. D.

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

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

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

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

**SAVOY DE MESILLA**, 1800-B Avenida de Mesilla, 527-2869. “If you are adventurous with food and enjoy a fine-dining experience that is genuinely sophisticated, without pretension or snobbishness, you definitely need to check out Savoy de Mesilla. The added attraction is that you can do this without spending a week’s salary on any of the meals—all of which are entertainingly and delectably upscale.” (March 2013) American, Continental: B L D.

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

**SHEBA GRILL**, 2265 S. Main St., 525-1100. Indian, Middle Eastern: Mon.-Thurs., Sat.-Sun L D, Fri. D.

**SI ITALIAN BISTRO**, 523 E. Idaho, 523-1572. “The restaurant radiates homespun charm and the kind of quality that is neither snobbish nor flamboyant. The menu ranges from classic Italian entrées like Chicken Piccata, Chicken Marsala, Frutti de Mare alla Provençal, and Chicken or Melanzane Parmesan to burgers, salads, sandwiches, pizzas and pastas—all tweaked creatively in subtle and satisfying ways. Dessert offers an amazing variety of cakes, pies, cream puffs, brownies and cheesecakes.” (October 2014) Italian: Mon. L, Tues.-Sat. L D.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**UMP 88 GRILL**, 1338 Picacho Hills Dr., 647-1455. Irish pub: L D.

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

**VINTAGE WINES**, 2461 Calle de Principal, 523-WINE. Wine and cigar bar, tapas: L D.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Doña Ana BIG MIKE’S CAFÉ**, Thorpe Road. Mexican, breakfasts, burgers: B L D.

**Radium Springs COUNTRY CUPBOARD**, 827 Fort Selden Rd., 527-4732. American: B L D.

**Santa Teresa BILLY CREWS**, 1200 Country Club Road, 589-2071. Steak, seafood: L D.

**LUNA COUNTY Deming**

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

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

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

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

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


**CHINA RESTAURANT**, 110 E. Pine St., 546-4146. “Refreshingly different from most of the Chinese restaurants you find these days in this country. Chef William Chu, who owns the restaurant and does the cooking, is committed to offering what he calls the ‘fresh and authentic flavors of Chinese food.’” (August 2014) Chinese: Tues.-Sun. L D.

**DEMING TRUCK TERMINAL**, 1310 W. Spruce St., 544-2228. “Indian food is offered on a separate menu and you have to ask for that menu. The list of dishes is not very long, but the spices and flavor of the dishes that are offered are authentically Indian.” (November 2013) American, Mexican, Indian: B L D, Sun. L buffet.

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

**ELISA’S HOUSE**

**DINING GUIDE**  
continued on next page



## Alotta Words about *ALOTTA GELATO*

Ho ho ho! You folks absolutely *love* our Pumpkin Pie gelato (which is only available for a limited time)! We'll keep it around a while longer in order to (as they say) satisfy popular demand. Thank you for your enthusiasm!

Our Egg Nog flavor is back again this year, and it should be available through New Years Day and beyond. Also, our Peppermint Stick flavor has returned for the Christmas/Hanukkah/ Kwanzaa/Yule/Solstice/You-Name-It holiday season. Hurry on over and try out these fine flavors, and pick up a hand-packed pint or quart for that holiday party! (And yes, we can put several flavors into each container so everyone can have their favorite.)


If you are stumped about what to give a special someone, we suggest one of our wonderful World Music CDs from the Putumayo label; we also carry CDs from many local artists including the “Sounds of Silver City” collections.

We'd like to point out that gift certificates are available for all occasions, can be purchased in any amount, can easily fit in any stocking, and are always (ahem!) in good taste.

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), and though ***we'll be closed on Christmas Day, we'll close early on New Years Eve, and we'll be closed on New Years Day***, we *will* be open as usual the rest of the holiday season. 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, Chocolate Chip Brownies, Raspberry Streusel Bars, Triple Lemon Cheesecake, slices of flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, Chocolate Chip cookies and big honkin' wedges of triple-layer Carrot Cake! Come join your friends and neighbors, celebrate the holiday of your choice, impress your out-of-town relatives and guests and enjoy the best gelato in the state! Thanks for reading! As a token of our esteem for you, our valued customer, **bring this ad for 25¢ off any size gelato for each member of your party.**

 Find us on Facebook

Visit us online at: [www.alottagelato.com](http://www.alottagelato.com)



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



## Give a German Meal for Christmas! We have Gift Certificates available.

**684 HWY 35 near Lake Roberts**

**www.spiritcanyon.com**

**575-536-9459**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**



**Saturdays 12 to 3pm**

**OPEN THIS WINTER**

**Reservations appreciated**

We can do private parties of 8 or more by reservation.



## Bear Mountain Lodge



## The Café Oso Azul at The Lodge

### WELCOME TO THE HOLIDAYS AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE 5-7pm**  
Come and see the luminarias  
New Mexican Posole either Roasted Pork or Veggie style served with lime, sunflower seeds, red pepper flakes, avocado, cilantro, cheese, and artisanal bread alongside a hardy romaine salad with dried cranberries and pistachios  
hot apple crisp \$24.

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY NOON-5PM**  
Please Choose Entrée and Dessert When Reserving

**Starter**  
Butternut Squash Bisque served with a Crostini of Olives and Figs on the Side

**Entrée Choices**  
Crepes stuffed with roasted eggplant, basil, and brie topped with pistachios, fresh tomatoes, and a bit of béchamel sauce or  
Crab Cakes served with a Basil Lemon Tomato Remoulade or  
Roast Pork Tenderloin stuffed with Jack Cheese and served with an Apple Chutney  
All served with Roasted Veggies, Corn Pudding, Bear Mountain Lodge Romaine Salad, Bear Mountain Crackers, and Homemade Bread

**Dessert**  
English Trifle – layer of berries, cake, and crème anglais or  
Ginger Yule Log \$38.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31— NEW YEAR’S EVE DINNER 5-8pm**  
Please Choose When reserving

**Starter**  
Crab Beignets or Fresh Corn Beignets served with a basil-mustard sauce

**Entree choices**  
Pork Loin Stuffed with sausage, dried cranberries and apricots or Crepes stuffed with roasted veggies topped with a fresh tomato lemon caper sauce or Vin Cotta- roast chicken topped with a wine reduction, pistachios, olives, and currants

**Salad**  
All entrees served with roasted vegetables, trinity rice, homemade crackers and bread, and marinated sesame seed asparagus salad

**Dessert**  
Bear Mountain Bread Pudding with homemade brandy caramel sauce or  
Chocolate Espresso Mousse \$38.

**60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road**  
**575 538 2538 • www.bearmountainlodge.com**





# SUNRISE ESPRESSO

1513 N. Hudson

Sunrise Espresso II

1212 East 32<sup>nd</sup> St.

Now offering Smoothies

**Now with two convenient locations to serve you!**

Our premier drive-thru location at 1530 N. Hudson, between Billy Casper Medical Center and Harvest Fellowship Church, and our second location at 1212 E. 32<sup>nd</sup>, at the corner of Lesley and 32<sup>nd</sup> which features at comfortable walk-in and an express drive-thru window. In addition to our great espresso drinks, we are now offering real fruit smoothies, savory pasteries, homemade biscotti, fresh baked muffins and scones to our menu.

