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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Job Creators vs. Job Killers

What really matters to employment?

As 2012 dawns with the nation still gripped by high unemployment, we hear a lot of talk about “job creators.” Who are these people and what’s keeping them from, well, creating jobs?

In New Mexico, a case can be made that the state’s gross-receipts tax is holding back economic growth, especially in small businesses that create the most jobs. Gov. Susana Martinez should be applauded for her pledge last month to press the legislature for fixes to the gross-receipts tax. Her administration aims to tackle some of the “pyramiding” that causes New Mexico businesses to pay, in effect, taxes on the expense of taxes.

There’s also talk of simply eliminating gross-receipts taxes on some of the state’s smallest businesses. Not only would this encourage entrepreneurship, it would keep hard-working New Mexicans from unwittingly becoming tax cheats. Think about it: Does your dog-walker pay gross-receipts tax? Does that lemonade stand have a CRS number and file regular tax reports?

To understand how New Mexico’s taxation of services—not just goods, as with an ordinary sales tax—unfairly impacts small businesses, consider the outside services a small business typically pays for: accounting, cleaning, equipment repairs, legal advice, and so on. In addition to fees for such services, a small business must pay gross-receipts taxes as high as 8.6875% on those fees. A large corporation, however, typically has accountants, janitors, technicians and attorneys on its payroll, so it pays no gross-receipts tax on these expenses.

But larger businesses get hit, too. A Phoenix company courted by Albuquerque officials, First Solar, told the city that a key reason it opted against locating a plant in New Mexico was because electricity is so important to the company’s operations. In New Mexico, electricity is subject to our version of the sales tax.

New Mexico has tried to remain competitive despite its gross-receipts tax by a complex system of tax credits and incentives—which often go too far, resulting in some businesses paying no taxes at all. Without these convoluted measures, according to the New Mexico Tax Research Institute, the state would rank dead last, with the least-competitive tax structure in the country. Richard Anklim, president of the institute, told the *Albuquerque Journal*, “We don’t like the fact that we are so reliant on incentives. We are Band-aid-ing a structure that is not ideal.”

While Martinez is attacking “job killers” on the state level, many of her fellow Republicans—including our own Rep. Steve Pearce—decry the negative employment effects of regulations nationally. If only we didn’t fret so much about pollution or endangered species or worker safety, supposedly, jobs would bloom like daisies in a ditch.

This argument, however, runs aground on the facts. In 2010, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, only three-tenths of 1% of people who lost their jobs were let go principally because of government regulation or intervention. In surveys of small businesses conducted by the National Federation of Independent Business, a plurality

of companies consistently say the “single biggest problem” they face is not red tape but low sales—a lack of consumer demand.

Has the Obama administration actually imposed more onerous regulations than its predecessors, stifling the economic recovery? An analysis by Bloomberg News finds no such uptick in red tape compared to previous administrations. In the oil and gas industry so important to New Mexico, the GOP has claimed that Obama’s policies have cost 934,000 jobs—a number scaled back to 256,000 after *USA Today* exposed the faulty math. The paper adds, “But even that is too high. It is actually a prediction that oil-industry employment will remain unchanged, and that 256,000 ‘potential’ new jobs will fail to materialize.”

Such overblown claims are hardly new. In 1990, the US Business Roundtable published a study predicting that amendments to the Clean Air Act would cost between 200,000 and 2 million jobs. The actual impact was fewer than 6,000 jobs nationwide.

Overall, despite talk of America’s purportedly anti-business policies, a World Economic Forum report on global competitiveness ranks the US fifth, behind only small countries like Finland and Singapore. That’s essentially unchanged despite the recession, as is the number of Americans starting a business each year, according to the Kauffman Foundation.

So where has America slipped? Infrastructure, according to the World Economic Forum, where the US has gone from the top 10 to 24th in the world. Education, too, has declined—instead of boasting the world’s highest percentage of college graduates, the US now ranks 14th. R&D has suffered, too: The percentage of federal spending on research and development today is now half what it was in the 1950s.

