



*Life is  
Good*   
*in Silver City  
and Grant County*

**2023 • 2024**  
**COMMUNITY GUIDE**



## STEP BACK IN TIME...

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## PUBLISHER'S WELCOME LETTER

# Life is good in many ways

**S**ilver City will always hold a special place in my heart. It is full of special people and wonderful memories. My family had the privilege of calling this vibrant community our home for a few years in the early 2000s. It has been exciting to revisit this gem of New Mexico and see new faces and new places as well as those familiar sights and sounds that I hold dear.

We are happy to bring you another edition of Life is Good in Silver and Grant County. Regardless if you are a lifelong resident or a newcomer, I believe you will find interesting information and features that may or may not be familiar to you.

These pages will provide you with important community resources as well as a look at local sites and activities designed to both entertain and educate.

Nature is always a highlight in this region. In keeping with the obvious, we bring you the "Tree Campus" designation for Western New Mexico University and a look at the 2024 Hummingbird Festival in Mimbres.

You can't talk about nature in Grant County without mentioning the majestic Gila Wilderness which will be honored in a centennial celebration in 2024.

Speaking of a milestone centennial, the iconic Silco Theater also celebrates its 100th anniversary. I personally served on the Silver City MainStreet Project board when we started advocating for restoration efforts. I am so pleased the people of Silver City persevered until the monumental project was completed.

Grant County is a great place to visit and a great place to call home. But what really makes life good is the people who love this neck of the woods and work to make it better every day.

Enjoy!

*Belinda Mills*

*Southwest Regional Group Publisher*


**ABOUT THE COVER:**

City of Rocks is a state park in Grant County, Located about halfway between Silver City and Deming off U.S. Highway 61. It is a serene, vista-filled park featuring unusual volcanic rock formations plus camping and hiking.

Photo by  
Elva K. Österreich

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# 2023-2024

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# Celebrating the Past, Welcoming the Future

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

**S**ilver City and Grant County have a lot of things to celebrate. To me the area is always a celebration but now we have some significant milestone anniversaries happening as well as some exciting new places and happenings.

The Silco Theater on Bullard Street reached its 100th year of existence, built in 1923 and renovated a decade ago. The stately movie house has welcomed men, women and children into its world of light and drama for the better part of the century.

The Gila Wilderness Area was the first designated wilderness area in the United States, established in 1924. There are events and celebrations planned for 2024 recognizing the need for wild places. This vast – more than 500,000 acres – forest/mountain wild place is without roads, homes or motor vehicles to distract man or nature from the path.

Traversing through the Gila Wilderness, on its way to

Colorado and Canada in one direction and Mexico in the other direction, the Continental Divide Trail follows the footsteps of Geronimo and ancient traders across countries. Silver City celebrates its 10th anniversary as a Continental Divide Trail Gateway Community in 2024.

New in Silver City, ready to move forward into their own future anniversary events, some exciting ventures have started up in the area.

A new place celebrates opening in a very old location as Whiskey Creek Zócalo provides a waystation in the Mimbres Valley for meeting friends, listening to good music and picking up a delicious wood-fired pizza. The Studio, a new art space, has opened on Market Street and is run by the Grant County Community Art Guild. Western New Mexico University's Kinesiology Program has started a kids bicycle program. And a pet boutique has opened, repurposing another old theater space and recognizing the pet-loving nature of Silver City and Grant County.

## A LEGACY CARRIES ON

Alexandra Olsen and Martyn Pearson, co-owners of Gila Hike and Bike, “warm and funny and generous people, beloved by all who knew them,” were killed in an automobile accident in October 2022. As a strong, meaningful part of the community, this couple was sorely missed all through 2023 and leave a lasting legacy of giving back and a love of back roads.

As owners of Gila Hike and Bike they had opportunities to help countless cyclists and hikers—both local residents and visitors from around the world. Their shop participated in many charitable activities. Deeply rooted in each of them was their sense of duty to give back to their community. Their individual and combined efforts made a difference to the people who live here.

One of Grant County's signature events has been named after them, The Martyn and Alex Tour of the



Gila. The event is a cycling stage race, in which people from around the world converge to compete over a difficult distance course. The first Tour of the Gila was held in 1987.

*Information and quote from a story by Susannah Barson which can be found at [tourofthegila.com](http://tourofthegila.com).*

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

## PUBLIC SAFETY

**EMERGENCY**  
911

### SILVER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Freddie Portillo  
1011 N. Hudson St.  
575-538-3723  
fportillo@silvercitymail.com

### SILVER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief:  
Milo E. Lambert  
1011 N. Hudson St.  
575-956-1273  
mlambert@silvercitymail.com

### GRANT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1400 Highway 180 E.  
Sheriff: Frank Gomez  
575-574-0100

### NEW MEXICO STATE POLICE DISTRICT 12

2584 Silver St. Building B  
575-388-1542

### U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PATROL

3300 J St.  
575-544-6100  
Deming  
www.cbp.gov

### GRANT COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS

575-538-5254  
director@gcrda911.com

## AROUND TOWN INFORMATION

### TOWN HALL/ CITY CLERK

101 W. Broadway St.  
Town Hall main number:  
575-538-3731  
City Clerk: 575-534-6346

### CENTRAL DISPATCH

575-388-8840

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1203 N. Hudson St.  
P.O. Box 1188  
575-534-6349

### MUNICIPAL COURT

215 N. Bullard St.  
575-388-4504

### PUBLIC LIBRARY

515 W. College Ave.  
silvercitypubliclibrary.org  
575-538-3672

### SILVER CITY MUSEUM

312 W. Broadway St.  
575-538-5921

## POST OFFICES

### BAYARD

106 N. Bayard St.  
575-537-5168

### BUCKHORN

7658 U.S. Highway 180 W.  
575-535-4171

### CLIFF

8427 Frontage Road  
575-535-2951

### FAYWOOD

1123 N.M. Highway 61  
575-536-2880

### GILA

407 N.M. Highway 211  
575-535-2363

### HACHITA

26 B St.  
575-436-2220

### HANOVER

70 Fierro Road  
575-537-5696

### HURLEY

16 Cortez Ave.  
575-537-2146

### MIMBRES

3084 Highway 35 N.  
575-536-9810

### MULE CREEK

5 Brushy Mountain Road  
575-535-4266

### SANTA CLARA

106 N. Bayard St.  
575-537-3888

### SILVER CITY

500 N. Hudson St.  
575 538-2831

### TYRONE

210 Turquoise St.  
575-538-2523

# SILVER CITY STATS

## SILVER CITY

### PEOPLE

**Population:**  
9,520 (2022)

**Households:**  
3,954 (2017-2021)

**Veterans:**  
811 (2017-2021)

**Median household income:**  
\$31,451 (2017-2021)

**Median home value:**  
\$139,600 (2017-2021)

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts

### WEATHER

**Average high temp:**  
51° F in the coldest month (January) to 88° F in the warmest month (June)

**Average low temp:**  
27° F in the coldest month (January) to 60° F in the warmest Month (June)

**Average precipitation:**  
17.3 inches

**Average snowfall:**  
7 inches

## GRANT COUNTY

### PEOPLE

**Population:**  
27,686 (2022)

**Households:**  
11,144 (2017-2021)

**Veterans:**  
39,429 (2017-2021)

**Median household income:**  
39,429 (2017-2021)

**Persons below poverty level:**  
18.6 percent

### BUSINESS

**Nonemployer establishments:**  
1608 (2020)

**Employer establishments:**  
534 (2021)

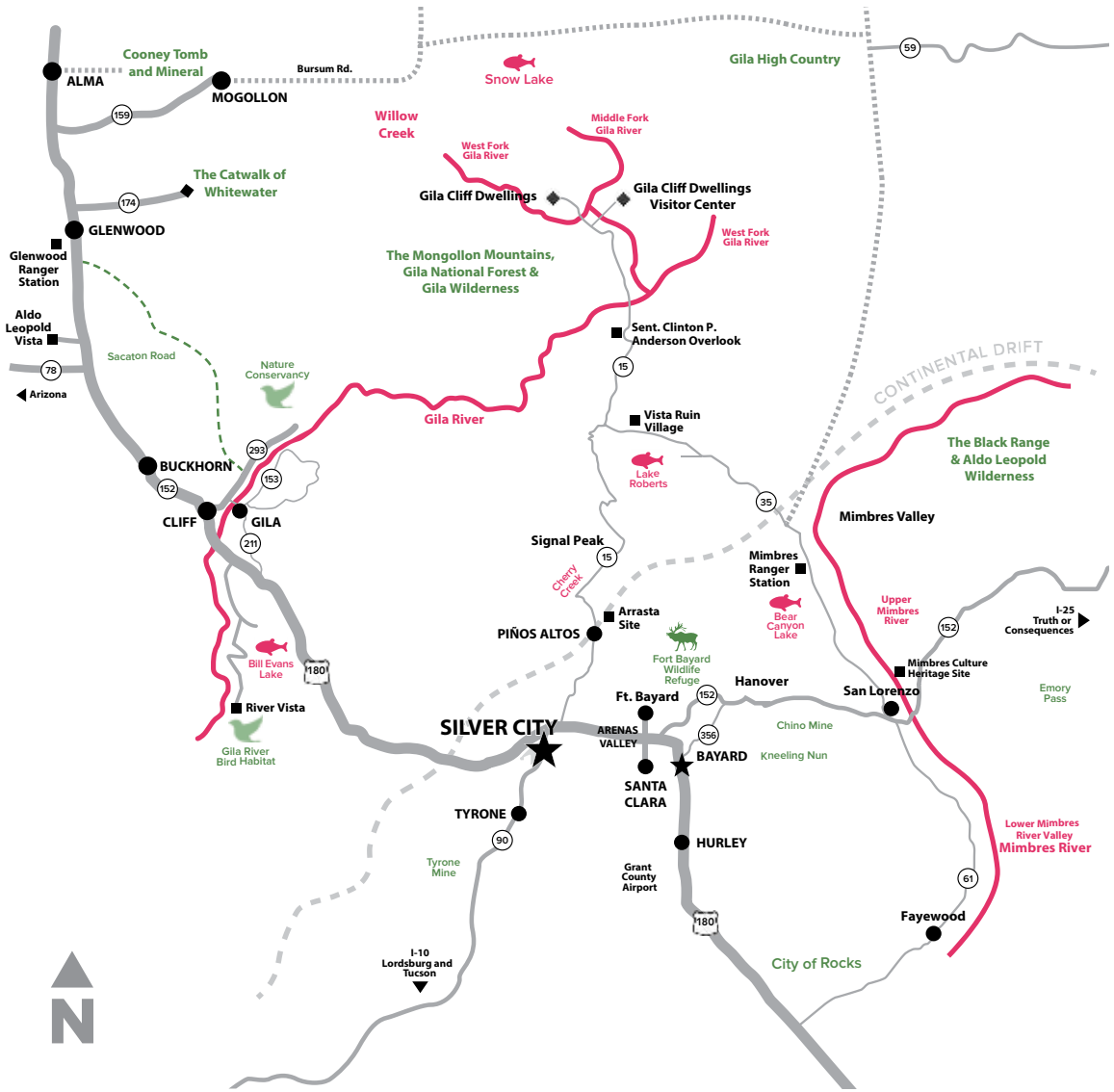
### GEOGRAPHY

**Land area (square miles):**  
3,961.63

**Persons per square mile:**  
71 (2020)

# LANDMARKS

## Grant County Area





# Traveling Through Downtown Silver City

BY MARCIA TINKER

**T**he Murray Ryan Visitor Center is the first stop for maps and brochures of Silver City. While there check out a replica of Billy the Kid's cabin. Turn the corner onto Broadway; pass below the Gateway Arch and spend a day, or two, or a week in fact; finding many interesting and diverse options exploring in and around downtown SC. Stay in one of the downtown hotels, the "Streamline-Moderne" Murray Hotel or the Old West style Palace Hotel. Bordering Downtown is the rambling Big Ditch Park with trails along the San Vicente Creek. Native plants, art murals, benches and tables make your walk pleasant.