**Silver City's PREMIER Drive-Thru Espresso Bar!**

1530 N. Hudson • Silver City, NM • 575-388-2027

Mon.-Fri. 6am to 4pm • Sat. 7am to 2pm

**New Second Location:** 1212 E. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. • Silver City, NM

Mon.-Fri. 6:30 am to 2pm • FREE WiFi



## December 2014 Calendar of Events

**Thursday, December 11, 2014**

30th Annual Victorian Christmas Open House

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway

Sponsored by First American Bank

**Saturday, December 13, 2014**

Craft Class: Decorate Holiday Cookies

10 am to 12 noon Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway

Cookies provided by Diane's Restaurant

For crafters aged 8 and older, \$5, limit 10 crafters, pre-registration encouraged.

Parent or guardian attendance required.

**Saturday, December 20, 2014**

Exhibit Opening, The Ailman Family in Silver City

1 pm to 3 pm Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway

Meet H. B. Ailman and learn about his pioneering adventures and life in the Gila in the late 1800s.

**Ongoing Exhibits at the Silver City Museum:**

**Gila Wild:** A Celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the Gila Wilderness and the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, now through January 11, 2015

For more information: visit us at 312 West Broadway, Silver City, NM, call 575-538-5921, or click [www.silvercitymuseum.org](http://www.silvercitymuseum.org)



The Cookbook's Done! It's Hot!! It's What's for Dinner!!!

A Great Gift and just in Time for the Holidays!

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SC Food Coop / Fiddling Friends / The Volunteer Center

Marie Duverge / Wentz Electric / Lynda Aiman-Smith

Single Socks / SC Farmers Market



Gila / Mimbres Community Radio - KURU 89.1FM - GMCR.org

519 B North Bullard Street Silver City, NM 88061 575.597.4891

DINING GUIDE

continued

**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.

**"FORGHEDABOUTIT" PIZZA & WINGS**, 2020 Hatch Hwy. 26, 275-3881. "Direct from New York City, Bob Yacone and his wife, Kim Duncan, have recreated an authentic-style New York pizza parlor on the outskirts of Deming." (June 2013) Italian, pizza, wings: Mon.-Sat. L D, Sun. D.

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

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

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

**LA FONDA**, 601 E. Pine St., 546-0465. Mexican: B L D.\*

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

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

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

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

**PATIO CAFÉ**, 1521 Columbus Road, 546-5990. Burgers, American: Mon.-Sat. L D.\*

**PRIME RIB GRILL (INSIDE HOLIDAY INN)**, I-10 exit 85, 546-2661. Steak, seafood, Mexican: B 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 MIRA-

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

TOCAYO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 1601 E. Pine St., 567-1963. Mexican, dine in or take out: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rodeo RODEO STORE AND CAFÉ. 195 HWY. 80, 557-2295. 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.

Table Talk

The Gateway Grill, a popular restaurant off Hwy. 180 in Hurley that we reviewed in December 2011, has closed.

In downtown Silver City, Shevek & Co. Restaurant will celebrate Hanukkah, Dec. 16-23, with dreidel spinning and Hanukkah presents. The restaurant will be open Christmas Eve, 5-8:30 p.m., and Christmas Day, with seating on the hour and half-hour from 1-5 p.m. for a holiday buffet. Reservations recommended. 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168, silver-eats.com.

Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery in downtown Silver City is now open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. You can ring in the New Year there on Dec. 31 with music by Rhythm Mystic, snacks and party favors (\$7). 200 N. Bullard, 956-6144.

Billy's on Hwy. 180E in Silver City now boasts a wood-fired mesquite grill. 2138 Hwy 180E, 388-1367.

Bear Mountain Lodge will have luminarias for the holidays and is featuring a Christmas Eve feast, 5-7 p.m., with traditional New Mexico fare. Christmas Day gourmet fare will be served from 12-5 p.m. And dinner on New Year's Eve will be from 5-8 p.m. Call ahead and, for Christmas and Dec. 31, choose your entrée in advance. 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road in Silver City, 538-2538, [www.bearmountainlodge.com](http://www.bearmountainlodge.com).

Send restaurant news to [updates@red-or-green.com](mailto:updates@red-or-green.com).

Glenwood

ALMA GRILL, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, Mexican: Sun.-Weds., Fri.-Sat. B L.

GOLDEN GIRLS CAFÉ, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. Breakfast: B.

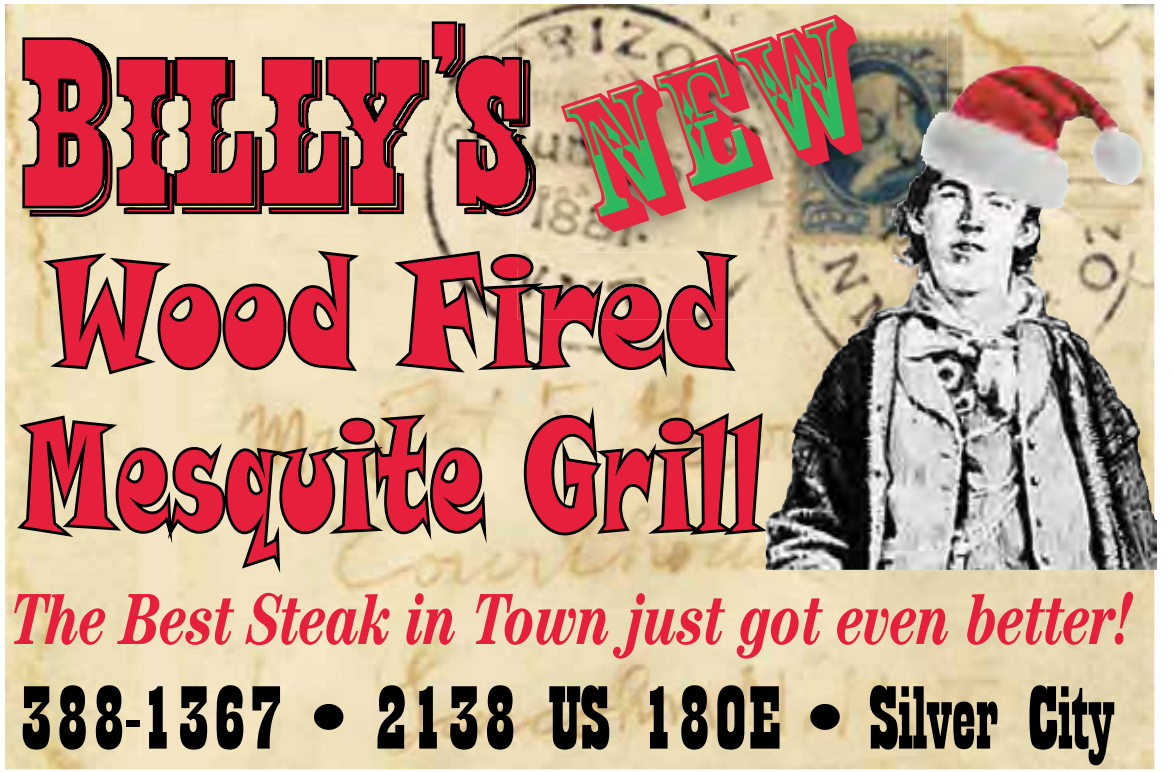
MARIO'S PIZZA, Hwy. 180, 539-2316. "This unpretentious eatery serves up better pizza than you'll find in many a big city." (Nov. 2008) Italian: Mon.-Tues., Fri.-Sat. D.