That sounds like a case for *more* government, investing smartly, not less.

If not red tape, what has been “killing” US jobs? According to the Labor Department, “corporate restructuring” is most to blame for declines in employment. You might recall that one of the leading GOP presidential candidates, Mitt Romney, made his fortune at Bain Capital, a private-equity firm he ran for 15 years. According to economist Paul Krugman, “One recent analysis of ‘private equity transactions’—the kind of buyouts and takeovers Bain specialized in—noted that business in general is always both creating and destroying jobs, and that this is also true of companies that were buyout or takeover targets. However, job creation at the target firms is no greater than in similar firms that aren’t targets, while ‘gross job destruction is substantially higher.’”

In the case of Bain, four of its top 10 acquisitions by dollar value ended up going bankrupt, costing employees their jobs. Nonetheless, Bain made money on three of those deals.

That’s not to say Bain or Romney did anything wrong. But it should give us pause when the rhetoric about “job creators” heats up. Some smart tinkering with New Mexico’s regressive gross-receipts tax might indeed boost our economy and improve employment numbers. Unwisely slashing essential regulations or unleashing the most rapacious elements of capitalism... well, haven’t we already seen that movie during the Bush administration? ☘

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LETTERS

“Occupation” Lessons

Our readers write.

Thanks for your editorial, “Occupational Therapy” (Editor’s Notebook, December). From the onset of Occupy Wall Street, most mainstream media, commentators and politicians have criticized the movement, suggesting its demands are either unstated or unclear. Organizers see the criticism as silly: “We are occupying Wall Street; that alone should make our position clear.” For anyone who does not see why this movement may sweep the country, the figures showing the ever-widening income and wealth gaps between the rich and everybody else will bring clarity. The US is suffering a 50-year plunge into massive corporatism: deregulation, no-bid contracts, big-bank crime, privatization, lobby-driven politics, anti-worker policies and cronyism.

Americans have seen a huge shift from corporate to individual income tax, and among individuals, from the rich to everybody else. In the 1940s, the federal government received 50% more revenue from corporations than individuals: For every \$1 that individuals paid in income tax, corporations paid \$1.50; now they pay only 25 cents. In the 1950s and 1960s, the top income tax bracket for individuals was 91% for earnings over \$100,000; today’s top rate is 35%. An October study found tax cuts for the top 5% cost the nation \$11.6 million every hour. The revenue burden has shifted from those who have the most to those with the least.

The political system is essentially paralyzed. Institutions are increasingly ineffective. Both political and institutional leaders are respected less and are less effective. Financial institutions, large banks and other Wall Street corporations caused the 2008 economic collapse yet received huge bailouts because government—under both Bush and Obama—saw them as too big to fail. Banks were bailed out but refused to loan the monies to the public as intended—and they are despised for that. Jobs are now overseas; manufacturing has dwindled. Civility is gone. It all comes back to economic justice and how money is now allocated unevenly throughout society.

The country needs to get back to the regulated capitalism envisioned by Adam Smith. He was explicit that banks and other major institutions must be regulated. The tired argument that government should “get out of the way” and let Smith’s “invisible hand” take care of the economy is a common yet gross misreading of him. Unregulated capitalism worried Adam Smith; it is structurally faulty and results in the gross economic disparities we are seeing now. The Tea Party folks are looking at the same set of problems but mistakenly blame government, when the fault lies with massive corporations that now control and run government.

Historian Gordon S. Wood points out that the

founders of the American Republic invented “not simply new forms of government, but an entirely new conception of politics,” rejecting ancient and medieval ideas of forms of government as a set of orders or estates. Rather, they created a model of a state that existed to represent individual interests, and to protect individual rights, an entirely new model for “parceling power.” But after the Civil War, the US Supreme Court expanded the definition of “persons” under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution beyond the “individual interests” envisioned by the country’s founders and expanded the rights of flesh-and-blood persons to include non-human corporations. Thus began the long slide toward today’s wealth and income gap, the inevitable decline into economic unfairness. Capitalism helped destroy communism; now it has democracy on the ropes.

