

Life is Good

*in Silver City
and Grant County*



2024-2025 COMMUNITY GUIDE

McCray Gallery



Mariachi Plata



LIFE is GO D

WNMU.EDU

Fiesta Latina artisans



Culture & Music



Community Lectures



University Museum



PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of Life is Good in Silver City!

I have frequently heard of Silver City/Grant County being referred to as a “gem” of Southern New Mexico. We couldn't agree more. It is our mission, through this publication, to stand by our magazine's title and give you many of the reasons why we believe that life truly is good in this community.

Whether you're a first-time visitor, a newcomer, or a long-time resident, this magazine is designed to help you connect with the vibrant spirit, rich history, and unique charm of Silver City.

Nestled in the foothills of the Gila Wilderness, Silver City is a blend of Old West character, thriving arts, and outdoor adventure. The area's history runs deep—from its early Native American roots to its mining boom and Wild West tales—but it's the people and places of today that truly make Silver City a destination worth exploring.

As you flip through these pages, you'll discover local businesses, outdoor activities, upcoming community events, local resources and stories that capture the essence of the area and assist you in your journey of discovery. Whether you're strolling through the historic downtown, hiking one of the many scenic trails, or soaking in the artistic vitality of the galleries and festivals, it's always a memorable adventure.

Perhaps what makes life in Silver City so special is its independent spirit. The town has a unique charm that you won't find in cookie-cutter cities. Small, locally owned businesses thrive here, and the people have a deep connection to the land and their community. There's a sense of pride that comes from living in a place that feels truly one-of-a-kind.

Please enjoy learning about this community and maybe seeing things with a new lens. In Silver City, life is not just about getting by—it's about living fully, with purpose and passion. From its stunning landscapes to its artistic energy and sense of community, there's no question: Life is good in Silver City, New Mexico. A place where the sun shines brighter, the air feels cleaner, and life moves at a pace you can enjoy.



Belinda Mills

Southwest Regional Group Publisher

Life is Good in Silver City

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL GROUP PUBLISHER

Belinda Mills

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About the Cover: The Ailman Ofrenda Mural located on the east wall of the Silver City Museum, on N. Pinos Altos Rd., is one of many created by the Youth Mural Project. Photo by David Salcido.



2024-2025

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The bluff overlooking Bayard on a clear summer day.



The Mimbres Harvest Festival attracts a lively crowd.



Typical rock formations in the Gila Wilderness.



The historic Buckhorn Saloon in Pinos Altos.



The Murray Ryan Visitor Center is the gateway to downtown Silver City.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

A Wonderland of Possibilities

I've heard Silver City called the Santa Fe of southern New Mexico. That might be in my own head, but I like the designation, because it just says it all. As art destinations go, here in the southern part of the state, you can't get any better than Grant County for absolute beauty, and that in turn gets those creative juices flowing. Beautiful places attract creative people, and creative people inspired by beauty create with uninhibited grace.

It's true of Santa Fe, and it's true of Taos. It's also very true of our lovely green corner of the state, where the first designated wilderness area was named, and the last truly wild place in the country exists. So, when people ask me why I love this area so very much, these are the reasons I give: Beautiful scenery, wonderful people, and some of the most exquisite art ever produced. Grant County is one of the best kept secrets of the state.

In this year's edition of Life is Good in Silver City, we pay tribute not just to the arts and culture of the county, but also to the history and landmarks of the area. The Kneeling Nun, the Mimbres Culture Heritage Site, the Murray Hotel, and the reason for Silver City's continued existence in the 21st century, the Chino Mine are all explored. We've even got an article about a local doctor who is bringing cutting-edge medical care to the area, because the health and well-being of its residents

is just as important as its aesthetics.

You'll also find articles on things to do, from shopping to hiking, from the art scene to the literary scene, from sustainability to wildlife. It's all here, in one handy package, complete with maps, directories, lists of important addresses and phone numbers, even the best places to grab a bite. It is in no way a completely comprehensive guide to all things meaningful in Silver City and Grant County, but it's as close as we can get in 52 pages. Think of it as an introduction for those who are new to the area, as well as a handy companion for longtime residents who want their information all in one place.

To both groups, and all the groups in-between, we say welcome. Enjoy your time in one of the most beautiful regions of New Mexico. Get to know it by exploring all the possibilities. I think you'll agree that when it comes to truly diverse destinations Grant County has it all. And sitting as it does on the edge of the 100-year-old Gila Wilderness Area, Silver City is the jeweled gateway to adventure, a burgeoning art Mecca with just as much, if not more, to offer as any place in the northern part of the state. It's a complete package, and we are the blessed recipients of its charm.

David Salcido, Editor

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY
911

NON-EMERGENCY
575-388-8840

SILVER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Freddie Portillo
1011 N. Hudson St.
575-538-3723
fportillo@silvercitynm.gov

SILVER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT
Station 1
1011 N. Hudson St.
Station 2
1825 E. 32nd St.
Fire Chief: Milo E. Lambert
575-538-2591
mlambert@silvercitynm.gov

GRANT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
1400 Highway 180 E.
Sheriff: Raul Villanueva
575-574-0100
rvillanueva
grantcountynm.gov

NEW MEXICO STATE POLICE DISTRICT 12
2584 Silver St. Building B
575-388-3977

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PATROL
3300 J St.
575-544-6100
Deming

www.cbp.gov

AROUND TOWN INFORMATION

TOWN HALL/CITY CLERK
101 W. Broadway Ave.
Town Clerk: Alfred Sedillo
575-534-6346
townclerk@silvercitynm.gov

CODES ENFORCEMENT
575-388-8840

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
1203 N. Hudson St.
P.O. Box 1188
575-534-6348

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
Townofsilvercity.org

POST OFFICES

BAYARD
810 Central Ave.
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
514 Fort 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:
9,377 (2023)

Households:
5,009 (2022)

Veterans:
813 (2022)

Median household income:
\$36,853 (2018-2022)

Median home value:
\$150,100 (2018-2022)

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:
16.4 inches

Average snowfall:
10.9 inches

GRANT COUNTY

PEOPLE

Population:
28,006 (2022)

Households:
11,292 (2018-2022)

Veterans:
1,736 (2022)

Median household income:
\$44,895 (2022)

Persons below poverty level:
19.7 percent (2022)

BUSINESS

Nonemployer establishments:
1677 (2022)

Employer establishments:
543 (2022)

GEOGRAPHY

Land area (square miles): 3,961.63

Persons per square mile: 7.1 (2020)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts





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



A Beginners Guide to Downtown Silver City



BY MARCIA TINKER

New to town? The **Murray Ryan Visitor Center** at 201 N. Hudson Street should be your first stop for maps and brochures of Silver City. While there, check out a cabin similar to Billy the Kid's Silver City home. Once you're finished there, 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 Silver City.

For a true Silver City experience, 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**, an essential experience, with trails along the San Vicente Creek, where native plants, art murals, benches and tables make your walk pleasant. While exploring, visit the **Silver City Museum** and Gift Store in the historic Ailman house, where you can study local history from mining to Geronimo.

If art is your thing, follow the **Silver City Art Association Red Dot Art Guide** to the many art galleries on Bullard and neighboring streets. The Art Association hosts First Friday Art Walks, plus annual Studio Tours on Labor Day weekend, Weekend at the Galleries in October, and art markets. The **Grant County Art Guild** is open seven days a week and features local artists. Along the way enjoy the murals created by the **Youth Mural Program**.

Downtown Silver City offers a variety of eclectic businesses, too. 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**, and **Coach Massage**. The **Pink Store North** imports Mexican Artisan products. **B & D's**, **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**. You can also shop four local bookstores: **Avalon Books**, **O'Keefe's Book Shop**, **Silver City Book Shop** and **SWAG Books & More**.

Continuing on, the **Union Army Navy** offers used items and antiques. The **Silver City Food Co-Op**, now in a new larger building, 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 the **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 "**Java**" **lina Coffee House** and **Tranquil Buzz** serve coffee and baked goods in eclectic artful settings. Healthy smoothies will revive you at **JBR Smoothies and Juice Bar**. For locally made ice cream visit **The Ice Cream Emporium** or **The Mint Chip**. Also don't miss the baked goods at **Artisan Mill**, **Birdwell's** and **Diane's Bakery**. Eateries offer quite a variety, including **Adobe Springs Café**, **Corner Kitchen**, **Forrest's Pizza**, **La Cocina**, **Nancy's**, **Roxy's**, **Q's Southern Bistro**, **Mick's 33**, **Scratch** and **Jaliscos**.

Maybe you're looking for a little entertainment? The 100-year-old art deco **Silco Theatre** shows first run movies, kids programs, has a movie club, and hosts community events and lectures. Local theatre groups present plays at **El Sol** theatre. Live music, karaoke, and trivia can be enjoyed weekly at local establishments. **Little Toad Creek and Brewery** offers live music on the weekends and serves classic pub food and craft beers. A great way to end your day trip.

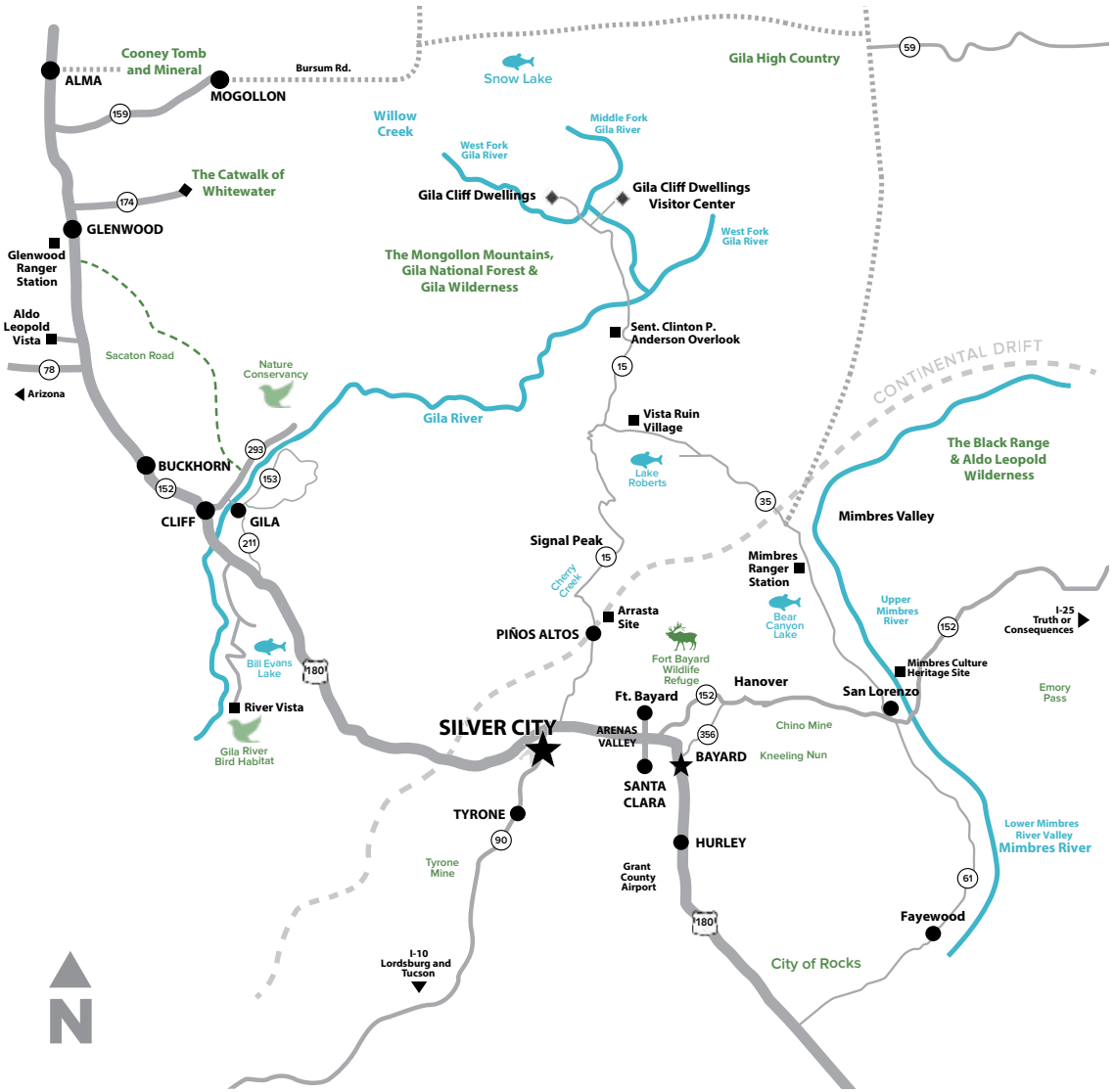
For a complete list of Silver City's businesses go to VisitSilverCity.org or SilverCityMainstreet.com/business