Other Catron County SNUFFY'S STEAKHOUSE AND SALOON, Quemado Lake, 773-4672. Steakhouse: D (Dec.-April: closed Mon.-Tues.)

SIERRA COUNTY Hillsboro BARBER SHOP CAFÉ, Main St., 895-5283. American, Mediterranean, sandwiches: Thurs.-Sat. L.

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

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



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# What's Going on in December

Plus a look ahead into early January.

**DECEMBER MONDAY**  
**1 Silver City/Grant County**  
**FESTIVAL OF TREES**—Through Dec. 7. A Winter Wonderland of beautiful trees and gifts for sale to benefit the Guadalupe Montessori School scholarship fund. Grand opening. 614 N. Bullard St. (former Yada Yada Yarn). 388-3342.  
**WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY**—5 p.m. WNMU Brancheau Complex, www.wnmumustangs.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**THE BETTER ANGELS**—Through Dec. 4. The story of Abraham Lincoln's childhood in the harsh wilderness of Indiana and the hardships that shaped him, the tragedy that marked him forever and the two women who guided him. 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.  
**TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA**—Debut of all-new rock opera, "The Christmas Attic," plus classics and fan favorites. 7:30 p.m. \$34 and up. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, (800) 745-3000, ticketmaster.com.

**TUESDAY**  
**2 Silver City/Grant County**  
**FESTIVAL OF TREES**—Through Dec. 7. See Dec. 1. 614 N. Bullard St. (former Yada Yada Yarn). 388-3342.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**CATALYST STRING QUARTET**—The Catalyst Quartet, prize winners of the Gianni Bergamo Classical Music Award 2012 (Switzerland), is made up of top laureates and alumni of the internationally acclaimed Sphinx Competition. 7 p.m. \$25, military and seniors \$20, students \$5. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**3 Silver City/Grant County**  
**FESTIVAL OF TREES**—Through Dec. 7. See Dec. 1. 614 N. Bullard St. (former Yada Yada Yarn). 388-3342.  
**THE GREAT STORY**—Also Dec. 4. Film about Thomas Berry. See Body, Mind & Spirit section. Call for details, 590-5561.  
**THE JOURNEY TO FAIRNESS**—A town hall on school policy in our public schools. Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. 6-7:30 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center. 388-1198, ext. 24.

**THURSDAY**  
**4 Silver City/Grant County**  
**A TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS**—Silver City Community Theatre, in cooperation with WNMU, presents a world premier one-act comedy written by Randy Carr, Jim Kelly and Sharyn McDonald. Christmas looks different this year! 6:30 p.m. Champagne reception on the patio at 6 p.m. Free/donation. WNMU Light Hall Theatre. sccommunitytheatre@gmail.com.  
**FESTIVAL OF TREES**—Through Dec. 7. See Dec. 1. 614 N. Bullard St. (former Yada Yada Yarn). 388-3342.  
**THE GREAT STORY**—See Dec. 3. Call for details, 590-5561.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**5TH ANNUAL CRITER CHRISTMAS**—Well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome. Music, dancing, food, dog treat buffet, dog costume contest, live and silent auctions, photo booth. 6-9 p.m. \$50. Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. 642-2648, www.donaanacountyhumansocietyinc.org/home1.aspx.  
**A TUNA CHRISTMAS**—Through Dec. 7. The day in Tuna, the third smallest town in Texas begins, as usual, with Thurston Wheelis (Algernon d'Ammassa) and Arles Struvie (David Reyes) at the microphones of Radio Station OKKK, broadcasting at a big 275 watts and reporting on various Yuletide activities. Tuna's citizens parade across the stage in all their outrageous and irreverent glory, commenting on life, politics, relationships and what makes them (and sometimes us) tick. 7 p.m. \$8. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.  
**LET'S GO ORNAMENTAL**—Exhibit opening. Small works created by gallery artists. 12-6 p.m. Unsettled Gallery, 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285, www.unsettledgallery.com.



A Tuna Christmas continues at the Black Box Theatre through Dec. 7.

**BOURBON LEGEND**—Uke-rockers. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.  
**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD**—Through Dec. 7. Based on Charles Dickens' novel, this Tony-winning musical follows the exploits of the Theatre Royale Music Hall Company as they attempt to complete the unfinished story of Edwin Drood. The audience helps choose a new ending every night. Preview performance. 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$17. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events.

**FRIDAY**  
**5 Silver City/Grant County**  
**FESTIVAL OF TREES**—Through Dec. 7. See Dec. 1. 614 N. Bullard St. (former Yada Yada Yarn). 388-3342.  
**KLAS AHMAN**—With Melanie Zipin. 8 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard, 956-6144.  
**SWNM AUDUBON**—Paul Moore, the reverend at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd and falconer (see "The Faith of a Falconer," March 2014), will present "Wings of the Wind," the history and requirements of falconry. His red-tailed hawk, Sir Rodly, will accompany him. 7 p.m. WNMU Harlan Hall. 388-2386, www.swnmaudubon.org.

**WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES**—5:30 p.m. WNMU Brancheau Complex, www.wnmumustangs.com.  
**WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES**—7:30 p.m. WNMU Brancheau Complex, www.wnmumustangs.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**10TH ANNUAL OLD-FASHIONED HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**—Santa will arrive at 5 p.m. on a holiday-decorated Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad diesel engine. Santa will be available outside on the observation deck for visits until 8 p.m. Throughout the evening visitors can listen to holiday music, view the model trains, take in the festive holiday decorations, and complete a craft project. Light refreshments. 5-8 p.m. Free. Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St.. 647-4480, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

**25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA**—Celebrate the Mesilla Valley Film Society's 25th anniversary. Includes a showing of *Love Is Strange*. 6 p.m. \$25, \$20 members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.  
**A TUNA CHRISTMAS**—Through Dec. 7. See Dec. 4. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.  
**DENISE BARELLA**—Artist reception in the El Paso Electric Gallery. 5-7 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.  
**KAREN CURRIER**—Reception for show of gourd artwork in the theatregallery. 5-7 p.m. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.  
**LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS TREE**—Come have fun with your family and enjoy some hot chocolate with Santa. 5:30 p.m. Free. Downtown mall. 541-2000.  
**SANTA FE OPERA HOLIDAY SHOW**—Favorite holiday carols and arias, all performed by up-and-coming opera stars from the Santa Fe Opera who will be accompanied by Kirt Pavitt, music

director. 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.  
**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD**—Through Dec. 7. See Dec. 4. 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$17. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events.  
**White Sands**  
**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**—5-9 p.m. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, www.nps.gov/whsa.

