

DESERT exposure



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against wildfire, page 20



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About the cover: "Buffalo Summer" by Mimbres artist **Michael Murphy**. His work can be seen at Ginny Wolf Studio & Gallery, 108 W. Yankie St. in Silver City. For more about the artist, see this issue's Arts Exposure section.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Close to Arizona, But with Aliens

New Mexico's tourism efforts get a much-needed reboot.

New Mexicans, especially transplants from someplace else, like to think of our state as a mecca for tourists. After all, *we* came here, didn't we? And glossy travel magazines frequently rank Santa Fe with far bigger burgs like San Francisco or New York City as among the nation's top tourist destinations.

The truth, it turns out, isn't quite so, well, enchanted. According to a recent report in the *Wall Street Journal*, overnight tourist trips to New Mexico have dropped by nearly 10% in the past three years. Compared to neighboring Colorado and even Arizona, New Mexico's image as a tourist destination is lackluster at best. One focus group kept using words like "arid," "barren" and "dull"—along with simply, "close to Arizona." Several focus group participants wondered aloud whether they needed passports to visit us here in the 47th state. On the bright side, the *Journal* reported, some folks apparently confused Albuquerque with Acapulco, saying "they had heard good things about the landlocked state's beaches."

We're also attracting the wrong kind of tourists when people do deign to visit, at least in terms of making local cash registers ring. State statistics show that 24% of New Mexico's overnight visitors are age 65 or older—a grayer group than in Arizona, Colorado or Utah, which average only 17% senior-citizen tourists. Older tourists, it seems, don't spend as much as young families. Nor are they as likely to tweet about the wonderful time they had in New Mexico or post their vacation photos on Facebook, giving the state free advertising.

Worse, fully a third of New Mexico's overnight visitors are just passing through, pulling in at a Motel 6 or Day's Inn along the interstate for the night en route to someplace they think is more interesting.

Part of the blame for New Mexico's less-than-magnetic drawing power may lie in the last round of official attempts to promote the state. We remember all too well the state's Rose Parade float that starred bug-eyed little green men, and the accompanying ad campaign that played off Roswell's supposed UFO crash. Hinging your marketing strategy on what can most charitably be described as a myth might not pay the biggest dividends: You don't see Washington State pegging its tourist appeal on Bigfoot, or Hawaii advertising, "Come see the menehune!" instead of showing off its sun-kissed beaches.

Fortunately, the advertising geniuses who brought us aliens are gone. The Martinez administration has brought in a new tourism secretary, whose resume includes marketing such PepsiCo Inc. brands as Quaker Oats and Gatorade. The department also has a new marketing director, Veronica Valencia, who politely says of the UFO-inspired campaign, "I don't know that it resonated."

And last month the Tourism Department announced the hiring of a new agency to handle

its \$2 million advertising campaign. Vendor Inc., based in Austin, Texas, has handled such accounts as Southwest Airlines, Nike, BMW and WalMart; it also came in with the lowest fee among 20 bidders, 13%, leaving more budget dollars for ad buys. (We're willing to forgive the selection of a Texas agency for now, but the first time a saguaro pops up in a New Mexico ad, we'll be all over it like

"Christmas" chili on an enchilada. And please note, Vendor folks, that the dish is spelled "chili" but the pepper is "chile.")

The new agency will start building a "better brand" for New Mexico with a campaign launching in mid-April.

If that \$2 million sounds like a lot to you in these cash-

strapped times, keep in mind that it's far less than spent by the neighboring states New Mexico competes with. Arizona, which has been slashing funding for everything from healthcare to highway rest stops, nonetheless recently announced a \$7 million marketing investment. Colorado, to which focus groups ascribe pretty much all the virtues New Mexico wishes our "brand" possessed, spends more than \$12 million to cultivate that image of being "majestic" and "heavenly."

On the bright side, at least New Mexico isn't scrapping its tourism budget completely, as some places like Washington State have done in shortsighted cost-saving moves.

The tourism industry remains a sound investment. Although sometimes derided as providing only minimum-wage jobs chang-

ing hotel beds and taking amusement-park ride tickets, tourism is a "green" and innately local business that can't be shipped off to Mumbai like call-center jobs. As much as we might wish that the high-paying blue-collar jobs that created the American middle class would return, that doesn't seem likely in the near future. In any case, many parts of New Mexico—Silver City, for one—are too far off the beaten path and the interstate-highway map to attract major manufacturing interests.

Besides, tourism can boost a local economy in ripple effects beyond jobs as clerks and waiters. Somebody has to build those new hotels, for example. And a steady flow of tourists can support small enterprises ranging from art galleries to outdoors outfitters.

When the economy was better and we felt we could be choosier, people in Silver City used to moan, "We don't want to become another Santa Fe." Not that there's much chance of that happening, but becoming just a smidge more like Santa Fe might not be a bad thing: The unemployment rate there is just 5.5%, even today, and the average household income is over \$50,000 a year.

So as the state "rebrands," let's hope some of that spiffed-up image trickles down our way.

Rebranding a state's image can be tricky, however. The *Wall Street Journal* cites the unfortunate example of New Jersey, which replaced its "New Jersey's Got It" (which inevitably led to jokes about venereal disease) with the defensive-sounding, not much better "New Jersey: We'll Win You Over." (One wonders what slogans got rejected: "New

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Part of the drawing for the New Mexico state float in the 2008 Rose Parade.

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Jersey: It's Not Just Newark"? "New Jersey: Hey, the Sopranos Love It"?)

Whatever tack New Mexico's new marketing team takes, it has to be rooted in the state's authentic appeal. (Selling our "beaches," for example, won't fly.) We also hope the rebranding is not monolithically focused on northern New Mexico. Except for that ill-advised Roswell campaign and the recent in-state Billy the Kid promotion, too much of New Mexico's past promotions have seemed like the state stops at I-40. We pay taxes down here, too, and deserve a share of the tourism attention.

That geographic mix shouldn't be difficult to juggle. While it's a big state and a long drive from Lordsburg to Clayton, much of what makes New Mexico "enchanted" stretches all the way from the Colorado line to the Mexico border. Any successful marketing campaign for the state must be built on our great outdoors and distinctive multicultural

mix, seasoned with New Mexico's artistic legacy and Old West history.

That's right—don't forget the Old West, the cowboys and Indians alike. Two of the West's most iconic figures, Billy the Kid and Geronimo, came from our corner of the state. Doubt their continuing fame? A search for "Geronimo" gets 42.9 million Google hits, while Billy comes in at 7.6 million. Georgia O'Keeffe, by comparison, doesn't quite crack the 1 million mark.

Come to think of it, though, an ad campaign built around "New Mexico: From Georgia O'Keeffe to Geronimo" might not be too bad. Sorry, little green men from Roswell, you've had your turn. ☘

David A. Fryxell is editor of Desert Exposure.



Colorado, to which focus groups ascribe pretty much all the virtues New Mexico wishes our "brand" possessed, spends more than \$12 million to cultivate that image.

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DESERT DIARY

Answered Prayers and in Cahoots

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Postcards from the edge...

We have a fresh batch of photos from readers traveling near and far who send us snapshots of themselves with a copy of "the biggest little paper in the Southwest." First, here's Bayou Seco—Silver City musicians **Jeanie McLerie and Ken Kepler**—who recently entertained readers with the story of taking their "Chilegumbo" music to China (Tumbleweeds, November 2011). Turns out they took *Desert Exposure* along, too!

"When they arrived, they were ushered up to his room. As they entered the room, the pastor held out his hands and motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed. The pastor grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled and stared at the ceiling. For a time, no one said anything.

"Both the IRS agent and the lawyer were touched and flattered that the old man would ask them to be with him during his final moments. They were also puzzled because the pastor had never given any indication that he particularly liked either one of them. Finally, the lawyer asked: 'Pastor, why did you ask the two of us to come here?'

"The old pastor mustered all his strength, and then said weakly, 'Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I'd like to go.'"

Tales of tipling... A certain religious theme runs through many of our yarns this month, even in unlikely places—like this one from **Ex Boss:**

"A cowboy, who just moved to Wyoming from Texas, walks into a bar and orders three mugs of Bud. He sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finishes them, he comes back to the bar and orders three more.

"The bartender approaches and tells the cowboy, 'You know, a mug goes flat after I draw it. It would taste better if you bought one at a time.'

"The cowboy replies, 'Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is in Arizona, the other is in Colorado. When we all left our home in Texas, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together. So I'm drinking one beer for each of my brothers and one for myself.'

"The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there.

"The cowboy becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way. He orders three mugs and drinks them in turn.

Going my way ... With April 15 not that far away, we couldn't resist starting off with this one from **Old Grumps**. (Note to any IRS agents reading this—just kidding! Please don't audit us!)

"An old pastor lay dying. He sent a message for an Internal Revenue Service agent and his lawyer to come to the hospital.

"One day, he comes in and orders only two mugs. All the regulars take notice and fall silent. When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, 'I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your loss.'

"The cowboy looks quite puzzled for a moment, then a light dawns in his eyes and he laughs. 'Oh, no, everybody's just fine,' he explains. 'It's just that my wife and I joined the Baptist Church and I had to quit drinking.'

"The cowboy paused, then added, 'Hasn't affected my brothers, though.'"

Whether it's last rites or last call, your jokes are welcome at Desert Diary. Email them to diary@desertexposure.com.

Kids say the darnedest things... We thought of Art Linkletter's old show when we read this one from **Gee Richard**—though this is perhaps a tad racy for ol' Art:

"Teacher: 'Who can use the word "fascinate" in a sentence?'

"Molly: 'Yesterday, my mother took me to the opera, which was fascinating.'

"Teacher: 'That's not what I asked. Anyone else?'

"Carl: 'Yesterday, I watched a crew building a skyscraper. I was fascinated.'

"Teacher: 'Still not right. Who's next?'

"Willie: 'My sister's favorite blouse has nine buttons, but with her big bosom she can only fasten eight.'"

Sunday funnies... We apologize if any of these bloopers from church bulletins are re-runs—and thank **T.O.** for sending us a pew-packing collection:

"The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

"The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

"Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

"Don't let worry kill you off—let the Church help.

"Miss Charlene Mason sang, 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

"For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

"Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

"Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

"A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

"Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

"At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice."

Throw the rascals out... It's an election year, so this brief update from **Kelmac** seems especially timely:

"Ruger is coming out with a new and intimidating pistol in honor of Senators and Congressmen. It will be named the Politician

"It doesn't work, and you can't fire it."

Engineer this... We've never given much thought to the differences between engineers and regular folks, but evidently **The Packrat Out Back** has. They are, it seems, a breed apart:

"Two engineering students were biking across a university campus when one said, 'Where did you get such a great bike?'

"The second engineer replied, 'Well, I was walking along yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, 'Take what you want.'

"The first engineer nodded approvingly and said, 'Good choice. The clothes probably wouldn't have fit you anyway.'"

Losing the battle of the sexes... Two quick volleys in the gender wars, fired off by **Bert of the Burros:**

"My girlfriend says she thinks that I might be a stalker. Well... she's not exactly my girlfriend yet.

"My wife has been missing for a week now. The police said to prepare for the worst. So, I went down to Goodwill to get all of her clothes back."

For the birds... We told you there was a religious undercurrent to this month's tales. Take this one, sent in by **Gerald**, which we're pretty sure we've seen before but wanted to share anyway. You can never have too many parrot jokes:

"A lady goes to her priest one day and tells him, 'Father, I have a problem. I have two female parrots, but they only know how to say one thing.'

"What do they say?' the priest asked.

"They say, 'Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?'"

"That's obscene!' the priest exclaimed. Then he thought for a moment. 'You know,' he said, 'I may have a solution to your problem. I have two male talking parrots, which I have taught to pray and read the Bible. Bring your two parrots over to my house, and we'll put them in the cage with Francis and Peter. My parrots can teach your parrots to pray and worship, and your parrots are sure to stop saying... that phrase.'

"Thank you,' the woman responded. 'This may very well be the solution.'

"The next day, she brought her female parrots to the priest's house. As he ushered her in, she saw that his two male parrots were inside their cage holding rosary beads and praying. Impressed, the woman

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Postcards from the edge... Then there's **Robert Cwik** of Silver City, who writes, "In September I spent several weeks in Europe looking into my family roots. Here I am at the village where my paternal grandfather was born in 1877. After visiting the parish church and recording many family connections from the parish books, I was able to visit several cousins who still live and farm in the area. This is modern-day Poland that at the time was German Silesia."

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

walked over and placed her parrots in with them. "After a few minutes, the female parrots cried out in unison, 'Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?'"

"There was stunned silence. One male parrot looked over at the other male parrot and said, 'Put the beads away, Frank. Our prayers have been answered!'"

Irish eyes are smiling... Then there are the Irish, God love 'em. Getting a jump on St. Patrick's Day, we share this from **The Santa Claran**:

"Paddy was in New York. He was patiently waiting and watching the traffic cop on a busy street crossing. The cop stopped the flow of traffic and shouted, 'Okay, pedestrians.' Then he'd allow the traffic to pass."

"He'd done this several times, and Paddy still stood on the sidewalk."

"After the cop had shouted, 'Pedestrians!' for the tenth time, Paddy went over to him and said, 'Is it not about time ye let the Catholics across?'"

A good walk spoiled... A bit late for Christmas, but in plenty of time for golf season, there's this from **CharlesC**:

"Four old-timers were playing their weekly game of golf, and one remarked how nice it would be to wake up on Christmas morning, roll out of bed and without an argument go directly to the golf course, meet his buddies and play a round."

"His buddies all chimed in and said, 'Let's do it, we'll make it a priority, figure out a way and meet here early Christmas morning.' Months later, that special morning arrives, and there they are on the golf course."

"The first guy says, 'Boy, this game cost me a fortune! I bought my wife such a diamond ring that she can't take her eyes off it.'"

"Number two guy says, 'I spent a ton, too. My wife is at home planning the cruise I gave her. She was up to her eyeballs in brochures.'"

"Number three guy says, 'Well, my wife is at home admiring her new car, reading the manual.'"

"They all turn to the last guy in the group, who is staring at them like they have lost their minds. 'I can't believe you all went to such expense for this golf game,' he says. 'I slapped my wife on the butt and said, "Well, babe, Merry Christmas! It's a great morn-

ing for either sex or golf!' And she said, "Take a sweater!"'"

Annals of law enforcement... The **Silver City Greek** passed along this story, purportedly from a Kansas State Highway Patrol officer:

"I made a traffic stop on an elderly lady the other day for speeding on US 166 eastbound at mile marker 73 just east of Sedan, Kansas. I asked for her driver's license, registration and proof of insurance."

"The lady took out the required information and handed it to me. In with the cards I was somewhat surprised (due to her advanced age) to see she had a concealed-carry permit. I looked at her and asked if she had a weapon in her possession at this time."

"She responded that she indeed had a .45 automatic in her glove box. Something in her body language, or the way she said it, made me want to ask if she had any other firearms. She did admit to also having a 9mm Glock in her center console. Now I had to ask one more time if that was all. She responded once again that she did have just one more, a .38 special in her purse."

"I then asked her what was she so afraid of. "She looked me right in the eye and said, 'Not a freakin' thing!'"

Pondering the imponderables... Finally, these deep thoughts from **Ned Ludd**:

"I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone."

"I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there."

"I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work."

"I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore."

"I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often."

"I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm."

"Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older."

"One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!"

"I may have been in Continent, and I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing." ❁

Send your favorite anecdotes, jokes, puns and tall tales to *Desert Diary*, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax (575) 534-4134 or email diary@desertexposure.com. The best submission each month gets a brand-new *Desert Exposure* mouse pad, scientifically proven to take the strain out of emailing jokes to *Desert Diary*.



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TUMBLEWEEDS • MARJORIE LILLY

Akela's New Deal

An Apache casino at Akela, near Deming, moves closer to reality but still is not a sure bet.

A 30-acre patch of ground at Akela, in the flat, barren landscape 20 miles east of Deming, was officially proclaimed a tribal reservation on Nov. 23 by Larry Echo Hawk, assistant secretary of the US Department of the Interior.

The land had been held in trust by the Fort Sill Apaches of Oklahoma since they purchased it in 2002. Plans for an Indian gaming casino have been rumored off and on since then.

At a December "town hall meeting" held by the Apaches in Deming, it was clear that the casino plans have a lot of popular support locally.

"About 200 people showed up, and only two spoke out against it," says an elated Gary Meyers, manager of the Apache Homeland Café in Akela. "According to lawyers and others with experience, it was very unexpected. You never see that overwhelming support. Fifty-fifty is usually what it is."

The enthusiasm for the casino is understandable in job-hungry Luna County, with an unemployment rate in winter that hovers at about 20%.

As a commentator from Deming on the Fort Sill Apache website complained, "This place is drying up."

But many people right now are asking exactly what "reservation status" means for the tribe.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), who has opposed the casino since the tribe first made moves to create one, said in a letter to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar that the proclamation was merely a "formality" and that it "clarifies the limits of federal, tribal and state jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters on tribal trust land."

(The office of Rep. Tom Udall [D-NM], who is co-vice chair of the House Native American Caucus and a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs, did not return phone calls related to this article.)

Meyers has an interpretation that is miles apart from Bingaman's. "I hear that makes all the difference," he says about the proclamation. "It's a game-changer." Promotional materials for the tribe openly refer to their "intent to build a casino and cultural center at Akela, NM." And the *Deming Headlight's* report on the Apaches' town hall meeting on Dec. 7 was titled, "Casino Plans Pick up Speed."

Nelda Darling of the press office of the US Department of the Interior says only that the proclamation "means they have jurisdiction over the land." She explains, "The reservation proclamation was triggered by terms of the 2007 agreement the US reached in connection with litigation in 2007 filed by the Comanche nation."

Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk has been considered conservative by some commentators when he comes to expanding tribal gaming. He says he judges gaming petitions on a "case by case basis."

On Sept. 2 he rejected the Jemez Pueblo casino plans in Anthony. On the same date he approved two tribal casino requests in California and rejected another in that state.

In 2002 the Fort Sill tribe purchased the 30 acres at Akela in trust with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. At that time the tribe's officials signed a document stating that they would not build a casino on the property.

"Governments change their minds, and that is what we did," explained tribal chairman Jeff Haozous after the tribe set up 50 electronic bingo



machines in their stucco building off I-10 in early 2008. (He formerly used the name Houser, but recently changed it back to the original name.) The Fort Sill Apaches in Oklahoma already have a casino in Lawton that made \$10 million annually as of 2008.

On Feb. 28, 2008, Gov. Bill Richardson sent in state police cars to block the entry to the casino after the tribe started using the machines.

In early April 2009, the Apache Homelands Café started paper bingo with 60 or so clients a night. But this, too, was closed down by the state in late September. There was little subsequent news until the reservation proclamation in November last year.

Gov. Susana Martinez and some of her staff are planning discussions with the Fort Sill Apache representatives at an undetermined time.

The negative comments at the December meeting in Deming were few, but worth consideration.

One attendee who lives in Akela questioned whether the water supply at the Akela site would be adequate for an operation of the size the tribe envisions. Rose Commodore, women's transitional home director and a former clergywoman, spoke up about the problem of gambling addiction, and the tribe responded that it would supply funds for treatment.

Steve Fox was the only attendee totally opposed to the casino. He grew up in Deming but lived in the Northwest for years, where he says he saw the effect of casinos on small towns first-hand.

Asked about his comments in a followup phone interview, Fox says, "Everyone has a positive and negative viewpoint of this. The only difference is, I've seen the other side of this, and it's not pretty. Nobody should be naïve

enough to believe it will benefit the working poor.

"It's going to compete with the restaurants [in Deming]," he adds. "There will be more bankruptcies. That means they write off debt to local businesses."

Tribal Chairman Haozous says the economic impact on the Deming area will be positive, with a significant number of jobs added. "If we get approval to operate a casino there, we will continue to manage it, although most of our staff will come from New Mexico," Haozous says. "We intend to have at least 60 employees within 45 days and 300 employees in less than a year."

Fox is skeptical, however. "They're not going to hire 300 people from Deming," he claims. "A large number of employees will be out of Las Cruces. A lot of people in Deming won't pass the drug test, and there'll be lots of absenteeism."

In any case, it's clear that groundbreaking for a casino at Akela isn't going to happen soon.

"We need the approval of the federal government, the governor and the New Mexico legislature," says Haozous.

"They need to follow all the rules," says Darling of the Department of the Interior. "There's a lot to it. They need to prove they have financial backing, among other things."

Despite opposition, the Fort Sill Apaches have multitudes of fans in Deming rooting for the casino. The complex web of negotiations and lobbying will probably take a few years to carry out, and the result is still very uncertain. ❦



Tribal chairman Jeff Haozous. (Fort Sill Apache photos)



Marjorie Lilly writes the Borderlines column.

TUMBLEWEEDS

The Little Library That Could

The Gila Valley Library plans a major expansion.

After eight years of searching, the Gila Valley Library seems to have found a better space for its operation—the former Hidalgo Medical Building next door to the Gila post office. Now the challenge is to turn that space into a more library-like place, for which the small-town library is planning its biggest fundraising event ever. Its “ART-full Auction” will be Feb. 18, 3-6 p.m. at the Gila Senior Center. The new building will also be open for tours with volunteers available to answer questions and explain the reconstruction plans.

The new space, a portable building, was constructed and put into use in 1998 by Dr. Douglas Gorthy, a Silver City dentist. In recent years it has been the home of the Hidalgo Medical Service, which recently moved into a new building next door. HMS has offered the building to the Gila Valley Library as a five-year lease at a dollar per year. Although structurally sound, the building needs renovation in order to serve as a library.

The first phase of the remodeling process will be removal of interior walls to maximize available space. That will also allow setting aside a children’s area. “Our current space consists of one aisle with pillows on the floor,” says volunteer Phyllis Reiche. “In the new space we’ll have short wooden shelving, small chairs, a rug with space for reading, playing games, listening to stories, or whatever, and space for things on the walls. Somewhere we’ll also show off the two murals created by our kids during the last two years.”

At the other end of the building, the Southwest section will double in size. That will make room for handmade maple cabinets, designed and built for the library by Jay Slavec, added last year as space for storage of rare books and local materials. But the shelves currently have to reside in the community center.



The Gila Valley Library’s future home (above) and inside its current 400-square-foot space (below left).

This is a major increase in size for the library, which opened in July 2004 in a former storeroom in the back of the Gila Community Center. With holes in the walls, a falling ceiling and a truckload of junk to deal with, the outlook was not promising. But the library board and many volunteers stepped up and created a useable room. Donated books, a desk and old law-library bookshelves filled the 14-by-19-foot space almost immediately. Florence Norris volunteered to sit at the desk as librarian during the first critical year and a half.

In 2007, volunteer “library guys” moved some walls and plumbing, insulated, painted and turned an unused bathroom into a room for fiction, audio books, and three patron computers. That brought the library to its current 400 square feet. By 2010 the annual book circulation was over 10,000, and the collection was approaching 6,000 volumes.

“We don’t expect a lot of growth in numbers of volunteers or patrons at the new library,” says Reiche, “but we hope those we have will like what we’ve done and continue to be with us for many years to come.”

The fundraising auction will include two Toyota vehicles, a pickup and a station wagon. A silent auction will conclude about 4:30 p.m. and be followed by the live auction, which will also include art, jewelry, services and donated goods. The library is still accepting items for both the silent and live auction; donations to the nonprofit organization are tax deductible. Call Reiche at (575) 535-4340 to donate.



The Tumbleweeds Top 10

Who and what’s been making news from New Mexico this past month, as measured by mentions in Google News (news.google.com), which tracks 4,500 worldwide news sources (trends noted are vs. last month’s total hits; * indicates new to the list). Number in parenthesis indicates last month’s Top 10 rank. It’s all Susana Martinez, all the time! We’ve even started tracking “Susana Martinez + vice president” (19 hits this month, more than any of the US Senate candidates).

1. (5) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—585 hits (▲)
2. (1) **Virgin Galactic**—439 hits (▼)
3. (7) **Ex-Gov. Gary Johnson + president**—293 hits (▼)
4. (8) **New Mexico + Border Patrol**—226 hits (▲)
5. (3) **New Mexico drought**—181 hits (▼)
6. (2) **Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson**—171 hits (▼)
7. (9) **Billy the Kid**—159 hits (▼)
8. (-) **New Mexico illegal immigration**—145 hits (▲)
9. (10) **New Mexico wildfires**—137 hits (▼)
10. (-) **New Mexico driver’s licenses**—122 hits (▼)



Corrections

Restaurant writer Peggy Platonos writes: “In the Café Un Mundo restaurant review in the January 2012 *Desert Exposure*, I erroneously referred to owner Julie Good’s husband as Manuel Rodriguez. In fact, his name is Manuel (“Manny”) Martinez. My apologies to Manny for giving him a new surname, and to Julie for hooking her up with a complete stranger. I made no mistake about the food they produce, however—it is creative, tasty and nutritious.”

In January’s article on Deming artist Brad Simms, the first name of a portraitist and teacher under whom he studied was incorrect. It should be *Nelson Shanks*.

Contact us!

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Doing It Yourself

The lack of self-sufficiency in exploring the outdoors.

I define "self-sufficiency" as the ability of someone to be able to do for themselves without the benefit of others. Over the past couple of months I've been challenging readers on their ability to be self-sufficient in light of a possible catastrophe. I was cogitatin' over that premise this morning and began to wonder: Whatever has happened to us doing for ourselves?

Then I remembered a reader who had confronted me in person maybe back about a decade ago. He chided me for not writing more articles giving specific details on where to hike in Grant County; he said that he had only lived hereabouts for a year or so, and he was a hiker but didn't know where to go. He opined that it was my obligation as a writer to inform him and others of such.

I thought to myself that I had found my own places to explore and find—why couldn't this guy do the same?

In fact, as an outdoor writer, I often get that type of attitude from others. They want me to give them a shortcut to their outdoor experiences. They ask me to personally take them, or to show them where, how or even my secret spots to have success.

For instance, I've had more than one person who was traveling with me remark that they were amazed at how many roads and places I had been on and to. Some had lived here for years and yet they had never done so.

I usually answered that I just took the time and effort to go exploring every chance I got. For me to do this is the greater part of my outdoor experiences—to find and explore for myself without the benefit of others.

I do wonder why others who supposedly love the outdoors don't do the same?

I've come to my own answers and conclusions concerning this question—to you they may or may not be, accurate assessments:

1. They are just too lazy to go out and do for themselves; the effort is just too much.

Many years ago I had a friend here who sometimes acted as a guide for eastern hunters. He often related to me, at his amazement, that he was sometimes asked by overweight, out-of-shape, rich hunters even to shoot the game for them! It was just too much effort for them. He always refused, and in the end, it ruined him on guiding.

It's not always the client who has this enablement attitude; sometimes the guide will be found with it. A coupla years ago, I had just shot a Barbary sheep on the top of a steep mountain ridge, far above me and the guide.

He was amazed when I started up the mountain to retrieve it, telling me that nearly all of his clients waited for him to go fetch the animal. When we got up to the critter, I was beginning to prepare to help gut and drag the animal and he insisted that I not help. His reasoning was that no one ever did such and he wasn't used to it. He insisted that he do it all. You see, he had been acclimated to enabling all of those other people and he didn't know how to deal with a person who actually wanted to get involved.

And it's not just hunters who fall into this class; hikers and mountain bikers and others do the same. They want good trails to navigate but they are nowhere around when the time comes to do the hard work of clearing and repairing those trails!

Usually it is the same dozen folks who cut the fallen trees, rejuvenate forgotten springs or dig erosion barriers on hillsides.

2. Some people are just too darn busy and they treat their outdoor time like it was work.

Because of this, they rely on others to arrange everything for them, even if it's only their spouse doing the pre-packing and cooking so they can just jump in and go.

If you happen to travel to California and you get to the eastern half at Friday afternoon, you will

see a countless line of folks speeding towards the Colorado River, pulling their toys behind them. On Sunday afternoon, they will be speedily heading the other way.

And it is not just California and other urban areas that are guilty of this; many a time I have heard Grant County folks expressing the same sentiment. They will say that they only have Sunday off to "enjoy" the outdoors, and they must do it with gusto and speed! I wonder if it is ever relaxing for them to do so?

3. Another reason is fear. Some folks don't wanna do or try the outdoors; they'd rather someone else do it first.

I learned about "honey-holes" in the Gila River by donning a pair of old Levis and a pair of sneaks and wading down the stream without benefit of prior knowledge. Along the way, I'd find treacherous spots and deep places that bogged me down. In winter I even came across pockets of quicksand, however rare they were.

But in the process, I had fun and I found good fishin'. In the end, I have good memories I'd never trade for anything.

4. The last reason for no self-sufficiency is plain old ignorance. People just don't know how. For those of you in this boat, I say to just go out and do it, and in the process you will learn.

I learned to drive in mud and snow out here in that way. Sure I got stuck, and sometimes I got really good and stuck.

One of my most memorable days was the time about 15 years ago when I was hunting in January. It was a frozen road and travel was good. But when I came out on that same road along about 10 a.m., the ground had thawed. I hit a soft spot and sunk to the truck body.

To make a good story short, I lay on my stomach in cold, wet mud and with a small shovel I dug out the entire undercarriage by hand. It took hours. Then I had to cut and lay branches along the road before my path so my tires wouldn't sink again.

It sure ruined my day of hunting, but it created such a good memory and I learned a lot that day. I won't do that again! The experience and the learning were more valuable than any of my plans. I find myself telling that story often.

Months ago I was talking to two of the editors for well-known outdoor magazines I sometimes write for. I related that when I was a kid in the 1950s, I read magazines like *Argosy*, *True Men* and *Outdoor Life*.

Virtually all the articles were about adventures the writers had experienced and all of them were quite entertaining. I lamented that today's magazines aren't entertaining; they are informational.

Almost every article is about how to, where to, how much, what to buy, and whom to do it with. People want to be told everything, and not have any surprises. It happens with hiking mags, RV mags, rockhounding mags.

People don't know how to be self sufficient any longer, or at least, there are dang few who are. I find that both sad and bewildering.

And while I occasionally do write a column that is aimed at giving information, my main goal is to first make you think for yourself. Notice that I didn't say, make you agree with me! Second, my mission is to entertain you, if only for a brief minute as you read what I penned.

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

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



HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • HENRY LIGHTCAP

Driven Crazy

Lightcap takes on the driver's license controversy.
Batten down the hatches!