LANDMARKS

Grant County Area

MOVING IN





The Kneeling Nun lives in legend and our imagination

BY BUD RUSSO

Imagination is a marvelous human trait. It allows us to visualize things that aren't really there — like Yu Tu, the Chinese rabbit on the face of the moon, or New Hampshire's Old Man in the Mountain, before part of the face collapsed in 2003. Or the Kneeling Nun, a rock formation 15 miles east of Silver City.

More than 30 million years ago a volcano erupted — one of many in New Mexico. It vented turbulent clouds of hot gas and ash, which settled on surrounding land in thick, dense layers. The weight of the ash compacted the layers, and the heat welded them into rock. Over time, wind and weather exposed the rock in imaginative formations. A product of that erosion, the monolith itself once stood 150 feet tall, but the legend of how it came to be called Kneeling Nun takes us back to the late 1700s.

The Apaches living in the area had known of copper for ages. They collected and smelted the native ore to make tools. Early Spanish visitors simply referred to the monolith as El Cobre (copper). Apache resistance to Spanish colonials caused the invaders to abandon the copper mine in 1838.

They came back, of course, and over the years others passed the site, now called Ben Moore Mountain, but no one referred to it as the Kneeling Nun. The earliest reference to the formation as the Kneeling Nun appeared in an 1873 Mining Life newspaper story, because it appeared to be a kneeling female facing the wall.

One of the most interesting stories, emerging in the 1870s, is about Sister Rita, the “nun.” She was said to have been in love with a soldier she had tended. The

couple was reported by a jealous man, and Sister Rita was condemned to die. She prayed to be turned to stone, and so she was, forever on her knees, praying for forgiveness. There are other legends but none quite as heartrending.

The Kneeling Nun first appeared on published maps in 1883. Two years later, an earthquake rattled Grant County. The temblor knocked off about 30 feet of the monolith. A second earthquake struck in 1887, taking down another 30 feet. While considerably shorter, the Kneeling Nun was still prominent, becoming a named landmark in the 1890s.

But there's more to this story. In the early 1900s, the monolith assumed religious importance. News accounts from the time report people in the Village of Santa Rita praying to her. Religious or not, the Kneeling Nun came to constitute an important cultural icon for people living in the area.

Today, there is concern particularly among at least some segments of the Hispanic residents of Grant County for the long-standing tradition of the religious and cultural aspects of the Kneeling Nun. The monolith may well have to be sacrificed to the expansion of the Chino Mine, which began operation in 1910 and became part of Freeport-McMoRan in 2007. The pit carved in the bajada and surrounding lands is currently 1,350 deep and 1.75 miles across.

Whether the Kneeling Nun retains a place in physicality as well as in legend and spirituality remains to be seen. Will she survive the expanding mining operations and our consumption of copper, or will she become a relic of the past? Should that happen, the Kneeling Nun will require all our imaginations to see what is no longer there.

GETTING AROUND

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
1876 U.S. Highway 180 E. Silver City,
575-538-3281

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)
103 E. College Ave.
575-590-2612
TourOfTheGila.com

BICYCLE RENTAL

Gila Hike and Bike
103 E. College Ave., Silver City
575-388-3222
GilaHikeAndBike.com

Silver City Cycles/Bikeworks
Ebike rentals
914 N. Pope St.
575-388-1444
silvercitycycles.com

CAR RENTAL

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

Silver Rental
1775 US-180 Ste. 2
575-574-2350

Covenant Auto & Car Rental
808 N. Hudson St.
575-222-6890

GETTING CONNECTED

SILVER CITY

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
1211 N. Hudson St.
575-534-6365

**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
575-388-8051
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

TELEPHONE/INTERNET SERVICES

AT&T
844-350-0166
www.att.com

CENTURYLINK
877-824-0633
www.centurylink.com

HUGHES NET
866-347-3292
www.hughesnet.com

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

WNM COMMUNICATIONS
575-388-2459
www.wnmc.com or gilanel.com

XFINITY
844-350-2469
www.xfinity.com

**WIRELESS PROVIDERS
T-MOBILE**
877-805-0116

VERIZON
855-900-8653
www.verizon.com

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

SILVER CITY

First American Bank
1609 Swan St.
575-534-0550

First Financial Credit Union
2290 Superior
505-766-5600

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



The Silver City Museum on Broadway is a circa 1881 Italianate home, which served as a fire station for several years.



The Jalisco Café, a family owned business, was founded in 1984 on the corner of Bullard and Spring Streets.



SILVER CITY FOOD CO-OP

Grocery
Prepared Food
Fresh Meat
Produce
Supplements

Healthy, Organic, Local,
and Ethically Sourced
Since 1974

907 N Pope Street
Silver City, NM 88061
575-388-2343
www.silvercityfoodcoop.coop

Walk of Art: Downtown Silver City offers Retail Therapy

BY JASON K. WATKINS

Like the people, the galleries in downtown Silver City are artful, relaxed, and slightly funky. Despite its history as a mining boom town, or maybe because of it, the town has always attracted creative thinkers and skilled artisans. It's also off the beaten path, which has kept out the masses and helped to preserve its independent spirit.

Today, more than 20 professional artists have studios in the Silver City area, and most of them have work on the walls in Silver's various galleries. The best way to experience the range of what's out there is to walk around Bullard and Broadway and check out each one. To help you find the best handmade objects, gifts, and fine art in town, we narrowed it down to the following spots, all within walking distance in the heart of downtown.

POWER & LIGHT PRESS

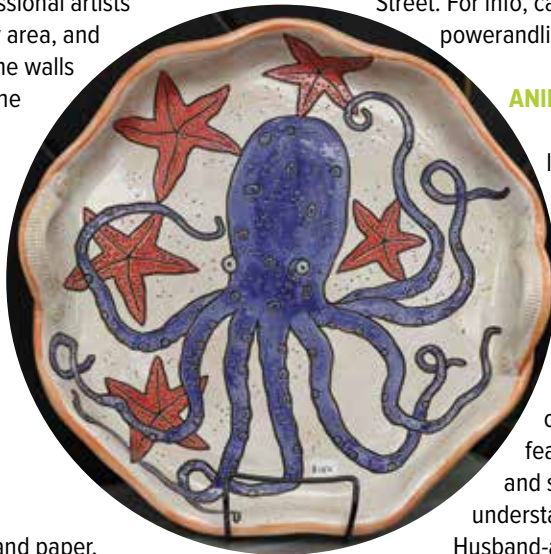
If you like the smell of ink and paper, spend some time at **Power & Light Press**. It started out as a simple print shop a dozen years ago and has grown into the coolest store in town. You'll find irreverent, beautiful, and sometimes hilarious (but not offensive) greeting cards, all designed in house and made by hand using one of their three hand-cranked letterpress machines. They carry outside lines of home goods, gifts, highly curated accessories like stickers, pins, posters, puzzles, candles, and even art supplies.

Owner Kyle Durrie ran a successful print shop in Oregon, but "got out before things got weird," she said. Since choosing Silver City to re-establish, she's gone from taking letterpress orders for business cards and wedding invitations to serving mostly the wholesale market. Their cards are all printed on 100-year-old presses and can be found in boutiques around the country.

Durrie is inspired by everything from roadside

oddities to the high desert, and she says her goods "are for anyone who moves through life to the beat of a lovable but slightly f---ed up drummer." The ideal customer is someone with a sense of humor, a sense of nostalgia, and a sophisticated eye. Someone who knows when to go for the Hallmark card or when to opt for the hand-cranked designer mini work of 100-year-old letterpress art disguised as a greeting card.

Power & Light Press is located at 601 N. Bullard Street. For info, call 575-342-1259 or visit powerandlightpress.com.



ANIMALIA

Most people only dream of leaving the suit-and-tie world behind and making pottery full time. The owners of **Animalia Studio & Gallery** did it. Their small shop at 214 N. Bullard showcases their massive handmade ceramic and clay pottery output, some brightly colored featuring animal designs and some more delicate and understated.

Husband-and-wife duo Edith Pritchett and Todd Shelby have been making interesting things in the space since 2019, and they sell them for cheap: a handmade plate featuring a colorful octopus is just \$45. Miniature pinch bowls are \$10. Animals are the common theme, especially cats and rabbits. You'll also find Gila monsters, angels, devils, fish, and other creatures represented on greeting cards and Christmas ornaments.

Even though they work mostly in clay and ceramics, some of the most interesting pieces are Todd's assembled mixed-media designs, composed of found wood and other objects and made into people, angels, horses, and robots. Skeletons are another motif that show up in colorful and whimsical places.

Animalia is a small, specialized gallery, but it's full of interesting and one-of-a-kind pieces that will warm the animal lover in your soul. Call 573-441-2620 or visit animaliamade.com.



WORTH A VISIT

The **Diana Ingalls Leyba Gallery** at 315 N. Bullard is home to a handful of local artists, including the principal artist, legendary Silver City creative Diana Ingalls Leyba. Her mixed-media and acrylic paintings are both monumental and intimate. Visit dianaingallslebastudioandgallery.com.

Another venerable local artist is Karen Hymer, whose **Light Art Space** at 209 W. Broadway is dedicated to fine-art photography and printmaking. Known for quality workshops and classes, Hymer is also a brilliant art educator who has operated the current gallery since 2018. Visit lightartspace.com

Made in Silver City is a small gallery featuring local artists and artisans tucked inside the Murray Hotel at 206 W. Broadway St. They have a variety of high-end crafts, fine art, and jewelry, all made by Silver City-area residents. Check out the Damascus-steel frying pans made by hand by a local artisan. Visit madeinsilvercity.com.

The **Grant County Art Guild Gallery** at 316 N. Bullard, formerly the historic Hester House, shows work by 35 regional artists, with a good selection ranging from oil paintings to bronze sculpture. Carolyn Paez is a particularly colorful and interesting artist represented in the gallery. Visit gcag.org.

