

DESERT exposure

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Gila River Festival,
page 12



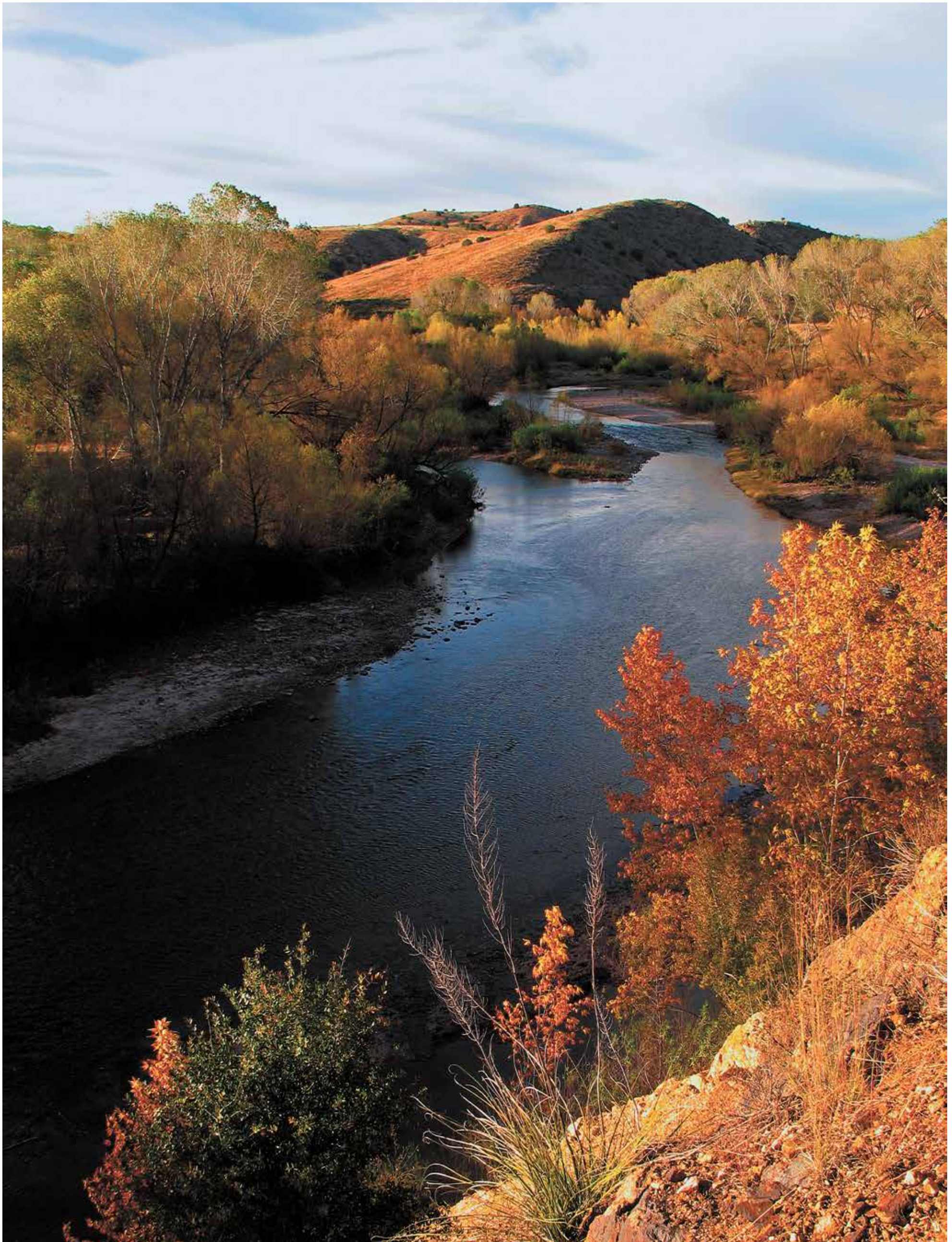
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About the cover: Gila River near the bird refuge in fall, photographed by **Dennis O'Keefe**. This and other photos/cards of the area are displayed and sold at O'Keefe's Bookshop in downtown Silver City. Read about this month's **10th annual Gila River Festival** in this issue's Tumbleweeds section.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

A Shot in the Arm

Why do people ignore the science behind vaccines and the subjects of other false controversies?

I got a DPT booster the other day when I visited Silver Health Care for a checkup. Of the three diseases making up that acronym—diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus—I was most concerned about pertussis, also known as whooping cough. I'd had the DPT vaccine as a kid, and until recently would have sought out a booster only if I'd stepped on a rusty nail or something else classically associated with tetanus. But New Mexico had 527 reported cases of pertussis in 2013—fourth in the nation when figured per capita.

I also vividly remembered reading an article in *The New Republic* online in which the 31-year-old author, Julia Ioffe, wrote of coughing constantly for 72 days—"not just coughing, but whooping: doubled over, body clenched, sucking violently for air, my face reddening and my eyes watering." This was written in 2013, not 1913 or some other year before the 1940 discovery of a vaccine against whooping cough. (Before that vaccine, 200,000 children were infected annually.) And yet from 2011 and 2012, reported cases of pertussis—a preventable disease—tripled in 21 states and totaled a record 38,000-plus nationwide.

Pertussis isn't the only once-vanquished disease making a comeback. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tracked 554 cases of measles in 20 states (including Texas but not New Mexico) in the first half of this year alone. That's already a record, and the highest number of cases since measles was deemed eliminated in the US—again, thanks to vaccination—in 2000.

Many doctors today are too young to even remember measles, but I vividly recall how it swept through my elementary school. I was lucky, suffering no more than the usual fever and rash. Before the measles vaccine, however, up to 4 million Americans a year were infected; 1,000 suffered brain damage or hearing loss annually and 450 died.

A 2013 University of Pittsburgh study calculated that vaccination programs for children have prevented more than 100 million cases of serious contagious diseases since 1924. In 2007, death rates for 13 diseases preventable by childhood vaccines reached an all-time low in the United States.

What in the world could have caused these nearly vanished diseases to return? Absent an encounter with a rusty nail, why would I need a DPT booster at my age?

In the headline of her much-linked-to *New Republic* account, Ioffe provides an answer, albeit a tad hyperbolic (forgivable if you've been coughing for 72 straight days): "I've Got Whooping Cough. Thanks a Lot, Jenny McCarthy!" McCarthy, a former *Playboy* model and briefly cohost of "The View," has been blamed by many for spreading fears about dangers from vaccines. There's even a "Jenny McCarthy Body Count" page on the web that tallies the number of preventable illnesses (137,900 as of early August) and deaths (6,265) since McCarthy and other celebrities ramped up anti-vaccination rhetoric in mid-2007. The page also counts the "number of autism diagnoses scientifically linked to vaccinations" in that span—zero.

Autism fears are only part of the anti-vaccination hysteria, but they have fueled other, equally unsubstantiated concerns. The supposed link between the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine and autism originated in a study published in 1998 by Dr. Andrew Wakefield, involving only 12 patients. A subsequent investigation showed that the British gastroenterologist misrepresented and altered his findings in an "elaborate fraud"; 10 of 12 authors of the paper have retracted it. A second Wakefield study in 2002 also contained what the American Academy of Pediatrics calls "critical flaws."

Other anti-vaccination fearmongers have blamed the mercury compound thimerosal, used as a preservative in some vaccines (though not the MMR shot),

for the rise in autism. Yet autism diagnoses have not declined since 1999, when thimerosal was discontinued in all the most common vaccines.

The purported link between vaccines of any kind and autism risk has been thoroughly debunked. In 2013, a study of more than 1,000 children published in the *Journal of Pediatrics* found no association between autism and either the number of vaccinations a child was given or the total number of antigens.

If you're nonetheless worried about this nonexistent risk, or simply fear that your kids are getting "too many" shots, why should that matter to anybody else? As Ioffe explained, in-between hacking coughs: "The problem is that it is not an individual choice; it is a choice that acutely affects the rest of us. Vaccinations work by creating something called herd immunity: When most of a population is immunized against a disease, it protects even those in it who are not vaccinated, either because they are pregnant or babies or old or sick."

To protect those who can't be vaccinated, herd immunity requires immunization of about 95% of the total population. But anti-vaccination fears have reduced immunization below that critical threshold in some places. In 2010, for example, only 91% of kindergarteners were up to date on their shots in California—which saw a major pertussis outbreak.

No vaccine—or any medical treatment—is completely safe. But the ratio of serious adverse reactions to beneficial effects for the most common vaccines is about 1 to 40,000. By focusing on anecdotal evidence of purported harm instead of the overwhelming societal benefits of immunization, ill-informed celebrities and others seeking to fix blame for their personal tragedies have created a debate where in reality the facts are not in dispute. The result has been to turn back the clock on one of the great accomplishments of public health.

By giving people like Jenny McCarthy a forum, the media is in part to blame. Interestingly, this summer the BBC Trust published an update on a year-old policy questioning the "over-rigid application of editorial guidelines on impartiality" in science reporting. BBC journalists, it said, are often guilty of "false impartiality"—that is, "presenting the views of tiny and unqualified minorities as if they have the same weight as the scientific consensus."

Imagine, for example, if every time the news reported something about global travel or orbiting satellites, a flat-earth fanatic also got air time for an "opposing view." No broadcast about firefighting would be complete without counterpoint from a spokesperson for phlogiston, the medium thought to make combustion possible until science proved otherwise.

But that's essentially what the media are doing with some contemporary controversies where there is in fact overwhelming scientific consensus. The BBC report cited as examples global warming, worries over the safety of GMO foods—and vaccines. Evolution by natural selection is another obvious example. You may choose to believe vaccines cause autism or the earth is not getting warmer (as 26% in a recent Pew poll stated) or "humans and other living things have existed in their present form since the beginning of time" (a view held by 33% in that same poll). But there is no serious *scientific debate* about these questions. (Not only is the earth getting warmer, for example, but 97% of climate scientists believe humans are contributing to it.)

If only, you might think, we could explain the *facts* to the public! Unfortunately, a new study by Yale law professor Dan Kahan finds, as the *New York Times* reported, "more people know what scientists think about high-profile scientific controversies than polls suggest; they just aren't willing to endorse the consensus when it contradicts their political or religious views." Kahan didn't find a gap in knowledge on mat-

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ters such as evolution: “Religious people knew the science; they just weren’t willing to say that they believed in it.”


Once political or religious/spiritual identities get entangled with scientific issues, Kahan says, it’s difficult for contrary facts to penetrate. “Cosmos” host Neil deGrasse Tyson can lecture endlessly about global warming or evolution, but the skeptics won’t hear him. A more effective voice on global warming, for example, might be Katherine Hayhoe, a climate scientist who is also an evangelical Christian. News media in search of “balance” might consider airing such views that support the science but from a different perspective.

On vaccines, it’s helpful that TV’s “Dr. Oz,” who has given credence and air time to a distressing array of quackery, recently wrote about the importance of childhood immunization. Parents might also need to

hear from celebrities besides Jenny McCarthy. Sarah Michelle Gellar (“Buffy the Vampire Slayer”), for example, recently told *Parade Magazine* why she supports vaccination: “Having children is the greatest gift anyone’s ever given me, and if I can help protect anyone else’s gift, then it’s not just my pleasure, but it’s my responsibility to do it.” Jennifer Lopez, mother of twins, is an advocate for the pertussis vaccine and a spokesperson for the Silence the Sounds of Pertussis campaign.

In the meantime, make sure you’re up to date on your shots. ☘

David A. Fryxell is editor of Desert Exposure.



LETTERS

Taxes, ATVs and Guns

Our readers write.

Not So Harmless

You hit the nail on the head about raising “sales taxes” (Editor’s Notebook, August). There are so many ways that raising sales tax hurts, not just in the citizens’ purse but in the formula of pluses and minuses that industry and business use to make location decisions. Or the cost in making vacation decisions.

Of course, it’s not just the sales taxes we see going up; it is also property taxes along with other county and city fees, which in fact feel like a tax to the individual.

While on the other hand, if a person wants to search for the good of taxes, local taxes such as the tax in question will be spent locally and will benefit the local community (we hope) and can be seen being spent. (We hope.)

As much as we care for our politicians, as we know them personally, it seems that being elected to a political position changes the thinking of the person and they no longer actually seek out the will and wisdom of their constituency. And of course, there may be a hidden or un-explained benefit to me and my friends and neighbors that I am not aware of and raising taxes in this way is good for me and will somehow put more money in my pocket. Taxes never have but this may be a first.

I, for one, would feel that this tax could be justifiable if I knew that the county had cleaned house and that every tax dollar they receive is received with reverence and that every effort has been made to assure that the money is spend wisely and that no bureaucrat has taken advantage of the system to benefit their own estate.

Nevertheless, we as citizens should be aware of the crisis that our country has created for itself, the citizen, by the greed that comes from spending our money without accountability and justification. What do you think when you become aware that your personal resources are being extracted by unknown people in unknown places for unknown purposes to serve no need of your own and a select few without accountability are holding the taxpayers purse strings?

Thank you, Mr. Fryxell, for your standup article.

Vic Topmiller Jr.
Chairman, Silver City-Grant County Tea Party Patriots. Taxed Enough Already

On July 10, the Grant County Commissioners voted unanimously to increase the Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) by 3/8%, the maximum allowed by law. They did this despite the overwhelming rejection of a proposed GRT increase (of 1/4%) by Grant County voters in the special election of July, 2013. The commissioners claim they increased the GRT because the State of New Mexico was eliminating the Hold Harmless payments to counties (part of legislative bill HB641, voted on at the end of the 2013 legislative session and signed by Gov. Martinez). HB641 is a corporate tax-cut bill that reduces the corporate tax from 7.6% to 5.9%. To pay for this corporate tax cut, the state will discontinue the Hold Harmless payments to counties of over 48,000 population. But since Grant County’s population is well below 48,000, the subsidy would have continued...

unless the county increased their GRT, which our commissioners just did!

So, exactly what are the commissioners up to? They are using an excuse to raise taxes that is false, raising taxes against the will of the people of Grant County, and losing the state subsidy to boot! All this for a few pet projects for which the public has no input. Besides, the GRT increase will hurt the people who can least afford it: small businesses and lower-income families. The commissioners are raising our taxes to replace a state subsidy that we are losing only because they are raising our taxes. If that sounds illogical to you, then you would probably make a better commissioner than any of the ones we have!

The commissioners are doing a terrible job of serving Grant County. Our county deserves better, much better.

Jeff Boyd
Grant County

Forest Stewardship

Thanks for doing such a good job with this paper.

I just read Larry Lightner’s piece about the Forest Service Travel Management Plan (TMP) decision (“Forest Firestorm,” August). There are many things that could be commented on about the factual content of his statements, but what struck me deeply was how angry the guy is. His article was very insulting, and threatening to many people, including myself.

I look forward to meeting Mr. Lightner someday on the trail and to see if he can be talked down a notch or two by some facts.

In this country we are very fortunate to have all the opportunities we have for all types of recreation on our public lands. The public lands belong to all of us, not just the loudest. The Forest Service has been working on the TMP for five years, and the resulting decision will not please everyone if it were worked on for five more, which is apparently what Mr. Lightner desires (i.e. “we can delay things for an awful long time”). And why is it people get upset with “government not doing anything”!?

Thomas Dwyer
(retired Forest Service)
via email

In the August issue, Larry Lightner seems upset that only 3,334 miles within the Gila National Forest will soon remain legally open to all-terrain, off-road vehicles. A distance from Seattle to Miami is not enough, he suggests, to satisfy the needs of the ATV and ORV constituency.

Lightner takes swipes at hikers, environmentalists, and the US Forest Service in his article, implying that many such “radical” folks either “don’t like” or downright “hate” the presence of such motorized vehicles in the Gila National Forest.

This tiresome “us” versus “them” bombast isn’t getting us anywhere. I don’t care to rehash the debate, but will call attention to two sets of stakeholders Lightner neglected to mention.

LETTERS continued on next page

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LETTERS continued

The Gila belongs to all US citizens, not simply those who live near it and use it for recreation. Public lands—including national forests, BLM lands, national monuments and national parks—are managed for the benefit of the more than 316 million Americans who do not live in New Mexico. Stewardship is on behalf of everyone, since we each hold an equal share of ownership.

The wild plants and animals on our public lands are stakeholders, too. In my opinion, consideration must be given to how human activities impact their lives. Some critters shy away from motorized vehicles—as well as hikers, hunters, fishers, equestrians and cyclists. Certain plants don't like being stepped on, run over, or forced to compete with invasive plants whose seeds are scattered by tires, hooves and feet.

We are stewards for everything that lives in the Gila, as well as its soil, water and air.

Balancing competing interests on our public lands deserves a thoughtful, rational and respectful meeting of hearts and minds. Larry Lightner does a disservice to your readers by resorting to narrow-minded vilification and name-calling.

Richard Mahler
Silver City

Gunboat Diplomacy

Thanks for your editorial “The Children’s Crusade” (Editor’s Notebook, August). In the 1950s I read a book written by a General Butler (USMC Retired) entitled *War Is a Racket*. He recited his first-hand experiences and observations of our government’s gunboat diplomacy in the early 1900s. It squared very well with your observations about our activities later in history.

Over the years since, I’ve had the opportunity to talk with several dozen people who also recited first-hand experiences and observations. These folks were either in the Peace Corps or were long-term missionary types dealing with real Christian ministries in Latin America, Asia and Africa. They confirmed Butler’s observations as still being true in the years since.

However, these activities are absent in our major news media and school history texts, so our population remains in the dark. The only reason we are not universally detested for our government and corporate ruthlessness is the presence of the other Americans in genuine, kind efforts to heal the damage our leaders so callously cause.

So thanks again for being the exception to our media norm of “report no evil if Wall Street does it”!

Charles Clements
Las Cruces

Firearms Facts

Whenever somebody (in this case Larry Lightner in “Just the Facts,” Ramblin’ Outdoors, August) peddles bullshit as chocolate ice cream, I have to put a halt to it. His article was nothing more than a litany of NRA talking points about claw hammers and knitting needles causing more deaths than guns so, therefore, ban knitting needles, etc. It also is a refrain from Joe the Plumber’s recent spouting, which was the following: “Your dead kid doesn’t trump my Second Amendment Rights.”

Wow. Some sympathy there. I’ll send him an invitation to the funeral.

But let’s get something clear: Deaths by guns in America aren’t the 8,583 as attributed in his article from his FBI source posted on a pro-gun website. There are 31,700 men, women, children, gangbangers, nurses, police officers, neighbors, bystanders, bus stop attendees, you name it. And it isn’t the claptrap argument that we should “ban cooking knives,” etc. as is often thrown around (from a law in Great Britain); it’s that we have a love affair with violence and the instruments of violence such that we have the most gun-related deaths of any advanced democracy in the world.

Here’s the data: abcnews.go.com/blogs/health/2013/09/19/u-s-has-more-guns-and-gun-deaths-than-any-other-country-study-finds. Look for yourself.

Guns and the accompanying paraphernalia are nothing more than a sexual fetish hiding behind a false principle of self-protection. We, as a nation, are not safer or saner by their presence.

Richard Earnheart
Silver City

Spoiler Alert!

I enjoyed your article on “spoilers” (Continental Divide, July).

I remember a long time ago when I walked by a theater and saw that a movie called *Citizen Kane* was about to start. I don’t know why but I hadn’t heard of the movie (maybe I did grow up under a rock). I decided to go in and buy a ticket. I had the pleasure of figuring out the movie was about Hearst and learning the meaning of “Rosebud” when I was in the theater. I had the *aha* moment—“I bet this movie is about William Randolph Hearst”—when Kane was building a palace.

I watched *The Crying Game* on its first day of release so I didn’t know ahead of time its buried secret. Later I was glad I saw it before the Siskel and Ebert review came out (I had trouble keeping them straight and don’t remember which one blabbed and which one scolded).

But sometimes there are disadvantages of going into a show without knowing a little about the movie. Once a cousin told me her parents saw *There’s Something About Mary*. That movie-going experience ended up making them unhappy. As my cousin was talking I couldn’t help visualize what it must have been like for my staid and conservative aunt and uncle to be sitting in the middle of a laughing and raucous audience watching what many reviewers have termed “sophomoric” humor.

Lately I have been careful when reading reviews of new movies. I will skim enough to get a broad idea of what a movie is about and who the stars and directors are, but not read any more to avoid any spoilers.

Elaine Carlson
Silver City ☘

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

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100 Hikes • LINDA FERRARA

Winging It

Hiking Tadpole Ridge with birder Brian Dolton.

This hike is for the birds! Earlier this year I contacted the local Audubon Society about a hike related to birding. I was soon in touch with Brian Dolton, a 53-year-old Englishman who is the Field Trip Coordinator. He has been interested in birding since he was a wee lad growing up in an English village where he walked the moorlands. For the past five years he has lived just north of Silver City, where he and his wife, Robin, enjoy hiking and birding.

We first did a hike on Signal Peak just days before the Signal Peak fire and the trail that Brian had chosen turned out to be right in the fire's path. Our second outing was in early June when we drove up Hwy. 15. During these two hikes I learned a lot about birding. The first thing I learned was that I was calling it by a common misnomer: *bird watching*. The hobby is as much about listening and knowing locations as it is about watching, ergo: *birding*.

I was curious about why we were heading into the mountains, since I thought that the best place to find birds was near water. Brian explained (using that delightful accent), "Of course water is a good place to find birds, but the beauty of the mountains is it gives one the opportunity to gain altitude. You see, this is an excellent chance to view birds that spend much of their time atop trees."



flicker, a western wood-peewee and an American robin. I was first to see an olive-sided flycatcher, to which Brian exclaimed, "Well spotted, well done!" It was a great introductory hike for a person new to birding. Now when I go on a hike, I am much more aware of the sounds of the birds and I thank Brian for that.

- Can you give us a "Beginner's Guide to Birding"?
1. Your best chance of viewing the most birds is early morning.
 2. A set of decent binoculars is a must.
 3. Get a pocket-sized bird identification book. (Brian recommends *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America* by David Sibley.)
 4. Get a bird checklist (available for purchase through the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society).
 5. Attend Audubon field trips.
 6. Join the Audubon Society (either national or local chapter)

Tell us more about the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society: Check out their website at www.swnmaudubon.org, or contact president Nancy Kaminski at artemis19492014@gmail.com, or membership coordinator Terry Timme at swnmaudubon@gmail.com, (575) 534-0457. The group has field trips, usually on the first Saturday of the month, a presentation meeting on the first Friday of the month at WNMU's Harlan Hall (12th and Alabama



Brian showed me a new addition to his birding gear: an iPad with an app that is an encyclopedia of birds that actually has bird songs and calls so you can instantly verify what you are hearing, and verify sightings using photographs and much more.

Name: Tadpole Ridge
Distance: Variable
Difficulty: Moderate to difficult
Directions: Starting at the intersection of Hwy. 15 and 32nd Street in Silver City, drive north on Hwy. 15 for 13.7 miles to the turn-off for Meadow Creek. Park here and walk across Hwy. 15 and walk up the dirt road you see there.

Hike Description: This is an upward trek towards Scott Peak and beyond. You will travel through pine forests and open areas with loose rocks. At the 0.27-mile mark, you will see a cairn on the left. This is the trail that goes down to the Signal Peak parking area on Hwy. 15 (right near the cattle guard). Continue ahead uphill through the trees. At about the 0.57-mile mark, you will start seeing views of Scott's Peak. Look back at Signal Peak behind you and view parts of the May 2014 fire area.

If you go far enough, you will observe maple trees and even farther up is a stock pond. This hike is a good one for observing succession vegetation from old fires (the aspens, ferns and oaks are all examples), as they are visible on many of the mountains around you, both nearby and far in the distance. When ready, return the way you came.

Notes: Along the way, we identified several bird species including: five turkey vultures, a broad-tailed hummingbird, a northern

Streets) at 7 p.m., and a "Birds and Brews" event on the fourth Thursday of the month at Little Toad Creek, Bullard and Broadway in Silver City, at 5:15 p.m. Details on the field trips and meetings are in *The Ravens* newsletter published five times a year. It is available on the website or various locations around town. Annual membership is \$15. You do not need to be a member to attend any of these events.

In closing, I found Brian to be a first-rate hiking partner because he was knowledgeable not only about birds but about all things fauna and flora. It occurred to me that he would be equally comfortable in a science lab as he would be in a computer lab.

Please tell me I didn't say "Bloody good show, mate!" to him when we parted ways! 🍷

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



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DESERT DIARY

War Rages Between Men and Women!

Plus signs you’re a senior citizen and deep thoughts.

Annals of auto repair... We begin on a philosophical note, of sorts, with this from **The Packrat Out Back**:

“A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a Harley motorcycle when he spotted a well-known heart surgeon in his shop. The surgeon was waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his bike. The mechanic shouted across the garage, ‘Hey, Doc, can I ask you a question?’

“The surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, ‘So, Doc, look at this engine. I open its heart, take the valves out, fix ‘em, put ‘em back in, and when I finish, it works just like new. So how come I get such a small salary and you get the really big bucks, when you and I are doing basically the same work?’

“The surgeon paused, smiled and leaned over, and whispered to the mechanic: ‘Try doing it with the engine running.’”

Losing the battle of the sexes... Next we move on to a bumper crop of dispatches from the front lines of the gender wars, starting with this litany of “Man Rules” from **GeeRichard**:

“We always hear ‘the rules’ from the female side. Now here are the rules from the male side!

“Men are NOT mind readers.

“Learn to work the toilet seat. You’re a big girl. If it’s up, put it down. We need it up, you need it down. You don’t hear us complaining about you leaving it down.

“Crying is blackmail.

“Ask for what you want. Let us be clear on this one: Subtle hints do not work! Strong hints do not work! Obvious hints do not work! Just say it!

“Yes and no are perfectly acceptable answers to almost every question.



Postcards from the edge... Going places? Take along a copy of *Desert Exposure* and snap a photo of yourself holding it “on location”—like **Paul Richardson**, shown here with son Ben in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

“Come to us with a problem only if you want help solving it. That’s what we do. Sympathy is what your girlfriends are for.

“Anything we said six months ago is inadmissible in an argument. In fact, all comments become null and void after seven days.

“If you think

you’re fat, you probably are. Don’t ask us.

“If something we said can be interpreted two ways and one of the ways makes you sad or angry, we meant the other one.

“You can either ask us to do something or tell us how you want it done. Not both. If you already know best how to do it, just do it yourself.

“Whenever possible, please say whatever you have to say during commercials.

“Christopher Columbus did NOT need directions and neither do we.

“ALL men see in only 16 colors, like Windows default settings. *Peach*, for example, is a fruit, not a color. *Pumpkin* is also a fruit. We have no idea what *mauve* is.

“If we ask what is wrong and you say ‘nothing,’ we will act like nothing’s wrong. We know you are lying, but it is just not worth the hassle.

“If you ask a question you don’t want an answer to, expect an answer you don’t want to hear.

“When we have to go somewhere, absolutely anything you wear is fine. REALLY.

“Don’t ask us what we’re thinking about unless you are prepared to discuss such topics as baseball or motor sports.

“You have enough clothes.

“You have too many shoes.

“I *am* in shape. Round IS a shape!

“Thank you for reading this. Yes, I know, I have to sleep on the couch tonight. But did you know men really don’t mind that? It’s like camping.”

Then there’s this yarn from **Glenn**:

“A judge was interviewing a woman regarding her pending divorce. He asked, ‘What are the grounds for your divorce?’

“She replied, ‘About four acres and a nice little home in the middle of the property with a stream running by.’

“‘No,’ he said, ‘I mean what is the foundation of this case?’

“‘It is made of concrete, brick and mortar,’ she responded.

“‘I mean,’ he continued, ‘what are your relations like?’

“‘I have an aunt and uncle living here in town, and so do my husband’s parents.’

“He said, ‘Do you have a real grudge?’

“‘No,’ she replied, ‘we have a two-car carport and have never really needed one.’

“‘Please,’ he tried again, ‘is there any infidelity in your marriage?’

“‘Yes, both my son and daughter have stereo sets. We don’t necessarily like the music, but the answer to your question is yes.’

“‘Ma’am, does your husband ever beat you up?’

“‘Yes,’ she responded, ‘about twice a week he gets up earlier than I do.’

“Finally, in frustration, the judge asked, ‘Lady, why do you want a divorce?’

“‘Oh, I don’t want a divorce,’ she replied. ‘I’ve never wanted a divorce. My husband does. He said he can’t communicate with me.’”

Briefly, next, from **CharlesC**:

“A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.”

And finally, yes, this from **Ned Ludd** really does fit the category:

“A 16-year-old boy came home with a new Chevrolet Avalanche and his parents began to yell and scream, ‘Where did you get that truck?!’ He calmly told them, ‘I bought it today.’

“‘With what money?’ demanded his parents. They knew what a Chevrolet Avalanche cost.

“‘Well,’ said the boy, ‘this one cost me just \$15.’ So the parents began to yell even louder: ‘Who would sell a truck like that for \$15?’

“‘It was the lady up the street,’ said the boy. ‘I don’t know her name—they just moved in. She saw me ride past on my bike and asked me if I wanted to buy a Chevrolet Avalanche for \$15.’

“‘Oh my goodness!’ moaned the mother. ‘She must be a child abuser. Who knows what she will do next? John, you go right up there and see what’s going on.’ So the boy’s father walked up the street to the house where the lady lived and found her out in the yard calmly planting petunias. He introduced himself as the father of the boy to whom she had sold a new Chevrolet Avalanche for \$15 and demanded to know why she did it.

“‘Well,’ she said, ‘this morning I got a phone call from my husband. I thought he was on a business trip, but learned from a friend he had run off to Hawaii with his mistress and really doesn’t intend to come back. He claimed he was stranded and needed cash, and asked me to sell his new Chevrolet Avalanche and send him the money.

“So I did.”

Share your dispatches from the gender wars, or just your favorite funnies. Send to diary@desertexposure.com.

You’re only as old as you feel... Stick with this longish yarn from the **Silver City Greek**—it’s worth it:

“‘\$5.37!’ That’s what the kid behind the counter at Taco Bell said to me. I dug into my pocket and pulled out some lint and two dimes and something that used to be a Jolly Rancher. Having already handed the kid a five-spot, I started to head back out to the truck to grab some change when the kid with the Elmo hairdo said the hardest thing anyone has ever said to me. He said, ‘It’s OK. I’ll just give you the senior-citizen discount.’

“I turned to see who he was talking to and then heard the sound of change hitting the counter in front of me. ‘Only \$4.68,’ he said cheerfully.

“I stood there stupefied. I am 63, not even beginning to get old yet! A mere child! *Senior citizen*? I took my burrito and walked out to the truck wondering what was wrong with Elmo. Was he blind?

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Postcards from the edge... Our second reader photo comes from **Janet Wolfe** of Deming, “holding up the world in front of the library of the Collin College Campus in Plano, Texas. Since the world is so large, it takes a great deal of responsibility and effort to hold it up. I was there for my son’s graduation—with three associate degrees in computer science plus being cum laude—from Collin College.”

Whether you’re hitting the beach or celebrating hitting the books, snap a picture of yourself holding a copy of your favorite publication (ahem, that would be *Desert Exposure*) and send it to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or diary@desertexposure.com.

“As I sat in the truck, my blood began to boil. *Old? Me? I’ll show him*, I thought. I opened the door and headed back inside. I strode to the counter, and there he was waiting with a smile. Before I could say a word, he held up something and jingled it in front of me, like I could be that easily distracted! What am I now? A toddler?

“Dude! Can’t get too far without your car keys, eh?”