**SATURDAY**  
**6 Silver City/Grant County**  
**FESTIVAL OF TREES**—Through Dec. 7. See Dec. 1. Gingerbread fun. 614 N. Bullard St. (former Yada Yada Yarn). 388-3342.  
**SELF REALIZATION FELLOWSHIP MEDITATION GROUP**—Hatha Yoga 3-4 p.m. Energization exercises 4:05-4:15 p.m. Meditation and readings 4:15-5:15 p.m.; readings from the lectures of Paramahansa Yogananda. 110 E. 11th St., 574-5451.  
**STUDIO SALE**—Through Dec. 7. 34th Annual Mimbres Hot Springs Ranch studio sale. Works by more than two-dozen artists and crafts people include pottery, glass, photography, jewelry, fiber arts, cut-paper art, toys, block-printed linens, letterpress prints, watercolor and oil paintings and more. Live music: Fortnightly Bathing & Glee, noon; Glee Maiden, 1 p.m.; Bayou Seco 2 p.m. No pets, please. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Take Hwy. 152 to the Mimbres, Hwy. 61 South to Royal John Mine Road (between mile markers 19 and 20). Follow signs 2 1/2 miles. www.studiosalemimbres.com.  
**SUGAR PLUM SATURDAY**—Free holiday goodies throughout town. SilverCity-Art.com.

**WANGCHEN RINPOCHE**—Buddhist spiritual master on "The Buddhist Worldview." See story in Body, Mind & Spirit section. 2-3:30 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, info@will-learning.com, www.will-learning.com.  
**WILD WORKS**—Through Jan. 4. Works by wildlife photographer John Wachholz and watercolorist Nancy Wachholz. Opening reception. 1-4 p.m. Copper Quail Gallery, Texas and Yankie, 388-2646.  
**WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**—5:30 p.m. WNMU Brancheau Complex, www.wnmumustangs.com.  
**WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**—7:30 p.m. WNMU Brancheau Complex, www.wnmumustangs.com.  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**A TUNA CHRISTMAS**—Through Dec. 7. See Dec. 4. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.  
**CLASSICS THREE**—Also Dec. 7. Antonio di Cristofano, piano. Prokofiev: Overture on Jewish Themes. Beethoven: Concerto No. 5 "Emperor," Symphony No. 8. 7:30 p.m. \$35 and up. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. 646-3709, www.lascrucessymphony.com.  
**CRAFTS FOR KIDS**—Children of all ages are invited to come by the museum and create their own holiday crafts to

EVENTS continued on next page



Silver City Community Theatre,  
in cooperation with WNMU, presents

## "A Twilight Christmas"

A World Premier One-Act Comedy

**December 4, 2014, 6:30 pm**

**Light Hall Theater**

Written by Randy Carr, Jim Kelly & Sharyn McDonald

Directed by Randy Carr & Jim Kelly

**Christmas looks different this year!**

FREE Admission (Donations appreciated)

Champagne Reception at 6:00 pm on the Light Hall patio

sccommunitytheatre@gmail.com



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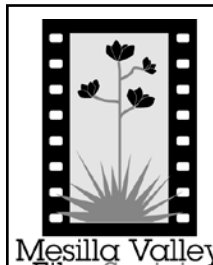
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## December 2014

1-Dec 4	<b>The Better Angels</b> , Dir: A. J. Edward
Dec 6-11	<b>Love is Strange</b> . Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the MVFS.
Dec 12-18	<b>Life's a Breeze</b>
Dec 19-23	<b>Fanny</b> . (Part 2 of the "Marseille Trilogy" by Marcel Pagnol).
Dec 26-Jan 1	<b>Diplomacy</b>

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 Sat 12/6 Dan Lambert Trio (Improvisational Guitar)  
 Thu 12/11 The Roaring 20's (Folk-Rock Duo)  
 Sat 12/13 Pero No (feat. Nicole Martinez)  
 Thu 12/18 FayRoy (Surf/Psych-Rock from San Francisco)  
 Sat 12/20 Deming Fusiliers Reunion (Old Time)  
 Wed 12/24 Closing at 7 p.m. (Christmas Eve)  
 Thu 12/25 Closed (Merry Christmas!)  
 Sat 12/27 The D.A.M.N. Union (Local Music Collective)  
 Wed 12/31 Closing 10 p.m. (New Years Eve)  
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## 30th Annual Victorian Christmas Evening

**Thursday, December 11, 2014 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm**

*An old-fashioned community celebration featuring traditional holiday music, treats, costumed characters, & children's activities*



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**Musical Entertainment**

5:30 pm Gila Highlanders

6:00 pm Community Chamber Singer

6:30 pm Jericho

7:00 pm Gleemaiden

7:30 pm Concert Band of the Southwest

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## THE TO DO LIST

'Tis the season.

Our stockings are overflowing with holiday events this month, starting with the continuing **Festival of Trees** in downtown Silver City and **A Tuna Christmas** at the Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces, both **through Dec. 7**. The **Trans-Siberian Orchestra** debuts an all-new rock opera, "The Christmas Attic," at the Pan Am Center in Las Cruces on **Dec. 1**.



*A Twilight Christmas.*

On **Dec. 4**, Randy Carr, Jim Kelly and Sharyn McDonald present the world premiere of their **A Twilight Christmas** at WNMU's Light Hall. If you've wondered how Santa would fare in today's corporate culture, this Silver City Community Theatre production has the answer. In Las Cruces, **Dec. 5** kicks off the season in earnest with a holiday open house at the **Railroad Museum, tree lighting** downtown and the **Santa Fe Opera Holiday Show** at the Rio Grande Theatre.

December's first weekend brings holiday shopping at the annual **Mimbres Hot Springs Studio Sale, Dec. 6-7**, the new **Sugar Plum Saturday** in downtown Silver City, and Hillsboro's **Christmas in the Foothills** on Saturday. On **Dec. 11**, you can travel back into the past at the **30th Annual Victorian Christmas** at the Silver City Museum and **Stories of Holidays Past** at the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces. That's also the date the **El Paso Brass** helps celebrate KRWG's 50th birthday with holiday music at the Rio Grande Theatre.

On **Dec. 13**, the Mimbres Region Arts Council goes "steampunk" for its **Black Tie Holiday Benefit Ball**, with live music by Bad News Blues Band from Tucson, at the Lawley Toyota showroom. The Doña Ana Lyric Opera and Doña Ana Arts Council present **Amahl and the Night Visitors**, Dec. 13-14 at the Rio Grande Theatre. On **Dec. 14**, holiday tunes will be provided by the **Hi Lo Silvers** at First Presbyterian Church in Silver City and the **Mesilla Valley Chorale** in Las



Last year's Black Tie Ball.

Cruces, at the Rio Grande Theatre. The Nebraska Theatre Caravan brings **A Christmas Carol** to the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre on **Dec. 18**. On **Dec. 19**, there's a **Las Posadas Procession** with mariachis, cookies and hot chocolate through historic downtown Silver City, and Grammy-nominated pianist David Benoit plays iconic jazz from "**A Charlie Brown Christmas**" at the Rio Grande Theatre. (We can hear you now, humming "Christmas time is here.") On **Dec. 20** there's more mariachi music at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre, with **Navidad Ranchera**, including traditional music, folklorico dancing and ranchera vocalists. After the evening performance there will be a posadas procession. Downtown Silver City will have **candlelight caroling** that same evening. For a lighter take on the holidays, **Dec. 20-21** in Las Cruces the Fusion Theatre presents the work of humorist David Sedaris, **The Santaland Diaries**. On **Dec. 24**, the traditional **Christmas Eve Celebration** will fill Mesilla Plaza with thousands of luminarias.