Grant County **ART** Guild

→ 2 Silver City Locations

GRANT COUNTY
ARTguild
gallery

with **35**
LOCAL Artists
316 N. Bullard Street
Silver City • New Mexico

Grant County **ART** Guild
THE STUDIO
CREATE • EDUCATE • EXHIBIT

with Exhibitions, Workshops
and Other Art Events
211 N Texas Suite C
Silver City • New Mexico

For a calendar of Guild events, visit gcag.org

AREA RESTAURANTS

SILVER CITY

Adobe Springs Cafe

614 N Bullard St.
575-538-3665

Birdwell's Vintage Vibes

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

Cafe 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 Cafe, 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

Fidencio's

2215 Pinos Altos Rd.
575-534-4733

Forrest's Pizza

619 W. Bullard St.
575-388-1225

Golden Star

1602 Silver Heights Blvd.
575-388-2323

Grinder Mill

403 W. College Ave.
575-538-3366

Ice Cream (Pretty Sweet) Emporium

312 N. Bullard St.
575-322-2422

Iron Door BBQ

1123 N. Pope St.
575-590-1495

Jalisco Cafe

103 S. Bullard St.
575-388-2060

Javalina Coffee House

117 W. Market St.
575-388-1350

Kountry Kitchen

1700 Mountain View Road
575-388-4512

La Bonita Bakery

3110 N. Silver St.
575-597-2222

La Cocina Restaurant

201 W. College Ave.
575-388-8687

La Familia

503 N. Hudson St.
575-388-4600

La Vie Est Un Bistro

112 W. Yankie St.
575-284-7006

Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery

200 N. Bullard St.
575-956-6144

Mi Casita

2340 Bosworth Drive
575-538-5533

Mint Chip Creamery

601 N. Bullard St.
575-519-0955

Nancy's Silver Cafe

514 N. Bullard St.
575-388-3480

Q's Southern Bistro And Mick's 33's Lounge

101 E. College Ave.
575-534-4401

Roxy's Diner

619 N. Bullard St.
575-956-6156

Scratch

100 W. 8th St.
575-313-7348

Silver Bowling Center Cafe

2020 Memory Lane
575-538-3612

Taste of Vegas

303 E. 13th St.
575-534-9404

Tranquilbuzz Coffee House

300 N. Arizona St.
575-956-6476
Two Piece Fried Chicken
601 N. Bullard St.
575-5619-4466

Whiskey Creek Zócalo

11786 US Highway 180 E. Arenas Valley
575-388-1266

Wrangler's Bar & Grill

2005 Highway 180 E.
575-538-4387

W&Z Asian Bistro & Sushi Bar

1740 US Hwy 180 E.
575-956-6219

BAYARD

El Burrito Caliente

106 Hurley Ave.
575-537-3967

M & A Bayard Cafe

1101 N. Central Ave.
575-537-3967

La Mexicana

1105 Tom Foy Blvd.
575-537-4980

HURLEY

The Patio

100 Cortez Ave.
575-537-4938

MIMBRES

La Tienda (Restaurant) Del Sol

2674 Highway 35, San Lorenzo
575-536-3140

PINOS ALTOS

Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House

32 Main St.
575-538-9911



The Murray Hotel brings style, substance to downtown Silver City

BY JASON K. WATKINS

Silver City was still a dusty mining town in 1939 when William Murray opened the Murray Hotel. Boasting state-of-the-art technology like a hand-cranked elevator and electric lights, and towering over the rest of downtown, the hotel quickly became a central meeting point for Silver Citizens for banquets, dances, social gatherings.

The specific style was called Streamline Moderne, a slick, aerodynamic precursor to Art Deco that emerged during the end of the Great Depression as a not-so-subtle rebuke of the decade's austerity.

"A lot of people tell me there are identical hotels in Miami, Florida," said the hotel's general manager, Sam Rocha.

A small printed historical account called "The Murray Hotel: From A Dream to a Reality" by Phillip Cave (available for sale at the front desk) describes the many community events hosted there over the years.

In the 1980s, the hotel was abandoned and fell into disrepair. Empty for two decades, it was finally purchased and restored to its original glory in 2012, and it has remained open ever since, even during the pandemic.

Now, the hotel's 50 or so rooms are outfitted with original Art Deco elements along with fine furniture and linens. Rooms are bright, expansive and comfortable, with every modern convenience you would expect. Silver City has plenty of low-end accommodations to choose from, but the Murray is special — and affordable.

Rates change depending on the time of week and the time of year, but they start at about \$140 a night for a large, comfortable room with free breakfast and wifi. The King's Suite costs more. Pets are welcome, and the neighborhood has plenty of parking. The ballroom is available for private events like weddings, conferences or reunions. Local art galleries, restaurants, coffee shops and a brewery are within walking distance of the hotel.

There's also an art gallery attached, the Made in Silver City gallery, selling fine art made by local artists. And the fifth floor, the top of the building, has been converted into apartments for permanent residents of the hotel.

On the corner of the property, where the old Branding Iron Saloon stood, will soon be a nice Italian restaurant, run by the current operators of the Buckhorn Saloon and Opera House, a revered steakhouse in Pinos Altos.

"We're hoping to open by the end of the year, or sometime in the beginning of next year," Rocha said.

The restaurant will preserve the hand-painted sign showing classic Grant County cattle brands, Rocha said, an oddly appropriate infusion of Old West and Art Deco elements. He says they hope to open a rooftop deck soon, too. The kitchen is now just an open space with some new framing, but new construction is speeding along, Rocha said. A new handicap-accessible ramp to the ballroom is also going in.

"We're very excited about the new restaurant that will be opening," he said. No word on a name just yet, but he said, "the owners flew to Italy just to write the menu."

The Murray Hotel, rated number one in Silver City by TripAdvisor, is located at 200 W. Broadway in downtown. Visit murray-hotel.com to book a room or call 575-956-9400.



Chino mine epitomizes the value of copper



BY BUD RUSSO

Metals have driven civilization ever since Stone Age people discovered copper, more than 10,000 years ago. You may not often think about it as you flip a switch and copper wire delivers electricity to your lights or turn the spigot and lead-free water flows from your copper pipes, or toss a few copper-clad (mostly zinc) pennies, but copper is important to us.

If you ask where the copper comes from, people might tell you they dig it out of the ground. Stand at the observation point of the Chino Mine, 15 miles east of Silver City, and you'll understand why. The immense open pit mine is 1.75 miles across and 1,350 feet deep.

But how did it get there in the first place? In layman's terms, plutons, sort of chimneys or bubbles, allowed copper-bearing lava from deep within the earth to rise into the region. Later — about 30 million years ago — volcanoes blew out clouds of super-hot gas and ash that welded into tuff, a rock that covered the ground as much as 400 feet deep. That's how the land stood long before people came on the scene.

Perhaps the Apaches were the first people to collect copper, picking it off the ground in its native form. Copper is malleable and, when it is hammered and worked it becomes increasingly harder. Without further ore reduction, it can be worked easily into ornaments, tools, and weapons. Later, Spanish colonials mined the ore. They called the area El Cobre or simply the copper.

The Santa Rita Copper Mine was established in 1879, employing a modest workforce to extract ore. Commercial mining began in 1910 with the establishment of a mill, to process and concentrate low-grade copper ore. The expansion of the Chino Mine — the sixth most productive copper mine in the United States and one of the first low-grade, open-pit copper mines in the world — brought prosperity to the village of Santa Rita. But the mine's success also led to the eradication of the village.

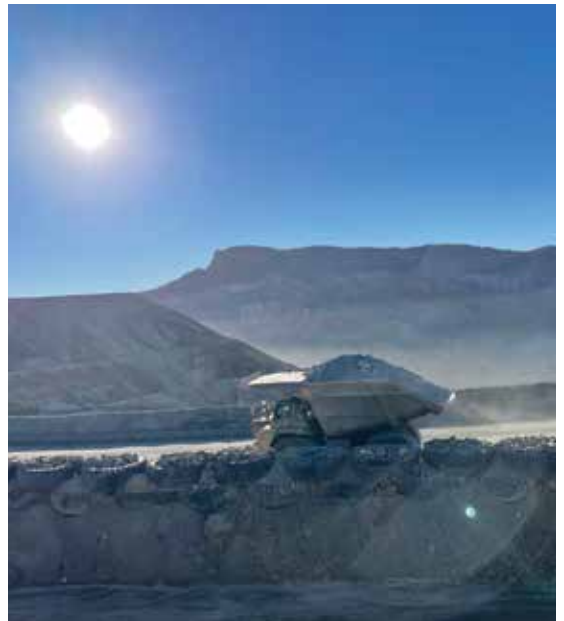
As the mine expanded in the 1950s, it overtook the town, requiring residents to move. Many of the displaced families relocated to nearby Silver City and Bayard, where they continued to work at the mine. While legally still called Chino, the mine came to be known as the Santa Rita Mine, perhaps as a tribute.

Interestingly, when New Mexican Harrison “Jack” Schmitt, geologist, Apollo 17 astronaut, and U.S. Senator, was asked where he was born, he could only point to the hole in the ground where Santa Rita once stood.

The mine was operated by Mitsubishi Materials Corporation from 1986 until 2003, then by Phelps Dodge Corporation for three years, until 2006. It was added to the mining operations of Freeport-McMoRan in 2007.

Unfortunately, the economy crashed in 2008, a downturn some call the Great Recession. Mine operations were curtailed, and most employees were laid off. It remained closed until 2011 and, as the economy recovered, the mine reopened and recalled or hired new employees, so by 2014 there were more than 1,000 people on the payroll. The latest production figures for 2016 show the mine produced 175 million pounds of ore.

For now, until the ore runs out, the workers at Chino Mine will blast, scoop, and haul ore to the concentrator installed in 1982 adjacent to the open pit. The work goes on 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



One of the fleet of 2490 ton diesel trucks hauls ore from the Chino Mine. Credit: Susan Garland



Chino Mine is a massive open pit from which copper is extracted. The yellow in the tailings is the result of sulfur that occurs with the copper. Credit: Eric Guinther (Marhsman)



Terraced wall of Chino Mine pit is where ore is extracted.



Roadway spans state highway, giving loaded dump trucks access to other sites in the Chino mining complex.



Faith and Neil Shouse of Phoenix added a side trip to Chino Mine during their visit to New Mexico. They give perspective to the size tires used on the dump trucks.

Arts, Culture & History At the Heart of Silver City



Downtown Silver City! So much to do! Stay overnight in the historic Palace and Murray hotels. Hike San Vicente Trail. Visit art galleries, studios and the Silver City Museum. Shop for art, antiques, unique furniture, handmade gifts, vintage clothing, crafted soaps, books and more. See current movies in the historic Silco Theatre. Attend plays at the Virus Theatre. Eat great food while listening to live music. Shop at the Makers Market. Stroll through downtown, visiting art galleries during First Fridays. Enjoy annual events like July 4th at the Silver City Museum, Chocolate Fantasia, Tour of the Gila International Bike Race, Blues Festival Weekend, Red Dot Studio Tour, Clay Festival, Print Fiesta, Weekend at the Galleries, Day of the Dead and Lighted Christmas Parades. **All downtown! Visit silvercitymainstreet.com**



Mimbres Historical Heritage Site preserves a lost art

BY JASON K. WATKINS

Even though there's not much left to look at now, the Mimbres Cultural Heritage Site is one of the greatest archeological sites in the Americas. Inhabitants of the area date back more than 1,400 years and were responsible for creating the most important, best studied, and most sought-after Native American art ever produced.

The Mimbres Historical Heritage Site preserves the story of the people who lived here and who created Mimbres pottery. Visitors to the Mimbres archeology site can walk a gentle quarter-mile trail from a historic house that serves as the museum to the remains of adobe dwellings constructed by people 1,000 years ago on the banks of the Mimbres River.