“I stared with utter disdain at the keys. I began to rationalize in my mind: *Leaving keys behind hardly makes a man elderly! It could happen to anyone!*

“I turned and headed back to the truck. I slipped the key into the ignition, but it wouldn’t turn. What now? I checked my keys and tried another. Still nothing.

“That’s when I noticed the purple beads hanging from my rear-view mirror. I had no purple beads hanging from my rear-view mirror. Then, a few other objects came into focus: The car seat in the back seat. Happy Meal toys spread all over the floorboard. A partially eaten doughnut on the dashboard.

“Faster than you can say *ginkgo biloba*, I flew out of the alien vehicle. Moments later I was speeding out of the parking lot, relieved to finally be leaving this nightmarish stop in my life.

“That is when I felt it, deep in the bowels of my stomach: hunger! My stomach growled and churned, and I reached to grab my burrito, only it was nowhere to be found.

“I swung the truck around, gathered my courage, and strode back into the restaurant one final time. There Elmo stood, draped in youth and black nail polish. All I could think was, ‘What is the world coming to?’ All I could say was, ‘Did I leave my food and drink in here?’ At this point I was ready to ask a Boy Scout to help me back to my vehicle, and then go straight home and apply for Social Security benefits.

“Elmo had no clue. I walked back out to the truck, and suddenly a young lad came up and tugged on my jeans to get my attention. He was holding up a drink and a bag. His mother explained, ‘I think you left this in my truck by mistake.’ I took the food and drink from the little boy and sheepishly apologized.

“She offered these kind words: ‘It’s OK. My grandfather does stuff like this all the time.’

“All of this is to explain how I got a ticket doing 85 in a 40-mph zone. Yes, I was racing some punk kid in a Toyota Prius. And no, I told the officer, I’m not too old to be driving this fast.

“As I walked in the front door, my wife met me halfway down the hall. I handed her a bag of cold food and a \$300 speeding ticket. I promptly sat in my

rocking chair and covered up my legs with a blanket. The good news was that I had successfully found my way home.”

Kids say the darnedest things... Skip this one from **Pop** if you’re easily offended. But you’ll be sorry:

“A teacher was using Life Saver candy to teach colors to her young class. The students began to identify the flavors by their color:

“Red = Cherry

“Yellow = Lemon

“Green = Lime

“Orange = Orange.

“Finally, the teacher gave them all a Honey Life Saver. None of the children could identify the taste. The teacher said, ‘I will give you all a clue. It’s what your mother may sometimes call your father.’

“One little girl looked up in horror, spat her Life Saver out and yelled, ‘Spit them out! They’re ass-holes!’”

Scandihoovian style... This one, also just a little, er, edgy, was shared by **The Santa Claran**, who says she is married to a Swede:

“Late one night, a pregnant Lena woke Ole and said, ‘I tink it’s time!’ So Ole fired up the John Deere tractor and took her to the hospital to have their first baby. She had a little boy, and the doctor looked over at Ole and said, ‘A son! Ain’t dat great!’ Well, Ole got excited by this, but just then the doctor spoke up and said, ‘Hold on! We ain’t finished yet!’ The doctor held up a little girl: ‘Hey, Ole! You got you a daughter! She’s a pretty little ting, too.’

“Ole got kind of puzzled by this, and then the doctor said, ‘Holey moley, Ole, we still ain’t done yet!’ The doctor then delivered another boy. Ole was flabbergasted by this news!

“A couple of days later, Ole brought Lena and their three children home in the self-propelled combine. He was real serious and he asked Lena, ‘How come we got t’ree on the first try?’

“Lena said, ‘You remember dat night we ran out of Vaseline and you vent out in the garage and got dat dere 3-in-1 Oil?’

“Ole said, ‘Yeah, I do. Uffda! It’s a dam good ting I didn’t get the WD-40!’”

Pondering the imponderable... Finally, some deep thoughts courtesy of **GeraldH**:

“Why isn’t the number 11 pronounced onety-one?

“If four out of five people SUFFER from diarrhea, does that mean that one out of five enjoys it?

“Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren’t they just stale bread to begin with?

“If people from Poland are called Poles, then why aren’t people from Holland called Holes?

“If a pig loses its voice, is it ‘disgruntled’?

“Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a racecar is not called a racist?

“If it’s true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

“If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, then doesn’t it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

“If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?

“Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?

“What hair color do they put on the driver’s licenses of bald men?

“I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks, so I wondered what do Chinese mothers use? Toothpicks?

“Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to them? Why don’t they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen can look for them while they deliver the mail?” ❀

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





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Wild Anniversaries

The Gila River Festival makes a splash for its 10th anniversary, Sept. 18-21.

Once in a while you just have to go a little wild, and this is one of those times. The “call of the wild” seems to be hard-wired into each of us, whether we acknowledge it or not. Fortunately, Americans have plenty of healthy, invigorating places where we can go wild—our nation’s officially designated wilderness areas. In 2014, we commemorate two momentous wilderness milestones: the Wilderness Act’s 50th anniversary and the Gila Wilderness Area’s 90th anniversary.

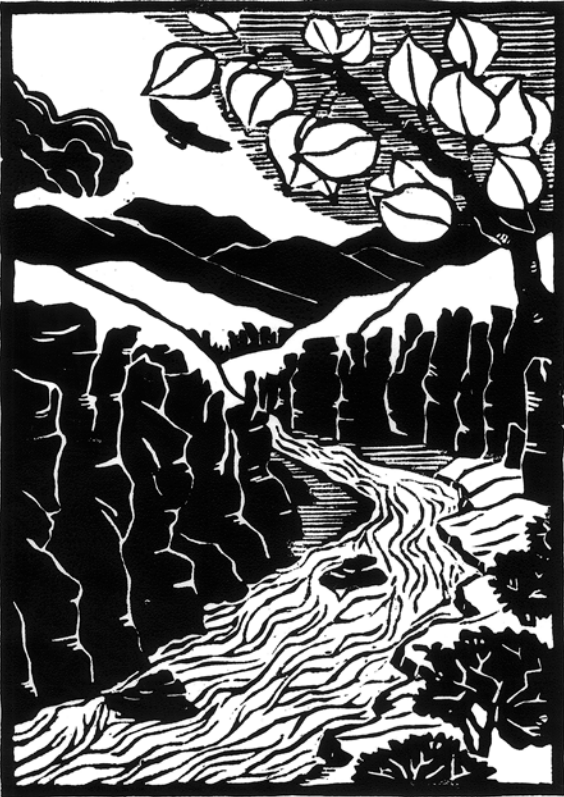
It’s also the 10th anniversary of the Gila River Festival, which will be held Sept. 18-21 in Silver City and surrounding areas, with the theme, “Celebrating America’s First Wilderness River.” Many of our nation’s greatest rivers have been dammed, diverted, or otherwise altered for economic benefit. Yet our free-flowing Gila River has survived multiple attempts to dam, divert and constrain its flow.

The protection of wilderness areas isn’t just a fortuitous happenstance. These areas are the fruits of the foresight and perseverance of many visionaries, such as Aldo Leopold, for whom Silver City’s public charter school is named. Leopold came to the Southwest in 1909 to begin his career with the Forest Service. Initially an enthusiastic proponent of logging, grazing and other extractive uses of the Gila National Forest, in just a few years Leopold witnessed much forest degradation.

When Leopold first conceived the idea of permanently protecting wilderness, he determined that there were six roadless areas in the Southwest of 500,000 acres or more that qualified as wilderness. By 1920, the headwaters of the Gila River in New Mexico was the only large, wild, unroaded place left; the other five were already given over to development. In 1924, Leopold’s last wild place in the Gila National Forest, now known as the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas, was designated as the nation’s—indeed, the world’s—first officially protected wilderness area. Leopold wisely said, “[Wilderness] will be much easier and cheaper to preserve, by forethought... than to create it after it is gone.”

Since this designation was administrative only, wilderness advocates feared it could be reversed by a future Forest Service chief or president. The Wilderness Society, under Bob Marshall and then Howard Zahniser, helped shape the Forest Service’s policies on wilderness designation and management and pressed for the passage of the Wilderness Act. Zahniser believed that “we have a profound fundamental need for areas of the earth where we stand without our mechanisms that make us immediate masters over our environment.” President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law on Sept. 3, 1964.

Wilderness designation is the highest form of protection for public land, and must be approved by an



10th anniversary poster, woodcut by Phillip Parotti.

act of Congress. No roads, vehicles or permanent structures are allowed in wilderness, and activities such as logging or mining are prohibited. Wilderness areas provide habitat for wildlife and imperiled species, filter and clean our air, protect watersheds that provide us with clean drinking water, boost local economies with tourism and recreation dollars, and give us outstanding places to recreate and to escape the stresses of the modern, noisy world.

The Gila River’s headwaters arise in the Gila Wilderness, so the Gila is truly the nation’s first wilderness river. But the Gila River currently does not have the protections afforded by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Wilderness Act’s “sister” legislation. In fact, the nation’s first designated Wild and Scenic River is not the Gila, but the Rio Grande.

The four-day Gila River Festival will feature many events about wilderness and wilderness rivers. (Talks are at the WNMU Global Resource Center except as noted.) The keynote speaker is New Mexico native son Dave Foreman, who knows a thing or two about wilderness (Thursday, 7 p.m.). While living in southwest New Mexico in the 1970s, Foreman helped fight the battle against decreasing the acreage of the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas, which was ultimately won by an unlikely alliance of ranchers, old-timers and conservationists. Foreman worked for the Wilderness Society, following in the footsteps of Marshall and Zahn-



Life in a state of nature: Readers continue to share their snapshots of the critters they see in our “Southwest zoo.” **Judy Murphy** writes of her roadrunner picture: “I had just refilled the bird seed and finch seed when this little gentleman showed up for dinner. We had seen a pair walk down the street, but this was the first time he had visited the yard.”

And **Dennis Lane** shares this photo of a Mexican spotted owl: “While hiking

in the Gila this spring, I came upon the most beautiful and somewhat rare owl we have in the Gila. They are often heard but rarely seen. It was actively hunting in the early morning when I saw it; they normally hunt in the dead of night. What a thrill!”

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



iser. He eventually became disillusioned with the compromises of national environmental organizations, and co-founded the group Earth First! Always compelling, sometimes controversial, Dave Foreman attracted a standing-room-only crowd at the 2009 Gila River Festival.

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, appropriately enough, will participate in festival events about wilderness. Executive Director Mark Allison will give a presentation on the concept of wilderness rivers (Friday, 1 p.m.), and Gila Grassroots Organizer Nathan Newcomer will speak to the potential for greater forest protections in the upcoming Gila National Forest plan revisions (Friday, 2:15 p.m.). Newcomer will lead a hike into the Gila Middle Box, a stunning stretch of the river (Saturday, 8 a.m., Silver City Visitors' Center); if you prefer an armchair wilderness experience, be sure to catch his virtual tour of the Gila (Thursday, noon, Silver City Museum Annex).

Historian Stephen Fox's presentation on the history and personalities behind the Wilderness Act (Friday, 11 a.m.) will be complemented by a Wilderness Film Festival (Saturday, 1 p.m., WNMU Parotti Theater). Guggenheim fellow Michael Berman will give a presentation at a McCray Gallery opening of his new Gila River photos, to be followed by outdoor multi-media projections by Peter Bill and his film students (Friday, 5-9 p.m.).

WNMU Professor Emeritus Dale Zimmerman will give a presentation on hummingbirds of the Gila (Thursday, 9:45 a.m.), and ornithologist Mike Fugagli

will talk about how a river diversion may affect Gila Valley bird diversity and populations (Thursday, 11 a.m.). For a graphic picture of the effects of a river diversion, a field trip will lead participants to potential diversion points and show how a pipeline will bisect the pastoral valley and the Mogollon Box Campground (Friday, 8:30 a.m., Visitors' Center).

As always, the festival will host guided hikes, presentations, a Monsoon Puppet Theater parade, an art walk, a Gila River bus tour, a kayak trip, and a Sunday brunch. A Gala for the Gila features live music by the Roadrunners and custom Gila River libations by Little Toad Creek Brewery (Saturday, 8 p.m., Little Toad Creek downtown).

Native American elder Grandfather Golden Eagle, Indigenous Grandmother Flordemayo and native New Mexican Brett Myrick will lead the creation of a sacred water wheel at the Gila River. At the close of the festival on Sunday, "eco-nun" Sister Joan Brown will guide an interfaith blessing of the river and the water wheel. (Meet at Visitors' Center at 1 p.m. to carpool or at Mogollon Box Campground at 1:45 p.m.)


Go wild at the festival, and help protect the Gila, New Mexico's last wild river. 🌿

For registration, full schedule and more info, visit gilaconservation.org.
Donna Stevens is director of the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance. Dutch Salmon is chairman of the Gila Conservation Coalition.

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. Immigration concerns pop back up, along with the hoped-for Tesla factory. Don't look now, though, but mentions of Susana Martinez and the 2016 GOP ticket are on the rise, too (40 hits, #16).

1. (4) **New Mexico + immigration**—275 hits (▲)
2. (1) **Virgin Galactic**—271 hits (▲)
3. (2) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—231 hits (▼)
4. (3) **New Mexico drought**—230 hits (▲)
5. (7) **New Mexico + Border Patrol**—144 hits (▲)
6. (5) **Sen. Tom Udall**—130 hits (▼)
7. (10) **New Mexico monsoon**—120 hits (▲)
8. (9) **Gubernatorial candidate Gary King**—106 hits (▲)
9. (-) **New Mexico + Tesla**—99 hits (▲)
10. (8) **Sen. Martin Heinrich**—94 hits (▼)



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SOUTHWEST GARDENER • VIVIAN SAVITT

With Fronds Like These...

Venerating palms in a Las Cruces garden.

A palmetto palm and crescent moon, emblazoned in white on a field of blue, proclaim the South Carolina flag's affinity for *Arecaceae*, the palm family. Since the flag's symbolism alludes to minarets and Mecca as well, unfurling the banner above the rooftop in these parts is not advisable—least a cabal of ISIS recruits quit the Black Range for your front porch.

For South Carolinians, however, the flag commemorates an important event of the American Revolutionary War: a fort on Sullivan's Island near Charleston withstood the whomp of British cannonballs due to “the spongy nature” of palmetto trunks laid over the structure's sand walls.

For me, everything about palms is a blast, including their products—from dates, coconuts and açai juice to raffia, rattan and the cane on old chairs. And who cannot love their shapes, evoking both solitude and adventure?

Sadly, the only semblance of a palm growing at Ditch Cottage is a sago—not a palm at all, but a cycad. Because it has frond-like leaves and grows larger every summer on the patio, I cherish the plant as a palm facsimile.

A few blocks from my place, however, are two healthy Chinese windmill palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) that I have observed for years growing against a wall on the south side of a shady garden.

At Fort Bayard, two 25-foot-tall California fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*) grow at the steam plant.

Although these few “palmiers” are better than none, I still long—like Cleopatra—to linger in a palm grove.

So what do I do when I'm feeling palmy? Drive to Las Cruces with its Numero 8 growing zone—specifically to Jeff Anderson's newest garden of palms, cacti, native plants and other delights in the historic Alameda Train Depot neighborhood near downtown.

Anderson, the Doña Ana County extension agricultural agent for agronomy and horticulture, has held this position for six years. His previous garden with its southern facade of mostly cacti was a case

Drought-hardy, but exotic, species like red Erythrina (below, front) and Bamboo muhly (*Muhlenbergia dumosa*, below right) add dash and texture to the landscape.



Jeff Anderson's gardening style: dense, colorful mixtures of trees and plants—including native species—arranged to achieve a tropical look. (Photo by Jeffrey L. Anderson)

study of an evolved gardener's plant palette. Located in the same neighborhood, but on a smaller lot, it was featured in this column back in May 2009.



In the back yard, Anderson installed a 1,550-gallon capacity water cachment tank to aid the garden's irrigation needs. (Photos by Vivian Savitt)

The new garden on a quarter-acre of land showcases 125 palms—more than a doubling of frond friends that now surround the Mediterranean-style house. Simply put, Anderson venerates palms, but not to the exclusion of many other unique tree species that perform well in his area.

Before the garden got underway, the lot was tree-bare and weed-ridden. Essential home remodeling projects—including a new roof and windows for the 1940 structure—postponed gardening for a full year.

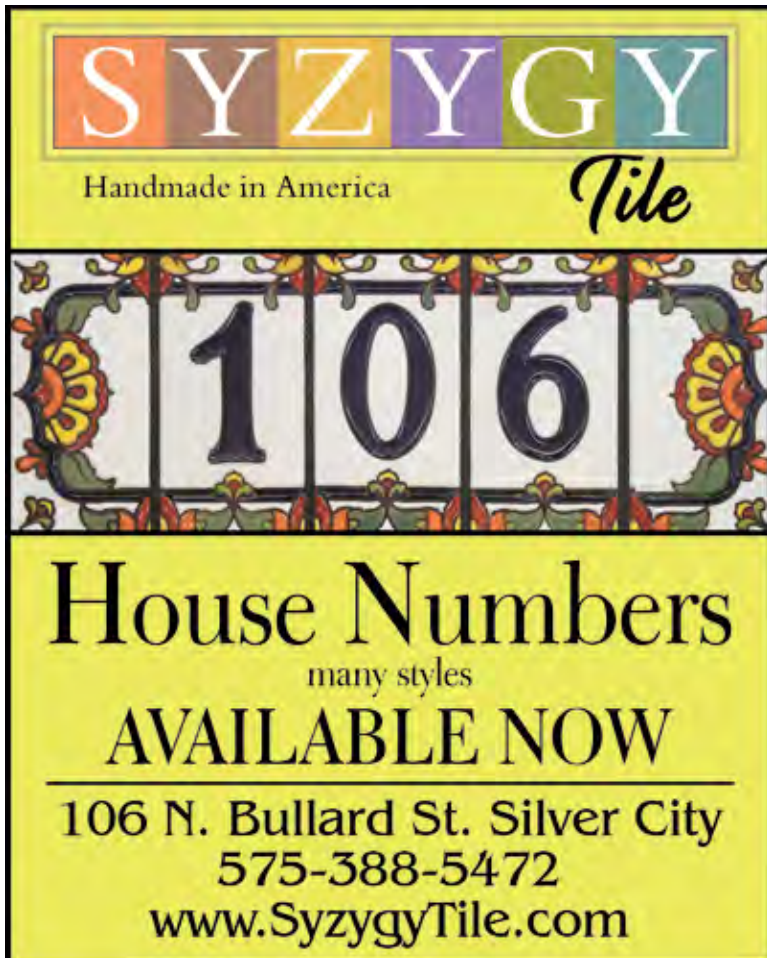
Nonetheless, Anderson planted one early tree purchase—a five-foot Montezuma cypress, the national tree of Mexico. Now the cypress, planted in 2010, is 15 feet high and grows near the street edge.

“It's a fast-growing, long-lived tree that enjoys the run-off from the water ponding area in my north-facing front yard,” Anderson says. “There are no power lines in the way so it has room to flourish. The eventual shade canopy—plus having two water conservation systems on site—will help keep the utility bills low.”

Although many palm species in Anderson's garden are slow-growing, they will create shady groves in a few more years. The largest species include both California and Mexican fan palms. The Chilean wine palm that Anderson grew from seed is now one foot tall with a two-inch-diameter trunk.

The medium-sized specimens comprise Chinese





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The Mystery of the Red Ants

Following the long red line.

Last night I was on an early evening hike around my property, when suddenly I came upon a long, wide path of red ants on the move. They were coming from an adjacent draw in a swarm that was six inches wide and as far as I could see in both directions, and the ants were going both ways!

Since they were right on the fence line, I couldn't immediately determine whether they were coming or going from my place. I decided to follow the long red line.

They headed through brush, under a clump or two of bear grass, up a steep bank, and under a shagbark juniper before ending in a pile of juniper duff.

I either found the head of the column or they were disappearing down a hole that was to be their new home. Why had they suddenly left their old home? Had they been driven out by ant invaders? Did the ant queens have a squabble and one decided to leave, taking all of her followers with her?

About half, the ones heading for the hole, were carrying what appeared to be tiny white eggs, and there musta been a hundred thousand of the tiny critters.

This particular colony of ants was uniform in color—a light, bright red-orange that appeared almost opaque. They were also uniform in size, being between 1/8 and 1/4 inch in length. And that was about all I could tell in the fading light.

The next morning, before sunrise, I was out and up to the spot; the ant-line was gone. I again returned in the early afternoon armed with a magnifying glass to try and get a good "look-see." I went to where I thought their den hole was located in the duff, but I couldn't find a single ant in the heat of the day.

Now, having red ants on my mind, I trekked on over to an established red ant hill 100 yards away, which had been on the property before I was there. This species is about double the size of the "new" ones, and they are darker red (maroon) with a lighter red abdomen. They are extremely busy in both the early morning and late evening, but not so much during the day.

But that mound seemed deserted, too; I even stomped on the hill trying to arouse them to no avail. I will say that in the nine years that I have passed by this colony, they have never seemed agitated at my presence, even when I stood right over them. In fact, they appear to be highly docile for their "suspected" species (more on that later).

So far as I know, and I've been all over my property, there are only three varieties of red ants here. To be sure, there are a bunch of other ant species here, but I'm concerned with red ants for now, and what their potential for harm is.

I remember, early on, when I had first moved to New Mexico, and I was servicing a customer who lived on the outskirts of Lordsburg (I owned a carpet-cleaning business). It was a warm and sunny, pleasant day, and as I finished with a piece of equipment, I put it on the driveway to be cleaned when I was totally finished.

I began cleaning the equipment, when all of a sudden I felt a red-hot bite, then many more upon my legs, arms and torso! I looked down and to my hor-

ror, my equipment and the pavement were covered in tiny, bright-red ants! They were swarming my sneakers and jeans, too. They all were about 1/8 inch in length. Fire ants! Evidently, they had a home in the crack of the concrete.

Boy, did my lady customer laugh at my predicament, offering not a whit of help. I couldn't drop my jeans in her presence, so I endured, until I cleared off my arms and torso. I had her leave so I could clear the ants from my legs and used water from a hose to clear the equipment and pavement.

Now I wondered if my "new ants" were the dreaded fire ants? In the cool of the eve, I ventured back to the tree, armed with my trusty magnifier. They were out in numbers but incredibly, their color had now changed; now their thorax was a darker red-brown and their abdomen was still the same bright red-orange with just a hint of creaminess or opaqueness.

I then ventured over to the old mound and subjected them to the scrutiny of the "glass." Their head and thorax was a deep maroon and their abdomen was red. I also have two other ant hills of ants the same variety as these.

My question was: Are any of these the dreaded imported fire ant, or are they New Mexico's own native fire ant that has also been known to swarm and attack both humans and pets?

So I went to the web. I soon learned that the imported variety is the number-one topic on the Internet when I punched up "red ants in New Mexico." A description and pictures soon swept away my fears that these were the fiercer imported ants. Imported fire ants are red with a brown abdomen—the opposite of mine.

With that out of the way, my next question was: What are these native varieties? I obviously have three. Could they impose a risk? Now the waters became very murky.

First of all, there are some 240 species of known ant species in New Mexico! Concerning the red ones, I could learn very little, and I could never identify "mine."

I did learn that red ants in our state have "functional" stingers. Some varieties do bite, but they do so to hold on while they sting their foe or prey!

Harvester ants can be red, but they can also be other colors, and they attack their victims with a painful, venomous sting, while biting, too! They can be as dangerous as fire ants and the colony will swarm if disturbed.

A further study seems to indicate that my new colony may very well be harvester ants; the colors are right.

I'm still not sure what the larger varieties are. Since I first began this research, another new colony of reds has appeared right smack dab on my hiking trail. They appear to be much like my original colony (maroon head and thorax) but a smaller size like the new colony. Confused yet? I am!

Now to the heart of this column: I've explained all of this because I need help in knowing what I've got. I'm appealing to you "antemologists" to write in and tell me what you think these species are, and if they indeed are harmful. Are they beneficial? I'd appreciate the help!

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



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Silver City/Grant County

The exhibit “Wilderness: Michael Berman, Anthony Howell and James Hemphill” continues at the **Silver City Museum**, with an opportunity to meet the artists on Sept. 20, 11 a.m.-noon. The show of photographs complements the “Gila Wild” exhibition currently showing at the museum. Each photographer journeys deep into the landscape with a unique focus on the sublime nature of the awe-inspiring and complex southwest wilderness.

Berman was honored with the Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts New Mexico-Individual Artist of 2012 and a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2008. Hemphill says of his time in the Gila, “I was in the burn area of the Gila Wilderness fires and hiked more than 200 miles there. It was a surreal project and the experience will stick with me the rest of my life.” Howell’s large-format photographs include early Mimbres rock panels containing numerous anthropomorphic figures and zoomorphic imagery. The exhibit continues through November. 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

The grand re-opening of **The Raven’s Nest** in its new location at the corner of Broadway and Bullard will be Saturday, Sept. 13. **Molly Ramolla Gallery** and **Hang-Em High Picture Framing** are also in their new location, 203 N. Bullard St.

Copper Quail Gallery will showcase works by Phoebe Lawrence, “For the Love of Clay,” Sept.



“Forest Fog” by James Hemphill, part of the “Wilderness” exhibit at the Silver City Museum.

9-Oct.8, with a reception on Sept. 14. 211A N. Texas at Yankie, 388-2646.

Leyba & Ingalls Arts will be featuring works inspired by the Gila River, by Patrick Rogers, Paul Hotvedt and Phillip Parotti, Sept. 18-21 during the Gila River Festival. 315 N. Bullard, 388-5725, www.LeybaIngallsARTS.com.

Lois Duffy Studio will also be celebrating the river fest, Sept. 19-21, with works by Duffy as well as photos by Ann McMahon. 211c N. Texas, 313-9631, www.loisduffy.com.

The **Wherehouse** at 305 S. Texas is now open Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., with shared studio spaces (“SSS305”).

The **Common Thread** fiber-arts gallery will hold a seasonal sale starting Sept. 27. 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.

ARTS EXPOSURE continued on next page



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For the LOVE OF CLAY
by
phoebe Lawrence
SEPT. 9 – OCT. 8
Visit with the Artist
SUNDAY, SEPT. 14
Copper Quail Gallery
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Open Tues-Sun 11-4

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Pickamania! sponsors: Lawley Toyota | WNMU | J&J Signs
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Oct. 17, 2014, 7:30 pm
In partnership with WNMU and the GCCCA, the LCSO returns featuring violinist Lindsay Deutsch.
WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre
\$20 Adults | \$15 Members | \$5 Students
Group pricing (10+) \$10 each

INDIE / FOLK SERIES

David Francey
Oct. 18, 2014, 7:30 pm
Buckhorn Opera House - Pinos Altos
\$20 Non-Members | \$15 Members
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United Country Mimbres Realty

RED DOT ART WEEKEND
Silver City New Mexico
OCT 11-12-13, 2014

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Complete Schedule and Maps available at:
www.silvercityart.com

Silver City ART Association
Paid for by Silver City Lodgers Tax

Donna Foley

Kathryn Allen



Is coming back to
Yankie and Texas
Reopening
October 1, 2014

“While
I was
Waiting...”

by Cece Stanford

Artist's Reception
October 10
4-7pm

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20% off

Blue Dome Gallery 307 N. Texas, Silver City

New Mexico Artists Support Wounded Warriors

Black Range Artists of Southern New Mexico
announce a premier fine art show benefitting the
Wounded Warrior Project

October 11th through 12th
Saturday 10 to 5 and Sunday 10 to 4
Special Events Center 2300 Pine Street
Deming

Artists will converge on Deming October 9-12th to paint in the area
between Deming and Silver City, show their works and compete
at the Deming Special Events Center.

Raffles • Silent Auctions • Live Music
• Robert (Shoofly) Shufelt • Amado Pena

For more information:
www.blackrangeart.com

Deming is
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RED DOT ART October 11-13, 2014
Art Weekend 214 W. Yankie St. • Silver City
seedboatgallery.com

ARTS EXPOSURE continued

The Grant County Art Guild's 29th Annual Purchase Prize Award Exhibit opens to the public with an artist reception at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 23, at the Pinos Altos Art Gallery. This juried show is open to all New Mexico artists and this year has had 65 entries accepted. The Guild's Pinos Altos Art Gallery will be hung with all of the paintings and the winning ribbons awarded by the time of the reception. The exhibit awards a \$1,500 purchase price to the “Best in Show” winner with an additional \$900 in prize money for other winning entries.

The judge for this year's show is Mick Davidson from Tucson, an impressionist painter, schooled in the Russian tradition. Davidson will be offering a three-day workshop in Silver City on painting in all media on Sept. 24-26. For more information call 534-2899.

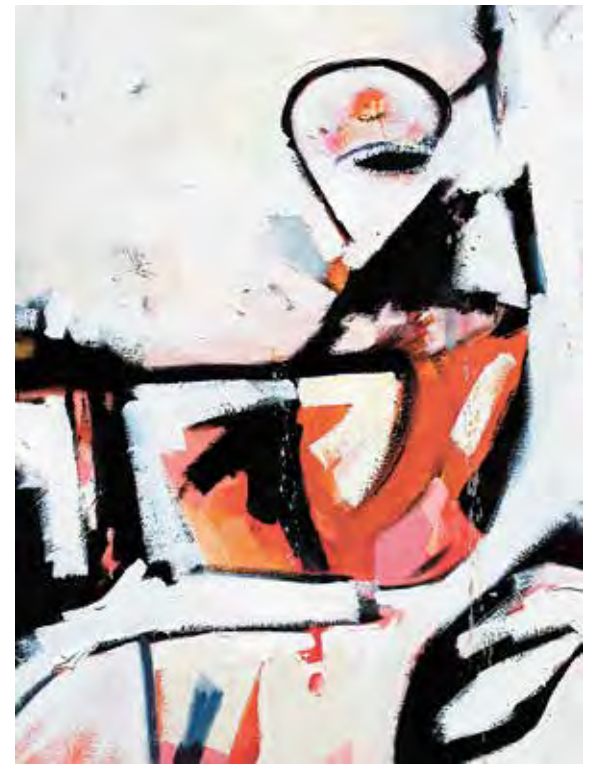
The annual Purchase Prize Award Exhibit is the finale of the Grant County Art Guild's season at their gallery located in the historic Hearst Church. The gallery is open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and major holidays through Oct. 5. The Purchase Prize Exhibit, following the reception on Sept. 23, will be open the following two extended weekends.

Blue Dome Gallery's return to downtown Silver City is set for Oct. 1, with a new show of works by Cece Stanford, “While I Was Waiting....” An artist's reception will be held Oct. 10, 4-7 p.m. 307 N. Texas.

La Esperanza Vineyard & Winery in the Mimbres will host its second annual Art and Wine Extravaganza on Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Royal John Mine Road, (505) 259-9523, www.laesperanzavineyardandwinery.com.

Las Cruces & Mesilla

The NMSU University Art Gallery presents “Off the Wall,” an exhibition inspired by the minimal wall drawings and sculptures of Sol LeWitt, on view through Dec. 6. This two-part exhibition will both trace the history of LeWitt's relationship with NMSU, as well as show the extent of his influence on a new generation of artists who use the surface of the wall as their canvas. Artists, assistants and students have begun a public installation process, creating works constructed directly onto the gallery walls. Part performance, part exploration into practice and exhibition design, this group show will create a conversation revealing the intricate actions



Raul Dorn's exhibit of new work opens at Unsettled Gallery on Saturday, Sept. 6.

employed when creating a minimal art work.