A.T. Cole
via email

Your choice of the title “Occupational Therapy” for your editorial gave me reason to write you. As a retired Occupational Therapist I would like to thank you for giving my profession’s name precious press coverage. We work in the medical and education fields and would love to help Wall Street find value in life roles other than ripping off the American public. Through play groups we could help the highest-earning 1% see the value in sharing the wealth, and I know of many talented Occupational Therapy Assistants who could help the protestors clean-up their appearance through a life-skills group. For even more ideas your readers can contact AOTA.org

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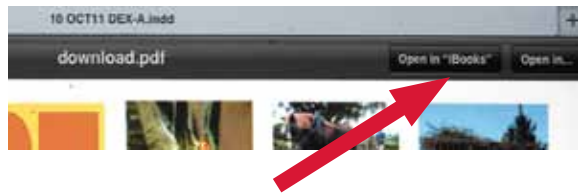
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HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • HENRY LIGHTCAP

Enchanted Moments

Kicking 2011 to the curb with recollections of last year's dumbest New Mexico news.

When New Mexico's founding fathers coined the phrase "Land of Enchantment," they probably had no idea how weird the word "enchantment" looks in print. Which is ironic, as much of what's written about New Mexico looks weird in print, too. For proof of this, one needs only to consider some of the headlines generated by our friends and neighbors in 2011 from around the state. This was a banner year for enchantment, and despite shortages of employment and economic opportunity in New Mexico this year, we were blessed with a bumper crop of stupid, which gives the good people of New Jersey something to aim for next year.

In early December, an Albuquerque restaurant was having a difficult time wiping out crime because they had nothing to wipe it out with. According to a story by the Associated Press, employee Josh Flannery-Stewart, who has one more last name than he really needs, witnessed the entire scheme. Three men entered "Burgers, Dogs and Wings" (an eatery that really doesn't need a menu) and appeared "messed up"—even more so than the clientele you would expect to be eating at "Burgers, Dogs and Wings" on a Saturday night. The men entered the bathroom together, which struck Flannery-Stewart as "suspicious," and exited with about a dozen rolls of toilet paper. They not only squeezed the Charmin, they pinched it, too. After swift apprehension by Albuquerque's finest, the toilet paper was returned to its rightful owner, to the great relief of restaurant patrons who "had to go."

The crack work of Albuquerque's police was in stark (but not unexpected) contrast to the state police officer who was intensively interviewing a perp on the hood of a car in September. And by "interviewing," I mean riding the skin boat to happy town. CBS News reported that a state police officer was caught on camera in Santa Fe having sex on the hood of a car in public while in uniform. Officials say he didn't commit a crime, which is a surprise to the millions of people who have never had sex on the hood of a car. A spokesman, the ironically named Sgt. Johnson of the New Mexico State Police, said that the department was "embarrassed," and that despite appearances, most state officers aren't just screwing around while in uniform.

Some stories about New Mexicans sound like a lot of bologna, but in the case of one local Mensa candidate, it just sounded like a tasty snack. According to KFOX-TV of El Paso, a New Mexico resident was found smuggling 76 pounds of tasty Mexican bologna across the border in a spare tire in October. US Customs and Border Protection agents scanned the spare tire with a "density" meter, which apparently knows the difference between air and lunchmeat. After finding eight rolls of bologna in the tire, the agents were less than

amused, since they prefer donuts. They fined the meat smuggler \$1,000 for his trouble, which works out to about \$13 a pound.