THE PEOPLE

From AD 1000 to 1130, known as the Mimbres Classic Period, the valley was a thriving center of Pueblo culture and agriculture and home to thousands of Mogollon Apache people, who left behind what historians say is the most distinctive prehistoric art in North America.

What made Mimbres pottery so special is its expressive black-on-white and semi-abstract designs depicting animals, people, weather events, and entirely new motifs, through detailed lines on thin clay. Adding to its legend: some surviving pots have “kill holes” punched through, a ceremonial practice they believe allowed the spirit to escape the body after burial.

Mysteriously, the Mimbres site was abandoned in 1140 AD, due to drought, disease or some other cause, but before they disappeared, they left behind some of the greatest treasures in art history.

Archaeologists first began studying the site 95 years ago. Most of the objects ended up in museums, or secreted away in private collections, unavailable for study. Researchers continue to make new discoveries

at the site, a hundred years later, contributing to our understanding of this unique culture.

TODAY

Pottery still litters the ground throughout the Mimbres Valley as broken shards and tiny fragments, but bowls are rare. At one time, the trade in looted Native artifacts decimated this and the dozens of other important sites along the Mimbres River, removing thousands of valuable pots and destroying the history attached. Federal laws haven't ended the practice, but they've run it underground.

If the Mimbres Historical Heritage Site preserves what's left of the people who created it, the Western New Mexico University Museum preserves the art itself. The largest collection of Mimbres pottery in the world is just a few minutes away from Mimbres in Silver City, on the WNMU

campus. Hundreds of priceless, handmade pots line the walls in this small but world-class exhibit space; thanks to generous locals, it's the best place in the world to see and appreciate Mimbres pottery.

PLAN A VISIT

The Mimbres Historical Heritage Site is a National Historic Register archaeological site and is open to the public. It's located near Mile Marker 4, one block east of Highway 35 at 12 Sage Drive in Mimbres, a short drive northeast from Silver City. Restrooms, a gift shop, and picnic tables are on site, and the place is wheelchair accessible. Tours are given on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by appointment. The suggested entrance donation is \$3 and is used by the nonprofit The Imogen F. Wilson Education Foundation to maintain the site.

Visit mimbrescultureheritagesite.org or call 575-575-536-3333 for more info or to request a private tour.





Harvest Festival Reaches Deeply into the Mimbres Valley

BY VALERIE MCCAFFREY

The Mimbres Valley Harvest Festival is an opportunity for residents of this sparsely populated valley to put aside their differences to work and celebrate together. An old-fashioned and forward-thinking day, the event features outdoor and indoor activities on the grounds of the San Lorenzo Elementary School every year, with the mighty Black Range as back drop. This year's festival takes place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, October 12.

Launched nineteen years ago by the Mimbres Valley Health Action League, The Mimbres Valley Harvest Festival has grown to encompass not just the history, cultures, and sustainability of the region, but also the health, wellness and quality of life in the Valley. The harvest is important to the rural areas encompassed by the Mimbres Valley, but so too are the people, and that's what makes this festival different.

The last Census showed that 65% of the people residing in the 53-mile-long Mimbres Valley are over 65. To address this reality, the Mimbres Valley Health Fair offers free screenings for BP, heart rate, blood sugar, lung function and depression, with a "check up from the neck up" including vision, dental, eyeglass adjustment and hearing, all courtesy of Hidalgo Medical Services, Cassie Health Center, Gila Regional Medical Center and WNMU's Student Nurses Association.

As with most harvest festivals, food and shopping play a major part, with over 40 arts and crafts vendors, information booths, and food vendors selling Filipino, Navajo, BBQ, and world fusion food, along with locally

made ice cream and baked goods. A highlight of the festival is the annual Empanada & Pie Contest, which offers cash prizes to the winners. In addition to music and dance in the Big Tent, other events include lectures, presentations, book signings, and discussions on ecology and climate change, by tribal members, historians, scientists and volunteers from the Mimbres Heritage Cultural Site.

A highlight of this festival is the Solar Cook-off & Potluck, where solar chefs are invited to set up solar ovens, which use no electricity or fuel, and are generally smoke free. These demonstrations are followed by a potluck of solar cooked food, where prize winners are selected for the best vegetable dish, best meat dish, best dessert and most innovative solar oven.

The festival also highlights the region's growers on Growers Row. Among these living treasures are Sharlene Gruenerud and Michael Alexander of Mimbres Farms, who have been attending the festival since its inception, and have devoted their lives to naturally raising fruits and vegetables for themselves, their families and friends, and to passing on their extensive crop knowledge. Their booth is usually packed with lots of colorful heirloom apple boxes to pick from, and fresh cider to sample.

Another star is local arborist Gabe Feldman of Honey Hawk Farms who saved many heirloom Mimbres fruit tree varieties by grafting to modern rootstock. Gabe is an expert at picking trees that are more acclimated to local conditions and can be selected for late blooming, to avoid the killing frosts that make fruit production in

GRANT COUNTY COMMUNITIES

BAYARD

CITY POPULATION: 2,073 (2022)

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

CLIFF

CENSUS-DESIGNATED PLACE

POPULATION: 165 (2022)

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

HURLEY

TOWN POPULATION: 1,237 (2022)

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

PINOS ALTOS

CENSUS-DESIGNATED PLACE

POPULATION: 185 (2022)

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

SANTA CLARA

VILLAGE POPULATION: 1,613 (2022)

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.

the valley a gamble every year. His local apple tree varieties include Winesap, Salome, Arkansas Black, Ginger Gold and Gala along with a Mimbres Sweet Peach, golden currants and edible Giant Sacaton and Apache Red Grasses to help build backyard food resilience.

Growers Row will also include the Mimbres Food & Agriculture Cooperative, which won a two-year Main Street Frontier grant from New Mexico’s Economic Development Department for its Mimbres Marketplace project, an outdoor community marketplace and plaza. There you can view architectural drawings of its proposed Mimbres Market grocery store and deli, complete with shaded outdoor dining.

New this year to accommodate a huge national interest and rise in seed saving will be free seeds from the SW NM Seed Library, a program of Silver City’s National Center for Frontier Communities. The Mimbres Valley Seed Savers Group are also on hand to organize a Mimbres Valley Seed Exchange. This is an opportunity for gardeners to swap their favorites, by bringing dry,

SAN LORENZO

CENSUS-DESIGNATED PLACE

POPULATION: 260 (2022)

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: 9,520 (2022)

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: 54 (2022)

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.



clean seeds in paper envelopes or paper bags with labels including name and variety, who grew it and where, and the year.

Look for Harvest Festival schedules in the Silver City Daily Press and Mimbres Messenger so you don’t miss anything. To continue the celebration, bring a cooler to take home fresh produce or cider, an enchilada plate, or other tasty dish from one of the local food vendors. Find out why the Mimbres Valley Harvest Festival is unlike any other, and maybe learn a few things while you’re there.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

SILVER CITY TOWN COUNCIL



MAYOR KEN LADNER
575-313-3990
mayor@silvercitynm.gov



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



NICHOLAS PRINCE
District 2
575-654-0008
CouncilorDistrict2@silvercitynm.gov



STAN SNIDER
District 3
575-342-2535
CouncilorDistrict3@silvercitynm.gov



GUADALUPE "LUPE" CANO
District 4
575-654-0148
CouncilorDistrict4@silvercitynm.gov

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
575-313-9728
hbrowne@grantcountynm.gov

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The Boston Hill Area, south of Silver City, includes many trails ranging from level to moderately rugged inclines.

ACCOMMODATIONS

SILVER CITY

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309 N. E St.
575-956-3386
Adobeagave.com

BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE

88 Main St., Pinos Altos
575-388-4501
info@bearmountainlodge.com

CARRIAGE HOUSE COTTAGE

603 Black St.
575-590-4516

COMFORT INN

1060 Highway 180 E.
575-5534-1883

COPPER MANOR MOTEL

710 Silver Heights Blvd.
575-538-5392

DRIFTER MOTEL

711 Silver Heights Blvd.
575-538-2916

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

1103 E. Superior St.
575-538-2525
hiexpress.com

LULU SILVER CITY

3420 Highway 180 E.
575-574-7541
www.lulusilver.com

MOTEL 6

1040 Highway 180 E.
575-956-6235
Motel6.com

MURRAY HOTEL

200 W. Broadway St.
575-956-9400
Murray-hotel.com

PALACE HOTEL

106 W. Broadway St.
575-388-1811

SURE STAY PLUS BEST WESTERN

1120 Highway 180 E.
575-534-1111
Choicehotels.com

WEST STREET INN

1303 West St.
575-534-2302

PINOS ALTOS

BEAR CREEK MOTEL & CABINS

88 Main St.
575-388-4501
Bearcreekcabins.com

PINOS ALTOS CABINS

4687 Highway 15
575-534-0406
www.pinosaltoscabins.com

LAKE ROBERTS/ MIMBRES

LAKE ROBERTS CABINS & GENERAL STORE

869 Highway 35, Mimbres
575-536-9929

LAKE ROBERTS MOTEL

863 Highway 35 N.
Mimbres, NM 88049-8804
575-536-9393

SPIRIT CANYON LODGE & CAFÉ

684 Highway 35
Mimbres, NM 88049
575-536-9459

GEORGETOWN CABINS

104 Georgetown Road
575-534-4529

HILLSBORO

BLACK RANGE LODGE

50 Kingston Main St.
Kingston
575-895-5652

ENCHANTED VILLA B&B

10682 Highway 152
Hillsboro, NM 88042-951
575-895-5686

GLENWOOD

DOUBLE T CATWALK RESORT

77 Cat Walk Rd.
575-519-0786
www.doubletcatwalkresort.com

CLIFF/GILA

CASITAS DE GILA

50 Casita Flats Road
575-535-4455
Casitasdegila.com

GILA HOT SPRINGS

WILDERNESS LODGE

151 W. Fork Rd, Gila
575-536-9749

AREA RV PARKS

BUCKHORN RV PARK

7656 Highway 180 W., Buckhorn
575-535-2995

BURRO MOUNTAIN HOMESTEAD RV PARK

665 Tyrone Road
Silver City, NM 88061
575-538-2149

MANZANO'S RV PARK

103 Flury Lane
Silver City, NM 88061
575-538-0918

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS RV PARK

2743 Highway 35 N.
Mimbres, NM 88049-8804
575-574-7000
Mountainspiritsrvpark.com

RIDGE PARK RV

2789 Highway 90 S.
Silver City, NM 88061
575-313-9375
www.ridgeparkrv
campground.com

ROSE VALLEY RV RANCH

2040 Memory Lane
Silver City, NM 88061-7916
575-534-4277
rosevalleyrv.com

SILVER CITY KOA

11824 Highway 180 E., Arenas Valley
88022-9707
575-388-3351
koa.com/campgrounds/
silvercity

SILVER CITY RV PARK

1304 N. Bennett St.
575-538-2239
Silvercityrv.com



The Palace Hotel on Broadway started life as a bank building in 1882, but has been a hotel since 1900.