In addition to the work of LeWitt, “Off the Wall” features the work of Allie Rex, Judith Braun, Christie Blizzard and Nathan Green—four contemporary artists from across the country who've traded traditional supportive mediums such as the canvas, panel and paper for the challenge of working directly on the wall.

Related upcoming events include: “Off the Wall Banner Project” official opening reception, Sept. 11, 5 p.m.; Marisa Sage gallery talk, Sept. 11, 6 p.m.; Veronica Roberts gallery talk, Sept. 25, 6 p.m.; Nathan Green gallery talk, Oct. 23, 6 p.m.; Nathan Green artist workshop, Oct. 24, 12 p.m.; Plaque and Restoration reception and Silvia Marinas gallery talk, Nov. 6, 5 p.m. D.W. Williams Hall, University Avenue and Solano Drive, 646-2545, uag.nmsu.edu.

The Las Cruces Museum of Art continues to show “Art from Science,” an exhibition of digital imagery by Leigh Anne Langwell and Patrick Nagatani, through Oct. 11. Langwell received her Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of New Mexico in 1998 and, in a very varied career, worked as a medical photographer, imaging technologist and graphic artist. On display are her diverse creations including digital mosaics of micro landscapes and pieces exploring cosmology. Nagatani is a retired professor emeritus in the University of New Mexico's Department of Art and Art History. The artist exhibits three bodies of work, each informed by science: the US military's nuclear program, archeology, and uses of radiation in medicine. 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, www.cruces.org/museums.

The Mesquite Art Gallery welcomes Deming artist Brian Pottorff, beginning Sept. 4, with a reception Sept. 6, 4-6 p.m. The show runs through Sept. 27. Newly retired from teaching math, Pottorff has shown sculpture in juried exhibits in Page, Flagstaff, El Paso and Las Cruces since 1995. In more recent years he moved toward flat art, he says, as befits a man less able to wield pieces weighing hundreds of



Work by Kathy Rogers will be featured in an exhibit marking the grand opening of the Las Cruces Arts Association's new Main Street location in the Community Enterprise Center.

Yankie/Texas ART DISTRICT

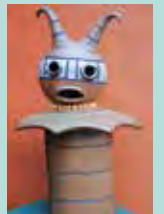
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Lois Duffy Art
211C N. Texas
313-9631



Copper Quail Gallery
211A N. Texas
388-2646



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Sat. Lunch: 11am-2:30pm.
Sun. Breakfast: 8am-2pm.
Weekdays: 11am-2:30pm.



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www.fourdirectionsweaving.com



Artesanos Gallery
211B N. Texas
519-0804



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www.ramollaart.com



Seedboat Gallery
214 W. Yankie
534-1136
Wed-Sat 11am-5pm or by appt.

pounds. 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502.

LCAA Gallery on Main presents “Art on Easels,” part of the Friday, Sept. 5, Downtown Ramble, from 5-7 p.m. The exhibit marks the grand opening of the Las Cruces Arts Association’s new Main Street location in the Community Enterprise Center, next to the Main Street Bistro. 125 N. Main St.

The **Plein Air Artists** are displaying their work in the El Paso Electric Gallery at the Rio Grande Theatre, with a reception Sept. 5, 5-7 p.m.

At the **Branigan Cultural Center**, Jimmy Fike will lead visitors through his art, philosophy and technique in a special discussion at the opening of “J.W. Fike’s Photographic Survey of the Wild Edible Botanicals of the North American Continent” on Sept. 5 at 5 p.m., followed by a reception until 7 p.m. The collection of photographs highlighting the edible parts of wild plants demonstrates Fike’s interest in documenting local and sustainable food sources, while referencing the rich artistic history of scientific illustration. 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

Raul Dorn’s exhibit of new work opens at **Unsettled Gallery** on Saturday, Sept. 6, with an artist’s reception from 4-6 p.m. The body of work presented in Dorn’s exhibit, “am/pm,” developed during a period in which the artist initiated a major life change. Dorn, a teacher of secondary studio art, decided to retire. “Teaching,” Dorn says, “had been at the core of my identity.” As the



“Canyon Cottonwoods” by Melody Sears, who will be part of the Black Range Artists show in Deming in October.

process unwound, he experienced the highs of anticipating freedom from the structure of daily classroom activities and anxiety from not fully knowing what comes next. Dorn will also be featured in a Performance Reading on Saturday, Sept. 20, 6-7 p.m. 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285, www.unsettledgallery.com.

Works by Lisa Cavallera, “Sniffin’ Glue,” will be featured at **Rokoko Gallery** with an opening Sept. 13, 4-6 p.m. The main medium Cavallera uses is indeed glue—hence the title. The show runs through Sept. 27. 1785 Avenida de Mercado.

The **Tombaugh Gallery** will present “Soul of Silk,” an exhibition of silk art and wearables by Las Cruces artist Judy Licht. The show opens Sunday, Sept. 14, with a reception and artist’s demonstration from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., and closes Oct. 24. Licht draws her inspiration from the natural world, and is especially interested in the contrast between the harshness of the desert and the softness of the silk. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Dr., 522-7281.

Deming

The **Black Range Artists of Southern New Mexico** has announced additional artists participating in its multimedia fine art show to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project and homeless veterans. The show will be held Oct. 11-12 at the Mimbres Valley Event Center, 2300 E. Pine St., although plain air artists will begin arriving and painting throughout the region about Oct. 9.

Newly announced artists include: Tomi LaPierre of Las Cruces, who works with bronze sculpture and is qualified in forensic facial reconstruction; Cherie Gamboa, a Las Cruces copper artist who works with different gauges of sheet copper and wire while incorporating other metals, leather, feathers, rocks, beads and other elements; Greta Burger, who works with glass casting and metal; and Hillsboro pastel artist Melody Sears. 546-4650, blackrangeart.com.

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

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Saturday, Oct 26, 9 am to 5 pm

New Email address: katebrownmimbres@gmail.com 575 536 9935



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Visit www.swwordfiesta.org for full information on all Prologue events!

PROLOGUE WEEKEND EVENTS

Thursday-Saturday, October 2-4, 2014

Reflections of an Artist

Landscape and Language: A Poet's Artist

Thursday, October 2, 2014, 6:00pm

WNMU Global Resource Center

Open to the Public at no charge

Co-sponsored by Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL)

Poet Denise Low discusses how cultural and structural geology, painters, other poets, and her own cultural heritage influenced her to write her recent collection of poetry, *Mélange Block* (Red Mountain Press)



Former Kansas Poet Laureate, award winning author of twelve books of poetry, professor of creative writing, fifth generation Kansan of mixed British Isles, German, Delaware (Lenape and Munsee) and Cherokee heritage, and co-owner of Mammoth Publications specializing in Indigenous American and Great Plains poetry and literary fiction.

Visit Denise’s website: www.deniselow.net

The Scalpel and the Thread: a Master Workshop for Writers

A 2-part writing circle with focus on craft

With **Mary Sojourner**, novelist

(www.breakthroughwriting.net)

Using five pages of your own written work

- Learn the beauty of taking the scalpel to your words and
- Rediscover how to weave threads of color back into your writing

Saturday, October 4, 2014 9:00am-3:00pm

In the cool heights of Pinos Altos, NM, 7 miles north of Silver City

\$95/participant

Space is limited to 10 participants. Reserve your place early.

info@swwordfiesta.org or 520-850-0014

Soup to Nuts: From First Draft to Publishable Poetry

A Workshop for Poets of all Levels

With **Denise Low**, former Kansas Poet Laureate

(www.deniselow.net)

Using a one-page sample of your writing

- Learn how to go from draft, to revision, to readiness for a journal editor’s sharp eyes.
- Learn what to beware of when seeking publication of your work

Saturday, October 4, 2014 9:00am-2:00pm

In downtown Silver City

\$75/participant

Reserve your place: info@swwordfiesta.org or 575-313-3172

Speed Date with a Publisher

- Prepare a five-minute summary of your book project and pitch it to Denise Low, co-publisher of Mammoth Publications and formerly with Cottonwood Review Press.
- Get an on-the-spot response to the proposal and the pitch, with suggestions for improvement.

Saturday, October 4, 2014 3:30pm-5:00pm

In downtown Silver City

\$25 for 15 minutes

Reserve your place: info@swwordfiesta.org or 575-313-3172

An Evening with the Stars

Readings and signings by poet **Denise Low** and novelist **Mary Sojourner** with Silver City Poet Laureate **Elise Stuart**

Saturday, October 4, 2014, 7:00pm

614 N. Bullard, Silver City NM

Open to the Public at no charge



Mary Sojourner, author of fiction, nonfiction and essays, and a former NPR contributor, will read from her new novel, 29 (Torrey House Press 2014).



Denise Low, former Kansas Poet Laureate, author of twelve books of poetry, and co-publisher of Mammoth Publications will read from her book *Mélange Block* (Red Mountain Press) and other works.



Elise Stuart, Silver City’s Poet Laureate, will read from her latest poetry and also announce the formation of a Grant County chapter of the New Mexico Poetry Society.

Join us for book signings and refreshments following the readings.

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MASTER GOURD ARTIST

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Silver City, NM

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and

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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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. 1-7 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.

FOUR DIRECTIONS WEAVING, 108 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.

GALLERY 400, Gila House, 400 N. Arizona, 313-7015. Tues.-Sat., 1-6 p.m. www.gilahouse.com.

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

HOWELL DESIGN & GALLERY, 200 W. Market St., 388.2993. www.anthony-howell.com.

JEFF KUHN'S POTTERY, 3029 Pinos Altos Road, 534-9389. By appointment.

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

LOIS DeLONG STUDIO, 2309 Paul Place, 388-4759. By appointment.

LOIS DUFFY 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.

LLOYD STUDIOS, 306 W. Broadway, (303) 378-0926. Weds-Sat. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 12-5 p.m. lloydstudios.com.

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.

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

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

SUSAN SZAJER STUDIO, Sanctuary

Road, 313-7197 By appointment.

TATIANA MARIA GALLERY, 305 & 307 N. Bullard St., 388-4426.

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URSA MINOR, 303 N. Texas St. "The little blue box of eccentricities."

VIBRATIONS GALLERY, 108 W. Yankie St., 654-4384, starxr@usa.net.

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

WIND CANYON STUDIO, 11 Quail Run off Hwy. 180 mile marker 107, 574-2308, (619) 933-8034. Louise Sackett. Mon., Weds. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and by appointment.

WYNNEGATE GALLERY & STUDIO, 110 W. Yankie St., (214) 957-3688. Mon., Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 11:45 a.m.-4 p.m., Tues.-Wed. by appointment.

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

ZOE'S GALLERY, 305 N. Cooper St., 654-4910.

Tyrone

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

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

Pinos Altos

HEARST CHURCH GALLERY, Gold St., 574-2831. Open late-April to early-October. Fri., Sat., Sun. and holidays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mimbres

CHAMOMILE CONNECTION, 3918 Highway 35N, 536-9845. Lynnae McConaha. By appointment.

COTTAGE STAINED GLASS & MORE, Cedar Lane off Hwy. 35, 536-3234. Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 2-5 p.m.

KATE BROWN POTTERY AND TILE, HC 15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.

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

REESE-BENTON ARTS, 3811 Hwy. 35, 536-9487. By appointment.

Bayard

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

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

Hanover

FIERRO CANYON GALLERY, 4 Hermosa St., 537-3262, www.fierrocanyongallery.com. Thurs.-Mon. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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

Hurley

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

Cliff

GILA RIVER ARTISANS GALLERY, 8409 Hwy. 180. Eclectic collection of local artists. Fri.-Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Northern Grant County & Catron County

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CASITAS DE GILA, 50 Casita Flats Road, Gila, 535-4455. Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. or by appointment. galleryatcasitasdegila.com, www.galleryatthecasitas.com.

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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Becoming More Than a Rider

Three things that make the difference.

I can still remember the moment I decided to try to become a horseman and not just a rider. It was early one mid-summer evening. I was relaxing in the bunkhouse at Reis Ranch, having a beer and reading Ray Hunt's book. I was about midway through the three month Horseman's program with Dennis Reis, and I was already getting pretty tired after six weeks of intense mental and physical work. It was a quiet night as the other two students in the program were gone.

Suddenly, there was a lot of noise and commotion coming from the arena area. I figured one of the horses on the property, maybe even my own, had escaped and was having a good old time. I threw on some clothes, grabbed a halter and lead rope and headed out to investigate.

I was surprised to see Dennis in the round pen with one of his new horses, a green gelding out of one of the PMU factories. He had just picked up three new horses, aptly named Small, Medium and Large until better names could be found. It was Large in the round pen. Given the exhausting day we'd had, I was amazed Dennis had the energy to do anything with a horse.

I sat down to watch Dennis work, noticing Dennis' girlfriend (now wife) standing up by the house, dressed for an evening out that I guessed wasn't going to happen. I could tell Dennis was only trying to get a couple of the most simple, basic yields from the horse. The "conversation" with Large went on for more than two hours, and resulted in a fair amount of damage to the three-quarter-inch plywood walls on the round pen.

What really hit me that night was watching a master horseman stay in the moment for such an extended period of time. He never raised his voice; in fact he barely said anything at all. He never hit the horse, nor did he ever reach a level of pressure that might force the horse to climb out of the pen. There was no frustration at the lack of progress. His body language was calm, confident and very clear, and you knew he would stay at this until he got at least a good try at the desired result. He was teaching, not trying to dominate. The horse was giving him nothing but drama, but when that moment of understanding happened, everything was turned off. A perfectly timed release of all pressure on a good try and the end of work. No attempt at asking for more.

This is when I "got it." I offered Dennis a beer and we talked for awhile. I learned three things that night, and from that point on I understood the difference between a horseman and a rider, and why it's so hard to bridge that gap.

First, you have a responsibility to build a foundation in a horse that prepares him for learning what you need him to know. I've heard it put another way—you have to teach the horse to be teachable. You have to do this in a way that he understands, at his pace and in a way that works with his particular personality. From there you can go in any direction you want with your riding interests, but skipping this first step or cutting corners in the interest of time or your schedule will certainly lead to issues down the line.

Second, this was the day I saw that "feel" is probably the most challenging thing to learn, and it may trump all other factors when working with horses. I love the saying that "information is not knowledge," often used as a criticism of the fast-paced but shallow depth of the Internet age. In the horse world, you might say, "information is not feel." Many people with horses have lots of information and opinions. They may know many techniques. They may be confident and fearless. But if they don't have that elusive feel, they may never really be able to communicate with their horses. That evening I could see "feel" is what allowed Dennis to maintain focus with precise movements and clear communication even in a dangerous situation.

Third, I realized you can make an enormous change in the quality of your horsemanship by just changing the words you use to describe horse behavior. We're a verbal species, and words can get us

to shift our perspectives. There are a lot of phrases, descriptions and clichés thrown around the barn every day, and almost every one of them paints horse behavior in human terms. It's hard enough to accept blame or responsibility in our daily lives, and we certainly don't like to do it when it comes to animals, where we feel we are the superior and dominant species. Let's face it: It's easier to rationalize our horse's behavior and our responses to it if we look at things with human values and motivations. Accepting that horse behavior or performance is more likely a reaction to something you're doing rather than some plan or thought process on the horse's part is hard for us, and can make any horse owner feel depressed or like a failure.

This last point probably causes more problems for people and their horses than just about anything else. If you've been around horses, you've heard all the comments. Some of my personal favorites: The horse needs a job; my horse only likes the trail (or the arena); my horse doesn't like me; my horse bites (kicks, moves, etc.) because of something he's mad about; my horse doesn't like (or is afraid of) something; my horse hates men. The list is endless, but with a common thread: The horse is thinking, acting and planning with rational thought like a human.

Let's look at one of these "horse truths"—the horse needs a job—one I heard almost daily about my own horse early on. Horses haven't evolved much in terms of basic needs and the way their bodies work. They would prefer to eat all day, walking 10 miles or more to do it. They would rather "rest than work"—not because they're lazy but because they're prey animals that need to conserve energy to escape a predator (also, because they're still programmed to add weight and calories during spring and summer so they can survive a winter). On their own, they spend only 1% of their time moving above a walk—that's just 15 minutes every 24 hours.

Nothing in that profile says a horse is looking for a job or work. Just the opposite. Put your horse out on hundreds of acres of pasture with a herd, then stand at the gate with your saddle and bridle and see if your horse comes running looking for a nice long ride or job with lots of trotting and cantering. No treats or coffee cans full of grain as rewards for coming to see you allowed. You'll be standing by yourself for a long time because your horse is not some unemployed adult or idle teenager on summer break who needs a job for self esteem or to keep out of trouble. Those are our values, not his.

The horse that doesn't do well in the arena isn't saying he doesn't like it. More likely, you haven't put the effort in to learn how to ride in an arena and how to make it interesting for him. The horse that gets nervous outside the arena is probably saying that he doesn't trust your leadership and that you're nervous in the saddle. The confused or resistant horse is not dumb or stubborn (a quality that simply doesn't exist in his world), but is saying your techniques for teaching are simply not working for his personality type and the way he learns. The horse that bites you is not saying he doesn't like you, but is saying there are circumstances in his life that cause him to express himself in this way.

Each of these examples has a human viewpoint and a horse's perspective. For the horse, all he ever does is react to the world we've created for him, in the only ways he knows how. The more you try to see this—a view far less complicated and emotional than yours—the closer you'll come to moving beyond just riding. 🌱

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



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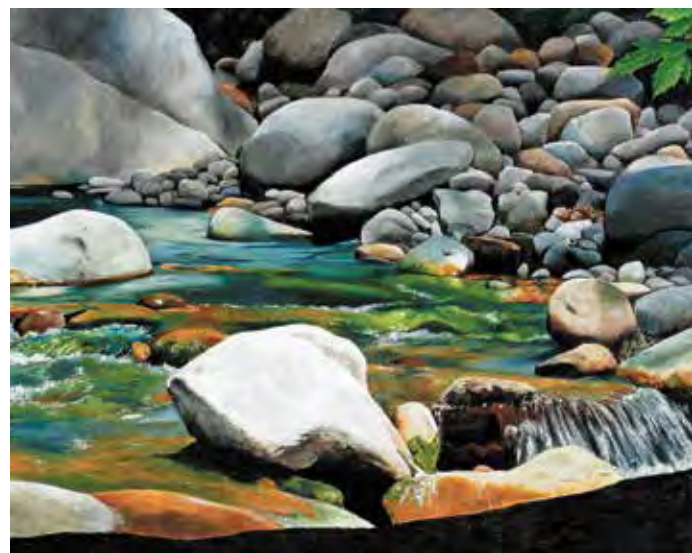


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We're proud to present the winners in our annual writing contest, which range from rollicking short fiction to meditative poetry. This year's Grand Prize Winner, a short story by Tom Hester, stood out for its arch and accurate capturing of certain elements of our favorite small Southwestern town. Hester managed much the same word wizardry with a different set of locals in a story that was a finalist in last year's contest, "A Point of View." This time, his story combines that observer's eye with what some might call a mystery...

2014 WRITING CONTEST • TOM HESTER

Josephine Lives!

Gold digging is lonesome. The finding part, if you're not careful, changes a person for the worse.



Josephine, the titular burro of our winning story, probably looks a lot like "Donkey Xote," shown here on a hike on the Continental Divide Trail. He is an adopted BLM burro who came to the Barbara and Tom Gorzycki home in Silver City 2003 for \$75. (Photo by Barbara Gorzycki, www.frumpyfox.com)

A late morning in June a couple of years ago, Bob tied his burro Josephine to the fire hydrant outside the coffeehouse on the corner of Bullard and Broadway. The sun warmed Josephine and glinted off the dinged prospector's pan dangling from the pack frame. Traffic did not slow. Silver City traffic does not slow for the sight of a loaded burro and a bearded, tobacco-stained miner dressed in dirty jeans, rotting work boots and crumpled felt hat. The "Harvard Athletic Department" T-shirt was clean. For that, had they seen it, drivers might have braked.

Josephine's soulful eyes narrowed to a mean slit when she tugged against the halter and tried to nip a fly from her right flank.

"Stay here a while, Josie," Bob said. He talked to the burro as a man accustomed to speaking only to burros. He untied a backpack from the frame and started toward the street corner where steps led to the sidewalk, almost level with Josephine's belly.

A crowd had gathered to watch the old man and his burro. Some of the coffeehouse loungers on benches facing Bullard slouched forward. They were men made prematurely arthritic, first by booze and tobacco and then by years of sprawl and slump. Their heeler hounds nudged toward the edge of the curb to sniff. Josephine's coat steamed the complexity coffeehouse dogs love to smell. As though conducted by a choral director, the loungers sang out a single soprano note, "wwoooooEE," and then collapsed back onto their chairs and benches.

Two couples had come out of the coffeehouse to investigate Josephine's mournful, hiccupping heehaw.

The older couple expressed amazement. The younger couple, amusement.

"Have you seen this donkey before?" the older man asked the lanky, college-age man next to him.

"Naw, man. New to me."

The older man stepped closer to the burro. His albino right leg, spindly and hairless, was inches away from Josephine's nose.

"I'd be careful there, sir," the younger woman said. She could see that the burro was contemplating a bite.

"John," the older woman said. She spoke the name with a mother's tone, command steeling care.

"Oh, right," John said as he jumped back. John was clearly a person of proper order. That morning he had asked Constance to iron the khaki shorts to

go with a seafoam-green polo shirt. The shorts had knife-sharp pleats.

"You like my Josephine?" the old miner growled at the four at the edge of the sidewalk. They were poking visually through the packframe contents. Rusting skillet. Rock hammer. Chipped enamel tin cup.

"Cool, Gabby," the younger man said.

"Yes, your donkey looks pretty much like the real thing," John said.

"Well, she's a burro, not a mule, not a donkey. And if you pinch her, she's real enough to kick the living...," the prospector's voice trailed off. He lived by the code of the Old West in which the fairer sex need not hear the coarse language of the mining camp.

"Follow me inside, I got something for you," the miner ordered. The couples turned from Josephine and did as Bob directed.

The coffeehouse's shadows cooled the noonday light in a space so high and wide that any sound seemed to curve before reaching an ear. John and Constance, who rented a cottage on Pinos Altos Street during the first long vacation of their lives, sometimes spent half-days in the place, reading historical romances or peeking at other customers, listening to the sssssssssWWWWHuuh of the espresso machine. From the moment they saw the shabby sofas and scattered, scarred tables with people to match and as soon as they used the toilet, mounted like a throne in a 19th-century nook, these tourists from a town near Carbondale, Illinois, knew they had found the heart of southwestern New Mexico.

The prospector tossed his pack on the table near the front. The dirt-stained bag struck the wood as if Bob had brought down a sledge.

"I'm John Coburn," John said to the miner, whose wrinkles and creases looked milder than they had in the day's glare.

"Bob," the miner said. He shook hands with the men. Both John and the young man felt the calluses and the muscles in the grip. "Some call me Gold Bug Bob." Bob glanced at the faces ranged around the table.

"Have you been doing this long, Bob?" John said. John was anxious to have each person's occupation, bona fides and particulars accounted for.

"This'?" asked Bob.

"This mining thing. Looking for gold."

"I came to Pinos Altos, New Mexico, in '88. Broken down. My wife had left me. My arbitrager deals were pickled in martinis. So I drive west from Connecticut towards no place in particular. And I climb out of my Mercedes, breathe in the desert air and feel freedom brush me like a fox's tail, and yeah, in a half-minute I know I should have been doing this all my life."

Bob said the last words looking at Constance. Desire swam in his blue eyes. He arched his shaggy right eyebrow, the size of a woolly caterpillar. It twitched. He peered at Constance. She suddenly realized that Bob wanted to stroke her right cheek, to run a rough thumb over her soft skin. His voice had lowered an octave, into a caress: "Don't you ever think that you should just go in search of what life is all about?"

Constance smiled through a blush and stumbled back toward the young woman who stood apart from the others. Constance stammered, "I... I... I." Embarrassed, she turned to the young woman and said, "I am Constance Coburn. John and I are tourists here from southern Illinois."

"Hi. I'm Debbie."

"Ohh," Constance crooned. "My daughter's Deborah. She's about your age, too." Constance wrung her hands and then pushed them straight down against her khaki shorts, splaying her fingers across her thighs.

Debbie said nothing but turned her attention to the men. John, who had witnessed but not understood the flirting eyebrow, was asking Bob what bank he had worked for and whether now he was working with anyone else.

"Gold digging is lonesome," Bob said.

"Why's that?" John pressed.

"The digging and sluicing parts give no problem. It'd be good to have a hundred fellas help out. But the finding part, if you're not careful, changes a person for the worse when others are about." A squint and tensing jaw muscles turned Bob's scowl into a threat. He chewed on a brown edge of his moustache.

"That's why," Bob continued as he grabbed the pack and pulled open the flap, "I'm giving you folks this." The old man shook the pack; rocks and leather pouches tumbled onto the table.

More than one of 10 or 12 rocks the size of a woman's hand had lacey extrusions of metal, giving the effect of Spanish combs. Other stones glistened black, as though they held secrets. Bob's hands trembled as he pulled at the thongs closing a pouch. He poured golden powder and pebbles out on the table, forming a small mound.

"It's all yours," Bob said.

The four said nothing for a moment or two. Then John objected. He asked if the rocks and the powder and the pebbles were gold. Bob said they were. John said there must be hundreds of dollars of gold there. Bob said thousands, probably.

The young man, who was called Kevin or Kev, said that Gold Bug was really "J. Beresford Tipton." Kevin was a media major with a deep thirst for 1950s television. His infatuation for "The Millionaire" (on which Tipton had been the title character) and "Paladin" combined with incessant playing of Dark Souls and Crysis videogames. This love of wading in the shallows pushed Debbie to plan for a split when she went to grad school, though Kev had not picked up her clues.

"You just can't give total strangers thousands of dollars' worth of gold," John said. His voice had risen and at least one person in the coffeehouse turned toward the group to catch the drama. A gaunt, stiff customer, who sipped a mug of latte while reading Darnton's essay on a massacre of cats in medieval France, tried to decipher the commotion. Other customers scarcely glanced up from their laptop or tablet screens.

"I just did give you thousands of dollars of gold, mister," said Bob. "I'll leave you the pack so's you can carry the gold home." In Bob's farewell Kevin caught a trace of Jimmy Stewart with a heavy dose of Henry Fonda. Without another gesture, the miner shuffled out the door. In the stillness of the room Debbie smelled sweat, cigar stench and camp smoke swirling about the place where Bob had stood. A reflected shaft of light glinted from facets of a rock on the table. The two couples could hear Bob talk to Josephine as he unknotted her tether.

"Well, that was certainly a surprise," Constance said. "Tell me, Debbie, did he... Did Bob affect you?"

Debbie didn't answer. She leaned over the table to open three other leather pouches.

"All of them have the same gold dust and nuggets," Debbie announced. "There must be thousands of dollars here!" Debbie held her head between her hands and rotated it as she sang the last sentence. It was a dance of delight that a three-year-old girl would make.

"Well, we've got to decide what to do," said John. He had fished a credit card from his wallet and was scooping the golden powder back into a pouch.

"How do you mean?" Debbie said. "Just divide the rocks and bags among the four of us." Debbie's sharp voice cut through the murmurs of the room and the whir of the compressor for the cold drink cabinet.

"We don't have any idea what these rocks and dust are truly worth. We need to have them appraised and then we can sell the entire lot and divide appropriately." John spoke with an even, authoritative accountant's voice, the one used to warn a business owner that she should watch her inventory or a middle-aged client that a 401(k) is a necessary tax write-off.

Debbie nodded at John's little speech. Kevin was hefting a piece of ore, marveling that something so small could be so heavy. Constance was thinking about Bob's eyes.

John retrieved Kevin from his apartment on B Street the day after the four had returned from Tucson’s premier gold dealer, a hairy, wheezing man whose belly shortened his tie. He reminded Debbie of someone who had once sold her a used Torino, though he did not chew on a matchstick like the car salesman. But he was an expert, and he used words like “rare, museum-quality specimen” to convince them that he wasn’t short-changing the value of their lode.

After the dealer announced an amount that caused Debbie to suck in a breath and after they emerged from the arctic of the dealer’s shop into Tucson’s mid-June furnace, the four could not stop thinking about the gold that lifted them out of day-to-day life into the realm of a consumer’s paradise. It really wasn’t a lot of money compared to a year’s income, at least for the Coburns. But because the gold money came without any warning or work, it could be spent extravagantly. Gleaming cars, with initials like LXX and SLE, parked at random angles in their minds. They wandered through a mental kitchen with quartz countertops and a refrigerator the size of a boxcar.

When John had steered his beige 2006 Buick into a stopping place on B Street, he looked down at his lap. His shorts were blotched with taco sauce. Coming home they had ordered a meal from a Benson, Arizona, drive-in, and this morning with schemes and stratagems swirling in his brain, he had neglected to put on fresh clothes. Nevertheless, John felt new. After the trip, he and Constance had talked into the night, as they had not done in 30 years, and instead of rewarming cold regrets, the Coburns two-stepped into the future. At an instant, seized by the joy of being with a partner for a new enterprise, John had held Constance’s face, pinching her cheeks softly. He had kissed her as a lover might.

On I-10, returning from Tucson, the men perched in the Buick’s front seats, giggling and running bragging riffs on their dreams, while the women were cocooned behind. The car’s air conditioner circulated rich odors of well-worn taco grease. Two checks lay on Constance’s lap and her eyes swung from the desert stretching outside her window to the zeroes on the checks. She was thinking about her life, about

her children, about John. Before they reached the Dragoon Mountains, she was describing to Debbie daughter Deborah’s troubled marriage. Tears coursed down Constance’s face and puddled in foundation makeup along her jaw as she described son-in-law Ron, taking over his father’s auto parts store and knowing the parts catalog better than he knew Deborah. Small-town tedium and narrow-mindedness had infiltrated their lives and made brittle their bond.

And the Coburns’ troubles were more than just Deborah and her kids. Constance and John had gone on vacation to Silver City so he could have some time to take a fresh look at things. Ten years before, John had accepted as partner a younger man, a really brilliant accountant, who just announced that if John didn’t sell out, he himself would leave. He had the three largest accounts in their town and now he was taking away the whole firm.

The Coburns had sacrificed to build the business, to make sure that Deborah and her brother Peter had a solid footing. But it was all eroding. Peter lived in Boston and never called. Didn’t even come home at Christmas. And Deborah, always nearby, a mom with two lovely children, was announcing that she was moving to Santa Cruz. No job. No house. Just an unused degree in elementary education and a wild-hair idea that she could stroll some sunset-flooded beach in California.

Debbie comforted the older woman and whispered that maybe the gold money would smooth things out.

Debbie’s suggestion was John’s conviction, and that was why he and Kevin were circling Silver City streets, looking for Josephine.

“Think about it, Kev,” John said when they dropped them off the night before. “We got this much money from Bob. That means there’s more and we should help him find it. But first we got to find him.” John’s argument made sense to Kevin, though memories of *The Treasure of Sierra Madre* worried him a bit.

The Buick nosed down Kelly. John had to scrape the curb in meeting a soft-drink truck.

“Keep an eye out for that mule!” John demanded.

“Burro,” Kev said.

“Whatever.”

John swung the car in a boat-like swath onto Cooper and back around on Broadway. Several blocks to the east, he caught sight of a flash, as from the bottom of a gold wash pan. He floored the gas. The Buick shot, so to speak, through the stop sign at the city museum and was bouncing to a stop at the Bullard traffic signal, when Kevin, twisting in his seat and almost standing to look out the left, back window, shouted, “I think I saw Josephine up that street!” Kevin was pointing over John’s left shoulder.