Visit the Silver City Museum and Gift Store in the historic Ailman house and learn local history. Next, follow the Silver City Art Association Red Dot Art Guide to the many art galleries on Bullard and nearby streets. The Silver City Art Association hosts First Friday Art Walks plus annual Studio Tours on Labor Day weekend; Weekend at the Galleries in October; and Holiday Art Market in November. The Grant County Art Guild is open seven days a week and features local artists. ASpace Studio/Gallery is an art extravaganza with interactive DIY "Art on a Stick". Along the way enjoy the murals created by the Youth Mural Program.

**Downtown Silver City** offers a variety of businesses. Bicycle and outdoor shops include Morning Star, Gila Hike & Bike, Twin Sisters Cycling & Fitness, Silver City Cycles and BIKEWORKS. Fitness offerings include Lotus Center, Datura Therapeutic Day Spa, Coach Massage, plus several training and holistic sites. The Pink Store North imports Mexican Artisan products. The MarketPlace and The Antique Mall are multi-vendor stores with unique wares. Shop multi-era fashions at Vintage Fantasy and purchase fabrics at All My Mama's Junk. Shop four local bookstores – Avalon Books, O'Keefe's Book Shop, Silver City Book Shop and SWAG Books & More. Union Army Navy hosts used items and antiques. The Silver City Food Co-Op sells organic produce and foods. Manzanita Ridge features spectacular furniture and wares from resorts, estates and Mexico. Find treasures at Paws' Cause Thrift Shop, Single Socks and Gospel Mission. Zir Yab's Body Brew and Kneeling Nun Mercantile create crafted soaps and lotions.

Ready for a coffee or ice cream break? Both Javalina Coffee House and Tranquilbuzz serve coffee and baked goods in eclectic settings. Healthy smoothies will revive you at JBR Smoothies and Juice Bar. For ice

cream visit The Ice Cream Emporium or The Mint Chip. Also don't miss Diane's Bakery.

Of course, Silver City Downtown has a variety of breakfast, lunch and dinner venues. Suggestions include Adobe Springs Café, Corner Kitchen, Forrest's Pizza, La Cocina, Roxy's, Q's Southern Bistro, Mick's 33, Two Piece Fried Chicken, Jalisco's and High Desert Pie. Little Toad Creek and Brewery serves classic pub food and craft beer.

Many new businesses have come to Silver City. Opening in Fall 2023 Three Wise Women "Empowering Women" will feature Fine Art and Craft by local women artists as well as provide an incubator kitchen for women to create commercial food products.

For a complete list of Silver City's businesses:

[www.visitsilvercity.org](http://www.visitsilvercity.org). or [www.silvercitymainstreet.com/business](http://www.silvercitymainstreet.com/business).

Murray Ryan Visitor Center, 201 N. Hudson Street, Silver City NM 88061, 575-538-5555.

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### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (BUS/SHUTTLE)

#### CORRE CAMINOS

3033 U.S. Highway 180 E., Silver City  
575-388-3180  
Correcaminosnm.com

#### TOURS OF THE GILA (Airport Transportation)

411 W. Broadway St.  
575-574-2696 or 575-574-8444

### BICYCLE RENTAL

#### GILA HIKE AND BIKE

103 E. College Ave., Silver City  
575-388-3222  
Gilahikeandbike.com

### CAR RENTAL

#### ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR

1455 U.S. HWY 180 E. Ste. A,  
Silver City  
575-534-0000

#### DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICES

1876 U.S. Highway 180 E. Silver City,  
575-538-3281

## GETTING CONNECTED

### SILVER CITY

#### WATER/SEWER/RECYCLING

#### TOWN OF SILVER CITY

101 W. Broadway St.  
Town Hall Main Number  
575-538-3731

#### ELECTRIC

##### PNM

3815 N. Swan Ave.  
Customer Service  
888-Dial-PNM  
1-888-342-5766  
www.pnm.com

#### NEW MEXICO GAS

1100 N. Hudson St., Silver City  
Customer Service  
888-NM-GAS-CO  
1-888-664-2726  
www.nmgco.com

#### SOLID WASTE DEPT.

1400 Hwy 180, Silver City  
575-574-0024  
www.grantcountynm.gov

### GRANT COUNTY

#### ELECTRIC

##### PNM

Customer Service  
888-DIAL-PNM  
1-888-342-5766

#### WATER DEPARTMENTS

Bayard, 575-537-3327  
Hurley, 575-537-2287

Santa Clara, 575-537-2443  
Virden, 575-538-1000  
Hanover, 575-537-4940

### TELEPHONE/INTERNET SERVICES

#### AT&T

800-288-2747  
www.att.com

#### CENTURYLINK

1-855-547-1102  
www.centurylink.com

#### HUGHES NET

844-737-2700  
www.hughesnet.com

#### VONAGE

1-844-365-9460  
www.vonage.com

#### WNM COMMUNICATIONS

800-535-2330  
www.wnmc.com or gilanet.com

#### XFINITY

1-800-XFINITY  
1-800-934-6489  
www.xfinity.com

### WIRELESS PROVIDERS

#### T-MOBILE

1-800-tmobile

#### VERIZON

1-800-Verizon  
1-800-837-4966  
www.verizon.com

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

### SILVER CITY

#### FIRST AMERICAN BANK

1609 Swan St.  
575-534-0550

#### FIRST NEW MEXICO BANK

1928 U.S. Highway 180 E.  
575-388-3121

#### FIRST SAVINGS BANK

1221 N. Hudson St.  
575-388-1531

#### FORT BAYARD FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

11797 U.S. Highway 180 E.  
Arenas Valley  
575-534-8888

#### WESTERN BANK

330 U.S. Highway 180 E.  
575-388-3521

#### WASHINGTON FEDERAL

1301 N. Hudson St.  
575-388-1903

#### WELLS FARGO BANK

1201 N. Pope St.  
575-956-1500

### BAYARD

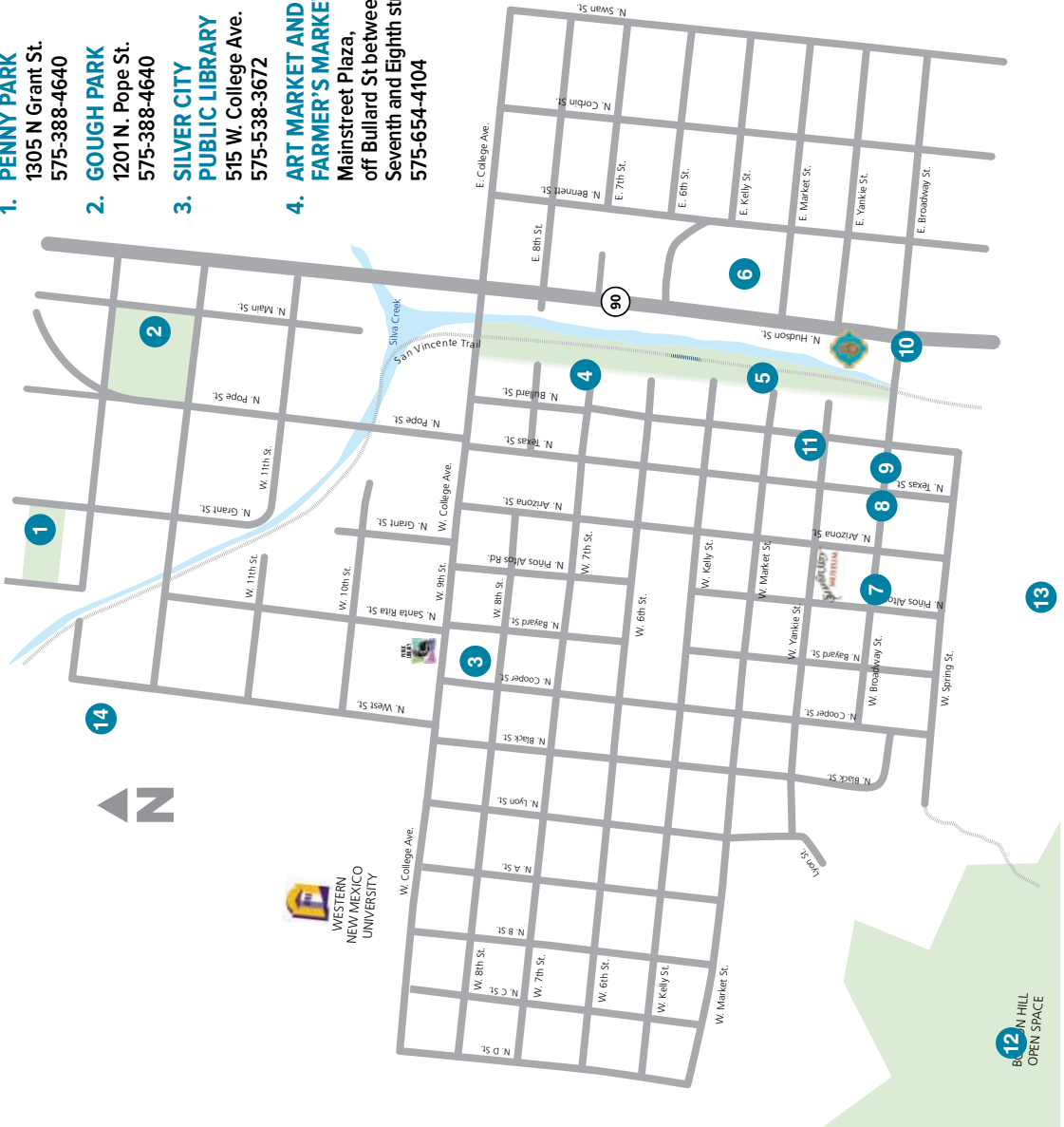
#### FIRST AMERICAN BANK

1401 Tom Foy Blvd.  
575-537-2481

# LANDMARKS

## Downtown Silver City

- 1. PENNY PARK**  
1305 N Grant St.  
575-388-4640
- 2. GOUGH PARK**  
1201 N. Pope St.  
575-388-4640
- 3. SILVER CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
515 W. College Ave.  
575-538-3672
- 4. ART MARKET AND FARMER'S MARKET**  
Mainstreet Plaza, off Bullard St between Seventh and Eighth streets  
575-654-4104
- 5. BIG DITCH PARK**  
575-388-4640
- 6. POST OFFICE**  
500 N. Hudson St.  
575-538-2831
- 7. SILVER CITY MUSEUM**  
312 W. Broadway St.  
575-538-5921
- 8. MURRAY HOTEL**  
200 W. Broadway St.  
575-956-9400
- 9. PALACE HOTEL**  
106 E. Broadway St.  
575-388-1811
- 10. MURRAY RYAN VISITOR CENTER / BILLY THE KID CABIN**  
201 N. Hudson St.  
575-538-5555
- 11. SILCO THEATER**  
311 N. Bullard St.  
575-956-6185
- 12. BOSTON HILL OPEN SPACE**  
575-388-4640
- 13. LA CAPILLA CHAPEL / HERITAGE PARK**  
575-388-4640
- 14. CONALI FIELD DOG PARK**  
1207 N. Virginia St.  
575-538-3731



# Teaching Sustainability

BY MIKE FUGAGLI

**R**emember scraping off your tray in the lunchroom as a kid? Did you ever think about where that waste was going or if it could be more than just garbage? One nonprofit in Silver City is getting its hands dirty and helping kids and school districts reduce lunchroom waste into a valuable learning experience.

The New Earth Project, named for both the new soil being created and for our vision of the planet, is developing a compost processes creating a symbiotic relationship with plants and to benefit the community. Carol Ann Fugagli, Executive Director of the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance and the New Earth Project, explained how they use everyday materials to teach students about climate change and sustainability.

“The looming climate and biodiversity crisis is a real existential threat, and we want to create community resilience, particularly food security” Fugagli said. “We are focused on educating, inspiring, and empowering youth in our community through educational activities and employment opportunities.”