WORSHIP in Silver City

SILVER CITY

ARISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

2 Arroyo Seco Road
575-538-3558

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

1735 E. 32nd St.
575-654-3944

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

186 Bypass Road
575-538-4378

CALVARY CHAPEL

3001 Highway 90 S.
575-388-1031

CHURCH OF CHRIST

1920 Little Walnut Road
575-538-9533

CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE

909 W. College Ave.
575-538-0012

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

3755 N. Swan St.
575-694-2301

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

615 N. Texas St.
575-538-2015

CROSSPOINT CHURCH ASSEMBLY OF GOD

11600 US-180
575-388-1584

THE DOOR CHURCH

1910 Peterson Dr.
575-242-9942

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SILVER CITY

2300 N. Swan St.
575-388-1582

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1915 N. Swan St.
575-538-3513

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 W. College Ave.
575-538-2371

GILA FRIENDS CHURCH OF HARMONY

609 N. Arizona St.
575-590-1588

GRACE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

1216 N. Bennett St.
575-538-3475

HARVEST CHURCH

1500 N. Hudson St.
575-538-3619

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

2501 N. Swan St.
575-538-9446

MOUNTAIN VIEW CHURCH NAZARENE

210 N. Swan St.
575-313-5748

NEW CHURCH OF THE SOUTHWEST DESERT

714 N Bullard St.
575-590-2979

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP

22 Kirkland Road

NEW LIFE FAMILY CHURCH

11 ARROYO SECCO
575-388-1122

THE OAK CENTRE

315 N. Texas St.
575-224-2367

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MONASTERY

142 Joseph Blane Road
575-388-9279

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

420 W. Market St.
575-538-9373

ST FRANICS NEWMAN CENTER

914 W. 13th St.
575-538-3662

SILVER CITY CHURCH OF GOD

3804 US-180 E.
928-322-1348

SILVER CITY SEVENTH DAY CHURCH

12 Peterson Drive
575-538-3882

SILVER CITY ZEN CENTER

506 W. 13TH St.
575-590-0535

ST. FRANCIS NEWMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

914 W. 13th St.
575-538-3662

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

3845 N. Swan St.
575-538-0101
uufellowshipofsilvercity@gmail.com

VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

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575-388-1430

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WORSHIP in Grant County

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SANTA CLARA PARISH

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575-537-3713

VICTORY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

604 N. Bayard St.
575-537-9085

CLIFF

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

8413 US-180 W.
575-535-2547
Ccf.clffnm@gmail.com

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

575-535-2818

MIMBRES

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

2749 NM-35
575-694-2301

MIMBRES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2622 NM-35

RIO MIMBRES BAPTIST CHURCH

29 Cactus Drive
575-536-9543

BAYARD

APOSTOLIC CHURCH

312 Pearl St.
575-537-3053

BAYARD BAPTIST CHURCH

601 Dayhill St.
575-916-7458

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

312 N. Railroad St.
575-537-5651

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH

340 E. Mayo
575-537-2421

ARENAS VALLEY

ARENAS VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

5 Racetrack Rd.
575-538-2971

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

State Highway 211
575-535-2977

VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

19 Racetrack Rd.
575-388-1430

GILA

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

420 NM-211
575-694-2301

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

8413 US-180

GILA VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

402 NM-211
575-535-2977

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SILVER CITY

FREE FESTIVALS & FAMILY FUN

BY JASON K. WATKINS

Silver City is a summer festival town. From April to October, whether your interests are athletic or artistic or anything in between, you'll find the perfect festival for you and the whole family to enjoy. These are the best picks for a memorable outdoor (and one indoor) weekend around Grant County. Start marking your calendars now.

APRIL

- **The Tour of the Gila** has attracted the best male and female cyclists in the world to compete on the scenic mountain roads around Silver City since 1987. Held every year at the end of April, the Tour has become one of the biggest events in the region and one of the premier athletic competitions in the West. Even Lance Armstrong competed in 2009. Spectators can watch cyclists compete from the many observation areas set up along the track; the race is also sometimes televised. Motorists are urged to use caution during that week; accidents occasionally happen. Visit tourofthegila.com

MAY

- **The Silver City Blues Festival** is a 3-day event held on Memorial Day Weekend at Gough Park and features some of the best blues musicians in the Southwest. It also includes dancing, a beer garden, art and food vendors, children's activities, and more. Music spans the genres from blues to funk, folk to punk, and even a little Tejano. The event is free of charge and is hosted by the Mimbres Regional Arts Council. Visit silvercitybluesfestival.org.

JUNE

- Since 1990, the **Wild Wild West Pro Rodeo**, usually held the third weekend in June, has brought to town some of the best cowboys in the West. Put on by the Southwest Horseman's Association and Casper Baca Rodeo, events include roping, bull riding, saddle bronc riding, and even children's mutton busting. The most beloved part, though, are the rodeo clowns. The rodeo is held at the Ace Hardware Arena at 24 Caballero Road. Visit wildwestrodeo.com.



A bull rider competes in the Wild Wild West Pro Rodeo.

JULY

- The **Hummingbird Festival** in the Mimbres Valley is a free family event that's growing bigger every year. The 2-day festival includes demonstrations, performances, nearly 30 food and art vendors, and professional talks highlighting the unique biology of the 300 or so species of hummingbirds in the Americas. It's held at the Mimbres Cultural Heritage Site and is run entirely by dedicated volunteers (who happen to love hummingbirds). Visit mimbrescultureheritagesite.org.
- The **Silver City Clay Festival** is one of the best events of its kind celebrating the fascinating and universal medium of clay. Featuring demonstrations, sales, artist talks, and culminating in a large market held at a different location each year, the festival includes work by professionals and amateurs of all prices and skill levels. Activities for children are also featured, so kids can get their hands dirty. It's usually held at the end of July. Visit clayfestival.com.



The Silver City Clay Festival features art at every skill level, and activities for kids.

year's festival, held on Sept. 26-29, will mark the 100th anniversary of the Gila, America's first wilderness. The event features nature expeditions, talks, performances, hikes, horseback riding, rockhounding tours and more. Proceeds will go to protecting the Gila. Visit gilariverfestival.org.

SEPTEMBER

- The **Grant County Fair** is held the third weekend of September in Cliff, New Mexico, a short 30-minute drive from Silver City, and includes everything you'd expect at a county fair: rodeos, a carnival, livestock, barbecue, and lots of impressive exhibits. It has been the focal point of the regional farm and ranch culture since 1948. Visit grantcountyfairnm.com.
- The **Gila River Festival** is a long-running conservation-minded gathering held on the banks of the Gila to celebrate the majestic river and preserve its history. This

OCTOBER

- The **Southwest Print Fiesta** brings together printmakers from around the area to celebrate this underrated paper-based art form, from Oct. 10 to 14. Buy posters, works of art, clothes, and other designer pieces at this laid-back festival held in the Power & Light Press workspace, a converted auto garage just off Bullard Street with a modern, fun vibe. Demonstrations, artist talks, performances, awards, and print exchanges will all take place. It was founded by a woman, former Portland letterpress printer Kyle Durrie, and is definitely worth checking out. Visit southwestprintfiesta.org.

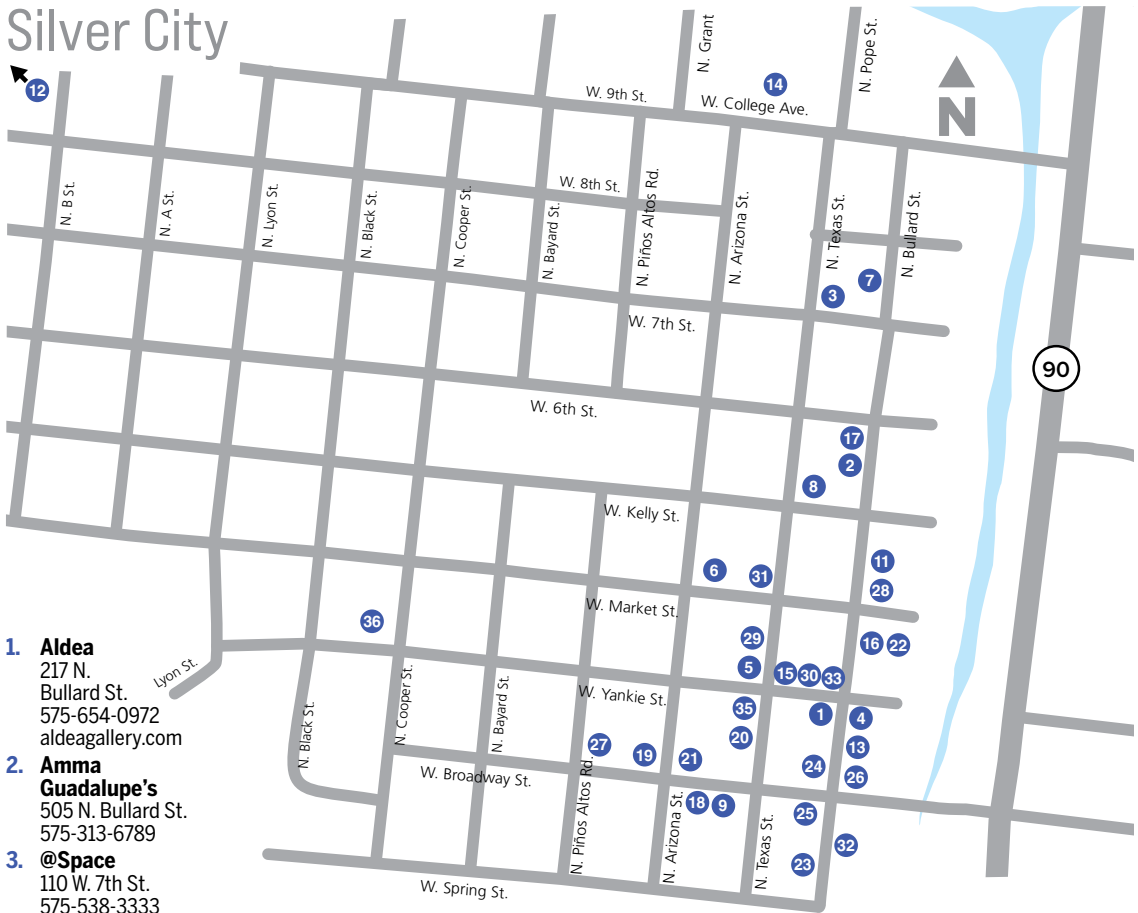
For a complete list of annual events in Silver City and the mining district, check out visitsilvercity.org or desertexposure.com.



Ardyn Jackson shows her lamb at the Grant County Fair.

STUDIOS & GALLERIES

Silver City



1. Aldea
217 N. Bullard St.
575-654-0972
aldeagallery.com

2. Amma Guadalupe's
505 N. Bullard St.
575-313-6789

3. @Space
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.
575-538-2538

6. Casa Vieja
400 N. Arizona St.
575-313-6837

7. Cholla Cholla
707 N. Bullard St.
602-515-7810
desertrockcreations.com

8. Common Ground
102 W. Kelly Ave.
575-534-2087

9. Dalton Gallery
215 W. Broadway St.
575-956-6056

10. Diana Ingalls Leyba Studio & Gallery
315 N. Bullard St.
575-388-5725

11. Finn's Gallery
406 N. Bullard St.
844-645-4213

12. Francis McCray Gallery
101-237 W Rhoda Rd
575-538-6517

13. Gila Gallery
206 N. Bullard St.
503-298-7383

14. The Glasserie
106 W. College Ave.
575-590-0044

15. Globe Galleria
110 W. Yankee St.
708-715-0995

16. Grant County Art Guild Gallery
316 N. Bullard St.
575-388-1088
gcag.org

17. Kneeling Nun Mercantile
519 N. Bullard St.
575-342-1552

18. Light Art Space
209 W. Broadway
520-240-7075
lightartspace.com

19. Lloyd Studios
306 W. Broadway
303-378-0926

20. Lois Duffy Art Studio
101 California Ave.
575-313-9631

21. Made in Silver City
206 W. Broadway St.
575-519-9910
madeinsilvercity.com

22. The Makery
106 E Market St.
575-590-1263

23. Manzanita Ridge
107 N. Bullard St.
575-388-1158

24. Molly Ramolla Gallery & Framing
203 N. Bullard St.
575-538-5538

25. Ol' West Gallery & Mercantile
104 W. Broadway Ave.
575-313-2595

26. The Pink Store North
210 N. Bullard St.
575-956-6250
thepinkstorenorth.com

27. Silver City Museum
312 W. Broadway
575-538-5921

28. Soul River Gallery
400 N. Bullard St.
707-490-4367

29. Sterling Fine Art
307 N. Texas St.
505-699-5005
Sterlingnm.com

30. Stretching the Canvas
108 W. Yankee St.
206-697-9001

31. The Studio
200 W. Market St.
575-388-1088,
gcag.org

32. Syzygy Tile Gallery
106 N. Bullard St.
575-388-5472

33. Tatiana Maria Gallery
305 N. Bullard St.
575-388-4426

34. Victoria Chick, Cow Trail Studio
1119 Cow Trail,
Arenas Valley
760-533-1897
by appointment
victoriachick.com

35. Wild West Weaving
211-D N. Texas St.
575-313-1032

36. Zoe's Gallery
305 N. Cooper St.
575-654-4910

Silver City is an Art Destination

BY MARCIA TINKER

Silver City is known as a vibrant art destination, where Art can be found in many forms, mediums, locations and opportunities for creatives. Even better, nobody has to go it alone. Familiarize yourself with the various organizations set up to support the Arts in Grant County.