It is a well-documented fact that every driver on the road is a complete, blathering idiot, with the exception of you. I mean, how many times have you found yourself in a sputtering rage over the mouth-breathing windshield ape who runs a red light in front of you? How often have you jammed your brake pedal through the floor to avoid colliding with a seven-dollar car that hasn't been graced with operating brake lights since the Carter administration? The road is filled with morons (except for you, of course) and it's a mystery where these people got their driver's licenses. Thankfully, they don't have to rely on Cracker Jack boxes anymore—they can still get a driver's license from the state of New Mexico, even if they aren't from the United States!

To those strict constitutionalists who confuse "illegal" with "against the law," it might be puzzling, but it's true: Undocumented immigrants can get a valid New Mexico driver's license in our state. Foreign nationals who want to obtain US identification no longer have to rely on seedy, back-alley document forgers to get their papers; they just have to rely on a seedy, back-alley Motor Vehicle Department offices like the rest of us.

As part of his diligent campaign to become the Supreme Bonehead of the Galactic Empire, then-Governor Bill Richardson decided in 2003 that it'd be cool to issue driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, because they like to party. State legislators, eager to get to La Fonda in time for Bottomless Margarita Night, signed off on the idea before hitting the door. Since then, more than 80,000 driver's licenses have been issued to foreign nationals.

Governor Susana Martinez isn't a fan of Governor Richardson's program. She tried to repeal the law last year, but met with a wall of resistance by people claiming to represent New Mexicans. And by "New," I believe they mean, "recently arrived without official welcome." And by "Mexicans," they mean people from south of the border.

Although by all accounts Governor Martinez seems to be Hispanic, she was labeled a racist (not likely) and a heartless conservative (redundant). Representatives from totally objective organizations such as "Somos Un Pueblo Unido" and the "Mexican American Legal Defense Fund" claim that giving licenses to illegal immigrants is way smart because it encourages them to get auto insurance and... well, that's about all they've got. But they are pretty sure a repeal would be racist and anti-Mexican.

Unfortunately, insurance isn't high on the list of these newly licensed foreigners (or the average New Mexico citizen, either). According to a study released by the Insurance Research Council in April 2011, New Mexico has the second-highest rate of uninsured motorists at 26%. Neighboring Arizona, which limits driver's licenses to actual

Americans, is at 12%.

Surely, somebody has a solid reason we should give license to illegal immigrants, right? Tragically, according to a 2010 poll by the *Albuquerque Journal*, you don't: 72% of New Mexicans are against it. When the Martinez administration sent out 10,000 letters to these foreign drivers asking for documentation, a third of them were returned as undeliverable. Fraud? Nah.

So what now? Well, the same legislators who sponsored the bill last year to repeal this law are proposing the same legislation again, and the vocal minority is already hauling out the dead, bloated carcasses of their same nonsensical arguments against repeal. Racist blah blah, profile yada yada, discriminatory yap yap.

I double-checked just to be sure that the scotch hasn't eaten too many holes in my tender cerebellum, and sure enough: "Illegal" is still defined as "forbidden by law or statute; unlawful, illicit." So to be clear, Gov. Richardson agreed to give official, legal identification documents to individuals who are on our soil "illegally" according to federal law. There is no benefit to the people or the government of New Mexico to give official documents to these individuals, and there is evidence of widespread fraud already taking place. Law-enforcement officials worry that this program can lead to human trafficking, organized crime and national security concerns, all things that are classified as growth industries in our country. Talk about an unorthodox way to create economic opportunity!

As a sweet bonus for the law-abiding, legal residents of New Mexico, if the state doesn't get this ironed out soon, our licenses will no longer work as a form of federal identification. That means the next time you go to the airport, you'll have to produce your passport just to fly to Illinois. *Bienvenidos a los Estados Unidos, paisano.*

New Mexico has a long and glorious history of relaxed standards on the road. Drunk driving, expired tags, no insurance—anything generally goes. As a native, I have learned to adapt to this behavior, and even find it amusing at times. But giving driver's licenses to undocumented aliens is tantamount to giving gypsies the keys to your home when you leave town. It's time for Santa Fe to forego the Bottomless Margaritas and take care of business. 🍸

Henry Lightcap
flashes his ID in Las
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ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene

The latest area art happenings.

Silver City & Grant County

It's Chocolate Fantasia time once again in Silver City (see separate story), and local galleries are planning special treats in addition to their, well, treats. **Seedboat Center for the Arts** will feature music in the courtyard by Baxtalo Beng with AlmaZazz, Feb. 11, 12-2 p.m. 214 W. Yankee St., seedboatgallery.com.

At **Art & Conversation**, the special feature is who's actually making the goodies. The gallery will feature Curious Kumquat chocolatier Adam Arrey, Feb. 11, 12-4 p.m. 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.

"**The Sweetheart Show**" will feature paintings by Gay Marks and sculpture by Jim Palmer in a temporary gallery space at 204 S. Bullard St. (south of Jalisco's), with an opening reception Feb. 10, 5-7 p.m. The show will then be on view during Chocolate Fantasia, Feb. 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

This month, **Ginny Wolf Studio and Gallery** is featuring "The Life of a Tree" series by local artist LeAnne Knudsen. 108 W. Yankee St., 313-5709, www.ginnywolf.wordpress.com.

Kate Brown Pottery & Tile Showroom in the Mimbres will have a Valentine's Day sale, Feb. 11-12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. 536-9935, katebrown@gilnet.com.

The **Francis McCray Gallery of Contemporary Art** at Western New Mexico University is hosting a sound installation exhibition by Suk-Jun Kim titled "Nostophobia," through March 1. Kim, assistant professor of sound at WNMU, is a composer and sound artist. He was born in Taebaek, South Korea, and earned his PhD in composition from the University of Florida. Prior to moving to Silver City, Kim was a visiting research fellow at Leverhulme in Aberdeen, Scotland. In 2009 he was in the DAAD Artist-in-Berlin program in Germany. McCray Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; the special installation in the large gallery will be open only on Fridays, however. 538-6517. Kim will also present the latest



Sculptures by Jim Palmer (above, "The Farrier") and paintings by Gay Marks will be featured in "The Sweetheart Show" at 204 S. Bullard St. in Silver City.

in the Artist Lecture Series at WNMU's Parotti Hall, Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Las Cruces & Mesilla

The **Las Cruces Museum of Art** will be the first stop for a special centennial exhibit, "100 Years of Art in New Mexico," opening Feb. 3 and continuing through April 14. The exhibit celebrates a century's worth of art work and has been specifically collected for New Mexico's 2012 centennial commemoration. Sponsored by the Museum of Art and the New Mexico Humanities Council, the exhibit will move on to the Carlsbad Museum and Art Center at the end of April, continuing there until August 13. 491 N. Main St., 541-2137, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

The **Branigan Cultural Center** presents an exhibition of works by local student artists, on display from Friday, Feb. 3,

when there will be an opening reception from 5-7 p.m., through Saturday, Feb. 25. Many of the artists started testing their talents by working primarily in clay, then broadened to work in other media including painting and ceramics. 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, las-cruces.org/museums.

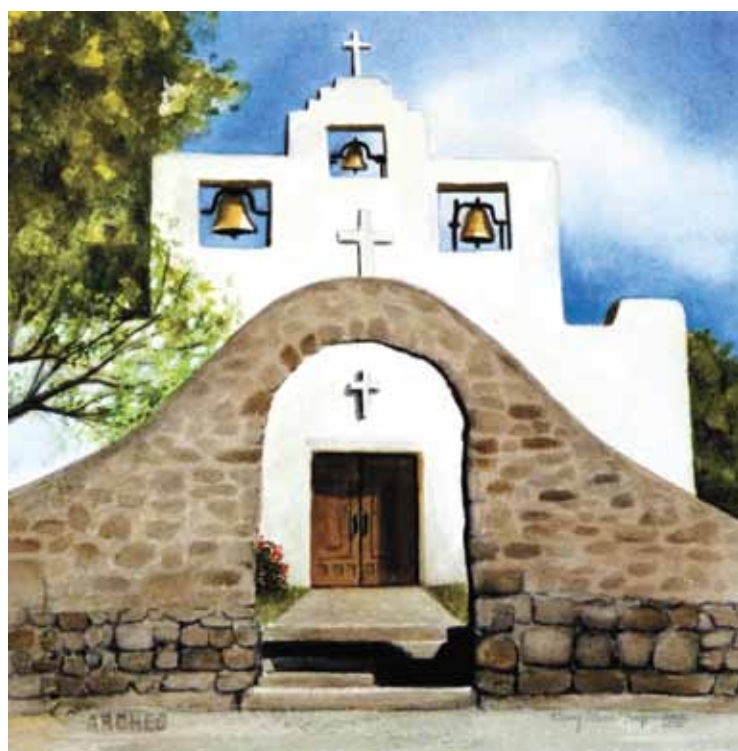
Members of the Las Cruces-based New Mexico Watercolor Society's Southern Chapter will be showing their works all over town in February, which is For the Love of Art Month (see separate story). Flo Hosa Dougherty, member and owner of the **Blue Gate Gallery**, will host the society's themed show, "For the Love of Southwest Gates & Doorways." The show features original work by 12 members including Dougherty, Penny Thomas Simpson, Beverley Pirtle, Mayanna Howard, Arlene Tugel, Lynn Berkeley, Tom Gerend, Gindy Farmer, Penny Duncklee, Mary McCoy, Jan Addy and Robin Lee Makowski. The eight-inch square paintings are all framed



"Baby Orangutan" by Dorothy Zitzler is among the student works featured at the Branigan Cultural Center.

identically and priced at \$150. The show opens during the First Friday Ramble, Feb. 3, with an reception from 5-7 p.m., and runs through Feb. 27. 311 N. Downtown Mall, 523-2950.

Mike and Mary LeBlanc, owners of **La Iguana**



Members of New Mexico Watercolor Society's Southern Chapter will be exhibiting this month at venues including Blue Gate Gallery, La Iguana and the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce. In April, five members including Penny Thomas Simpson (left, "St. Francis") will be part of the prestigious Western Federation of Watercolor Societies show in Las Vegas, Nev., April 13-May 19 at the Marjorie Barrick Museum on the UNLV campus. Along with Simpson, who won the Award of Excellence, members selected for the show are Robert Highsmith, who won Best of Show, Robin Lee Makowski, Marie Siegrist and Nancy Frost Begin.

Restaurant, have invited watercolor society members to show during February and March. Up to 50 pieces will showcase the diverse talents of the watercolorists. This show also opens on Feb. 3, with a reception from 5-7 p.m. 139 N. Main St., 523-8550.

Watercolor society members will also again be showing at the **Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce** building, 760 W. Picacho Ave., 524-1968. New work will hang beginning in February.

The **Tombaugh Gallery** of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces is featuring "Arcs and Echoes" by contemporary painter Jill Somoza, through March 2. 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281.

Las Cruces Arts Association will be opening its season with a membership show at the grand opening of **Mountain Gallery and Studios** on Feb. 3 from 5-7 p.m. This show celebrates the 50 years that LCAA has been together as a group and is the first show at Mountain Gallery, the new home of the group, which will have monthly shows there. The gallery's regular hours are Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 138 W. Mountain St.

In February, **Mesquite Art Gallery** owner and artist Mel Stone confesses to "going a little nuts,"



The Tombaugh Gallery in Las Cruces is exhibiting "Arcs and Echoes," works by contemporary painter Jill Somoza

with a show featuring Stone's own photography taken with the iPhone 4s and manipulated using free apps. There will be a reception for the show, "iPhon-e-graphy," on Feb. 4, 4-6 p.m. 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502 or (701) 235-8381, www.mesquiteartgallery.com.

The **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery** will feature local artists Bert Gammill and Karin Bradshaw this month. Gammill is a multimedia watercolorist and oil painter who depicts farm animals and subtle landscapes. Bradshaw's work features traditional Pueblo designs burned into symmetrical gourds adorned with authentic gems. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933.

Nopalitos Galeria will continue its "Platicas" series Feb. 5 featuring Clarence Fielder at 3 p.m. followed by the Fielder family exhibition, showing all month. Receptions for will include the "Love of Art" on the Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. and "Pretty in Pink" by Melanie Stone Jack and "Jewelry" by Gloria Sovero Olazabal, both Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. Continuing exhibitions at the gallery are "Carousel Art" by Marge Swenson and "Bright Lights, Bright Future" by Jesse Griffith. Entries for the Love of Art show are still being accepted until Feb. 5; for details, e-mail nopalitosgaleria@msn.com or call 650-5690. 326 S. Mesquite.

The "Landcuts" exhibit opens on Friday, Feb. 10, from 4-6 p.m. at **Unsettled Gallery and Studio**



Works by Heather Bradley are featured at Unsettled Gallery and Studio in Las Cruces, along with works by Karina Hean.

ARTS SCENE continued on next page

Put a face with your chocolates rather than just chocolate on your face! Art and Conversation is proud to introduce you to Adam Arrey, our chocolatier for 2012 from the Curious Kumquat!

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Our Cover Artist

Mimbres artist **Michael Murphy** has worked professionally in various artistic mediums for more than 25 years. After a 15-year career as a freelance illustrator working for design firms, ad agencies and publishers, he turned to fine art. Painting, drawing, sculpture, prints, jewelry, furniture making and constructions have all preoccupied him at various times. His work is sold all over the world and is featured online at www.republicofcrainia.com. Locally, his work can be seen at Ginny Wolf Studio & Gallery, 108 W. Yankee St. in Silver City, 313-5709.



More works by cover artist Michael Murphy. Above: "Meditation (on a Black Cat Theme)". Left: "Early Crowd"

ARTS SCENE continued

dio. The featured artists are Heather Bradley and Karina Hean, MFA graduates from New Mexico State University. The exhibit runs through March 3. 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285.

Watercolor and collage artist Laurel Weathersbee will demonstrate her "quilt block" collage process at **Adobe Patio Gallery** on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 1-3 p.m. 1765 Avenida de Mercado, 532-9310, www.adobepatiogallery.com.

Las Colcheras Quilt Guild will present its 10th judged quilt show, "A Century of Enchantment," Feb 10-11 at the Convention Center, featuring 200 quilts, a boutique and vendors. Hours are Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. On Feb.13, author and quilt teacher Kimberly Einmo will give a lecture, "Jelly Rolls & Precuts: A Recipe for Design Success," at 7 p.m. at Trinity



Laurel Weathersbee will talk about her "quilt block" collage process at Adobe Patio Gallery on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Lutheran Church. Admission is \$5.

The **Preston Contemporary Art Center** in Mesilla will close Feb. 18. Its final exhibits are "The Last Picture Show," a juried regional exhibition of the works of 64 artists from the Southern New Mexico/El Paso region, and its November Exhibition. 1755 Avenida de Mercado, 523-8713.

All phone numbers are area code 575 unless otherwise indicated. Send arts news to events@desertexposure.com.



Mesquite Gallery features photos by Mel Stone (above, "Roadrunner") shot and manipulated on an iPhone 4s.

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<p>Yankie Street Artists 103 W. Yankie 519-0615</p>			

ARTS EXPOSURE

Love Art?

It's your month in Las Cruces and Mesilla.

For the Love of Art Month, a regional celebration and appreciation of the arts, returns to the Mesilla Valley for the 14th year in February. Created by ArtForms Artists Association of New Mexico, the month-long event strives to encompass art in all its forms in locations both expected and unexpected. For the Love of Art Month has a major show at the new Las Cruces Convention Center for the first time this year, and Leap Day, Feb. 29, will be celebrated with a concert by the New Horizons Symphony at New Mexico State University.

For the Love of Art Month Chairperson Cherie Gamboa says, "One of our goals is to showcase not only visual arts, but performing arts. We've certainly accomplished that this year. When you look at our Event Guide, you'll see a wide range of art exhibits, multiple musical performances and concerts, poetry readings, and plays."

The celebration kicks off with the opening of the ArtForms Member Exhibition at the Branigan Cultural Center Friday, Feb. 3, from 5-7 p.m. during the monthly Downtown Ramble, accompanied with music by American Indian flutist Randy Granger. Then, every Saturday from 1-2 p.m., ArtForms and the Branigan will present something special: Voz Vaqueros, "The Singing Men of Las Cruces," performs on Feb. 4; local flamenco dancers join Lucilene de Geus to entertain on Feb. 11; the percussionists in Ten Plus One perform on Feb. 18; and Sin Fronteras will hold a poetry reading Feb. 25. All programs are open to the public and admission is free. 501 N. Main St.

Also opening during the Ramble—and on display through the month—will be an exhibit by the New Mexico Watercolor Society, Southern Chapter, under the theme of "For the Love of Southwest Gates and Doorways," at the Blue Gate Gallery on the Downtown Mall. Photographs by Peter Herman will be exhibited at the Black Box Theatre illustrating performances of the season past. At the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, the Southwest Calligraphy Guild will exhibit "For the Love of Lettering," calligraphy with mixed media, with an opening from 5-6 p.m. during the Downtown Ramble.

Also on Feb. 3, from 7:30-10:30 p.m., Mikey's Place will present Mikey's Sheesh-Ka-Deesh, an eclectic mix of dance performance, music from the 1940s to present, refreshments, wine from Amaro and art from SumArt Art Co-op. Tickets are \$10, with proceeds benefiting the Performing Arts Scholarship. 3100 Harrelson, www.mikeysplacennm.com.

The Artists of Picacho Hills, one of ArtForms' member groups, will hold its For the Love of Art Show at the Picacho Hills Country Club, 6861 Via Campestre, on Sunday, Feb. 5, from 12-4 p.m. More than 20 artists working in a variety of media will display and sell their works. www.artistsofpicachohills.com.

At the new Convention Center, the ArtForms Show and Sale will feature 50 booths representing the best of southern New Mexico's many forms of art. The show, Feb. 10-Feb. 12, features paintings, watercolors, sculpture, photography, jewelry, metal, wood, fiber art, fractals, gourd art and more. Hours are 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The Las Colcheras Quilt Guild's "Century of Enchantment" show will also be at the center, Friday and Saturday.

Again this year, there are



"Wonderland" by Katja Mayfield, at the Branigan Cultural Center in For the Love of Art Month.

two weekends of studio tours, Feb. 18-19 and Feb. 25-26. Studios are open, with a few exceptions, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. This year 15 local studios will be open for visitors. Studio tour maps are in the Event Guide and available as a download from the ArtForms website.



"Petroglyph Man" by Joanna Bradley will be featured at the Branigan Cultural Center.

Other For the Love of Art events include the City of Artists Promotional Association's "It's All About Art!" exhibition at Lundeen Inn of the Arts and Alma d'arte Charter High School's recycled dumpster creation entitled "Trash the Violence." Individual artists are tucking their work into a variety of places around town, such as Toucan Market, Insta-Copy and High Desert Brewing as part of the Art Around Town Venues.

In performing arts events, the No Strings Theatre Company at the Black Box Theatre offers its 12th annual performance of *Love Letters* on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. 430 N. Downtown Mall, www.no-strings.org.

The Mesilla Valley Film Society offers a free screening of *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 1:30 p.m. at

the Fountain Theatre. The film by Werner Herzog shows the earliest known works of art by humans drawn on the walls of the Chauvet Caves of southern France. 2469 Calle de Guadalupe.

The last day of February—an extra one for Leap Year—brings a free concert by the New Horizons Symphony, directed by Shawn Robinson. "From Russia With Love" features Russian symphonic music performed at NMSU's Atkinson Recital Hall. The Feb. 29 concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Details about these and other activities, including studio tour maps, are in the For the Love of Art Month Event Guide, distributed at locations around Las Cruces and Mesilla. It may also be downloaded from the website www.artform-snm.org.

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ARTS EXPOSURE

Go Wonka-y at Chocolate Fantasia

Annual Silver City arts benefit, Feb. 11, takes on a "Willy Wonka" theme.

Chocolate is supposed to be good for everything from your arteries to your brain, and in Silver City it's also good for the arts. That's because the annual pre-Valentine's Chocolate Fantasia celebration benefits the town's award-winning Mimbres Region Arts Council.

This year's Chocolate Fantasia starts at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11, and will last until 4 p.m. Chocolate Stop maps and empty Valentine boxes (\$2 each for collecting your chocolates) will be available at Chocolate Fantasia Headquarters at the Silco Theater on Bullard Street.

Local chocolatiers create the gourmet chocolates available at each of the 30 participating Chocolate Stops, which include many downtown galleries as well as other shops. A \$20 Sampling Ticket allows you to choose a gourmet chocolate from 20 of the 30 different stops.

During the day the chocolates are judged and awards will be given out at 4:30 p.m. at Isaac's Restaurant, corner of Bullard and Broadway.

Extra fun this year will include live music, Valentine Roller Derby girls giving out kisses, and "Willy Wonka" characters greeting visitors. Buck



Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka and Oompa-Loompas from the 1971 film adaptation, *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*.

Burns of Manzanita Ridge will portray Willy Wonka this year and actors from The Virus Theater will play his official Oompa Loompas. They will also sell chocolate bars with a chance to win "Golden Tickets" inspired by the Roald Dahl story and movie adaptations.

You can also get in on the Wonka-ish fun by dressing up for an Oompa Loompa Costume Contest, open to all ages. Registration will be from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at sponsor Dandelion Wish, 109 N. Bullard. Prizes will be awarded for best costume.

Or you can visit the "Chocolate Factory" at the Lion's Den, where little Oompa Loompas (ages 1 to 11) are welcome for candy making and face painting from 12-3 p.m.

For more information, tickets, or to volunteer to serve chocolate at the event, call the arts council at 538-2505, or visit www.mimbresarts.org.

ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

- Silver City**
- ANN SIMONSEN STUDIO-GALLERY**, 104 W. Yankie St., 654-5727.
- ART + CONVERSATION**, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sundays 12 a.m.-6 p.m. Gallery and gathering space. www.artandconversation.com.
- ARTESANOS**, 211-B N. Texas St., 519-0804. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 12-6 p.m.
- [A]SP."A"OE**, 110 W. 7th St., 538-3333, aspase.studiogallery@gmail.com.
- AZURITE GALLERY**, 110 W. Broadway, 538-9048, Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.azuritegallery.com.
- BLUE DOME GALLERY**, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road (Bear Mountain Lodge, 2251 Cottage San Road), 534-8671. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.bluedomegallery.com.
- CLAYFUL HANDS**, 622 N. California, 534-0180. By appointment. Phoebe Lawrence.
- CLAYMOON STUDIO**, 13 Jade Dr., 313-6959. Marcia Smith. By appointment.
- COMMON THREAD**, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733. Mon., Thurs, Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Retail and gallery space for fiber arts. www.fiberartscollective.org.
- COPPER QUAIL GALLERY**, 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankie and Texas, 388-2646. Tue.-Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Fine arts and crafts.
- COW TRAIL ART STUDIO**, 119 Cow Trail in Arenas Valley. Mon., Thurs.-Sat., 12-3 p.m. www.victoriachick.com.
- CREATIONS & ADORNMENTS**, 108 N. Bullard, 534-4269. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Work by Diane Reid.
- DRAGONFLY STUDIO**, 508 W 6th St., 388-8646. By appointment.
- FENESTRA'S PANES IN THE GLASS**, 102 W. Kelly St., 534-2087. By appointment.
- FRANCIS MCCRAY GALLERY**, 1000 College Ave., WNMU, 538-6517.
- GALLERY 400**, Gila House, 400 N. Arizona, 313-7015. Tues.-Sat., 1-6 p.m. www.gilahouse.com.
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- nywolf.wordpress.com.
- HOWELL DESIGN & GALLERY**, 200 W. Market St., 388-2993. www.anthonhowell.com.
- JEFF KUHN'S POTTERY**, 3029 Pinos Altos Road, 534-9389. By appointment.
- KAREN CARR STUDIO**, 117 W Market St., 388-4505. By appointment.
- LEYBA & INGALLS ARTS**, 315 N. Bullard St., 388-5725. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Contemporary art ranging from realism to abstraction in a variety of media featuring artists Crystal Foreman Brown, Romaine Begay, Christana Brown, Susan Brinkley, Gordee Headlee, Diana Ingalls Leyba, Dayna Griego, Constance Knuppel, Mary Alice Murphy, Phillip Parotti, Betsey Resnick, Teri Matelson, Joe Theiman, Zoe Wolfe, Melanie Zipin. www.LeybalngallsARTS.com, LeybalngallsART@zianet.com.
- LOIS DE LONG STUDIO**, 2309 Paul Place, 388-4759. By appointment.
- LOIS DUFFY**, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The studio and gallery of Lois Duffy presents a unique and thought-provoking view of the world through the eyes of an artist. Imaginative portraits, surreal places and realistic scenes of life. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.
- MARY'S FINE ART**, 414 E. 21st St., 956-7315. Mary A. Gravelle.
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- MOLLY RAMOLLA GALLERY & FRAMING**, 307 N. Texas, 538-5538. www.ramollaart.com.
- OL' WEST GALLERY & MERCANTILE**, 104 W. Broadway, 388-1811/313-2595. Daily 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
- SEEDBOAT CENTER FOR THE ARTS**, 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. info@seedboatgallery.com.
- SILVER SPIRIT GALLERY**, 215 W. Broadway, 388-2079.
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MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY, 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sun. 12-5:30 p.m.
PRESTON CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER, 1755 Avenida de Mercado, 523-8713, www.prestoncontemporaryart.com. Tues.-Sat. 12-5 p.m.
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Sat 2-4 2 pm
 Staged Play Reading
Bird Illustrator by Victoria Tester at the Museum Annex
 For Mature Audiences

Sat 2-11 Chocolate Fantasia at the SC Museum!

Mon 2-13 12 noon
 Centennial Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series
Built to Last: The Eclectic Architecture of Silver City with Susan Berry at the Museum Annex

Sat 2-25 2 pm
 Book Signing: **It's Too Personal for Words** by Bonnie Maldonado




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Image: Georgia O'Keeffe, *On the River (From the River Light Blue)*, 1964, oil on canvas, 40 x 30 in. Collection of the New Mexico Museum of Art. Gift of the Estate of Georgia O'Keeffe, 1987 (1987.312.2)

Organized by the Las Cruces Museum of Art in partnership with the New Mexico Museum of Art, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs. This project is made possible in part by the New Mexico Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities; New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs; and the National Endowment for the Arts; and the City of Las Cruces.




City of Las Cruces www.las-cruces.org/museums

GOOD NEIGHBORS • HARRY WILLIAMSON

The Fire Next Time

Gary Benavidez, Grant County fire management officer, shows how to create "defensible space" around your home to protect it from wildfires.



Gary Benavidez, Grant County fire management officer, is available to assist individual homeowners and neighborhood groups in preparing homes and their surroundings for wildfires. (Photos by Harry Williamson)

I wasn't too worried about my Grant County house burning down until a neighbor referred to it as "toast."

"Yeah, if we get a wildfire coming through here, nothing could save us," she said. "We'd both be goners."

"Just toast, you and me," she added, with a chuckle.

It was during the autumn of 2009, and a few months after I had moved into my small, traditional adobe home in Arenas Valley, near what is locally known as Maude's Canyon. I have slightly more than seven acres that ease down into a small valley where the house and a couple of other buildings are located. The land is packed with junipers, piñons and scrub oak, along with various shrubs and grasses, lots of mountain mahogany and bear grass, plus the usual chollas and prickly pears. A mostly dry arroyo runs on the property's west side, where copses of junipers and oaks are sprinkled amongst the decaying corpses of five gigantic cottonwoods that have crashed down over the years.

All in all, to me, my property is a beautiful high desert mix, gritty and fine and uncompromising.

At least it was until I heard the "toast" comment.

I recently read a scholarly article entitled, "Thinking of Wildfire as a Natural Hazard," which, in some wonderment, poses the question, "How can people move into high fire-hazard areas and not see the danger?"

Ahem.

Until recently I thought "defensible space" was a football term, and "firebrands" referred to Tea Party politicians.

I also read another equally scholarly journal article that identified the 15 most common excuses that owners give for not making their homes safer from wildfires. In the months following the "toast" comment I used all 15 at one time or another, ranging from denial, futility and inability, to aesthetics, discomfort, illegality and a Buddhist tendency not to cut down trees, which is odd considering I'm not Buddhist.

Anyway, these excuses ended on the afternoon of March 8, 2011, the moment the fire truck sirens signaled the Quail Ridge Fire south of Silver City.

Along with thousands of others I realized it could indeed happen here and it could happen on my land.

A deep despair followed.

In last October's *Desert Exposure* I had an article on what neighborhood associations and fire officials were doing to prepare for the area's next wildfire. Included among those interviews was one with Gary Benavidez, Grant County fire management officer, who agreed to visit my property and use it as an illustration of what owners should be doing to better protect their homes.

As soon as we pull off the road onto my long, curving driveway, Benavidez's facial muscle begin to tighten. "My, you do have some work to do here," he says through tight lips.

We clump around through the dense trees. After several heavy sighs and headshakes, Benavidez first talks about moving the stacks of firewood to another spot 30 feet away from the house.

"Imagine what embers would do falling in that dry, seasoned wood," he says.

He points to several stands of tall grass not 10 feet away from the house. "A little bit of wind on grass like that can create flames 8 to 10 feet high," he says. "Grass and embers are big culprits in wildfire house fires."

We walk to the west side near the arroyo, where trees lean this way and that searching for sunlight. Benavidez steps into the pocket of a wildly overgrown clump.

"You need to take some out and trim others. That's a pretty little tree," he says, pointing at one. "I would take that other juniper out. Trim that piñon. Leave this one alone. Already you've opened up some space, and there are less nutrients going to ugly places."

He adds that the rule of thumb is to have at least 10 feet between the tips of the longest limb of trees and bushes.

Benavidez starts by identifying the diseased plants, trees with heavy doses of mistletoe or whose growth has been stunted by competition with others. Get rid of them. Then he goes for aesthetics, not park-like with everything the same distance apart, but what looks pleasing to the eye.

"What you want to do is break up the continuous fuels, which is when vegetation is touching other vegetation," he says. "You can have clumps of vegetation and separate the clumps or you can do it individually, however you want to do it to make it look good."

He says the overall intent is to encourage the fire to drop down to the ground where the grass has been cut and needles, leaves and other debris raked up. "That's what you're doing with defensi-

ble or survivable space. You're taking the fire from the heavy fuels down to the fine fuels, those less than one-quarter inch in diameter where the embers carry less heat."

Benavidez stops walking and turns around with a smile. "And you don't have to be a maniac with the chainsaw. Do it in stages."

Asked how far this defensi-

ble space should extend from the house, he says a minimum of 30 feet, although fire history has shown that 50 or 100 feet is better. "To me, the optimum would be 100 feet," he adds.