Then it's on to New Year's Eve, with **Little Anthony** at the Rio Grande Theatre and a **Chile Drop** celebration. If you prefer your **Dec. 31** a bit more meditative, you can mark **World Healing Day** at Whitewater Mesa Labyrinths between Glenwood and Alma.

For those of the humbug persuasion or folks who are simply tinsel-out, December brings plenty of not-necessarily-holiday events, too. NMSU's Center for the Arts continues the Tony-winning **The Mystery of Edwin Drood** through **Dec. 7**. The **Mesilla Valley Film Society** celebrates its 25th anniversary at the Fountain Theatre in Mesilla on **Dec. 5**.



Luminarias on the Mesilla Plaza.

In Deming on **Dec. 13**, the other **Ronstadts** (Linda's little brother Michael and his sons) bring their American music traditions to Historic Morgan Hall. And the Silver City Museum opens a new exhibit on **Dec. 20**, "**The Ailman Family in Silver City**."

It's a busy month. Just don't forget to save some time to practice writing "2015" on your checks. Happy holidays! ❄️

### EVENTS continued

take home. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Museum admission. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

**DAN LAMBERT**—Improvisational guitar. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**LOVE IS STRANGE**—Through Dec.

11. After Ben and George get married, George is fired from his teaching post, forcing them to stay with friends separately while they sell their place and look for cheaper housing—a situation that weighs heavily on all involved. 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.

**NMSU AGGIES MEN'S BASKETBALL vs. UTEP**—7 p.m. \$5 and up. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, (800) 745-3000, ticketmaster.com. www.nmstatesports.com.

**SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL**—Opening for exhibit by Border Artists, through Jan. 17. 6-8 p.m. Adobe Patio Gallery, 1765 Avenida de Mercado, 532-9310.

**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD**—Through Dec. 7. See Dec. 4. 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$17. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events.

### Deming

**RANDY HUSTON, DEANNA MCCALL AND JIM JONES**—Talented singers and cowboy poetry to boot. 2 p.m. Historic Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St., 545-8872.

### Hillsboro

**CHRISTMAS IN THE FOOTHILLS**—Wide array of vendors selling specialty arts, hand-crafted gifts and food items, the annual raffle of an original work of art, and the popular \$49.99 Art Show and Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Hillsboro Community Center, Elenora St., 895-3324.

### SUNDAY 7 Silver City/Grant County

**COMMUNITY CHAMBER SINGERS**—Fall concert. Ave Maris Stella by Dufay, works by Ropartz, Gibbons, Billings, Estelle, Sweetinck, Davison, Giffen, Johnson, Smith, Letourneau, Bernon and Lightfoot. Reception follows. Child care provided. 3 p.m. Free. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 N Swan St.

**FESTIVAL OF TREES**—See Dec. 1. 614 N. Bullard St. (former Yada Yada Yarn). 388-3342.

**FREQUENCY HARMONY**—Lecture by Barbara Lovejoy. 12:30 p.m. Free. 1st Church of Harmony, 7th and Arizona St.

**REBEL JESUS**—"And other songs and stories of the season of holy days, apocalypse and Gila River defense" by Greg Renfro and Jean Ann with Jeff Ray and friends. Featuring songs by Jackson Browne, Bob Dylan, Neil Young and other writers of mystic songs for the season. 1-3 p.m. Free. Yankee Creek Coffee House, Texas and Yankee.

**STUDIO SALE**—See Dec. 6. Live music includes Jesse Tallman 1 p.m. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Royal John Mine Road, Mimbres. www.studiosalemimbres.com.

### Las Cruces/Mesilla

**A TUNA CHRISTMAS**—See Dec. 4. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

**CLASSICS THREE**—See Dec. 6. 3 p.m. \$35 and up. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. 646-3709, www.lascrucessymphony.com.

**MESILLA VALLEY HALF MARATHON**—7 a.m. Albert Johnson Park & La Llorona Park Path, 700 N. Main St., (915) 478-5663, 541-2216, www.raceadventure-sunlimited.com.



**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD**—See Dec. 4. 2p.m. \$5-\$17. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, [www.nmsutheatre.com/events](http://www.nmsutheatre.com/events).  
**UU BEE WELCOME**—Through Jan. 23. Opening for show of work by this long-time quilting group and associated artists. Demos and food. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tombaugh Gallery, 2000 S. Solano Dr., 522-7281.

**MONDAY**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE**—Monthly meeting with social hour. All singles welcome. 10:30 a.m. Lunch \$10. Glad Tidings Church, 11600 Hwy 180 E. 537-3643.  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**LAS COLCHERAS QUILT GUILD**—Monthly meeting, show and tell. 1:30 p.m. Good Samaritan's Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida. 521-0521, [LasColcherasQG@aol.com](mailto:LasColcherasQG@aol.com).

**TUESDAY**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**PRESSURE COOKING**—Also Dec. 11. Silver City Food Co-op Community Forum class. "Fast food" takes on a whole new meaning with a pressure cooker. And the newer pressure cookers are not "your mother's pressure cooker"; there are many safety features to prevent problems. Come learn how to create fast and delicious food as well as cook black beans better at high altitude and rice in no time. 12-1 p.m. Free. 614 N. Bullard. 388-2343.  
**STATE OF THE HOSPITAL ADDRESS**—Gila Regional Medical Center update. 5:30-7:30 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center. 538-4870, [www.GRMC.org](http://www.GRMC.org).  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**DOÑA ANA LYRIC OPERA**—An evening of carols, arias and a special preview of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, [www.riograndetheatre.com](http://www.riograndetheatre.com).

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**SOLSTICE DREAMING**—Create your own 2015 new year rite of passage with astrologer Cassandra Leoncini. 3-4:30 p.m. Free. 614 N. Bullard St., (970) 529-3572, [TwoEaglesAstrology@gmail.com](mailto:TwoEaglesAstrology@gmail.com).

**THURSDAY**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**30TH ANNUAL VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS**—Silver City puts on its finest from the 19th century for the annual Victorian Christmas Evening at the Silver City Museum. Reenactors dressed in clothing from the 1880s help visitors celebrate in the style common to Silver City before the turn of the century, and a visit from a frontier Father Christmas is always a favorite. Traditional decorations, music, hot mulled cider and holiday treats. Visitors need not be dressed in clothing from the period to enjoy the evening. 4-9 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, [www.silvercity-museum.org](http://www.silvercity-museum.org).  
**PRESSURE COOKING**—See Dec. 9. 12-1 p.m. Free. 614 N. Bullard. 388-2343.  
**ROLLING STONES HOLIDAY PARTY**—Grant County Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Society annual holiday gathering. Enjoy ham and turkey, with potluck side dishes and desserts provided by members; bring your own serveware. Gift grab and game to follow. 6-8 p.m. Senior Center, Victoria St., 534-1393,

[rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com](http://rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com).  
**WILDWORKS**—Hangout for exploring, experimenting, creating, gaming and more. Including, but not limited to, Lego Mindstorms, chess, electronics, 3D drawing, Minecraft, programming... Ages 10 and up. No registration necessary. 4-6 p.m. Free. Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**El Paso**  
**BRASS**—A celebration of KRWG's 50th, featuring a reprise of popular 1960s holiday music with Kenny Capshaw, Rick Lambrecht, Frank Otero, Jim Shearer and Sam Trimble joined by Bill Thompson. 7 p.m. \$15 advance/\$20 at the door, ages 6-16 \$7.50/\$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, [www.riograndetheatre.com](http://www.riograndetheatre.com).  
**THE ROARING 20'S**—Folk-rock du. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.  
**STORIES OF HOLIDAYS PAST**—Culture Series: Annual December living history event will offer visitors a retrospective view of New Mexico history during the holiday season. Enjoy several different holiday vignettes in the museum's theater with characters from various time periods in our state's history. 7 p.m. \$2. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, [www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org](http://www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org).