## Carbon capture through composting

New Earth Project collects food surplus from three school cafeterias and combines it with woody biomass, agricultural byproducts, and biochar in Johnson-Su compost bioreactors. Every week, they fill these bioreactors with this waste and divert approximately 1,200 pounds of food waste from the local landfill. Not to mention the ability to increase water infiltration and retention, fix nitrogen, and increase plant growth.

## Youth Empowerment

In order for students to fully understand the value of their food scraps, New Earth Project staff conduct monthly classroom activities to demonstrate the impacts of soil regenerative practices. A highlight of this program is a worm box in each classroom with students learning how to care for their classroom “pets.” New Earth Project also employs young people, providing meaningful jobs that increase their skills and understanding of our changing environment. Molly Pendleton has been a beneficiary of this program for the past year.

“Working on the New Earth Project has opened my eyes to a new way of composting and how we can improve our soils and sequester carbon while diverting organic material from the landfill,” Pendleton said. “Plus I have money in my wallet as I continue my college studies which is pretty good too.”

## Real-world applications

“This type of compost can help transform agricultural soils into living soils while sequestering significant amounts of atmospheric carbon, which is exactly the big steps that need to be taken right now,” Fugagli said.

For more information contact: [director@ugwa.org](mailto:director@ugwa.org).

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# WNMU Recognized as 'Tree Campus'

PROVIDED BY WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY

In 2023 Western New Mexico University attained the designation of official "Tree Campus" by the Arbor Day Foundation higher education program that recognizes sustainability through the building and maintenance of university community forests.

Established in 2008, the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus Higher Education initiative encourages colleges and universities across the nation to create an approach that would allow for institutions to grow community forests while working toward efficacy and conservation.

"WNMU has made environmental sustainability part of its mission toward better serving our students and community by working toward creating a more beautiful and healthier campus for future generations," said WNMU Horticulture Coordinator Chala Werber. "This designation is an important step toward the university's goal of carbon neutrality and continued good stewardship and preservation of the Gila region, a goal we are collectively committed to."

According to the Arbor Day Foundation, WNMU achieved this designation by engaging the university campus in the spirit of conservation and through the "establishment of a tree advisory committee, a campus tree care plan and the sponsorship of student service-learning projects."

The WNMU tree advisory committee is comprised of students, faculty, staff and members of the local community. Over the past two years, WNMU has planted 50 trees throughout campus with the goal of planting an average of 20 large trees annually.

"This is another important step toward our continued effort in developing welcoming outdoor spaces for both academic purposes and the enjoyment of the entire university community," Werber said.

For more information about the Arbor Day Foundation Tree Campus Higher Education program, visit [arborday.org/programs/tree-campus-higher-education](http://arborday.org/programs/tree-campus-higher-education).



**GEAR UP!  
GET OUT!**

**MORNING STAR**

809 N. Bullard, Silver City NM 575-388-3191

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Silver City, New Mexico  
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[silvercityfoodcoop.coop](http://silvercityfoodcoop.coop)



# Art Deco Theater

BY SHARLA LEFKOWITZ-OBORG

The historic Silco Theater is an iconic cornerstone of downtown Silver City. Built in 1923, the Silco (the name stands for Silver and Copper, referencing the mining history of the region) spent many years as a popular movie theater before some very different iterations, including a furniture store. Thanks to the support of the Town of Silver City, multiple funding sources and the work of the Silver City MainStreet Project, the building was renovated and restored to its art deco movie theater splendor in 2016.

Yes, southwest New Mexico is known for its laid-back, slow-moving attitude, and rightfully so. There is also a contagious energy, community enthusiasm, vision, and grassroots powered drive to get things done that is unique to Silver City.

Over a decade ago, when the Silver City MainStreet Project started advocating for the restoration of the Silco, there were big, proposed outcomes. Fast forward 10 years and not only have these goals come to fruition, but previous expectations have been exceeded. The Silco has become a key economic driver in our downtown, increasing foot traffic, acting as an anchor for nightlife, and providing a venue in our community to watch first run movies.

As the Silco celebrates its milestone 100th anniversary, there is a lot going on. Kim Ryan, the Silco Theater cultural coordinator, juggles a busy calendar of events including first run movies, live comedy, documentaries, lectures, and thanks to a grant from local foundation the30something, we have a new sound system allowing us to make concerts a regular fixture on the schedule. Ryan has also expanded concessions offerings to include local favorites Forrest's Pizza, Luna Jaguar Chocolate, and freeze-dried candy from Kneeling Nun Mercantile.

The Silco is still growing and evolving. Plans include a retractable movie screen, expanding the stage, and adding lighting. These renovations will make the Silco a fully operational performing arts venue ready to house a wide variety of performances including traditional theater productions.

The Silco Theater is located at 311 North Bullard Street, Silver City, NM 88061. Visit the Silco website at [thesilcotheater.com](http://thesilcotheater.com) or call 575-956-6198 for more information.

*Sharla Lefkowitz-Oberg is executive director of the Silver City MainStreet Project.*

# AREA RESTAURANTS

## SILVER CITY

### ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ

614 N Bullard St.  
575-538-3665

### BIRDWELL'S VINTAGE VIBES

602 N Bullard St.  
Across from Silver City Co-op  
575-956-6467

### CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE

60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road  
575-538-2538

### CHAOS SANDWICHES

801 N. Hudson St.  
575-654-8175

### CHINESE PALACE

1010 Highway 180 E.  
575-538-9300

### CORNER KITCHEN

300 S. Bullard St.  
575-590-2603

### COURTYARD CAFÉ, GILA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

1313 E. 32nd St.  
575-538-4819

### DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI

601 N. Bullard St.  
575-956-6258

### DON JUAN'S BURRITOS

418 Silver Heights Blvd.  
575-538-5440

### EINSTEIN BROS. BAGELS

1000 W. College Ave  
575-538-6111

### FORREST'S PIZZA

619 W. Bullard St.  
575-388-1225

### FRY HOUSE

601 N. Bullard St.  
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# Life is Great in the Mimbres Valley



BY JASON K. WATKINS

**F**or beauty, peace and quiet, Mimbres and the surrounding area might be one of the state’s best-kept secrets.

Residents and visitors here wake up to a verdant valley dotted with productive ranches, deep-blue lakes stocked with fish, a mix of public and private lands, and four distinct seasons.

The Mimbres Valley also has some of the best-preserved and most undisturbed Native American culture and heritage sites in the country. History of humans in the region stretches back millenia, to at least 2000 B.C. More than a thousand years ago, the “Mimbreno” people emerged, with their distinctive black-and-white pottery decorated with animals, geometric patterns, and figures.

Today, fewer than 700 people live in the Mimbres area, according to the last census, among them retirees and ranchers.

A few businesses and organizations operate in the Mimbres Valley, including 3 Questions Coffeehouse, Restaurant del Sol, Mimbres Valley Market, Mimbres Valley Self Storage, Mountain Spirits RV Park, the historical nonprofit Imogen F. Wilson Education Foundation, and a small Hidalgo Medical Services clinic, along with a few churches and government operations. The post office here was established in 1886.

Georgetown Cabins is a resort-style lodge nestled

in the mountains in a mining “ghost town.” They offer six separate cabins with modern amenities spread out across the picturesque property. Across the valley, La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery is a small wine producer that started in 1998 and offers tastings on the weekends.

The Southwest Sangha is a completely free Buddhist retreat that calls itself a “contemplative lay monastery” situated just north of Mimbres. The nearby community of San Lorenzo has a historic Catholic church that dates back to the early 1880s.

Even older, the Mimbres Culture Heritage Site is an ancient archeological site preserving the ruins of the Mimbres people. Two century-old adobe houses are preserved at the site, and public and private guided tours are offered by a nonprofit.

Mimbres pottery, considered a milestone of human artistic achievement, still litters the ground throughout the Mimbres Valley. It’s not legal to take, but incredible examples of Mimbres pots are on display at the museum at Western New Mexico University in Silver City.

The Mimbres Valley sits at the southern entrance to the Gila National Forest and the Gila Wilderness, America’s first designated wilderness area.

The prehistoric Gila Cliff Dwellings are located a short drive north of Mimbres on highway 15. The intricate cave system was occupied by the Mogollon people about a thousand years ago. Today it’s a



National Monument where people can hike up to the mud structures built into the side of the mountain, then learn about native culture at the visitor's center.

Most people, though, come to Mimbres for the recreation and the views: nearby Bear Canyon Lake, and farther north, Lake Roberts, are both popular among anglers and campers. Hiking trails and campgrounds are accessible all over the area, and small cabins and private lodging can be found.

Photographer Jessie Miller moved from San Diego to Las Cruces last year and recently visited Mimbres with a friend and her two dogs.

"I needed to get out of the city, so coming to a place like Mimbres was beautiful and healing," Miller said. "I love undeveloped areas like Mimbres. I have horses so when I saw the barn, I pictured my beloved horses having a barn like that and grazing on that beautiful grass."

*Jason K. Watkins is a freelance writer and teacher from New Mexico. He can be reached at [jasonkwatkins.com](http://jasonkwatkins.com).*



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# A Family Creation of Love

## A place to gather

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

In the Arenas Valley, right between Silver City and the Grant County mining district towns, a new place has bloomed at 11786 U.S. Highway 180.

“Zócalo designates a plaza or meeting place in Spanish,” said Melanie Zipin, one of the creators of Whiskey Creek Zócalo. “You see a lot of them in Mexico and Spain. We picked it because we have so many aspects going on and we want it to be a meeting place for food, drinks, music, camaraderie, community, creativity, natural building, gardening, workshops and more.”

Now, this meeting place is welcoming visitors who love music and wood fired pizza.

Melanie, her son, Rafael Zipin, and her husband, Jeff LeBlanc, have been working for a couple of years to come to this point. Renovated from an old schoolhouse, the family has put its creativity to work with their labor and life’s assets to offer this zocalo to the community.

“We are all artists and musicians,” Melanie said. “The



three of us are doing this project together. It’s just us working on everything.”

Community hands have contributed artistry and help. For example, the sound buffers on the ceiling were donated by a friend with a strong belief in the mission of the place and another friend built the beautiful big doors that open behind the main performance space and an

SEE CREATION PAGE 23



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# Kite Flying Picnic

## Sky-high fun in Glenwood

BY CHERYL THORNBURG

**H**ead for the hills in the Gila National Forest for some high-flying fun on the first Saturday in April when the annual Whitewater Mesa Fun Kite Flying Picnic returns to the wide-open spaces on the mesa north of Glenwood. Hundreds of people of all ages participate in this colorful, family-friendly event. It is sanctioned by the American Kitefliers Association so kite-fliers come from all around the state and around the country to show off their spectacular creations.

There is plenty of space without fences to tangle your kite strings, and room to park for your tailgate picnic.

While you are here and for a completely different experience, walk one or all six of the labyrinths and a maze across the road at Whitewater Mesa Labyrinths.

It's not just for pros – everyone from toddlers to senior citizens test their kite-flying skills. There's something exhilarating about watching the colorful display of the kites diving and weaving in the winds above the mesa.

In addition, for a completely different experience, walk one or all six of the labyrinths and a maze across the road at Whitewater Mesa Labyrinths.

It all happens at Whitewater Mesa Labyrinths, 355 Bursum Road (NM 159) off Hwy 180, between Glenwood and Alma, NM 88039.

Admission is free. Water, kite-mending supplies, a



Johnny on the Spot porta-pottie and loaner kites are provided. Bring your picnic, your kite, your laughter, the whole family and all your friends, your sunhat, sunscreen and something to sit on.

Additional directions: GPS 33.3765, -108.852 Note: On MapQuest, Google Maps or Apple Maps, be sure to enter Glenwood after 355 Bursum Road or you will end up 35 miles away on a trail up the mountain in the Gila Wilderness!

For places to stay and more information, go to [www.wmlabyrinths.com/glenwood-lodging-etc](http://www.wmlabyrinths.com/glenwood-lodging-etc) or contact Cordelia Rose at 575-313-1002 (call or text).