John wrenched the Buick first right, almost crashing into the cars parked in front of the town hall, and then sharply left in a great arc across Broadway. A westbound Ford 150 fishtailed to a stop as the Buick, reeling as though drunk from ethanol, bounded north up Texas Street.

Sure enough. Way up Texas, toward the top of a hill, John could see the swishing of a burro’s tail and the crown of a filthy fedora. John stomped on the accelerator, almost taking the side off a debris container from the renovation of Silver City’s newest downtown hotel.

“Hey, man, I think we’re going the wrong way on a one-way!” Kevin shouted over the screaming engine.

John strained forward. His knuckles were translucent on the steering wheel. Two tourists from Missouri, gently descending Texas Street in their van, caught sight of the charging Buick a block away, swerving and dodging like a carnival bumper car; the two tourists from Missouri, for the first time in their lives, jumped a curb and drove 10 feet along a sidewalk. Silver City pedestrians were missing from the sidewalk, though one Missourian would supply several in telling about their trip.

“Just watch for the donkey!” John shouted.

“Burro,” said Kev. Terror blanched Kevin’s face.

“Burro, smurro!” John screamed.

Officer Gregory Carrasco, the siren of his patrol car wailing and its lights a crazed kaleidoscope, finally overtook the panting Buick at the Episcopal church.

Bob’s hands trembled as he pulled at the thongs closing a pouch. He poured golden powder and pebbles out on the table, forming a small mound.

JOSEPHINE continued on next page

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JOSEPHINE continued

He had radioed for help while still on Broadway, and as the leaping beige car dodged oncoming traffic on Texas, Officer Chuck McEwan used his patrol car to wall off Texas above College Street, thinking that an airborne Buick, soaring over the summit of Gospel Hill, could never stop in time without a barrier.

When Carrasco took the muttering driver into custody, all he heard was something about a donkey. Carrasco suspected that there had been an habanero intoxication, judging from the taco-sauce stains. The passenger, a university student, couldn't add an explanation; he just wanted to talk about Steve McQueen and San Francisco.

Early November that year brought leaden skies and a rare drizzle. Sea of Cortez moisture had lost its warmth in a Canadian blast. The Coburns discovered the disadvantages of a snap-down canvas cabin for their canary yellow Jeep: air leaked from every possible direction and the vehicle's heater strained to keep them chilly. Bought with the proceeds from a sold partnership in an accounting firm, the Jeep within the first week had shaken loose all good reasons for buying it.

"We're glad we brought our winter coats from home," Constance shouted at Kevin and Maxie, shivering on the back seat. Not only did the canvas fail to keep out cold, it collected and amplified road noise so that Kevin and his new girlfriend just saw Constance's mouth move without hearing actual words.

The night before, John had called Kevin to say that they were back in Silver City and after two days of hard sleuthing he had gotten on the track of Bob. At the time of the call Kevin was in the midst of playing King's Blade. That was where he had met Maxie in September. Maxie was a lady-in-waiting to the Queen in King's Blade and Kev was a knave. He had reached Purple Knight status before a disastrous session in which the Dark Knight from the Kingdom of Quire had emasculated him in a surprise joust. Mortimer the knave had to spend his accumulated gold coins to purchase a magic herbal cure for impotency from the king's physician. In real life, Maxie was a general education sophomore from Portales. Both she and Kev preferred King's Blade to real life.

Kevin hoped that Maxie's presence would prevent Constance from asking questions about Debbie and their break-up. He was bewildered to learn that Constance seemed to have expected the end of the relationship and that she made only one passing reference to paying for graduate school at the University of Texas, Austin. During the only phone call from Illinois, Debbie hadn't told the Coburns that after taking out a semester's tuition for Western New Mexico University, Kevin had given the rest of his gold money to her as she struggled with carry-ons while boarding at the El Paso Airport. She probably would have gotten around to sharing that information, but the call had been full of accounts of Deborah's finding work in a suburban school district outside Chicago.

Kevin did have to reassure John that when they came upon Bob, the gold from the deal would be split three ways, not four. Maxie was just along for the ride.

"When I first talked to some old-timers up here," John shouted, as he whipped the Jeep through Pinos Altos, "they just looked at me like I was telling a joke or something. Then one old guy named Bert came clean and said that he had seen Gold Bug off the Toad Ridge trail last week. He even described the donkey to me."

"Burro. Josephine's a burro, John. How could you describe one burro and not describe them all?" said Kevin.

"He knew how Josephine's ears waggled around," said John.

Some miles north of Pinos Altos, John turned onto a dim National Forest track, trailing through the ponderosas to the west. The Jeep bucked and shivered as John forced it down an arroyo and along a rocky ridge. Maxie threw her arms around Kevin, as much to find warmth as to keep from being ricocheted against the seat in front of her.

The sun shone as a gray, mysterious disk seen through a sheet of mounded, gray clouds. When John

finally stopped the Jeep, where the path ceased before a wall of New Mexico olives, a curious light illuminated the landscape, as though the ground itself dimly glowed. All was shadow in the haze.

"It's a lot colder up here than down in Silver," Kevin said in the stillness.

"Sure is," agreed John. "Let's go see whether old Bert had it right." John and Constance opened the doors and jumped to the ground, which was wet from the mist that continued to blow across the mountain. The Coburns' breaths hung in the air as though the two were dolls losing vaporous stuffing.

John rounded the olive bushes and clambered up the scree of a sloping escarpment, 10 or 11 feet high. When he reached the top, he at once began yelling and running to the west, away from Constance, Kevin and Maxie, standing below. The three laggards were still trying to negotiate the slope when John, breathing heavily, returned and looked down on them.

"I saw Josephine," John said. "But she wouldn't stop. Bob must be right in front of her. Get a move on. We can catch them if you hurry."

"I'm freezing," Maxie said. She had removed her arms from the sleeves of her cotton sweater and was hugging her chest. The mist was smearing her mascara and eye shadow so that her face had taken on the sad leer of a macabre mask.

John took off his coat and tossed it to Maxie. "Wear my coat, but for God's sake, let's speed it up."

John turned and almost trotted up the ridge, with Constance not far behind. After Maxie struggled into John's parka, she and Kevin also began a fast walk.



GRAND PRIZE WINNER

The two behind heard but could not see John as the ascent moderated and the trail through the forest gained some definition.

Maxie laughed once at John's yelling. He was obviously trying to convince the burro to halt and the burro obviously was paying no attention.

Later, to rescue authorities, Kevin estimated that they had walked from two to two and a half miles, hearing John's echo-

ing calls. They heard Constance only once, though they several times caught a glimpse of her pink coat as she ran along the next cutback.

"She was older than my mother," said Maxie. "But she was moving a lot faster than me. She really wanted to catch that burro."

Kevin and Maxie had fallen behind when Maxie sprained her ankle, stumbling over a trunk of a dead tree. In the twilight rain had begun, and both decided to return to the Jeep, to wait for the Coburns.

Without a vehicle key, they lay on the horn, muffled in the dark damp, and at last attracted a forest employee as the clouds lifted and a morning sun stunned the world with golden rays.

The fact that law enforcement never found Bob, Josephine or the Coburns bothered Kevin some. The search and the suspicions had reminded him of some favorite noir movies, and in those movies nothing good ever happened to the guy under the naked light bulb, the last to see the missing alive, the fellow recipient of thousands of dollars even though his bank account is currently empty. According to the movies, Kev faced real problems.

The sheriff's deputies and then the detectives from the highway patrol interviewed, interrogated and grilled both Kevin and Maxie for almost a month.

It was Maxie who saved the situation, though. She, but not Kevin, reported hearing Constance laugh, up there in the cold forest, swathed in icy fog. That lone insistence, setting her off from her disconnected boyfriend, somehow gave her credibility with the police. She also didn't believe in Josephine. She thought the burro was a fantasy, and her sweet innocence and canny denial of the whole story of Gold Bug Bob and free gold eventually caused state investigators to concoct the theory of the mild-mannered accountant who flees to San Miguel de Allende, carrying millions defrauded from his clients back in the Midwest. ❧

Tom and Consuelo Hester came to Silver City from Arlington, Va., eight years ago. He retired from the Department of Justice, where he was the head of the editorial staff of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. He and Consuelo have one son.

PRESENTS

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This nonfiction winner stands out for bringing fresh eyes to the all-too-familiar struggles on the border, including the unprecedented numbers of migrant children that have made their way into the headlines since the author's visit.

2014 WRITING CONTEST • PAULINE HOVEY

Another World

A volunteer from Virginia experiences the disturbing reality of life on the border in El Paso and Juarez.



The author outside Las Americas. (Photos courtesy Pauline Hovey)

Since leaving my home in central Virginia to volunteer at the border town of El Paso with the School Sisters of St. Francis, I've been exposed to one disturbing reality after another. Kidnapping, torture, rape, gang recruitment and human trafficking—this is the plight of many who travel across the US/Mexico border. The stories of women and children get to me the most.

What brought me to this dusty, arid, desert landscape so contrary to the lush, hilly countryside of Virginia, where immigration reform has quietly faded from most people's circles of interest—if it ever found its way there in the first place?

Flashback to February 14, 2013. I'm standing outside an elongated, two-story brick building in downtown El Paso waiting for an unmarked door to open so my "border immersion" group can hear yet another presentation on the plight of immigrants. This "house of hospitality," known as Annunciation House, shelters undocumented immigrant families—the only facility in the area, maybe even the state, that allows families to stay together.

There's no sign on the door or building. But for the past 36 years, more than 125,000 migrants and refugees from over 40 countries have found their way here, mostly through word of mouth. Sister Fran Hicks, a Catholic nun with

the order of the School Sisters of St. Francis, brought us here as part of a border immersion trip she organizes to educate northerners like myself about the complex issues involved in immigration, clear up the myths and misinformation, and offer some heart-rending stories, up close and personal.

Our meeting with Ruben Garcia, the director of Annunciation House, is only one of the scheduled stops on this week-long trip packed with presentations from inspiring and tireless immigration advocates, educators, Border Patrol, and even the immigrants themselves. But listening to this impassioned humanitarian and social activist share the stories of torture, death squads and human-rights abuses of those who have walked through these doors—as well as their incredible faith and generosity—gets to me in a way nothing else has. I return home to Virginia unable to get this place, and the people, out of my heart. Months later, I apply to volunteer with Sr. Fran, who along with Sr. Kathy and Sr. Elsa, serves the Hispanic population through Casa Alexia—their ministry in El Paso.

With my limited knowledge of Spanish, I am limited in how much I can help Sisters Fran and Elsa at El Paso's colonias, where they serve the mostly Spanish-speaking residents. Instead I teach English at Centro Mujeres de la Esperanza,

tutor Hispanic residents studying for citizenship exams, help the Sisters wherever needed, and get a temporary gig writing and editing the quarterly newsletter for Las Americas—an immigrant advocacy group that, among other services, offers free legal help to asylum seekers.

Katie Hudak, executive director at Las Americas, and her staff and volunteers work countless hours interviewing people and gathering information to prepare their cases. My first day I'm given an orientation—a requirement for all volunteers. I view and listen to Katie's PowerPoint presentation on the harsh facts of life at the border: NAFTA's effect on Mexico's small farmers and the growing poverty; the random killings of Mexico's drug cartels that send entire families fleeing their homes, complete with pictures of relatives collapsed in tears over coffins holding the remains of their loved ones; the astonishingly low percentage of cases that are granted asylum in the US. One fact comes as a painful surprise to me—the high percentage of women who are raped crossing the border.

Since Katie gives me free rein to research and write on any topic related to immigration, I choose the plight of undocumented women. Immediately my research uncovers alarming statistics: As much as 80% to 90% of the women crossing through Mexico are raped on their journey. Usually the perpetrators are the smugglers, or *coyotes*, who take the women across; sometimes they are drug cartel members; sometimes they are one and the same. I discover that rape has become so prevalent among undocumented females crossing the border that in recent articles, some are calling it "the price of admission." Women are forewarned, especially if they will be traveling from Central America, that they can expect to be sexually abused along the way. Some women take birth control pills before they begin the journey. How difficult must their lives be, I wonder, to cause them to risk such personal violence.

Along with these statistics, disturbing images pop up on my computer screen: "Rape trees"—the name given to the tree that marks the spot where the women are raped, signified by the women's undergarments hanging on the branches. And these spectacles don't show up only on the Mexico side of the border. Through blogs and other social media, I discover that, along with Border Patrol agents, Southwest ranchers are reporting an increase of rape trees on their property. Another disturbing reality—the undergarments do not always belong to adult women. Some girls as young as 11 have been raped on their journey—a fact I confirm with a local social worker who meets with children in detention centers.

Children in detention centers. Yet another disturbing reality of immigration, as more and more unaccompanied minors, known by the federal government as "unaccompanied alien children," or UACs, pour across Mexico to migrate to the States. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement, between fiscal years 2004 and 2011, on average 6,800 UACs were detained at the US/Mexico border. That number rose to well over 24,000 in 2013. This year, some predicted the Department of Homeland Security would pick up at least 60,000 children at the border, with most of them traveling from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. (This was



Annunciation House—a house of hospitality for undocumented immigrants run entirely on donations.

written in April; by mid-2014, the number had already reached 57,000, creating headlines and political controversy. The magnitude of the situation has changed how these children are being handled.)

El Paso holds at least 250 unaccompanied minors in such centers, where local health care professionals, social workers, and spiritual counselors attempt to reassure the children as they listen to their stories, conduct intake, or prepare their cases for deportation proceedings. I have visited two of these centers: Southwest Key is a well-run, for-profit business that houses older children and teaches an accredited curriculum. The youths' days are completely structured, including the amount of time allotted for bathroom use. Southwest Key's director touts it as one of the best youth shelters available; it has been toured by the United Nations, and it serves as a model for other centers. Still, I can't help noticing the bars and the locks.

The second center is Lutheran Services Center, known as transitional foster care for younger unaccompanied children. Here children under 12 are assigned case workers who match them with short-term foster parents, trained with US government funding for this purpose. The foster parents bring the children into their homes every evening and weekend for an average of one or two months before the children are reunited with a parent or other relative in anticipation of their court case. Many will face deportation.

Conversations with the social workers, psychologists, volunteers and the Sisters lead me to another horrendous discovery—what the children endure to get here. For some, their parents who already live and work in the US have paid coyotes thousands of dollars, entrusting them into a stranger's care, to get them safely across the border and be reunited. But thousands of others have simply come on their own, leaving behind a "culture of fear and hopelessness" where violence prevails. Some have endured domestic violence or gang rape. Some speak of being tortured in Mexico. No one is waiting for these children on the other side of the border. No matter the circumstances; it's always a risk to come.

Border security is tight in El Paso, with high black fencing separating the city from Juarez and Border Patrol vehicles stationed about every 500 feet. Chances are those crossing will be apprehended, and it's likely they will suffer some abuse or trauma on

their journey here. But despite the odds, the children themselves tell us they will do whatever is necessary to get across the border.

In addition to their ministry at Casa Alexia in El Paso, the School Sisters of St. Francis have established a ministry in one of the poorest sections of Juarez, Mexico. Sr. Carol Jean, Sr. Arlene and Sr. Josefina—the latter being the only native



Confirmation students in Juarez play a game at the parish center.



of Mexico—venture across the border into El Paso at least weekly to run errands, shop for items they can't purchase in Mexico, and visit Casa Alexia. We become well acquainted and when they invite me to come stay with them for a few days and experience their ministry, I agree. Chalk it up to my curiosity to experience life "on the other side." Friends back in Virginia think I'm crazy. Even long-time residents of El Paso tell me they haven't been over the border in years. Some say they will pray for me. I begin to secretly question my decision, but my sense of adventure wins out.

The Sisters moved to Juarez in 2009—at the height of the violence. Thousands of innocent people were being killed, victims of random shootings or mistaken identity. (This still happens, but not to the degree it once did.) Downtown El Paso restaurants closed their doors. People stopped patronizing businesses on the border. Stray bullets shot over from Mexico, lodging into local establishments. Many people fled the country, transporting their belongings across the bridge into El Paso, while the Sisters headed in the opposite direction carting furniture and other possessions to their new home. To understand why, one would have to know these women and what they represent: their mission of love and selfless service.

Sisters Carol Jean, Arlene and Josefina have established a home in a large and very poor parish. They live on a pot-holed, dirt-laden street surrounded by crumbling stone, graffiti and very few trees. But entering their house feels like a clear vestige of peace and welcoming.

Once I settle in, Sr. Carol Jean hands me a scrapbook she's compiled of photos and newspaper articles of their five years in Juarez. The first page displays a newspaper photo of a young man lying on the street, his face and chest splattered with blood. On the facing page a dead man is splayed against a car seat. This was the Sisters' introduction to Juarez. I read the numbers of those who have been executed, the thousands of "forced disappearances." So many innocent people tortured, killed, gone, from university students at a party at the wrong place and the wrong time, to mothers shot down in front of government buildings while protesting the wrongful and



Sr. Josefina tends to her parakeets in the courtyard of the Sisters' home.

violent deaths of their sons. In 2012, 60,000 deaths were attributed to drug-related violence in Mexico.

As I read, it's hard to fathom the intense grief and rage this country of mourning parents must be holding. Some newspaper clippings show the Sisters marching alongside them in protests against the violence and the government's lack of response. The Sisters serve as a quiet but stalwart presence in this graffiti-ridden colonia, where anything not bolted down is subject to piracy. Even the church's locked parish center with barbed wire running atop its high fence doesn't keep the gang members from claiming their territory by scrawling their artwork on the buildings. No cars remain on the streets overnight.

Sr. Arlene works at the human rights center associated with the parish and on Saturday she wants to drive me there to show me the place. When we get into the car, she asks if I have my passport. "I'd hate to tell you what might happen," she says. In this city where no one trusts the police and lawlessness often goes unrestrained, I don't ask her any questions.

The human rights center initially started as a social outreach center 12 years ago. But as the violence escalated, along with the torture and forced disappearances, distraught relatives showed up desperate for help. It was clear the center needed to focus

solely on human rights abuses. Sr. Arlene chose to put herself in the middle of the action. Since the police are the ones doing the torturing, acquiring forced confessions on fabricated charges, working these cases can be risky, to say the least. In 2011 the federal police raided the center, busting doors and removing files. They claimed they were chasing drug dealers.

Sunday morning I accompany Sr. Carol Jean on her weekly visits to bring Communion to the homebound. Being invited into these one-room stone shacks puts a face on the term "dire poverty." No running water. Outhouses. Crumbling walls. Images of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Jesus don the walls. And yet the people are cheerful. Grateful. Accepting. Faith-filled. As we leave each household, I find myself taking away much more than I've given. And I wonder if I'll ever be able to explain it.

After three days, I return to El Paso, thankful to be back in a safe society, but filled from the experience. Within a couple of weeks I will return to Virginia—and a life that feels as though it truly is in another part of the world. ❧

Pauline Hovey is a freelance writer from central Virginia near the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. Months after her experiences in El Paso, she accepted an invitation to serve as a lay missionary and is currently in San Antonio, Texas, working with Hispanic mothers and children.

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2014 WRITING CONTEST • GORDON SOLBERG

The Gift Comes Full Circle

Sometimes when you cast your bread upon the waters, you don't have to wait long.

1. The Gift Goes Out

One cold January evening (Jan. 13, 1988, to be exact), my neighbor Bob Clark and I were up in the Truth or Consequences, NM, area moving some beehives. It's lonely in the desert at night. You can freeze to death out there if you're dumb enough. The winter stars are so close, they glue themselves to your eyelids. Coyotes cry inside your skin and won't let you go. Our bodies picked up on these subliminal vibrations as we loaded the hives into the truck during the last fading rays of twilight, and now even the lull of the truck and the warmth of the heater weren't enough to overcome the message the penetrating stillness had programmed into those hungry centers at the centers of us that cried, "Fill me! And only a burrito will do! Hot! And with fries!" (Or in my case, onion rings.) So we decided to stop at Ray's Drive-In in T or C on our way home for a couple of burritos to fill our guts with something thick and hot to drive away the chill from our souls.

There we were, sitting in Ray's parking lot, chomping down on our burritos and talking about typical, or in Bob's case, not-so-typical topics like God and prayer and prayers being answered, when all of a sudden, with impeccably melodramatic timing, came a rap-rap-rapping on the window beside me. I turned, rolled down the window, and looked into the tired blue eyes of a man not too old but already gray by now, a man accustomed to the down side of life, a man just getting through his life the best way he knew how. I instantly knew that he was going to hit me up for money.

His spiel was straight and direct. He told me that he needed a couple of dollars to buy a little bottle of whiskey to get him through the night and would I be interested in buying a can of tuna and a can of Vienna sausage from him for two dollars?

I was impressed by his honesty and directness. And yeah, I could relate to where he was coming from, having been in my version of the similar predicament earlier in my life: Sometimes life seems very, very hard and sometimes only the sweet oblivion of unconsciousness will do. So I instantly seized my opportunity to bestow a little blessing upon him. Not just any blessing, mind you, but that one special blessing that would send him onward along life's highway with a smile in his heart and whiskey breath on his lips.

"Tell ya what I'm gonna do, brother," I told him theatrically. "I'm gonna *give* you two dollars! What do you think about that?" Let me tell ya, his mind just blew as I pressed two dollar bills into his palm!

You could sure tell that he wasn't used to having his prayers answered so directly like that! You should have seen the expression on his face! His jaw dropped and he just couldn't get it back up! He was a sight to see.

Then he started talking about the Baptists. (This being a Wednesday night, they were having their prayer meeting right across the street at that very moment.) "I just came from there," he said, gesturing to the church. "The Baptists are always saying, 'Jesus did this, Jesus did that, Jesus said this, Jesus said that.'"

"Yeah, but how about now?" I said, completing his thought for him.

"Yeah, how about now!" he agreed. Then he said, "The people in heaven must be like you."

"Yep!" I agreed, having learned years ago to instantly accept all honest compliments.

After attempting to get me to at least take the can of tuna, he thanked me one last time and went on his merry-enough way, heading for the nearest liquor store at full warp speed.

Bob and I looked at each other with amazement. "Wow, we were just talking about prayers being answered and stuff like that, and look at what just happened: I answered this guy's prayer," I observed with evident amazement.

"I think you just passed a test," Bob said. It sure seemed that way. There was a particular vibration in the air.



"It's good that there are people like you doing things like giving honey to the Indians," I gushed, reinforcing him to the max. Being a capitalist, I hastened to continue, "It works out to \$108, but you can have it for a flat \$100." Such a deal! Not only was I giving him a good-karma discount, but I wasn't charging him for delivery! Lucky for him I had been needing to come to T or C anyway to move those hives.

Then the old codger and I flowed in deep tandem powerglide together for a few minutes as he waxed philosophical about love and marriage, and made some interesting but not necessarily accurate observations about my second ex-wife, who was quite a personage in T or C, being town librarian and all. But then the conversation quickly waned as he crashed into the shallows of superficiality and convention, and I lost interest.

"It's a long drive back," I said. "It sure is," he agreed.

Bob and I got back in the truck and started to leave. When we were already well-nigh under

way, the old geezer yelled out the door for me to stop, so I aborted my motion-initiation sequence and switched to "standby" mode as he came out the door with a bag in his hand.

"Would you like some walnuts?" he asked. "You bet!" I replied, and at that moment I realized that my \$2 gift to the wino at Ray's Drive-In had already come full circle.

P.S. It was a lot more than \$2 worth of walnuts. Moral: God doesn't keep count. 🍷

2. The Gift Returns

After finishing our burritos, we drove six blocks to the Marshall Bath House to deliver 36 quarts of honey to a man who had called me unexpectedly several days before. Belching occasional burrito belches, Bob and I continued to discuss the "answered prayer" incident, bringing in related topics like gifts and blessings and good karma. We pulled up at the bath house and this bright-eyed old coot opened the door and stepped outside almost before I got the truck stopped.

Bob and I got out, introduced ourselves, and loaded the honey into the man's truck. "I'm giving all this honey to the Indians," the old man said.

GIVING all this honey to the Indians? Well, you could have knocked us down with a feather! Be-



Gordon Solberg is a beekeeper who has lived on the bank of the Rio Grande near Radium Springs since 1973.

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Our annual contest always receives plenty of poetry entries, despite our oft-repeated caution that poetry—though it looks easy—is actually the hardest, least-forgiving form of writing. This winning entry shows the precision of language and vision that sets fine poetry apart.

2014 WRITING CONTEST • BEATE SIGRIDDAUGHTER

Angel Loop September



the concept of duality. Only my heart so obstinately wishes to believe pure light is possible. Meanwhile a lizard dives face first under the nearest rock ledge as I contemplate scorpions and roses. I wish these liquid lizards could trust me. But how would they know love? To them I am merely one of the shadows of darkness. Still I want to belong to light, to laughter, to lizards believing in love. Today grass tickled me. There are asters too now, their yellow center full of summer scent and whispering goodbye. 🌻

In Canto 30 of *Paradise*, Dante mentions the laughter of grass. I am almost there now. Running on Angel Loop, I rub shoulders with tall mountain marigold and goldeneye, a festival of yellow, some blue trumpet shapes and a few red ones. My favorite spot is a stretch of bald rock just before all the yellow. Yesterday I tickled grass. I wanted to hear its laughter. I think it was just crickets rubbing their wings in the wind. I think how I will likely never understand why we should need darkness when we yearn and strive for light. I understand

Beate Sigriddaughter is the author of *Beauty Sleeping*, a new novel about an artist's journey through the often daunting landscapes of self-doubt and disillusionment. She lives and writes and sometimes dances in Silver City.

Photograph from San Andres National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. (Refuge personnel and Refuge remote cameras, USFWS)

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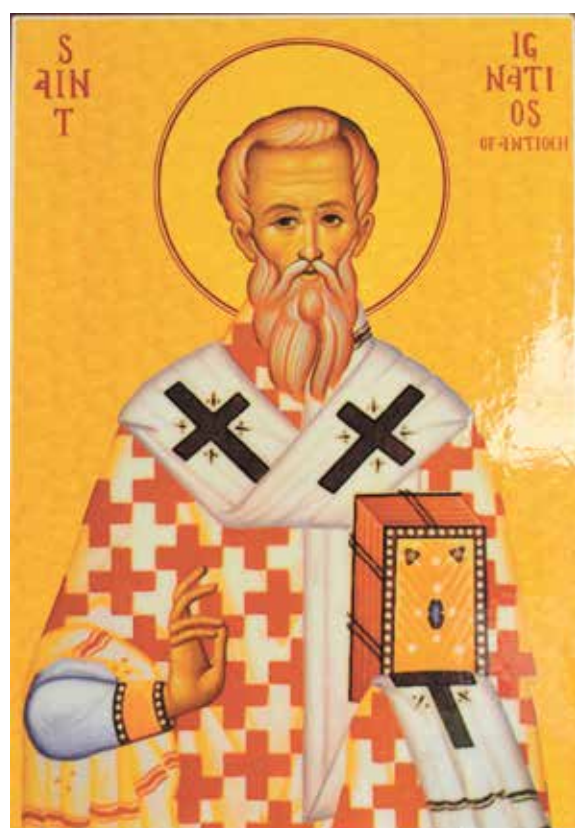
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Frequent finalist and past Grand Prize Winner Phillip Parotti returns to our contest with a tale of youthful scheming in a town that sounds a lot like one we know well.

2014 WRITING CONTEST • PHILLIP PAROTTI

The St. Ignatius Day Parade

When you need your very own saint, sometimes you have to improvise.



In the Village of San Vicente, by turning right off Sonora Road, up beyond the Martinez Grocery, one finds a narrow street that winds downhill behind the Lincoln Street Public School. Thereafter, the meandering passage rises slowly across the western saddle of Yucca Hill until, quite suddenly, it comes to an abrupt stop against the chain-link fence surrounding the manganese mine. The name of this street is Little Belyle or, in the dialect of Spanish often

spoken along the street, *Belyle Pequeño*. Where the name originated or what it might mean have never been matters of concern to the people whose homes line the street's unpaved surface.

Once, however, in conversation with the fat *Señora* Gallegos, *Doña* Serefina, *Belyle Pequeño*'s oldest inhabitant, is reported to have said that she thought the name had something to do with the

well water in the area. The exact significance of this idea seemed to have been lost by *Doña* Serefina, who had exhumed the recollection, naked and unadorned, from a few words heard in her distant youth. The fat *Señora*, something of a prodigy on Sonora Road, gave the issue considerable thought and eventually concluded that wells in the backyards along *Belyle Pequeño* were in some way responsible for the high fertility rate in the neighborhood.

Rodolfo Gallegos, the fat *Señora*'s husband, seemed much amused by his wife's deduction and went so far as to suggest that perhaps the water contained special *micro-organismos* that might contribute to the street's epidemic pregnancy following Lent. Although the fat *Señora* had no trouble belittling her husband's analysis in his presence, she did hasten to present the idea to her friend, Lupe Madeleña Hurtado, as a probable scientific fact. Whatever the case, *Belyle Pequeño* constituted a San Vicente neighborhood absolutely crawling with children.

And there was another thing interesting about the demography of *Belyle Pequeño*: By far, the largest concentration of children seemed to be living midway between Holguin's Fix-It Shop and the mine. No one had ever tried to explain that; it was merely a fact that along a 200-yard stretch of the street, the largest families seemed to be living in houses that bordered the playground of the Lincoln Street Public School.

Efrim and Tina Melendriz, for example, lived directly across the street from the swings; they had nine boys and a girl. Charles and Rose Wiggins, the Mormon family, lived across from the teeter-totters; they had four boys and six girls. Emilia and Joe Lopez had seven girls, and Alex Madrid and the diminutive Maria, who lived close to the merry-go-round, had an even dozen, split down the middle by gender. Danny and Sally Huerta, who had produced only three daughters, were pitied by the entire neighborhood and by Father Latelli, who often found himself called upon to give Sally commiserative consolation during her frequent confessions. "Be patient," he kept telling her, "you are only 23. You still have plenty of time."

As San Vicente's older residents passed up and

down *Belyle Pequeño*, school always seemed to be in session at the Lincoln Street Public School because, winter or summer, day or night, the lower playgrounds seemed to be overflowing with children, their voices splitting the air. Some neighborhoods gave thanks to be free from so much noise, but the people living along *Belyle Pequeño* rather liked to hear their children's voices; they said that the sounds made them feel young.

All save one, that is—the widower, Baltasar de Zaragosa, who considered the furor to be utter pandemonium. To Baltasar, a man of education who worked as a proofreader for the San Vicente *Enterprise*, peace and serenity seemed nothing short of divine gifts from a benevolent God. But the activities daily taking place on *Belyle Pequeño*—activities that he witnessed from his small apartment in *Doña* Serefina's attic—seemed to resemble the chaos of an overturned anthill. No matter. Along the street, the ants remained perpetually oblivious to Baltasar's existence, or nearly so.

At the northern end of the Lincoln Street Public School's lower playground, Hortencia Madrid and Lupita Gomez shouted at each other.

"Can."

"Can't."

"Can!"

"Can't!"

"Oh yes you can!" Teresa Melendriz snapped with a sneer. "You can *so* pray to a saint!"

The unexpected appearance of the older Teresa caused Lupita to take an immediate step backwards, and then another, while a smile of satisfaction spread across Hortencia's face.

"No hitting," said Lupita, backing even farther away and preparing to run.

"Holy Mother of God!" Teresa Melendriz said, her eyes seeking the sky as she intoned her mother's favorite expression.

Hortencia's mouth fell open.

"Really, Lupita, you are to be pitied," Teresa continued. "The church teaches us to pity, not hit the ignorant."