**FRIDAY**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**ART EXHIBIT**—Also Dec. 13. Paintings no bigger than 12 inches by Ginna Heiden, Miriam Hill, Deb Hutchings, Gay Marks, Sara McKenzie, Jane Seavers and Thia Utz. 3-7 p.m. 28 Bear Creek Road, Pinos Altos.  
**OPEN COMPUTER LAB**—Presented by Silver City Public Library librarians. The library mobile computer lab will be open for anyone to do self-paced tutorials, learn and practice computer skills, and ask questions. You may also bring your own laptop or mobile device. No registration necessary. 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.  
**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**LIFE'S A BREEZE**—Through Dec. 18. Tells the story of a family as they search for a lost fortune around the streets of Dublin. 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](http://mesillavalleyfilm.org).  
**LUMINAS AT THE PARK**—Come see the park glowing with luminarias at dusk. Enjoy music and hot chocolate. 5-7:30 p.m. Free. Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, north on Jornanda Road, 524-3334, [www.asombro.org](http://www.asombro.org).  
**TOMBAUGH OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE**—Weather permitting. 7-9 p.m.



Travel back into the past with "Father Christmas" at the 30th Annual Victorian Christmas at the Silver City Museum on Dec. 11.

NMSU Tombaugh Observatory, 646-6278, [astronomy.nmsu.edu/dept/html/public.open.shtml](http://astronomy.nmsu.edu/dept/html/public.open.shtml).

**SATURDAY**  
**Silver City/Grant County**  
**BLACK TIE HOLIDAY BENEFIT BALL**—Get festive and inventive with this Victorian Steampunk themed ball. Wear your most festive, formal or fabulous attire. Proceeds benefit MRAC programs. Live music by Bad News Blues Band from Tucson. 7 p.m. \$50. Lawley Toyota showroom, 2750 Hwy 180 E. 538-2505, [www.mimbresarts.org](http://www.mimbresarts.org).  
**ART EXHIBIT**—See Dec. 12. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 28 Bear Creek Road, Pinos Altos.  
**CRAFT CLASS**—Decorate holiday cookies. For crafters age 8 and older. Limit 10 crafters, pre-registration encouraged. Parent or guardian attendance required. 10 a.m.-noon. \$5. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, [www.silvercitymuseum.org](http://www.silvercitymuseum.org).  
**FORT BAYARD WALKING TOUR**—Walking tours of Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark. Tours last about two hours. The Fort Bayard Museum is open from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; entrance for a donation of \$3 per person or \$10 per family. 9:30 a.m. Fort Bayard, 388-4477.  
**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY QUARTERLY BOOK SALE**—Fill up your Christmas stockings with books. We have a wonderful selection of Christmas books, cookbooks, bird books and New Mexico histories. All outdoor items are \$1 a bag. In the rare book room, new volumes have been added. Money raised supports the Public Library. Hardbacks and trade paperbacks \$1, small paperbacks 50 cents. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., members only 9-10 a.m. 510 Market St., [folsilvercitynm@gmail.com](mailto:folsilvercitynm@gmail.com).  
**HOLIDAY MARKET**—Handmade goods crafted by local artists. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 412 W. Broadway. [SilverCityArtists.com](http://SilverCityArtists.com).  
**NAVAJO WEAVING**—Presentation and demonstration by Bronco Martinez and Judy Davis. 11 .m. Wild West Weaving, 211D Texas, 313-1032.  
**UGLIEST CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST**—Prizes and award-winning wines. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. La Esperanza Vineyard & Winery, off Royal John Mine Road, Mimbres, (505) 259-9523, (505) 238-6252, [www.laesperanzavineyardandwinery.com](http://www.laesperanzavineyardandwinery.com).

EVENTS continued on next page



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Every Tuesday and Thursday  
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# 2014

**State of the Hospital Address**

Tuesday  
December 9, 2014  
5:30 ~ 7:30pm  
at the  
Besse - Forward  
Global Resource Center

 **Gila Regional Medical Center**  
[www.GRMC.org](http://www.GRMC.org)

For More Information  
**(575) 538-4870**



**EVENTS** continued

**VACCINATION CLINIC**—9 a.m.-noon. High Desert Humane Society, 3050 Cougar Way, 538-9261.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**4TH ANNUAL NEW MEXICO CHRISTMAS ON THE CAMINO REAL**—Arts and crafts vendors, children's crafts. Artistic Moments annual art show at Nopalito's Galeria. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mesquite Street merchants.

**7TH ANNUAL WINTERFEST**—Hayrides, live DJ, Christmas carols by Central Elementary students, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, luminarias. 5-8 p.m. Klein Park, 155 N. Mesquite St., 650-8596.

**AMAH! AND THE NIGHT VISITORS**—Also Dec. 14. Since its original television broadcast in 1951, this one-act opera by Gian Carlo Menotti has remained a perennial Christmastime favorite. Amahl, a disabled boy who needs a crutch to walk, and his mother are very poor and may have to resort to begging to stay alive. One night they receive three very special guests, the Three Kings, bearing gold and expensive gifts, and following a star that will lead them to a wondrous child. The events of this night will prove miraculous for the little boy. A Doña Ana Lyric Opera and Doña Ana Arts Council co-production, starring Molly Schroeder, Andrea Kiesling, John Carlo Pierce, Ejerson Balabas and David Klement. 7:30 p.m. \$15, students \$5. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**PERO NO**—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**Deming**  
**RONSTADT GENERATIONS**—The Ronstadts (Linda's little brother Michael and his sons) preserve and redefine a century-plus family tradition, integral to the diverse tapestry of American music. 2-4 p.m. \$10, DPAT members \$8. Historic Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St., 545-8872.

**SUNDAY**  
**14 Silver City/Grant County**  
**Hi Lo SILVERS HOLIDAY CON-**  
**CERT**—Concert and Sing-A-Long. Singers are directed by Valdeen Wooton and accompanied by Virginia Robertson and

Nada Dates on piano and Bill Baldwin on bass violin. 3 p.m. Free. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St.

**LOOSE BLUES BAND**—Classic blues, folk, rock and country. 1-3 p.m. Free. Yankie Creek Coffee House, Texas and Yankie.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**AMAH! AND THE NIGHT VISITORS**—See Dec. 13. 7:30 p.m. \$15, students \$5. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**HEARTS AGLOW**—Mesilla Valley Chhale, directed by Nancy Ritchey, presents their holiday concert. The diverse program includes sacred selections, spirituals and choral arrangements of holiday favorites with instrumental backup. 3 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com. 647-2560.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**17 Hanukkah Begins**

**18 Silver City/Grant County**  
**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**—Nebraska Theatre Caravan performance of the Charles Dickens classic. 7:30 p.m. \$20, members \$15, students \$5. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. 538-2505, www.mimbresarts.org.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**FayRoy**—Surf/psych-rock. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**FRIDAY**  
**19 Silver City/Grant County**  
**LAS POSADAS PROCESSION**—Mariachis, cookies and hot chocolate. Through historic downtown. Murray-Hotel.com.

**WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
**VS. CSU-PUEBLO**—5:30 p.m. WNMU Branchau Complex, www.wnmumus-tangs.com.

**WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CSU-PUEBLO**—7:30 p.m. WNMU Branchau Complex, www.wnmumustangs.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS**—Grammy-nominated jazz pianist,

composer and producer David Benoit celebrates the holidays with the iconic jazz from the Peanuts special by Vincent Guaraldi, including classics like "Linus and Lucy" and "Christmastime Is Here." 7:30-9 p.m. \$30-\$40. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**FANNY**—Through Dec. 23. Second part of the "Marseille trilogy" by Marcel Pagnol. Fanny falls in love and is abandoned by Marius. Now she discovers she is pregnant. Her mother and Marius' father, César, persuade her to accept the romantic advances of a much older man. To save face, Fanny agrees to marry Honoré Panisse, a rich merchant of the Vieux Port, 30 years her senior, who will recognize her son. 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.

**20 Silver City/Grant County**  
**THE AILMAN FAMILY IN SILVER CITY**—Exhibit opening. "Meet" H. B. Ailman and learn about his pioneering adventures and life in the Gila in the late 1800s. 1-3 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

**CANDLELIGHT CAROLING**—Enjoy the sounds of different singing groups throughout downtown. SilverCityTourism.org.

**NAVIDAD RANCHERA**—Includes traditional mariachi music, folklorico dancing and ranchera vocalists. Mariachi Raíces de America. Ballet Folklorico Paso del Norte, vocalist Antonio Reyna, special guests from El Paso Mariachi Femenil Flores Mexicanas under the direction of Lily Sanchez. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

**NIZHONI POTTERY SALE**—By Romaine Begay. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 3235 Little Walnut Road, 590-0698.

**STARS-N-PARKS**—National Public Observatory program. Mars is low in the west. Andromeda Galaxy is rising in the northeast and is viewable. The Milky Way runs from the southwest to the northeast in the evening sky. Orion rises before program's end. Presenter: Matt Wilson. 6:35 p.m. \$5 park fee, \$3 donation. City of Rocks State Park, 327 Hwy 61, Faywood. www.Astro-NPO.org.

**WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT COLORADO SPRINGS**—5:30 p.m. WNMU Branchau Complex, www.wnmumustangs.com.

**WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UC-COLORADO SPRINGS**—7:30 p.m. WNMU Branchau Complex, www.wnmumus-tangs.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**DEMING FUSILIERS REUNION**—Old time music. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**NMSU AGGIES MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UNM**—7 p.m. \$5 and up. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, (800) 745-3000, ticketmaster.com. www.nmstatesports.com.

**THE SANTALAND DIARIES**—Also Dec. 21. Fusion Theatre presents the work of David Sedaris. 7:30-8:45 p.m. \$15-\$20. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**Deming**  
**LA CELLA BELLA**—Four cellos expertly played with a repertoire as varied as the radio dial. 2 p.m. \$10, DPAT members \$8. Historic Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St., 545-8872.

**SUNDAY**  
**WINTER SOLSTICE**  
**21 Silver City/Grant County**  
**DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE**—Joyous circle dances celebrating the Sacred uniting all beings. Live music. No experience or partners needed. 4:30 p.m. \$5 donation. 1st Church of Harmony, 7th and Arizona St., 534-1441

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**THE SANTALAND DIARIES**—Fusion Theatre presents the work of David Sedaris. 2 p.m. \$15-\$20. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**MONDAY**  
**22 Las Cruces / Mesilla**  
**NMSU AGGIES MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NORTHERN NEW MEXICO**—7 p.m. \$5 and up. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, (800) 745-3000, ticketmaster.com. www.nmstatesports.com.

**TUESDAY**  
**23 Las Cruces / Mesilla**  
**SAGE GENTLE-WIND**—Singer/songwriter performing original jazz, blues, Americana, story-driven songs and "hot guitar." 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande



Little Anthony rings in the New Year at the Rio Grande Theatre.

Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**HANUKKAH ENDS**  
**24 Silver City/Grant County**  
**ARAMAIC LORD'S PRAYER**—The original Aramaic words of Jesus' prayer are chanted by all with simple movements known as body prayer. No experience necessary; all chants and movements taught. 4 p.m. 1st Church of Harmony, 7th and Arizona St., 534-1441

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION**—Mesilla Plaza comes alive with thousands of luminarias, authentic paper lanterns hand-made by local schools and volunteers. Christmas caroling, live entertainment, and free cookies and hot chocolate. 6-8:30 p.m. Mesilla Plaza. 524-3262, www.mesillanm.gov/tourism.

**THURSDAY**  
**25 Christmas Day**

**FRIDAY**  
**KWANZAA BEGINS**  
**26 Las Cruces / Mesilla**  
**DIPLOMACY**—Through Dec. 30, Jan. 1. An historical drama that depicts the relationship between Dietrich von Choltitz, the German military governor of occupied Paris, and Swedish consul-general Raoul Nordling. 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**  
**27 Las Cruces / Mesilla**  
**CRAFTS FOR KIDS**—Children of all ages are invited to come by the museum and create their own New Year's crafts to take home. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Museum admission. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

**THE D.A.M.N. UNION**—Local music collective. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**NMSU AGGIES MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. COLORADO STATE**—7 p.m. \$5 and up. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, (800) 745-3000, ticketmaster.com. www.nmstatesports.com.

**SUNDAY**  
**28 White Sands**  
**LAKE LUCERO TOUR**—Hike with a ranger to the source of the sands and learn about the dunefield. Reservations required. 10 a.m. White Sands National Monument, 679-2599 ext. 230, 479-6124 ext. 236, www.nps.gov/whsa.

**TUESDAY**  
**30 Silver City/Grant County**  
**SILLY SNOWMAN CRAFTS**—Also Dec. 31. All ages, silly snowman crafts. Need to get out of the house? Come to the library for a hands-on craft. All day. Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**NMSU AGGIES MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. TEXAS SOUTHERN**—7 p.m. \$5 and up. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, (800) 745-3000, ticketmaster.com. www.nmstatesports.com.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
**31 Silver City/Grant County**  
**RHYTHM MYSTIC**—New Year's Eve party. \$7. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard, 956-6144.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**LITTLE ANTHONY**—An intimate evening with Jerome Anthony Gouridine,

better known as Little Anthony, in a one-man show celebrating 56 years in show business and his new book. 7 p.m. \$34.50-\$45.60. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**PARTY NIGHT CHILE DROP**—New Year's celebration. "Chile Drop" 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com. 640-8283.

**Glenwood**  
**WORLD HEALING DAY**—Join a global meditation at Whitewater Mesa Labyrinths. Open all day from 4:30 a.m., 5 a.m. group walk. Free. Hwy. 159 east off Hwy. 180 between Glenwood and Alma, last house on left east of mile marker 3. 313-1002, www.wmlabyrinthlocator.com.