# Family Fun in the Great Outdoors

## Glenwood's Dutch Oven Gathering

BY CHERYL THORNBURG

It's like a trip back to the Old West when you visit the annual Dutch Oven Gathering in Glenwood. There's great food prepared the old-fashioned way in large cast iron kettles over charcoal by teams of cooks from New Mexico and adjoining states.

The event generally takes place in mid-April at Glenwood Community Park.

The cooks love to chat and share info about traditional and updated dishes. Each team prepares a full meal – a meat or main dish, a side dish, a bread, and a dessert. Water, lemonade, or coffee is supplied with the meal.

Browse around and find the meal you would like most and then purchase a ticket for around \$15 per meal. Menus are posted at each site and in the pavilion where tickets are sold. Buy your tickets early as meals sometimes sell out. Serving begins about 2 p.m. at each camp where the meals are being prepared.

You can enjoy your Dutch oven dinner at the park or take it home.

Other activities include games to pass the time and shopping from vendors selling food, crafts and other merchandise. The Glenwood Library sets up its Spring Book Sale with tons of books, CDs and DVDs available by donation for readers and viewers to add to their collections.

Activities generally run from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at the community park on Catwalk Road, Route 174.

The Dutch Oven event is a community fundraiser and money after expenses is donated back into the community.

Contact organizer Molly Brown at 575-539-2714 or cell: 575-574-7704 or [3mollymules60@gmail.com](mailto:3mollymules60@gmail.com) for more information.

Glenwood is located on Highway 180 northwest of Silver City in the Gila National Forest.

The nearby Catwalk trail, as well as many other trails, are open for those who want to explore more of the area.





# Celebrate the Hummingbird

BY JASON K. WATKINS

**D**id you know there are more than 300 species of hummingbirds alive today — and they’re only found in the Americas?

These are two of many facts people can learn at the annual Hummingbird Festival in Mimbres on the last Saturday and Sunday of July.

It’s a free family affair that takes place in one of the most picturesque regions of New Mexico, the Mimbres Valley near Silver City.

An estimated 29 vendors participate, including the Duck Stop food truck, and the organizers will be selling ice cream and hummingbird supplies. Most of the vendors are local artists and craftspeople, and local musicians will be performing throughout the two-day festival.

“It’s small but it’s really nice,” said Kathy Hill, an event organizer and volunteer with the Imogen F. Wilson Education Foundation in Mimbres Valley. She says they’ve been hosting the event for the past nine years, but the hummingbird festival itself dates back many more years.

Events take place on Saturday and Sunday, starting at around 8 a.m. (although hardcore birders usually show up earlier). There are opportunities for children to hold and study hummingbirds in the mornings, before temperatures get too hot. There are also speakers and other children’s activities.

“We try to do hands-on activities for kids,” Hill said.

The Starlight Theater, a local acting and comedy troupe, often puts on a children’s skit during the event. Organizers ask that visitors refrain from bringing dogs into the vendor area, out of respect to the artists and sellers. (Service animals are an exception.)

At the event, guests can also tour the Mattocks Archeological Site, an important Native American settlement that dates back a thousand years. It once housed the Mimbres people, a sub-group of the Mogollon, known for their distinctive pottery designs and culture.

The Imogen F. Wilson Education Foundation is a non-profit tasked with preserving the Mattocks site and two other historic areas in the Mimbres Valley. They’re supported by the Grant County Community Foundation and other resources, including help from the community.

“We are all volunteers,” Hill stresses. “The Hummingbird Festival is part of the Imogen Wilson Foundation, which is made up of all volunteers. We do this event, but the rest of the year, we do tours.”

Hill said the organization feeds the hummingbirds in designated areas to attract them for the event, so visitors will get to see -- and photograph if they want -- a variety of species. Overall, she says, the event will offer something for people of all ages.

“We’ve come a long way,” Hill said. “And I think everyone will enjoy seeing the place.”

For more info, call 575-536-3333 or visit [www.mimbrescultureheritagesite.org](http://www.mimbrescultureheritagesite.org).

# Arts, Culture & History At the Heart of Silver City



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## CREATION FROM PAGE 18

outdoor venue that is part of the next phase.

“It’s been a fun project because we get to see the transformation,” Melanie said.

The stage is prominent and has the latest technology available because the family wants music to be the focus of the place.

“We intend to have more intentional music, instead of background music for people who want to talk,” she said. “We really want to have a place where you can come to see the music that’s the focus, to have a place about the music rather than let’s go eat and drink where there is some music in the background.”

With the family members coming from experience in the service industry, Melanie said that is what they know and are incorporating into their plans.

“This is a passion project for us,” she said. “We love the service industry, but we also love music and musicians.”

Positioned between the mining district and Silver City, part of their mission is to be a bridge between communities, Melanie said.



“We are not trying to be just a restaurant, we want a place for community,” she said.

“We are creating a venue for everyone,” Jeff said.

Melanie sees the concept of Whiskey Creek Zócalo as multi-faceted.

“We are really trying to create a space in the community that we love and have been a part of for a long time,” she said.

Visit [whiskeycreekzocalo.com](http://whiskeycreekzocalo.com) for upcoming events and information.

## GRANT COUNTY COMMUNITIES

### BAYARD

**CITY POPULATION: 2,097 (2021)**

Located in the foothills of the Gila and Mogollon mountains, Bayard was incorporated in 1938.

### CLIFF

**CENSUS-DESIGNATED PLACE**

**POPULATION: 273 (2020 CENSUS)**

Primarily a farming and ranching community, the post office was established in 1894.

### HURLEY

**TOWN POPULATION: 1,247 (2021)**

As early as 1801, the Chino Mines were the principal source of copper for the mint in Mexico.

### PINOS ALTOS

**CENSUS-DESIGNATED PLACE**

**POPULATION: 209 (2020 CENSUS)**

Spanish for “tall pines,” Pinos Altos is located in the Gila National Forest, with several historic places to visit.

### SANTA CLARA

**VILLAGE POPULATION: 1,606 (2021)**

A part of the mining district that includes Bayard, Hanover and Hurley, Santa Clara was founded in the early 1860s. In the 1960s, residents from nearby Santa Rita removed their homes from the path of the expanding open-pit mining operation of Kennecott Copper Corp.

### SAN LORENZO

**CENSUS-DESIGNATED PLACE**

**POPULATION: 149 (2020 CENSUS)**

San Lorenzo is a scenic village located in the Mimbres Valley. The San Lorenzo Canyon Recreation area offers opportunities for hiking and primitive camping.

### SILVER CITY

**TOWN, COUNTY SEAT**

**POPULATION: 9,578 (2021)**

Silver City, the largest town in Grant County, is a hub of activity. It values and preserves its historical, cultural and natural heritage. Home to a four-year university and historic downtown and cultural district, it is surrounded by the Gila National Forest.

### GLENWOOD\*

**CENSUS-DESIGNATED PLACE**

**POPULATION: 57 (2020 CENSUS)**

Glenwood is a quaint village located in southern Catron County on U.S. Highway 180. Glenwood has motels, restaurants and other services and is the jumping-off place for several Catron County features.

\* Glenwood is in Catron County, but connects to Silver City and Grant County for tourism and shopping.

# ELECTED OFFICIALS

## GRANT COUNTY COMMISSION

Address: P.O. Box 898  
Silver City, NM 88062

### CHRIS M. PONCE

District 1  
575-574-0021  
cponce@grantcountynm.gov

### ELOY MEDINA

District 2  
575-956-5723  
emedina@grantcountynm.gov

### ALICIA EDWARDS

District 3  
575-574-0023  
aedwards@grantcountynm.gov

### GERALD "BILLY" BILLINGS JR.

District 4  
575-574-0092  
bbillings@grantcountynm.gov

### HARRY BROWNE

District 5  
575-574-0093  
hbrowne@grantcountynm.gov

## SILVER CITY TOWN COUNCIL



### MAYOR KEN LADNER

575-313-0414  
mayor@silvercitynm.gov



### RUDY BENCOMO

District 1  
575-654-0415  
CouncilorDistrict1@silvercitynm.gov



### NICHOLAS PRINCE

District 2  
575-242-9002  
CouncilorDistrict2@silvercitynm.gov



### JOSE A. RAY, JR.

District 3  
575-313-4944  
Jose\_r88061@yahoo.com



### GUADALUPE "LUPE" CANO

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*in Silver City*

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### CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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### CALVARY CHAPEL

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575-388-1031

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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575-538-9533

### CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE

909 W. College Ave.  
575-538-0012

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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575-538-2015

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## **MIMBRES**

### **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**

575-590-5001

## **MIMBRES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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## **RIO MIMBRES BAPTIST CHURCH**

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575-536-9543

## **BAYARD**

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# Gila Wilderness Centennial

BY DONNA STEVENS

Southwest New Mexico is special in countless ways, but what really sets the region apart is the Gila Wilderness Area, the nation's first designated wilderness. In 2024, people who cherish the land and water will gather in Silver City and the Gila National Forest to commemorate the centennial of the Gila Wilderness.

It's important to acknowledge that the Gila Wilderness has existed from time immemorial, though it wasn't so named. Long before Europeans arrived, Indigenous inhabitants respected and revered the land and water and felt a sense of reciprocity toward this life force that sustained them. When the Forest Service was established in 1905, the national forests were carved from lands that were forcibly taken from the original inhabitants by European settlers.

In 1920, a young forester named Aldo Leopold applied his acute observational skills to understanding the Gila National Forest's land, water, plants and wildlife. He was ahead of his time in recognizing that wildlands were fast disappearing and vowing to do something about it. Leopold convinced his Forest Service superiors to preserve more than 500,000 acres as the Gila Wilderness Area, and it was officially designated on June 3, 1924. 40 years later, in 1964, Congress caught up with Leopold by passing the Wilderness Act and paving the way for other wildlands to be protected from

development. Because once wilderness is gone, it's gone.

Over the last century, the human population has more than quadrupled, and people have moved into wildlife habitats and displaced plants and animals who have nowhere to go but extinct. We are bequeathing an impoverished world to our children and grandchildren, a world with far fewer wild animals. This loss of biodiversity hurts people, too, because we're hardwired to be part of the natural world.

In wilderness areas, no development is allowed: no roads, no motorized vehicles, no homes. Infinitely more important than what is prohibited, though, is what wilderness offers in abundance: quiet, solitude, the opportunity to unplug from the world's madness. Freedom to live by our wits, as our ancestors did for hundreds of generations. A step back in time to a simpler, saner world. And beauty galore, enough to overwhelm our senses and renew our spirits.

Wildness, beauty, and solitude are just a few of the reasons why we celebrate wilderness areas. And the vision of saving wilderness began right here in southwest New Mexico: a glorious homage to the future by preserving the past.

*Donna Stevens is the Executive Director of the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, a watershed protection nonprofit that "promotes the long-term health of the Upper Gila Watershed and its communities of life."*

# A Divide That Unites

## ‘Embrace the brutality’

BY JASON K. WATKINS

It might contain some of the most picturesque terrain in America, and it might attract a growing legion of hikers every season, but the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) is no walk in the park. The 3,028-mile journey from New Mexico to Montana has picked up the slogan, “Embrace the brutality.”

Through the steep terrain of the Rocky Mountains, hikers along the CDT might encounter bears, avalanches, snakes, extreme heat, extreme cold, lightning, landslides, mountain lions and drought. Why do so many people choose to take the trip?

“It looks different for a lot of people,” said Aubra Labert, communications director for CDT Coalition. “There are southbound hikers, northbound hikers, section hikers, ‘flip-flop’ hikers. There are more women hiking the trail now, and particularly more non-binary people.”

The Continental Divide of the Americas is a geographic dividing line that splits the two continents and determines whether water drains into the Pacific Ocean or the Atlantic Ocean. It extends from the northernmost tip of Alaska all the way down to the bottom of South America.

The Trail is part of long-distance hiking’s Triple Crown, along with the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail.

Hikers on the trail either begin or end their journey in Hidalgo County, at what’s known as the Crazy Cook Memorial. Passing through Grant County, right through downtown Silver City, “through-hikers” who walk the entire route will take in some of the breathtaking scenery of the Big Burro Mountains and the Gila Wilderness before continuing on through New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana.