Lupita did not quite know the meaning of *ignorant*; neither did she quite know the meaning of *pity*. What she did know was that the last time she had passed Teresa Melendriz on the playground, Teresa had slapped her hard on the arm, twice, and that the welts had taken an hour to disappear.

"That is not what you said to me on Monday, and if you hit me today, I will tell my brother, Raymond, and he will beat you up," said Lupita, dropping back two more paces.

For a moment, Teresa Melendriz's eyes looked mean, but then, suddenly, they became wide and soft, and Lupita sensed that she had passed a crisis and that maybe Teresa wasn't going to slap her after all.

Hortencia said, "Let's play on the swings."

"Just a minute," said Teresa. "I am not going to hit you, Lupita. I'm just going to tell you what Father Latelli said to Sally Huerta when we were coming out of Mass yesterday."

"What was that?" Hortencia asked, eager to rub in her victory.

"He said, 'Pray to the saints to intercede.'"

"What does that mean? That word *intercede*. Stop using fourth-grade words, Tessy," Hortencia said. "How do you think we can understand you?"

Lupita picked at a scab on her knee and said nothing. She also did not know the meaning of *intercede* but feared that if she said so, Teresa might hit her, and so, she said nothing.

"Really, Hortencia," Teresa said, "don't they teach you *anything* in the third grade? You ba-

bies are so dumb!"

Hortencia hung her head.

Having reestablished her authority, Teresa continued. "*Intercede* is like *dar*; it means to *give*. You pray to your saint, and your saint gives you what you pray for."

"I prayed to Santa Rita for a bicycle, but I didn't get one," Lupita ventured.

Teresa Melendriz took a step backward and put her hands on her hips. To Lupita, Teresa's eyes looked like they might be narrowing with menace, and she began to fidget.

"*Hija*, you dummy! Don't you know anything? Is this the parish of Santa Rita?"

Lupita looked at the ground.

"No it isn't, is it?" Teresa said with disdain. "No wonder you didn't get the bicycle: you prayed to a saint who lives 20 miles from here."

"Which saint do you pray to?" Hortencia asked.

"I," Teresa said majestically, "pray to Saint Vincent de Paul."

"So do I," said Hortencia.

"You can't!" Teresa said at once.

"Why not?" pleaded Hortencia.

"Because... because *I'm* already praying to him," said Teresa. "Do you expect him to hear both of our prayers at once? What if you try to pray to him while he's already busy interceding for me? You can't expect him to be in two places at once, can you?"

Hortencia started to cry.

"I know," beamed Teresa, "you can pray to Saint Cecilia. Her chapel is only on the other side of the hospital, so she's still in this parish."

"Well, what saint do I pray to?" begged Lupita. "Where's another saint?"

Teresa frowned. "I can't think of one," she said. "Saint Lord must be in Lordsburg, but that's farther away than Santa Rita. Maybe you can get your mother to take you to Santa Rita."

"She can't," said Lupita. "My father takes the truck to the mine every day. Why don't one of you share your saint with me?"

"Can't," said Teresa.

"Can't," said Hortencia.

"Just on Mondays?" Lupita begged.

"Can't," they both said.

Lupita began to cry. "I'll tell Raymond," she threatened.

"You just get your own saint," Teresa snapped.

"Crybaby," said Hortencia.

"Am not!" cried Lupita.

"Oh, you're such a baby," Teresa hissed, turning away from her and starting toward the swings. But after three paces, she stopped, turned again, and running back by Lupita in the direction of the merry-go-round, slapped the younger girl, hard, on the arm.

Lupita howled with pain.



Father Angelo Latelli, *El Gigante* as he was known among his parishioners, walked heavily past the front door of Holguin's Fix-It Shop, turned right, and stopped dead in his tracks. Before him, the entire length of *Belyle Pequeño* seemed to be seething. Bees, he thought, they are like swarms of bees; the whole street is a beehive.

The trick, in so far as Father Latelli was concerned, was not to bring down the full weight of his

260 pounds on one or another of the buzzing little bodies. But Father Latelli had met that problem and solved it. Children, he had observed, disliked the odor of cigars; therefore, when Father Latelli visited his parishioners on *Belyle Pequeño*, he armed himself in advance, lighting a thick *Manila Blunt* at the head of the street and then blowing the smoke directly ahead of him as he walked. The children then parted in front of him like the Red Sea when Moses first advanced upon it.

On the day in question, before reaching the nearest edge of the Lincoln Street Public School playground, Father Latelli found that he had thrice cautioned against acts of minor vandalism, mediated four potential fistfights, blessed two houses, and smoked half of his first cigar. He knew that he was going to have to proceed with care in order to avoid expending his ration of two cigars before the conclusion of his visit.

Ten minutes later, as he stepped back onto the street from the Huerta home, Father Latelli found

himself greeted by a strange sight. Zigzagging down the sidewalk, apparently lost in a book that seemed to be receiving his undivided attention, moved Baltasar de Zaragosa. The fact that Baltasar's legs seemed to be missing, that his torso seemed to be riding on a sea of tiny heads, struck Father Latelli as amusing, particularly in view of the way that Baltasar's torso seemed to be jiggling back and forth across the sidewalk as it tried to move forward. On the instant and with a chuckle, Father Latelli found himself reminded of the time that he had seen *Tio Juan*, San Vicente's last remaining herdsman, attempt to cut a passage through his goats.

In front of the Gomez house, the two men finally drew abreast of each other, or at least Father Latelli assumed that it was the Gomez house because the little girl sitting on the edge of the porch rail looked like a Gomez. Instantly, he wondered how the little girl had received the large red welt on her arm and was about to launch into a brief homily on hitting when the sea of heads once more shifted, propelling Baltasar straight across the sidewalk and directly into his shoulder.

"Ah," quipped Father Latelli with a booming voice as he reached out to steady Baltasar, "Ignatius of Antioch, I presume, about to be devoured by the lions?"

Baltasar gave a slight nod but only had time to beg the priest's pardon before, once again, the masses lunged, driving him farther down the sidewalk toward the Huerta house.

"Beware the beasts of the field," Father Latelli called after him. Angelo Latelli would have said more, but before he could speak, he felt the sleeve of his cassock being tugged.

"I need a saint, Father."

"What?" he said, whirling, trying to locate the voice. He found it, finally, coming from the small girl with the welt on her arm, who had left the Gomez porch to tug at his sleeve.

"I need a saint to pray to, Father."

Out of the corner of his eye, two doors down the street, Father Latelli caught sight of a sudden move-

ment. Standing high up on the porch roof of the Melendriz house, Jose Melendriz and Billy Wiggins seemed to be straining to retain control of the bitter end of a rope. Father Latelli's eyes then followed the rope down to the point where, three feet above the ground, it had been tied to the handle of a bucket.

Hunched down in the bucket, sucking his thumb, the Melendriz infant, his black hair waving in the breeze, seemed oblivious to his ascent.

"NO! Stop, boys!" yelled Father Latelli, starting to run.

"Please, Father, I need a saint!" cried the little Gomez girl from behind him.

"Ignatius!" Father Latelli shouted back without bothering to look. He had just time enough,

he thought, to grab the bucket before Jose and Billy swung it into the rose bush.

"No, we'll have the procession on Saturday," Lupita said emphatically. "After all, he's my saint, isn't he?"

"But my mother's calendar says his saint's day is on Friday," complained Patsy Cepeda.

"Look," said Hortencia, "we've got school on Friday. We can't have it then."

"That's right," said Lupita. "And saints know when we have to go to school, so my saint will forgive us for holding it on Saturday."

Stevie Melendriz rubbed the toe of his shoe in the dirt. "I don't think that Baltasar de Zaragoza is really Saint Ignatius of Antique," he said.

"He is so!" huffed Lupita. "Father Latelli said so. I was there. I heard him say it."

"My sister says that..."

"Hijo, Stevie! Your sister this, your sister that. What is your sister, a nun or something? Listen, Stevie, do you want to lead this procession, or do you want Teresa to lead it, 'cause if you tell your sister any more about it, she's going to boss us with all of her fourth-grade friends."

“Do you expect him to hear both of our prayers at once? What if you try to pray to him while he’s already busy interceding for me?”

ST. IGNATIUS continued on next page



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ST. IGNATIUS
continued

“Lupita’s right,” said Hortencia in a spontaneous demonstration of loyalty. “If Tessy wants to have a procession, let her make her own. We don’t want no bosses.”

Stevie hung his head.

“And Jose, and Billy? They’re coming?” Lupita asked.

“I dunno,” Stevie said. “They’ve had a little trouble with our father. They dropped Manny in the rose bush, by mistake.”

Lupita and Hortencia looked at each other with blank expressions. “Get them here, if you can,” Lupita said finally, “Saturday morning. Hortencia and I will make the banner. And the animals have to be washed and clean. My brother says that you can’t have a saint’s day procession with dirty animals. Everybody on *’Lyle Pequeño* from the first through the third grade marches. Ten o’clock, lower playground. Stevie and I will lead the procession to Saint Ignatius’ apartment, and I,” she said, keeping one eye on Hortencia, “will be happy to share *my* saint with all of you guys.”

Felicia Cepeda washed dishes for the third time that day. The Cepedas had enjoyed enchiladas for supper, and Felicia intended to clean her plates before the remains of the cheese hardened into an indelible plaster.

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“Can I have some soap, Mamma?”

Felicia turned to find her daughter, Patsy, standing behind her.

“What are you doing?” Felicia asked

“Washing, Mamma. I have to wash some things before the procession.”

“What procession are you talking about, *hija*?”

“Lupita’s, Mamma. It’s tomorrow.”

Felicia Cepeda didn’t have the slightest idea what her daughter was talking about, but obviously, she thought, it had to do with some game the children were playing. Quickly, she pointed to the dish detergent that was standing on the edge of the counter.

Patsy poured some of the detergent into the half-filled bucket she was carrying, opened the back door, and went down the steps into the backyard, trying hard not to slosh water over her shoes. Watching her daughter, Felicia smiled, but then, finding that some of the supper’s chile had hardened onto her plates, she once again occupied herself with the task at hand. When she finished, she put the last dish in the drainer, dropped her scrub brush onto the counter, and arched her back to take out the kinks that had developed while she leaned over the sink. Then, almost as an afterthought, she glanced out her kitchen window into the backyard.

The fenced space behind the Cepeda house was not large, but it was nevertheless adequate to provide a play area for several children. The children in the yard that evening were not engaged in play, however; instead, they were standing, all seven of them, watching Patsy attempt to lower *Tigre*, the family cat, into the bucket of soapy water that she had carried out of the house. Each time Patsy lowered the cat to the lip of the bucket, each of its four legs shot straight out to clamp a claw tightly to the galvanized rim.

“I don’t think,” Armando Gomez ventured, “that *Tigre* wants to take a bath.”

“Yeah,” said Hortencia.

“Lupita said each animal must be clean,” said Patsy.

“Here,” said Chester Wiggins, trying to be helpful, “I’ll get hold of *Tigre*’s legs. When I’ve got them, Patsy, you push him into the water.”

“Yeah,” Patsy said brightly, “that should work good.”

At the same moment Chester grabbed *Tigre*’s legs, Patsy began pushing the cat into the suds. Both children were already aware that they had made a mistake even before Mrs. Cepeda burst through the back door of the house screaming, “*No! Stop! He will scratch!*”

Saturday had always been Baltasar de Zaragoza’s favorite day of the week, his day off, and for years, he had followed the same routine in its observance. Each Saturday, he slept until eight o’clock; then he walked down *Belyle Pequeño* to Benny’s Cafe to have his breakfast. And afterward, with a copy of the *El Paso Times* under his arm, he retraced his steps and took a cup of coffee on *Doña Serefina*’s front porch while he read about events in the broader world. In the afternoons, he sometimes went to the movies downtown; sometimes he read one of his books about the happenings in ancient Rome or Greece. But no matter what he did, he always thought of Saturday as a splendid day.

On the Saturday of that particular week, Baltasar felt himself to be a little behind schedule, possibly because he had walked all the way to the Martinez Grocery in order to buy a copy of the *Albuquerque Journal*. As he strolled slowly back up *Belyle Pequeño*, several minutes passed before he realized that the street seemed partially devoid of children and strangely silent. He found the sensation pleasant as well as unusual and wondered if the schools might be holding some special event. As he passed the Lincoln Street Public School, finally, he noticed that far more children seemed to be collected on the playground than he might have expected and assumed that his deduction had been correct. He would, he imagined, be able to read his paper in peace for the first time since the last snowstorm.

Baltasar had walked to within two blocks of *Doña Serefina*’s house when, suddenly, a bugle blared behind him, and then, as he turned to look over his

shoulder, the drums began to sound.

When the bugle split the air, Alex and Maria Madrid had leapt from their chairs and rushed to the window.

“What the hell . . . ?” Alex exclaimed.

Maria’s jaw had fallen and then, just as quickly, snapped shut.

As the Madrids left the window and emerged onto their front porch, Chester Wiggins, his forearms thickly bandaged with gauze and adhesive tape, passed directly in front of them, wearing his Cub Scout uniform and blowing his brother’s Boy Scout bugle in an utter explosion of deafening blasts. Directly behind Chester, Lupita Gomez and Patsy Cepeda, whose forearms also happened to be bandaged, carried a red jersey banner—something that looked to the Madrids like one of the fat *Señora* Gallegos’ petticoats, resurrected from the garbage, with lettering on it.

“What does it say?” Alex ventured.

Maria Madrid shook her head, squinted, and then said, “*Saint Ignatius Day Parade*? Is that what it says? What is that, do you think?”

Following behind the banner, pulling a red wagon marked *Lepers for Cleaning*, Hortencia waved to her mother. On top of the wagon, sitting in a makeshift cage, holding his bottle in one hand and *Tigre*’s tail in the other, the infant Melendriz looked fat and happy. Half of the other children in the neighborhood followed along behind, some beating drums, some wearing homemade ecclesiastical garments, some riding decorated bicycles, and not a few leading animals. With regard to the livestock, Alex Madrid counted seven dogs, three chickens, three ducks, two goats, a shoat and a limp bull snake.

As the procession proceeded, Alex and Maria stepped down onto the sidewalk and watched it make its way up *Belyle Pequeño* toward the end of the street. From somewhere up ahead—not far, Alex thought, from the place where Baltasar de Zaragoza was standing—Ethel Miller’s little rat terrier, Baldy, ran into the street and started barking at the procession. Alex watched as Hortencia stopped and patted the dog on the head, but then he gasped as Hortencia picked Baldy up, opened the leper’s cage, and thrust him inside.

With a screech that could be heard even over the drums and the bugle, *Tigre* sprang from the cage and shot across the street, running between Baltasar’s legs in his haste to disappear into a narrow alley. And within a fraction of a second, as a barking Baldy sounded a howl for blood, the whole procession exploded: Ducks honked, chickens flapped and flew, goats butted, the shoat squealed, and seven dogs, mindless of everything but *Tigre*’s escape, upended and then trampled Baltasar as they raced to give immediate chase. The bull snake, as it was later learned, disappeared down a drain pipe.

Doña Serefina dialed her telephone, waited several seconds for the connection to make; then she spoke into the mouthpiece: “That is you, Father Latelli?”

“Yes. *Doña* Serefina?” said Angelo Latelli. “What can I do for you today?”

“Padre,” *Doña* Serefina said, “you had better come to my house *immediately*. I have 37 children kneeling in my front yard, praying for Saint Ignatius of *Antique*—and do not ask me what that is supposed to mean—to come out of his attic and intercede for them. Also, *Don* Baltasar has had a peculiar accident this morning and has locked himself in his room.”

The line remained silent.

“Father, you are there?” asked *Doña* Serefina.

“I’ll be right over,” said Father Latelli. Hanging up the telephone, Angelo Latelli reached into his desk drawer and took out five, then six *Manila Blunts*. Then he snatched his coat from its hook and thrust himself through the front door of the rectory. *Ignatius*, he thought, *Saint Ignatius of Antique*? Whatever could it mean? ❀

Phillip “Pep” Parotti grew up in Silver City and has retired and come home after a long teaching career at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

La Pulga

Visiting Deming’s colorful flea market.

There’s a flea market held on Saturday and Sunday mornings a little north of Deming, across from the exit to the Hatch Highway, that manager Patrick Pelton claims has existed for over 35 years, which he found out with a little research. In other words, it’s been there since before 1979.

What they sell there are screwdrivers, chain saws, sewing machines, used jeans, Zapata T-shirts, Mimbres pottery shards, a used book of ham recipes, DVDs, dollar bills from 1899, 1914 and 1928, fuses for bombs used at a bombing range near Franklin Street in WWII, a live python, used telephones, yellow plastic toy pistols, real rifles, potted plants—*ruda* (rue), two-foot-high *sábila* (aloe vera), and mulberry-tree saplings—electric sanders, hammers, tree-pruning shears, large wood sculptures of donkeys and saints, door hinges for Model Ts, cowboy boots, handmade jewelry, chintzy costume jewelry, Dutchman salt and pepper shakers, new tires, and matching cobalt-blue drinking glasses with lacy white designs.

More than that is being sold at what Mexicans call *la pulga* (“the flea”). Prices for vendor spots today are \$11 in the shade, \$7 outside, \$2 for large tables and \$1 for small ones. There’s no paperwork for the vendors. It’s a marvel of informality.

Most vendors live in Deming or Columbus, but a few come from El Paso or Chaparral, even Arizona, and sleep over on Friday nights.

La pulga is a meeting place for friends, family, and workmates, and a place for after-church socializing. It’s a place for old-timers with canes in their hands and toddlers with their hair full of ribbons.

Pelton, who rides around in a little golf cart, says there used to be another flea market down on Pine Street near where the old A&W was. People used to put things out on the sidewalk to sell them. The one north of town was called the “Northside flea market.”

He remembers someone who would say, “There’s nothing but stolen property!” But he responds with contempt, “What kind of man would steal something and bring it out here?”

There have always been both Anglos and Mexicans buying and selling. Pelton and another vendor estimate that 50% or 60% of the people present are Mexicans. But my eyes tell me that 80% to 90% are.

The Mexican aspect of the flea market represents a home away from home for a lot of them. Some of the vendors don’t even speak English.

The best part of it all for me is the Mexican food. There’s a tiny restaurant called El Chaparral on the grounds, with a long menu of small items like burritos and flautas, and there are Mexican-made ads for soda on the wall. It feels uncannily like a restaurant in a little Mexican town.

Next door to this is a semi-open-air place called El Oasis that serves *aguas frescas*, the cool flavored drinks that are quintessentially Mexican. My favorite flavor is *melón*, made entirely of real cantaloupe juice and multiple ice cubes. There’s nothing better to counteract a swelteringly hot day.

And just recently someone has set up a mobile grill in front of El Oasis where you can get tamales or tacos. They smell delicious.

Another eatery has been there for two decades and has no name. It operates out of a trailer in the northwest corner of *la pulga*, and three sturdy, plain tables are set up under a roof. The friend I ate with is vegetarian, and this was the only place that had something for her. We both had *chiles rellenos*, and a few flies completed the ambience.

Near the parking area there’s a place where they are always roasting *elotes*, or corn on the cob. They sometimes make *aguas frescas*, too. Fresh vegetables and fruit are brought up from El Paso every weekend.

This stall and another one

across the way carry dozens of Mexican candies. Mexican kids and adults have reveled in these for decades.

There are hot or salted tamarind-pulp candies, called *pulparindo*, mango and watermelon lollipops, the very traditional peanut marzipan wrapped in cellophane with a red rose printed on it, and the Duvalin hazelnut vanilla candies with a tiny plastic spoon to eat it with.

The *pulga* can be too hot in the summer, and in the spring the wind can throw dust around and spoil everything. Not many people stay long on those days.

I sometimes feel it’s too banal, too nutsy-boltsy, for my tastes. But I often leave with some interesting purchase I’ve made, or warmed by some conversation I’ve had.

“This place is one of the last remaining places of pure Americana!” said one vendor enthusiastically.

I can’t decide whether it’s the un-border or if it is the border.

Violent Revelation

On a much more somber note, here is some news that has come out recently more loudly in the press, at least online. It is about what may be the largest massacre in the history of the drug violence in Mexico.

It happened in early 2011 in a town named Allende about half an hour south of the Texas border, in the state of Coahuila. It hasn’t been reported until now because of the fear of the people in the region. It’s been understood that there was a blackout on news in northeast Mexico—Coahuila, Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon—for a few years because of extreme violence against journalists.

But it’s being reported that at least 300 people were killed there. In revenge for the actions of a couple of narcos in their ranks, the Zetas set about to kill people with those men’s names in Allende. Many were women and children in these families; others were cooks or gardeners. They were incinerated in big industrial drums.

The point of mentioning this is not just to commemorate one of the most nightmarish events in the drug war. But in relation to this event, a former mayor in a town in Nuevo Leon was quoted in an article in Vice News (July 10) as saying that possibly a quarter of a million people have died in the drug conflict, not the 50,000 figure that many reporters use.

He has heard many stories of unreported violence, and claims that the great majority of victims’ families are too afraid to report the deaths of their relatives. This supports what NMSU librarian Molly Molloy has said for a few years.

If these estimates come close to the truth, then the drug war may be far more devastating than most people realize. ☘

Hunger continues unabated in Palomas. Please contribute to the organizations listed near the bottom of the Desert Exposure online home page under “Collections.”

Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.





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~ Richard Bach

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HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • HENRY LIGHTCAP

Going Postal

Is it time to stamp out the postal service?

When I was a grubby little curtain-climber, the mailbox was a magical place. Birthday cards from Grandma would materialize each year with \$15, my monthly issue of *Boy's Life* magazine would show up, and I'd send away film for processing, eagerly awaiting the arrival of my photos. Seeing the boxy mail Jeep bounce down the road was a highlight of a summer day, and I'd run out to get the mail. But the role of the United States Postal Service has evolved, and as much as I enjoy antiquated communication technology, I can't see much hope for the future.

Despite evidence to the contrary, the United States Postal Service wasn't created just to furnish you with pizza-delivery coupons. Authorized by the United States Constitution and headed up by Postmaster Benjamin Franklin, who really was a goody-good over-achiever, it delivered its first letter in 1775. (Surprisingly, it was a prize-winning notification from Publishers' Clearing House.) The establishment of a reliable postal service was crucial to the growth of the new nation, and the system was lauded as fast and convenient, the last time anybody ever described the post office that way.

The USPS may have a few problems these days, but an inability to lose money isn't one of them. The post office chews through great piles of cash like a fiduciary Kraken, gulping down shiploads of delicious money. From April to June 2014, USPS lost \$2 billion, making even the most gluttonous cash-Kraken say, "Whoa, slow down, you're going to make yourself sick." The only way an organization could lose more money faster would be to get an enormous payday loan or host the Olympics.

So how can they flush so much money away so quickly? The volume of first-class mail continues to fall—no surprise in this increasingly digital age. But the biggest payout this quarter was to cover a \$1.5 billion increase in expenses related to workers' compensation payments. Plus, there's a federally mandated retiree healthcare fund that's due another \$5.7 billion annual payment in September.

USPS and postal unions see the train wreck coming, and have actually been petitioning Congress to allow a modification in business practices, including eliminating Saturday delivery and door-to-door delivery, which could save \$6.5 billion a year. But certain lobbyists and legislators refuse to compromise, pointing to the constitutional mandate. And these guys know about legislative responsibility; after all, Congress is the same bunch of clowns who passed the law requiring the postal service to pre-fund the

retiree healthcare benefits for 75 years, something no other institution, public or private, does in the entire United States. Finding a way to pay for it isn't exactly Congress' strong suit.

Do we really need the postal service? Imagine that America never abandoned the telegraph because the Constitution required us to have a transcontinental system of communication built on Morse code. Despite the advent of the telephone, television, radio, fax, email, texting and the Internet, lobbyists and legislators insisted on sticking with the telegraph because they don't want to put a lot of telegraphers out of work, and hell, it's in the Constitution that we gotta have it. The American people would continue to fund the stupid thing even though nobody uses it anymore, and it costs 49 cents to send a message. Eventually, the only people who would use the telegraph are commercial interests that send you telegrams you never wanted offering pizza discounts and satellite TV.

*Despite evidence
to the contrary,
the United States
Postal Service
wasn't created just to
furnish you with pizza-
delivery coupons.*

Maybe the telegraph lobby wasn't as powerful as the postal lobby. The telegraph never had the romantic appeal of the mailbox. It's hard to beat the appeal of handwritten letters, or getting the news of the world delivered to your door by a human being in a spiffy uniform who took an oath to get this stuff to you regardless of wind or rain or snow or zombie apocalypse.

But it's an antiquated form of communication. As postal customers, we have choices. We can opt to get and pay bills electronically. We can send and receive packages via brown, yellow or white trucks. We can send letters via email or text.

I haven't run to meet the mailman in years. (I stopped when sudden movements were discouraged around postal workers after several unpleasant shootings.) It's got to suck to have a job that's been thoroughly obsolesced, and working for a company that's all but bankrupt. Times change, however, and maybe it's time we relegate the USPS to the Island of Misfit Technologies, right next to the telegraph, eight-track tape and VHS player. It was fun while it lasted. ☹

*Henry Lightcap is waiting
for his Publishers Clear-
ing House winnings at
his humble abode in Las
Cruces.*



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Body, Mind & Spirit • AZIMA LILA FOREST

A Dream of Healing

Exploring dreamwork for healing body and spirit.

Healing. Where does it come from? Who or what heals? My 40-plus years of involvement with various healing arts have taught me that healing comes from two sources: the body itself, and what we might call the Source, or whatever name we might give the great mystery that has created this universe and continually gives rise to all vibration, energy and life itself. Human beings, in my understanding, can act as conduits or channels of that universal healing energy for other beings but are not the source of it.

The human body has amazing capabilities to protect and repair itself, as we can readily see when we cut ourselves. First, blood flows to clean the wound; then a process of coagulation takes place to stem the flow of bleeding. Next, new skin cells begin to form to close the wound. If the extent of the damage is greater, sometimes the body needs help to stop the bleeding, such as applying pressure to the wound itself, or, in case of severe bleeding, applying a tourniquet to cut off the flow of blood above the site of the injury until clotting can take place.

The body also has marvelous systems to fight infection by harmful bacteria, viruses and fungi. A minor cold will run its course in a few days because of the action of antibodies that attack the virus causing the cold. But sometimes, we humans are impatient with the discomfort and seek to help the body along by taking vitamins, herbs or other remedies. In the case of infection by bacteria, antibiotics may be taken as a last resort. (Through the overuse of antibiotics to treat illnesses and to feed cattle and other animals used for food, we are awash in these elements; thankfully, physicians are beginning to change the previously prevailing practice of prescribing them routinely without determining whether or not the illness is caused by bacteria.)

So these are some ways in which the body heals itself. But sometimes it doesn't—somehow or other, it is impeded in the process of returning to full health. Impeded by what? Most of the time, we don't have a definitive answer to that question, but some of the possibilities are environmental conditions, chemical imbalances in the body, and states of mind.

In addition to medicines, allopathic, naturopathic, ayurvedic or homeopathic, healing can occur by bringing to the body the healing power of the Universe, or God, or Spirit, or whatever one might choose to call the great mystery beyond the reach of our physical senses and our limited understanding. One can do this for oneself or for others. It can be brought to bear by the



"Mercy's Dream" by Daniel Huntington. (Metropolitan Museum of Art)

laying on of hands, such as with Healing Touch and Reiki, by various forms of energy medicine, and by prayer.

It was demonstrated in a double-blind scientific study done at the University of California at San Francisco that heart patients who were prayed for by others, unknown to them, did better in every way than patients who were not prayed for. And none of the patients knew whether they were being prayed for or not! So there are great and mysterious healing powers at work in us, through us, and all around us.

These "coincidences" might alert us to important events, but more often they are little reminders of the deep connection between our sleeping and waking experience.

Sometimes the healing required by a person is more psychological—mental, emotional or spiritual—than physical. Prayer works for this kind of healing as well, as do the other non-physical means mentioned above. In addition, dreams are great sources of healing both physical and otherwise. Dreamwork for healing and personal development can be done privately, in

small groups, or one-to-one with a facilitator skilled in working with dreams.

When we go to sleep, the conscious mind is what blinks out. Just as we can see the stars when the great


BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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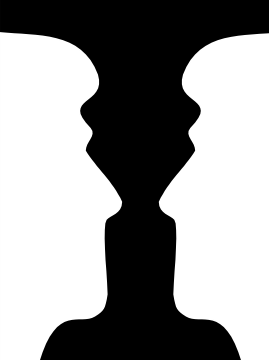





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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

light of the sun disappears, so we have access to wisdom, guidance and healing when the discriminating, skeptical, critical mind is not there to hinder these processes. And the more we work with dreams, the more powerful and wide-ranging are the results and experiences to which we can have access.

We can learn to set intentions for the kind of night-time experience we wish to have, whether to receive guidance for a problem or decision, connect with loved ones who have passed over, connect with our past or future selves (ourselves in this or other lifetimes), or delve into dimensions of reality other than this spatial and temporal experience on planet Earth. Dreams can also gift us with images, symbols or occurrences that then appear in our waking lives. These “coincidences” might alert us to important events, but more often they are little reminders of the deep connection between our sleeping and waking experience.

All these gifts that come to us through healing modalities and dreams are also available by entering into deep meditative states, whether through a

solitary meditation practice or guided by a facilitator. Sometimes relaxing into such a state and imagining that we can sense inside the body to a place of pain or dis-ease will yield wisdom of the body as to causes and conditions to help us make good choices for health and healing. And similarly, from such deep states, we can journey to interesting, even magical realms of being.

All that is required of us to begin to experience these ways of healing and personal growth is to trust All That Is, to open our minds and hearts, and to be willing to go where we have never gone before. Yes, even to trek to the stars! ✨

Azima Lila Forest has been working with dreams and various forms of healing for 40-odd years (sometimes very odd!). Azima is a Unitarian Universalist minister and a teacher in the universal Sufi tradition. She is a Reiki practitioner and teaches classes in dreamwork, as well as working one-to-one for healing and as a spiritual guide. She can be reached at azima@zianet.com or (575) 574-7805.

Body, Mind & Spirit • MICHELLE SCHOFFRO COOK

Guide to Home Herbalism

Start your herbal medicine chest with these essentials.

With literally thousands of herbs with medicinal properties, it's difficult to narrow down which to keep on hand at home. I've selected these herbs for their safety and well-rounded medicinal profiles. By stocking these herbs, you'll ensure a diverse stash for a variety of health needs. Most of these herbs, such as dandelion, echinacea, garlic, peppermint and St. John's wort, are easy to grow and can be used fresh. However, many herbs' medicinal qualities are enhanced when dried, so consider using dried herbs for medicinal purposes. Please note the scientific names, as numerous plants are sometimes sold under the same common name.



The herbs included in this article are all easy to use in the form of teas, infused oils, salves or tinctures. (Photos by Thomas Gibson)

American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*): Several species are sold as ginseng, so be sure to check the species name for the one you purchase. Ginseng has long been known as an energy-booster due to its status as an “adaptogen.” Adaptogens are a specific class of herbs that help our bodies adapt to stress in many ways and can even affect the levels of natural substances (such as hormones) in our bodies. In other words, they help our bodies cope.

Recommended uses: Make dried or fresh ginseng root into a tea; ginseng is also effective as a tincture.

Calendula (*Calendula officinalis*): Best known for healing the skin, calendula is useful as a remedy for many conditions and ailments including skin irritation, burns, bruises and wounds.