Creating this space around the home is, however, only one part of the fire safety puzzle. The other piece is the house itself.

Benavidez says, "The homeowner needs to focus on two things: the fuel immediately surrounding the home, and then the home itself. You can't do one without the other and expect success. They have to go hand in hand."

Work on the house is centered on locating and removing what's referred to as receptive fuel banks—places where firebrands (airborne embers) fall, smolder and ultimately start fires, sometimes days after a wildfire passes through.

"Any crevice or crack, even between the roof and the wall of the house, plus any old, cracking wood, such as found in many decks, are receptive fuel beds for firebrands," he says.

Otherwise, with the demise of wood-shake roofs and the relocation of firewood away from the house, the primary "receptive fuel banks" these days are wood decks, which Benavidez believes can be best protected during a wildland fire by well-placed sprinklers.

Metal, tile and asphalt shingle roofs are okay, but should be swept for pine needles, leaves and other debris. The underside of decks should be cleaned of weeds and debris. Deck openings and all vents should be covered with an eighth-inch wire mesh.

The wind will blow embers into the same places



Top: Benavidez studies a hodgepodge of growth before offering suggestions on creating defensible/survivable space. Above: Once defensible space work is underway, shown here from approximately the same spot, the intent is to drop the fire lower to the ground, thereby reducing flames and the resulting embers.

it blows leaves, such as rain gutters, which should be cleaned several times during fire season.

As he is walking back to his vehicle, Benavidez looks over at the hillside that rises up beyond the arroyo. It's packed with trees and smaller vegetation. Numerous houses can be seen poking through the growth. He talks about how old pictures of this area at the Silver City Museum show 10 to 20 trees to an acre. He estimates the number is now closer to 75 to 100 trees per acre. This is obviously a huge increase in the amount of vegetation—and fuel—that wasn't there before.

"In the Southwest United States we are getting more and more wildland fires every year," he says. "And the main reason that is happening is the exclusion of fire on the landscape."

Benavidez talks about how fire-ring studies on trees from this area show that they experienced a

Left: A major task in creating defensible space around a home is creating space between the vegetation. Gary Benavidez provides some ideas on accomplishing this. Below: Once the work is completed, trees are separated by 10 feet or more, and grass and debris are removed, making it less likely a wildfire would spread.





US Forest Service staff members Keith Matthes, Ellen Brown and Fabian Marco, from left to right, plan a future fuel treatment project on several acres in the Gila National Forest.

fire every six to seven years. The study of a cross-section of a ponderosa pine, conducted by the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research at the University of Arizona, indicates there were 13 fires between 1815 and 1907. Fire burned around the tree an average of every seven years during that 93-year-period.

“Those trees survived all those years because they experienced low-intensity ground fires, which is how nature cleans up, the natural punning process,” he says. “Like it or not, we live in a fire-dependent ecosystem, which means fire is naturally a part of the environment we live in. We are here as guests of Mother Nature.”

Raised in the Bayard area, Benavidez talks about driving to Silver City in the 1960s when there were probably fewer than 300 homes along the way. He now puts that number of homes at closer to 1,500.

“What we have done over the years is add to the natural fuel beds with manmade fuel beds—our homes,” he says.

The points where these two fuel beds meet is now referred to as the Wildland-Urban Interface, or WUI, areas that have mushroomed over the years.

A publication distributed by Benavidez’ office and produced by the national and state forest services describes our situation as follows: “Current vegetative conditions in the Southwest are unnatural and potentially highly flammable. They are the result of a century of suppression and past public values and policies, coupled with a growing trend of people moving to the wildlands. This has caused a fire environment prone to catastrophic fire that will periodically overwhelm our best efforts to prevent and suppress wildfires.”

So what is to be done?

Benavidez and other local forest and firefighting officials recently attended a two-day wildland fire education program in Denver titled “Backyards & Beyond.” The conference was the culmination of ongoing national efforts that have included the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, which led to community-based forest planning and the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. In addition, the Firewise Communities/USA movement, which “shifts the focus

from suppression to mitigation in the ‘home ignition zone,’” was started 10 years ago and now includes more than 700 communities nationwide.

Grant County has a wildfire protection plan, most recently updated in 2009, and Benavidez says various local areas are in the process of trying to become Firewise Communities.

He says these nationwide actions grew out of the horrendous fire season of 1994, when, according to the US Fire Administration, 38 wildland firefighters lost their lives, including 14 killed in a single incident on Storm King Mountain in Colorado.

“It seemed like every time we turned around that year we were losing lives, including three right here in a helicopter crash in the Guide Fire incident,” Benavidez says. Pilot Robert Boomer and US Forest Service firefighters Sean Gutierrez and Sam Smith were killed in the crash in the Black Range near Mimbres.

He adds that 26 national fire review teams formed to study the 1994 fires, compared to the more typical one or two such teams in previous years. “The national fire policy changed from head to toe at every level of government, federal, state and local. It also resulted in some incredible scientific studies.”

Jack Cohen, currently a research physical scientist with the US Forest Service, who was a principal speaker at the Denver conference, headed several of those studies. Among other aspects, his research looked at the impact of large tree-crown fires on wood wall panels that were located at various distances from the blaze. This work led to the creation of Cohen’s Structure Ignition Assessment Model (SIAM) in 1995. In a 1999 research paper he wrote, “Based on severe-case assumptions of flame radiation and exposure time, SIAM calculations indicate that large wildland flame fronts

(e.g., forest crown fires) will not ignite wood surfaces (e.g., the typical variety of exterior wood walls) at distances greater than 40 meters (approximately 132 feet).”

In the same study, Cohen states that firebrands (flying embers) are a “principal WUI ignition factor,” and can originate from wildland fires that are at a distance of a kilometer or more. “Although firebrands may be lofted over considerable distances to ignite homes, a home’s materials and design and its adjacent flammables also largely determine the firebrand ignition potential,” Cohen writes.

Benavidez says at the Denver conference Cohen indicated “his research points towards the fact that in the majority of cases the home ignition is caused by embers.”

FIRE continued on next page

“What we have done over the years is add to the natural fuel beds with manmade fuel beds—our homes.”

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FIRE continued

In Cohen's research papers and articles, including one published in the *Journal of Forestry*, he reached several conclusions, including:

- "The home and its surrounding 40 meters determine home ignitability, home ignitions depend on home ignitability, and fire losses depend on home ignitions.

- "Homes with low ignitability can survive high-intensity woodland fires, whereas highly ignitable homes can be destroyed during lower-intensity fires.

- "Because homeowners typically assert their authority for their home and its immediate surroundings, the responsibility for effectively reducing home ignitability can only reside with the property owner, rather than wildland agencies.

- "If its homes have a sufficiently low home ignitability, a community exposed to a severe wildfire can survive without major fire destruction.

- "Applying the term 'wildland-urban interface' to fire losses might suggest that residential fire threat occurs according to a geographic location. In fact, the wildland fire threat to homes is not a function of where it happens related to wildlands, but rather to how it happens in terms of home ignitability. Therefore to reliably map the potential for home losses during wildland fires, home ignitability must be the principal mapping characteristic."

Both Benavidez and Ellen Brown, fire prevention and mitigation coordinator for the Gila National Forest, say that while federal state and county agencies can provide guidance and information on protecting individual homes against wildfire, the overall responsibility to get the actual work done lies with the homeowner.

"Let me tell you that Grant County is second to none when it comes to its amount of wildland-urban interface," Benavidez says. "We have it from one end of the county to the other. It's obvious we can't build enough fire stations, so fire hydrants are an issue, water is an issue, accessibility is an issue, distance is an issue, and the lack of equipment is an issue.

"Grant County is a very large county, but our volunteer fire departments are doing a tremendous job with the resources they have," he adds.

Brown adds that new homeowners are often unaware what they are getting into. "Unfortunately, many people come out here with the same mindset as when they were in the concrete jungle," she says. "Quail Ridge opened up a lot of people's eyes."

She says that while the Forest Service has provided mechanical timber thinning and prescribed burns over hundreds of forest acres bordering on Grant County, which reduces the fire's intensity and provides added safety for firefighters, that won't necessarily stop fire and embers from reaching homes.

"These projects don't replace what the home-



Ellen Brown, fire prevention and mitigation officer, Fabian Marco, prescribed fire and fuel specialist, and Keith Matthes, fire prevention technician, plan an upcoming fuel treatment project, involving mechanical tree thinning and a prescribed burn, in an area of the Gila National Forest. (Photos by Harry Williamson)

owners and the neighborhood associations do," Brown says, adding, however, that in some cases they have helped.

For example, in April 2011, the Gomez Fire burned through several acres that had previously been treated by the Forest Service near Little Walnut Road in the Dos Griegos area north of Silver City. The fire was controlled by firefighters before it could reach homes less than a mile away.

"The fire had the potential to run up Cleveland Mines Road. It was a success for us," says Fabian Marco, a prescribed fire and fuel specialist in the Gila National Forest.

Keith Matthes, a fire prevention technician for the Forest Service, adds that the projects they are now doing artificially used to be done naturally. "All we're trying to do is mimic nature," he says.

For my part, since Gary Benavidez' visit I have thinned the slope immediately south of my house, putting at least 10 feet between trees and, in the process, revealing the shapeliest little oak tree on the property. I have also completed extensive thinning in the area where Benavidez stood and gave me directions. This work has opened up a view up the valley, while also allowing me to clearly see what will undoubtedly be the final years of my last remaining monster cottonwood.

And as I work, I can pause for a moment, and often hear my neighbor's weed eater chattering away. 🌿

Gary Benavides, Grant County fire management officer, can be contacted at (575) 574-0011 in his office, or at (575) 574-8297 on his cell phone. His email address is gcfiremgmt@gmail.com. The telephone number for Ellen Brown, fire prevention and mitigation coordinator for the Gila National Forest, is (575) 388-8262, and her email is ellenbrown@fs.fed.us.

Harry Williamson moved to Grant County more than three years ago after reporting and editing for newspapers in New York, Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas. Feel free to contact him at editorharrydad5@gmail.com with comments or story ideas.



Some scorching is evident on trees in the Dos Griegos area near Silver City that had been trimmed during a fuel treatment project before the Gomez Wildfire in April 2011. All of the trees survived, except for a few smaller ones.

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Border Bonanza

Recovery comes to New Mexico's Bootheel, in the form of \$13.5 million lavished on border security at the dot on the map called Antelope Wells.



Entering Mexico from Antelope Wells, but there's nothing but the port of entry on the other side either, and 37 miles to the nearest town of Los Janos. (Photos by Tom Barry)

Antelope Wells is the place to go if you want to see the Obama administration's economic stimulus package at work. Three years after the administration launched the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the stimulus funds committed to Hidalgo County are still working. But some may question whether the investment in this tiny, unincorporated dot on the map—where the population apparently totals two people living in trailers—is the best use of tax dollars.

Despite the \$12.2 million construction project to build a high-tech and well-fortified port-of-entry on the US-Mexico border here, over the past three years fewer people are passing through. Also underway is another ARRA project—the construction of the first “Forward Operating Base” of the Border Patrol in New Mexico.

(By the way, there are neither antelopes nor wells in Antelope Wells, which was named after a distant ranch.)

To see your tax dollars at work and in the process see a bit of New Mexico, including the Big and Little Hatched Mountains (which gave the town of Hachita its name), driving from Silver City, you head south about 140 miles. You'll pass into Hidalgo County, back into Grant County, and then to the southern edge of Hidalgo County—and then on, if you dare, to the Sierra Occidental in Mexico.

On the way you will pass through Hachita, the southernmost “designated census location” in Grant County, and then pass nothing else for 45 more miles until you see the signs for the two stimulus projects at the border: the “ARRA Forward Operating Base” and the “ARRA Point of Entry.”

Nonpartisan economists almost uniformly agree that Obama administration's economic stimulus package helped the nation from falling deeper into the “Great Recession.” Many say, however, that much more federal spending—and more funding directly tied to employment creation and infrastructure improvement—is still needed to stimulate the nation out of its economic doldrums.

It's been three years since the administration

launched ARRA, and many of us may have forgotten its specific goals, which, according to the government's Recovery.gov website, are: 1. Create new jobs and save existing ones; 2. Spur economic activity and invest in long-term growth; and 3. Foster unprecedented levels of accountability and transparency in government spending.

Considering that the total ARRA stimulus package was \$429 billion, the \$17.5 million in ARRA assistance slated for Hidalgo County may not seem like much. Yet at a per capita level, the county—which has received \$3,466 in per capita ARRA stimulus assistance—has made out much better than the national average (\$1,400) or the New Mexico average (\$1,826).

No doubt that Hidalgo County needs recovery and investment—with a steadily declining population (dropping about 18% from 2000 to 2010), the high poverty rate (27%), the closing of the Playas smelter, and the array of ghost towns all underscoring the need.

But ARRA may not have been the county's ticket to recovery.

Of the \$17.5 million slated for the county, Antelope Wells has been the beneficiary of \$13.5 million of this spending in the form of US Army Corps of Engineers projects for the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency of the Department of Homeland Security.

Roads are important in this sparsely populated county—about 1.5 residents per square mile—so it may make good economic sense that the second-largest (\$2.2 million) recipient of ARRA funds for Hidalgo County was the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

Ranking third was Hidalgo Medical Services, which received \$752,000. That grant included funding for the purchase of 30 computers and the training of staff to operate the computers.



A “long wait” for crossings at Antelope Wells—about four cars a days, says a CBP agent.

office (although that's on the Postal Service's short list of planned closures), so assumed optimistically that there would also be other services.

At first glance, though, Hachita seems a ghost town.

The old bar, store and gas station are boarded up, and the lovely stone Catholic church, St. Catherine's, looks long-abandoned and is badly battered.

The rusting hulk of the town's original water tank stands on the town's north side. I did find one resident—a self-identified retired Marine named Mike—sitting in front of his trailer. Looking around 360 degrees at the high desert framed by beckoning mountain ranges, he explained that only a few dozen people remained in Hachita, many having left, according to Mike, because of the dubious water quality of the old privately built water system.

What keeps the town alive is the hope that the upgraded port of entry will mean more traffic, including an increased cattle trade, to and from Mexico, and the promise that the town will someday get a new water system as a result of a USDA grant, which is bogged down in the bureaucratic process.

Sandra Alarcon, the USDA officer in Las Cruces who is in charge of the project, acknowledged that the grant was authorized “some years ago” (she couldn't remember when) and that the water in



Antelope Wells lies about 140 miles south of Silver City, in New Mexico's Bootheel. (Google Maps)

Hachita had “arsenic and other issues.” But she assured me that the grant to the Hachita Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association, created in 2005, while still going through bureaucratic hurdles, would soon be underway.

Lyndon Sims, who directs the water association, says that getting the project going has been like “pushing on rope,” but he too is hopeful that the requests for bids on the project would go out soon. When asked about concerns of “spillover violence” and crime associated with illegal border crossings, he was dismissive, saying that there was “very, very, very, very, very [I counted them] little crime” in Hachita, although some outlying ranches may occasionally experience break-ins by migrants looking for food or water.

Is there much hope for Hachita's revival? Even with all the border-security funding, Sims said that “there are no jobs in the area, and I don't see any coming our way.”

But construction is certainly booming in Antelope Wells. Border security is clearly a higher priority than human development in New Mexico's Bootheel.

There was no southbound or northbound traffic during my visit, and the CBP agent at the old station estimated that they inspect about four cars a day coming from Mexico.

No doubt these ARRA projects are creating new jobs and saving old ones—the first goal of the economic stimulus bill. For the most part, these jobs have gone to MCC/Catamount, a Colorado design and construction firm created in 2008 to “provide comprehensive and diverse services to federal clients.” The ARRA Antelope Wells project has created 24 jobs, according to the government's Recovery.gov.

With respect to “saving” jobs, the multimillion-dollar modernization of the most remote land port of entry on the southwestern border saved the Antelope Wells port from being considered for mothballing, given the low and declining crossing statistics.

The Antelope Wells land port project is part of a \$420 million port-of-entry “modernization” undertaken by Customs and Border Protection after the ARRA funds became available. The upsurge in border-security funding had already modernized and fortified most of the main CBP ports of entry, so the agency directed the stimulus funds toward modernizing 33 minor ports, mostly on the northern border and including three little-used ports of entry on the southwestern border. Many of the ports undergoing modernization averaged one to two arrests per year, and six were scheduled for closure before ARRA money appeared in the CBP account.

The initial ARRA allocation specified \$9.6 million for the Antelope Wells port project, but that rose to \$12.2 million by last September.

The costs of the port of entry are rising, yet the traffic passing through this remote border crossing is declining—down 29% in 2011. Unlike the Santa

“Modernized” \$12.2 million ARRA port of entry at Antelope Wells, including yellow detectors (two pairs) for weapons of mass destruction.





The new "Forward Operating Base" for the Border Patrol.

Teresa and Columbus ports of entry, Antelope Wells registers no commercial or pedestrian traffic. According to the New Mexico Border Authority, 241 private vehicles crossed into New Mexico at Antelope Wells in November.

Rumors in Hachita and among the construction crew in Antelope Wells have it that as soon as the new ARRA port of entry is open, traffic from El Paso and Santa Teresa will be diverted to Antelope Wells. But Marco Herrera of the state's Border Authority doesn't think that likely. "That would be three hours' extra driving," he says, noting too that Antelope Wells isn't authorized to process commercial traffic.

The low crossing numbers raise questions about the need for such an expensive modernization project, while other low numbers—the totals of apprehensions of illegal border crossers and drug seizures—along the New Mexico-Chihuahua border raise questions about the need for the ARRA Forward Operating Base in Antelope Wells.

No statistics are publicly available for CBP and Border Patrol arrests and seizures in the state's Bootheel. Yet overall, the number of border ar-

rests has plummeted over the past several years—even as the Border Patrol is set to expand its presence.

Immigrant arrests in the Border Patrol's El Paso sector (which includes New Mexico) have dropped to near historic lows—about 20-30 a day, according to the Border Patrol. Seven years ago the Border Patrol arrested 76,000 along the New Mexico border—a figure that was down to 6,910 in 2011.

Border Patrol agents also seized 55,264 pounds of marijuana in New Mexico. To put that in perspective, overall marijuana seizures across the southwestern border were

over 2 million pounds.

Despite the sharply diminishing pressure on the New Mexico border—in the form of illegal immigrants and illegal drugs—the Border Patrol is beefing up its presence and infrastructure, especially in the Bootheel. A new Border Patrol district station is being built in Lordsburg to handle the quintupling of agents over the past several years. And, responding to public and political pressure to have the Border Patrol stationed closer to the border, the agency is replicating military strategy and terminology by establishing, for the first time, what it calls Forward Operating Bases or FOBs.

The \$1.2 million FOB in Antelope Wells, which reportedly includes a heliport and horse corral, is well underway. The location of the second New Mexico FOB in the Animas Valley was announced last month.

The border security buildup—rising to nearly \$11 billion spending annually—can also be seen closer to home in form of hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Department of Homeland Security for border patrolling and equipment purchases by the Grant County Sheriff's Office.

Reaching Antelope Wells, not having seen an-

other vehicle in the 45-mile stretch from Hachita, I was greeted by two Grant County patrol cars. The deputies explained that they were on border-security duty in partnership with the Border Patrol and the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office.

Anyone traveling the Bootheel or along the Chiricahuas down to Douglas, Ariz., will see first hand the proliferation of the Border Patrol. In Douglas, residents say that you can now find a Border Patrol agent (or sheriff's deputy) hiding behind every cactus and mesquite bush. But actual recovery and reinvestment are harder to find. ❧

Tom Barry, senior policy analyst at the Center for International Policy in Washington, DC, is author of many books, including The Great Divide, Zapata's Revenge and, most recently, Border Wars, published last year by MIT Press. (See the November 2011 Desert Exposure.) Barry, who lives in Pinos Altos, has been writing on border issues and US-Mexico relations since the late 1970s. He blogs at borderlines-blog.blogspot.com.



New vehicle barrier extending toward Columbus and the "historic" corral at Antelope Wells, constructed when President Ulysses S. Grant opened the port of entry, according to the local legend.

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CULTURE CONNECTIONS • JIM KELLY

Put It in Writing

Local writing groups are creating a lively literary scene.



Members of a Silver City poetry-writers group gather to share their work. (Photos by Jim Kelly)

“Talk’s cheap,” the old saying goes. If what you want to say is really important, put it in writing. Memorialize it.

Apparently a lot of people in the Silver City area take their writing to heart in a big way. A growing number of organized writing groups, each with its own purpose and its own direction, are meeting regularly in schools, homes and coffee shops. Their dedication to the written word may not always be motivated by desire for professional recognition, but it’s obvious dedication just the same.

The writers’ words are sometimes profound, sometimes profane, sometimes provocative. Sometimes their purpose is to get published, sometimes just to work out the kinks in their own personal lives.

Twice a month, as the winter sun is setting, just such a group meets in an out-of-the-way classroom on the WNMU campus. Their moderator is J.J. Wilson, WNMU’s writer in residence, but this is not a writing class by any means.

“This is very deliberately not a class,” Wilson emphasizes, “and in this setting, I’m not a teacher—no formal input.”

The group is open to any and all writers from the community, and it has a regular core of eight or nine, who for the most part have never been published.

“At times, we’ve had as many as 11, with an age range from 11 to 85,” Wilson continues, “I’ve even brought my own stuff, but so far there hasn’t been time for me to share.”

The body of the group is made up of people from many facets of the community. There are working university professors, students and just plain retired folks. Each gets a chance to share his or her work for five to seven minutes, following which the group observes one minute of silence for the other group members to get their comments together.

“We try to keep it positive, keep the comments constructive,” Wilson says, “but sometimes the hardest part is when you can’t think of something positive to say. It only happens very occasionally, but it does happen.”

Short stories and poetry are the most common offerings by the group members, and Wilson notes that some of the writers are better readers than others. “We have one person who really dramatizes her reading well, and some others who are nervous

about reading their work aloud,” he says. “In addition, when a writer reads his or her work aloud, the listeners can miss nuances in the work that would otherwise work well if the listeners were actually reading the piece.”

While Wilson stresses his role in the process is not one of “teacher,” he is more than qualified to comment on the group’s work. An award-winning author in both America and the UK, he encourages the group to focus on each other’s comments, rather than on just his.

He adds, “This is an open-ended process, and we hope it continues for years to come. If individual writers want more feedback from me, they can email me and I will always respond.”

Mark Chu is a WNMU professor who says he really benefits from the writing group. “Without the group structure, I would keep on making the same mistakes. Our leader is very supportive and knowledgeable,” Chu notes. “Without him I think we would not know where to go with our work.”

Chu is from Taiwan and has been published in Mandarin, both in nonfiction and, along with his wife, on an e-news website that at its peak had 40,000 subscribers. His ambition is to publish novels.

Chu also says he benefits from the comments of his fellow writers. “I guess I have to swallow my pride sometimes, and it’s really tough, but I believe there are no real overnight successes.”

Hiram Lewis is an accomplished painter and another writer who benefits from the group setting. “The group gives me a bit of a reality check,” he says. “Do they laugh? Do they roll their eyes? Groups also goose me

into writing, and I’m also amazed at the talent and insecurity exhibited by group members.”

In addition to his work with the Wilson group, Lewis has participated in a variety of classes, both online and in person.

“I took a four-session WILL [Western Institute for Lifelong Learning] course just over a year ago and my writing amused me,” Lewis says. “I pursued

it over the summer by finding a generous professor who read my stuff and asked for more. I took two fiction-writing classes and a memoir class online through WNMU and I’m taking another class this spring term.”

As a painter, Lewis has already learned to deal with rejection. “I’ve never sent anything off to be accepted except paintings. I know the sneaky joy of hanging a piece and coming back to find it stored face-to-the-wall because it was deemed ‘inappropriate.’ I know when my slides are rejected to note the judges and not try to work with them any more. I assume that writing is much like that, except the shipping is easier and cheaper.”

Sharon Barr takes part in three writing groups: Wilson’s fiction group, one short-story group and one poetry group.

“I’m a poet who has been writing poems since about 2000, not counting a poem every five years or so since adolescence. Two years ago I started writing short stories and memoir, as well, after I joined a fiction group,” she says, “and I’ve had a few poems published in small academic journals. I’ve won the Ink Spot poetry prize in Las Cruces twice for poems in my category.”

Barr is often surprised and fascinated to hear what others understand from her writing. “It’s of-

ten not what I intended at all, but is its own creation,” she says.

“I love being critiqued,” she continues, “because I make egregious mistakes over and over which others spot immediately, but which I am blind to. The most important thing is that the group requires I put my butt in the chair and produce something for the next group meeting. For a lazy writer like me, that is invaluable.”

Bonnie Buckley Maldonado had her fourth book of verse released last month by Wheatmark Press, and is one of the founding members of the local poetry group. (As evidence of the popularity of such groups, Maldonado’s poetry group is full-up. In fact, some of the former members are in the process of organizing a spin-off group—and they’re full-up, too.)

“I believe my poetry is freer since I am no longer afraid to share it,” Maldonado says. “It’s honed to the essence in comparison to longer philosophical ramblings of the past. I believe the group experience has improved my writing.” (Maldonado will sign her latest book, *It’s Too Personal for Words*, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. at the Silver City Museum.)

Also a published poet, Janet Wallet-Ortiz says the group experience is invaluable. “Quantity, quality, scope!” she emphasizes. “My topics have become less about me and more about social justice and spiritual issues.”

Ted Presler also shares the poetry/fiction connection, though he has most recently focused on his fiction. “It excites me. You can get away with a lot more in fiction,” he remarks, “though I do still have sudden attacks of haiku, sometimes 10-20 of them at a time. It’s like automatic writing.”

Presler has been involved in a number of writing groups, including WILL writing course groups. He’s also on the steering committee for the Southwest Festival of the Written Word (SWFWW), which has been working to bring writing-related events to Silver City.



The poetry-writers group is not only full, but has spun off a second group, which is also full.

“We’re all really excited about this Feb. 8 workshop being jointly sponsored by WILL and SWFWW,” he says. “It’s called ‘Fruitful Questions: Generating writing,’ and is being conducted by Sharman Apt Russell, an award-winning author and creative writing prof at Western.” (See Southwest Storylines, August 2008.)

The workshop will be held from 1-5 p.m., and will cost \$50. The fees will be donated back to the literacy program and the Volunteer

Center. It is designed to be the first in a series of workshops for writers of all ages and levels. A location for the workshop has not been established, but more information is available by emailing maryhotvedt@aol.com.

Still another type of local writing group is composed of the three women who call themselves “The Hysterical Writers Association.” Each has her own style, and even though they are separated by grand canyons of personal differences, they were united by an absolute need to write—and food, of course,” quips Frost McGahey, the more Shakespearian of the trio. She adds, “Writing about Shakespeare is tough. The research is a bitch!”

“When each of us moved here,” explains Mary Hotvedt, “we were working on separate novels about the same thing. They were about a woman who moved to New Mexico. They were about ourselves, really—actually about younger, thinner versions of ourselves.” More laughter.

The third “Hysterical” is Jeannie Miller, who is also the current president of WILL. “I’m stuck,” she confesses with a laugh. “Frost has written two plays and is well into her first novel, Mary is in her second draft of a 400-page novel and I’m stuck.”

“Actually, that’s a good thing right now,” Hotvedt chimes in. “Jeannie can focus better on editing our work.”



Members of the “Hysterical Writers Association” are Frost McGahey, Jeannie Miller and Mary Hotvedt.



The GilaWriters Expressive Writing Group meets at Gila Regional Medical Center.

So far, Miller has been recognized in *Desert Exposure's* writing contest, and McGahey has received an honorable mention in a *Writer's Digest* contest.

For each, the group experience has been both a motivator and an organizer. They agree that, more than anything else, the group setting provides an opportunity for different readers coming at the work from different directions.

"I'm not a historian but I've learned a lot from these two," says McGahey. "My writing experience has been from a business background."

The three agree that there's a distinct advantage to keeping the group small, and that it allows the group dynamic to operate in different ways from a larger group.

"We submit our work electronically a week or more before we meet to discuss it," Hotvedt says. "This allows us to catch errors and track continuity better and submit written feedback prior to our next meeting. With this lead time, we're less likely to write ourselves into a corner."

Miller is not new to the organized group writing experience. Prior to her teaming up with Hotvedt and McGahey she was the director of the GilaWriters Expressive Writing Group at the Gila Regional Medical Center.

This group, now directed by Trish Heck, has a different purpose. The point is "not to create art," the guidelines for the program state. "The objective is to have for our individual use a method of

expression that supports health in every way."

The program started in San Diego, according to Heck, dealing with health issues among patients and caregivers. While the process of writing often helps the writer to express personal feelings and fears, the GilaWriters participants are able to reach a deeper level of depth in their feelings not always available to them, according to the program's guidelines.

"There is no editing," Heck says. "Each piece is considered at its face value and considered to be a work of fiction."

But that's not to say members of this small group of writers, usually four to six in number, are not published authors and poets.

"I've been published in poetry and short story, and in quite a few works of non-fiction," says Gale Green, a three-and-a-half-year veteran of the program.

Another participant, Suzanne Thompson, spent a part of her professional life as a technical writer. Says Heck, "This group provides a sense of ca-



Author Sharman Apt Russell will present a workshop for local writers, "Fruitful Questions: Generating writing," on Feb. 8, co-sponsored by the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning and the Southwest Festival of the Written Word. (Photo by Richard Mahler)

maraderie and privacy for the members, and at the same time it's open to anyone who feels that expressive writing might be healthy for them. This expressive writing program has helped a lot of people deal with a wide variety of personal issues."

The GilaWriters Expressive Writing Group meets at the Gila Regional Medical Center every Monday at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Heck at 538-4072 in Silver City.

The Silver City area has long been known as a center for the fine arts, especially painting and sculpture, but soon the literary arts will be recognized in a new and exciting way. The spring of 2012 will see the inauguration of the region's first poet laureate.

WNMU Writer in Residence J.J. Wilson is heading a seven-member panel that will soon be accepting applications for the first two-year poet laureate post. The process could possibly be completed by late April, National Poetry Month.

The emergence of these and other organized writing groups is further fostering a new wave of literary culture. Cowboy poetry festivals will no doubt soon be joined by classical poetry festivals, and some local writer, as yet unknown, will soon find his or her name on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

Don't think so? Well just ask Philip Connors next time you see him on the streets of Silver City. Just a short time ago he was tending bar here in town and now—you guessed it—he's won praise in the *New York Times Book Review* for *Fire Season*, his account of working as a wilderness lookout here in the Gila National Forest. 🌲

"I believe my poetry is freer since I am no longer afraid to share it. It's honed to the essence in comparison to longer philosophical ramblings of the past."