The Silver City Art Association (SCAA) provides art opportunities and events. SCAA is divided into four categories: Galleries, Studios, Independents (Indys) and Friends. Each offers unique benefits and events. The Gallery group has “great browsing experience with a rich assortment of local art.” First Fridays make for a lively stroll in downtown galleries. Weekend at the Galleries (WAG), is celebrated on the second weekend in October.

SCAA Studios represent artists who create in their private studios. During the Labor Day weekend Studio Tour, you can visit these eclectic studios and see how the creative imaginations run wild! The Indy members exemplify the diverse creative spirit of Grant County. Their work can be found at local galleries, shops and markets, and is celebrated in the Fearlessly Independent Showcase in November.

And of course, the Friends of SCAA are local art supporters. The annual Red Dot Guide highlights all the SCAA members.

The Grant County Art Guild (GCAG) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support local art and artists and create art awareness in the community. Over thirty-five artists are represented at the Art Guild Gallery which is open seven days a week. The GCAG studio is located nearby allowing for themed shows, workshops and classes.

If you like fiber-based art, check out Southwest Women’s Fiber Art Collective (SWFAC). Celebrating its twentieth anniversary with over sixty-five members, SWFAC hosts an annual “Tapestry of Talent” fashion show, and a Fall Fiber Arts Sale, along with the monthly mental health “show ‘n tell” meetings. Several children’s outreach classes and adult fiber workshops are offered throughout the year.

Mimbres Region Arts Council (MRAC) is known for the two-day Silver City Blues Festival during Memorial Day weekend, and February’s Chocolate Fantasia. In 2025 the Blues Festival will celebrate its thirtieth year of Blues! Local and national bands fill Gough Park with music at this two-day festival. Art and food



Kathleen Koopman welcoming First Friday visitors at Light Art Space. SCAA photo

vendors complete the scene for an enjoyable weekend. Additional music events are add-ons at local venues.

Throughout the year the Future Forge Makerspace and Makers’ Market offer venues for artists to create and sell their art. The Future Forge studio has makers spaces which include digital, wood, metal, art and sewing.

A delightful addition to the Silver City art scene is the Youth Mural Program. Over 70 murals created by students, led by local artists adorn regional buildings and landmarks. This project engages young artists to “explore the culture and historical past of the region.”

Art can be found throughout Silver City. Be sure to check out the stores, coffee shops, and restaurants during your visit. Check the Silver City website for the many art events at www.visitsilvercity.org.

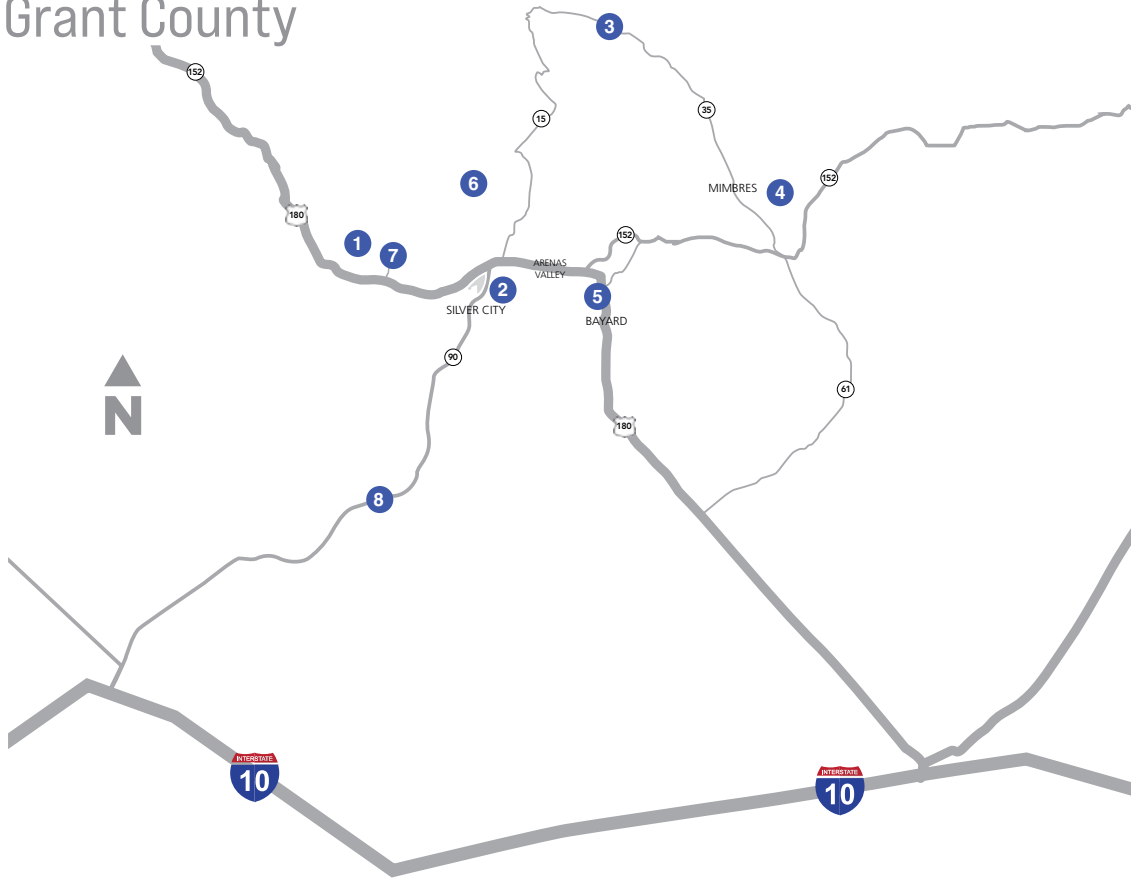
WEBSITES FOR ORGANIZATIONS

- Silver City Art Association - silvercityart.com
- Grant County Art Guild - gcag.org
- Mimbres Region Arts Council - mimbreaarts.org and silvercitybluesfestival.org
- Southwest Women’s Fiber Arts Collective - fiberartscollective.org
- Clay Festival – clayfestival.com
- Southwest Print Fiesta – southwestprintfiesta.org
- Future Forge – thefutureforge.org
- Youth Mural Program - youthmurals.org



STUDIOS & GALLERIES

Grant County



1. **Alaska Mudhead Studio Gallery**
371 Camino de Vento in
Wind Canyon
907-783-2780
2. **Barbara Nance Gallery & Stonewalker Studio**
105 Country Road
575-313-7606
3. **Chamomile Connection**
3918 Highway 35 N,
Mimbres
575-536-8845
4. **Kate Brown Pottery & Tile**
147 Hot Springs Canyon Rd
575-536-9935
katebrown@gilnet.com
5. **Kathryn Allen Clay Studio**
601 Erie St., Bayard
575-537-3332
6. **Studio Behind the Mountain**
23 Wagon Wheel Lane
575-388-3277
7. **Wind Canyon Studio**
11 Quail Run
619-933-8034
8. **Works by Barbara Harrison & Others**
21 Latigo Trail
941-387-8589

ART ASSOCIATIONS

Grant County Art Guild

316 N. Bullard
575-388-1008
www.gcag.org

Mimbres Region Art Council

201 N. Hudson St.
575-538-2505
Mimbresarts.org

Silver City Art Association

575-313-9631
www.silvercityart.com

Southwest New Mexico ACT

201 N. Hudson St.
575-538-5560
www.swnmact.org

The Literary Arts find a footing in Silver City

BY MARCIA TINKER

As the region ends the year-long celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Gila Wilderness, writer Aldo Leopold is remembered for his fond narration and his work to protect the land. The glory and magnificence of the Gila continues to inspire writers and poets today.

Known for the art and music scene, Silver City can also boast about its literary arena. Located in the creative heart of the Gila Wilderness, poets and writers too numerous to mention by name flourish. Some may write quietly in their private spaces while others speak at local libraries, schools and at Western New Mexico University. Poets and writers recite at open mic sessions.

Silver City writers are showcased in the four privately owned bookstores, as well as in the quaint coffee shops and small businesses throughout the area. Many set up shop in local art and makers markets and are ready to talk books with the public. Speaking with these writers gives an insight to the diversity of genres from general fiction, paranormal, science fiction, children's, poetry, history, to non-fiction. A group of local authors even co-penned their own anthology: "Deep Down and Dirty Writing Secrets," available on Amazon.

Silver City is one of a few towns in New Mexico with a Poet Laureate Program. Started in 2011 by the Southwest Festival of the Written Word and endorsed by the Town of Silver City, it "strives to promote a meaningful poetic presence as part of the diverse cultural fabric of our town and region." Heather Franklin is the sixth poet laureate. She is a professor at Western New Mexico University, a published author, served in the Peace Corps and "loves the inspiration of the New Mexico landscape."

Several writer and poet groups meet locally. Open mics are held at many venues in and around town. The coffee houses are well known for delightful readings of favorite and original poetry. One new group to take note of is the Silver City Poetic Outlaws. This group has reoccurring open mics. Their mission is "to provide a safe space for freedom of poetry and Spoken Word with guidelines of no racist or hate speech. Open mics with open minds!"

The Southwest Word Fiesta, previously known as the Southwest Festival of the Written Word, is

held biennially in Silver City and was "created to celebrate authors who live and work in the Southwest." The festival events include many genres for the written and spoken word. Sessions offered are outdoor experiences, various forms of writing, film making, poetry and more.

Since 2021 the festival has become a hybrid and has reached 23 countries. 2025 will be the next Word Fiesta. The Word Fiesta website is a great source for info on past and future Fiestas, as well as local authors and writing related events and opportunities. Find it at www.swwordfiesta.org.



Silver City poet laureate, Heather Franklin. Photo by Jay Hemphill



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silverplatecateringnm@gmail.com





Life is Better When You Can Breathe

BY JASON K. WATKINS

Until we can't breathe, most of us take breathing for granted. But a lack of oxygen, especially during sleep, can have serious health consequences most of us don't realize, things like sleep apnea, difficulty concentrating, poor motor skills, poor metabolism, even depression.