Recommended uses: Use calendula petals to flavor and color broth, butter or cheese. Make a strong tea from the flower petals and use as a compress for minor burns or wounds. Add infused calendula oil to salves to soothe skin rashes and irritations; use by itself on swelling or bruises. You can also make a calendula tincture and add it to teas, baths or cosmetic solutions.

Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*): Many parts of the dandelion plant are useful for improved health. Dandelion leaves may be among the world's best kidney and urinary tract cleansers, and its root is excellent for liver health. Note: If you're allergic to ragweed, use dandelion with caution at first.

Recommended uses: Eat young dandelion greens as an addition to mixed salad greens or sautéed with olive oil and lemon juice. Harvest roots from large plants and dry roots in an arid place for about two weeks. Roots can be eaten steamed along with other root vegetables. Dried roots can be made into a tea (add dandelion

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The herbs in this article all have a wide range of safety; however, it's vital to educate yourself thoroughly when using herbal medicines.

leaves, as well as peppermint for taste), ground for a coffee substitute or turned into a tincture.

Echinacea (*Echinacea, various species*): Most people grab echinacea when they are suffering from a cold, but it is also a great herb to support lymphatic system health. The lymphatic system is a network of nodes, tubules, fluid and glands that “sweeps” away toxins and byproducts of inflammation to keep tissues healthy. Echinacea can help reduce congestion and swelling and help lymph fluid move better.

Recommended uses: Echinacea is excellent in an immune and lymphatic health-boosting tincture. You can also make a tea out of the dried root.

Garlic (*Allium sativum*): Garlic is one of the world’s most versatile herbs. It can help fend off viruses, lower high blood pressure, prevent hardening of the arteries and lessen cholesterol buildup in the heart. Thanks to many studies on garlic’s medicinal properties, we also know it is antibacterial and antifungal.

Recommended uses: Eat garlic raw (or crushed for 10 minutes before cooking) or make it into a tasty culinary oil (either enjoy it fresh or refrigerate garlic oil immediately and eat within five days). You can also make garlic tincture.

German chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*): Among the best-researched medicinal herbs now used in Europe, German chamomile is used in dozens of ways to treat inflammation and irritation of the skin, mouth, gums and respiratory tract; to relieve spasms and inflammation of the intestinal tract; and as a mild sleep aid. Note: If you’re allergic to ragweed, use chamomile with caution at first.

Recommended uses: Add to skin salves and oils to treat inflammation or irritation; make a strong tea or oil and add to the bath for its calming effects; drink as a tasty calming tea.

Peppermint (*Mentha x piperita*): Versatile peppermint is helpful for bad breath, sinus congestion, nausea, vomiting and digestive upset. It makes a delicious tea on its own but also improves the taste of many less-than-tasty herbal teas.

Recommended uses: Peppermint is excellent taken as a tea and can be made into a tincture. Peppermint is also useful in oils or salves for stimulating or energizing skin-care products.

St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*): This plant has been shown in many studies to be effective for mild to moderate depression, making it a great herb to keep handy for the winter blues, hormone-linked mood imbalances, or periods of sadness. Of course, if you’re suffering any type of severe depression or taking any medications you should always consult a physician.

Recommended uses: St. John’s wort oil made from the flowers of the plant is excellent for treating bruises, swelling, hemorrhoids, scars and sprains. Avoid sun exposure for a few hours after using St. John’s wort oil on your skin as it can cause photosensitivity. You can also make St. John’s wort into a tincture.

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*): This yellow spice adds delicious flavor to meals while conferring a huge array of health benefits, all thanks to curcumin—its primary active ingredient. Curcumin is a proven anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effective against inflammation-related pain disorders such as arthritis. Research at the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at the University of California at Los Angeles found that curcumin helps protect the brain against amyloid plaques, which have been linked to brain diseases including Alzheimer’s disease.

Excerpted from Mother Earth Living, a national magazine devoted to living wisely and living well. To read more articles from Mother Earth Living, please visit www.MotherEarthLiving.com or call (800) 340-5846 to subscribe. Copyright 2014 by Ogden Publications Inc.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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Right on Peterson Dr. 2 blocks to the church on the right.

Come out for worship service every Sabbath (Saturday)

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September Presenters

6th: Norma Gonzalez

13th: Joseph Gonzalez

20th: Conference Pastor

27th: Pastor Quinones

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for more info: 575-538-3141

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Church of Harmony

Corner of 7th & Arizona, Silver City

Body, Mind & Spirit • EARTH TALK

Sunscreen Safety

Just because summer is waning doesn't mean it's time to put away the sunscreen.

What can you tell us about which sunscreens are safe and which are not?

Skin cancer is by far the most common form of cancer in the United States, with more new cases each year than breast, prostate, lung and colon cancers combined. And the rate of newly diagnosed cases of the most deadly skin cancer, melanoma, has tripled over the last three decades. But many of the sunscreens on the market do not provide enough protection from the sun's damaging rays. Also, some of them contain chemicals that can cause health problems in their own right.

According to the non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG), which assessed the safety and effectiveness of more than 1,400 "SPF" (sun protection factor) products for its 2014 Guide to Sunscreens, only one in three sunscreens for sale on the shelves of American stores offer good skin protection and are free of ingredients with links to health issues. "That means two-thirds of the sunscreens in our analysis don't work well enough or contain ingredients that may be toxic," reports the group.

A big part of the problem is the lack of tougher rules from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). "The FDA's first major set of sunscreen regulations, 36 years in the making, took effect in December 2012 and proved far too weak to transform the market," reports EWG. While the new rules did restrict some of the most egregious claims on sunscreen labels (such as the "patently false" waterproof and sweatproof claims) and ended the sale of powder sunscreens and towelettes that were too thin to provide protection against ultraviolet rays, they didn't address inhalation threats from spray sunscreens or take into account the risks of exposure to so-called "nanoparticles" from zinc oxide and titanium dioxide varieties.

While the FDA is currently reassessing its stance on sunscreens, EWG warns it may be a while before new rules address these and other concerns, especially given push-back from regulatory-averse members of Congress and some manufacturers. So what's a health-conscious sun worshipper to do about sunscreen?

For starters, read labels. Some common sunscreen ingredients to watch out for and avoid include: oxybenzone, which can cause allergic reactions and hormone-like effects; vitamin A (AKA retinyl palmitate), a skin irritant and possible carcinogen; and fragrances, which can contain aller-



gens and chemicals. Also, spray sunscreens are suspect because inhaling some of the ingredients can irritate breathing passages and even potentially compromise lung function. And EWG warns to avoid products with SPF ratings higher than 50, as their use can tempt people to apply too little and/or stay in the sun too long. Sticking with products in the 15-50 SPF range and reapplying often makes much more sense.

Some of the best choices are those sunscreens that employ either zinc oxide or avobenzone, both which have been shown to block the most damaging ultraviolet rays effectively without the need for other potentially troublesome additives. Some of the leading brands that meet EWG's criteria for both safety and effectiveness include Absolutely Natural, Aubrey Organics, California Baby, Elemental Herbs, Goddess Garden, Tropical Sands and True Natural, among others. Find these and other winners on the shelves of natural foods retailers as well as online. For a complete list of all 172 recommended sunscreens and to learn more about the risks, check out EWG's free online 2014 Guide to Sunscreens.

CONTACT: EWG'S 2014 Guide to Sunscreens, www.ewg.org/2014sunscreens.

EarthTalk is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

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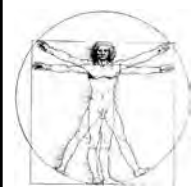
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Body, Mind & Spirit

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. 11 a.m. Glad Tidings Church. Contact Sally, 537-3643.
AL-ANON—12:05 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, Silver City. Contact Valerie, 313-2561.
ART CLASS—9-10:45 a.m. Silver City Senior Citizen Center. Beginners to advanced. Contact Jean 519-2977.
GENTLE YOGA—5:30-7 p.m. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.
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.
INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING—6-7:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus Hall, 1301 Swan. 313-6985.
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. New Church of the Southwest Desert, 1300 N. Bennett, Silver City. 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. Yankee Creek Coffee House.
GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY—2nd Weds. Potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sen. Howie Morales’ building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180.
LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION—8 a.m. tee time. Silver City Golf Course.
LEGO CLUB—Ages 4-9. 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.
NEWCOMERS CLUB—Third Thurs. 11 a.m., luncheon noon. Women’s Club, Yucca and Silver Heights Blvd. Linda Sylvester, (480) 518-5839, lindasylvester@msn.com.
PROGRESSIVE PILATES—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.
TOPS—5 p.m. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.
WOMEN’S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Thurs. 6-7 p.m. GRMC Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. 388-1198, ext. 10.
VINYASA FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331.
YOGA CLASS—Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, 7th and Texas.
Fridays
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center conference room. 313-9400.
SILVER CITY WOMAN’S CLUB—2d Fri., 10:30 a.m., lunch 12 p.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-3452.
TAIZÉ—2d Friday. Service of prayer, songs, scripture readings and quiet contemplation. 6:30 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. 538-2015.
WOODCARVING CLUB—2d and 4th Fridays except holidays. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 313-1518.
YOUTH SPACE—5:30-10 p.m. Loud music, video games, chill out. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.
Saturdays
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BEGINNERS—6 p.m. Lions Club, 8th & Bullard (entrance at Big Ditch behind Domino’s). Newcomers and seasoned members welcome.
ALZHEIMER’S/DEMENTIA SUPPORT— 10 a.m.-noon. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Margaret, 388-4539.
BLOOMING LOTUS MEDITATION—1 p.m. Details: 313-7417, blooming-lotus-sangha@googlegroups.com.
DOUBLE FEATURE BLOCKBUSTER MEGA HIT MOVIE NIGHT—5:30-11 pm. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.
EVENING PRAYER IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—5 p.m. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.
KIDS BIKE RIDE—10 a.m., Bikeworks, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 388-1444.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.
SPINNING GROUP—1st Sat., 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.
STORYTIME—All ages. 10:30 a.m. Silver City Public Library, 515 W. College Ave., 538-3672.
VINYASA FLOW YOGA—10 a.m. All levels. First Church of Harmony, 609 Arizona St., Becky Glenn, (404) 234-5331. ☸
All phone numbers are area code 575 except as noted. Send updates to events@desertexposure.com.

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Alotta Words about ALOTTA GELATO



(Note: due to an error, last month's ad was a repeat from September 2012. Relax, I'm OK.)

Happy Birthday to us! ALOTTA GELATO is eleven years old! I think these past eleven years can best be summed up by a t-shirt worn recently by one of our young customers that read: "It's Been Fun, But I Have to Scream Now." Speaking of T-shirts, we've been thinking about getting some printed up with our own unique brand of (warped) humor on them; your input is appreciated. Some of the possible slogans: "You Say Tomato, I Say Gelato" or "Gelato: It's Not Just for Breakfast Anymore" or even "Gelato is My Drug of Choice."

Whenever you visit ALOTTA GELATO at 619 N. Bullard St. in Historic Downtown Silver City, you'll have a variety of irresistible treats awaiting you. How about Mango, or Butter Pecan? Or Cherries Jubilee? Or our exclusive Gila Conglomerate? Our Fall flavors are waiting in the wings— watch for them!

We want to remind you that our delicious low-fat Italian ice cream is available in hand-packed pints and quarts in your choice of 30-plus flavors, including sugar-free ones sweetened with Splenda® (and yes, we can pack several flavors into each insulated container). Remember that we also carry delicious dessert items such as Key Lime bars, brownies, cheesecake, chocolate chip cookies, flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, and big honkin' slices of Carrot Cake— plus hot and cold drinks to go with them. Lastly, we have gift certificates available in any amount for any occasion— including birthdays!

ALOTTA GELATO is open 7 (count 'em!) days a week, beginning at Noon every day until 9:00 PM (Sunday through Thursday) or 10:00 PM (Friday and Saturday)— sometimes even later.

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in Downtown Silver City - 575-534-4995



Southwest New Mexico's best restaurant guide.

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

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

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

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

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

GRANT COUNTY

Silver City

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

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

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. 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.*

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

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

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. Artisan breads, sandwiches, deli, baked goods: Mon.-Sat. B L early D, Sun. B L.*

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. Coffeehouse.*

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.*

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. Coffeehouse.*

KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. 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. Mexican and American: B L, closed Tues. Lion's Den, 208 W. Yankie, 654-0353. Coffeehouse.

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. Mexican food stand: Mon.-Sat. B L early D.

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

MILLIE'S BAKE HOUSE, 215 W. 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. Burgers, sandwiches, homemade pizzas, paninis: Tues.-Sun. L D.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THREE DOGS COFFEEHOUSE, 503 N. Bullard St. Coffeehouse, 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. Coffeehouse, coffee, homemade pastries and ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies.*

Bayard

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.

Hurley

GATEWAY GRILL, 2705 Hwy. 180E, 537-5001. American and Mexican: Sun.-Thur. B L, Fri.-Sat. B L D.*

Lake Roberts

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

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

Mimbres

MIMBRES VALLEY CAFÉ, 2964 Hwy. 35, 536-2857. 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.

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Early Sunday Fundraising Supper

entertainment by **The Gila Highlanders**

**Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014
at 5:00 p.m.**

First United Methodist Church
314 W. College Ave., Silver City, NM

Pasta, Salad, Bread, Dessert and Beverage
\$10 per person donation

For more information, please call 575-538-5754

Bridge Community is a project to bring a continuum
of care senior living facility to Silver City.

American: Mon.-Fri. B L.
AQUA REEF, 900-B S. Telshor, 522-7333. 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.
A BITE OF BELGIUM, 741 N. Alameda St., 527-2483. Belgian food: Mon.-Fri. B L.
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.
CAFÉ DE MESILLA EN LA PLAZA, 2051 Calle de Santiago, 652-3019. Coffee-house, deli, pastries, soups, sandwiches: B L early D.
CRAVINGS CAFÉ, 3115 N. Main St., 323-3353. Burgers, sandwiches, wraps, egg dishes, salads: B L.
DE LA VEGA's PECAN GRILL & BREWERY, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers: L D.
DELICIA's DEL MAR, 1401 El Paseo, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D.
DOUBLE EAGLE, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet. *
EMILIA's, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Burgers, Mexican, soup, sandwiches, pastry, juices, smoothies: L D.
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.
JIREH's, 1445 W. Picacho. Mexican, American: B L early D.
JOSEPHINA's OLD GATE CAFÉ, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Mon.-Thur. L, Fri.-Sun. B L.
KATANA TEPPANYAKI GRILL, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-0526. Japanese: Mon.-Fri. L D, Sat. D.
KEVA JUICE, 1001 E. University, 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D.
KIM-CHI HOUSE, 1605 S. Solano, 652-4745. Korean: Tues.-Sun. L D.
KIVA PATIO CAFÉ, 600 E. Amador Ave., 527-8206. Mexican, Southwestern, American: B L D.
LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Sat.-Sun. and holidays also B.
LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Mon.-Sat. B L.
LORENZO's PAN AM, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. Italian, pizza: L D.
LOS COMPAS, 1120 Commerce Dr., 521-6228. Mexican: B L D.*
MESILLA VALLEY KITCHEN, 2001 E. Lohman Ave. #103, 523-9311. American, Mexican: B L.*
MESON DE MESILLA, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D.
MIGUEL's, 1140 E. Amador Ave., 647-4262. Mexican: B L D.
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.
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.*
PAISANO CAFÉ, 1740 Calle de Mercado, 524-0211. Mexican: B L D.*
PEPPERS CAFÉ ON THE PLAZA (IN THE DOUBLE EAGLE RESTAURANT), 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. 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.
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. 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.
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 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.
ZEFFIRO PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA, 136 N. Water St., 525-6757. Pizza, pasta, also sandwiches at adjoining Popular Artisan Bakery: Mon.-Sat. L D.
ZEFFIRO NEW YORK PIZZERIA, 101 E. University Ave., 525-6770. Pizza: L D.
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. "Owner Albert Campos prides himself on the authentic Mexican and southwestern food he cooks up, inspired by his home in the Mexican state of Zacatecas—such as the fantastic BBQ Beef Brisket Sandwich, a family recipe. But the restaurant has much more than Mexican fare." (June 2007) Mexican, American, Southwestern: L D.*
CANO's RESTAURANT, 1200 W. Pine St., 546-3181. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.
CHINA RESTAURANT, 110 E. Pine St., 546-4146. "Refreshingly different from most of the Chinese restaurants you find

DINING GUIDE
continued after next page

SILVER CITY MAINSTREET PROJECT

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of Downtown

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September Brunch/Lunch:

Labor Day Monday and every Sunday.
Served 10:30am til 2:30pm



Sephardic Wine Tasting Dinner

Join us on Friday, September 26, at 6:30pm for a six-course dinner featuring foods of Spanish, Turkish and Arab Jews with optional matched international wines. See our website for details—or scan the QR code above.
Reservations highly recommended.

September Cooking Class

"Sephardic Favorites" is being offered Saturday, September 20, 11am–2:30pm. Demonstration and hands-on, with a meal of your work at the end. See the link on our website for details. Preregistration required.

In Historic Downtown Silver City
602 N Bullard St (at 6th St)
575.534.9168
silver-eats.com

Summer Hours:

Monday	.....	5pm–9pm
Tuesday	.....	CLOSED
Wednesday	.....	CLOSED
Thursday	.....	CLOSED
Friday	.....	5pm–9:30pm
Saturday	.....	5pm–9:30pm
Sunday	.....	10:30am–2:30pm



September Community Forum *Brew your own* Probiotic Beverages!

Tuesday, September 9th
& Thursday, September 11th
from Noon to 1 pm
614 N. Bullard Street

all community forums
are free & open to everyone



come to the Co-op's Annual
silver city food co-op PICNIC
Sunday, 9/7 • 11am-2pm
Gomez Peak Picnic Area
The Co-op serves the main dish
Bring a salad or dessert to share
Bring plates and utensils

Be part of the group photo at 11:30!

Happy 40th Anniversary!



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Valle Mimbres Market



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Sunrise Espresso II

1212 East 32nd 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. 32nd, at the corner of Lesley and 32nd which features a comfortable walk-in and an express drive-thru window. In addition to our great espresso drinks, we are now offering real fruit smoothies, savory pastries, homemade biscotti, fresh baked muffins and scones to our menu.

Silver City's PREMIER Drive-Thru Espresso Bar!

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

New Second Location: 1212 E. 32nd St. • Silver City, NM

Mon.-Fri. 6:30 am to 2pm • FREE WiFi

RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

La Dolce Vita

With tasty meals plus tantalizing desserts, Las Cruces' Si Italian Bistro has it all.

If you like really good Italian food, you'll want to try Si Italian Bistro in Las Cruces—and if you've already tried it, I'm sure you won't need any encouragement from me to return to it again and again.

Located in the old Cox family mansion built in 1887, the restaurant radiates homespun charm and the kind of quality that is neither snobbish nor flamboyant. The menu remains the same throughout the day, and ranges from classic entrées like Chicken Piccata, Chicken Marsala, Frutti de Mare alla Provençale, and Chicken or Melanzane Parmesan to burgers, salads, sandwiches, pizzas and pastas—all tweaked creatively in subtle and satisfying ways.

And as for desserts—well, that's a story unto itself. Ordinarily, desserts come after meals. But in the evolution of Si Italian Bistro, the desserts came first. The amazing variety of cakes, pies, cream puffs, brownies and cheesecakes available today at Si Italian Bistro first appeared in a tiny Las Cruces establishment called Sweet Indulgence, opened by Marybeth Higgins in 1997.

"My son, Jeremy Hixon, and I ran the business together. We served pastries for breakfast and a limited menu of sandwiches for lunch, and, of course, we sold cakes, cream puffs, pies, etcetera," Marybeth says. "The place was very small. It seated about 25 people—maybe 30, with the patio."

The pressure of success demanded extra space, and in 2005, she and Jeremy closed the little shop, and opened Si Italian Bistro at its current location, with Sweet Indulgence desserts an integral part of it.

"It's very much a family business," Marybeth says. "My daughter, Meagan, helps me with the pastry part of it, and Jeremy, as chef-owner, oversees the entire kitchen operation."

With a seating capacity of 80 to 90 people, the new restaurant expanded its menu, too, adding more sandwich options and introducing full Italian dinners.

Why Italian?

"My dad was in the Navy and we lived in Italy when I was growing up. Mom learned to cook there from some of the local Italian women, and she sort of taught us," Marybeth says. "We included pizza on the menu and imported a Mugnaini wood-fired pizza oven from Italy because my son wanted it so badly. He put together and installed the oven himself, and did all the decorative tile work around it. The oven is completely wood-fired, uses no gas, and it's a real art to work that pizza oven. Jeremy has got it figured out."

The restaurant offers its wide variety of pizzas in three sizes: small (8-inch) for \$6.95 to \$8.95; medium (12-inch) for \$9.95 to \$14.95; and large (16-inch) for \$12.95 to \$16.95. It's all the thin-crust type of pizza.

"Really, this is the best pizza I've ever had," Marybeth says, and customers obviously agree, because



Si Italian Bistro Manager Gina Salas opens the door to the wood-fired pizza oven imported from Italy. All the tile work surrounding the oven was done by chef-owner Jeremy Hixon. (Photos by Peggy Platonos)

they keep coming back for more.

"Everything we serve is made in-house from scratch," Marybeth explains. "With my daughter's help, I make the soups, quiches and desserts. Jeremy makes all the bread, all his own pasta, all the sauces, and he smokes the mesquite chicken and honey-roasted chicken for the sandwiches."



Marybeth Higgins, the dessert wizard at Si Italian Bistro, holds the Caramel Pecan Cake she has just finished decorating.

Prices are reasonable, with dinner entrées ranging from \$14 (Chicken or Melanzana Parmesan) to \$18.95 (Chicken Jerusalem, Wood-Fired Salmon, and Steak Macias). Salads cost \$7 to \$9.50; quiche is \$8.50; pasta dishes range from \$7 for a half portion of Pasta Marinara to \$15 for Vegetable Lasagna or Lasagna Napoletano.

Sandwiches are served plain (\$7.50) or with the choice of one side dish (\$9.50). And burgers range in price from \$6 to \$7.50 (without a side dish) or \$8 to \$9.50 (with one side). Some of the more unusual sandwich options include Waldorf Chicken Salad, Portobello Blue Cheese, and Mesquite Chicken Chile sandwiches. And the Bistro Burger is out of the ordinary, with a topping of caramelized onions, fresh spinach, Gorgonzola cheese and ripe tomatoes.

Beer and wine are available, along with Italian sodas and the usual beverage options.

Desserts cost \$4.95 to \$6, and you can go look at the pastries on display in the glass cases opposite the entrance to make your selection.

There is a special bakery menu that you can pick up at the restaurant if you are interested in buying a whole cake, pie or cheesecake. Any of the long list of items on that menu can be special-ordered with 24 hours notice. Do NOT look at this list if you're on a diet. Items like Caramel Pecan Cake, Black Forest Cake, Raspberry White Chocolate Cheesecake, Streusel-topped Rhubarb Pie or Key Lime Pie may prove irresistible.

Whole cakes, incidentally, can be ordered in three sizes: 6-inch, 8-inch and 10-inch.

Some of the pasta items on the meal menu can also be special-ordered in quantity with 48 hours' notice. They must be picked up at the restaurant, however; there is no delivery service available.

Si Italian Bistro takes reservations for parties of up to 20 people. The number to call for reservations or special orders is (575) 523-1572.

The restaurant is located at 523 E. Idaho. It is closed on Sundays. The hours for the rest of the week are: Monday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.



Marybeth Higgins (right) dips a homemade cream puff into melted chocolate as her daughter, Meagan Higgins, fills the popular pastries. The cream puffs are available in chocolate, lemon, raspberry and vanilla for 35 cents each or \$4.20 per dozen.

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

DINING GUIDE

continued

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PALMA’S ITALIAN GRILL, 110 S. Silver, 544-3100. “Even if you think you don’t like Italian food, you might want to try this family-run enterprise, with Harold and Palma Richmond at the helm. In addition to the name, Palma brings to the restaurant her Sicilian heritage and recipes that came to the United States with her grandmother. Harold brings training in classic Continental cuisine, along with his family’s New England food traditions.” (Sept. 2010) Italian: L D. Sat. prime rib, Sun. buffet.*

PATIO CAFÉ, 1521 Columbus Road, 546-5990. “The famed burgers are ground fresh daily from 85% lean beef—a half-pound apiece before cooking—and formed for each order. You can adorn your burger in any of a dozen different combinations of cheese, bacon, chiles, pico de gallo, sautéed onions, barbecue sauce, fresh mushrooms, even ham.” (February 2006) Burgers, American: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

PRIME RIB GRILL (INSIDE HOLIDAY INN), I-10 exit 85, 546-2661. Steak, seafood, Mexican: B D.

RANCHER’S GRILL, 316 E. Cedar St., 546-8883. Steakhouse, burgers: L D.*

SI SEÑOR, 200 E. Pine St., 546-3938. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

SUNRISE KITCHEN, 1409 S. Columbus Road, 544-7795. “Good-quality comfort food. There’s nothing on the menu that is really exotic. But all the familiar dishes, both American and Mexican, are done well, and it’s that care in preparation that lifts the food above the ordinary. This is not a freezer-to-fryer type of restaurant.” (September 2012) American, Mexican, breakfasts: Mon.-Thur. B L, Fri.

B L D.

TACOS 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.

Glenwood

ALMA GRILL, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, Mexican: Sun.-Weds., Fri.-Sat. B L.

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

MARIO’S PIZZA, Hwy. 180, 539-

Table Talk

Taste of Downtown returns to Silver City on Saturday, Sept. 6, to benefit Silver City Mainstreet. The sampling from a wide variety of downtown eateries begins at 11 a.m. on Broadway between Bullard and Texas streets. Books of tickets for 20 tastings are available in advance for \$18 at the Visitor Center and Alotta Gelato, or you can buy single tasting tickets for \$1 at the Mainstreet booth the day of the event. www.silvercitymainstreet.com.

On Sept. 1, **Tre Rosat Café** will be rolling out a new wine menu, created with the help of local sommelier Ron Dalton to better pair with their seasonal menu changes. The selection of wines will be from regions from around the world. The downtown Silver City eatery will also introduce new happy hour and dinner menus. Pizza will no longer be featured at dinner, but will still be available for lunch and happy hour. Those “happy hours” are Saturday-Thursday from 3-5 p.m., and Friday from 3-6 p.m., with \$1 off appetizers and the menu beers and wines. New features for the autumn menu will include duck confit, rabbit blanquette and Elk osso buco, all regionally sourced. Favorites such as bacon-wrapped dates, fried green tomatoes (seasonally), confit pork belly tacos and fresh fish tacos will still be available. 304 N. Bullard St., 654-4919.

Sunset magazine is the latest to recognize Silver City’s rising culinary star. In its Southwest regional edition for September, the magazine featured “A Perfect Day in Silver City, NM,” with lunch at **Little Toad Creek** and dinner at the **Curious Kumquat**. Those meals bookended recommended visits to the Silver City and WNMU museums, Seedboat Gallery, O’Keefe’s Bookshop (that’s owner Dennis O’Keefe’s photo on our cover this month) and the Gila National Forest.

On Sept. 26 at 6:30 p.m., **Shevek & Co.** in downtown Silver City will feature a wine-tasting dinner pairing six courses of Sephardic food with appropriate international wines. Reservations highly recommended; \$85 per person (\$45 food without wines). It’s preceded by a Sephardic cooking class, Sept. 20, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168, www.silver-eats.com.

Masa y Mas Restaurant and Tortilleria in the Hub in downtown Silver City will be closing this fall.

In Las Cruces, the flood of chain restaurants continues, with work underway for a new **Church’s Chicken** on Mesa Grande, next to McDonald’s and near Oñate High School. It will be the city’s second Church’s location, joining the eatery at 300 E. Lohman. 🍷

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

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

Other Catron County

PURPLE ONION CAFÉ, Mogollon, 539-2710. “Seasonal, quirky and way off the beaten path... serves eclectic fare and ‘famous’ pie.” (August 2011) Breakfast, burgers, veggie melts, pita pockets, pies: Fri.-Sun., Mon. holidays, May-Oct.: B L.

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

SIERRA COUNTY Hillsboro

BARBER SHOP CAFÉ, Main St., 895-5283. American, Mediterranean, sandwiches: Thurs.-Sat. L.

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

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



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Masa y Mas Restaurant and Tortilleria is closing this fall...Watch for weekly specials

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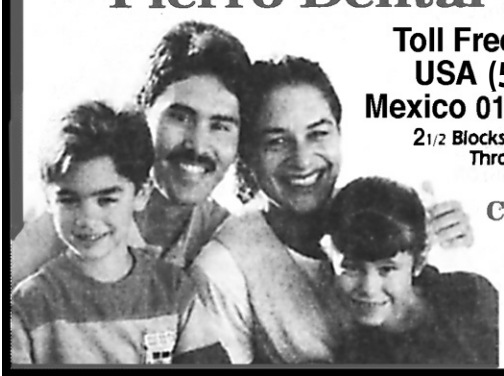
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40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going on in September

Plus a look ahead into early October.

SEPTEMBER

MONDAY
LABOR DAY

1 Silver City/Grant County ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SHOW—10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Grant County Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy 180 E. rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla NEW MEXICO HARVEST WINE FESTIVAL—12-2:45 p.m.: Overcome. 3-5:45 p.m.: Phat Soul. 12-6 p.m. \$20, under 21 free with parent or guardian; \$15 advance online. \$3 discount for active duty and retired military. Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, I-10. 522-1232, wineharvestfestival.com.

TUESDAY 2 Silver City/Grant County TEA PARTY MEETING—"The Border Crisis, Part One," video by Zach Taylor, retired 26-year Border Patrol officer and past chairman of the National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers. 6 p.m. Red Barn, Hwy 180.

Las Cruces/Mesilla ARGENTINE TANGO DE LAS CRUCES—Tuesdays. Tango lesson 6:30-7:15 p.m. Milonga 7:15-9:30 p.m. \$5. 2251 Calle de Santiago, Mesilla. (505) 620-0377.

BORDER AVENUE BAND—Every Other Tuesday. Country and rock. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

WEDNESDAY 3 Las Cruces / Mesilla WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 7. Outstanding short and feature-length documentaries and narratives of all genres from around the world, with a special focus on Latino and New Mexican film-making. Film and acting workshops, presentation of lifetime achievement award. \$30-\$150. Cineport 10, Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. 522-1232, www.wsiff.com.

THURSDAY 4 Silver City/Grant County BROWN BAG PROGRAM—"Botanist, Linguist, and Physician." 12-1 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercity-museum.org.

WILL SIGN-UP SOCIAL—The public is invited free of charge to Western Institute for Lifelong Learning's (WILL) Fall Semester Sign-up Social. Doors open 5 p.m. overview meeting at 5:30 p.m., course registration begins at 6 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, info@will-learning.com, www.will-learning.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Jim Helder's Septet. 8-10 p.m. Dance lesson 7 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Alma de Artes School, 402 W. Court St. 526-6504.

TIFFANY CHRISTOPHER—Rock. 8-11 p.m. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 7. See Sept. 3. \$30-\$150. Cineport 10, Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. 522-1232, www.wsiff.com.

FRIDAY 5 Silver City/Grant County CW AYON—One-man blues band. 8 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard, 956-6144.

GREG AND CHARLIE—Classic folk-rock. 6-9 p.m. Diane's Parlor, 510 N. Bullard St.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT WATCH TRAINING—Free information session. Pre-registration required, (312) 498-9449, susantellermarshall@gmail.com. 9-11 a.m.