Jim Kelly is a retired journalist who lives in Silver City.



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HIKING APACHERIA • JERRY EAGAN

Before Boundaries

Exploring the past through maps and memories.



Taylor Mountain, which looms above the Lower Mimbres River. Camp Rio Mimbres was located near the base to interdict Apache movement from east to west through Gavilan Canyon and Cooke's Canyon. (Photos by Jerry Eagan)

Part of an 1885 map of Southwestern New Mexico, showing Silver City in the upper right, "Lordsburgh" and into Mexico.

When I peruse a historical book for possible purchase, I sort the "sheep from the goats" in several ways. The first sort is about footnotes; the second sort is about maps. No maps, no purchase. If you read all 28 articles of mine you'll see I've defined "Apacheria" in terms of its vast size as one of its most important factors. In this article, I want to show how important maps were and certainly are as I "Hike Apacheria."

I began reading history when I was seven years old; I've read *at least* a thousand historical books since. On a recent trip to the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson, I purchased a map that blew my mind.

The map was inked onto a large piece of canvas with grommets and eyelets, so that it could be stretched out onto either an upright wooden frame that might be displayed at the field commander's tent, or perhaps tied down onto a large table so the winds that frequently whip up our part of the country wouldn't blow it off into the sagebrush. The canvas suggested this was truly a field map that was going to be subjected to the rigors of the chase. *This was my kind of map!* Stretched out, the map was roughly six by five feet.

The legend on the map reads: "Outline Map of the Field of Operations against Hostile Chiricahua Indians showing operations from 12th. April 1886 to the Date of their Surrender 4th. September 1886 Compiled and Drawn by Direction of Brigadier General Nelson A. Miles Commanding the Department of Arizona in the office of First Lieut. E.J. Spencer Corps of Engineers Engineer Officer of the Department Oskar Huber Top Assistant Charles Kern, Troop 'K,' 4th Cavalry."

How can a historian write about the locations, movements and people without maps? History's about many things, but at the least, it's about land, people and time. Maps help readers orient them-

selves to the subject at hand. (In the desert Southwest, note how many important features relate to water: arroyos, cienegas, creeks, malpais, playas, streams, rivers.) Maps are vital in understanding the Apache and Apacheria.

I own more than 150 topographical maps and 15 BLM surface-management maps. Each 7.5-inch topographic map shows details of a particular grid that's also laid out on larger BLM maps. The "7.5-inch topos," as I call them, provide me with detail sufficient to understand the contours of the land I hike. Note that those maps we routinely use are "framed" inside a rectangle. Rectangles are common features for us because rectangles fit into our cultural, spatial and temporal world views.

Apaches had no written language. They'd draw pictures in the dirt to show other Apaches how to go from one place to another. They described places in their own ways, often giving places male or female names. But when Apaches scouted for and drew maps for Spaniards, Mexican or Americans and wanted to tell their employers about Apacheria, how did they do that?

I contend that until the Spaniards, Mexicans and Americans came, the Apaches didn't even *think* in terms of right angles, straight or crooked lines as being boundaries. Imagine yourself hiking around that vast area around Fort Cummings and Cooke's Canyon, or the Cooke's Range just north of Deming. I've hiked there 20-25 times in the last nine and a half years. In all these years, I've encountered only six or eight others actually hiking off-road.

On topographical maps, Fort Cummings is surrounded by a "reservation" within a rectangle. Most forts were contained within such boundaries, but the lines were artificial. The Apaches visited those springs at Cooke's for hundreds of years. Ancient ones had preceded them, so trails would have led to those springs. Before the place was overrun with cattle, the water might have stood in a pond, perhaps shaded by large mesquite trees. Perhaps watercress grew on the pond's surface and perhaps that natural food source was included in the Apache name for the place.

I'm not sure what Apaches called those springs. Cooke's Peak was "Standing Mountain," or "White Ringed Mountain," but was *Pachecho de los Mimbres* to Spanish explorer Juan Batista de Anza, who led an expedition into Apacheria in the late 1700s. One of his officers, Capitan Don Joseph

always water and it was reliable.

Much of what we know about Apacheria comes from what Apaches in the 19th century told men such as John Cremony, James Bartlett, William Emory, anthropologist Morris Opler and John Bourke, General George Crook's longtime aide-de-camp, who later became an amateur anthropologist of sorts. These and others, such as Keith Basso and Granville Goodwin, interviewed many Apaches who'd lived in the mid-to late 19th century and were central characters of the Chiricahua Wars.

As readers know, I'm fascinated by how the Apaches moved over the skin of this vast territory before the white man. Information collected by those mentioned above was gained because Apaches spoke about the people, places and things that had been important in those last 100 years of freedom they'd lived in spite of the efforts of Spaniards, Mexicans or Americans to corral them. Some details were undoubtedly teased out by nefarious Anglos or Spanish speakers; some interviewers were men such as the reprehensible James Kirker, who first befriended the Apaches, then turned on them when the "price was right for their scalps."

Others, like Merijildo Grijalva, had been captured and raised by the Apache as one of them. Abducted around age 10, Grijalva quietly stoked his hatred for his captors. A captive for nearly a decade, the young Sonoran was given a chance by Cochise to interact with American soldiers when the Apaches needed an emissary. Grijalva traveled with Cochise and his band for 10 years, so he was careful when he abandoned Cochise and did



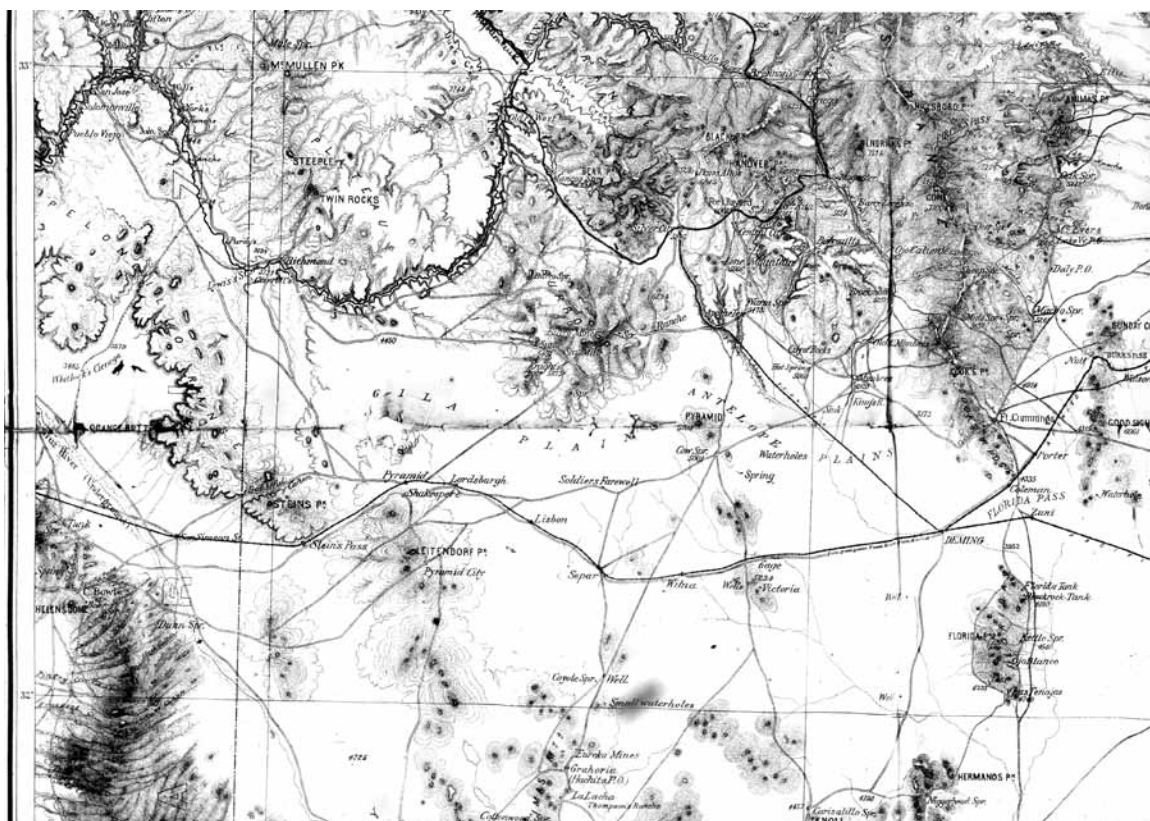
Several of "Bartlett's Giants," drawn by Boundary Commissioner George Bartlett in 1850, following the end of the Mexican War.

so when the old man wasn't looking. Grijalva had never forgotten how the Apaches had killed his family, so he never looked back when he left. As an Army scout, Grijalva led American soldiers to Cochise's favorite rancherias. In the end, Grijalva's knowledge of Cochise's movements was crucial to ending the old man's reign of terror.

Merijildo Grijalva was among the 61 men whom Captain Reuben Bernard led out of Fort Bowie on Oct. 16, 1869, with 15 days' provisions. The record of that march noted: "Marched south on the east side of the Chiricahua Mountains.... On the 8th my marching was entirely at night. During the night of the 19th the moon was entirely obscured by clouds, making the night very dark, causing me to quit the trail and wait for daylight... next morning.

"I started early on the trail and with great difficulty followed it to the top of one of the highest mountains in the vicinity where I found an Indian encampment that had been evacuated but a few days.... After a few hours... I found their trail leading west through the mountains.... Following it about ten (10) miles, I came upon a fresh track. Here I took to the gallop knowing the Indians had seen us." Captain Bernard took off in one direction while Grijalva and his patrol took off the other way. Others simply waited; they'd lost the trail.

Shortly after, the trails were found leading them again to the Indians. Bernard "ordered the guide to take five (5) dismounted, and go to the top of a rocky mesa and see what he could discover.... I looked back to see how the men were getting up the hill and saw several Indians running for the crest." It was at that point in the chase that Bernard ordered all but six men to guard the horses for the



entire column. "Before the men had reached half way up the hill, the Indians had opened fire on the guide and five (5) men, compelling them to take shelter behind rocks. At this, firing commenced from all parts of the rocks above us.... Two (2) men were killed (by arrows and rifle fire) and one (1) wounded." Behind rocks, Bernard's men "made themselves secure."

Firing went on until Bernard split his force, taking 30 men himself to a position where he felt he could flank the Indians and get up to the top of the mesa from that other direction. Bernard wanted to force the Indians to withdraw back up the mesa so that they would not mutilate the bodies of the men killed earlier. Lieutenant John Lafferty was ordered to take some men and make a charge uphill to retrieve the bodies, "but he was shot, the ball taking effect in the right cheek, breaking and taking away the greater portion of the lower jawbone,



A distinctive marker rock that helps the author locate a cave in Gallinas Creek.

the bullet and broken bones greatly lacerating the lower portion of the face." As the day was getting long, Bernard pulled back, knowing he could not assault the steep mesa where the Apaches were located.

This firefight and others on this scout led to the awarding of the Medal of Honor for a dozen or so men from Bernard's command. Lt. Lafferty wasn't one. He survived his wound, but later retired from the Army due to permanent medical disability (see *Hiking Apacheria*, December 2009). The fact that the guide was Merijildo Grijalva clearly helped Bernard find the elusive Apaches.

Somewhere in 1885, when Geronimo et al broke off the San Carlos Reservation, a map like Miles' provided General Crook with a visual representation of the Apacheria he'd dealt with since 1882. Contrary to General Miles, Crook was a field general who rode much of that expanse on a mule, personally chasing the Apaches. General Miles had the map copied; his term of service began in April 1886, and ended (technically) on Sept. 4, 1886, when he accepted Geronimo's surrender. By the end of 1886, all the wayward Apaches were in Florida.

Good maps always have a "legend," which enumerates key facts about the utility of the map through symbols. In the Legend of the Field of Operations map I bought a copy of, a number of specialized symbols are used:

- two signal flags—department headquarters ("temporarily")
- one signal flag—military posts (garrisoned)
- a diamond symbol—military posts (ungarrisoned)
- a pennant—camps for scouting and observation
- a sunburst—heliograph stations
- a dashed line—a line of heliograph communications
- a solid line with small bucket-like objects—telegraph lines
- crossed rifles—Indian fights
- bold and thick lines—railroads
- a long horizontal line—creeks



Looming Palisades in Mimbres Valley. Palisades would be on the eastern rim of el Sierra del Cobre, which provide the copper veins that have been mined since 1802 by Spanish, Mexicans and Americans.

Other symbols indicated wagon roads and trails practicable for wagons, trails practicable for packmules, international and state and territorial boundaries, Indian and military reservation boundaries, prefecture limits in Mexico, and "Limits of Districts of Observation under Command of senior officers therein."

General Miles' map is a gold mine for anyone seeking-
HIKING APACHERIA continued on next page



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7 AM		Commonwealth Club	This American Life
8 AM		Weekend Edition	Weekend Edition
9 AM	Performance Today		
10 AM		Car Talk	Marketplace Money
11 AM	Intermezzo with Leora Zeitlin	Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!	Commonwealth Club
NOON	intermezzo@nmsu.edu	American Routes	A Prairie Home Companion
1 PM	Afternoon Classics with Julie Amacher	World Café	Car Talk
2 PM		This American Life	Fresh Air Weekend
3 PM		All Things Considered	All Things Considered
4 PM	All Things Considered with Vanessa Dabovich	Fronteras: A Changing America Images	Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!
5 PM		A Prairie Home Companion	Back Porch with Benjy Rivas
6 PM	Fresh Air with Terry Gross		jrivas@nmsu.edu
7 PM	Fiesta with Emily Guerra	Riverwalk	Thistle and Shamrock
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10 PM			Echoes
11 PM			
12 AM	Classical Music Midnight—5:00 AM	Classical Music 12:00—6:00 AM	Classical Music Midnight—5:00 AM
1 AM			

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HIKING APACHERIA continued

ing to hike Apacheria even today. Since coming to New Mexico, I've learned about dozens of places that are designated on Miles' Field of Operations Map, starting at the 33rd parallel and continuing through coordinates 34°57', 33°57', 34°57', 30°57', 29°57', 28°57' and 27°57' on the top of the map and the 28th parallel, from 112' to 31' on the bottom, west to east.

The lines of movements between the places on Spanish, Mexican and American maps would be seen as routes traveled in as straight a line as possible. One man showing another these places would have likely used a stick, tip whittled (I suppose), recounting landmarks along the way. "Dots" in the dirt might be labeled something like "the Giants" (a series of large rocks or boulders similar to City of Rocks but three to four miles east and north of that park). James Bartlett, of the boundary commission laying out the new border line between Mexico and the US, went up the Mimbres River to see those large rocks. His drawing is sufficiently detailed that you instantly recognize them now.

The Apaches, even if they had drawn symbols of some sort in the sand, would have also described verbally how one could get from one place, to another, then another, and another, so that they'd wind up in a place where they'd all agree to meet following a war party. Apaches working as Army scouts would have done much the same.

I got more enlightened about such descriptions when I first read Army "scout notes" of the period, then searched on both microfilm and maps and found some of these sites. Finding those sites, I asked permission from the land owners to explore more. It was thrilling! These scout reports would provide me with a better sense of where the Army found the Apaches—with rancherías almost always near water sources the Apaches and their predecessors had used for hundreds of years.

Once Americans, Mexicans or Spanish understood that Apache rancherías were near water sources, regardless of the era or which "empire" ruled the land, chasing the Apache became more understandable in theory. While the number of times Apache were successfully slaughtered at such locations is few, there's no doubt that these forces succeeded in locating rancherías and destroying them to prevent the Apache from returning to gather their gear or supplies. To counter these potential losses, the Apache located "caches" all over the countryside. Those caches, unbeknownst to the European hunters, were often not far from the rancherías just destroyed.

My own experience as a "grunt" in Vietnam was the same. Before I'd read anything about the Apaches save the first book I'd read as a kid on Geronimo, I knew from experience that the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army positioned supplies of various kinds, from weapons to ammunition to food stuffs to medical supplies, in camps we discovered regularly.

One excellent source for a better understanding of how the Apaches demarked their own world is the book by Granville Goodwin and Keith Basso, *Western Apache Raiding and Warfare*. Goodwin, as mentioned earlier, was one who was able to speak with some older men and women who had lived in the last days of the free-roaming N'de peoples of Arizona, Mexico and New Mexico.

We do our movements in cars, trucks, SUVs, bicycles, motorcycles, even planes. We have as many hiking accoutrements as we can acquire. They had a small standard set of tools and equipment that could allow them to make a fire, kill an



An ancient grainery in the Mimbres.

animal, care for their bodies and souls with medicine bags, leather punch and rawhide thread, plus perhaps a firearm with some ammunition, possibly a bow and arrow, a blanket and a knife.

They were not constrained by an empty stomach and no grocery or convenience stores with which to take care of those needs. Rain, snow, wind, blistering heat, cold, a multitude of prickly, sticking plants and rugged gravelly earth—these were taken in stride. Pain was something that was endured.

I've found their caches, but all were empty.

The cowboys got the contents of them all. Many had served as soldiers or scouts for the Army, and later rode in these places, searching for cattle, rounding them up, fixing fences. Apaches, often plied with booze, had the same problem with "loose lips sink ships" as all warriors do—spilling the beans on places where caches could often be found. The successors to many of those cowboys showed their

friends where these places were.

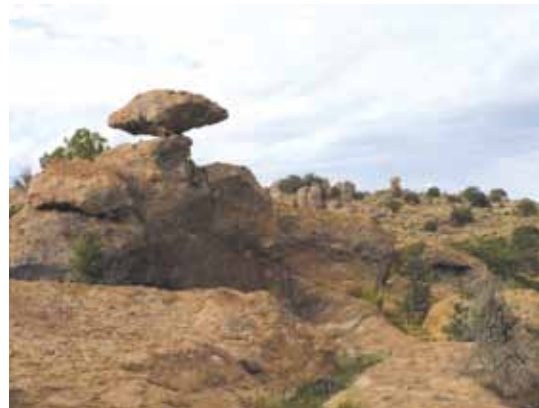
Today, among the emptied caches I've found, one type in particular—what are called "mortar in bedrock"—are in effect (and in spite of their other uses) water caches. When I find them, I empty them of dust, dirt and debris but leave things as they are otherwise. It never ceases to amaze me, when I examine these holes, that they were made perhaps hundreds, perhaps several thousand years ago—some by those who were here even before the Apache. They made holes for a variety of reasons, but it's clear these are "water holes" made by men who returned, often, to these places, in natural cycles of rotation, renewal and recycling.

In a world where the earliest walkers of these lands went "from water to water," it must have been reassuring to know that these people could

actually modify the stone by grinding these holes in the bedrock, then waiting for them to fill with rain water or snow melt. If they, or others, came behind them, doing the hard work of grinding out the holes (which took significant time) was an act of courtesy and spiritual appreciation of what Nature provided. It was also a "back-up" water source in the

snow melt or rainy periods of this seemingly inhospitable desert the Apaches called home, and which they managed to navigate without maps.

Visit Jerry Eagan's website for maps and many more historical documents for the web reader than he can provide for the paper edition:
www.hikingapacheria.com.



Balancing rocks found in the Mimbres Valley.

PRESENTS

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Collective Wisdom

Individually, harvester ants don't look like much. But when they get together...



Above: Harvester ants at nest entrance, desert floor, southwestern New Mexico. Below: Harvester ant mound surrounded by cleared surface in the western flanks of the Organ Mountains. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)

Strangely, ants in general, and harvester ants in particular—seemingly small and humble creatures that live in dark chambers beneath the floors of our deserts—have long stirred the human imagination.

For instance, in the mythology of the Pimas—a tribe of the northern Sonoran Desert and probable descendants of the Hohokam Puebloan tradition—a solid sphere of ants served as the raw material from which the Creator made the entire earth, according to Natalie Curtis in her *The Indians' Book*.

In the folklore of the Isleta Pueblos—a community of the northernmost Chihuahuan Desert and cultural descendants of the Anasazi Puebloan tradition—Big Red Ants and Little Black Ants rescued Corn-stalk Young Man from a bewitched tree so that he could save his starving village from a crippling drought, according to Charles F. Lummis in his *Pueblo Indian Folk-Stories*.

In the practices of the Navajos—pastoralists and gardeners of the Four Corners region and linguistic descendants of American Northwest Indian peoples—the harvester ants, or “big pinching ants,” had to be placated by elaborate ritual if someone dared to disturb their mound, according to Stephen Welton Taber in *The World of the Har-*



vester Ants.

In a large body of work by modern scientists—very bright people who try to understand our world—harvester ants have become something of a legend because they raise baffling questions that almost seem to extend into the realm of mysticism.

Societal Riddles

In a way that mystifies the human mind, which has the inclination to institute leadership, delegate responsibilities, organize resources and set schedules to carry out tasks, a colony of harvester ants (like colonies of other ant species) operates perfectly well in the absence of any apparent central control or organizing force, according to Deborah Gordon, author of *Ants at Work*. A queen mother, who serves as a well-maintained egg-laying machine rather than a royal sovereign, founds a colony of harvester ants, which may grow to 10,000 to 20,000 individuals. With no evident guiding hand, worker ants—all female children of the queen—go about the complex business of tending their mother, protecting her eggs, nurturing their baby sisters, pampering reproductive sisters and brothers, excavating and maintaining labyrinthine chambers, harvesting and storing food seeds, grooming themselves and defending their colony.

In another unexplained phenomenon, all neighboring harvester ant colonies of the same species—with no obvious prior communications, coordination or cue among them—emerge from their burrows on a single climactic spring or summer day each year. They send swarms of young winged would-be queens with their winged male consorts swarming into the desert air, on missions to breed and establish new homes. In some puzzling way, all the colonies know the appointed moment. Most, including all the males, soon die because of exposure to the desert environment, starvation outside the nurturing colony or predation by various gluttonous ant lovers. A few lucky females, however, probably less than one percent, will manage to find new homes and establish new colonies, beginning with tiny burrows they excavate into the soil. The new queen carries within her the sperm from several different males.

The Ant

Hopefully, a harvester ant, which may belong to any of several black to reddish-brown harvester ant species in the Southwest, will not introduce itself to you with its extraordinarily painful sting. Especially among sensitive victims, it can induce a long list of discomforts, including extended pain, burning, hives, swelling, wheezing, sweating, faintness, nausea and piloerection (hair standing on end), according to Taber.

The sting may make you mad, too.

Closely related to the wasp and the bee, according to Floyd Werner and Carl Olson in *Insects of the Southwest*, the typical harvester ant measures about three-eighths of an inch in length. It has “a basket of long setae [stiff hairlike structures] on the underside of the head” that it uses to carry soil when excavating and cleaning its nest.

A colony signals its presence by clearing all vegetation surrounding the entrance to its nest, leaving a barren flat or mounded area—a midden—several feet in diameter. Earning the name “harvester ants,” foragers collect seeds, especially from desert grasses, which they stash in underground storerooms. They may also prey on insects, especially termites, if they can find and catch them. They forego water altogether, depending on humidity within their nest for moisture.

The Colony

A colony begins fortuitously when one of the few winged and fully mated females, or queens, to survive an annual flight manages to establish a small burrow, most likely in an open area. The first thing any new queen ant does, according to William Atherton DuPuy in *Our Insect Friends and Foes*, “is to tear off her wings, which she never expects to use again now that she had made her marriage flight.” After digging the



Western kingbird, harvester ant predator, on the desert floor in southwestern New Mexico.

burrow several inches in depth, expert Deborah Gordon writes, the new queen lays several eggs, her very first, which “become tiny, wormlike larvae, and finally turn into pupae, resembling ants enclosed in a papery case.... When an ant emerges from the pupal case [after several weeks] it is an adult and does not grow any more.” The queen, who will now spend the rest of her life in total darkness, nurtures her first young, all female ants, very carefully, from her own fat reserves. She may even lick them like a mother cat licks her kittens.

With an apparent inborn understanding of their respective roles, these ants—much smaller, for some reason, than their successors will be—set up housekeeping. They forage for seeds. They care for the next generation, working to make the fledgling colony viable before closing down for the coming fall and winter.

With the arrival of spring, when the ant community reawakens, the population divides into two groups, according to Gordon. About three-quarters of the ants—all females—will operate primarily in the depths of the nest. Some of these ants care

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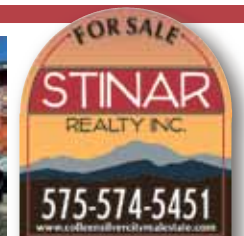
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Harvester ants, in a wedge-shape, entering nest, desert floor, southwestern New Mexico. They look like New Yorkers trying to get on the subway at rush hour.

for the queen, the sole, vital source of eggs for the colony. Some nurture new larvae. Others excavate new chambers to accommodate their growing numbers. Others store food in designated spaces. Still others maintain the nest, carrying ant trash and excavated dirt to the surface. Some, apparently, just hang around in case they might be needed.

The remaining quarter of the population—again, all females—stays near the surface of the nest. Again, by some unknown understanding, maintenance workers tidy up immediately around the entrance. Patrolling ants inspect the nest midden area, stop and interrogate intruding ants, and set the day's foraging courses. The foraging ants typically travel as much as 30 to 40 feet from the nest in their quest for food, collecting the seeds from perhaps dozens of nearby plant species. Meanwhile, still other maintenance workers police the midden surrounding the nest entrance. It appears, says Gordon, that the younger ants perform the subsurface chores, the senior ants, the surface duties. As ants age, they graduate from subsurface to surface duties.

After about five years, when the colony typically reaches a population of about 10,000, says Gordon, the queen produces the first breeding offspring—the winged would-be queens and their winged male consorts. In a celebration of renewal, the colony may cast its winged emissaries—called “alates”—to the winds once every year for the next 10 to 15 years, until the queen dies, signaling the eventual end of the colony since she is the sole producer of its eggs.

Nest Architecture

As the colony grows and matures, subterranean workers expand the nest, creating an interlocking system of tunnels and galleries. Sometimes, according to Taber, “part of the nest occupies a dome of earth and gravel that the ants themselves build up from excavated materials and from surface scrapings nearby. These mounds are the hallmark of the western harvester.”

The workers may excavate several feet in depth, to the caliche hardpan of the desert, producing a maze of tunnels a half-inch in diameter and chambers several inches in breadth. The colony uses the chambers for the queen's housing, the nurseries, seed storage and garbage disposal. When workers have to repair tunnels and chambers, they transfer larvae and seeds to other, stable quarters. The workers may litter the mound at the entrance with the detritus of the soil, including such things as small pebbles, plant matter and, says Taber, even broken glass and nails. (During surveys of archaeological sites for various institutions, we have sometimes found prehistoric beads and other small artifacts on the mounds of harvester ants.)

The workers build a mound surrounded by a

cleared surface for uncertain reasons, according to Taber, but they might construct the feature to—for example—minimize flooding of the entrance, provide a barrier to wildfires or discourage intrusion of plant roots. They might even use it as a defense mechanism, denying cover to potential predators.

Importantly, ants “are the primary soil workers in the Southwest,” note Werner and Olson. “Their nest-making... aerates the soil, helps retain soil moisture or drainage, and fertilizes and distributes many native plants.”

Defense of the Colony

Although armed with a painful sting, the harvester ant nevertheless faces a host of unintimidated, fearsome enemies, some so threatening that the colony has to engage them in full-scale combat.

While the ant suffers predation by reptiles, birds, amphibians, insects, spiders and other organisms, it must see the horned lizard—the so-called “horny toad”—as a dragon. The colony that faces a horned lizard feeding on the ants near the entrance to the nest may mount a swarming attack against the menacing ogre.

“A [horned] lizard besieged but determined to stay will remain motionless as dozens of ants crawl over its scaly armor, biting and stinging as they go,” writes Taber. Unfortunately for the ants, the horned lizards have “an immunity or defense against ant venom in the form of a detoxifying substance in their blood plasma... and when mobbed they simply hunker down with closed eyes until the ants leave.” The horned lizards then simply resume feeding. The ant colony may suffer considerable losses to a persistent lizard. (Once, when I was a youngster, I caught a horny toad and placed it at the entrance of a busy harvester ant

By some unknown understanding, maintenance workers tidy up immediately around the entrance.

ANTS continued on next page

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ANTS
continued

colony in the Rolling Plains of Texas, just to see what would happen. The grateful creature lapped up ant after ant, presumably to the distress of the colony.)

A harvester ant colony may also have to defend itself against competing and raiding ants of other species or even of its own species. (I remember seeing a colony of harvester ants at war with a force of invading ants once in the Rolling Plains. It looked like a seething mass of enraged miniature armies in conflict.)

"When harvester ants fight," says Gordon, "they grab onto each other with their mandibles and hold on. Often each ant clamps the other's petiole, the segment that attaches the abdomen to the thorax.... Sometimes one ant succeeds in breaking the other into two pieces. Sometimes an ant dies while clamped on to another, but the mandibular muscles of a dead ant maintain their grip though the rest of the ant may break off.... It is not unusual to see an ant walking around with just the head of its attacker still attached to its petiole."

Ant Studies

Because of parallels with the human community, ant colonies have for centuries drawn the attention of human observers, especially the biologists, who have studied such aspects as the insects' life history, social structure, organization,



Horned lizard, or "horny toad," a voracious predator of harvester ants.

individual behavior, family relationships, navigational abilities, slaving practices, memory, communications, adaptability, genetics and environmental impacts. Ants, according to the FOXNews.com website, have even suffered the indignity of having their legs lengthened by stilts or shorted by partial amputation by researchers who wanted to see whether lengthened or shortened strides would alter the insects' calculations of distance.

So far, the collective studies have shown, as a Stanford University news release puts it, "An individual ant is not very bright, but ants in a colony, operating as a collective, do remarkable things."

That may have been what prompted a very wise fellow named Solomon to say in his book of Proverbs:

"Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.

Without having any chief, officer or ruler, she prepares her food in summer and gathers her sustenance in harvest.

How long will you lie there, O sluggard?"

Kind of makes me wish that our representatives in Washington would study the virtues of the ants and read the book of Proverbs. 🐜



Gila Wilderness collared lizard, yet another predator of harvester ants.

Jay W. Sharp is a Las Cruces author who is a regular contributor to DesertUSA, an Internet magazine, and who is the author of Texas Unexplained. To read all his guides to wildlife of the Southwest, see www.desertexposure.com/wildlife.

BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

Divided Characters

Pancho Villa and Juarez' controversial top cop.