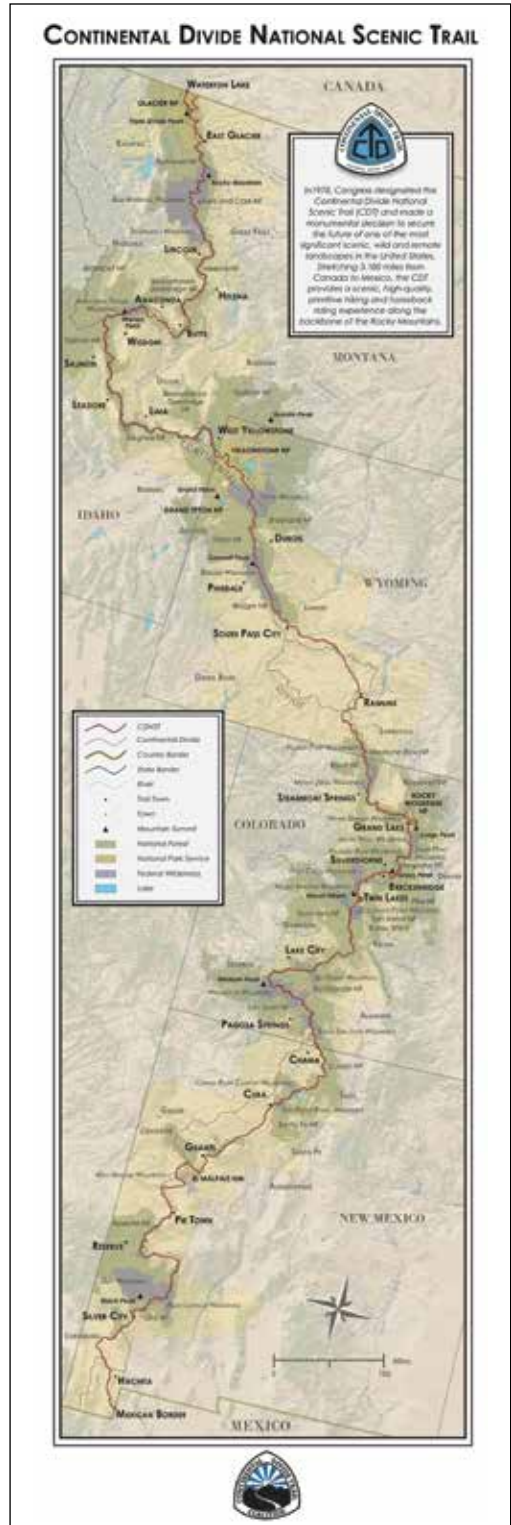
While the Appalachian Trail is easier and less rugged, the Continental Divide Trail requires some serious preparation and endurance. Most hikers take the trail at a leisurely pace, taking advantage of local hospitality and replenishing their supplies with the help of local merchants.

Labert said the trail provides economic benefits to communities who embrace the hikers, and Southern New Mexico understands that.

“We were in Hatchita last year and the store had vegan frozen meal options,” Labert said, “so you see where people are embracing that community. And it’s definitely seen and appreciated by those people.”

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition, [continentaldivetrail.org](http://continentaldivetrail.org), is a nonprofit dedicated to providing support to hikers and communities along the trail.

Silver City will celebrate its 10th anniversary as a Continental Divide Trail Gateway Community in 2024, and Labert said the organization is already planning the festivities.





# ARTS SILVER CITY FESTIVALS

## SPRING

### TOUR OF THE GILA

**April** – The Tour of the Gila has attracted competitive cyclists, both amateur and professional from around the world. The annual race give opportunities for aspiring cyclists to participate on much of the same course and terrain as the UCI professional men and women. Info: [tourofthegila.com](http://tourofthegila.com)

### CDTC TRAIL DAYS

**April** – The Continental Divide Trail Coalition hosts CDTC Trail Days to educate and expose people to the Continental Divide Trail. It is held at the end of April at various locations for entertainment, raffles, seminars, group hikes and gear testing. Info: [continentaldividetrail.org](http://continentaldividetrail.org).

### HURLEY PRIDE FESTIVAL & CAR SHOW

**May** – Held each year in May, this one-day festival and car show, held at Hurley Park, includes 20 classes of cars, food, vendors, music, raffles, jumping balloons, games and free trolley rides. Info: 575-956 -3535.

### SILVER CITY BLUES FESTIVAL

**May** – Hosted by Mimbres Region Arts Council, the festival showcases “local and rising stars” with a series of free performances over Memorial Day Weekend. The festival is held Memorial Day weekend, mostly at Gough Park, off Pope Street in Silver City. Info: [www.silvercitybluesfestival.org](http://www.silvercitybluesfestival.org).

## SUMMER

### WILD, WILD WEST PRO RODEO

**June** – The annual PRCA Rodeo features high-flying bull riding, fast riding and roping and much more, all under the cool New Mexico evening skies. Events are

held at the Southwest Horseman’s Park, off of US Hwy 180 and Caballero Road just East of Silver City. Info: [silvercityprorodeo.com](http://silvercityprorodeo.com).

### ¡FIESTA LATINA!

**June** – Western New Mexico University’s ¡Fiesta Latina! enters its fourth year, this June, of Latin rhythms and flavors, master artisans from across Mexico and artisanal tequila, all held on the WNMU campus. Artisan Mercado, ongoing music and performances are free to the public throughout the event. Info: [fiestalatina.org](http://fiestalatina.org).

### SILVER CITY CLAY FESTIVAL

**July** – The signature event of the Silver City Arts and Cultural District, the Silver City Clay Festival takes place in July. It’s a weeklong event that celebrates clay in all its forms at a variety of venues. Info: [www.clayfestival.com](http://www.clayfestival.com).

### HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL

**July** – Hummingbird Festival celebrates the small yet fierce birds in a variety of ways. Literature, art, guest speakers and live entertainment highlight the festival, held in July at the Mimbres Culture Heritage Site. Info: 575-536-3333.

### COPPER COUNTRY CRUIZERS CAR SHOW

**August** – Held annually in August by the car club Copper Country Cruizers, the one-day car show features a hot dog burn, live music, multiple raffles, trophy winner parade and more. Info: [www.coppercountrycruizers.com](http://www.coppercountrycruizers.com).

### ROLLING STONES GEM & MINERAL SHOW

**September** – Labor Day weekend brings each year the Grant County Rolling Stones Annual Gem and Mineral Show, in which vendors display high-quality gems, minerals and jewelry. The free show got its start in 1983 and now features more than 40 vendors, a silent auction, “Wheel of Fortune” for kids and exhibits Saturday through Monday. Info: [Rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com](http://Rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com).



## FALL

### CARNITAS MUSICA Y MAS

**September** – Labor Day Weekend events brings a variety of music types, national acts with Tejano, Mariachi, rock and roll and country music for three days held at Gough Park in Silver City. Info: 575-590-2352.

### FORT BAYARD DAYS

**September** – Typically held in September, Fort Bayard Days exhibits more than 20 living history stations that bring to life the fort's historic significance. The fort played an integral role in protecting settlers and miners in the 1800s and housed Buffalo soldiers during the Civil War, who fought against Apache warriors. During Fort Bayard Days, volunteers dress in period costume and show attendees what life was like during its heyday. It usually includes a flag ceremony, games for kids, tours, lunch, lectures, dinner and a military ball. Info: [fortbayard.org](http://fortbayard.org)

### GILA RIVER FESTIVAL

**September** – The annual Gila River Festival celebrates the bounty of the Gila River and highlights its threats and challenges in late September each year. Put on by the Gila Conservation Coalition, the festival explores the relationship between man, technology, nature and that relationship's impact on the Gila River watershed. The event typically offers expert-guided field trips, a Gila River kayak trip, a Gila River bus tour and a puppet parade. Info: [www.gilaconservation.org](http://www.gilaconservation.org)

### GRANT COUNTY FAIR

**September** – The Grant County Fair supports and showcases agriculture and youth education. Ribbons, plaques and trophies are awarded in a wide variety of categories such as livestock, jams and jellies, handicrafts and baked goods. A rodeo, music acts and other attractions are also part of the week-long celebration. The fair is held in Cliff, New Mexico. Info: [www.grantcountyfairnm.com](http://www.grantcountyfairnm.com)

### MIMBRES VALLEY HARVEST FESTIVAL & HEALTH FAIR

**September** – This harvest festival on the last Saturday of September encourages local agriculture through





CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31 ■

education, showcases locally grown food and handmade products and promotes tourism to the Mimbres Valley. Children's activities focus on fitness. Local musicians provide music along with local storytellers telling of the Valley's heritage past and present. Info: [www.mimbresharvestfest.com](http://www.mimbresharvestfest.com).

### SILVER CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL

**September** – The Pride Festival, held at Gough Park celebrates diversity and equality with live music, food vendors, community booths and more. It features live performances by local LGBTQ artists and a beer garden as well as family-friendly activities and games. Info: [lgbtqg.org](http://lgbtqg.org).

### SOUTHWEST FESTIVAL OF THE WRITTEN WORD

**October** – This festival, dedicated to writers of all proclivities, takes place only once every two years. The festival celebrates the power and beauty of the written word embracing the rich diversity of Southwestern cultures. It features writing workshops, readings, lectures and random acts of literature. Info: [swwordfiesta.org](http://swwordfiesta.org).

### RED DOT ART WEEKEND

**September and October** – Silver City comes alive with art during Red Dot Art Weekend. The event gives visitors an opportunity to mingle with artists, tour area art studios, attend opening receptions for exhibits and enjoy live music, food specials and entertainment. The annual event is hosted by the Silver City Art Association. Info: [www.silvercityart.com](http://www.silvercityart.com).

### SOUTHWEST PRINT FIESTA

**October** – The Southwest Print Fiesta, Oct. 7-10, 2022, features original fine art prints, letterpress creations, printed wearables and more, for sale by regional artists and print studio collectives. The fiesta also features workshops and hands-on printing experiences. Info: [www.southwestprintfiesta.org](http://www.southwestprintfiesta.org).

### DAY OF THE DEAD

**October and November** – Spread out over several days, from Oct. 30 through Nov. 4, Downtown Silver City observes Día de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) with a parade, music, family crafts, traditional art and food, in addition to paying homage to those who have passed away. Info: [silvercitytourism.org](http://silvercitytourism.org).

## WINTER

### CHOCOLATE FANTASIA

**February** – Every year close to Valentine's Day, about a dozen locations in historic downtown Silver City offer samplings of sweet treats during Chocolate Fantasia, highlighting Grant County's confectioners with recipes to make your mouth water. Visitors can stroll the streets, shop, listen to live music and taste a variety of gourmet chocolate creations. "Chocolate Stop" maps and empty Valentine boxes are provided, and a sampling ticket lets you try 20 pieces of chocolate. Info: [mimbresarts.org/chocolate-fantasia](http://mimbresarts.org/chocolate-fantasia).



# Living on in Bronze

## Beloved WNMU icon immortalized

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

**C**ollette Beers loves process.

Starting with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Western New Mexico University (WNMU) in 2015, followed by an MBA in 2018, she promptly decided it wasn't for her and decided she would rather follow her passion to create and became a sculptress.

And so it was she and three other artists who have educational roots at WNMU not only founded a Silver City gallery – Made in Silver City – but have found themselves commissioned to create bronze memorials on campus. The first one is “The Ice Cream Girl,” of a full-sized girl and an ice cream cone which can be found at the bottom of the steps in front of Bowden Hall on campus.

The newest piece commemorates nurse and former WNMU faculty member Pam Kuthe. Kuthe retired from WNMU in 2007 and passed away in 2020. She was recognized as a “Nursing Legend” by the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence, and she was pivotal in establishing the modern nursing program at WNMU.

The other members of the Made in Silver City team are Chelsea Boone, who earned a BFA in 2016; Maurice Camacho earned the same degree in 2019; and Michael Metcalf who is a professor of sculpture in the Department of Expressive Arts.