Las Cruces/Mesilla A LONG WAY DOWN—Through Sept. 11. Disgraced former TV presenter Martin (Pierce Brosnan) climbs to a spot in London, favored by suicides. As he contemplates his last few moments on earth, three strangers, all of whom had the same idea, join him on the roof. As the four reveal their reasons for ending their lives, a tenuous bond is formed between them. 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.

ART ON EASELS—Grand opening of the Las Cruces Arts Association's new Main Street location in the Community Enterprise Center. 5-7 p.m. LCAA Gallery on Main, 125 N. Main St.

COMIC CON—Through Sept. 7. Zia Comic presents, pop culture event, comic books, movies and TV. Featured guests include actor Ray Park (*Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace*, *X-Men*, "Sleepy Hollow"), actor/stuntman Jason Ybarra ("Power Rangers") and comic book artist Jim Steranko (Marvel Comics' "Captain America" and "Nick Fury, Agent of SHIELD"), among others. \$40 three-day pass, \$25 Saturday, \$20 Sunday. Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. 405-0461, www.LasCrucesComicCon.org.

J.W. FIKE—Special discussion at the opening of "J.W. Fike's Photographic Survey of the Wild Edible Botanicals of the North American Continent." 5 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

PLEIN AIR ARTISTS—Exhibit reception. 5-7 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

ROCKET MAN—Through Sept. 14. A serious comedy by Steven Dietz about the road not taken. Donny Rowan has placed everything he owns on his front lawn, along with a sign that reads, "Here's my life. Make an offer." 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 7. See Sept. 3. \$30-\$150. Cineport 10, Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. 522-1232, www.wsiff.com.

WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS PRESENTATION—6 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown



Jim Shearer performs with the Creole Trio Plus One Sept. 21. Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

Rodeo CHIRICAHUA-PELONCILLO HERITAGE DAYS—Through Sept. 7. Friday: Keynote film presentation and reception (5:30-7:30 p.m. MST). Saturday: Presentations, crafts fair, farmer's market, kids workshop (9-5 p.m. MST). Sunday: Guided field day excursions in Chiricahua and Peloncillo Mountains. Chiricahua Event Center, (520) 558-0165.

SATURDAY 6 Silver City/Grant County CRAFT CLASS—"Papermaking for Adults" with Veronique De Jaeger. Pre-registration required. 2-4 p.m. \$15. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

FARMERS' MARKET—8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

HELL TO PAY—Rock, blues, classic country. 8:30 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard, 956-6144.

LOOSE BLUES BAND—Classic blues, rock, folk and country. 2-4 p.m. Yankee Creek Coffee House.

TASTE OF DOWNTOWN SILVER CITY—Can't decide which restaurant to go out to this evening? You don't have to choose with MainStreet's Taste of Downtown Silver City. The annual restaurant tour will feature menu items from various downtown locations. 11 a.m. \$18 for 20 tasting tickets advance, \$1 per taste same day. Restaurants and eateries throughout downtown. 534-1700, www.silvercitymainstreet.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla ANNUAL IRIS RHIZOME SALE—Also Sept. 7. Mesilla Valley Iris Society. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor.

BLUE GRAMAS BLUEGRASS BAND—Featuring Chad Norred. 8-11 p.m. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

BRIAN POTTORFF—Opening for exhibit, Sept. 4-27. 4-6 p.m. Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St.

COMIC CON—Through Sept. 7. See Sept. 5. Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. 405-0461, www.LasCrucesComicCon.org.

MARK MEDOFF: FAR FROM FINISHED—Celebrity fundraiser including Richard Dreyfuss, Jeffrey Tambor, Chris McDonald, Linda Hamilton, Jesse Plemons and NMSU graduate Don Foster (executive producer of "Two and a Half Men"). Will help fund the Mark Medoff Lecture Series at NMSU. \$50-\$100/ NMSU Creative Media Institute, cmi.nmsu.edu/mark-medoff-far-from-finished.

RAUL DORN—Opening for art show. 4-6 p.m. Unsettled Gallery, 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285.

ROCKET MAN—Through Sept. 14. See Sept. 5. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 7. See Sept. 3. \$30-\$150. Cineport 10, Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. 522-1232, www.wsiff.com.

Rodeo CHIRICAHUA-PELONCILLO HERITAGE DAYS—Through Sept. 7. Presentations, crafts fair, farmer's market, kids workshop (9-5 p.m. MST). Chiricahua Event Center, (520) 558-0165.

SUNDAY 7 Silver City/Grant County ANNUAL CO-OP PICNIC—Silver City Food Co-op will provide the main dish. Please bring a salad or dessert dish to share and bring your own plates and utensils. Celebrate summer and our community with games, friends and food. Be there by 11:30 a.m. to be part of a huge group photo for the Co-Op's 40th anniversary. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Gomez Peak Picnic Area. 388-2343.

Las Cruces/Mesilla ANNUAL IRIS RHIZOME SALE—Mesilla Valley Iris Society. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor.

COMIC CON—See Sept. 5. Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. 405-0461, www.LasCrucesComicCon.org.

ROCKET MAN—Through Sept. 14. See Sept. 5. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

WHITE SANDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL—See Sept. 3. \$30-\$150. Cineport 10, Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. 522-1232, www.wsiff.com.

Rodeo CHIRICAHUA-PELONCILLO HERITAGE DAYS—Guided field day excursions in Chiricahua and Peloncillo Mountains. Chiricahua Event Center, (520) 558-0165.

MONDAY 8 Silver City/Grant County WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE—Debbie Maldonado will lead a karaoke sing-along. All singles are welcome. 10:30 a.m. \$10 lunch. Glad Tidings Church, 11600 Hwy 180 E. 537-3643.

TUESDAY 9 Silver City/Grant County COMMUNITY FORUM—Also Sept. 11.

Pickamania! Preview

Pickamania! is back for a sixth year to put an exclamation point on the transition from summer to fall, Sept. 12-14 at Gough Park in Silver City. The free Mimbres Region Arts Council event features Grammy nominated Sarah Jarosz headlining Saturday and Louisiana's rollicking (also Grammy-nominated) Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys headlining Sunday.

A Friday night kick-off dance starts at 7 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. with the sounds of The Out of Kilters.

Saturday's lineup starts off at 11:30 a.m. with local husband and wife duo Mountaineer Folk Music, playing traditional and Celtic favorites. Banjo and cello duo The Littlest Birds from northern California then take the stage at 12:15 p.m., followed by Higher Ground Bluegrass, hailing from northern New Mexico, at 1:30 p.m. Silver City Blues Festival veteran Hillary Smith heads up powerhouse acoustic trio hONEYhoUSe at 3 p.m., and Fishtank Ensemble, a "musical Molotov cocktail," continues the merriment with a blend of Turkish, Romanian, Gypsy, French hot jazz, Balkan and Greek styles at 4:30 p.m. Sarah Jarosz brings it home at 6:30 p.m., and if you're hankering for more, Steep Ravine



All ages get into the act at Pickamania! (Photo: Bruce Bloy)

plays on in the beer garden starting at 8 p.m.

On Sunday the day starts off at 11:30 a.m. with New Mexico's own Lost Howlin' Coyotes, playing traditional standards and gospel, followed by Silver City's budding local musicians/luthiers, the Home-made Hoedown Kids, at 12:35 p.m. At 1 p.m., San Francisco's acoustic quartet Steep Ravine takes the stage followed by Arizona's all-string band, Run Boy Run, at 2:30 p.m. Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys close out the festival Sunday at 4:15 p.m.

Local food and craft/artisan vendors as well as music workshops will enhance the festivities and fun. For more information and updates, see www.mimbresarts.org.

Class on how to brew your own alternative kefirs. The Bumbling Gourmet has taken up brewing ginger ale and other lightly sweetened sparkling beverages using water kefir grains. The bottles pop like champagne and the bubbles will tickle your nose as well as your palate. come learn the basic two-step fermentation process using kefir grains, organic sugar and juice. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Food Co-Op annex, 614 N. Bullard, 388-2343, www.silvercityfoodcoop.com.

WEDNESDAY
10 Silver City/Grant County Lunch & Learn—The public is invited free of charge to the first of Western Institute for Lifelong Learning's (WILL) Fall Semester Lunch & Learn Series, a wonderful diversity of talks offered Wednesdays during the noon hour. Feel free to bring a bag lunch and bring a friend. To begin the series, Nathan Newcomer will present "Conducting Citizen Science Inventories in the Gila National Forest." Newcomer has been out in the Gila with various Silver City folks gathering data that will give a sense of what's going on in the 2014 forest. Noon. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center ABC Room, 538-6835, info@will-learning.com, www.will-learning.com.

THURSDAY
11 Silver City/Grant County Community Forum—See Sept. 9. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Food Co-Op annex, 614 N. Bullard, 388-2343, www.silvercityfoodcoop.com.

ROLLING STONES GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY—Review of annual Labor Day show. Potluck dinner: 6-8 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria St. 534-1393, rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com.

RUN ON SENTENCE—Indie rock, on tour. 8:30 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard, 956-6144.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs, DJ Dave Kibler. 8-10 p.m. Dance lesson 7 p.m. \$7 members. Alma de Artes School, 402 W. Court St. 526-6504.
CULTURE SERIES—"Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument" by David Soules, an engineer at White Sands Missile Range and a member of numerous conservation organizations. He has researched and hiked the area's mountains for years. 7 p.m. \$2 donation. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

GALLERY TALK—In conjunction with "Off the Wall" exhibit. Marisa Sage. 6 p.m. NMSU University Art Gallery. D.W. Williams Hall, University Avenue and Solano Drive, 646-2545, uag.nmsu.edu.
HISTORY NOTES—Lecture by Jeff Schwehn, "The Earthly Afterlife of Billy the Kid." 1 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

OFF THE WALL BANNER PROJECT—Official opening reception. 5 p.m. NMSU University Art Gallery. D.W. Williams Hall, University Avenue and Solano Drive, 646-2545, uag.nmsu.edu.
ROCKET MAN—Through Sept. 14.

See Sept. 5. 7 p.m. \$8. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.
SHADY REST BAND—Skifflegrass from San Marcos, Texas. 8-11 p.m. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY
12 Silver City/Grant County 26th Annual Pickamania!—Through Sept. 14. See story in this section. Kickoff dance with the Out of Kilters. 6-9 p.m. www.mimbresarts.org.
STRING BEANS—Americana bluegrass. 8:30 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard, 956-6144.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
MOOD INDIGO—Through Sept. 18. Wealthy, inventive bachelor Colin endeavors to find a cure for his lover Chloe after she's diagnosed with an unusual illness caused by a flower growing in her lungs. With Audrey Tatou. French with English subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

ROCKET MAN—Through Sept. 14. See Sept. 5. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

SATURDAY
13 Silver City/Grant County 30th Annual Pickamania!—Through Sept. 14. See story in this section. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Gough Park. www.mimbresarts.org.

13TH ANNUAL RED HOT CHILDREN'S FIESTA—"Get Buggy!" theme. Prizes, fun and games. Grant County Community Health Council. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Penny Park, 1305 N. Grant St. 388-1198, healthcouncil@grmc.org.

5TH ANNUAL WALK FOR THE HEROES—The walk is named after James H. Pirtle, an army specialist who became the first New Mexican to be killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom in October 2003. Pirtle's mother lives in Silver City. Raises funds for military charities supported through the Gary Sinise Foundation. Info: isupport@walkfortheheroes.com.

AN ILIAD—A new play, interpreting Homer's tale of gods, love, rage and war for today. Performed by Algernon D'Amassa with John McClure III. Tickets on sale pre-event at Sparks Clinic, WNMU Humanities Department and Alotta Gelato. 8 p.m. \$10 advance, \$5 students, \$15 at the door. WNMU Besse-Forward Auditorium.

CRAFT CLASS—Felt making, ages 8 and up. Pre-registration encouraged. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

FARMERS' MARKET—Music by Loose Blues Band, 9-11 a.m. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.
GRAND RE-OPENING—All day. Ra-

ven's Nest, Broadway and Bullard.
LAST TRAIN TO EL PASO—Presentation and book signing with Jerry Lobdill. 2-3 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.
QUARTERLY BOOK SALE—Friends of the Silver City Library. Money raised supports the Public Library. Hardbacks \$1, small paperbacks 50 cents. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., members only 9-10 a.m. 1510 Market St. folsilvercitynm@gmail.com.
VACCINATION CLINIC—9 a.m.-noon. High Desert Humane Society, Cougar Way.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
CLASSICS ONE—Also Sept. 14. Sujari Britt, cello. Beethoven, Overture to "Egmont"; Saint-Saens, Concerto No. 1; Sibelius, Symphony No. 1. 7:30 p.m. \$35 and up. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events. 646-3709, www.lascrucessymphony.com.
DIEZ Y SEIS DE SEPTIEMBRE FIESTA—Also Sept. 14. Mexican Independence Day. Folklorico dances, mariachi music, authentic Mexican cuisine. Old Mesilla Plaza. 524-3262, www.mesillanm.gov/tourism/events/category/events.
ERYN BENT—Santa Fe singer/songwriter. 8-11 p.m. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
LEAF PRINT WORKSHOP—In conjunction with "Art from Science" exhibit. Noon. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.
ROCKET MAN—Through Sept. 14. See Sept. 5. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

SNIFFIN' GLUE—Opening for show of works by Lisa Cavallera, through Sept. 27. 4-6 p.m. Rokoko Gallery, 1785 Avenida de Mercado.

THE COASTERS WITH REMEMBER THEN—Hear the Coasters sing their greatest hits: "Yakety Yak," "Poison Ivy," "Charlie Brown" and more. 7:30 p.m. \$35. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

Radium Springs
FRONTIER DAYS—Take a trip back in time with a visit to Fort Selden State Monument as they honor the civilians and soldiers who lived at the fort and protected the residents of the Mesilla Valley after the Civil War. Among the groups honored are the Buffalo Soldiers who were some of the first soldiers assigned to the fort. Fort Selden State Monument, 526-8911, (800) 429-9488. www.nmculture.org.

SUNDAY
14 Silver City/Grant County 46th Annual Pickamania!—See story in this section. 11:30 a.m.-5:45 p.m. Gough Park. www.mimbresarts.org.
FOR THE LOVE OF CLAY—Reception with artist Phoebe Lawrence, for show Sept. 9-Oct. 8. Copper Quail Gallery, 211A N. Texas, 388-2646.
LITTLEST BIRDS—Americana blue-

EVENTS continued on next page



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Thu 9/4	Tiffany Christopher (Lady Rocker)
Sat 9/6	Blue Gramas Bluegrass Band (feat. Good Ol' Chad Norred)
Thu 9/11	Shady Rest Band (Skifflegrass from San Marcos, TX)
Sat 9/13	Eryn Bent (Santa Fe Singer/Songwriter)
Thu 9/18	Emby Alexander ("Phoenix's own Talking Heads" -Java Magazine)
Sat 9/20	Direct Divide ("Violin-intensified Rock-n-Roll" from Seattle)
Thu 9/25	The D.A.M.N. Union (local music collective)
Sat 9/27	Yairms/ALHHLA/Andrew Hiller (Durham, NC Indie showcase)
Thu 10/2	Bourbon Legend (Uke-Rock)

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Sept. 2014 Classes

9/03/14: **Audacity Radio Software Class** with Todd Dennehy! Learn how to record and edit your own KOOT 88.1 FM radio show!

9/10/14: **Spruce Up Your Videos!** Learn more about Movie Maker-a free video editing program!

9/17/14: **Open Class** for Whatever Help You Need Taught by KOOT 88.1 FM Pro, Todd Dennehy!

Oct. 2014 Classes

10/01/14: **Movie Maker!** Want to show others your photos, but they aren't interested? Learn how to turn your digital photos into a video production!

10/08/14: **KOOT 88.1FM Community Radio 101!** Learn the rules and regulations for broadcasting on YOUR Community-YOUR Station KOOT 88.1 FM!

10/15/14: **Turn Your Videos Into a CATS TV Production!** Phone videos, camera videos, camcorder videos! Get your videos on TV!

Classes are FREE to members! Non-members are charged a \$10 fee. (KOOT 88.1 FM and CATS-where YOU'RE in control!)
For more information: 575-534-0130



Sept. 26—8:30pm
South American Latin Rhythm Band



Jazz Orgy
Sept. 28—4pm
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September 2014
Calendar of Events

Thursday, September 4, 2014
Brown Bag program: Botanist, Linguist, and Physician – Dr. Bushnell with Dr. Bell
12 noon to 1 pm Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway

Saturday, September 6, 2014
Taste of Downtown at the Museum –Taste Southwest Native America!
11 am to 2 pm Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway

Saturday, September 6, 2014
Craft Class: Papermaking for Adults with Veronique De Jaegher
2 pm to 4 pm at the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway
For adult crafters, \$15, limit 6 crafters, pre-registration required.

Saturday, September 13, 2014
Craft Class: Felt Making
10 am to 12 noon at the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway
For crafters aged 8 and older, \$5, limit 10 crafters, pre-registration encouraged.
Parent or guardian attendance required.

Saturday, September 13, 2014
Presentation and Book Signing: Last Train to El Paso with Jerry Lobdill
2 pm to 3 pm at the Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway

Thursday, September 18, 2014
Take a Virtual Hike Along the Gila River with Nathan Newcomer
12 noon to 1 pm at the Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway

Friday, September 19, 2014
Ft. Bayard Days - Historic Rope Making —9 am to 3 pm at Ft. Bayard

Saturday, September 20, 2014
Gila River Festival Activities at the Silver City Museum
11 am to 12 noon, Meet the Artists of the exhibit, Wilderness:
Michael Berman, James Hemphill and Anthony Howell
12 noon to 1 pm, Monsoon Puppet Parade
will finish with activities at the Museum Courtyard
1 pm to 2 pm, Children's Activities. All at the Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway

Thursday, September 25, 2014
Get the Lead Out! (and Asbestos) An awareness-level workshop on lead and asbestos regulations for building renovators
9 am to 1 pm at the Besse Forward Global Resource Center

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 4, 2015
Wilderness: Michael Berman, James Hemphill and Anthony Howell, now through November 30, 2014

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



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THE TO DO LIST
Plenty to fall for.

You can read about two of this month's signature events, the **Gila River Festival** and **Pickamania!**, in this issue's Tumbleweeds section and elsewhere in this section, respectively. But those are far from the only notable happenings in September. Also in Silver City, the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) starts up for autumn with its **Sign-Up Social** on **Sept. 4** and **Lunch & Learn** brown bag presentations on Wednesdays beginning **Sept. 10**. It's the annual **Taste of Downtown** on **Sept. 6**; see Table Talk in this issue for details. In Las Cruces, famous names from the superhero scene including actor Ray Park and artist Jim Steranko will headline **Comic Con**, **Sept. 5-7**.

The following weekend, the **Red Hot Children's Fiesta** fills Penny Park in Silver City with fun, **Sept. 13**. A modern take on Homer's classic, *An Iliad*, takes the stage at the WNMU Besse-Forward Auditorium on **Sept. 13**, and at Voiers "Pitt"



Fort Bayard Days.

Park in Deming on **Sept. 20**. In Mesilla, it's **Mexican Independence Day** (a few days early) on the plaza, **Sept. 13-14**.

Next up is **Fort Bayard Days**, **Sept. 19-21**, with Friday living history and guest speaker Derrell Heitt presenting "Teddy's Rough Riders." On Saturday, highlights include vintage baseball, a military band concert and military ball. If food is more your idea of fun, sample the **Whole Enchilada Festival** in Las Cruces, **Sept. 26-27**. 🌮

EVENTS continued

grass/folk. 6 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard, 956-6144.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
CLASSICS ONE—See Sept. 13. 3 p.m. \$35 and up. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events. 646-3709, www.lascrucessymphony.com.
DIEZ Y SEIS DE SEPTIEMBRE FIESTA—See Sept. 13. Old Mesilla Plaza. 524-3262, www.mesillanm.gov/tourism/events/category/events.
ROCKET MAN—See Sept. 5. 2:30 p.m. \$12, \$10 students/seniors. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

TUESDAY
16 Silver City/Grant County TEA PARTY MEETING—"The Border Crisis, Part Two," featuring speaker from Roswell, Jeff Everly, vice chairman of the National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers. 6 p.m. Red Barn, Hwy 180.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
AUDRA RODGERS—Every Other Tuesday. Rodgers writes for and performs on banjo, guitar, trumpet and ukulele. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

WEDNESDAY
17 Silver City/Grant County LUNCH & LEARN—Asher Gelbart on "Regenerative Landscaping with Rainwater Harvesting," sharing how he applies his engineering skills to simple, low-tech, sustainable infrastructures for living in harmony with the earth. Brown bag. Noon. Free. WNMU Student Memorial Building, 3rd floor meeting room (near the library entrance). 538-6835, www.will-learning.com, info@will-learning.com.

10TH ANNUAL GILA RIVER FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 21. See story in Tumbleweeds section. One of the Southwest's premier nature festivals, the Gila River Festival attracts an audience of nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts eager to learn about and experience the Gila's natural wonders. Festival attendees will enjoy a variety of expert-guided field trips in the Gila National Forest and along the Gila River, a keynote talk by author and conservationist Dave Foreman, presentations by WNMU Professor Emeritus of Biology Dale Zimmerman, historian Stephen Fox, naturalist Mike Fugagli, and The Nature Conservancy's Martha Cooper; Gila River photography by award-winning landscape photographer Michael Berman; a water wheel ceremony; kayaking; wilderness films; Gala for the Gila, featuring live music by the Roadrunners; a downtown art walk and more. Locations throughout Grant County. 538-8078, www.gilaconservation.org/wp/?page_id=1004.
VIRTUAL HIKE ALONG THE GILA RIVER—With Nathan Newcomer. 12-1 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercity-museum.org.
WNMU VOLLEYBALL VS. COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES—7 p.m. WNMU campus, wnmumustangs.com.
Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—High Society Orchestra. Annual President's Ball. 8-10 p.m. Dance lesson 7 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Alma de Artes School, 402 W. Court St. 526-6504.
CASTING CROWNS—Grammy- and Dove Award-winning Christian rock band, with former American Idol finalist and K-LOVE Female Artist of the Year, Mandisa, plus Sidewalk Prophets. 7 p.m. \$20-\$50. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, (800) 745-3000, ticketmaster.com.
EMBY ALEXANDER—8-11 p.m. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
FOSTER THE PEOPLE—Touring in support of their sophomore album, "Supermodel" With Fitz and the Tantrums. \$25, \$35, \$40. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu, (800) 745-3000, ticketmaster.com.

FRIDAY
19 Silver City/Grant County 10TH ANNUAL GILA RIVER FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 21. See story in Tumbleweeds section. Locations throughout Grant County. 538-8078, www.gilaconservation.org/wp/?page_id=1004.
FORT BAYARD DAYS—Through Sept. 21. Experience Fort Bayard with living history exhibits, children's activities, a style show and morning tea, vintage baseball, military band, and a military ball. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.: Living history centers on the Parade Ground. 6:30 p.m.: Dinner followed by guest speaker Derrell Heitt presenting "Teddy's Rough Riders." Reservations required for dinner; \$15, \$6 children. Fort Bayard, 956-3294, www.fortbayard.org.
GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—A.T. Cole will give a presentation: "Human-Caused Climate Change and Habitat Shallowing as an Adaptation Tool." 7 p.m. Free. WNMU Harlan Hall, Room 219. www.gilanps.org.
WNMU VOLLEYBALL VS. COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY—7 p.m. WNMU campus, wnmumustangs.com.
Las Cruces/Mesilla
FRONTERA—Through Sept. 25. A former Arizona sheriff's wife is killed while riding on their ranch property. It would appear a Mexican man illegally crossing into the US is at fault. As the former and the current sheriff search for answers, lives are changed forever. With Ed Harris, Amy Madigan and Eva Longoria. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 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
20 Silver City/Grant County 10TH ANNUAL GILA RIVER FESTIVAL—Through Sept. 21. See story in Tumbleweeds section. Locations throughout Grant County. 538-8078, www.gilaconservation.org/wp/?page_id=1004.
COOKING CLASS—"Sephardic Favorites." Pre-register. 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Shevek & Co., 602 N. Bullard, 534-9168, silver-eats.com.
FARMERS' MARKET—8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.
FORT BAYARD DAYS—Through Sept. 21. See Sept. 20. 9 a.m.: Flag ceremony. 9:30 a.m.: Tours. 10:45 a.m.: Vintage baseball. 12-1 p.m.: Lunch available. 1 p.m.: Military band concert with Fort Lowell 4th Cavalry Regimental Band. 2 p.m.: Vintage baseball. 7-10 p.m.: Military ball in theater (\$5/couple, \$2.50/person, children free with parents. Fort Bayard, 956-3294, www.fortbayard.org.
GREG AND CHARLIE—Classic folk-rock. 6-9 p.m. Diane's Parlor, 510 N. Bullard St.
MONSOON PUPPET PARADE AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES—In conjunction with Gila River Festival. 12-2 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.
STARS-N-PARKS—National Public Observatory program. Mars is low in the west. Andromeda Galaxy is rising in the northeast and is viewable by program's end. The summer Milky Way bifurcates the evening sky. Presenter: Matt Wilson. Sunset 7:07 p.m., program start 8:20 p.m. \$5 park fee, \$3 donation. City of Rocks State Park, 327 Hwy 61, Faywood. www.Astro-NPO.org.
WILDERNESS—Meet the artists, in conjunction with "Wilderness: Michael Berman, Anthony Howell and James Hemphill" exhibit. 11 a.m.-noon. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.
Las Cruces/Mesilla
BAND OF SISTERS—Special film event. The story of Catholic nuns and their work for social justice after Vatican II of the 1960s. 1:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.
DIRECT DIVIDE—Rock and violin from Seattle. 8-11 p.m. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
FALL GARDENING PREP—Get in gear for your fall and winter gardens. 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.lascruces.org/museums.
NEW MEXICO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MARATHON—Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation. 5K, half and full marathon. Food, fun and music. 6:30 a.m. Luna Rossa Winery & Pizzeria, 1321 Avenida de Mesilla. www.Run-ThenWine.com.
NMSU AGGIES FOOTBALL VS. UNM—6 p.m. NMSU Aggies Memorial Stadium, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstastesports.com.
OUTSIDE MULLINGAR—Also Sept. 21. FUSION (FUSIONnm.org), an Albuquerque professional theatre company, opens its 2014-15 season with the 2014 Tony Award-nominated best play by John Patrick Shanley, on regional tour. This production, the first off of the Broadway stage, is a romantic comedy featuring two eccentric souls, Rosemary and Anthony. They stumble and bumble toward love and passion while in the froth of a neighborly feud over a piece of land the size of a postage stamp. Set in contemporary Ireland. 7:30 p.m. \$39.50. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.
RAUL DORN—Performance reading. 6-7 p.m. Unsettled Gallery, 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285.
ST. GENEVIEVE FIESTA—Also Sept. 21. Family fun with food, games, a silent auction, entertainment, a raffle and more. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Free. St. Genevieve Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave., 524-9649.
STARS-N-PARKS—National Public Observatory program. Mars is low in the west. Andromeda Galaxy is rising in the

northeast and is viewable by program's end. The summer Milky Way bifurcates the evening sky. Presenter: John Gilkison. Sunset 6:58 p.m., program start 8:10 p.m. \$5 park fee, \$3 donation. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398. www.Astro-NPO.org.

Deming
MUSIC IN THE PARK—6 p.m. Rock-hound State Park, 9880 Stirrup Road SE, 546-6182, FriendsOfRockhound.org.

White Sands
WHITE SANDS HOT AIR BALLOON INVITATIONAL—A collection of colorful balloons filling the air over the white gypsum dunes of White Sands National Monument. 437-6120, (800) 826-0294. www.alamogordo.com.

SUNDAY
21 Silver City/Grant County 10TH ANNUAL GILA RIVER FESTIVAL—See story in Tumbleweeds section. Locations throughout Grant County. 538-8078, www.gilaconservation.org/wp/?page_id=1004.

EARLY SUNDAY FUNDRAISING SUPPER—Entertainment by the Gila Highlanders. Benefits the Bridge Community senior living facility project. 5 p.m. \$10. First United Methodist Church, 314 W. College, 538-5754.

FORT BAYARD DAYS—See Sept. 20. Interdenominational worship service in theater, 9:30 a.m. Fort Bayard, 956-3294, www.fortbayard.org.

GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY HIKE—Pancho Canyon above the Gila Bird Area. *Trichostema arizonicum* and *Anisacanthus thurberi* are favored in this area. Meet at 8 a.m. Free. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatresouth parking lot. 388-5192, www.gilanps.org.

WNMU VOLLEYBALL VS. REGIS UNIVERSITY—2 p.m. WNMU campus, wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
CELEBRATE AUTHORS—Bringing together readers and some of their favorite regional authors: Jennifer Cervantes, Rus Bradburd, Denise Chávez, Kelly Coffeen, Spencer Herrera, Paula Moore, Connie Vermeer and Rozilyn Skibyak, David Thomas and Ellen Young. Hosted by Friends of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. 3-5 p.m. \$5. Bradley D. & William B. Restaurant, 2540 E. Paseo Road. 525-2745, friendsbranigan@gmail.com.

CREOLE TRIO PLUS ONE—New

Orleans-style jazz. Mesilla Valley Jazz & Blues Society monthly concert series. 7 p.m. \$8, \$5 members, \$1 students with ID. First Christian Church, 1809 El Paseo. 640-8752. www.mvjazzblues.net.

MORGAN BROTHERS BAND AND THE RIO GRANDE RAMBLERS—Variety of blues, rock and roll, Americana and contemporary folk. 5:30 p.m. Free. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

NMSU AGGIES WOMEN'S SOCCER VS. UNLV—12 p.m. \$6-\$24, 12 and under free. NMSU campus, off Payne St., www.nmstatesports.com.

OUTSIDE MULLINGAR—See Sept. 20. 2 p.m. \$39.50. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

St. GENEVIEVE FIESTA—See Sept. 20. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Free. St. Genevieve Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave., 524-9649.

TUESDAY
23 Silver City/Grant County 29TH ANNUAL PURCHASE PRIZE AWARD EXHIBIT—Grant County Art Guild exhibit opening. 5:30 p.m. Pinos Altos Art Gallery, 534-2899.

SUE FINK & JANE GODFREY—Singer-songwriter duo, on national tour. 7 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard, 956-6144.

WEDNESDAY
24 Silver City/Grant County CLIFF-GILA GRANT COUNTY FAIR—Through Sept. 27. Celebration of Grant County's agricultural heritage and future, with animal and craft exhibits from schools and civic groups. Exhibits, livestock judging, rodeo, dances. \$3. County Fairgrounds and Cliff High School, Cliff. 388-1559.

LUNCH & LEARN—Ann Hedlund on "State of the Art: Navajo Weavers and Their Creativity. She will address where Navajo weavers get ideas for their rug designs, weaving through the generations, and the future prospects for Native American weaving. Brown bag. Noon. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center ABC Room, 538-6835, info@will-learning.com, www.will-learning.com.

THURSDAY
ROSH HASHANAH
25 Silver City/Grant County CLIFF-GILA GRANT COUNTY

FAIR—Through Sept. 27. See Sept. 24. \$3. County Fairgrounds and Cliff High School, Cliff. 388-1559.

WORKSHOP—Awareness-level workshop on lead and asbestos regulations for building renovators hosted by the Town's Waterworks Project and Silver City Museum. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center. 538-5921 to pre-register.

YOU KNEW ME WHEN—Indie rock from Nashville. 8 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard, 956-6144.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs. 8-10 p.m. Dance lesson 7 p.m. \$7 members. Alma de Artes School, 402 W. Court St. 526-6504.