I think Villa is more alive now than he was when he roamed this part of the world during the Mexican Revolution.

His image is stamped in tourist leaflets, newspapers, in stores in Palomas, and in Columbus where there's a state park named after him.

His face in photos—rounded like the earthenware mugs you buy on the streets of Palomas—is as vivid and clear-cut as it ever was. I feel as if I know him.

It may have been an especially vivid face, as this quote from Friedrich Katz's book *The Life and Times of Pancho Villa* describes: "He has the most remarkable pair of prominent brown eyes I have ever seen. They seem to look through you, he talks with them, and all of his expressions are heralded and dominated by them first." This was written by an American doctor who knew him well.

When I first moved here 16 years ago, my main frame of reference for Latin American politics was Guatemala of the 1980s. Pancho Villa had a reputation for brutality, and I shied away from reading anything about him. To me he wasn't any different from a Guatemalan general.

But there's a lot to like and respect in Pancho Villa.

In 1914, before the raid on Columbus, reporters in Deming wrote cheerfully about Villa's visit to the Harvey House, where he ate ice cream while they scribbled notes.

He had an engaging smile and sounded like a college graduate in the many letters he wrote, though he had no formal education.

He had a genuine heart for the poor, and would send a butchered steer to a town that was starving. Writer John Reed, who knew Villa, said he would see some kids in the street and say, "Let's put a school there."

He was the Mexican everyman. He grew up as a poor sharecropper on an *hacienda* in Durango, but he grew to be a giant on the world scene.

I've seen people who look like him among farmworkers in Deming. I've sat across from him in a wobbly chair with no back that was graciously offered me by a worker. I can feel his magnanimous handshake.

But Villa was capable of enormous cruelty, to the point of insanity.

To me the worst example of this is when in the town of Camargo, Chihuahua, he shot point-blank a woman who was pleading for her husband's life. He then killed a total of 90 other women *soldaderas* who were supporting his enemy Carranza, because he feared they might complain about this incident. For that alone he could have had a multiple-lifetime jail sentence.

Juarez' murder toll of 2,086 last year represented a drop of about 40% from what it was in 2010, when it was the highest ever—3,622. But the rate still is almost seven times higher than it was in 2007, when only 320 people were killed.

Police Chief Julian Leyzaola is a name associated with the decline, but absolutely no one agrees about whether he's responsible for it.

He's controversial. He's been linked with human rights abuses since he was the police chief in Tijuana, but there's also a site on Facebook called "Become a Fan of Julian Leyzaola."

In November, according to witnesses, a young man named Jorge Padilla was beaten to death by Leyzaola, who then ordered that the body be dumped by a highway. The mother of the man went to the attorney general's office on Jan. 3 to lodge a complaint. Less than a week later, four men came to her house and machine-gunned

two of her other sons, aged 14 and 20, and then set the house on fire.

The mother has stopped pursuing the case so her remaining five children won't be killed. "The police to me are like an epidemic," she said.

Shohn Huckabee of El Paso, released in early December after being in prison in Juarez for two years on trumped-up drug charges, said he witnessed Leyzaola beating several prisoners with a 2x4 board during a prison riot last July.

Some people on the online border news service I subscribe to think Leyzaola couldn't possibly be a force for improving the situation in Juarez because of the abuses he's apparently committed. But I'm not at all sure that's the way things work.

I don't know who's responsible for the drop in numbers. It could have been a joint effort by law enforcement, or it could even have been a pact between the Juarez and Sinaloa cartels, as some suggest.

But the atrocities Leyzaola or others may have committed, as outrageous as they are, don't, unfortunately, rule out the possibility that he could actually be helping rein in the power of the cartels at the same time.

The fact is that people are made up of a complicated bundle of motives and qualities that are in many cases amazingly contradictory. Pancho Villa is a perfect example of this.

It's reported that Leyzaola started a project in November whereby anybody can call him up on his personal cell phone or the phone of local police stations, to report extortionists. He

claims they've had 900 responses that have led to the arrests of 12 to 15 extortionists.

Businessmen in Juarez must be positively starving for law enforcement like this in a city where possibly 40% of the killings are of people who have been extorted, according to one educated observer who didn't want to be identified. (He also thinks 20% of the killings are from crossfire.)

If the allegations about Leyzaola's rights abuses are true, he should be put in prison. It would be a dramatic boost for human rights in Juarez, and I'd be thrilled to see it. But if he has been promoting the drop in violence, maybe he should also be given a medal. He can keep it polished and hang it on his wall in his cell.

I wish the conflict going on in Mexico were a clear-cut conflict between the police and the "people," or between the rich and the poor. But it's nothing as simple as that.

I wish I could say the continuing violence, which is still increasing across Mexico, was all the fault of President Calderón and the US, or of the drug cartels. But it's a complicated situation where I think both sides are to blame for the suffering of civilians.

Leyzaola has not anywhere near the stature of Villa, but he may be as divided a character. ❁

Pancho Villa's 1916 raid on Columbus will be commemorated and celebrated on Camp Furlong Day, March 10, at Pancho Villa State Park.

Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.



Villa was the Mexican everyman. He grew up as a poor sharecropper on an hacienda in Durango, but he grew to be a giant on the world scene.

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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Pictor, the Painter

Plus the planets for February.

Pictor, the Painter, is located in the southeastern sky on February evenings. This constellation is another creation of Abbé Nicolas Louis de Lacaille. Lacaille put together a catalog of 10,000 southern stars called *Coelum australe stelliferum*, which was published in 1763. It included 14 new constellations, among them *Equuleus Pictoris*, the Painter's Easel. Even though the name was shortened to Pictor when it became an official constellation, it is still usually represented as an easel.

Pictor is located between the bright star Canopus to the east and the Great Magellanic Cloud to the southwest. The brightest star in this constellation is Alpha Pictoris, which is only magnitude 3.2, not very bright as stars go. The next brightest star, Beta Pictoris, is magnitude 3.9—also not very bright, but much more interesting.

Beta Pictoris is 1.75 times as massive as our Sun, and puts out 8.7 times as much light. It is very young, only 8 million to 20 million years old. Because of its youth, the dust and gas left over after the formation of Beta has not yet been blown away by the light and solar wind that Beta itself produces. The dust and gas, warmed by Beta, emit infrared radiation, which was first picked up by the Infrared Astronomy Satellite (IRAS) in 1983.

Astronomers know that a spectral class A6 star like Beta emits most of its energy toward the blue end of the spectrum, so this infrared radiation had to come not from the star, but from cooler matter orbiting it. In 1984, astronomers carefully took pictures of Beta Pictoris, blocking out the light from the star itself. The resulting images showed a disc of material orbiting around the star. The disc is very flattened, much like our early solar system must have been. Because of this similarity, it is believed that there are planets still forming within the disc.

The Hipparcos satellite, which was launched in 1989 and operated until 1993, made very precise measurement of the positions of many stars, including Beta Pictoris. It observed Beta when the Earth (and Hipparcos) were on one side of the Sun and again when we were on the opposite side of the Sun. Astronomers took the measured positions from both sides and used trigonometry to compute the distance to Beta Pictoris as just 63.4 light-years away, using the diameter of Earth's orbit as a baseline.

Since it is so close, we are able to see more detail in this system. Looking closely at the disc, we can see belts of small rocky bodies, called planetesimals, at approximately 1.3, 2.6, 4.8 and 7.6 billion miles from the star. Perhaps these rings represent bands where the planetesimals are banging together to form larger and larger bodies. These bands may represent orbits that will someday be home to planets.

Canopus just comes over the south-southeastern horizon around 6:30 p.m. To its right is the constellation Pictor, the Painter's Easel. While part of this constellation is always hidden below the horizon, the unusual star Beta Pictoris is visible from the desert Southwest.

In addition to the planet formation in progress, a massive planet is already orbiting Beta, about 930 million miles from the star. Evidence for this planet is the lack of dust in this region of Beta's disc, which would have been cleared out by the planet. We have actually observed this planet, which is not quite as far from Beta as Saturn is from our Sun.

Observations of meteoroids (meteors observed before they enter our atmosphere) have shown that there is a stream of these particles coming from Beta's dust disc entering our solar system. This stream seems to be the main source of interstellar meteoroids in our solar system. While most of the meteors that we see are from comets orbiting our Sun, a few come from Beta Pictoris. So next time you see a sporadic meteor streak across the sky, you can think to yourself, "That might have come from Beta Pictoris!"

The Planets for February

Mercury appears out of the evening twilight during the last half of the month. Starting the month in Capricornus, it zips through Aquarius and ends the month in Pisces. At month's end, the Messenger of the Gods has a disc that is 6.5 seconds-of-arc across and 65% illuminated, moving toward the crescent phase. It will set at 7:15 p.m.

Still gracing our evening sky, Venus is 35 degrees above the west-southwestern horizon as it gets dark. At midmonth Venus' disc is 16.6 seconds-of-arc across and 69% illuminated, becoming less full as the days go on. Venus starts the month in Aquarius; moving eastward, it almost immediately slips over the border into Pisces, where it ends the month. Venus sets around 9:10 p.m.

Moving slowly eastward in southwestern Aries, Jupiter shines brightly at magnitude -2.3 at mid-

month. With a disc that is 37.4 seconds-of-arc across, the King of the Gods is about halfway up in the west-northwest as it gets dark and sets around 11 p.m. It is past its best viewing during this apparition, but will be back again later in the year.

Mars is sliding over the border from Virgo into Leo as the month begins. Moving westward, Mars will end the month under Leo's hindquarters where it glows at magnitude -0.6. The God of War's disc is 11.9 seconds-of-arc across and 96% illuminated. Mars will continue to become fuller as it moves toward opposition early next month. This is a great time to observe Mars since its disc is almost as large as it will get this year.

Saturn is moving westward in eastern Virgo. Rising at 11:30 p.m., Saturn is visible the rest of the night, being highest around 5 a.m. The Ringed Planet is magnitude +0.5 at midmonth when its Rings will be 40.8 seconds-of-arc across and tipped down 15.0 degrees with the northern face showing. Saturn's disc is 18.0 seconds-of-arc across.

In order to adjust for the fact that there are 365.2425 days in a year, we add a leap day once every four years to compensate for the extra day that

accumulates during that time. If we did not make this adjustment, the equinox would slowly drift away from March 21. Enjoy the extra day you get to "keep watching the sky!" ☾

Watch the Skies

(times MST)

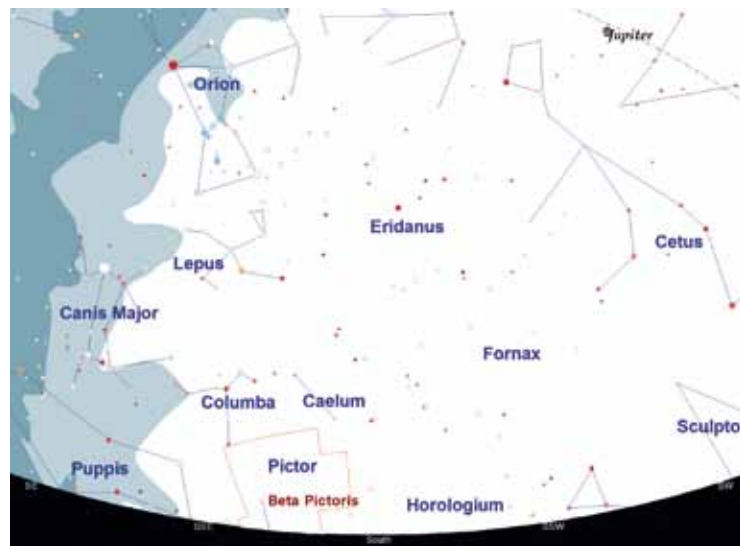
Feb. 7, 2:54 p.m.—Full Moon

Feb. 8, 5 a.m.—Saturn stationary

Feb. 14, 10:04 a.m.—Last Quarter Moon

Feb. 15—Mars farthest from the Sun

Feb. 21, 3:35 p.m.—New Moon



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



BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • BINA BREITNER

Surviving Childhood Neglect

Even if you lost the battle, you won the war.

Since Rebecca had been taking better care of herself, I was surprised to see her puffy from crying. She said she'd stayed home all week eating gallons of ice cream and sleeping most of the time. She was not only miserable; she was ashamed that she had crumpled.

"I'm 56 years old," she groaned, wiping her eyes and face. "I thought I was done with this—why am I falling apart after so many years?"

The trigger had been a brief conversation with her mother, during which Rebecca mentioned that she was worried about her nephew. He was starting to fail in school, probably because his mother (Rebecca's sister) was addicted to meth and barely functioning. To Rebecca's astonishment, the mother became enraged at Rebecca and spoke highly of the sister.

Rebecca was hurt, not only by the attack on her but by the injustice. She knew the boy was in trouble. Her sister didn't seem to care about anything beyond her next fix. Why would the mother lash out at Rebecca, when she should be grateful that Rebecca wanted to help?

The sense of injustice was amplified by the many times Rebecca had rescued her mother. She'd sent money, she'd gone to help during health crises, she'd stayed courteous and responsible—all this, even though her mother treated Rebecca badly. She'd been a generous, dutiful daughter. This is what she got in return?

Then she was furious with herself. How could she be so fragile? Rebecca was a smart, experienced, professional woman.

She knew her mother was untrustworthy. A woman of Rebecca's maturity had no business falling into despair because her mother behaved the way she'd always behaved.

Of course there was a larger picture, which emerged as we talked.

Since early childhood, Rebecca had never felt safe. Her mother was angry and her father was alcoholic; no one cared what Rebecca really needed. Being emotionally alone had created a deep anxiety. The world was huge, she was little, and who knew what might happen at any turn?

To reassure herself, she'd worked on getting closer to her mother. She started reading her mother's cues, responding to every nuance of her moods. When these efforts to be a good girl didn't make much difference, Rebecca tried harder. And harder. This went on for many years—to no avail. By the time Rebecca left for college, she'd accepted that she and her mother were effectively unrelated and vowed to get on with her life.

Then why was she devastated by the recent attack? Because it touched her childhood terrors. Despite many achievements and pep talks to herself, Rebecca still carried her early anxiety. All the years of living in an emotional vacuum with two self-involved, angry and drunken parents had created habitual fearfulness.

Her mother's approval had felt like the key to her safety, to such an extent that the two became synonymous: her mother's approval equaled safety. Emotional connection, or "attachment," became her overriding priority. Until she was in high school, every day's value was measured by how her mother treated her.

I called this struggle to

woo her mother Rebecca's private "war." Like any war, it required determination, extreme vigilance, strategizing, suppression of her own emotional needs, and total focus. She made pitiless demands of herself, no matter how tired, hurt or confused she felt. She lived with the tension, the uncertainties and the fears. It wasn't a big war; it wasn't even a war anyone else knew about. But in her subjective world everything else was subsumed by the effort to get her mother's recognition and, thus, to survive.

In her therapy, Rebecca came to see that the goal was not really her mother's love. However desperately she'd longed for that, the real payoff was her survival. Her mother's love felt like the means to her safety, but it wasn't actually the safety itself. (A lot of children whose parents love them are not necessarily safe.)

In fact, the effort to reach her mother had been only one of many battles in Rebecca's war to survive. She'd just taken all the others for granted. Her body had grown. She'd learned language and started communicating with other people of all ages.

She'd learned social rules and, gradually, the discipline and discernment required to stay within them. She had accommodated schooling, adding new knowledge all the time and developing her mind. Later on, she had established herself professionally and built friendships.

She met all these, and other, developmental challenges. Maybe she put all her emotional attention into the relation-

ship with her mother, but that was only one area of her survival and growth. Her "allies" (whom she'd ignored) had all won their battles to meet developmental challenges. She'd grown up, and here she was.

There's an old cynical joke: "The surgery was a success, but the patient died." Or, similarly, "He won the battle, but he lost the war." This was the other way around: Rebecca lost the battle, but she won the war.

She'd actually won every fair fight. School, growing physically, language, coordination, social interactions—everything except the awful relationship with her parents had turned out all right.

That relationship had not been a fair fight. The immense effort to get what she needed from her mother was doomed from the beginning. Her mother was carrying generations of dysfunction within her, and Rebecca never stood a chance of

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

Depending all that. Of course she lost that battle. Rebecca had made three common childhood miscalculations. The first was believing she could reach her mother. (We all *know* you can't make someone else love you, even though a lot of us keep trying.) The second was seeing her mother only as her mother and not as a person with her own thorny history. The third was believing that only through reaching her mother could she survive. In fact, she hadn't ever reached her mother—yet she had survived. The danger was over, and she was in charge of her own life. She could stop fighting.

Gestalt thinkers wrote about the "figure" and the "ground" of our perception. We usually focus on the figure—whatever is demanding our attention or happening right now. The rest is the ground, or background, what we sometimes call the larger view or context. In Rebecca's early life, limited as she was by a youngster's perception and by her anxiety, her mother's approval was the figure, her focus, her everything.

The ground was the rest of her life as she grew and evolved. When she and I talked about the "battle" and the "war," we were moving her perceptual attention from the figure (the efforts to win her mother's love) to the ground (her development and actual success in life). The failure to achieve her mother's attachment was only part of her total story. Her mother still didn't love her as she deserved, but in the larger context of her survival (the ground) that failure became less devastating. Unless she continued to fixate on that "figure," it no longer defined her.

It's easy for us get caught up in our battles. Think of all the normal life processes that demand our attention. Time passes and people move away, lose their health, or die. Grieving creates a locked-in relationship with the person(s) we've lost and what their absence means in our lives. Likewise, aging brings changes that can narrow our point of view and lead us gradually to withdraw from the world. Illness demands attention to our pain and

reduced function. A divorce, a job loss, a move, children leaving home... any big change becomes the "figure" that grabs our awareness. We have to consciously open up our vista when the crisis diminishes, or we stay in the narrow life we adopted while we were dealing with it.

Then there are the myriad unnecessary early-life battles young people encounter. There's a smothering parent against whom the child has to defend himself in order to have a separate self. There's the chaotic family in which the child struggles to form a coherent narrative. The demanding parent for whom the child works to be good enough. The rigid and repressed family in which the child fights to feel less, or not to feel at all. The insecure parents whom the child tries to please by being perfect and, therefore, acceptable. The overwhelmed parent who didn't really want children, for whose love the child tries to be invisible.

Body, Mind & Spirit is a forum for sharing ideas and experiences on all aspects of physical, mental and spiritual health and on how these intersect. Readers, especially those with expertise in one or more of these disciplines, are invited to contribute and to respond. Write PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134 or email editor@desertexposure.com. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of *Desert Exposure* or its advertisers, and are not intended to offer specific or prescriptive medical advice. You should always consult your own health professional before adopting any treatment or beginning any new regimen.


It's a challenge for us to realize when these private wars are over. The same actually holds true for happy events as well. An important new love relationship, the birth of a child, or a big promotion can draw us away from supportive, normal parts of our lives. We not only get excited and involved in the happy developments; we also gear up for all the adaptive shifts required by such a big change. Next thing we know, we've lost some friends and neglected other nourishing relationships. We only notice it when

we climb down from our excitement and see the "ground" again.

One of the benefits of meditation or any other practice of discipline is that it clears the mind, helps us re-establish a larger context. I remember having a big fight with my high school boyfriend, which ended with my storming off to practice the violin. I think it took only five minutes of fully concentrated practice for me to look up and notice I'd completely forgotten the fight. It was somewhere over there on the horizon, and it no longer seemed important. I could barely recall what we'd fought about.

I felt as if I'd just discovered the world's best drug. What I'd discovered was a way to shift from the figure to the ground. As they say, it's all in how you look at it. ❁

Bina Breitner is a licensed marriage & family therapist (LMFT) in private practice at 808 W. 8th St. in Silver City. She can be reached at (575) 538-4380.



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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • MIKE MOUTOUX

The Power of the Falls

Losing faith is like losing your car keys. Finding it again, however, requires a different approach—and, sometimes, a waterfall.

We all lose our faith at least once in our lives, or at least we should. We trust too much in individuals who turn out to be human and governments that turn out to be not. We ask it of religions that only want ours; we pray to saints who stopped listening long ago. By “faith,” I don’t mean just that of the devoutly religious; I mean that which helps us get out of bed in the morning anticipating the day ahead. Call it a star that guides you, the rock that holds you up, a sixth sense that lets you see through the murkiest shadows; faith is powerful stuff. This kind of faith is older and more inclusive than what I see in conventional religions.

Losing faith is like losing your car keys; you’ll find both if you know where to look. The big difference is that the keys will be where you left them, but faith will be found in places you may have never been. If you’re looking for your keys, look in your coat pocket. If you’re looking for faith, go outside on some chill morning when the stars are still visible and your breath forms a wreath over your head. Face east and wait for the sun to rise. I assure you that it will. Try it for as many mornings as you need. There will come a day when you decide to stay in bed because you know, you know, the sun will be there for you. It will not ask you to love it and then fly off to another galaxy to find itself; it will not require your faith in exchange for some promise of Paradise; it will not ask for the lives of your children so that others may live in peace. The sun will rise, day after day—but don’t take my word for it, go build your own trust. There’s nothing like building your own faith one day at a time. Trust me.

Unlike car keys, faith can be found in many places at the same time. You can build it each day with the sun, with the tides that rise and fall, and with the songbirds that carry spring within their tiny breasts. You can find it in the golden eye of a spadefoot toad emerging from the soft soil after the first monsoon rain, in the pastel blooms of hedgehog cacti clinging to a rock shelf, or in any number of wild places or wild things.

If your faith has been shaken or taken and you need salvation on short notice, there is a way. Leave the houses, churches and the city halls behind; you’ll not find quick or easy solutions where compromises affect promises and commitments dwell on old business before new. Go instead to a waterfall.



Falls at the Catwalk near Glenwood. (Photo by David A. Fryxell)

I would suggest you find one formed by a creek with enough water to make some noise but not enough to attract a tourist industry. While you sit, close your eyes and let the water do its work. You’ll discover that the falls will be multitasking and seem oblivious to your presence. This is how waterfalls work; be patient.

The falls will be doing three things: moving water from the creek-bed above to the pool below, wearing away the wrinkles in the rock face behind them, and pushing the world away by the roar of its work. Listen—there are no other sounds except

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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 Blessings, Pastor Matt Smith



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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

water tumbling over stone, water spraying across air and fern, and water swirling back into itself in a mirrored pool. With the world in retreat, faith appears, tentative and unsure. Not unsure of its power—unsure of you. Remain still and focus only on the sound of the falls. Faith will come soon, but you cannot force it.

You may be surprised when it arrives because you have been taught to expect something else. A burning bush, a tablet, or a symbol forged in gold. If you have trouble letting go of these things, then set them beside the water and let the creek carry them away. Creeks have the kind of faith that can literally move mountains; taking away a few misconceptions is no burden at all.

I hesitate to promise you anything more. I

want you to be surprised when you get there. I want you to sit alone with no preconceptions of faith and how it will become a part of you. I will tell you this: Faith is not something you shape—it shapes you.

Should we meet after you have been to the falls, I will study your face to see if the waters have restored you. I will see it in the mist that makes your eyes shine in the sun, in the smile that says your troubles have been washed away, in the peace that rests on cheeks worn smooth by the saving grace of the falls. ☸

Mike Moutoux is a part-time cowboy and entertainer who occasionally lets his mind wander away from horses and cattle. He lives in Silver City.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • EARTHTALK

Dangers Around Us

Are some surprising causes partly to blame for asthma and cancer?

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that asthma rates in the US have doubled in the last three decades? What's behind this troubling trend and what can we do to reverse it?

Asthma is on the rise across the US, doubling since the 1980s. According to the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), most people who develop asthma likely have a genetic predisposition but also probably experienced "critical environmental exposures during the first years of life." Asthma rates are highest in urban areas where auto and industrial emissions make for difficult breathing. But air quality in US cities has improved in the last few decades, leaving researchers puzzled as to what's behind the trend.

One theory is that better hygiene in developed countries means that Westerners have less exposure to bacteria, viruses and parasites, altering our immune response, with the result being increased risk for allergic diseases like asthma. Indeed, Western asthma rates are 50 times higher than in rural Africa. While this "hygiene hypothesis" may be part of the story, researchers believe that there are also other factors.

Some studies have shown a correlation between asthma and obesity, though a direct link is hard to prove. Other research has shown that psychological stress can trigger asthma attacks in those already predisposed. Dr. Harold Nelson, professor of medicine at the National Jewish Health in Denver, explained in a 2009 *New York Times* blog post that increased acetaminophen (i.e. Tylenol) use in young children, exposure to household cleaning sprays, and lack of vitamin D also likely contribute to rising asthma rates. But how?

Pediatricians recommend against giving young children aspirin today, given the increased risk of Reye's syndrome, so many parents now use acet-



Asthma rates have doubled since the 1980s, in spite of air quality having improved over the same time period. This has led some experts to conclude that other factors—including vitamin D deficiency, obesity, overuse of acetaminophen (i.e. Tylenol) and spray mist from glass cleaners and air fresheners—are now playing a role. (Photo: iStock/Thinkstock)

aminophen to relieve pain and reduce fever. But acetaminophen lowers levels of the antioxidant glutathione, resulting in an increased asthma risk. A 2008 study found that use of acetaminophen in the first year of life was associated with a 46% increase in the prevalence of asthma symptoms among a study group of 200,000 six- and seven-year-olds.

In regard to household cleaners, frequent inhaling of the spray mist from glass cleaners and air fresheners, among other products, irritates the lungs and increases the risk of developing asthma. A 2007 study found that European adults who used spray cleaners four days a week faced double the risk of developing asthma symptoms, while weekly use of cleaners increased the risk by 50%.

The link between vitamin D deficiency and asthma comes from several studies on the topic over the last decade showing that low levels of vitamin D in pregnant mothers result in more asthma in offspring. Those who spend lots of time indoors are particularly vulnerable to vitamin D deficiency, as exposure to sunlight increases the body's ability to produce the important nutrient.

Dr. Nelson says that people can take steps to lower their exposure to these "new" asthma risk factors. For one, forego spray cleaners and air

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fresheners for liquids and pump sprays that don't produce a fine mist. Pregnant women might consider vitamin D supplements. And parents should discuss pain relievers with their doctor and consider alternating different types so kids don't get overexposed to any particular one.

CONTACTS: EDF, www.edf.org/health/air/asthma; "New Risks Linked to Asthma Rise" (*New York Times*, Feb. 12, 2009), well.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/02/12/new-risk-factors-linked-to-asthma-rise.

Dear EarthTalk: How clear (or not) are the links between the rising incidence of cancers around the world and the prevalence of synthetic chemicals in modern society?

With the World Health Organization hinting that cancer could unseat heart disease as the leading cause of death around the world, it's no surprise that per capita cancer incidence is on the rise globally. In fact, cancer is the only major cause of death that has continued to rise since 1900. While it might depend on whom you ask, most researchers now agree that environmental factors—including exposure to chemicals and pollution—play a significant role today in determining who gets cancer and who doesn't.

A blue-ribbon panel of cancer experts initially convened by President George W. Bush researched hundreds of studies and concluded in 2010 (in its 240-page report, "Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now") that our exposure to chemicals, pollution and radiation is to blame for the uptick in cancer deaths. "The American people—even before they are born—are bombarded continually with myriad combinations of these dangerous exposures," the panel reported. "With the growing body of evidence linking environmental exposures to cancer, the public is becoming increasingly aware of the unacceptable burden of cancer resulting from environmental and occupational exposures that could have been prevented through appropriate national action."

The panel cited grim statistics about cancer's march, noting that 41% of Americans will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives, with 21% likely to die from it. Cancer researchers fear that our reliance on chemicals is the main culprit, as borne out by hundreds of studies.

To wit, a 2000 study involving the examination of health records of more than 44,000 pairs of twins across Scandinavia found that "inherited genetic factors make a minor contribution" in causing most cancers but that "the environment has the principle role in causing sporadic cancer." A 2010 UK study, whereby researchers investigated the level of chemical exposure of more than 1,100 women during their employment history, found that those study subjects who had been exposed

Most researchers now agree that environmental factors—including exposure to chemicals and pollution—play a significant role today in determining who gets cancer and who doesn't. (Photo: Thinkstock)

to various industrial chemicals and airborne hydrocarbons were at least three times more likely to get breast cancer later on than women with little or no exposure in their backgrounds.

Not everyone agrees. Writing in *Forbes* magazine, Henry I. Miller and Elizabeth Whelan of the industry-friendly American Council on Science and Health argue that the findings of the presidential panel are based on politics, not science: "If the authors had only bothered to consult a standard textbook on cancer epidemiology, they would have learned that lifestyle factors such as smoking, obesity, excessive alcohol consumption and overexposure to sunlight—not chemicals in air, water and food—are the underlying causes of most preventable human cancers."

While few today would doubt the health risks of such personal lifestyle factors, the president's cancer panel nevertheless concluded that "the burgeoning number and complexity of known or suspected environmental carcinogens compel us to act to protect public health," and urged President Obama to use the power of his office to "remove the carcinogens and other toxins from our food, water and air that needlessly increase health care costs, cripple our nation's productivity, and devastate American lives."

CONTACTS: President's Cancer Panel, deafnfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp; American Council on Science and Health, www.acsh.org.

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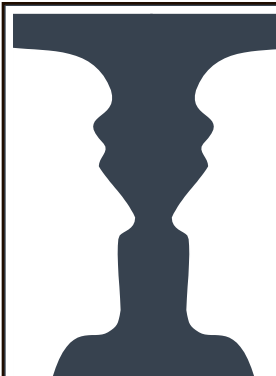


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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

Grant County Weekly Events

Support groups, classes and more.

Sundays
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP—5:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center board room. Jerry, 534-4846.
ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—First Sun. of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.
BEAD SOCIETY—1 p.m. Alotta Gelato 388-1362.
BINGO—1st and 2d Sun. Doors open 12:30 p.m., games start 1:35 p.m. Benefits Salvation Army and Post 18 charities. American Legion Post 18, 409 W. College Ave. 534-0780
GENTLE YOGA—5:30-7 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.
HOLISTIC PRESENTATIONS—11 a.m. PeaceMeal Coop Deli. 534-9703
PRAYER AND STUDY IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—Sunset. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.
RESTORATIVE YOGA—4-5:30 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.