Next to not declaring contraband at border crossings, domestic violence is still (unfortunately) a top-ranked activity among happy-go-lucky New Mexicans. According to a report in the *Las Cruces Sun-News*, resident Alexa Monet Rodriguez had a disagreement about who should get the last 40-ounce serving of malt liquor. Faced with such an obvious life-or-death moment, Rodriguez defended her 40 by beaming her old man with a TV tray. This only confused him, so she followed it up by throwing a chair, a three-pound weight, and finally a kitchen knife at the thirsty spouse. Police say that they enjoy pounding 40s as much as the next guy, but it's never a good idea to throw things inside the trailer no matter how boozed-up residents get.

From the "Loose Lips" department comes this report, also from the *Sun-News*. Las Cruces resident Kemberlee J. Guffey was charged with an open count of murder and tampering with evidence (and a horrible sense of palpable narrative) after discussing her story with her mortally wounded husband while calling 911. Apparently, investigators can record the call even before it's answered, a vital piece of information that Guffey could have used last May. While the phone was still ringing, she was telling her soon-to-be ex-husband, "please don't send me to the police" and "say you fell." This contradicted her post-mortem statement that her husband had "fallen and got a puncture to his chest," which seemed a bit suspicious in light of the fact that she had removed all the known evidence and blood before investigators showed up.

But the top story of 2011—the granddaddy of enchantment, bar none—was claimed by Las Cruces resident Amelia Love Oveide, who was charged with aggravated battery in July. According to the *Sun-News*, Oveide played the ultimate game of titty twister with her daughter-in-law at an exclusive soirée that took place in December 2010 (close enough to 2011). Oveide was engaged in a drunken Springer moment with her son when the daughter-in-law opted to intervene, always a prudent decision when family members have been drinking like rabid camels all day. After exchanging their divergent points of view, Oveide latched onto her daughter-in-law's breast. After a few well-placed punches by the daughter-in-law to the face, the mother-in-law released the ta-ta, at which point the detached nipple fell to the ground. This de-nippling received national coverage, cementing New Mexico's position as the most "enchanting" state in the union yet again. Oveide was later given supervised probation and a stern warning about adjusting the knobs.

So grab your paper bag of malt liquor, amigos, and let's raise 'em high in celebration of a new year! Remember, people, you don't have to be detached from reality to live in New Mexico, but it helps! 🍷

Henry Lightcap stores his malt liquor in Las Cruces.

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Annals of medicine... To help you keep those New Year’s resolutions to get healthier, we serve up a triple dose of medical wisdom. First this from **The Santa Claran**:

“Doctor Bloom, who was known for miraculous cures for arthritis, had his waiting room full of people when a little old lady, completely bent over in half, shuffled in slowly, leaning on her cane. When her turn came, she went into the doctor’s office, and, amazingly, emerged within half an hour walking completely erect with her head held high.

“A woman in the waiting room who had seen all this walked up to the little old lady and said, ‘It’s a miracle! You walked in bent in half and now you’re walking erect. What did that doctor do?’

Postcards from the edge... We’re finally catching up with the (wonderful) backlog of photos from readers traveling near and far who send us photos of themselves with a copy of “the biggest little paper in the Southwest.” Which means it’s time to send *your* photos in!

This month’s photo should warm you up even on a cold January day: “Here we are at Southpoint on the Big Island of Hawaii, the southernmost point in the United States. **Nathan and Carla Casler**, ex-owners of Iron Works Gym in Silver City, vacationing with our good friends Lino and Mary Altamirano.”

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



cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

“A. Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that’s it. Don’t waste them on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart won’t make you live longer; that’s like saying you can extend the life of a car by driving faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap.

“Q. Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

“A. No, not at all. Wine is made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine, which means they take water out of the fruity bit so you get even more goodness that way. Beer is also made of grain. Bottoms up!

“Q. How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

“A. Well, if you have a body and you have fat, your ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio is two to one, etc.

“Q. What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

“A. Can’t think of single one, sorry. My philosophy is: No pain—good!

“Q. Aren’t fried foods bad for you?

“A. YOU’RE NOT LISTENING! Foods are fried these day in vegetable oil. In fact, they’re permeated by it. How could getting more vegetables be bad for you?