The sculptors use the lost-wax process to create their public art projects in bronze. Beers said from start to finish it's a ton of work but worth it (and a good price) in the end.

“There is something really special about knowing something you made will last that long,” Beers said. “Some of these last 2,000-something years. The lost-wax process is the same as from pre-Roman times only we have way better material. We do the bronze casting at WNMU.

“I think for a small university, it's really cool that we get to use it. One of the reasons I came to this university was the capability to pour bronze there. Every step is an adventure in problem solving and figuring out what to do next. Nothing ever goes exactly as planned. I think that's part of the fun of it.”

Now a life-sized bronze Kuthe sits on one of the purple benches at WNMU, dedicated in May for Nurses Month. She sits on the front porch of the School of Nursing Building. In her hands she holds her beloved Gray's Anatomy.





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# The Studio

Space for making, learning, showing off art

BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Simply “The studio,” the Grant County Art Guild (GCAG) has opened a new space in an old building.

“The motto is ‘create, educate, exhibit,’” said JoAnne Thomas, GCAG president. “In this space you can look from the street and see that there is something wonderful going on.”

Located in a historic building at 200 W. Market St. in Silver City, The Studio is a reimagining of the space previously called the GCAG Annex, which was located behind the main GCAG gallery at the “Hester House,” at 316 N. Bullard St.

Thomas said the building used to house a Chinese person who ran

a grocery store. The Y Toy grocery store opened in 1936 and operated until the 1980s. When the building was constructed, they used bricks from the old Tyrone train station that had been demolished, she said.

“It’s a really nice space,” she said. “It is for our classes and workshops and make-and-takes and special art shows.”

Marsha Banas, the Open Studio facilitator, hosts drop-in open studios twice a month, from noon-3 p.m. every second and fourth Thursday of the month..

“Visitors to Silver City are welcome,” she said.

The Studio provides a venue not only for guild member shows but also for collaborative efforts with



community projects and events. Visit [Gcag.org](http://Gcag.org) for information about upcoming events.

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# STUDIOS AND GALLERIES

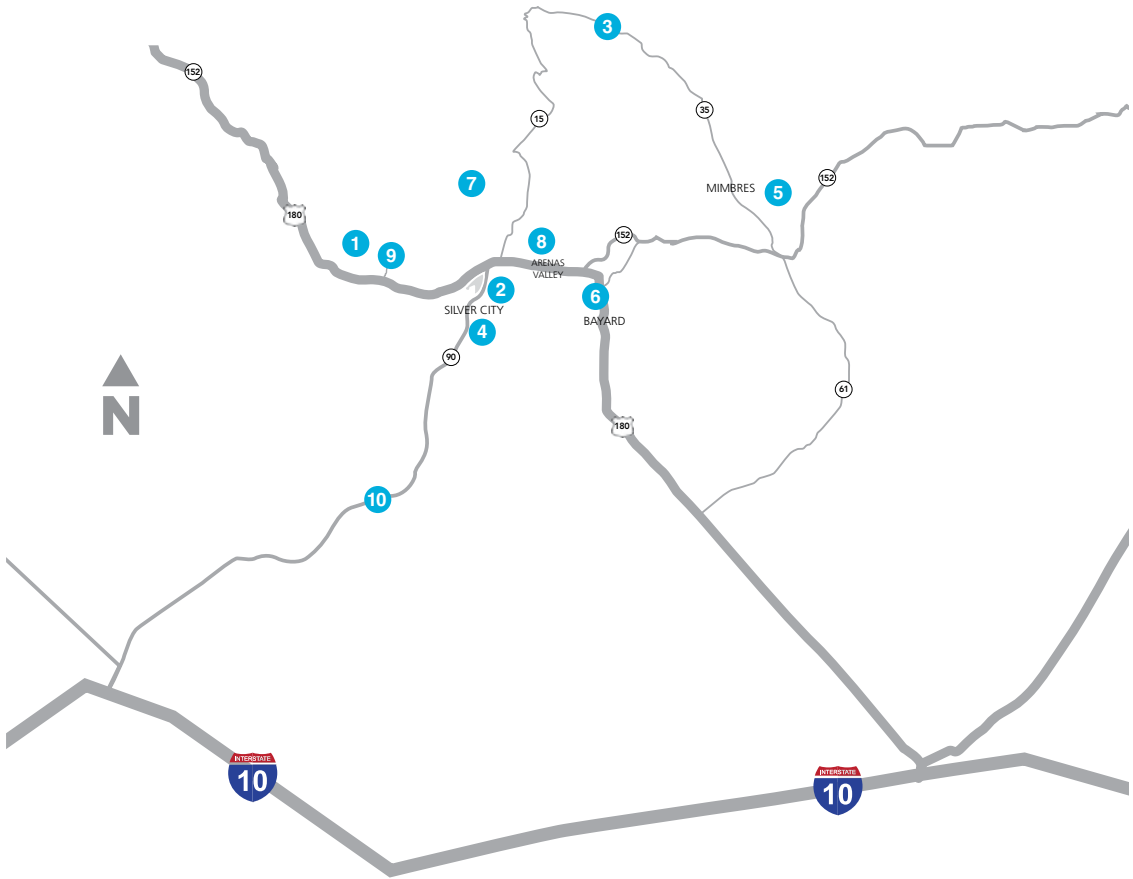
## Silver City



1. **ALDEA**  
217 N. Bullard St.  
575-654-0972  
aldeagallery.com
2. **AMMA GUADALUPE'S**  
505 N. Bullard St.  
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3. **[a]SP,"A"ce**  
110 W. 7th St.  
575-538-3333
4. **ANIMALIA STUDIO**  
214 N. Bullard St.  
575-441-2620  
animaliamade.com
5. **BLUE DOME GALLERY**  
307 N. Texas St.  
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desertrockcreations.com
7. **COMMON GROUND**  
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8. **DIANA INGALLS LEYBA STUDIO & GALLERY**  
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9. **FRANCIS MCCRAY GALLERY**  
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WNMU  
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12. **GRANT COUNTY ART GUILD GALLERY**  
316 N. Bullard St.  
575-388-1088  
gcag.org
13. **LIGHT ART SPACE**  
209 W. Broadway  
520-240-7075  
Lightartspace.com
14. **LLOYD STUDIOS**  
306 W. Broadway  
303-378-0926
15. **LOIS DUFFY ART STUDIO**  
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575-313-9631
16. **MADE IN SILVER CITY**  
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575-519-9910  
madeinsilvercity.com
17. **THE MAKERY**  
106 E Market St.  
575-590-1263
18. **MANZANITA RIDGE**  
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19. **MOLLY RAMOLLA GALLERY & FRAMING**  
101 N. Bullard St.  
575-538-5538
20. **OL' WEST GALLERY & MERCANTILE**  
104 W. Broadway Ave.  
575-388-1811
21. **THE PINK STORE NORTH**  
210 N. Bullard St.  
575-956-6250  
thepinkstorenorth.com
22. **SILVER CITY MUSEUM**  
312 W. Broadway  
575-538-5921
23. **STERLING FINE ART**  
307 N. Texas St.  
505-699-5005  
Sterlingnm.com
24. **THE STUDIO**  
200 W. Market St.  
575-388-1088,  
gcag.org
25. **SYZGY TILE GALLERY**  
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3. **CHAMOMILE CONNECTION**  
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7. **STUDIO BEHIND THE MOUNTAIN**  
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575-388-3277
8. **VICTORIA CHICK - COW TRAIL STUDIO**  
119 Cow Trail  
Arenas Valley, NM 88022  
520-395-0728
9. **WIND CANYON STUDIO**  
11 Quail Run  
Silver City, NM 88061  
619-933-8034
10. **WORKS BY BARBARA HARRISON AND OTHERS**  
21 Latigo Trail  
Silver City  
941-387-8589

## ART ASSOCIATIONS

### GRANT COUNTY ART GUILD

316 N. Bullard  
Silver City  
[www.gcag.org](http://www.gcag.org)

### MIMBRES REGION ARTS COUNCIL

575-538-2505  
[Mimbresarts.org](http://Mimbresarts.org)

### SILVER CITY ART ASSOCIATION

575-313-9631  
[www.silvercityart.com](http://www.silvercityart.com)

### SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO ACT

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**PRIMARY CARE | URGENT CARE**

# Silver Health CARE

BY JENNIFER OLSON

**N**early 50 years ago, Silver Health CARE was founded by a pair of doctors in rural southwest New Mexico whose clinic came to define its approach to patient care with the acronym using the same letters:

- Compassionate and comprehensive
- Affordable and accessible
- Respectful and responsive
- Excellent and evidence-based

Over the next five decades, a team of providers guided by these values has continued serving the community's health care needs, expanding to offer primary and urgent care at four clinics across Grant and Luna counties. In December 2022, Silver Health CARE was purchased by RISE Health, a group at the forefront of a national healthcare trend centered around prevention.

With the view that today's mainstream health care model is upside down, RISE Health is implementing a model that goes back to the basics of primary care. In this model, providers fully manage patient care using their clinical expertise while also leveraging best-in-class technology.

"Our focus is helping our patients have the greatest number of healthy days possible," said RISE VP of Operations Efram Peller.

Instead of operating under a fee-for-service model, Silver Health CARE and its patients mutually benefit from working proactively to stay one step ahead of illness. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services pays to keep patients healthy, the common-sense preference when the alternative is paying for excess tests and services for sicker patients.

With the agility of a small clinic and the benefit of working face-to-face with a local patient population, Silver Health CARE offers compassionate, respectful and responsive care. Providers ensure timely screenings and regular contact with Medicare patients through annual wellness visits and support their highest-need patients with chronic care management services.

"Our prevention-first model also inherently ensures affordability for patients, because healthier people need fewer tests, procedures and visits," said Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jim Skee.

The model is designed to deliver better health for the collective community by meeting the original Silver Health CARE values.

Silver Health CARE's new tools and technology are intended to improve rural patients' access to specialists, put data to work for better patient



outcomes, and enable better continuity of care. Silver Health CARE and select partners are reducing the need to travel for appointments and putting patients back in control of their own health with tools they can use at home. In addition to empowering people to be involved in their own health, this approach strengthens the links between patients and their primary care providers.

Finally, by unifying their patient records with records from surrounding hospitals and specialists, Silver Health CARE gives providers the real-time information to conduct timely follow-ups after emergency department visits for example. Having at-a-glance access to current patient records and recent diagnoses is critical for providers as they develop evidence-based care plans.

"We are following our patient hospitalizations very closely," Skee said, "because our goal is to bring hospitalizations down drastically."

Based on each individual's risk factors, new technology assists in reminding the clinic and patients when screenings are due so appointments can be scheduled proactively. Ultimately, Silver Health CARE providers work to have a better understanding of each patient's current circumstances and health needs to ultimately chart the path to optimal health.

As Silver Health CARE works to bring this model of prevention to more people across New Mexico and other western states, the company hopes going back to the basics of primary care pays dividends in the way of a thriving population. And because life is good in Silver City, Silver Health CARE is accepting new patients.

## HOMELESS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES

### SILVER CITY GOSPEL MISSION

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Info: 575-388-5071, [silvercitygospelmission.org](http://silvercitygospelmission.org)

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One bedroom is reserved for the Sierra House Manager and the other two contain bunk-beds suitable for two families or four individuals.

Info: 575-388-5071, [silvercitygospelmission.org/services/support/the-sierra-house](http://silvercitygospelmission.org/services/support/the-sierra-house)

### EL REFUGIO

800 S. Robert St.

El Refugio shelter is available for women and their children who are domestic violence victims. The shelter offers rooms for eight to nine families, with one family per room. A family can stay at the shelter up to 30 days. If more time is needed, an extension can be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Info: 575-538-2125, [www.eridv.org](http://www.eridv.org)

## VETERANS SERVICES

### NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

**Veterans Service Officer Chris Teran**

11990 U.S. Highway 180 E.

Santa Clara, NM 88026

575-912-3166

### NEW MEXICO VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH SERVICES

The Silver City Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) is designed to deliver primary care services to eligible military veterans. Services include blood draws (by appointment only), EKGs (electrocardiograms), evaluations by doctors, routine lab tests, social work, and mental health services. The clinic is located at 2950 Leslie Road in Silver City.