Mondays
A COURSE IN MIRACLES—6:30 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.
AARP CHAPTER #1496—Third Monday. 12:30 p.m. Senior Center, 205 W. Victoria. Contact Marcia Fisch, 388-1298
AARP WIDOWED PERSONS—Sec-ond Mondays. 11 a.m. Glad Tidings Church. Contact Donna, 538-9344.
AL-ANON—Noon. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, Silver City. Contact Shawneen, 313-4721.
ART CLASS—9-10:45 a.m. Silver City Senior Citizen Center. Beginners to advanced. Contact Jean 519-2977.
KUNDALINI YOGA—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—6-7 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Board Room. Jerry, 534-4866; Sharon, 534-0079.
PING PONG—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.
SILVER CITY SQUARES—Dancing 7-9 p.m. Presbyterian Church, 1915 N. Swan St. Kay, 388-4227, or Linda, 534-4523.

Tuesdays
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS—Men's group, 7 a.m. Unitarian Fellowship Hall. 3845 N. Swan. Jerry, 534-4866.
BAYARD HISTORIC MINE TOUR—2nd Tuesday. Meet at Bayard City Hall, 800 Central Ave., by 9:30 a.m. \$5 fee covers two-hour bus tour of historic mines plus literature and map; call 537-3327 for reservation.
BELLY DANCE WITH ZOE—5:30-6:50 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St. 654-4910.
COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS—4th Tuesday. 6:30 p.m. Support for those who've lost a child. Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 7th and Texas St. Charlene Mitchell, 313-7362.
FIGURE/MODEL DRAWING—4-6 p.m. Contact Sam, 388-5583.
GILA WRITERS—6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St. Trish Heck,

phack@grmc.org, 538-4072.
INTERBODY YOGA—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.
KIWANIS CLUB—Noon. Red Barn, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 590-0540.
LOS COMADRES CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—1st Tues. 6 p.m. Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy. 180 E. (next to Ace). 388-1198 ext. 10.
REIKI CIRCLE—First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. 2035 Little Walnut. Treatment for those in need of healing. Vicki, 388-8114, or Virginia, 388-4870.
RESTORATIVE YOGA—10-11:30 a.m., 5:30-7 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.
SLOW FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m. 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.
SOCIAL SERVICES—Noon. Red Barn, 707 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-5666.
TEA PARTY PATRIOTS—2nd and 4th Thur. 6 p.m. Red Barn Steakhouse, 708 Silver Heights Blvd. 388-4143..

Wednesdays
AL-ANON—5:30 p.m., Sweden-borgian Church, 1300 Bennett St. Ellen, 535-2596, or Jerry, 534-4866.
ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—Third Weds. of every month. Oct.-Nov., Jan.-April 7 p.m. Silver City Women's Club. Summers 6 p.m. location TBA. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN—2nd Weds. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Subject to change. 536-2953.
GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY—2nd Weds. Potluck at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sen. Howie Morales' building, 3060 E. Hwy. 180.
GROUP MEDITATION—5:30 p.m., A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St. 388-2425.
LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION—8 a.m. tee time. Silver City Golf Course.
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—Noon. St. Mary's Academy, 1801 N. Alabama, building by flagpole. Jerry, 534-4866; Sharon, 534-0079.
PFLAG—(Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) 2nd Weds. 5:30 p.m. Wellness Coalition, 509 N. Bullard. 590-8797.
PING PONG—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Weds. 6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF GRANT COUNTY—Third Weds. 6 p.m. Red Barn.
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP—3:30-5 p.m. All-Purpose Room, Billy Casper Wellness Center, Hudson St. & Hwy. 180. James, 537-2429, or Danita, 534-9057.

Thursdays
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—2nd Thurs. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Board Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.
CARDIAC SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Thurs. 4 p.m. Grant County Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy180E, 590-2578.
CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL—First Thurs. 5:30 p.m. Grant County Admin

Bldg.
DE-STRESSING MEDITATIONS—12-12:45 p.m. New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.
HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOURISM MEETING—Second Thurs. 10 a.m. Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.
KUNDALINI YOGA—5:30 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.
MOUNTAIN DULCIMER JAM—6:15 p.m., Public Library.
PROGRESSIVE PILATES—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.
TOPS—5 p.m. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, 538-9447.
VINYASA YOGA—5:30-6:30 p.m., 315 N. Bullard, 2d fl. 519-8948.
YOGA CLASS—Free class taught by Colleen Stinar. 1-2 p.m. Episcopal Church fellowship hall, 7th and Texas.

Fridays
GILA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY—2d Fri. Grant County Admin. Bldg., 1400 Hwy. 180E. fim@tam.u.edu.
KUNDALINI YOGA—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center conference room. Art, 590-6141, or John, 538-8779.
SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB—2d Fri., 10 a.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-9326.
TAIZÉ—2d Friday. Service of prayer, songs, scripture readings and quiet contemplation. 6:30 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 538-2015.
VETERANS HEALING CIRCLE—2d Fri. 12-4 p.m. Marian Hall, 1813 N. Alabama St. 388-4870.
YOUTH SPACE—5:30-10 p.m. Loud music, video games, chill out. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.

Saturdays
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BEGINNERS—6 p.m. Lions Club, 8th & Bullard (entrance at Big Ditch behind Domino's). Newcomers and seasoned members welcome.
BEGINNING SALSA—7-8 p.m. Javalina's. Instructor Gail Willow, 388-3332.
DOUBLE FEATURE BLOCKBUSTER MEGA HIT MOVIE NIGHT—5:30-11 pm. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.
EVENING PRAYER IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—5 p.m. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.
KIDS BIKE RIDE—10 a.m., Bike-works, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 590-2166.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.
SADHANA MORNING PRAYER, MEDITATION, YOGA—Last Sat. 5-7 a.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.
SPINNING GROUP—1st Sat., 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.
VINYASA FLOW YOGA—10 a.m. All levels. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425. ☼

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I had an email from a local rider recently. The person had just traveled to a watch a demo from one of the major personalities in the horsemanship world. The rider couldn't believe what this clinician was able to get done with a horse, and was thinking of spending some serious dollars to buy this horseman's equipment, training tools and DVDs. The rider thought this would give him all that was necessary to fix or develop a horse.

I thought a story from my own experience might help.

Up in Washington State, there was a boarder at our barn who was having a lot of problems with a horse. The boarder was the kind of guy who knows it all and never asks for help, believing he can figure anything out, especially with a "dumb" horse. He would tell me, "In the end you can always *make* them do it." It really bothered me to watch the struggles between these two, so I finally offered to give him a couple of free lessons just to put him on a safer and more productive path. I jokingly said I didn't want to take time away from riding when I was at the barn having to figure out how to drag his body out of the round pen.

He said he had it all figured out. He was going to drive several hours each way that weekend to watch a demo by a famous horseman (coincidentally, the same one referred to above) and that would give him all he needed to fix this himself. So off he went, returning with a trunk full of probably \$1,000 worth of sticks, ropes, DVDs, bits and other assorted "answers." He grabbed his horse, went off to the round pen, assumed the positions and mimicked the movements he had seen at the demo, and waited for the magic to happen.

Well, his horse sort of looked at him as if to say, "I'm not sure what you're trying to do, but you seem to be having fun so I'm going to just stand here and watch." This went on for a couple of weeks, with more frustration and anger showing in the owner as he failed to get any of the responses he had seen at the demo. More and more clouds of dust and mud rose from the round pen, and the horse seemed to be getting more scared with each session. After about three weeks, I noticed all the new equipment was gone from the tack room, replaced by the severe bits and tools the owner had been using before. Next a sign on the board at the barn offered "practically new" horsemanship tools and tack for sale. And yes, I did have to drag him out of the round pen after his horse took objection to his human's antics.

I tried to make this point with him, and many others since. Setting aside people who buy and sell horses, or have a guest ranch, there really are only three ways to make a living in the horse business. You can have a good-sized facility with some boarding capabilities and some quality school horses and give lots of lessons. Or, you can take to the road and do clinics (many of the top names spend as many as nine months a year on the road), making sure you have your "system" and equipment for sale at each stop. A third option is the pyramid approach where you train/certify others to teach and sell your technique and equipment, then take a cut. Obviously, you can also use some combination of the above.

There is nothing wrong with any of this given that we live in a capitalist society and we all need make a living. The horse business is a classic service business, and like any other service business the only way to grow and profit is to increase volume. You need more "butts in the seats" and more ways to generate revenue from those people. Think of a restaurant that is doing well: The owner believes he could do even better if he had more space or had longer hours, or maybe opened more locations. Then maybe he could franchise the concept. Volume, volume, volume!

If you have ever been involved with growing a service business, you know that the larger and more standardized the business becomes, and the more the original owner or concept is stretched, the greater the likelihood that the quality and per-

sonal approach of the original idea starts to erode.

For me, helping someone with a horse is the most personal, one-to-one business there is. Not only are you dealing with humans and all that comes with that challenge, but you're also working with another species with a much different approach to life. That's why these business models just don't work in my book. There are certain universal truths about horses and their behavior, and how best to teach them. But each person and each horse form a unique partnership. Horse owners vary greatly in their physical abilities, mental make-up, and needs and goals for their horses. Likewise, horses vary in their abilities to learn, develop and perform.

You also have to accept enormous differences in facilities and living situations. Think of all the trailer-loading demos you've seen on RFD TV or at clinics where a nice trailer is parked in an arena with great footing, and the clinician moves the horse all around and the horse jumps in the trailer. Then you go home and realize that all you have is a trailer in the driveway with no footing and no room to work, and you never seem to be able to fix your particular problem. You conclude the "system" that you saw at the demo doesn't work in the real world and remain frustrated.

It is not that these "name" clinicians or trainers are charlatans. Most if not all are amazing horsemen and women. But what they can't teach you in a clinic or on a DVD, or give you with a piece of equipment, is the "feel" and the "eyes" that really help you become better with horses. Think back to the two or three individuals who are seen as the fathers of the horsemanship movement in this country—for example, the Dorrance brothers or Ray Hunt. None of these horsemen taught or tried to sell a "system" or special equipment. You could give any one of these legends a stick off the ground and some baling twine and they'd have a soft, responsive horse pretty quickly. It was about a feel for the horse and communicating what you were looking for from the animal, and recognizing the exact moment you got it. No generalized system or piece of equipment can give you that.

My first riding instructor, an accomplished endurance rider as well as a certified centered riding teacher from the Sally Swift program and with training from Linda Tellington-Jones, told me when I started that it took 10 years to become a good rider. That was pretty discouraging to hear given my age at the time! But years later I realized what she was talking about. It didn't take 10 years to learn how to ride and stay on a horse. But it did take a very long time to develop the "feel" and awareness to develop a soft, responsive horse that is comfortable under saddle and can use his body to carry a rider and perform.

My suggestion to any horse owner is if you really want to advance your horsemanship, try to find a trainer/teacher who is actually available to you, and who will look at you and your horse as individuals. Work with someone who will develop an approach just for you rather than a generalized, "this is how I always do it" system. You need a plan designed for your backyard or for wherever you keep your horse so you can practice. You need "eyes on the ground" to watch, correct and improve what you do. Even more important, you need someone to point out that exact moment you and your horse get something great, no matter how small, so you can begin to understand the "feel" of success and good horsemanship. This will be a much more productive use of your time and your money. 🍷

Scott Thomson lives in Silver City and teaches natural horsemanship. He can be reached with comments or questions at hsthomson@msn.com or (575) 388-1830.



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Red or Green?

Southwest New Mexico's best restaurant guide.

Red or Green? is *Desert Exposure's* guide to dining in southwest New Mexico. The listings here—a sampling of our complete and updated guide online at www.desertexposure.com—include some of our favorites and restaurants we've recently reviewed. We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service.

With each listing, we include a brief categorization of the type of cuisine plus what meals are served: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner. Call for exact hours and days of operation, which change frequently. We also note with a star (*) restaurants where you can pick up copies of *Desert Exposure*.

If we've recently reviewed a restaurant, you'll find a brief capsule of our review and a notation of

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

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

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

GRANT COUNTY Silver City

ADOBE SPRINGS CAFÉ, 1617 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-3665. "Under new ownership and refocusing on what has made it a longtime Silver City favorite: excellent breakfasts and lunches." (April 2011) Breakfast items, burgers, sandwiches: B L D (Sat-Sun).*

ALOTA GELATO, 619 N. Bullard St., 534-4995. Gelato and desserts.*

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

BILLY'S BBQ AND WOOD-FIRED PIZZA, Hwy 180E, 388-1367. "A free-wheeling mixture of barbecued ribs and brisket, freshly made pasta, Cajun catfish, seared Ahi tuna, authentic Greek gyros, and pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven and featuring a wide range of innovative toppings. The baby back ribs and beef brisket—all treated with tasty dry rubs and slow-roasted for long hours in the smoker-cooker—are moist, tender and championship quality." (November 2010) Barbecue, pizza, gyros, pasta: L D. Italian nights Weds., Sat.*

BRYAN'S PIT BARBECUE, mobile location, (660) 247-3151 or (660) 247-3160. "Authentic Southern-style barbecue.... Brisket, pork ribs, chicken and sausage dinners, pulled pork and chopped brisket sandwiches." (August 2010). Barbecue.*

CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. "Bear Mountain Lodge blends food, art and natural beauty into a memorable experience that pleases all the senses.... The menu changes daily, with entrées that are always imaginative and tasty—comfort food in a form that most of our mothers would never have thought of producing." (March 2011) Weekend brunch, weekday L by reservation only.*

CAFÉ UN MUNDO, 700 N. Bullard, 956-8752. "The sandwiches with the special homemade rolls, along with the long list of salads that now appear on the café's menu, are as creative as the building's décor. And, of course, there's always a tasty soup-of-the-day available." (January 2012) Vegetarian, juice, soup: L.

CHINESE PALACE, 1010 Highway 180 E., 538-9300. Chinese: L D.

COURTYARD CAFÉ, Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American, Sunday brunch, catering: B L D.*

CURIOUS KUMQUAT, 111 E. College Ave., 534-0337. "A hotspot of modern culinary innovation. Lunch (Mon.-Sat.) features soups, salads and sandwiches. Dinners (Thurs.-Sat.) are elaborate, imaginative, exotic five-course culinary creations. Entrees always include vegetarian and the super-duper hamburger, plus two determined by what local ranchers have available." (July 2010) L D.*

DELI-SSH, 801 N. Hudson St., 388-2737. Sandwiches, wraps, Italian food: L D.

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

snootiness to detract from the fact that you are, nonetheless, in small-town New Mexico." (Sept. 2007) American: L D, weekend brunch.

DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI, The Hub, Suite A, Bullard St., 534-9229. "Top-notch pastries in the morning, deli lunch or casual, tasty dinner. . . Diane's new Deli has it all—to go!" (Sept. 2007) Sandwiches, deli, baked goods: B L D.*

DON FIDENCIO'S, 901 N. Hudson St., 534-4733. Mexican: B L D.

DON JUAN'S BURRITOS, 418 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5440. Mexican: B L.

DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE, 711 Hwy 180 E., 538-2916. Breakfast: B L.*

EAT YOUR HEART OUT, 800 W. Market, 313-9005. Take-away dinners: 4:30-6 p.m.*

EL RINCON, 3110 N. Silver St., 388-2715. Mexican, American: B L D.

GILA BEANS, 1304 N. Bennett St. Coffeeshop.

GOLDEN STAR, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. Chinese: L D.

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

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

ISAAC'S GRILL, Bullard and Broadway, 388-4090. American, Burgers, Sandwiches, Sushi: L D.*

JALISCO CAFE, 100 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. Mexican: L D.

JAVA THE HUT, 611-A N. Bullard St., 534-4103. Coffeeshop.*

JAVALINA, 201 N. Bullard St., 388-1350. Coffeeshop.*

KOUNTRY KITCHEN, 1505 N. Hudson St., 388-4512. Mexican: B L early D.*

LA COCINA RESTAURANT, 201 W. College Ave., 388-8687. Mexican: L D.

LA FAMILIA, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: B L D.*

LA MEXICANA, Hwy. 180 W and Memory Lane, 534-0142. Mexican and American: B L D.

MARGO'S BAKERY, 300 S. Bullard St., 597-0012. Baked goods: B L.*

MAS Y MAS TORTILLERIA, Suite C-The Hub Plaza, 534-9255. Tortillas, Mexican: B L.*

MI CASITA, 2340 Bosworth Dr., 538-5533. Mexican: L D.

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

OFF THE HOOK, 1700 Mountain View Road, 534-1100. Catfish, chicken, shrimp: B L D.*

THE PARLOR AT DIANE'S, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Sandwiches, light bites: D.

PEACE MEAL VEGETARIAN DELI, The Hub, 6th and Bullard, 388-0106. Vegetarian: L D.*

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

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

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

SHEVEK & Co., 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168. "Shevek & Co. will take

your taste buds on a culinary tour from Spain to Greece, with delicious with delicious destinations all along the Mediterranean in-between. The sheer ambition of the offerings is astonishing." (March 2009) Mediterranean: D, brunch on selected weekends.*

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

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1530 N. Hudson, 388-2027. Coffeeshop.

SUNRISE ESPRESSO, 1212 E. 32nd St., 388-2027. Coffeeshop.

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

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

YANKIE CREEK COFFEE HOUSE, 112 W. Yankee St. Coffeeshop.*

Bayard

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

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

LOS CAMPAS FAST FOOD, 1203 Tom Foy Blvd. Sonoran-style Mexican.

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

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

Cliff

PARKEY'S, 8414 Hwy. 180 W., 535-4000. Coffeeshop.

Hurley

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

Lake Roberts

SPIRIT CANYON LODGE & CAFE, 684 Hwy. 35, 536-9459. (July 2011) German specialties Saturday L.

Mimbres

ELK X-ING. BREAKFAST, sandwiches, Mexican: B L.

MIMBRES VALLEY CAFE, Hwy. 35 N., 536-2857. Mexican, American, hamburgers: B L D.*

Pinos Altos

BUCKHORN SALOON AND OPERA HOUSE, Main Street, 538-9911. "The Buck," as most locals affectionately call it, has a history of satisfying at the dinner plate with its long-favored menu including generous slabs of meat, hearty green chile stew with kick and 'honest pours' at the full bar." (December 2010) Steakhouse, pasta, burgers: D.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

Las Cruces & Mesilla

ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT, 500 S. Main St. #434, 523-

5911. American: B L.
ACOSTA'S, El Paseo and Missouri, 524-2080. Mexican.
ALEJANDRO'S, 505 E. Thorpe Road, 524-0982. Mexican, burgers.
ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 526-9632. Mexican hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas.
ANDELE RESTAURANTE, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: L D.
AQUA REEF, 900-B S. Telshor, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: D. *
BAAN THAI KITCHEN, 1605 S. Solano Dr., 521-2630. Thai: L D.
THE BEAN, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 523-0560. Coffeehouse. *
BILLY CREWS, 1200 Country Club Rd., 589-2071. Steak and Seafood: L D.
BLUE AGAVE CAFE, 1765 S. Main St. (inside Best Western Mission Inn), 524-8591. Southwestern: B D.
BLUE MOON, 13060 N. Valley Dr., 647-9524. Brew Pub: L D.
BOBA CAFE, 1900 S. Espina, Ste. 8, 647-5900. Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: L D. *
BRAVO'S CAFE, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: B L D.
BREAK AN EGG, 201 S. Solano Dr., 647-3000. Breakfasts, burgers, salads, sandwiches: B L.
BURGER NOOK, 1204 E. Madrid Ave., 523-9806. Burgers: L D.
BURRITOS VICTORIA, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: L D.
CAFÉ AGOGO, 1120 Commerce Dr., suite A, 636-4580. Asian, American: L D.
CAFÉ DE MESILLA EN LA PLAZA, 2051 Calle de Santiago, 652-3019. Pastry, soups, sandwiches: B L early D.
CARILLO'S CAFE, 330 S. Church, 523-9913. Mexican, American: L D.
CATTLEMAN'S STEAKHOUSE, 2375 Bataan Memorial Hwy., 382-9051. Steakhouse: D.
CHABELA'S, 1710 S. Espina St., 526-2783. Mexican: B L D.
CHA CHI'S RESTAURANT, 2460 S. Locust St #A, 522-7322. Mexican: B L D.
CHILITOS, 405 S. Valley Dr., 526-4184. Mexican: B L D.
CHILITOS, 3850 Foothills Rd., 532-1104. Mexican: B L D.
CHINA EXPRESS, 2443 N. Main St., 525-9411. Chinese, Vietnamese: L D.
CHINESE KITCHEN, 2801 Missouri #29, 521-3802. Chinese: L D.
CHINESE PHOENIX, 1202 E. Madrid Ave., 541-5773. Chinese: L D.
CIROS MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 160 W. Picacho Ave., 541-0341. Mexican: B L D.
CROSSWINDS GRILL, Las Cruces Airport off I-10, 525-0500. Burgers, Mexican: B L.
DAY'S HAMBURGERS, Water & Las Cruces St., 523-8665. Burgers: L D.
DE LA VEGA'S PECAN GRILL & BREWERY, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers. "The restaurant uses local produce whenever possible, including the pecan wood pellets used in the smoking and grilling. A lot of the foods and drinks are infused with pecans, and also with green chiles from Hatch, processed on site. They even serve green chile vodka and green chile beer." (February 2010): L D.
DELICIA'S DEL MAR, 1401 El Paseo, 524-2396. Mexican: B L D.
DG'S UNIVERSITY DELI, 1305 E. University Ave., 522-8409. Deli: L D. *
DICK'S CAFE, 2305 S. Valley Dr., 524-1360. Mexican and Burgers: B L D.
DION'S PIZZA, 3890 E. Lohman, 521-3434. Pizza: L D.
DOUBLE EAGLE, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern: L D.
DUBLIN STREET PUB, 1745 E. University Ave., 522-0932. Irish, American.
EDDIE'S BAR & GRILL, 901 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-8603. Pub Food, American and Southwestern: B L D.
EL CAMINO REAL RESTAURANTE, 1765 S. Main St., 524-8591. Mexican, lunch buffet: B L D.
EL COMEDOR, 2190 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-7002. Mexican: B L D.
EL TIBURON, 504 E. Amador, 647-4233. Mexican, seafood, steak: L D.
EL TIBURON MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 605 E. Lohman Ave., 541-5003. Mexican: B L D.
EMILIA'S, 2410 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Burgers, Mexican, soup, sandwiches, pastry: B (weekends), L, D.
EMPIRE BUFFET, 510 S. Telshor Blvd., 522-2333. Oriental: L D.
ENRIQUE'S, 830 W. Picacho, 647-0240. Mexican.
ERNESTO'S, 16320 I-10, 233-5709. Mexican.
ESTRELLA DEL MAR, 150 S. Solano Dr., 541-9719. Mexican: L D.

FARLEY'S, 3499 Foothills Rd., 522-0466. Pizza, Burgers, American and Mexican: L D.
FIDENCIO'S, 800 S. Telshor, 532-5624. Mexican: B L D.
FORK IN THE ROAD, 202 N. Motel Blvd., 527-7400. Buffet: B L D.
FOX'S PIZZA DEN, 1340 E. Lohman Ave., 521-3697. Pizza: L D.
GOLDEN CHINA RESTAURANT, 504 E. Amador Ave., 525-2163. Chinese: L D.
GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD, 1420 El Paseo, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.
GOOD LUCK CAFE, 1507 S. Solano, 521-3867. Mexican seafood. B L early D.
GRANDMA INES'S KITCHEN, 2910 Avenida de Mesilla, 527-0602. American: B L D.
GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING, 1345 El Paseo Rd., 526-4803. American, Southern: B L D.
GUACAMOLE'S BAR AND GRILL, 3995 W. Picacho Ave., 525-9115. Burgers, pizza, Hawaiian: L D.
HIEBERT'S FINE FOODS, 525 E. Madrid Ave. #7, 524-0451. Mexican, American: B L D.
HIGH DESERT BREWING COMPANY, 1201 W. Hadley Ave., 525-6752. Brew Pub: L D. *
HOTEL ENCANTO, 705 S. Telshor, 532-4277. Southwestern, Continental: B L D. *
INTERNATIONAL DELIGHTS, 1245 El Paseo Rd., 647-5956. Greek and International: B L D.
JAPANESE KITCHEN, 141 Roadrunner Parkway, 521-3555. Japanese: L D.
JAVA JUNKIE CAFE, 850 N. Telshor Blvd., 522-0730. Coffeehouse, sandwiches: B L D.
J.C. TORTAS, 1196 W. Picacho Ave., 647-1408. Mexican.
JESSE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ, 227 N. Main, 522-3662. Barbecue: L.
JIREH'S, 1445 W. Picacho. Mexican, American: B L early D.
JOSE MURPHY'S, 1201 E. Amador (inside Sun Lanes), 541-4064. Mexican, American: L D.
JOSEPHINA'S OLD GATE CAFE, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. "Whether for breakfast or lunch, Josephina's offers a delicious change of pace. There are a variety of classic deli sandwiches to choose from, all served on freshly baked bread, as well as the soup of the day in a cup or bowl, and salads." (October 2008) Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: B (Fri-Sat), L.
JUNGA JUICE, 3691 E. Lohman, 521-8888.
KATANA TEPPANYAKI GRILL, 1001 E. University Ave., 532-2042. Japanese: L D.
KEVA JUICE, 1001 E. University, 522-4133. B L D.
KIVA PATIO CAFE, 600 E. Amador Ave., 527-8206. Mexican, Southwestern and American: B L D.
LA CALESA, 930 El Paseo, 525-1948, Mexican, seafood: B L early D.
LA COCINA, 204 E. Conway Ave., 524-3909. Mexican: B L D.
LA IGUANA, 139 N. Main St., 523-8550. "The restaurant is an interesting combination of styles, with elements of coffeehouse, deli and fine dining imaginatively woven together." (February 2011) Sandwiches, soups, salads, coffee bar: B L D. *
LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA, 1300 N.

Solano Dr, 541-9617. Mexican: B L D.
LA NUEVA CASITA CAFE, 195 N. Mesquite, 523-5434. Mexican and American: B L.
LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. Mexican and Steakhouse: B (weekends) L D.
LAS TRANCAS, 1008 S. Solano Dr., 524-1430. Mexican: L D.
LEMONGRASS, 2540 El Paseo Rd., 523-8778. Thai: L D.
LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFE, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. Deli, Sandwiches, coffeeshop: B L.
LORENA'S MEXICAN FAST FOOD, 3901 E. Lohman Ave. Mexican: L D.
LORENZO'S, 1750 Calle de Mercede, 525-3170. Italian and Pizza: L D.
LORENZO'S PAN AM, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. Italian and Pizza: L D.
LOS COMPAS CAFE, 6335 Bataan Memorial W., 382-2025. Mexican: B L D.
LOS COMPAS, 603 S. Nevarez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D.
LOS COMPAS, 1120 Commerce Dr., 521-6228. Mexican: B L D. *
LOS MARIACHIS, 2790 Avenida de Mesilla, 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.
MARIA BONITA, 207 E. Lohman, 541-5580. Mexican: B L D.
MESILLA VALLEY KITCHEN, 2001 E. Lohman Ave. #103, 523-9311. Mexican and American: B L D. *
MESON DE MESILLA, 1803 Avenida De Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood: L D.
METROPOLITAN DELI, 1001 University Ave., 522-3354. Sandwiches: B L D.
MIGUEL'S, 1140 E. Amador Ave., 647-4262. Mexican: L D.
MI PUEBLITO, 1355 E. Idaho Ave., 524-3009. Mexican: B L D.
MI RINCONCITO, 1605 S. Solano Dr., 532-1091. Mexican: B L D.
MILAGRO COFFEE Y ESPRESSO, 1733 E. University Ave., 532-1042. Coffeehouse: B L D. *
MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS, 1001 E. University Ave. #D4, 532-2042. Asian and Pacific: L D.
MOONGATE CAFE, 705 E. US Hwy. 70, 382-5744. Coffeeshop and Mexican: B L D.
MY BROTHER'S PLACE, 336 S. Main St., 523-7681. Mexican: L D.
NELLIE'S CAFE, 1226 W. Hadley Ave., 524-9982. Mexican: B L D.
99 EXPRESS CHINESE, 1001 E. University Ave., 532-6868. Chinese: L D.
NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 2605 Missouri Ave., 522-0440. Mexican: L D.
NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 310 S. Mesquite St., 524-0003. Mexican: L D. *
OLD TOWN RESTAURANT, 155 S. Valley Dr., 523-4586. Mexican and American: B L. *
ONO GRINDZ, 300 N. Downtown Mall, 541-7492. "Expect Ono Grindz' authentic Hawaiian fare to thrill your taste buds in an atmosphere that charms all your other senses." (Feb. 2008) Hawaiian: B L D.
ORIENTAL PALACE, 225 E. Idaho, 526-4864. Chinese: L D.
PAISANO CAFE, 1740 Calle de Mercede, 524-0211. Mexican: B L D. *
PANCAKE ALLEY DINER, 2146 W.

DINING GUIDE continued on page B47



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February Community Forum:
Go Green, Cook Greens!
 Learn how to add nutritious and delicious greens to your daily menu.

Presented twice
Tuesday, February 14th noon-1pm
Thursday, February 16th noon-1pm

In the Co-op Community Room
 Free and open to everyone
 Tea and light refreshments served
520 N. Bullard St. Silver City 575.388.2343
Monday-Saturday 9-7

Don't fight the crowds...

Celebrate Love
 All Valentine's Day Weekend
 Free Champagne Toast or Desserts
 for couples dining on Saturday through Tuesday, February 11-14, 2012

Reservations Recommended

February Hours:
 Monday 5pm-8³⁰pm
 Tuesday 5pm-8³⁰pm
 Wednesday CLOSED
 Thursday CLOSED
 Friday 5pm-9⁰⁰pm
 Saturday 5pm-9⁰⁰pm
 Sunday 5pm-8³⁰pm

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- Bayard -
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- Hurley -
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- Mimbres -
Bryan's BBQ
Elks Crossing

- Lordsburg -
El Charro
Fidencios
Ramona's Cafe

RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

From Spain with Love

For Spanish immigrant Manolo Carbonell of Manolo's Café in Deming, serving Mexican fare and American comfort food sure beats herding sheep. Customers will be glad he made the switch, too.

Manolo's Café is tucked away on a little side street in Deming, diagonally across from McDonald's. It's the kind of restaurant that creates a dilemma every time you visit it: Should you try something new on the interesting and extensive menu, or should you stick with a dish you had before and loved?

The menu offers breakfast, lunch and dinner choices, and it's difficult to convey the immense range of food options available. In every section of the menu, there's a mixture of American-style "comfort" food items and Southwest-style Mexican dishes, which no doubt qualify as Hispanic "comfort" food. There's nothing particularly fancy about the food, but it's fresh and tasty. And the prices are reasonable.