“Q. Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?

“A. Definitely not! When you exercise muscle, it gets bigger. You should be doing sit-ups only if you want a bigger stomach.

“Q. Is swimming good for your figure?

“A. If swimming is good for your figure, explain whales to me.

“Q. Is getting in shape important for my health?

“A. Hey! ‘Round’ is a shape!”

And this lesson in why it’s important to pay very close attention to what your doctor tells you comes courtesy of **CharlesC**:

“Like so many people who enjoy the rich food of south Louisiana on a regular basis, Boudreaux was quite a bit overweight. After a brief annual examination, his doctor said, ‘I’m putting you on a diet. I want you to eat regularly for two days, then skip a day, then eat regularly again for two days, then skip a day. Repeat that routine for two weeks, then come back to see me. The next time I see you, you should have lost at least five pounds.’

“When Boudreaux returned, he shocked the doctor by having lost nearly 60 pounds! ‘That is truly amazing!’ the doctor said. ‘Did you follow my

instructions?’

“Boudreaux nodded and said, ‘I tell you, I t’aut I wuz gonna drop dead on de flo’ on dat ‘tird day every time.’

“‘From the hunger, you mean?’ asked the doctor.

“‘No,’ Boudreaux replied, ‘from all dat dam skippin!’”

Whether you’re dispensing medical advice without a license or just sharing a joke, write Desert Diary at PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or email diary@desertexposure.com.

Pondering the imponderables... More deep thoughts sent our way by **Ned Ludd**:

“If the world were a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses sidesaddle.

“What is a ‘free’ gift? Aren’t all gifts free?

“They told me I was gullible and I believed them.

“Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he’ll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.

“Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

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

“I used to be indecisive. Now I’m not sure.

“How can there be self-help ‘groups?’”

Persons of the blonde persuasion... Finally, a blow struck for the blondes of the world! Thanks to **Paper Man** for this quick comeback:

“Why do brunettes write blonde jokes? Got nothing else to do on Saturday night.”

You’re only as old as you feel... Only too true, we thought when we read this one from **Toni in the Vet’s Office**:

“I pointed to two old drunks sitting across the bar from us and told my friend, ‘That’s us in 10 years.’

“He said, ‘That’s a mirror, you old fool!’”

Waxing philosophical... Deep thoughts of a slightly different variety, passed along by **Aletteration**:

“An archaeologist recently deciphered this ancient wisdom involving ecology: ‘When a man dies, he is buried. In the ground, the body decays. The decay is like fertilizer. The fertilizer makes the grass grow. A horse eats the grass. Later on, the horse defecates.’

“According to the professor, the ancient wisdom, translated into modern language, means, ‘Never kick a horse turd. It could be your uncle.’”

Kids say the darnedest things... Thanks to **Judas Asparagus** for passing along this “child’s book report on the entire Bible.” We find some of the references suspiciously adult, but it’s a fun refresher course of sorts on Sunday

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School nonetheless:

"In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one,' but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world.

"He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in, though, because they didn't have cars.

"Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

"Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

"One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

"After Noah came Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

"Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent 10 plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

"God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top 10 Commandments. These include: Don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff.

"Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

"One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua, who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

"After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

"After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

"After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats. Jesus also had 12 opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

"Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

"Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution."

The joke's on us... Regular readers may notice a certain similarity between this tale from **BobbieS** and a recent yarn about an old Italian-American man and his son. This just shows that rednecks, too, know how to "get 'er done."

"Hello, is this the Sheriff's Office?"

"Yes, what can I do for you?"

"My name's Floyd and I'm calling to report 'bout my neighbor Virgil Smith. He's hiding marijuana inside his firewood! Don't quite know how he gets it inside them logs, but he's hidin' it there."

"Thank you very much for the call, sir."

"The next day, the Sheriff's deputies descend on Virgil's house. They search the shed where the firewood is kept. Using axes, they bust open every piece of wood, but find no marijuana. They sneer at Virgil and leave.