"Breathing well is so important," Dr. Kaiyra Salcido, of Silver City, says. "It's the most important thing we never think about."

Now, there may be a better way to treat breathing problems than CPAP machines, invasive surgery, or large appliances.

New Treatment

Dr. Salcido opened a dental practice nearly five years ago, in part dedicated to helping people breathe better. At The Airway Institute, she offers a cutting-edge dental therapeutic device called Vivos that's worn like a retainer that expands the airway over time and actually stimulates stem-cell growth. It's non-invasive, non-surgical, and doesn't require medication.

For some patients, it might also hold the key to treating, if not curing, sleep apnea.

"I've seen incredible results," she says. "Opening the airway has so many effects on your overall health."

When people breathe better, she says, they not only sleep better at night but they also have better concentration during the day, better metabolism, and more energy.

"A narrow airway means less oxygen into the lungs," she says, "a harder-working diaphragm, and problems like sleep apnea, snoring, exhaustion, weight gain, even depression."

Patients begin the process with a 3D scan of their airway in Dr. Salcido's clinic. Then they record their sleeping patterns with a device worn on the head. If the patient is a good candidate, they're fitted with a custom removable device that looks like a retainer. After several months of use, patients should feel increased capacity in their airways. Dr. Salcido then does another scan to compare the patient's progress.

The treatment can expand the airway, which provides more oxygen and more restful sleep, which in turn improves multiple aspects of a patient's life.

"We take a holistic approach to things like sleep apnea, teeth grinding, and blocked sinuses," Dr. Salcido says. "We try to avoid surgeries and pharmaceuticals."

Dr. Salcido and her mostly female staff specialize in treating young patients, correcting small problems

early in life before they become big problems in adulthood. She is one of a small handful of dentists in the state who offer the treatment, and she says she's already seen results.

"Children are the best candidates for treatment," she says. Young people have more dental problems as their mouths grow, she says, and they respond better to treatment. "It's important to bring children to the dentist when they're young, and to help them get over their fears."

Like adults, children who breathe better, she says, sleep better and perform better during the day.

"The airway is the most overlooked factor in our overall health," she says.

Home-grown clinic

Dr. Salcido is a Silver City native who studied at University of New Mexico. She got degrees in biology and Spanish from UNM, then attended Creighton University School of Dentistry in Nebraska. After college, she served as a dentist in public health clinics around southwestern New Mexico. She spent time at Ben Archer Medical Clinic in Deming and Hidalgo Medical Services in Lordsburg before launching her own practice in 2020, in the months leading up to the pandemic. She'll celebrate her fifth year of private



practice in March.

"We're extremely grateful to the community and to everyone who have made the practice what it is," she says. "We look forward to providing care in Silver City for years to come."

Artistic Smiles and The Airway Institute are located at 3801 Pinos Altos Road, or Hwy 15, in a former veterinary clinic that's been converted into a state-of-the-art dental practice. The building's signage was installed by Dr. Salcido's husband, Eric Storjohann, a local electrician with an artistic eye. When the sign is lit, you can't miss it.

Learn more about Dr. Salcido and her practice at www.artisticsmilesnm.com. To make an appointment, call (575) 597-3801.

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Michelle Diaz, MD (OB/GYN)

Anne Jones, CNM (OB/GYN)

Aujenae Ore, CNM (OB/GYN)

Randi Murphy, NP-Primary Care (Family, Pediatrics)



2nd Location

1280 E. 32nd Street, Silver City - (575) 388-1889

Anna Rogers, MD-Primary Care (Family/OB)

Denise Galaz, NP-Primary Care (Family/Pediatrics)

Candace Laramore, NP-Primary Care (Family, Pediatrics)

Cassie
HEALTH
CENTER

2 LOCATIONS
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(575)388-1561

1280 E. 32nd St.
(575)388-1889

www.cassiehealthcenter.com

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.

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 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
 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
 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
 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
 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
 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.



HOMELESS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES

SILVER CITY GOSPEL MISSION

111 S. Texas St.
Thrift store, soup kitchen, food pantry
575-388-5071, silvercitygospelmission.org

SIERRA HOUSE

Next to the Silver City Gospel Mission
A 1,200 square-foot house with three bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, laundry room, and a bathroom. One bedroom is reserved for the Sierra House Manager and the other two contain bunk-beds suitable for two families or four individuals.
575-388-5071, 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.
575-538-2125, www.eridv.org



VETERANS SERVICES

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

Veterans Service Officer Chris Teran
11990 U.S. Highway 180 E., Santa Clara
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.

SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO'S
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• Art-Related Businesses

silvercityart.com

SILVER CITY ART ASSOCIATION

The advertisement features a collage of images showing an art gallery with people viewing art, a person working at a table with art supplies, and a display of colorful art pieces. The text is overlaid on a blue and white background.

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.

FORT BAYARD MEDICAL CENTER/STATE VETERAN'S NURSING HOME

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Phone: 575-537-3302
Toll Free: 800-541-6966

SANTA CLARA ASSISTED LIVING

15 Fort Bayard Rd., Santa Clara
575-537-3077

MILLIE'S ASSISTED LIVING

600 N. Hudson St., Silver City
575-534-9172
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

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BAYARD HOUSING AUTHORITY

100 Runnels Drive A #1, 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

214 N. Mineral St., Santa Clara
575-537-3041

USA AFFORDABLE HOUSING SERVICES CORP.

1823 N. Virginia St., Silver City
575-538-1657

WESTERN REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

2545 N. Silver St., Silver City
575-388-1974

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



Choose Your Own Adventure

BY CHERYL FALLSTEAD

Silver City is a great place to visit for explorers and fun-lovers of all ages, but what you consider to be fun is a personal choice. Some may find the great outdoors surrounding Silver City to be the highlight of their trip, while others prefer to stroll the historic sidewalks to visit art galleries and restaurants. Those who love history will find plenty to soak up. If you have youngsters in your group, their interests are likely to be different still. Let's explore some ways to have fun in and near Silver City and see if we can find something for everyone.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Nature lovers will find plenty to love about the **Gila National Forest** and **Gila Wilderness**, which are easily accessed using Silver City as your base. Hike portions of the **Continental Divide Trail** or try the trails at the **Boston Hills Open Space** right on the edge of town. Stop at **Gila Hike & Bike** to get advice from locals on great hiking trails.

Popular destinations for birdwatching are all around Silver City. Add plenty of lifers to your list at hotspots like beautiful **Cherry Creek Campground** on NM Highway 15, such as Montezuma Quail, Red-faced Warblers, Painted Redstarts, and many others. Bring your binoculars to get the best looks at the area's many birds you won't see at lower elevations.

If you enjoy time on or near the water, visit **Lake Roberts** and **Bill Evans Lake Wildlife Area**. Another must-do, north of Silver City, is the **Catwalk National Recreation Trail**, where you might get lucky and spot American Dippers, the only songbirds that "swim" underwater. Here you can hike above **Whitewater Creek** on metal walkways and picnic along the creek.

DIVE INTO HISTORY

History buffs will have plenty to explore in Silver City. There are two museums to visit: the **Silver City Museum** and the **Western New Mexico University Museum**, both of which delve into the history of the area and have collections of beautiful black-on-white Mimbres pottery.

Take a day trip to visit the **Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument** and hike out to the ancient cliff dwellings, where you can learn more about how early people lived.

If you'd like to dive into the area's mining history,

stop at the Chino (also known as the Santa Rita) Mine overlook on the south side of NM Highway 152 east of Hanover. There are some educational displays and a look into the huge copper mine.

Another stop on the way to Silver City along NM Highway 152 is **Fort Bayard**, where Buffalo Soldiers were once stationed. Take a self-guided tour and pay your respects at the national cemetery.

FUN FOR KIDS

The youngsters will only be entertained so long visiting shops, so be sure to schedule some time to focus on what they enjoy. Of course, the outdoor adventures mentioned earlier will be perfect for most kids and will help connect them to nature. But here are some kid-centric ideas.

While you walk downtown, stop at each of the fun murals and photograph your kids as part of the art. They'll love turning into a butterfly!

Grab some lunch to go and have a picnic at **Penny Park**, which has inviting play structures where the kiddos can burn off some energy. They may also enjoy exploring nature and murals at **Big Ditch Park**.

Don't forget to bring along some wheels for the kids to try out the **Silver City Skate Park** on Little Walnut Road. It'll keep them busy for hours! Built in 2008, the skate park includes bowls, street obstacles, and rails.

Silver City has lots of offer, no matter what you consider to be fun. Start exploring!



The Catwalk National Recreation Trail offers spectacular views of the historic 1890s mining waterway.





Take a Hike

BY JULIA OSGOOD

If you're looking for a great place to get outdoors, the area in and around Silver City is a hiker's paradise. Located near the Gila National Forest, there are many beautiful trails where you can enjoy a pleasant hike without driving too far.

GENERAL HIKING INFORMATION

Always take water and maybe a snack when heading out for a hike. Although most trails are well-marked, you can get turned around. Using a hiking trails app on your smartphone provides some peace of mind. The elevation around Silver City is nearly 6,000 feet, and some of these trails gain elevation during the hike. The elevation might take some getting used to, so pace yourself. Dogs are welcome on all these hikes but must be on a leash.

SOME POPULAR TRAILS

Dragonfly Trail Drive about three miles east on Highway 180 as you head from Silver City toward Bayard, and you'll find this trail on the north side of the road. This easy 3.4-mile loop rewards you with beautiful scenery, a creek, and petroglyphs. The trail is popular with locals and visitors due to its easy access and pleasant views. The loop takes a little over an hour to complete.

Fort Bayard Big Tree Trail Enjoy hiking through the rolling foothills of the Pinos Altos Mountains on this moderate 3.4-mile out-and-back trail. The route is dotted with piñon pines and junipers, leading to the nation's second-largest alligator juniper tree. At 63 feet high, this might be the tallest juniper you'll ever

see! Alligator junipers are so named because their bark resembles the scales of an alligator.

To get there, take U.S. Highway 180 to Santa Clara, then head north on the access road to Fort Bayard Medical Center. Pass the hospital by keeping right at the fork until you see the sign for Forest Road 536. This route leads you to the Fort Bayard Administrative Site Trailhead, with parking located a tenth of a mile west of where Forest Roads 536 and 929 meet.

Boston Hill Trail System Several routes of varying lengths make up this system of trails. The great news is that they are all near the heart of Silver City. You can access trailheads on Cooper Street, Cheyenne Street, Spring Street, and Market Street. The trails vary from flat terrain to moderately steep slopes. Numerous trails cross each other, providing various routes through the area.

The Boston Hill Trail is an easy 1.7-mile hike that provides scenic views of the town and interesting pit mines, reminders of early mining in the area.

Continental Divide Trail from Walnut Creek Road Sections of the Continental Divide Trail run near Silver City, so the town is often used by through hikers to pick up supplies and rest before tackling a longer section. However, there are several places to access the trail, and locals and visitors take advantage of this by hiking out and back any distance that suits them.

One of these sections is off Walnut Creek Road. Head out of Silver City on Little Walnut Road. After about 6.4 miles, turn into a parking area. Sections of the CDT are on both sides of the road, and both offer



pleasant hikes with plenty of shade.

Little Walnut Trail System The 2.2-mile Wagon Wheel Loop is one of several Little Walnut Trail System trails. You can access the loop from Little Walnut Road or via the Picnic Loop Trail, which starts at the Little Walnut Picnic Area Trailhead. This trail connects with numerous other loops and paths. The trail system is well-marked, with numbered signs and maps placed at several points along the way, helping you navigate through this extensive network.