GALLERY TALK—In conjunction with "Off the Wall" exhibit. Veronica Roberts. 6 p.m. NMSU University Art Gallery. D.W. Williams Hall, University Avenue and Solano Drive, 646-2545, uag.nmsu.edu.

THE D.A.M.N. UNION—Local music collective. 8-11 p.m. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

WEST HIGHLAND WAY—Through Oct. 12. Play by Meredith Friedman Jane, reeling from a broken engagement, sets forth on a 95-mile walking trail in Scotland with her father. When a chance encounter with a charming Irishman re-opens her heart, she must choose between her old life and an uncertain future. Preview performance 7:30 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events.

26 Silver City/Grant County BARACUTANGA—Albuquerque Latin rhythm band. 8:30 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard, 956-6144.

CLIFF-GILA GRANT COUNTY FAIR—Through Sept. 27. See Sept. 24. \$3. County Fairgrounds and Cliff High School, Cliff. 388-1559.

SEPHARDIC WINE TASTING DINNER—Reservations recommended. 6:30 p.m. \$85 per person (\$45 food without wines). Shevek & Co., 602 N. Bullard, 534-9168, silver-eats.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
MANHATTAN SHORT—Through Oct. 2. Over 300 cities across six continents unite for one week for one film festival.

EVENTS continued on next page



September 2014

5-11—**A Long Way Down** Dir: Pascal Chaumeil, (96min. In English)

12-18—**Mood Indigo** Dir: Michel Gondry, (94min. French w/Eng Subs)

19-25—**Frontera** Dir: Michael Berry, (103min. In English)

25th Patron Admitted Free & Small Popcorn is 25¢ for all on the 25th day

20—1:30 Special Event—**Band of Sisters** (88min. English)

26-Oct 2—**Manhattan Short**

2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla • www.mesillavalleyfilm.org • (575) 524-8287

Shows nightly at 7:30- Sunday Matinee at 2:30.

The Fountain Theatre—featuring the best independent, foreign and alternative films in the Southwest. Home of the Mesilla Valley Film Society since 1989!

Upcoming Classes and Training

Angels 101:
Sat. Sept. 6, 10 - 12, \$25

Guides 101:
Sat. Sept. 6, 1 - 3, \$25

Reiki I and II:
Mon. Sept. 8, 9 - 4, \$150

Advanced Reiki Training (A.R.T.):
Sat. Oct. 11, 8:30 - 4:30, \$150

Your Chakra And Energy Systems:
Sat. Oct. 25, 9 - 4, \$45

Contact The Rock Center for details. Preregistration required.
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PHILLIP PAROTTI

FEATURING

Dave Foreman, wilderness advocate and conservationist, author of *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior*

Michael Berman, new photographs of America's First Wilderness River

Films celebrating 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act

Wild Grace with Sister Joan Brown, New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light

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AN ILIAD

interpreting Homer's tale of gods, love, rage, and war for today



written by:
Lisa Peterson
Denis O'Hare
& Homer



translated by
Robert Fagles

performed by

Algernon D'Ammassa

with

John McClure



8pm*Saturday*September 13

Besse Forward Auditorium WNMU

Tickets on sale September 1

\$10 at Humanities Dept WNMU, Sparks Clinic, Alotta Gelato

\$5 with student ID \$15 at the door.

EVENTS continued

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.

VALLEY UPRISING—The 9th Reel Rock Film Tour features this film of Yosemite climbing, spanning half a century of struggle against the laws of gravity and the laws of the land. In conjunction with the Las Cruces Climbing Festival. Live music, beer and vendors beginning at 5 p.m. Advance tickets at NMSU Outdoor Center (Activity Center Room 108). 7 p.m. \$5. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com. 646-4252, reelrocktour.com.

WEST HIGHLAND WAY—Through Oct. 12. See Sept. 25. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events.

WHOLE ENCHILADA FIESTA—Also Sept. 27. Street party complete with food, dancing, a parade and the making of one of the world's largest enchiladas. Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 526-1938, www.enchiladafiesta.com.

SATURDAY
27 Silver City/Grant County
CLIFF-GILA GRANT COUNTY FAIR—See Sept. 24. \$3. County Fairgrounds and Cliff High School, Cliff. 388-1559.

FARMERS' MARKET—Music by Greg and Jean with Jeff Ray (Southern Rocky Mountain Band), 9-11 a.m. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

WNMU FOOTBALL VS. CSU-PUEBLO—5 p.m. WNMU Ben Altamirano Memorial Stadium, www.wnmumustangs.com.

COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCK WORKSHOP—9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Mule Creek Adobe, 258 Arenas Valley Road, 535-2973, www.MuleCreekAdobe.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
WEST HIGHLAND WAY—Through Oct. 12. See Sept. 25. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events.

WHOLE ENCHILADA FIESTA—See Sept. 26. Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 526-1938, www.enchiladafiesta.com.

YAIRMS/ALHHLA/ANDREW HILLER—Durham, NC, indie showcase.



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8-11 p. m. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

Deming
AN ILIAD—A new play, interpreting Homer's tale of gods, love, rage and war for today. Performed by Algernon D'Ammassa with John McClure III. Bring lawn chair or cushion. 2 p.m. \$10, \$8 students and seniors. Voiers "Pitt" Park.

SUNDAY
28 Silver City/Grant County
JAZZ ORGY—Award-winning funk and sophisticated jazz band from Oshkosh, Wisc. 4 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard, 956-6144.

TUESDAY
30 Silver City/Grant County
WNMU VOLLEYBALL VS. NM HIGHLANDS—5 p.m. WNMU campus, wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ALISON REYNOLDS AND DEBORAH KUHN—Every Other Tuesday. Classic rock, pop and folk songs as well as performing many original songs. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

OCTOBER
WEDNESDAY
1 Las Cruces / Mesilla
SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR AND RODEO—Through Oct. 5. Midway, auction, food, music, livestock shows, cowboy rodeo and live car racing. 8 a.m.-10 p.m. \$8-\$10. Southern New Mexico State Fairground, I-10 exit 127 or 132, 524-8602, 524-8612, www.snmstatefairgrounds.net.

THURSDAY
2 Silver City/Grant County
REFLECTIONS OF AN ARTIST—Poet Denise Low. 6 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BOURBON LEGEND—Uke-rock. 8-11 p.m. High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

HABANEROS—The Habaneros quintet comes from Havana, Cuba. These celebrated performers (three violins, one cello and a clarinet) are all members of the National Symphony orchestra of Cuba. Program includes classical favorites and new arrangements of Cuban and South American compositions. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR AND RODEO—Through Oct. 5. See Oct. 1. 8 a.m.-10 p.m. \$8-\$10. Southern New Mexico State Fairground, I-10 exit 127 or 132, 524-8602, 524-8612, www.snmstatefairgrounds.net.

FRIDAY
3 Silver City/Grant County
HABANEROS—The Habaneros quintet comes from Havana, Cuba. These celebrated performers (three violins, one cello and a clarinet) are all members of the National Symphony orchestra of Cuba. Program includes classical favorites and new arrangements of Cuban and South American compositions. Grant County Community Concert Association. 7 p.m. Non-subscribers \$20 adult, \$5 student. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. 538-5862, gccac@gconcerts.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
MESILLA VALLEY JAZZ HAPPENING—Through Oct. 5. Old Mesilla Plaza and Mercado Plaza. 526-2620, www.mesillanm.gov/tourism.

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR AND RODEO—Through Oct. 5. See Oct. 1. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. \$8-\$10. Southern New Mexico State Fairground, I-10 exit 127 or 132, 524-8602, 524-8612, www.snmstatefairgrounds.net.

THE TRIP TO ITALY—Through Oct. 9. Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon return for another round of travel and food porn, which follows our intrepid armchair gastronomes on a carb-heavy tour of Italy from northern Piemonte to the sun-drenched Amalfi Coast. 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.

WEST HIGHLAND WAY—Through Oct. 12. See Sept. 25. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events.

SATURDAY
YOM KIPPUR
4 Silver City/Grant County
ANNUAL PINOS ALTOS FIESTA—Food and entertainment. Benefit for Pinos Altos Volunteer Fire Rescue. 11 a.m.-5

p.m. Main Street, Pinos Altos. 574-8394, lmwk@dishmail.net.

ART AND WINE EXTRAVAGANZA—Works by 15-plus artists. Music by Mariachi Rosas Del Desierto, 1-2 p.m.; Jessica Juarez, 3-5 p.m. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. La Esperanza Vineyard & Winery, Royal John Mine Road, (505) 259-9523, www.laesperanzavineyard-andwinery.com.

FARMERS' MARKET—8:30 a.m.-noon. Mainstreet Plaza, N. Bullard at 7th St., 654-4104.

GILA MONSTER GRAN FONDO—Long-distance, timed cycling event that is fun yet has a competitive edge for the individual, amateur and recreational cyclists. The course follows the iconic Tour of the Gila "Gila Monster" road race, covering some of the most stunning routes in New Mexico. Roving sag wagons and rest stations will provide extra support to get you to that finish line. 7:30 a.m. \$50. Gough Park, Hi-Spot on Hwy. 52, Camp Thunderbird. www.tourofthegila.com/gila-monster-challenge-gran-fondo-1.

WNMU MUSTANGS FOOTBALL VS. FORT LEWIS COLLEGE—Homecoming. 7 p.m. WNMU Ben Altamirano Memorial Stadium, www.wnmumustangs.com.

WNMU VOLLEYBALL VS. ADAMS STATE—5 p.m. WNMU campus, wnmumustangs.com.

WORKHORSE—Rock, blues, classic country. 8:30 p.m. Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, 200 N. Bullard, 956-6144.

WRITING CIRCLE—With novelist Mary Sojourner. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$95. Pinos Altos. Pre-register: (520) 850-0014, info@swwordfiesta.org.

POETRY WORKSHOP—With poet Denise Low. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. \$75. Downtown. Pre-register: 313-3172, info@swwordfiesta.org.

SPEED DATE WITH A PUBLISHER—With Denise Low of Mammoth Publications. 3:30-5 p.m. \$25 for 15 minutes. Downtown. Pre-register: 313-3172, info@swwordfiesta.org.

AN EVENING WITH THE STARS—Readings and signings by poet Denise Low and novelist Mary Sojourner with Silver City Poet Laureate Elise Stuart. 7 p.m. Free. 614 N. Bullard.

WNMU MUSTANGS FOOTBALL VS. FORT LEWIS COLLEGE—Homecoming. 7 p.m. WNMU Ben Altamirano Memorial Stadium, www.wnmumustangs.com.

WNMU VOLLEYBALL VS. ADAMS STATE—5 p.m. WNMU campus, wnmumustangs.com.

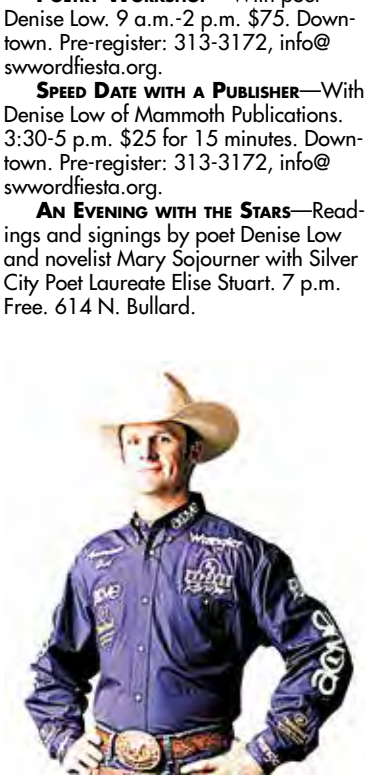
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AN EVENING WITH THE STARS—Readings and signings by poet Denise Low and novelist Mary Sojourner with Silver City Poet Laureate Elise Stuart. 7 p.m. Free. 614 N. Bullard.



Owen Washburn rides bulls at the Southwestern New Mexico State Fair in Deming, Oct. 8-12.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
MESILLA VALLEY JAZZ HAPPENING—Through Oct. 5. Old Mesilla Plaza and Mercado Plaza. 526-2620, www.mesillanm.gov/tourism.

NMSU AGGIES FOOTBALL VS. GEORGIA SOUTHERN—6 p.m. NMSU Aggies Memorial Stadium, 646-1420, 532-2060, nmstatesports.com.

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR AND RODEO—Through Oct. 5. See Oct. 1. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. \$8-\$10. Southern New Mexico State Fairground, I-10 exit 127 or 132, 524-8602, 524-8612, www.snmstatefairgrounds.net.

WEST HIGHLAND WAY—Through Oct. 12. See Sept. 25. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events.

SUNDAY
5 Las Cruces / Mesilla
MESILLA VALLEY JAZZ HAPPENING—Old Mesilla Plaza and Mercado Plaza. 526-2620, www.mesillanm.gov/tourism.

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR AND RODEO—See Oct. 1. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. \$8-\$10. Southern New Mexico State Fairground, I-10 exit 127 or 132, 524-8602, 524-8612, www.snmstatefairgrounds.net.

WEST HIGHLAND WAY—Through Oct. 12. See Sept. 25. 2 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University



The annual Pinos Altos Fiesta on Oct. 4 benefits the volunteer fire and rescue.

Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events.

WEDNESDAY
8 Deming
SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR—Through Oct. 12. New carnival; parade downtown Friday 10 a.m.; Agtoberfest Friday, 12-5 p.m. (kids free); Casper Baca Rodeo Friday and Saturday; Owen Washburn bull-riding Sunday. \$5, kids \$3. Southwestern New Mexico State Fairgrounds. 544-5012.

THURSDAY
LEIF ERICKSON DAY
FIRST DAY OF SUKKOT
9 Las Cruces / Mesilla
WEST HIGHLAND WAY—Through Oct. 12. See Sept. 25. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events.

Deming
SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR—Through Oct. 12. See Oct. 8. \$5, kids \$3. Southwestern New Mexico State Fairgrounds. 544-5012.

FRIDAY
10 Silver City/Grant County
WHILE I WAS WAITING—Reception for exhibit by Cece Stanford. 4-7 p.m. Blue Dome Gallery, 307 N. Texas.

Las Cruces / Mesilla
DEATH TRAP—Through Oct. 26. Thriller by Ira Levin, dealing with the devious machinations of a writer of thrillers whose recent offerings have been flops, and who is prepared to go to any lengths to improve his fortunes. Gala night. 8 p.m. \$12, students/senior/military \$11, 6 and under \$9. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lccnm.org.

FIFI HOWLS FROM HAPPINESS—Through Oct. 16. Bahman Mohasses is an Iranian openly gay sculptor and painter who's lived in self-imposed exile in Italy since the start of the Islamic Revolution. The documentary itself is Mohasses' final canvas. In Persian with English subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sat. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 MVFS members, children and Weds. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

NMSU AGGIES WOMEN'S SOCCER VS. KANSAS CITY—3 p.m. \$6-\$24, 12 and under free. NMSU campus, off Payne St., www.nmstatesports.com.

WEST HIGHLAND WAY—Through Oct. 12. See Sept. 25. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave., 646-4515, www.nmsutheatre.com/events.

Deming
SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR—Through Oct. 12. See Oct. 8. Parade downtown 10 a.m.; Agtoberfest, 12-5 p.m.; Casper Baca Rodeo. \$5, kids \$3. Southwestern New Mexico State Fairgrounds. 544-5012. 🌵

Send events info by the 20th of the month to: events@desertexposure.com, fax 534-4134, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062 or **NEW**—submit your event online at www.desertexposure.com/submit-events.

BEFORE YOU GO:
Note that events listings are subject to change and to human error! Please confirm all dates, times and locations.



THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Serpens, the Serpent

Plus the planets for September.

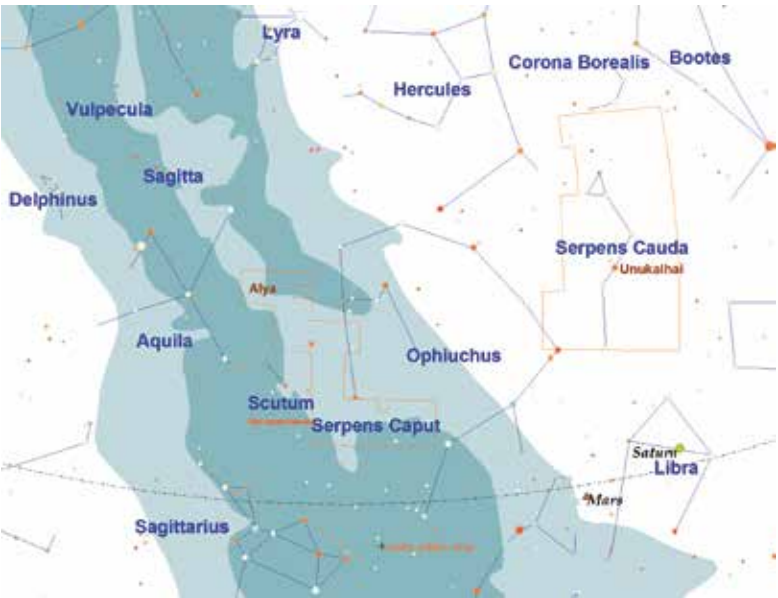
Last month we highlighted Ophiuchus, the Serpent Bearer. This month, we highlight Serpens, the Serpent that he is holding. Serpens is a unique constellation, the only constellation split into two separate parts—Serpens Caput and Serpens Cauda. Serpens Caput is the Serpent’s Head and it is the western part of this constellation. Serpens Cauda is the eastern part of this constellation and forms the Serpent’s Tail. The serpent’s middle is part of Ophiuchus, so this mythological creature is actually split into three parts.

While Serpens Caput and Serpens Cauda are on either side of Ophiuchus, they are considered a single constellation. As such, they have only one Alpha star, one Beta, etc., known as the Bayer designations and ordered by visual brightness. They also have one set of Flamsteed designations, which are a set of numbers starting with 1 that is assigned by increasing Right Ascension (west to east in the constellation). Collectively, these two constellations are referred to as Serpens.

Serpens is associated with Ophiuchus and while there is no mythological character by that name, Ophiuchus is sometimes identified with Asclepius. Asclepius was an incredible healer, having been raised by the kindly centaur Chiron, who taught him medical healing skills, to the extent that he could bring back the dead. The ruler of the Underworld, Hades, felt this was an encroachment on his realm and complained to Zeus. Growing tired of Hades’ complaints, Zeus finally struck Asclepius down with a thunderbolt. Zeus then put him in the sky so he would be remembered. Ophiuchus (Asclepius) and Serpens are now considered the symbol of the healing arts. A serpent wrapped around a rod (the Rod of Asclepius) is a symbol of the medical profession (commonly confused with the caduceus, the staff of Hermes).

There are a number of objects in Serpens, especially in Serpens Caput, which has the Milky Way going through it. But one discovery reported in April 2007 was quite surprising: Astronomers P.G. Tuthill of the University of Sydney and J.P. Lloyd of Cornell University were studying stars in the Mount Wilson Catalog (MWC) of stars that showed emission lines. They were using a relatively new observing system called adaptive optics on the 200-inch Hale telescope on Palomar Mountain in California and on the W.M. Keck Observatory on Mauna Kea in Hawaii.

Adaptive optics (AO) is a technique of changing the optical path of different parts of an image faster than a second to compensate for the changes in the atmosphere the telescope is looking through. This



Two-thirds of the way up in our southern skies you can find the two parts of the Serpens, the cosmic serpent being held by Ophiuchus. To east is the Serpens Caput, the Serpent’s Head, and to the west is Serpens Cauda, the Serpent’s Tail.

allows much clearer images to be made without the blurring the atmosphere usually introduces into astronomical imaging.

Tuthill and Lloyd were observing the 14th-magnitude Mount Wilson Catalog star number 922 (MWC 922). The resulting image showed nebulosity centered on MWC 922 that looked like a red square, so it was dubbed the Red Square Nebula. It is tiny, barely 15 seconds-of-arc across, and very faint, which is why it was not detected before. The image released to the public was taken in near-infrared light. It was processed to brighten the extremely faint outer regions of the nebula and sharpened to bring out the fine details. The results show one of the most symmetrical objects observed at such a high level of detail.

This is a bipolar nebula consisting of two cones of gas streaming out in opposite directions. The edges of each cone form a 90-degree angle and are curved, rather than pointed, down near the star (hyperbolic curves). We are looking at the Red Square directly side-on. If we were looking at it end-on, it would look more like a ring nebula. Inside the cone opening, sides of the Square are filaments like the teeth on a comb. These are highly unusual, and it is thought these may be caused by periodic ripples in a disk much closer to the star. These ripples cast shadows onto the gas in the cone, forming the comb-teeth pattern.

The Red Square is a very complex nebula that also has rungs or bars running across the cones. MWC 922 is a giant star of class B that is reaching the end of its life and shedding its atmosphere into the surrounding space. One day, this star may explode into a supernova, giving us a completely new nebula and destroying the symmetry of the Red Square Nebula.

The Planets for September

Mercury is still in our evening sky this month. During September, it will drift slowly southward along and about four degrees above the western horizon. It will reach the west-southwestern horizon by month’s end, when it will be heading back toward the Sun. This is an extremely poor apparition for the northern hemisphere, with Mercury being hard to find and almost impossible to observe. At midmonth, the Messenger of the Gods will shine at magnitude +0.1 with a disc that is 6.3 seconds-of-arc across and 67% illuminated. It spends the entire month in Virgo, moving slowly eastward through the constellation.

Saturn is getting lower in the west each day, moving very slowly eastward in central Libra, just 24 degrees up in the southwest as it gets dark. It sets around 10 p.m. At midmonth, Saturn’s rings are 35.9

seconds-of-arc across and tilted down 21.9 degrees with the northern face showing. Its disc is 15.8 seconds-of-arc across.

Mars is 26 degrees up in the southwest as it gets dark and sets around 10:30 p.m. Mars is pulling eastward away from Saturn, starting the month in central Libra, crossing the northern panhandle of Scorpius and ending up in western Ophiuchus. At midmonth, the God of War shines at magnitude +0.7 with a disc 6.4 seconds-of-arc across.

Jupiter is moving slowly eastward in eastern Cancer. At midmonth, it rises just before 4 a.m. in the east-northeast, shining at magnitude -1.9. The King of the Planets will be 31 degrees up in the east as it gets light, with a disc 32.7 seconds-of-arc across.

Venus ends its run in the morning sky this month. At the beginning of September, it is just seven degrees up in the east-northeast as it starts to get light, having risen at 5:30 a.m.; its disc is 10.1 seconds-of-arc across and 97% illuminated. Venus starts the month in western Leo, moving quickly eastward. It crosses Leo and ends the month in western Virgo. Venus will be too close to the Sun to see by the middle of the month.

The Sun crosses the celestial equator on Sept. 22 at 8:29 p.m., marking the beginning of astronomical autumn in the northern hemisphere. The Sun will continue traveling southward until December. So take advantage of the increasingly earlier darkness to “keep watching the sky”!

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



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

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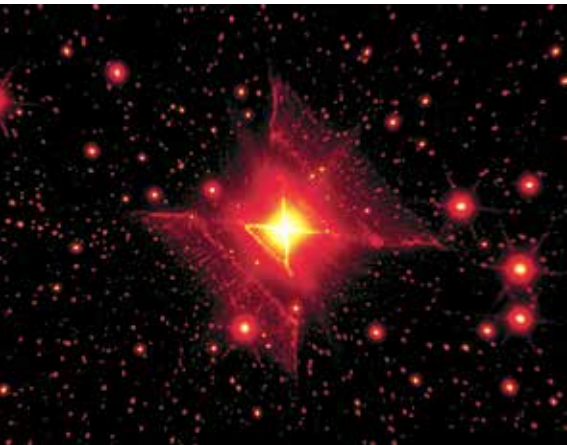
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The Red Square Nebula (NASA).

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CONTINENTAL DIVIDE • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Mr. Green Genes

The soapy truth about cilantro.

Back in my day, growing up in the Midwest, we didn't have cilantro. When we sat down to dinner after trudging five miles in a blizzard home from school, our meals were flavored with salt and pepper, not exotic herbs. My mom had a container of dried oregano, I think, that had been handed down to her by my grandmother and might have been grown before the "war to end all wars." In fancy restaurants, you might encounter basil. But that was the extent of our culinary experimentation. *Cilantro?* Is that some newfangled floor-cleaning product?

We were hardly alone in our cilantro ignorance.

According to a nifty tool on the *New York Times'* website, Times Chronicle, mentions of "cilantro" in the pages of the nation's newspaper of record tracked at pretty much zero until the mid-1970s. The graph shoots up from there, however, reaching 0.19% of all articles by 2000 and peaking at 0.24% by 2004. That means in 2004 almost 1 in every 400 articles in the *Times* used the term "cilantro"—at a time when the newspaper was already pretty busy with mentions of "Iraq" (7.4%), George W. Bush (7.65%) and "weapons of mass destruction" (0.46%).

Today, you can hardly open a menu without encountering cilantro in everything from traditional Mexican or Asian fare to newfangled uses such as pesto or cocktails. "Our special today," the snooty waiter will intone while mentally calculating your tipping potential, "is cilantro-wrapped sea bass with a cilantro-lemongrass emulsion, served atop cilantro-pesto lentils with a garnish of cilantro-flavored cilantro."

Future generations will look back on this era as the Age of Cilantro. ("Didn't they also invent the Internet back then? And put a rover on Mars?" "Well, yes, but mostly they just ate cilantro.")

To all of you out there who are now salivating at the mere thought of that suddenly popular herb, I have a confession to make. Living as we do in the cilantro-mad Southwest, where salsa is served at every meal beginning with breakfast, this will seem especially shocking. You might want to put down your cilantro-laced salsa and chips before reading on, lest you spill in a convulsion of surprise and horror.

I hate cilantro. Simply loathe the stuff. It tastes like soap to me.

Before you condemn me and start hauling out the pitchforks and torches, however, you should know that I can't help it—and I'm not alone. According to a 2012 study by the consumer genetics firm 23andMe,

cilantro aversion is genetic. (My daughter hates the stuff, too.)

Surprisingly, the study suggested that cilantro-haters think the herb tastes like soap not because we can't properly appreciate its flavors but because we experience some of cilantro's qualities all too well. The study of nearly 30,000 people identified specific gene variants linked to a dislike of cilantro. The most important are among those controlling the sense of smell, especially a gene labeled OR6A2. This gene encodes an olfactory receptor that increases sensitivity to the aldehyde compounds (organic chemicals formed by the oxidation of alcohols) that give cilantro its distinctive taste.

In short, it's not me—it's you. If you could only experience cilantro in all its soapy awfulness the way I can, you'd rush out to napalm the fields where this culinary monstrosity is grown.

Famed chef Julia Child hated cilantro, too. Worldwide, 17% of European peoples, 14% of those of African descent and, surprisingly, 21% of east Asians are likewise genetically predisposed to think cilantro tastes like soap. Or, well, floor cleaner.

So, since we cilantro-haters can't help it (*It's in our genes! We were born this way!*), is it too much to ask for a little consideration from the culinary world? A sort of cilantro cease-fire? For starters, cooks could stop putting cilantro in places where it doesn't belong, where we would never think to ask, "Could you hold the cilantro, please?" Those are the dishes where we don't realize our mistake until it's too late and we've bitten into what apparently contains Ivory soap.

(The doubters among you may wish to conduct a little experiment at this point, to walk a mile in my shoes, so to speak. Pick one of your favorite foods and take a big bite. Now, with your taste buds still swimming in deliciousness, squirt a tablespoon of Dawn dish soap into your mouth. Not so yummy all of a sudden, is it?)

Cilantro has no place in Italian, German or French food (ask Julia Child), beverages of any kind, dessert or, heaven knows, candy. Can we agree on these ground rules? No? Would you like to try the Dawn test again? OK, thank you.

I will grudgingly admit that cilantro might reasonably be included in Thai food and Mexican dishes. Would it really be so hard, however, for this nefarious herb to be chopped in large enough pieces that it can easily be picked out? Better still, put cilantro only on top of the dish, as a sort of garnish, so it and an inch or two of potentially contaminated food below the cilantro can simply be excised and given to the dog. (I'd worry that some dogs might also be sensitive to cilantro's soapy side and this might seem

like cruelty to animals, but we are talking about an animal that licks its own butt.)

As an oppressed minority, cilantro-haters also demand full disclosure of cilantro as an ingredient on menus and in any packaged food product. No more vague mentions of "herbs and spices" or "natural flavorings." Ideally, we'd like the same sort of consideration given people with peanut allergies: "Warning: This product produced in a factory where cilantro is used."

We'd also like to see progressive labeling, much like the current "gluten-free" boom: "Cilantro-free!" packages could ballyhoo. Or, better yet, "Certified cilantro-free." Maybe there could be a logo with a little cilantro sprig and a big "no" slash over it.

When cilantro is disclosed as an ingredient in a restaurant menu, we'd appreciate a minimum of sneers when we politely ask that it be omitted and instead, perhaps, used as an ingredient in chemical weapons. (This last is just a suggestion, mind you—no need to get huffy!) And we mean it when we ask for no cilantro. If the chef says, "What a yahoo! I'll just ignore his request—he'll never know the difference," trust me: We will know. I'm pretty sure that at concentrations of one part per billion, cilantro-haters could detect that distinctive soapy bitterness.

So, sure, you go on and enjoy your cilantro-laden (shudder!) salsa and your pad thai with extra cilantro. Just remember that if you had my aldehyde-compound sensitivity, you, too, would recoil in horror and run screaming to the restroom to wash your mouth out. (With soap—heck, it couldn't taste much worse.)

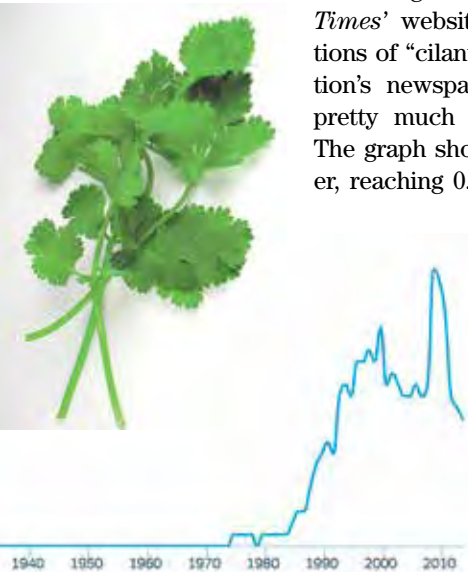
And blame my genes—and those of my poor, innocent daughter, who didn't ask to be brought into a world gone mad for cilantro. I wish I could enjoy that disgusting, soapy-tasting slop as much as you do, but I just can't. I can't help the revulsion I feel at the sight of those harmless-seeming herbs defiling your taco. Yes, my life would be easier if I could just down that devil-herb-laced concoction with the gluttonous ease you display. (Hey, at least use a napkin when you're done—wipe that green crap off your chin!)

The menu may say, "yes, yes," but my chromosomes say, "no, no." And, er, *ugh*.

There is hope, though. If you look closely at the graph from the *Times* tracing the rise of cilantro fever, you'll note a slight, zig-zaggy downward trend from the peak of insanity in 2004. Slowly, America may be turning its back on cilantro and moving on to some other culinary trend.

Might I suggest dried oregano, well aged? 🌿

Now, with your taste buds still swimming in deliciousness, squirt a tablespoon of Dawn dish soap into your mouth.



The rise in mentions of "cilantro," as charted by the *New York Times*.

David A. Fryxell blue-pencils even the word "cilantro" when editing *Desert Exposure*.



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