"Shortly after this, the phone rings at Virgil's house. 'Hey, Virgil, this here's Floyd. Did the Sheriff come?"

"Yeah!"

"Did they chop your firewood for the winter?"

"Yep!"

"Happy birthday, buddy!"

Economics 101... When it comes to money, everything's relative. Consider this yarn from **GeeRichard**:

"Four retired gents are walking down a street in Yuma, Ariz. They turn a corner and see a sign that says, 'Old Timers Bar—ALL drinks 10 cents.' They look at each other and then go in, thinking this is too good to be true.

"The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room, 'Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, gentlemen?' There seems to be a fully-stocked bar, so each of the men orders a martini.

"In short order, the bartender serves up four iced martinis and says, 'That'll be 10 cents each, please.' The four men stare at the bartender for a moment, then look at each other. They can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their martinis, and order another round.

"Again, four excellent martinis are produced with the bartender again saying, 'That's 40 cents, please.' They pay the 40 cents, but their curiosity is more than they can stand. They have each had two martinis and so far they have spent less than a dollar total.

"Finally, one of the men says, 'How can you afford to serve martinis as good as these for a dime apiece?"

"I'm a retired tailor from Phoenix,' the bartender says. 'I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the lottery jackpot for \$125 million and decided to open this place. Every drink for old timers costs a dime—wine, liquor, beer, it's all the same.'

"Wow! That's quite a story,' says one of the men.

"As the four of them sip their martinis they notice seven other people at the end of the bar who don't have drinks in front of them, and who haven't ordered anything the whole time they've been there.

"One of the gents gestures at the seven at the end of the bar without drinks and asks the bartender, 'What's with them?"

"The bartender says, 'Oh, they're all old retired coots from Florida. They're waiting for Happy Hour when drinks are half price.'"

Occupy this... Finally, whatever your politics, you'll appreciate this one, another from **Ned Ludd**:

"A driver was stuck in a traffic jam on the highway outside Washington, DC. Nothing was moving. Suddenly, a man knocks on the window. The driver opens the window and asks, 'What's going on?"

"Terrorists have kidnapped Congress, and they're asking for a \$100 million ransom. Otherwise, they are going to douse them all in gasoline and set them on fire. We are going from car to car, collecting donations.'

"How much is everyone giving, on average?" the driver asks.

"The man replies, 'Roughly a gallon.'" 🍷

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Building on the Past

The Hidalgo County Heritage Society works to rescue the former Lordsburg High School.

It's not easy finding the town of Lordsburg, New Mexico, on the map, and more difficult still to remember where some of the town's historic buildings once stood. The Southern Pacific Railroad building is gone. The Hidalgo and old Roy Hotel are gone. But the old Lordsburg High School still stands—for now.

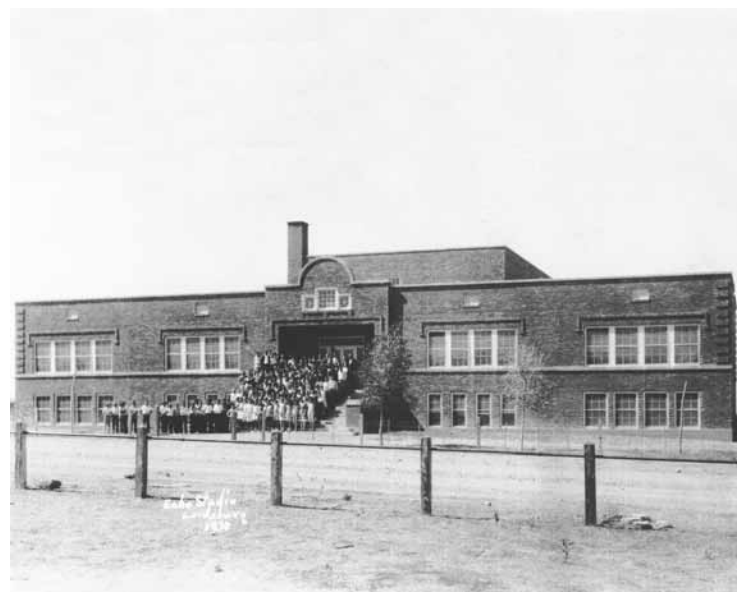
Lordsburg is a smallish town—so small that people traveling past on I-10 and even locals who live there don't take much notice of the history waiting to be told about a hodgepodge of brick buildings that remain near Main Street and Motel Drive. This was and always will be a crusty, dusty railroad town, once humming with tourists who flocked to its motels to see the real America—New Mexico-style.