Gomez Peak Trail Explore this 3.4-mile out-and-back trail near Silver City. Often rated as moderately challenging, it typically takes around about two hours to complete. This peaceful, scenic trail is ideal for hiking and running. To get there, head out of Silver City on Little Walnut Road. After about 4.7 miles, turn into the Gomez Peak parking area.

Whether you live in Silver City or are visiting, the area’s trails provide an unforgettable experience. When we say, “Take a hike!” we mean it in the nicest way.

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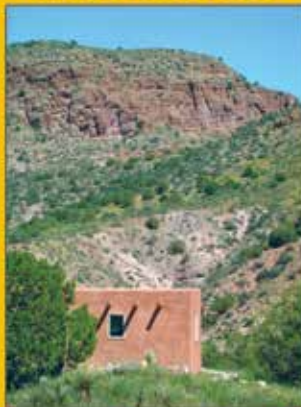
The Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument offers a glimpse into the lives of the Mogollon people, who lived there in the late 1200s.

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WNMU President Dr. Joseph Shepard addresses the crowd at the dedication of “Once Upon a Time,” a new mural at the WNMU Child Development Center, August 15, 2024. The mural was created by students in the Youth Mural Program, led by artist Diana Ingalls Leyba.

WNMU and Youth Mural Program Dedicate New Mural

PROVIDED BY WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY

Western New Mexico University and the Youth Mural Program dedicated a new mural at the Child Development Center on campus Thursday, August 15, 2024. The mural, titled “Once Upon a Time,” had been in progress since 2021.

The Child Development Center is part of the New Mexico Center of Excellence for Early Childhood Education. The center received its legislative distinction for having developed a full-service center that has been providing early childhood and family services for decades.

The Youth Mural Program, led by artist Diana Ingalls Leyba, is a visually dynamic program that engages young people and teaches them about the history and culture of their community, while providing artistic jewels throughout the area. The program has been a huge success, with over 80 murals created on the sides of buildings, on the risers of high sidewalks, and on long-blocked-in windows in Silver City, Gila, Bayard, and Santa Clara.

“Once Upon a Time” was designed by Aldo Leopold Charter School students in the Youth Conservation Corps. The mural depicts a number of scenes from

various children’s books and stories, as well as quotations about childhood.

WNMU President Joseph Shepard began the dedication by talking about childhood and imagination. “Early childhood education is very important to those of us at Western New Mexico University,” he said, “Today we are here to celebrate with this mural.”

Shepard also commended Ingalls Leyba for her work with the Youth Mural Program. “She is a doer,” he said, “She believes in making things better than how she found them.”

Ingalls Leyba explained that the mural took several years to complete—years that included the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. “Some of the design was on computer, on Zoom,” she said, “It was challenging in many ways.”

Leyba introduced one of the students that worked on the mural, Mia Estrada, who is now an art major at UNM. Estrada participated in YCC every year in high school, and she said that working on the mural inspired a lasting passion for the arts. “It is so satisfying to see this finally done,” she said of the mural.

“Once Upon a Time” can be viewed at Sechler-Rhodes Hall, 513 W 12th St., Silver City, NM.

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.

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Making Peace with Wildness

BY MIKE FUGAGLI, CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST WITH THE UPPER GILA WATERSHED ALLIANCE

The centenary celebration of the world’s first legally designated wilderness provides us with a unique opportunity to gaze both backward and forward in time. Looking backward to 1924, when the Gila Wilderness was first established, is essentially an exercise in gratitude. We give thanks for the work of Aldo Leopold and others of his day who were responsible for shepherding the wilderness idea into existence. We recognize now, one hundred years later, that wilderness is much more than a blank spot on the map. Wilderness, it turns out, is essential.

Today, a century into our wilderness experiment, we find ourselves on the razor’s edge of catastrophic, irreversible, planetary-scale change. The global climate and extinction crises that are casting such a dark shadow over the next hundred years makes our centenary celebration here in the Gila seem a bit maudlin; a little too sentimental and self-congratulatory considering the dangerous trajectory we’re currently traveling on.

Still, there’s something to be said for sentimentality. Maybe, as we take the opportunity this year to remember how and why the world’s first wilderness was established, we will recommit ourselves to the wilderness ideal. Maybe, by journeying backward in time we might discover a new way forward. Maybe, if we look hard enough, we might see that the greatest value of wilderness is wildness, and that Henry Thoreau was right in the most literal sense when he

declared that “in wildness is the preservation of the world”.

What a blow to our ego, though, and how ironic that at the precise moment when our species has become the principal driver of planetary change, right when we have thrust ourselves into the metaphorical driver’s seat, we have to turn the reins back over to wildness. How strange it is to admit that the intelligence required to pass a living world onto our children and future generations is not to be found in any corporate boardroom, government agency, or think tank. It’s not to be found in our synagogues, mosques, or cathedrals. And it’s not found in books, computer programs, or even written on our subway walls.

The intelligence we need now is the wildness in our guts, it’s the wildness in our soils. We need trees and rivers and wetlands and wolves. We need insects and fish and otters and ice. We need slime molds and black bears, blackhawks and cattails. We need diversity. We need relationships, we need possibility.

Wilderness is the domain space of wildness; the crucible of creation. Wilderness is the where of things; wildness is the what. Wilderness is where the magic happens: transformation, emergence, adaptation, change. Wildness is the magic itself. That’s what Aldo Leopold taught us. There never were any blank spots on the map. The blank spots were solely of our own creation. Blank spots represent ignorance and are born of hubris. Wilderness, it turns out, is filled to the very brim with intelligence, and its protection is born out of humility, a peace offering to the emergent.



Wildlife in and Around Silver City

BY JULIA OSGOOD

In addition to having an engaging art scene and offering deep dives into southwestern history, Silver City is home to a variety of wildlife. The vegetation in the area consists of a piñon-juniper woodland that includes an abundance of other plants. This environment and the proximity to the Gila National provide ample resources for the area's wildlife.

BIRDS IN THE AREA

The flowing creek and the abundance of tall trees in the Big Ditch attract many different species of birds. During spring migration and early summer, you might see some **warblers** and **western tanagers** darting among the trees.

Not too far from the center of town, you'll likely see **Gambel's quail**. These colorful, mostly ground-dwelling birds prefer the cover of juniper trees. For most of the year, they travel in groups called coveys for protection from predators, so you might see more than a dozen quail running from the shade of one juniper to another, where they scratch around for seeds or rest in the shade.

Other common birds include **canyon towhees**, **bushtits**, and the **juniper titmouse**. As you head up into the higher elevations of the Gila, the ponderosa pines are home to beautiful **painted redstarts**, **red-faced warblers**, **plumbeous vireos**, and many other birds.

MAMMALS IN THE SILVER CITY AREA

Coyotes are common in urban areas, and Silver City is no exception. They use dry creek beds and culverts to roam the town, where they find abundant food, including mice, rabbits, garbage, pet food, and other items. At night, it's not uncommon to hear packs of coyotes yipping in the distance.

Mule deer can be seen roaming around the countryside where they graze on grasses and other plant material, especially the sugary stalk of the soap tree yuccas.

Another mammal you might encounter is the **rock squirrel**. These animals are well-adapted to rocky terrain and an arid climate. Unlike their tree-dwelling cousins, rock squirrels are more likely to be seen on the ground, where they forage for seeds, fruits, and small insects. Their grayish-brown fur blends seamlessly with the rocky outcrops, making them hard to spot unless they're on the move.

Known for their burrowing behavior, rock squirrels create extensive tunnel systems where they store food and seek refuge from predators. If you hear a loud, screeching sound it might be a rock squirrel that has climbed to the top of a tree to alert other squirrels, frighten predators, or attract a mate.

Gray foxes are easily recognizable with their grizzled gray coats and bushy tails. Their ability to climb trees is handy when evading predators or hunting for food. In the forests around Silver City, gray foxes stay in dense



brush or wooded areas where they forage for small mammals, birds, and fruits. Although they are primarily nocturnal, you might catch a glimpse of a gray fox during the early morning or late afternoon.

If you head into the Gila National Forest, look for **Abert's squirrels**. They stand out with their striking black and white fur and distinctive tufted ears that are visible until the summer months. Found primarily in the Ponderosa pine forests near Silver City, these squirrels live in the treetops, where they feed mainly on the seeds of Ponderosa pines, but they are also known to nibble on bark, fungi, and other available plant material. Their large, bushy tails help them balance as they leap from branch to branch and provide warmth during cold mountain nights.

The forests surrounding Silver City are also home to the **American black bear**. These bears range in color from black to brown. While they are powerful animals, black bears are generally shy and prefer to avoid human contact. They spend much of their time foraging for berries, nuts, and insects and are also skilled climbers. If you camp in one of the many campgrounds in the Gila National Forest, be sure to store food securely to avoid attracting these massive bears.

The wildlife around Silver City is as diverse as the landscape. As you explore the trails and forests of Silver City, keep an eye out for these fascinating creatures – you never know what you might encounter in this corner of the Southwest.



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Encountering Animals in the Gila Wilderness

BY GALEN JONES

According to the National Park Service, there are 84 species of mammals, over 300 species of birds, 44 species of reptiles, 11 species of amphibians, and 30 species of fish. Among the mammals are mountain lion, mule and whitetail deer, elk, black bear, Mexican grey wolf, porcupine, bobcat, ringtail, coatis, bats and a multitude of smaller mammals.

The United States Department of Agriculture tells us that due to the ecological diversity of the Gila Wilderness 166 species of bird are known to breed there, while 114 others are regular non-breeders, and 57 species are considered to be casual or accidental breeders.

All of which serves to show that the Gila Wilderness, at over 550,000 acres, is home to a diverse range of wildlife, specially designed to thrive in landscapes both remote and rugged. Many of the animals that live there are rare and endangered, like the Gila Trout, the Southwest Willow Flycatcher, the northern Mexican garter snake, the Mexican spotted owl, and reintroduced Mexican wolves.

With the help of such organizations as The Wilderness Society, The Wilderness Land Trust and WildEarth Guardians, among many others, these animals are finding the protection they need to live and thrive in balance with hunters, recreationists, and Indigenous peoples who value this landscape. You can do your part, as well, by following the rules of engagement with natural lands and their inhabitants.

Here are a few simple rules for animal encounters in the wild:

1. Don't get too close. Remember you're a visitor, and some animals don't take kindly to invaders.
2. Don't touch. These are not pets. They will bite, scratch, or otherwise inconvenience you. Baby animals are cute, but their parents can be very protective.
3. Don't feed the animals. This should go without saying, but people food can cause dietary problems for most animals or cause them to expect the handouts and start ransacking campsites for more.
4. Don't confront the animals. Trying to spook or provoke a reaction is a great way to incite an attack.
5. Don't wear headphones. Wouldn't you rather know

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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).

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that there's an animal in the vicinity than to be surprised when it catches up with you? See number four.

6. Do make noise. Let them know you're coming so they can get out of the way. See number four.

The thing to remember is that in most wild animal encounters, they will generally leave you alone when they become aware of your presence. A good rule of thumb is to stay at least 100 yards away and keep your interaction to a minimum. Watch and learn. Take some pictures. Then leave them alone. You, and they, will be much happier with the experience, because the alternative could mean a very bad day for both of you.

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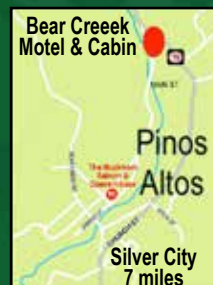
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