The restaurant is open seven days a week, and owners Manolo and Eva Carbonell are both nearly always there, taking an active part in the day-to-day operation of the business. Manolo does the lion's share of the cooking, with the assistance of his daughter Theresa.

"I like to cook," he says. "I enjoy it." And five years after he and Eva opened the doors of Manolo's Café, he is still enjoying it.

Manolo's first experience of large-scale cooking was in the Spanish army, before he emigrated from his native Spain to the United States in 1972 at the age of 22. After that, however, he hung up his apron and herded sheep.

"I had never touched a sheep in Spain, but it was the only way I could come legally to America. I signed a contract with Immigration to herd sheep for three years in order to earn a green card," he explains. "Actually, it took four and a half years before I got my green card, because my boss didn't want to lose a good worker and kept putting off doing the paperwork."

While herding sheep, he lived in a tent in the mountains surrounding Grand Junction, Colo., and managed to save enough of his \$275 per month salary to buy a piece of land and build a home on it—something he had learned to do while working in construction before emigrating from Spain to the United States.

After leaving the sheep, he took a leap of faith, sold the house he had built and bought a restaurant in nearby Delta, Colo., where he started cooking again.

There was a vast difference, however, between his army experience and the cooking required for his new restaurant. For one thing, it was a Chinese restaurant that he bought. But that didn't faze him.

"I made a deal with the Chinese owner that he would stay for 30 days and teach me how to cook Chinese food," Manolo says. Apparently, he was a good student, because the restaurant was a success, and so were the two restaurants he subsequently opened in the same part of Colorado.

About seven years ago, he decided it was time to retire, so he sold his businesses and began looking for a warm, friendly place to settle. He and Eva found it when they stopped and spent the night in Deming on their way from California to El Paso.



Owner Manolo Carbonell does most of the cooking at Manolo's Café, with the able assistance of his wife, Eva, and Theresa, his daughter from a first marriage



Deming cafe owners Manolo and Eva Carbonell built Manolo's Café from the foundation up, and decorated it with bright colors and 1960s memorabilia. The two remain actively involved in the day-to-day operation of the cozy restaurant, which is open seven days a week. (Photos by Peggy Platonos)

"We bought an old adobe house and I completely rebuilt everything but the walls," Manolo says.

Once that project was finished, he settled into peaceful retirement, but soon decided he was too young to retire. So he bought the lot on North Granite, and created Manolo's Café, designing and constructing the building himself. Eva pitched in and contributed the finishing touches, painting the walls a rainbow of bright and cheery colors, and using 1950s and '60s memorabilia to complete the décor.

"I wanted to reflect the era when we were young and life seemed simpler," Eva says, to explain why she chose to adorn the walls of the café with old 78-rpm records and photos of such vintage celebrities as Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, Lucille Ball, and Frank Sinatra with the Rat Pack. If you look closely, you'll also find a set of photos from Manolo's early life in Spain. (Ask him about running the bulls in Pamplona.)

The café is open seven days a week, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner pretty much at any time of day between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. On Sunday, the café opens at the regular hour and closes at 2 p.m.

Breakfast fare includes eggs served with traditional American-style bacon, ham or sausage, or with heartier meats like steak or chicken-fried steak; eggs served with traditional Mexican-style enchiladas, chilaquiles, chile con carne, as well as Huevos Rancheros and Huevos a la Mexicana; eggs incorporated in six different omelets or in a breakfast burrito; plus biscuits and gravy, pancakes, French toast, a homemade cinnamon roll, and even oatmeal to choose from. And that's just breakfast!

There are burgers of all kinds, several generous salads, a long list of sandwiches—among which the Southwest Turkey Sandwich deserves special mention—and all the traditional Mexican favorites like tacos, burritos, enchiladas, fajitas, chile rellenos, chile con queso steak and Tampiqueña steak, as well as not-always-easy-to-find Navaho tacos. There are a couple of pasta dishes, and meat and seafood entrées that include ribeye steak, grilled or fried chicken, chicken-fried steak, pork chops, fried shrimp and fish and chips. There's liver and onions on the menu, too, and if, like me, you prefer your liver pink and juicy, you are in luck, because Manolo can and will cook it that way for you.

For more information about Manolo's Café, 120 N. Granite St., call (575) 546-0405. 🍴

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

DINING GUIDE continued

Picacho Ave., 647-4836. American: B L D.
PAOLA'S BAKERY AND CAFE, N. Main St., 524-2025. El Salvadoran.
PARKER'S BBQ, 850 E. Madrid Ave., 541-5712. Barbecue carryout: L early D.
PASSION ULTRA LOUNGE, 201 E. University Ave. (inside Ramada Palms), 523-7399. Steaks, burgers, salmon: L D.
PEPE'S, 1405 W. Picacho, 541-0277. Mexican: B L D.
PEPPERS ON THE PLAZA, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern: L D.
PHO SAIGON, 1160 El Paseo Road, 652-4326. Vietnamese: L D.
PIT STOP CAFE, 361 S. Motel Blvd., 527-1993. Mexican, American, steak: B L D.
PLAYER'S GRILL, 3000 Champions Dr. (NMSU golf course clubhouse), 646-2457. American: B L D.
PUEBLO VIEJO, Picacho Ave. and Valley Dr., 525-9590. Mexican: B L D.
PULLARO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 901 W. Picacho Ave., 523-6801. Italian: L D.
RASCO'S BBQ, 5580 Bataan Memorial E. (inside Shorby's gas station). Barbecued brisket, pulled pork, smoked sausage, ribs.
RANCHWAY BARBEQUE, 604 N. Valley Dr., 523-7361. Barbecue and Mexican: B L D.
RED BRICK PIZZA, 2808 N. Telshor Blvd., 521-7300. Pizzas, sandwiches, salads: L D.
RENEE'S PLACE, 3000 Harrelson, 526-4878. American.
ROBERTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 908 E. Amador Ave., 523-1851. Mexican: B L D.*
ROLLY'S PIZZERIA, 5195 Bataan Memorial West, 373-0222. Pizza: L D.
ROSIE'S CAFE DE MESILLA, 420 Avenida de Mesilla, 526-1256. Breakfast, Mexican, burgers: B L D.
SAENZ GORDITAS, 1700 N. Solano Dr, 527-4212. Mexican: B L D.
SANTORINI'S, 1001 E. University Ave., 521-9270. "An eclectic blend of Greek and Mediterranean dishes—gyros with different meats, such as lamb or chicken, hummus with pita, Greek salads—plus sampler plates and less-familiar items such as kftedes and

pork shawarma. Vegetarian options are numerous." (July 2010) Greek, Mediterranean: L D.
SARA'S PLACE, 1750 N. Solano Dr., 523-2278. Mexican: B L.
SB'S LATE-NIGHT LUNCHBOX, 120 S. Water St.. New American fare, vegetarian, vegan, wraps: L D.
SERFINO'S, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-1444. New Mexican: B L.
THE SHED, 810 S. Valley Dr., 525-2636. American, pizza, Mexican, desserts. B L D.*
SI ITALIAN BISTRO, 523 E. Idaho, 523-1572. Italian: L D.
SIMPLY TOASTED CAFE, 1702 El Paseo Road, 526-1920. Sandwiches, soup, salads: B L.
SI SENOR, 1551 E. Amador Ave., 527-0817. Mexican: L D.*
SMOKY DICK'S BBQ, 2265 S. Main St., 541-5947. Barbecue: L D.
SPANISH KITCHEN, 2960 N. Main St., 526-4275. Mexican: B L D.
SPIRIT WINDS, 2260 S. Locust St., 521-1222. Sandwiches and Bakery: B L D.*
ST. CLAIR WINERY & BISTRO, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-0390. Wine tasting, Bistro: L D.
SUNSET GRILL, 1274 Golf Club Road (Sonoma Ranch Golf Course clubhouse), 521-1826. American, Steak and Burgers: B L D.
TACOS SANTA FE, 605 E. Lohman Ave., 541-4905. Mexican, tacos al pastor: L D.
TERIYAKI BOWL, 2300 N. Main St., 524-2055. Japanese: L D.
TERIYAKI CHICKEN HOUSE, 805 El Paseo Rd., 541-1696. Japanese: L D.
THAI DELIGHT, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 525-1900. "The menu quite literally has something for everyone. For the adventurous, there are traditional Thai curries, soups and appetizers to choose from, all of which can be ordered in the degree of heat that suits you.... The restaurant is clean, comfortable, casual in a classy sort of way, and totally unpretentious." (January 2011) Thai, salads, sandwiches, seafood, steaks, German: L D.*
TIFFANY'S PIZZA & GREEK AMERICAN CUISINE, 755 S. Telshor Blvd #G1, 532-5002. Pizza, Greek and Deli: B L D.*
TONY'S RESTAURANTE, 125 S. Campo St., 524-9662. Italian: B L.
UMP 88 GRILL, 1338 Picacho Hills

Dr., 647-1455. "An authentic taste of the Emerald Isle in a delightfully authentic pub atmosphere." (December 2008) Irish pub: L D.
VALLEY GRILL, 1970 N. Valley, 525-9000. American: B L D, Friday Fish Fry.
VINTAGE WINES, 2461 Calle de Principal, 523-WINE. "The atmosphere is casual and relaxed, the handful of tables situated snugly as in a real French bistro to encourage conversation. Kick off the evening with wine and tapas inside, or wrap up the night out on the charming, cozy patio with a dessert wine or port and, if you desire, a cigar." (June 2008) Wine and cigar bar, tapas: L D.
WOK-N-WORLD, 5192 E. Boutz, 526-0010. Chinese, pizza: L D.
ZEFFIRO PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA, 136 N. Water St., 525-6757. "Owner Gary Ebert and his very attentive and efficient staff serve up gourmet-style pizza on hand-tossed crusts." (August 2009) Pizza, also sandwiches at adjoining Popular Artisan Bakery: L D.
ZEFFIRO NEW YORK PIZZERIA, 101 E. University Ave., 525-6770. Pizza: L D.
Anthony ERNESTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 200 Anthony Dr., 882-3641. Mexican: B L.
LA COCINITA, 908 W. Main Dr., 589-1468. Mexican: L.
Chapparral EL BAYO STEAK HOUSE, 417 Chaparral Dr., 824-4749. Steakhouse: B L D.
TORTILLERIA SUSY, 661 Paloma Blanca Dr., 824-9377. Mexican: B L D.
Doña Ana BIG MIKE'S CAFE, Thorpe Road. Mexican, Breakfasts and Burgers: B L D.
SAFARI, 2221 Desert Wind Way, 382-0600.
La Mesa CHOPES BAR & CAFE, Hwy 28, 233-9976. Mexican: L D.
Organ THAI DELIGHT, 16151 Hwy. 70 E., 373-3000. Thai, steaks, sandwiches: L D.

DINING GUIDE continued on next page

Alotta Words about ALOTTA GELATO



February is an action-packed, fun-filled month for us: the Chocolate Fantasia and Valentine's Day serve to keep us hopping. Events like these remind us of why we decided to move to Silver City—it's a place where something good is going on all year 'round. We're happy to remind you that **ALOTTA GELATO** is open 7 days and nights a week all year long, because Silver City is such a happenin' town. Drop by and see us; you'll be glad you did, and so will we!

(Note: in order to get in the proper mood, light a scented candle, put the massage oil into the microwave, and put on a Barry White album before reading the next paragraph.)

Whatever you do, don't forget your sweetie on Valentine's Day! We'd like to point out that gift certificates are perfect for this occasion, can be purchased in any amount, and can be used a little at a time—a gift that keeps on giving! In our (admittedly biased) opinion, few things are more romantic than sharing gelato with the one you love—now that's amore!

The point of this is that you shouldn't go so long without treating yourself to something special...whether it's a cup of our sinful Gila Conglomerate gelato, a big honkin' wedge of triple-layer Carrot Cake, or whatever it is that turns you and/or your Valentine on.

Don't forget: **ALOTTA GELATO** is open 7 nights a week until at least 9:00 PM (10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday nights). We have all kinds of hot drinks (such as coffee, 20-plus kinds of tea, hot cocoa, hot cider and even ramen noodles) to keep you all warm and snuggly, and we also carry delicious dessert items such as Key Lime bars, Triple Lemon Cheesecake, slices of flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, cookies, and the aforementioned Carrot Cake. Nothin' says lovin' like gelato, so pick up a hand-packed pint or quart today!

Thanks for reading; as a token of our appreciation for you, our valued customer, **bring this ad for 25¢ off any size gelato for each member of your party.**

Visit us online at: www.alottagelato.com
Alotta Gelato - 619 N. Bullard St., in Downtown Silver City -575-534-4995

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 575-313-9005
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 Each night we will offer unique selections.
 Now featuring **Mary's Gourmet Cupcakes**.
 By special order or with your dinner as your ala carte dessert. Stop by to try a sample.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		February [1] Chicken & Rice (Rice is like Risotto) Green Beans Dinner Roll 10.00	February [2] Baked Ham Baked Russet or Sweet Potato Salad Dinner Roll 10.00	February [4] OPEN FOR REGULAR CATERING
February [6] February [7] Pot Roast w/ Vegetables and Potatoes - Gravy Salad Dinner Roll 10.00	February [8] February [9] Oven Fried Chicken & Gravy Mashed Potatoes Broccoli Dinner Roll 10.00	February [10] February [11] Pork BBQ & Bun Baked Beans Cabbage Slaw 10.00	February [12] February [13] February [14] February [15] February [16] February [17] February [18] February [19] February [20] February [21] February [22] February [23] February [24] February [25] February [26] February [27] February [28] February [29] February [30]	February [10] February [11] February [12] February [13] February [14] February [15] February [16] February [17] February [18] February [19] February [20] February [21] February [22] February [23] February [24] February [25] February [26] February [27] February [28] February [29] February [30]

Take Away Dinners Available TUES - THUR — 4:30-6:00 pm
 Call ahead to reserve your dinner or just stop by the kitchen to pick up your dinner on the way home.
 Find us on Facebook: 575-313-9005 • 800 W. Market • Silver City, NM 88061
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The Café Oso Azul at The Lodge
Soup, Bread, and Thou
 Thursday's nights at the Lodge from 5-6:30 pm

Come and sit by the fireplaces and have a handcrafted meal of hearty soup, artisanal bread, and dessert. Reservations a must! It is very fun and yummy. Please call for reservations 575 538 2538

February 2nd
 Gypsy's Stew-Chicken, Veggies, and Jack Cheese served with romaine salad, apple muffins, and gingerbread with whipped cream

February 9th
 Butternut Squash Soup, romaine salad, corn muffins, and chocolate pound cake with whipped cream

February 16th
 White Bean, Veggies, and Shrimp topped with avocado served with romaine salad, savory biscotti, and pear cream cheese torte

February 23rd
 Hearty Beef Stew loaded with veggies steeped in red wine served with cornbread, salad, and ginger poached pears with chocolate sauce \$16. per person

Valentines Day, reservations are a must!
 Tuesday 14th, Dinner 5-7 pm

Starter
 Roasted Red Bell Bisque with a savory cheese and herb biscotti

Entrees
 Roasted Pork Tenderloin with a blackberry mostarda and red wine sauce or
 Cioppino-Italian seafood medley-crab, shrimp, halibut, and mussels served with a rich tomato herb sauce

Dessert
 Piñon encrusted eggplant stuffed with brie cheese and fresh basil
 All served with mixed green salad and homemade bread
 Lemon Zest Mousse with fresh raspberries or
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The Food Project: A project that became a Movement
Feb 24th 5:30-8pm @ WNMU Global Resource Center

Dynamic Youth Programming
Feb 25th 10am-4pm @ Grant County Conference Center

The Food Project
For More Information
www.facebook.com/foodprojectinsilvercity
foodprojectinsilvercity@gmail.com
575-388-3343

Sponsored by Guadalupe Montessori School
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Community Enhancement Fund



Grand Opening

Sunrise Espresso II
1212 East 32nd St.
(Leslie @ 32nd St.)

Come on in or use our convenient drive-through. Enjoy freshly baked treats and free WiFi. If you have the time, we offer a relaxing comfortable location for informal meetings of getting together with friends.

At Sunrise Espresso we specialize in high quality espresso drinks designed to please the most discriminating tastes. The menu includes lattes, cappuccinos, mochas, and one of the best black cups of coffee you will find anywhere. All our drinks can be made hot, frozen (blended), or over ice, and most drinks can be made sugar free. Non-coffee drinks include Chai lattes, Italian cream sodas, and assorted teas.

Silver City's PREMIER Drive-Up Espresso Bar!
1530 N. Hudson • Silver City, NM • 575-388-2027
Mon.-Fri. 6am to 4pm • Sat. 7am to 2pm
New Second Location: 1212 E. 32nd St. • Silver City, NM
Mon.-Fri. 6am to 7pm

Table Talk

Silver City's **Adobe Springs Café** has started serving dinner on Saturday and Sunday nights. 1617 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-3665.

Mas y Mas Tortilleria plans to expand and open a restaurant next door in Silver City's Hub Plaza on Bullard Street. 534-9255.

Off the Hook, known for its catfish, has begun offering frog's legs and alligator for more adventurous palates. 1700 Mountain View Road in Silver City, 534-1100.

Curious Kumquat will celebrate Silver City's annual Chocolate Fantasia with a 12-course chocolate dinner on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 6 p.m. Plus of course there's a Valentine's Day special on Feb. 14. 111 E. College Ave., 534-0337.

Shevek & Co. in downtown Silver City will be celebrating Valentine's Day all weekend and through the big day itself, Feb. 11-14. Couples can choose from a free champagne toast or free dessert. 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168.

Diane's in downtown Silver City will be hoping this month, with a Chocolate Fantasia tea party Feb. 11, an Argentine wine dinner Feb. 13, special sweetheart menu Feb. 14, Asian night Feb. 19 and a Mardi Gras Cajun feast on Feb. 21. 510 N. Bullard, 538-8722.

The long-awaited move of Las Cruces' **St. Clair**

Winery & Bistro to more spacious quarters at 1720 Avenida de Mesilla is at last a reality. The move also brings new menu items and select beers. 524-0390, www.StClairWinery.com.

Also in Las Cruces, the bagel saga continues to turn. The former home of Durango Bagels and, very briefly, Integrity Bagels at 1495 S. Solano Dr. will now become the fourth outpost of El Paso-based **The Bagel Shop**. It's the company's first franchise location and the first in Las Cruces.

Las Cruces' latest barbecue joint is **Rasco's BBQ**, dishing up brisket, pulled pork, smoked sausage and ribs inside Shorty's gas station, 5580 Bataan Memorial East.

Saul and Gloria Hernandez have opened **Jireh's**, serving Mexican and American food, at 1445 W. Picacho Ave. Hours are 8 a.m.-7 p.m., daily except Sunday.

Promising a little bit of Vegas (the Nevada one, presumably), **Passion Ultra Lounge** now open in the Ramada Palms motel describes itself as "the first true Vegas Style Ultra Lounge." In addition to a bar, it has a full lunch and dinner menu, featuring steaks, burgers, cedar plank salmon and salads. 201 E. University Ave., 523-7399. 🍷

All area codes are 575 except as noted. Send restaurant news and listings updates to updates@red-or-green.com.

DINING GUIDE continued

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

LUNA COUNTY

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

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

BELSHORE RESTAURANT, 1210 E. Spruce, 546-6289. American: B L.

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

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

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

DAIRY QUEEN, 1414 E. Pine St., 546-820. Frozen desserts, burgers. *

DEMING TRUCK TERMINAL, 1310 W. Spruce, 546-8832. American, Mexican: B L D.

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

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

GOLDEN STAR, 500 E. Cedar St., 544-0689. Chinese.

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

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

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

LA PARRILLA, 1409 Columbus Road, 544-4443. Mexican: B L.

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

Mexican: L D. Manolo's Cafe, 120 N. Granite St., 546-0405.

MANOLO'S CAFE, 120 N. Granite St., 546-0405. Mexican, American: B L early D.

MIMBRES VALLEY BREWING CO., 200 S. Gold, 544-BREW. Craft beer, pizza, burgers, wings, paninis: L D.

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

PATIO CAFE, 1521 Columbus Road, 546-5990. "The famed burgers are ground fresh daily from 85 percent lean beef—a half-pound apiece before cooking—and formed for each order. You can adorn your burger in any of a dozen different combinations." (February 2006) Burgers, American, breakfast specialties: B L D.*

PRIME RIB GRILL, inside Holiday Inn, I-10 exit 85, 546-2661. Steak and Seafood: B L D.*

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

SI SENOR, 200 E. Pine St., 546-3938. Mexican: B L D.

SUNRISE KITCHEN, 1409 S. Columbus Road, 544-7795. B L.

TACOS MIRASOL, 323 E. Pine St., 544-0646. Mexican: L D.

Akela

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

Columbus

PANCHO VILLA CAFE, Hwy. 11, 531-0555. Mexican and American: B L D.

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

HIDALGO COUNTY

Lordsburg

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

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

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

MAMA ROSA'S PIZZA, 1312 Main St., 542-8400. Pizza: L D.

RAMONA'S CAFE, 904 E. Motel Dr., 542-3030. Mexican, American: B L D.

Animas

PANTHER TRACKS CAFE, Hwy 338, 548-2444. Burgers, Mexican and American: B L D

Rodeo

RODEO STORE AND CAFE, coffee-shop food: B L.

RODEO TAVERN, 557-2229. D (Weds.-Sat.).

CATRON COUNTY

Reserve

ADOBE CAFE, Hwy. 12 & Hwy. 180, 533-6146. Deli, American, Thursday

pizza, Sunday barbecue buffet: B L D (Thurs., Sun.).

BLACK GOLD, 533-6538. Coffee-house.

CARMEN'S, 533-6990. Mexican and American: B L D.

ELLA'S CAFE, 533-6111. Homestyle: B L D.

UNCLE BILL'S BAR, 533-6369. Pub Food: L D.

Glenwood

ALMA GRILL, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, hamburgers, Mexican: B L.*

BLUE FRONT BAR AND CAFE, Hwy. 180, 539-2561. "Plentiful appetizer platters, perfectly done and tender ribeye, weekend special barbecue dishes smoky sweet and ample. Try the 'Stevie' sandwich, a grilled cheese with onions, tomatoes and chiles.... A regular haunt for locals who eat out, and a Thursday night yoga group meets and eats here each week." (Nov. 2007) Mexican and American, weekend Barbecue, Friday catfish fry: L D.*

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

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

Other Catron County

PURPLE ONION CAFE, Mogollon, 539-2710. "Seasonal, quirky and way off the beaten path, The Purple Onion Café in Mogollon serves eclectic fare and 'famous' pie." (August 2011) Breakfast, burgers, veggie melts, pita pockets: B L (Fri.-Sun., Mon. holidays, May-Oct.)

DAILY PIE CAFE, Pie Town, 722-2700. Italian and Homestyle: B L D.

EL SERAPE, Quemado, 773-4620. Mexican and American.

SNUFFY'S STEAKHOUSE AND SALOON, Quemado Lake, 773-4672. Steakhouse: D

SIERRA COUNTY

Hillsboro

BARBER SHOP CAFE, 895-5283. American, Mediterranean, Sandwiches: B (Sat., Sun.) L.

HILLSBORO GENERAL STORE, Main St., 895-5306. American and Southwestern: B L D (Sat.).

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

40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going on in February

Plus a look ahead into early March.

FEBRUARY

WEDNESDAY

1 Silver City/Grant County

ESTHER JAMISON—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

WILL LUNCH & LEARN—"The First 180 Days of Transforming the Future Together." Dr. Joseph Shepard, WNMU president. 12-1 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
NMSU AGGIES MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CAL STATE BAKERSFIELD—7 p.m. \$5-\$20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

BALANCED LIVING BOOKCLUB—Sid-deeq Shabazz. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

FARM VOLUNTEER DAY—Every Wednesday. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. MVM Farm, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

LE HAVRE—Through Feb. 2. This film is set in the French port city where many of the cargoes are human: illegal immigrants arriving from Africa. French with English subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

LOSING WEIGHT THROUGH SENSIBLE NUTRITION AND EXERCISE—Wednesday through Mar. 14. Rosa Lopez is a registered dietitian with the New Mexico Department of Health, and will be available for free individual sessions as well. 12-1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY

2 Silver City/Grant County

HEALTH COUNCIL FOCUS GROUP—Cliff-Gila Focus Group. The Grant County Community Health Council conducts the Community Assessment to learn the health and wellness needs of Grant County residents. These needs are prioritized and help to leverage tens of millions of dollars for the community. The community assessment begins with focus groups throughout the county which are one hour in length and limited to 15 people. All participants will be compensated for their time. All issues raised in the focus groups will be confidential, and participants' identities will be kept secret. 6 p.m. Reserve your seat at the focus group or for more information call the Health Council at 388-1198, email tknauf@grmc.org. HMS Cliff/Gila Clinic, 415 Hwy. 211.

WNMU MUSTANGS MEN'S TENNIS VS PIMA JUNIOR COLLEGE—1 p.m. wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
NMSU AGGIES WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. FRESNO STATE—6:30 p.m. \$5-\$20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

GAL HOLIDAY AND THE HONKY TONK REVIEW—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

PSYCHIC READINGS AND ENERGETIC HEALINGS—Reiki Master and Reverend Dawn Cheney. 12-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

STORE TOUR—6-7 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG—Through Feb. 5. A portrait of three disparate sisters reuniting after a lengthy separation and coming to terms with their differences, respect and love for one another by Wendy Wasserstein and directed by Nikka Ziemer. 7 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

FRIDAY

3 Silver City/Grant County

AMOS TORRES—Coffee House Concerts. Back porch country soul, singer-songwriter guitarist. 6:30 p.m. Yankee Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankee St.

FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN—Year of the Dragon. The 11th day of the Chinese New Year celebration is dedicated to gathering and eating with family and friends. Join the fun at downtown restaurants and watch for a special Lion Dance performance. Downtown Silver City, SilverCityMainStreet.com.

SEAN COSTANZA—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

SWNM AUDUBON MEETING—Get

ready for spring with native plants for wildlife. Tricia Hurley's presentation will illustrate the importance of native plantings in enhancing habitat for our wild neighbors. Learn why these often overlooked yet beautiful plants deserve prominent space in our healthy landscapes. 7-8 p.m. Free. WNMU Harlan Hall, 12th St., swmadubon.org.

THE RAGBIRDS—The Ragbirds utilize an arsenal of instruments from around the world in a fusion of folk rock and pop hooks over danceable world rhythms stirred with a Celtic fiddler's bows. Mimbres Region Arts Council. 7:30 p.m. \$20, \$15 MRAC members, \$5 students. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ALMAZAZZ!—6:30-9:30 p.m. St. Clair Bistro, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 534-0390.

FOR THE LOVE OF ART—Exhibit through Feb. 25. A celebration of art in Las Cruces. Paintings, drawings, sculptures, jewelry, paper, fiber arts and wood are on display. Music by Randy Granger. See story in Arts Exposure section. ArtForms. 5-7 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Dance lessons provided. Ballroom, country, swing and Latin styles. CDs. 7-10 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY SCULPTURE CLASS EXHIBIT—Artists' reception. 5-7 p.m. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

DOWNTOWN RAMBLE—Enjoy art openings, exhibits, music, entertainment, open mic opportunities, shopping, refreshments and more. 5-7 p.m. Free. Downtown Mall, 523-2950.

KARLA PERRY AND PENNY SIMPSON—Artist reception. 5-7 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

KICKING NATURE UP A NOTCH—Exhibit through Feb. 15. Gourd exhibit by Karen Currier. Artist's reception. 5-7 p.m. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

LAS CRUCES ARTS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP SHOW—Grand opening of Mountain Gallery and Studios. 5-7 p.m. Mountain Gallery and Studios, 138 W. Mountain St.

RANGER LED NATURE HIKE—For all hikes please bring binoculars, water, sunscreen and wear hiking shoes. 3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SHADOWLANDS—Through Feb. 19. A dramatic play about a crisis in the life of C.S. Lewis by William Nicholson and directed by Patrick Payne. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctm.org.

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG—See Feb. 2. Through Feb. 5. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

THE SKIN I LIVE IN—Through Feb. 9. A scary, sexy and twisted horror film from Pedro Almodóvar, who reunites with Antonio Banderas for the first time since 1990. Banderas plays Dr. Robert Ledgard, a widower plastic surgeon who uses his isolated mansion to hide a suicidal patient whom we see only in a head bandage and a body stocking, called Vera (Elena Anaya). Vera has no memories; she's a blank canvas on which Robert does all the painting. Vera badly wants out; she even tries to seduce Robert. His housekeeper, Marilia (Marisa Paredes), is a fierce guard. That is, until her hood son Zeca (Roberto Álamo) breaks in (wearing a tiger mask) and decides to take carnal advantage of this beautiful bird in a gilded cage. In Spanish, with English subtitles. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

SATURDAY

4 Silver City/Grant County

BIRD ILLUSTRATOR—For mature audiences. Performance of part 7 of 15 of Victoria Tester's New Mexico Ghost Play Cycle. 2 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

AFRICAN AMERICAN DRUMMING AND DANCING—Black History Month. 7 p.m. WNMU Miller Library. 538-6611.

CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY—Readings and signings by local authors, including Rick Stansberger, author of the new book *Gizmo*. Door prize entry for attendees bringing a gadget invented before 1950. 2-4 p.m. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, www.silcotheater.com.

CHILDREN'S YARN PAINTING—Chile ristra craft class. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, silvercitymuseum.org.

SARAH PETITE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
NMSU AGGIES WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NEVADA—3:30 p.m. \$5-\$20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

NMSU AGGIES MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. LOUISIANA TECH—7 p.m. \$5-\$20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

BAXTALO BENG WITH ALMA-ZAZZ!—6:30-9:30 p.m. St. Clair Bistro, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 534-0390.

BIRDING TOUR—8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

CLASSICS FOUR—Also Feb. 5. The Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, featuring guest cellist Zuill Bailey, will perform works by Debussy, Camille Saint-Saëns, Richard Strauss and Johann Strauss, Sr. 7:30 p.m. \$35-\$45. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

FARGO—The award-winning Mid-western crime drama by Joel and Ethan Coen. Frances McDormand stars as Marge Gunderson, the pregnant police chief of Brainerd, Minn., with William H. Macy as a loser who hatches a scheme to shake down his father-in-law for a million dollars by having two thugs kidnap his wife. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

IPHON-E-GRAPHY—All iPhone photography done with free apps, by Mel Stone. Opening 4-6 p.m. Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St.