Today, many of Lordsburg's aged brick-and-mortar structures have fallen into disrepair—or, worse, are boarded up for demolition. That, in fact, was about to happen to the old Lordsburg high school, built in 1914, until a group of members of the Hidalgo County Heritage Society, along with a handful of other local and government folks, decided that this building deserved a second chance—as a real icon from the past.

Buildings don't usually get much of an opportunity to tell their story, says Edmund Saucedo, a long-time resident and Lordsburg High alumnus, who admits that saving old buildings can be a peculiar and costly decision in a ever-thinning economy. Supporters of the Heritage Society understand that few such buildings stand the “test of time” when under the scrutiny of keen budget-crunchers who don't always see the same vision for the future.

But the early Lordsburg High School is an exception to the rule, say renovation proponents. This building, says Saucedo, has a story to share about civic pride that he and other supporters hope young people and locals will one day discover and treasure again. While a long list of restoration and fundraising proposals have been put on the table over the past 40 years, says Saucedo, by college presidents and lawyers, cattle ranchers and government officials, none has survived scrutiny.

Still, the Lordsburg community has taken note, once again, of this architectural gem. The nearly



Lordsburg High School in the 1930s.

forgotten structure served as the hub of education for local high school and junior high students between 1915 and the early 1970s, when it was retired, used as office and storage space, and redefined as the community's Enrichment Center. In 1978, the building was eventually boarded up and abandoned.

Saucedo, who is gathering much of the historical documentation for the building, says it's the work of celebrated Southwest architect Henry C. Trost, of the firm Trost & Trost of El Paso. Three



Architect Henry C. Trost.

Trost brothers—Adolphus, Gustavus and Henry C., born to German immigrants in Toledo, Ohio—formed the firm. But it was Henry, principal designer and visionary, who designed both Hidalgo County buildings and El Paso's first skyscraper, the 12-story Bassett Tower. The firm is also renowned for El Paso's Paso Del Norte Hotel (1912) and Palace Theatre as well as UTEP's School of Mines building, later “Old Main,” and La Tuna Federal Correction Institute built in 1933.

Trost also left his mark on Silver City, according to Susan Berry, former director of the Silver City Museum and co-author of *Built to Last*, about the town's architecture. “By far the best example of Trost's work in Silver City is the present City Hall building, originally constructed as the home of the Silver City National Bank in 1923,” she says. “He also designed Light Hall and Bowden Hall at WNMU, and a remodeling of the home now occupied by Smith Real Estate, as well as a major 1928 remodeling of the Palace Hotel block.”

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Trost's Lordsburg High School is still structurally sound, according to engineering reports by New Mexico State University, but there is a list of practical upgrades needed. Among them are roof work, asbestos abatement, selective interior demolition and sub-floor replacement.

Saucedo, an elected officer of the newly formed Hidalgo County Heritage Society and steering committee, says initial estimates for roof support are \$50,000. He hopes the building will be included in the New Mexico State Registrar of Cultural Properties and the and the National Register of Historic Places. The Lordsburg School District recently turned over ownership and use of the property to the City of Lordsburg and Hidalgo County in order to access outside funding.