The Silver City CBOC is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and closed Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays. For appointments, call the clinic at 575-538-2921. No emergency care is available at this facility. For after-hours assistance, call 1-866-862-7863, or for emergency care, call 911.

For information about enrollment in the Silver City CBOC, call the Eligibility and Enrollment Office for the New Mexico Veterans Affairs Health Care System at 505-265-1711, Ext. 2741.

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- Pre-rolls • Infused cane and coconut sugar • Infused Monk Fruit Sweetener • Infused MCT oil • Enclosed Patio
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- Open Jam Session
- Cannabis Flights
- Indoor/Outdoor consumption lounge



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## MEDICAL SERVICES

Silver City has long been considered a premiere medical service center in southern New Mexico. Multiple health care facilities cover all the basics, as well as some top-notch, specialized services.

### CASSIE HEALTH CENTER FOR WOMEN

[www.cassiehealthcenter.com](http://www.cassiehealthcenter.com)

1618 E. Pine St.

575-388-1561

Services for women of all ages include comprehensive obstetrics and gynecology.

### DR. GREGORY KOURY DPC

[www.ziafamilyhealthcare.com](http://www.ziafamilyhealthcare.com)

10983 Highway 180 West

575-534-4299

Longtime Silver City physician Dr. Gregory Koury offers Direct Physician Care. Koury's DPC practice, Zia Health Care, does not accept insurance of any kind and you will not need insurance to obtain medical care. If you have a letter proving you are under direct physician care, you will legally not be required to have health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

### GILA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

[www.grmc.org](http://www.grmc.org)

1313 E. 32nd St.

575-538-4000

Gila Regional Medical Center is a county-owned, not-for-profit, 68-bed acute care hospital, featuring 24/7 ambulance and emergency services and state-of-the-art operating rooms that provide surgical services to Southwest New Mexico. A strong commitment to technology and patient-centered care, it is home to the Cancer Center and Surgical Center of the Southwest.

### SILVER HEALTH CARE

[www.silverhealthcare.org](http://www.silverhealthcare.org)

1600 E. 32nd St.

575-538-2981

Silver Health Care is a multispecialty group offering a broad range of quality medical services. Silver Health Care also operates two urgent care walk-in clinics, in Silver City and Deming. Silver Health Care also has clinic facilities in Bayard, Fort Bayard Medical Center and an additional family clinic in Silver City.

### HIDALGO MEDICAL SERVICES

[www.hmsnm.org](http://www.hmsnm.org)

1007N. Pope St.

575-388-1511

Hidalgo Medical Services (HMS) positively impacts the health, well-being and quality of life by providing comprehensive, integrated, affordable healthcare and education of patients and healthcare professionals. HMS provides primary medical, dental, mental health and family support services to more than 16,000 people each year.

### SW CENTER FOR HEALTH INNOVATION

[www.swchi.org](http://www.swchi.org)

301 W. College Ave., Suite 16

575-534-0101

The Southwest Center for Health Innovation is a nonprofit organization focusing on community health. Through advocacy, education, policy and programs, CHI is at the forefront of improving community health for all people, especially those who are underserved.

### SOUTHWEST BONE AND JOINT INSTITUTE

[www.southwestboneandjoint.com](http://www.southwestboneandjoint.com)

1268 E. 32nd St.

575-534-1919

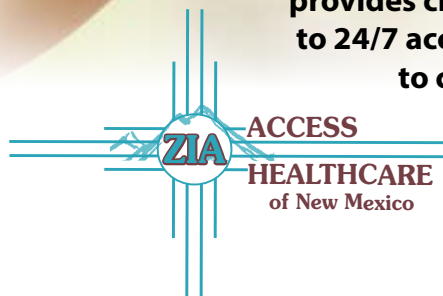
Founded by board-certified orthopedic surgeon Brian Robinson in 1999, the Southwest Bone and Joint Institute provides a full range of orthopedic services including orthopedic surgery at the Gila Regional Medical surgical center, imaging, rehab and sports medicine.

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Monday through Friday

## NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING

To report abuse/neglect/exploitation in nursing homes: Department of Health Incident Reporting Hotline Toll Free: 1-800-445-6242. For assistance with concerns or complaints about the care in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, call Ombudsman Services at 575-647-2023 or toll free at 800-762-8690. For information, visit [www.nmaging.state.nm.us](http://www.nmaging.state.nm.us).

**FORT BAYARD MEDICAL CENTER/STATE VETERAN'S NURSING HOME**  
**LONG-TERM CARE AND REHABILITATION CENTER**  
 41 Fort Bayard Road  
 Santa Clara  
 Phone: 575-537-3302  
 Toll Free: 800-541-6966

**SANTA CLARA ASSISTED LIVING**  
 15 Fort Bayard Road, Santa Clara  
 575-537-3077

**MILLIE'S ASSISTED LIVING**  
 600 N. Hudson St., Silver City  
 575-534-9172  
[www.milliescenter.com](http://www.milliescenter.com)

**SILVER CITY CARE CENTER SKILLED NURSING FACILITY**  
 3514 N. Fowler Ave., Silver City  
 575-388-3127

**SUNSET VISTA - ASSISTED LIVING**  
 3650 N. Fowler Ave., Silver City  
 575-538-9095

### SUBSIDIZED HOUSING

**BAYARD HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
 100 Runnels Drive A #1  
 P.O. Box 768, Bayard  
 575-537-2296

**CASA LINDA APARTMENTS**  
 100 E. 17th St., Silver City  
 575-388-3755

**HOUSING AUTHORITY - REGION V**  
 2545 N. Silver St., Silver City  
 575-388-1974

**HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) SANTA CLARA HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
 401 N. Mineral St., Santa Clara  
 575-537-3041

## SENIOR SERVICES

For county residents 60 years of age and older, the Grant County Senior Services Department offers a range of programs and services allowing senior citizens to meet, interact, dine together, get in-home meals and receive transportation services, all at no cost. Whether you need transportation to an upcoming medical appointment, an in-home meal or just an excuse to get out of the house for a meal with friendly neighbors. Lunch is served at all five centers at 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Services currently offered include transportation, meals at the senior centers, home-delivered meals and senior employment. No financial qualification is required for these programs, but registration is required.

**HIDALGO MEDICAL SERVICES**  
 110 W. 11th St., Silver City, NM 88061  
 Senior Services  
 575-597-2746

### SENIOR CENTERS

**SILVER CITY SENIOR CENTER**  
 205 W. Victoria St.  
 Silver City, NM  
 575-388-2545

**SANTA CLARA SENIOR CENTER**  
 507 N. East St.  
 Santa Clara, NM  
 575-537-5254

**MIMBRES SENIOR CENTER**  
 2620 Highway 35  
 Mimbres, NM  
 575-536-9990

**GILA SENIOR CENTER**  
 403 Highway 211  
 Gila, NM  
 575-535-2888

**HURLEY COMMUNITY CENTER**  
 302 Carrasco St.  
 Hurley, NM  
 575-537-2287



# Keeping the Community Fit

## WNMU Kinesiology Program Extends Its Exercise Classes to Children

PROVIDED BY WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY

For more than 10 years, the WNMU Kinesiology Program, part of the School of Nursing and Kinesiology, has offered the course Get Fit Seniors in collaboration with the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning. This program for older adults is aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of seniors through whole-body strength and conditioning classes. Now, the Kinesiology Program has launched a new program, intended for children: the WNMU Kinesiology Kids Bicycle Program.

The program is held in a six-week session overseen by assistant professor Garrett Peltonen and associate professor Takahiro Sato. During each hour-long session, WNMU Kinesiology students teach children basic bicycle skills through fun and engaging drills. According to Peltonen, the program is geared toward children ages 3-12 and is designed to “empower local kids and promote a physically active lifestyle through the bicycle.” Initiated in the spring of 2023, the program will again be offered this fall on the WNMU campus. It is open to children in Silver City and surrounding areas and there is no fee to participate.

Kids Bike was inspired by the success of the Get Fit Seniors program, which has improved the health and wellbeing of seniors. “We want individuals of all age ranges to gain the benefits of physical activity,” said Peltonen. Both programs are consistent with a central concept in the field of kinesiology that “exercise is better than medicine,” he said. Exercise is used by kinesiologists to improve human flexibility, strength and agility as well as overall health and wellbeing. Both Get Fit Seniors and the Kids Bike program are designed to benefit all those involved: the community members that participate gain the benefits of exercise, while students get the experience of teaching exercise classes.

The bicycle program has been enriching for the students that assist in delivering it. “Seeing so many kids on bikes having fun and improving their biking skills is very rewarding,” said Itzela Darkenwald, who is majoring in Kinesiology and assists in the program. “It’s an amazing opportunity for us Kinesiology students to practice and expand our education in hopes of also benefiting our local youth,” she said.

Recent WNMU Kinesiology graduate Devin Larsen,



who also volunteered with the program this spring, is excited to see Kids Bike continue. “We hope this program continues to grow and benefit the students in the Kinesiology program and our community,” he said.

For more information on Kinesiology Kids Bicycle Program or Get Fit Seniors, please contact garrett.peltonen@wnmu.edu.



# WNMU Museum, Reveling in Ruins

PROVIDED BY WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY

**D**anielle Romero never imagined she would devote her career to studying the Mimbres culture of the American Southwest. Romero, director of Western New Mexico University Museum, began her graduate degree in anthropology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with an interest in Egyptian ceramics. Earlier this year, however, Romero was excited to receive into the museum's collection a substantial donation of Mimbres artifacts, including numerous items from the Elk Ridge Ruin in the Mimbres valley.

"This is the second largest collection for the museum besides NAN Ranch," said Romero, referring to the museum's collection of the largest and most complete body of materials in existence from a single prehistoric Mimbres site. Like the NAN Ranch collection, Romero said, the new donation is an "academic collection with field notes and context information that will be available to researchers."

The donation came from Human Systems Research, Inc. (HSR), a nonprofit archeological organization based in Las Cruces. In addition to the Elk Ridge collection, the artifacts donated by HSR include items from a ruin near Animas Creek in Sierra County and pieces from an earlier prehistoric site in the Mesilla Valley.

Romero is no stranger to the Elk Ridge Ruin, having conducted extensive field research there while working on her doctorate from UNLV. While Romero's research has focused on the part of the ruin that is federally owned and operated by the National Forest Service, the newly acquired collections include artifacts from land that is privately owned.

Ruins such as those at Elk Ridge are often the site

of excavation by property owners and other collectors untrained in archeological methods. This type of excavation led the New Mexico legislature in 1989 to make it a felony to disturb grave sites on public or private land, and soon after Congress passed the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act in 1990. Immediately prior to these laws taking effect, however, the ruins at Elk Ridge were damaged by a bulldozer that was used to quickly unearth as many prehistoric pots as possible.

Luckily, some of the pueblo rooms were buried too deeply for the bulldozer to easily reach. The museum's new collection represents archeological excavations that salvaged what the bulldozer left behind at Elk Ridge. The collection includes numerous ceramics from the Late Pithouse and Mimbres Classic periods (approximately AD 600-1130) and a stone bench, the first of its kind found among Mimbres ruins. Animal bone and plant samples from the site have revealed the first evidence of turkey domestication in the Mimbres Valley as well as a bone from what is believed to be an Amazona parrot.

While the museum already houses artifacts from Elk Ridge, the acquisition "represents the second step of being able to bring all the Elk Ridge collections under one roof," said Romero.

Romero intends many of the Elk Ridge artifacts to be featured as part of the museum's permanent exhibit by next year, in time for the museum's 50th anniversary. In displaying the collection, Romero hopes to highlight the unfortunate history of looting and unscientific pot collection in the American Southwest, as well the efforts that are currently being made to recover the archeological record of sites like Elk Ridge and to better understand the Mimbres people.