**JANUARY 2015**  
**THURSDAY**  
**1 New Year's Day**

**SATURDAY**  
**3 Las Cruces / Mesilla**  
**3 NMSU AGGIES MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CALIFORNIA-IRVINE**—7 p.m. \$5 and up. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, (800) 745-3000, ticketmaster.com. www.nmstatesports.com.

**TUESDAY**  
**6 Las Cruces/Mesilla**  
**6 WAITING FOR GODOT**—Through Jan. 11. Tony-award winning playwright Mark Medoff returns to the stage for the first time in 27 years to act in the play by Samuel Beckett. Cast also includes Richard Rundell, David Edwards, Brandon Brown and Grace Marks. 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$20, students \$5. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**NMSU AGGIES MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NM HIGHLANDS**—7 p.m. \$5 and up. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, (800) 745-3000, ticketmaster.com. www.nmstatesports.com.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**7 Las Cruces / Mesilla**  
**7 WAITING FOR GODOT**—Through Jan. 11. See Jan. 6. 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$20, students \$5. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**THURSDAY**  
**8 Las Cruces / Mesilla**  
**8 WAITING FOR GODOT**—Through Jan. 11. See Jan. 6. 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$20, students \$5. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

**FRIDAY**  
**9 Las Cruces / Mesilla**  
**9 WAITING FOR GODOT**—Through Jan. 11. See Jan. 6. 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$20, students \$5. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com. ☼

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# The Last Word

What makes a trail happy?

Long-time readers of this page may recall that sometimes—OK, pretty darned often—I’ve reflected on what we’ve encountered in our Silver City backyard. A former contributor, in fact, once cracked that this column should be subtitled, “What I saw in my backyard.” Lest this seem silly to long-time residents, please keep in mind that we grew up in South Dakota, where the only backyard fauna were squirrels and robins. So seeing a fox in our apple tree,

or mule deer rising on their hind legs to nibble those apples, or just the dusty imprint of a coatimundi on our hot-tub cover, where it squatted to gobble the fish snatched from our pond, gets our attention. Same for the coyote howls and owl hoots some nights, the mountain-lion paw print at the lip of our hill, and the odd javelina. Even a tarantula apparition was worth a column, in my book.

I may have also mused, once or twice, about growing up watching TV Westerns like “Rawhide,” “Bonanza,” “Wagon Train” and “The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp.” (I could go on and on here. Can’t forget about “The Rifleman”

or “Maverick” or “Paladin” or....) Indeed, my initial editor’s column upon moving here, almost 12 years ago, recalled:

“There’s something, too, about the spirit of the West that made us feel at home whenever we crossed into the Mountain Time Zone. Maybe it’s because, in the words of Willie Nelson, our heroes have always been cowboys.... Most of the photos of me as a child

show me in a cowboy hat, which I refused to take off even for formal portraits. Lisa grew up wanting to be the next Casey Tibbs, the South Dakota rodeo star. When she got her first pair of cowboy boots, about age eight, she wore them to bed. Now that we’re all grown up, where better than Billy the Kid’s hometown to hang our hats?”

But in all this time, our backyard adventures and what you might call the true spirit of the West had never quite come together in a single experience. Until now.

Early this fall, I was taking advantage of the monsoon dampening of the surrounding vegetation to do some genuine charcoal grilling for dinner. Having made do with the gas grill during the tinder-dry months before the rains’ arrival, I had, well, charcoal to burn. The steak was defrosted, seasoning applied. It was ignition time.

It helps if you can picture what we call my “outdoor kitchen.” The big Weber kettle is in the left corner as you face this setup, with the gas grill front and center and a gas “refrigerator” smoker in the right corner. The valve for the gas, which comes from our nearby propane tank that also serves the house’s range and hot-water heater, is tucked down a little between the two gas cookers.

Just as I lifted the Weber’s lid and prepared to set up my charcoal chimney, I heard a hissing sound from over by the gas valve. Had we sprung a leak?

You already know what comes next. I took two steps toward the sound, then froze at the sight of a whip-like tail waving threateningly from the vicinity of the valve. Yes, our backyard critter count finally included that archetypal Wild West denizen, the rattlesnake.

If I had opted for gas grilling that evening instead of firing up the charcoal, I would have stuck my hand right into the rattler’s temporary lodgings by the gas valve, to turn on the fuel. I might not be around to write this column.

We’d had other snakes before, of course, including a gopher snake our cat Peaches proudly and musically presented to us in the house and a bull snake that got fatally entangled in the netting meant to protect dwarf fruit trees. We’d even encountered rattlers before—once while hiking Sabino Canyon in Tucson, slithering across the trail right in front of us. But this was our first rattler house call.

Here is where writing for *Desert Exposure* paid off. One of my most memorable stories was about local wildlife rescuer Dennis Miller, who happened to have an injured golden eagle dropped off when I was interviewing him. Yes, a golden eagle was in his kitchen (“The Call of the Wild,” August 2005). We’d mentioned Miller several times in issues since, and I knew he could handle this sort of thing.

One call to his nonprofit Gila Wildlife Rescue and before the rest of our interrupted dinner was even cold, Miller drove up. Not batting an eye—this was

his fifth or sixth such rattler removal that day—he ventured into the barbecue pit, where of course by now the snake had moved. It took some rattling of his own, banging potential hiding places, before the snake hissed enough in response to find it. A prairie rattlesnake, Miller told us as he popped it into a plastic bucket for the trip to a new home—a smaller variety, but plenty dangerous.

How appropriate that our backyard adventures finally included a rattlesnake, just as we began planning to leave our beautiful backyard vista—and *Desert Exposure*—behind for new adventures in Tucson. (See this month’s Editor’s Notebook if you’re one of those back-to-front readers who’s now stammering, “Say what?”) I won’t say “now we’ve seen it all,” but we’ve seen plenty and done plenty here—it seems we’ve enjoyed a whole lifetime in 12 years in Silver City. Neither our backyard nor the Wild West, even though thankfully tamed a bit from the television sagas of our childhood, disappointed us, not for one day.

In the very first of these columns, written with the memories of our move here and of my mother’s funeral, only days later, still fresh, I wrote about seeing mountains one morning on my way to an interview in Cliff. At the funeral, “I thought of the splendor of mountains I’d seen, what seemed ages ago back in New Mexico, and how they’d hidden from view until the next bend in the road. I wished I’d called my mother that morning, though I know she probably couldn’t have understood me [in the nursing home], and told her about the soaring mountains so close to our new house. Told her that, for all the changes and surprises of late, this latest chapter in my life was wonderful and exciting.... It’s easy to take mountains for granted. I’m going to try very hard not to.”

Now, a dozen years later, I wish I could have called and told my mom about that rattlesnake—“Oh, dear!” she would have said—and about all the critters and cowboys and mountains we’ve seen since we arrived in New Mexico. I think I’ve managed pretty well not to take anything in our new life here for granted, whether the surprises in our backyard or the joys of producing *Desert Exposure* every month. Best, though, to hit the trail before the wonderment wears off.

As one of those TV cowboys we grew up watching, Roy Rogers, used to say, “Happy trails to you, until we meet again.” 🌵

Desert Exposure editor David A. Fryxell is riding off into the sunset.




Happy holidays and happy trails from David and Lisa Fryxell (and Pippin).



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