ORGANIC GARDEN SOIL PREPARATION—The secret to a great vegetable or flower garden is the quality of the soil. Learn about additions that can be made to soil for more color and produce

EVENTS continued on next page



All Showings
Saturdays @ 1:30 pm
at the Fountain Theatre
2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla
Admission is \$4, or \$1 for MV Film Society members.

February Shows

- Feb 4 **Fargo** (1996, 98 minutes rated R)
- Feb 11 Valentine's Day double feature! **Before Sunrise** (1995, 100 minutes, rated R) and **The Last Picture Show** at 4 PM (1971, 118 minutes, rated R) with support from Preston Contemporary Art Center.
- Feb 18 **Cave of Forgotten Dreams** (2011, 90 minutes, rated G) Free admission for all, as MVFS's contribution to Love of Arts Month.
- Feb 25 **All the Pretty Horses** (2000, 116 minutes, rated PG-13)

For more information call 575-524-8287 • www.mesillavalleyfilm.org

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Thu 2/9 · Bob Einweck (Tucson)
Sat 2/11 · Ernesto Tinajero (Radio La Chusma)
Thu 2/16 · Bayou Seco (Silver City)
Sat 2/18 · Run-On Sentence (Portland, OR)
Thu 2/23 · The Deming Fusiliers
Sat 2/25 · Lillis Urban
Thu 3/1 · Bat (Albuquerque)

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BUCKHORN SALOON & OPERA HOUSE

January 2011

Mondays: Open Mic Night @ 7pm
 Wednesdays: Saloon Spaghetti

Wed 1	Esther Jamison
Fri 3	Sean Costanza—'Heartland Country' duo
Sat 4	Sarah Petite—Singer Songwriter (San Diego)
Wed 8	Run On Sentence—Roots Music (Portland)
Fri/Sat 10 & 11	Bob Einweck (Tucson)

VALENTINE'S DAY PERFORMANCE

Tues 14	Melanie Zipin & the Sugar Leafs
Wed 15	Peter & Michele
Fri 17	Russell Scharf—JAZZ Trio (ABQ)
Sat 18	MARDI GRAS PARTY (Opera House ONLY)
Wed 22	Barb & Joe
Fri 24	The Stoke—Dance, Dance, Dance
Sat 25	Sarah Peacock—Country/Americana
Wed 29	Wally Lawder

buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com or 575-538-9911

BUCKHORN Opera House

2nd Annual New Mexico Music Series

Door 7:00 pm Music 7:30 pm

Saturday February 18th

Mardi Gras Kick Off Event

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 ~ Costume Promenade & Prizes ~
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~ UPCOMING ~
Saturday, March 3rd
TONY FURTADO

THE TO DO LIST

February events to love.

As if this month didn't already have a lot going for it with Silver City's Chocolate Fantasia and For the Love of Art Month in Las Cruces and Mesilla (see Arts Exposure section), February has plenty more packed into the shortest month. Thank goodness we get 29 days to enjoy it this year!

Music leads the list, starting **Feb. 3** at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater with the latest in the Mimbres Region Arts Council's Performance Series, **The Ragbirds**. The



The Ragbirds

five-piece group is led by energetic front woman Erin Zindle, who is not only the singer and songwriter but a classically trained violinist proficient in a range of stringed instruments. Accompanying her are guitarist T.J. Zindle and bassist Brian Crist, drummer Loren Kranz and percussionist Randall Moore. The Ragbirds recently released their fourth studio album, "Travelin' Machine."

Feb. 18 is Mardi Gras, and the Buckhorn in Pinos Altos celebrates with a **Mardi Gras Party and Masquerade Ball**, featuring music by Naiz Denae. It's the kickoff of this year's New Mexico Music Series. Upcoming concerts will be: March 3, Tony Furtado; April 28, Round Mountain; June 23, Anthony Leon & the Chain; July 21, Cathryn McGill with John Rangel; and August 25, Le Chat Lunatique.

Also at the Buckhorn Opera House, **Antje Duvokot** performs as part of the MRAC Folk Series on **Feb. 24**. Her debut studio release, "Big Dream Boulevard" in 2006, was voted the top folk album of the year by the Boston Globe and one of the year's top 10 by NPR's "Folk Alley."

The traveling youth group **Up With People** comes to Silver City for two concerts, **Feb. 24 and 25**. The international education organization, founded in 1965, brings a 120-person cast from 21 countries and 25 states, not only to perform but also to participate in volunteer activities and assist local organizations as a way to give back to the communities that

host them. (Those interested in serving as a host family for Up With People's Feb. 20-27 visit should email MVerbeek@upwithpeople.org or call 303-681-6012.)

On **Feb. 26**, the Grant County Community Concert Association brings **Anita Chen** to the WNMU stage. Born in the US to Taiwanese parents, Chen is not yet 21 years of age, but is internationally acclaimed as a rare "double-threat" in classical music performance, equally

proficient on both violin and piano. Chen began work at Juilliard at the age of seven, but she actually started playing piano at age four and the violin at age five. She launched her soloist career at age 11 at Carnegie Hall in New York, and made

her recording debut with the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra at age 15.

It's not all tunes this month, however. All month long, the Grant County Community Health Council will be conducting focus groups across the county as part of a **Community Assessment** to learn the health and wellness needs of residents. See the full events calendar for dates, and contact the Health Council at 388-1198, email tknauf@grmc.org, to participate or for more information.

On **Feb. 24-25**, Guadalupe Montessori School will present two full-day workshops and a multimedia program in Silver City in partnership with the Boston-based group **The Food Project**. Since 1991, The Food Project has built a national model of engaging young people in personal and social change through sustainable agriculture. The group's hallmark is its focus on identifying and transforming a new generation of leaders by placing teens in unusually responsible roles, with deeply meaningful work. In addition to producing and distributing food, the project helps others grow their own through its community programs, and provides training resources based on all they've learned since 1991. See the calendar for details; email foodprojectinsilvercity@gmail.com to reserve your space in either workshop or for more info.



Anita Chen

EVENTS continued

from your garden. 2 p.m. \$7.50, free to members. Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-1886, gardens@zianet.com, nmenchantedgardens.com.

RANGER LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SEED SHARE—A community event where you can pick up seeds for your garden, share your own, talk with other growers, and learn why a local seed bank is so important. There will be an optional potluck as well. 12-3 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

SHADOWLANDS—See Feb. 3. Through Feb. 19. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lactnm.org.

SILVER CITY STRING BEANS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

THE SISTERS ROSENWEIG—See Feb. 2. Through Feb. 5. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

VOZ VAQUEROS—The singing men of Las Cruces. 1-2 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

WORLD WETLANDS—Events include a guided bird tour at 8:15 a.m., a wetland presentation by Environmental Specialist Chris Canavan, and the Rolling River display. Learn about wetlands and the importance of water conservation at this half-day event. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SUNDAY SUPER BOWL SUNDAY
5 Silver City/Grant County FULL MOON DRUMMING PERFORMANCE, FIRE AND OPEN DRUM CIRCLE—Dance to traditional West African drumming troupe. If you're a drummer, bring your drum for an open drum circle after

the performance. Families and kids are encouraged, as are costumes to help people get into the village dance atmosphere. 5 p.m. Thunder Creek parking lot on Bullard St., 519-9232, gilacirclewayproject.org.

DANE DEXTER—Soft Sunday breakfast music. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Vicki's Eatery, 315 W. Texas St.

KEEGAN SEVERE—Sunday morning music. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Yankee Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankee St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla ARTISTS OF PICACHO HILLS FOR LOVE OF ART SHOW—Original art work of over 20 artisans. 12-4 p.m. Free. Picacho Hills Country Club, 6861 Via Compestre, 575-523-6599, artistsofpicachohills.com.

CLASSICS FOUR—See Feb. 4. 2 p.m. \$35-\$45. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

PLATICAS—Clarence Fielder. Reception. Nopalito's Galeria, 326 S. Mesquite, 524-0003, nopalitosgaleria.com.

RANGER LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m.



Walk the new labyrinth at Bear Mountain Lodge on Feb. 12.

\$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SHADOWLANDS—See Feb. 3. Through Feb. 19. 2 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

THE SISTERS ROSENWEIG—See Feb. 2. 2:30 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

Deming
DPAT JAM SESSIONS—Every Sunday. Dance and socialize. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

MONDAY
6 Silver City/Grant County HEALTH COUNCIL FOCUS GROUP—See Feb. 2. Hachita Focus Group. 1 p.m. Reserve your seat at the focus group or for more information call the Health Council at 388-1198, email tknauf@grmc.org. Community Center, Railroad Ave. & 4th St.

AIN'T GONNA LET NOBODY TURN ME ROUND—Musical account of the Civil Rights movement. Black History Month. 2 p.m. WNMU Miller Library. 538-6611.
VOICES FROM WNMU—A student/staff panel discussion. Black History Month. 6 p.m. WNMU Miller Library. 538-6611

TUESDAY
7 Silver City/Grant County HEALTH COUNCIL FOCUS GROUP—See Feb. 2. Hurley Focus Group. 6 p.m. Reserve your seat at the focus group or for more information call the Health Council at 388-1198, email tknauf@grmc.org. Hurley Community Center, 302 Carrasco Ave.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ARRIVING IN AMERICA: THE CHALLENGE OF IMMIGRANTS AND MINORITIES IN MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY—Matthew Jacobson presents "Race, Immigration, and Citizenship in the United States: The Irish Experience as Racial Odyssey." 7:30 p.m. NMSU College of Health and Social Services Auditorium, 646-4612.
TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN AND WINTER FERAL CAT CARE—Joe Miele, nationally recognized expert on feral cat care. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY
8 Silver City/Grant County HEALTH COUNCIL FOCUS GROUP—See Feb. 2. Mimbres Focus Group. 6 p.m. Reserve your seat at the focus group or for more information call the Health Council at 388-1198, email tknauf@grmc.org. Round Up Lodge.
RUN ON SENTENCE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.
WILL LUNCH & LEARN—"Navajo Weaving: Then, Now and in the Future." 12-1 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com.
WRITING WORKSHOP—"Fruitful Questions: Generating writing" by Sharman Apt Russell. See story in this issue. 1-5 p.m. \$50. Details: maryhotvedt@aol.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BALANCED LIVING BOOKCLUB—Sid-deeq Shabazz. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.
FARM VOLUNTEER DAY—9 a.m.-1 p.m. MVM Farm, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

THURSDAY
9 Silver City/Grant County GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—Monthly meeting and potluck. Bring your own cups and dishes. 6 p.m. Senior Center, Victoria St., 534-1393.
HEALTH COUNCIL FOCUS GROUPS—See Feb. 2. Silver City focus groups. Spanish at 5 p.m. and English at 6 p.m. Reserve your seat at the focus group or for more information call the Health Council at 388-1198, email tknauf@grmc.org. Silver City Public Library Community Room, 515 W. College Ave.

SUK-JUN KIM—Artist Lecture Series. 6:30 p.m. WNMU Parotti Hall, 538-2505.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—Dance lessons provided. Ballroom, country, swing and Latin styles. Valentine's Day Dance. Semi-formal. High Society Orchestra. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

BOB EINWECK—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

NEW MEXICO IN THE CIVIL WAR—Author and historian John Taylor of Albuquerque, author or co-author of three books—*New Mexico: Bloody Valverde, The Battle of Glorieta Pass* and *Dejad a Los Niños*. The lecture coincides with the 150th anniversary of the Confederate campaign across New Mexico in February-March 1862. 7-8 p.m. \$2. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

FRIDAY
10 Silver City/Grant County ASPIRATION, POLITICS AND WILLPOWER—Opening reception. The people behind the formation of the Territorial Normal School at Silver City. 4:30 p.m. WNMU Fleming Hall Museum, 538-6386.

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

WNMU MEN'S GOLF CACTUS THAW—Through Feb. 11. 8:30 a.m. wnmumustangs.com.
RAINGER—Coffee House Concerts. Paul and Sue Wise Smith, singer-songwriters presenting their folk and Americana. 6:30 p.m. Yankee Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankee St.

THE SWEETHEART SHOW—Opening reception, paintings and sculpture. Gay Marks and Jim Palmer. 5-7 p.m. 204 S Bullard St.

TAIZÉ SERVICE—Sung prayer, alternating with spoken scripture readings, spoken prayer and silence. Nondenominational. 5:30 p.m. Free. Church of the Good Shepherd, Texas & 7th St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
A CENTURY OF ENCHANTMENT—Through Feb. 11. Las Colcheras Quilt Guild 10th judged quilt show. 200 judged quilts, boutique, vendors. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. \$7. Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., 522-5630, lcqg.org.

LANDCUTS EXHIBIT—Artists' reception. Heather Bradley and Karina Hean. 4-6 p.m. Unsettled Gallery, 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285.

LOVE OF ART—Reception. 6 p.m. Nopalito's Galeria, 326 S. Mesquite, 524-0003, nopalitosgaleria.com.

MOUNTAIN FILM ON TOUR—7 p.m. \$8-\$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

RANGER LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SHADOWLANDS—See Feb. 3. Through Feb. 19. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

TAKE SHELTER—Through Feb. 16. Michael Shannon plays Curtis LaForche, a crew manager for an Ohio sand-mining company, husband to Samantha (Jessica Chastain) and father of their six-year-old daughter, Hannah (Tova Stewart), who is deaf. Lately, Curtis has been having visions of an impending apocalypse, disturbing visions that estrange him from his family and his co-workers. Nominated for best feature for this year's Independent Spirit Awards. Nightly 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$7 regular, \$5 seniors and students, MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
SHADOWLANDS—See Feb. 3. Through Feb. 19. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.
VALENTINE'S FUN RUN AND 5K—8 a.m. \$10-\$20. Kohl's parking lot, 2500 N. Triviz Dr., 541-2563.

SATURDAY
11 Silver City/Grant County CHOCOLATE FANTASIA—See story in Arts Exposure section. 12-4 p.m. \$20 sampling ticket. Benefits Mimbres Region Arts Council. Downtown, 538-2505, mimbresarts.org.

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

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE—Circle dances celebrating the Sacred which unites all beings. Chanting, live music. 7 p.m. \$5-\$10 suggested donation. 1st Church of Harmony, 7th & Arizona St., 534-1441.

FIDDLING FRIENDS—12:15-1 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn.

FORT BAYARD TOUR—Black History Month, Buffalo Soldiers. 9:30 a.m. \$3. Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, 536-3161, fortbayard.org.

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY DAY—The Magic of Reading, a carnival of activities focused on the power of reading, the importance of families reading together, and the many services offered through the Public Library. Literacy Link-Leamos. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Public Library, 515 W. College Ave.

SILVER CITY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY—*Seeing in the Dark*, a film by renowned astronomer Timothy Ferris. 1 p.m. Isaac's, 200 N. Bullard St. silvercityofstars@gmail.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
A CENTURY OF ENCHANTMENT—See Feb. 10. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$7. Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., 522-5630, lcqg.org.

BE MY COWBOY VALENTINE—Children will surprise relatives and friends with gifts they make themselves. Ages 5 to 12, limited to the first 12 children to sign up. 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. \$7 members, \$10 non-members. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

BEFORE SUNRISE—Sorbonne student Celine (Julie Delpy) is returning to Paris by train from Budapest after visiting her grandmother. Jesse Wallace (Ethan Hawke) is a handsome young American, dumped by his American girlfriend. They get together on the train just outside of Vienna, and while chatting the two make a love connection. When the train pulls into Vienna, Ethan proposes that she join him wandering around the city until his flight to the States the next morning. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

BIRDING TOUR—8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

BOSQUE EDUCATION WORKSHOP—Helping teachers learn how to use the Bosque Education Guide, an interdisciplinary curriculum designed for grades K-12. Reservations suggested. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

CASAS DE ANTAÑO (HOUSES OF YESTERYEAR) TOUR OF HISTORIC HOMES—Mesilla Valley Preservation tour of seven buildings in the historic center of Las Cruces with a special focus on homes that were standing at the time of New Mexico statehood in 1912. 1-5 p.m. \$15. 644-0599, wrevath@gmail.com, www.mvpres.org.

COMMUNITY OPTIONS CUPID'S CHASE 5K RUN—Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext. 116, mesilla-nm.org

ERNESTO TINAJERO—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
FARM VOLUNTEER DAY—9 a.m.-1 p.m. MVM Farm, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS—Family-friendly basketball event will showcase fan favorites Big Easy, Flight Time, Special K and Scooter, as well as introduce new players TNT, Tiny and Hops. 7 p.m. \$27-\$117. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

LAST PICTURE SHOW—Screening of the 1971 Oscar winning film as part of the Last Picture Show exhibition at the Preston. 3:45 p.m. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

LUCILENE DE GEUS—Local flamenco dancers. 1-2 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

RANGER LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SHADOWLANDS—See Feb. 3. Through Feb. 19. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

VALENTINE'S FUN RUN AND 5K—8 a.m. \$10-\$20. Kohl's parking lot, 2500 N. Triviz Dr., 541-2563.

Deming
THE PELLETIERIERS—Freddie and Sheila perform bluegrass, classic country and a variety of guitar instrumental and vocal tunes. 2 p.m. \$10, \$8 DPAT members. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine St.

Lordsburg
19TH ANNUAL BOOTHEEL COWBOY POETRY FESTIVAL—Dianne and Pete Kennedy. Admission includes hamburgers and soft drinks. 5 p.m. \$10. Lordsburg Hildago County Museum.

SUNDAY
12 Silver City/Grant County SALT LICK LABYRINTH CELEBRATION—Cordelia Rose, national labyrinth EVENTS continued on next page

FEBRUARY FILMS

Feb 3-9	The Skin I Live In (Spanish, with English subtitles)
Feb 10-16	Take Shelter (Nominated for best feature for this year's Independent Spirit Awards).
Feb 17-23	The Puzzle (Spanish, with English subtitles)
Feb 24-Mar 1	The Interrupters

Mesilla Valley Film Society
2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla • www.mesillavalleyfilm.org • (575) 524-8287
Shows nightly at 7:30- Sunday Matinee at 2:30.
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Photo courtesy of Tyrish Hamtibal

- ◆ Sat, Feb 4 *Celebration of Creativity*. 2-4 pm. Readings and signings by local authors, including Rick Stansberger, author of the new book *Gizmo*. Door prize entry for attendees bringing a gadget invented before 1950.
- ◆ Sat, Feb 11 *Chocolate Fantasia Headquarters*. Stroll downtown galleries and shops while sampling delicious, gourmet chocolate confections. Mimbres Region Arts Council. Tickets and information at mimbresarts.org/chocolatefantasia.html
- ◆ Wed, Feb 22 *Progressive Voters Alliance of Grant County* monthly meeting. 7 pm.

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-Home and Garden Vendors

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CONTINENTAL DIVIDE • DAVID A. FRYXELL

You're Not Getting Older...

Wait—yes, yes I am. And nothing about it is “better”!

A recent survey of older folks found that the age they would most like to be again is *not*, surprisingly, the raucous teenage years or even the still-youthful twenties. No, apparently the age at which you have it all is your forties.

Since another birthday looms next month that will carry me one more year away from my forties, this news pretty much just makes me want to eat Chili Cheese Fritos and drink “Two-Buck Chuck” merlot until my arteries clog or I pass out, whichever comes first. (Given the possibility that compounds in the red wine will counteract the artery-clogging effects of the Fritos, I’m betting on the passing out and thinking I should do this on a comfy sofa.) What point is there is trying to eat right and exercise, anyway, if it’s all downhill from here?

Not that I haven’t been trying. That’s one of the things you notice about what the media call your “declining years.” Suddenly your pants don’t fit as well anymore and you start eyeing “relaxed fit” brands along with the nutrition labels on food packages. Apparently we can’t eat like Paula Deen (“Slather another pound of butter on that bacon, son”) and not suffer the consequences. Who knew?

When I was young, I could eat anything without packing on the pounds. Milkshakes—I remember milkshakes. For lunch at my first job, my colleagues and I would sometimes go to a restaurant-slash-ice cream parlor, where I would typically

order a grilled cheese sandwich and fries, washed down by a milkshake so large it wouldn’t all fit in the tall fluted glass; they gave you the rest in the metal container in which the milkshake was mixed. If I went for moderation and skipped the milkshake in favor of a soft drink (not a diet soda—I don’t

think I sipped a diet soda until I was 40), I might make up for those missing calories by ordering a sundae for dessert. A favorite was the “Tin Roof Sundae,” which was sort of a deconstructed Snickers bar atop a mound of ice cream.

How did I not weigh 400 pounds by the time I was 30? Honestly, I was a skinny kid and stayed that way until one morning I woke up and weighed an extra 30 pounds that hadn’t been there the night before. My Body Mass Index (BMI) was a “normal” 22, I can now calculate retroactively, but if I’d been at the low end of that “normal” range (18.5), I would have been too skinny for the bullies to find and beat up.

It’s as if all those milkshakes, sundaes, burgers and non-diet sodas had some sort of time-release mechanism built in. They lull you into eating all this junk for a decade or two and then bam! All those accumulated calories kick in at once and you go from needing to put on a few pounds to paying attention to the Weight Watchers commercials.

As for exercise, let’s face it—*bo-ring*. I don’t understand these people who babble about an “exercise high” and how they love going

to the gym or pounding the pavement until their Nikes’ soles give out and their feet bleed. Have they discovered some sort of exercise that I don’t know about, which doesn’t involve sweating, breathing hard and mindlessly repetitive motion?

The only thing that gets me through my morning “workout” routine is Roku, a little box that attaches to the TV set near where I wheeze through my exercising. Roku connects the TV to the Internet, where thanks to Netflix streaming I can watch “Top Gear” and “Archer” instead of endless commercials and the 14th hour of the “Today Show.” (The only thing that could make exercising more mind-numbing is exercising to the prattle of Kathie Lee Gifford and Hota Kotb—whose name, let’s face it, looks like a nightmare set of Scrabble tiles.)

I could go for a walk, I suppose, but out here in Silver City’s Extraterrestrial Zone, or whatever it’s called, we don’t have sidewalks. So I can take my life in my hands and pray that the guy in the white Chrysler 300 zooming to fetch the credit-card offers from his post office box doesn’t knock me into the cholla. Or I can exercise at home and hope that Netflix hurries the heck up and streams season two of “Archer.”

How did I get away with not exercising when I was in my milkshake years? Fair enough, no one would have mistaken me for Charles Atlas back then, but neither did my gut arrive a few minutes before the rest of me. Yet the biggest exercise I got was twirling the stool at the ice-cream parlor to the right height.

Instead of sending you an AARP card when you turn 50 (how do they *know*, anyway?), getting older should come with an instruction manual: “What to Do When You Start Falling Apart.”

One day you start hurting in places that never hurt before. You’re constantly “tweaking” your back when you bend over to pick up something heavy, like a Kleenex. You can’t read fine print any more, and the feature you most talk up about your Kindle is the ability to make the type size bigger. Conversations in crowded parties or at noisy restaurants become a blur of sound instead of words, and you find yourself nodding a lot while hoping the person you’re pretending to chat with isn’t proposing overthrowing the government or wife swapping.

I’ve even started coming down with diseases I thought went out with leeches and trepanning. Back in November, I woke with a start in the middle of the night with a sharp pain, like a cramp, in my big toe. When it declined to go away, I limped to the doctor, who promptly proclaimed that I had gout. At least, he tried to reassure me, I had a condition popularly associated with famous literary figures.

Wonderful. Knowing that Samuel Johnson and Alfred Lord Tennyson also had big toes that hurt like heck makes it all better. (Apparently the Tyrannosaurus Rex named “Sue” also suffered from gout, probably from a diet too rich in apatosauruses.)

So now I’ve started on that road to taking daily medication, popping a pill each morning that reduces the uric acid in the bloodstream that causes



This old cartoon shows pretty much what gout feels like when it strikes.

gout, typically in men over 40. Soon I’ll be one of those old guys who totes a small medicine chest everywhere and has to have “A.M.” and “P.M.” compartments to keep all the pills straight.

The gout-inspired visit to the doctor also got him looking anew at the blood tests taken before my colonoscopy (another fun aspect of getting older, as I’ve previously recounted in these pages), which led to tut-tutting about my cholesterol numbers. More blood tests. More watching what I eat.

Still fewer Chili Cheese Fritos on the menu. Probably one of those statin pills soon to be added to the gout pill.

Then there’s blood sugar to worry about. And high blood pressure. And who knows what else down the road. No wonder oldsters look back most fondly on their forties—the last years before that dreaded AARP card arrives and the trip to the pharmacy becomes the highlight of your week.

Don’t get me wrong, though—I still love birthdays. Last year on my birthday I was worried about our house burning down in the Quail Ridge wildfire, so it would be tough for this year’s birthday not to be cheerier. (Although *not* losing our house was a pretty good birthday present.)

If you’re looking for what to get me, I suppose Alfred Lord Tennyson’s collected poetry on gout would be appropriate. Or one of Paula Deen’s Southern-fried cookbooks, so I’ll know what *not* to eat. I could always use a pedometer, so I’ll know how far I got out walking before getting side-swiped. One of those pill cases would be practical, I guess—make sure it’s got room for expansion. Something to stretch out the big-toe room in the right shoe of all my favorite pairs might be handy, in case the gout comes back. Heck, I’ll be having another colonoscopy before too long, so gift-wrap some beef bullion and Jell-O (not the red-colored kind) for noshing on during that rollicking prep period.

What I really need, though, is a time machine so I could go back and tell my younger self that those milkshakes and tin-roof sundaes will catch up with me someday.

And to savor them, really enjoy them when I do indulge. Youth, they say, is wasted on the young. So are milkshakes. ☘

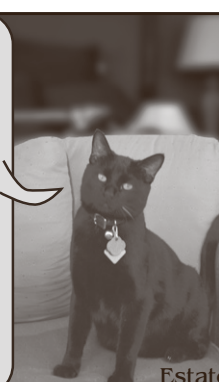
David A. Fryxell grows old along with Desert Exposure.



Henry VIII, another famous gout sufferer, was considered quite a catch when he was young. Then he got old and fat.

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FOCUS GROUPS

Community Assessment 2012



The Grant County Community Health Council conducts the Community Assessment to learn the health and wellness needs of Grant County residents. These needs are prioritized and help to leverage tens of millions of dollars for our community. The community assessment begins with focus groups throughout the county which are one hour in length and limited to 15 people. All participants will be compensated for their time. All issues raised in the focus groups will be confidential, and participants' identities will be kept secret.

Cliff-Gila Focus Groups

Thursday, Feb. 2 @ 6 p.m.
HMS Cliff/Gila Clinic, 415 Hwy 211

Hachita Focus Group

Monday, Feb. 6 @ 1 p.m.
Community Center, Railroad Ave. & 4th St.

Hurley Focus Group

Tuesday, Feb. 7 @ 6 p.m.
Hurley Community Center, 302 Carrasco Ave.

Mimbres Focus Group

Wednesday, Feb. 8 @ 6 p.m.
Round Up Lodge

Silver City Focus Groups

Thursday, Feb. 9 @ 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Silver City Public Library's Community Room,
515 W. College Ave.
Spanish at 5 p.m. and English at 6 p.m.

Tyrone Focus Group

Monday, Feb. 13 @ 6 p.m.
Tyrone Community Hall

Bayard Focus Groups

Wednesday, Feb. 15 @ 6 p.m.
Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave.
Separate groups at same time for Spanish and English.

Santa Clara Focus Group

Thursday, Feb. 16 @ 6 p.m.
Santa Clara Town Hall

For more information or reserve your seat at the focus group call the Health Council at (575) 388-1198, email: tknauf@grmc.org



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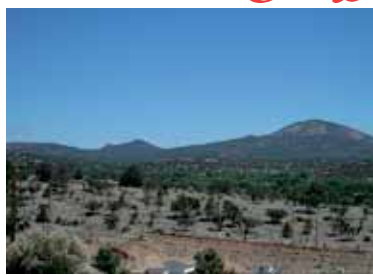
MLS 28774 • \$98,000

Multiwide manufactured home with addition has upstairs bedroom/bath and garage. Terraced yard fenced with iron and chainlink fencing. Dining area with a bay window provides lots of light. The master suite has a large bath and a sitting room. Hobby room has a handy murphy bed. Large second bedroom with wood burning stove. Third bedroom has built-in bookcases.



MLS 28786 • \$179,900

3bd/3ba on 10.4 acres with access to Gila National Forest. Property has small corral & pen/stalls. Mastercraft metal roof, oversized detached garage/storage, mountain views & private end of the road location. Home is clean, move-in ready. Two master bedroom suites, office/den area, rear covered deck with small fenced yard.



MLS 28803 • \$215,000

Development potential or your own private estate lot! 18+ acres adjacent to city limits with all city utilities available. A perfect location for a condo development, townhouse cluster, or site-built compound. Exceptional views, wooded, & close proximity to town.



MLS 28818 • \$178,000

Delightful 3bd/1.75ba Silver Heights home with enclosed front & back yards, attached carport & detached 2 car garage. Hardwood floors, central heat, fireplace. Metal roof, double-pane windows, sprinkler system, storage underneath home.



MLS 28797 • \$211,000

Newly remodeled home in Yucca Valley on 1.80 acres. Level acreage with some trees and long range views of the surrounding mountains. Horses are ok. Large kitchen with granite counters, custom cabinets, wine rack and plenty storage space. New tile floor and carpet. The living room has a pellet stove, large window and two ceiling fans. Updated bathrooms. Dining room has French doors to porch. Approximately 15 min. from Silver City.



MLS 28788 • \$69,900

Nearly 5 acres in desirable subdivision with city water tap in, building pad, electric pole, & septic tank installed. Southern exposure, views, wooded, end of the road privacy. Minutes to town & worth the look!



MLS 28816 • \$25,000

In-town residential lot located directly across the street from WNMU. Central location, all city utilities available.



MLS 28784 • \$45,000

1/2 acre lot in branding iron subdivision, less than 2 miles to downtown. All city utilities available, private end of the road location, views to the north. 1,400 sq.ft. Minimum site-built only.



MLS 28772 • \$79,900

Spectacular views from covered porches. Detached 2 stall carport w/ fenced pasture for horses. New 30 year shingles and exterior paint. Two small metal storage buildings. 1 acre. Close to Gila National Forest, public access to Mimbres River, 2 lakes and services. Cash buyers preferred!



MLS 28802 • \$25,000

Corner commercial lot in town one block from bullard street. Perfect location for a live/work space, with both commercial & residential uses in the surrounding neighborhood.

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