# EDUCATION IN GRANT COUNTY

There are 16 public schools in Grant County serving approximately 4,500 students. The largest of the districts is Silver Consolidated Schools which operates three high schools, one middle school and five elementary schools all serving more than 3,000 students. The district employs approximately 260 teachers.

Western New Mexico University is situated at the heart of Silver City and central to Grant County. With a range of associates, bachelor's and graduate degree programs and non-degree study options, WNMU anchors the community's commitment to lifelong education.



## PUBLIC SCHOOLS: SILVER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

2810 N. Swan St.  
Silver City NM 88061  
575-956-2000  
[www.silverschools.org](http://www.silverschools.org)

## COBRE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

900 A Central Ave.  
Bayard, NM 88023  
575-537-4010  
[www.cobre.k12.nm.us](http://www.cobre.k12.nm.us)

## CHARTER SCHOOL:

### ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL

410 W. 10th St.,  
Silver City, NM 88061  
575-538-2547  
[www.aldocs.org/pages/ALCS](http://www.aldocs.org/pages/ALCS)

## PRIVATE SCHOOLS: GUADALUPE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

1731 N. Alabama St.  
Silver City, NM 88061  
575-388-3343  
[www.guadalupeмонтessori.org](http://www.guadalupeмонтessori.org)

## CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

3001 NM-90 S  
575-388-4478  
[www.silvercaa.org](http://www.silvercaa.org)

## COLLEGE:

### WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY

1000 W. College Ave.  
Silver City, NM 88061  
800-872-9668  
[wnmu.edu](http://wnmu.edu)



# YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS & DAYCARES

## YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

### GIRL SCOUTS OF THE DESERT SOUTHWEST

302 W. 11th St.  
575-538-2481 ex. 4242  
[gsdsw.org](http://gsdsw.org)

### BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS MOUNTAIN REGION

1016 N. Pope St.  
575-303-3004

### MIMBRES REGION ARTS COUNCIL YOUTH MURAL CAMP

1201 N. Pope St.  
575-538-2505  
[Mimbresarts.org](http://Mimbresarts.org)

### SILVER CITY SOCCER CLUB

Gregory Koury, MD  
575-313-4211  
P.O. Box 2337, Silver City, NM 88062  
[Silvercitysoccer.com](http://Silvercitysoccer.com)

### GRANT COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

[www.grantcountysoccer.com](http://www.grantcountysoccer.com)

## PRESCHOOLS DAYCARE

### EL GRITO HEAD START

303 S. Cooper St.  
575-538-5459  
[Elgritosc.com](http://Elgritosc.com)

### GUADALUPE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

1731 N. Alabama St.  
575-388-3343





# LIFE is GOOD

WNMU.EDU



# New Pet Boutique

## Quality over quantity

BY JASON K. WATKINS

**W**hen Laura Schoen visited Silver City earlier this year with her boyfriend, a volleyball coach at Western New Mexico University, she knew right away she was moving here.

“I fell in love with it,” Schoen, a native Texan, told Desert Exposure. “I went all up and down Bullard Street talking to every shop owner.”

A lifelong pet lover, Schoen says she knew she wanted to open a pet boutique if she could find the right spot. She even had the logo, based on her beloved blue heeler-shepherd mix, who she lost more than a dozen years ago.

“My logo is my first love, Bella,” Schoen said. “I finally found the perfect space, and the rest is history.”

Located in a small storefront connected to the historic Gila Theater in the heart of downtown Silver City, Schoen’s Fetch Pet Boutique just opened in July and has been growing steadily every month. (She occupies the old Kneeling Nun Mercantile shop.) Her inventory is geared toward accessories, rather than food, so she can focus on her own niche “and not compete with the other pet shop in town.”

“Right now I’ve done really well,” Schoen said. “I have some really nice stuff — Brazilian beaded collars, macrame collars, leather collars, toys — and a lot of it is mid-priced.”

Fetch Pet also carries a variety of high-quality pet treats for both dogs and cats, potty bags, grooming supplies, pet clothing, and durable toys. She also

### IF YOU GO

413 N. Bullard St., Silver City

Phone: • Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

fetch2023@yahoo.com • Facebook: @fetchsilvercity

carries a line of custom-painted pet portraits called “Paws Around Town,” and she plans to add even more artwork and handmade items to her line.

She says she caters to those who want to splurge and buy top-of-the-line pet gear, but she also has lots of items in the ten-dollar-and-under range.

“I’ve gotten a really good response,” Schoen says. “Everybody has just been so great.”

Her next goal is to bring on a part-time dog groomer. After that, she says, she will set up a solid online presence. She currently focuses only on social media, but she says the word is slowly getting out.

She also has a new pup, “Ernie,” a partially blind rescue who’s about a year and a half old. Ernie stands guard in the shop to greet new customers, when he can see them.

“He’s my new love,” Schoen says.

Fetch Pet Boutique is open every day except Sunday and Monday.

“I fell in love with the pet loving community of Silver City,” Schoen said, “and I am ready to be a part of the downtown and meet everyone and their furry four-legged companions!”

*Jason K. Watkins is a freelance writer and teacher from southern New Mexico. He can be reached at [jasonkwatkins.com](http://jasonkwatkins.com)*

## SILVER CITY ANIMAL SERVICES

### HIGH DESERT HUMANE SOCIETY

3050 S. Cougar Way, Silver City, NM 88062  
575-538-9261

Hours: 8:30 a.m.-5:30p.m. Tuesday through Friday;  
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

Email: [hdhs@gilanet.com](mailto:hdhs@gilanet.com)

Website: [www.highdeserthumane.org](http://www.highdeserthumane.org)

The High Desert Humane Society operates the shelter which serves as an impoundment organization for Silver City and the unincorporated areas of Grant County, housing animals taken into custody by city and county animal control officers. It offers a spay and neuter program called HALT that is not based on income, monthly drive-through reduced rates on animal vaccinations and microchips, education programs, pet training services and pet cremation services. It is a 501(c)(3).

### CONALI FIELD DOG PARK

1207 N. Virginia St., Silver City  
Hours: Daily, sunrise to sunset.

On the campus of Western New Mexico University at the corner of N. Virginia and W. 13th streets.

### SNAP

P.O. Box 1958, Silver City, NM 88062  
575-388-5194; 575-297-9734; 575-519-2762

Website: [www.snap-sw-nm.org](http://www.snap-sw-nm.org)

Email: [cbreenlee@yahoo.com](mailto:cbreenlee@yahoo.com)

SNAP provides dog and cat spay/neuter assistance available to low-income persons in Grant, Catron and Hidalgo counties. Surgeries are performed at four partnering veterinary clinics in Silver City. Clients must call to make arrangements and a co-pay is required.



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Scan the QR to find out how YOU can make a difference!







# Know Your Rattler Rules

BY JASON K. WATKINS

**W**hen treating venomous bites from our local rattlesnakes, both in people and pets, the list of what not to do is longer than the list of what to do.

Experts agree that three pre-hospital actions can save lives:

- immediately seeking medical care or calling 911,
- removing watches and jewelry, collars or reins, or anything else that restricts blood flow, and
- keeping the affected area at the same level or above the heart.

When treating bites from rattlesnakes and other pit vipers, experts agree you should not apply suction, heat, pressure or tourniquets, and you definitely should not administer Benadryl, aspirin, steroids or antibiotics. Electrical stimulation treatments (car batteries) don't work and cutting into the bite can lead to infection and permanent tissue damage.

The four major venomous reptiles in our region that pose a risk to humans and pets are the western diamondback rattlesnake, Mojave rattlesnake, prairie rattlesnake and Gila monsters.

"Antivenom can be costly, so budgeting for a venomous snakebite or getting pet insurance are good ideas for anyone who lives in areas where snakes are

common," said Kimberly Wyatt, a doctoral student in herpetology and biology. She is a member of the National Snakebite Support organization, which provides snake identification and treatment advice.

"Venomous snakebites are medical emergencies," Wyatt said, "and pets are more likely to suffer fatal outcomes than humans, especially if they don't receive medical treatment. Antivenom is the only thing that can neutralize venom."

"It's the sound you DO NOT want to hear: You're on an evening walk in the wash and you let your dog off leash," said Dr. Sarah Carotenuto, DVM, DABVP (CF). "He sticks his nose in a bush, yelps, and as he runs back, you hear that characteristic, gut-wrenching rattle and note two punctures on his muzzle, which start bleeding."

What actions you take next could mean the difference between life and death.

"There are some cases where treatment is necessary, but also a lot you can do in the meantime," Carotenuto said. "In general, the best outcome is seen with antivenom (94 percent of animals treated with antivenom survive to discharge, 90 percent survive overall and around 10 percent will have a complication of some sort.)"

*Jason K. Watkins is a freelance writer and teacher from southern New Mexico. He can be reached at [jasonkwatkins.com](http://jasonkwatkins.com)*

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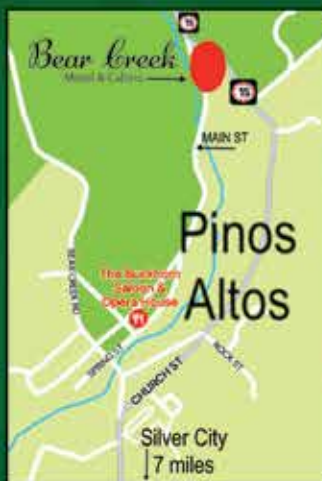
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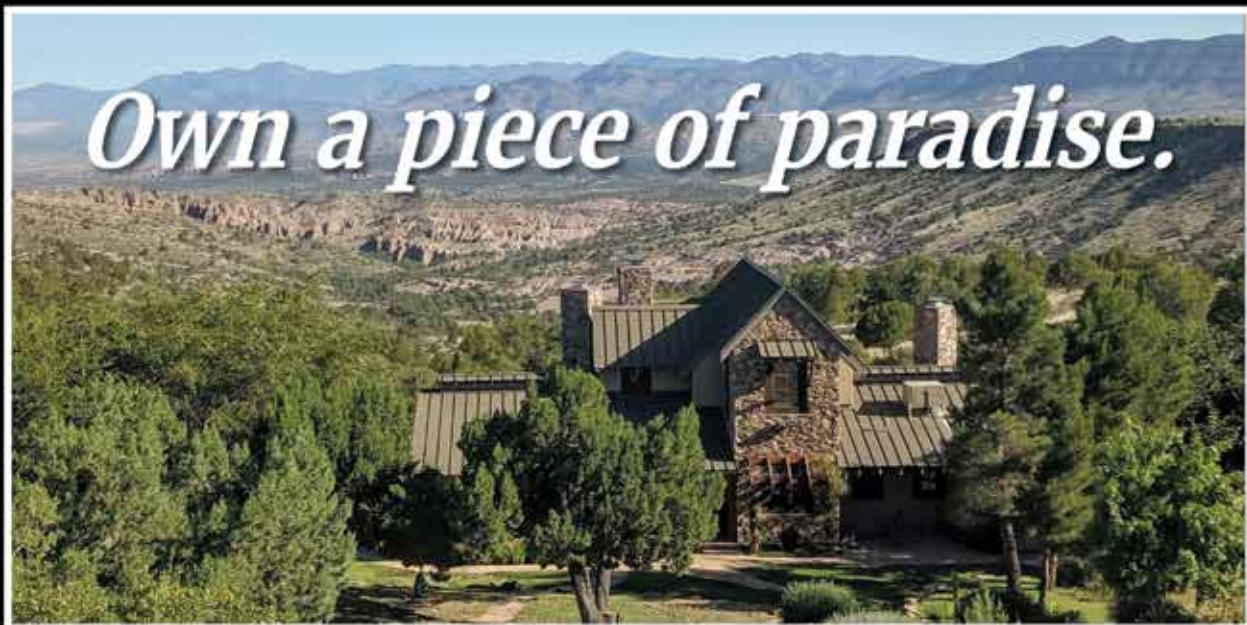
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