"The Enrichment Center was mostly abandoned and neglected since 1978," says Saucedo of the old school building. "Unfortunately, the interior of the building had suffered severe deterioration with collapsed areas of the roof. But the good news is that these issues can be corrected and the community, I believe, will fully support this ongoing effort to save this building from demolition."

The continuing demand for classroom and ad-

ministrative office space by students and school district ensured the building's survival for so many years. "I think the City of Lordsburg, Hidalgo County and the Lordsburg School District have all come to recognize the importance of saving the structure for future generations," says Saucedo.

Michael Terrazas, a teacher in the Albuquerque school district who grew up in Lordsburg, says, "I'm not an alumnus of the old high school, but it's one that I have always loved and hoped would be restored to its former years," says. "I was always greatly inspired by the school buildings. They weren't the grand skyscrapers thousands of miles away, in another state or country. This was in my own hometown."

Terrazas adds that from his perspective, school buildings are not designed like the old high school any longer. "A building like this, I believe, is a treasure of iconic value for American school design," he says. "Many schools today do not have the symmetry and stature, not to mention the detail that was brought into the early design with the use of brick and mortar. We know this was designed by a very gifted architect and the building served thou-

sands of students over the years."

In fact, it was this very school that in 1952 provided an eighth-grade classroom for the future first woman US Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor.

"I think more people are seeing value in preserving buildings in this country and in New Mexico, because of the history here—because of the role they once played in forming this community," says Terrazas of the restoration project. "It may not be in use right now, but it's a wonderful thing to say that this building is still standing, and remains as a beautiful piece of architecture."

That alone is a grand story to tell—and Lordsburg is putting this architectural history back on the map. ☘

For questions, donations or further information about efforts to restore the former Lordsburg High School, email evs@aznexus.net.

Dawn Newman-Aerts is a former Minnesota newspaper journalist who lives in Rodeo.

TUMBLE-WEEDS
continued on next page

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TUMBLEWEEDS • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Crowded Skies

Virgin Galactic's spaceship designer builds a rival to Spaceport America's launches.

Just what Spaceport America needs: more competition in the already-dicey business of shooting people into space (or near-space, in the case of Virgin Galactic's space tourism plans). Burt Rutan, who designed the vehicles supposed to give Spaceport America tourists a \$200,000 ride to weightlessness, is teaming with Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen to build a very similar-sounding spacecraft. As the Associated Press described the plan, "unlike traditional rockets and government spaceships, this new commercial spaceship will drop from a high-flying airplane instead of blasting off from a launch pad." Exactly like at Spaceport America, in other words.

Allen and Rutan's space-plane will have a wingspan of 380 feet, with six 747 engines, and carry a space capsule under its belly. The plane will launch from a runway (much like that at Spaceport America) and then, once airborne, the cap-



Burt Rutan and the launch vehicle he's building for Spaceport America. (Photo by Mark Greenberg/Virgin Galactic)

sule, with its own booster rocket, will zoom into actual orbit. Although this "Stratolaunch" system will initially carry cargo when operations begin in 2016, the plan calls for it to eventually also ferry people into space.

Another tech tycoon, Elon Musk of PayPal, who has already financed one successful commercial rocket, will provide the spacefaring capsule, while Rutan builds the space-plane. Promising "any orbit, any time," the company will be based in Huntsville, Alabama. ☼

Senate Watch

Navigating the Heinrich-Balderas primary.

Could New Mexico make the difference in Democrats' efforts to hold onto control of the US Senate this year? That's what many political observers are saying, with the *Washington Post's* "The Fix" rating the race to succeed retiring Democratic Sen. Jeff Bingaman as the 10th most likely seat to switch parties. Complicating Democrats' hopes for retaining the seat is the primary contest between Rep. Martin Heinrich and State Auditor Hector Balderas. Although the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) hasn't endorsed either candidate, chairwoman Sen. Patty Murray (Wash.) recently commented, "We recruited Rep. Heinrich, and we think he's doing a great job."

The Fix added, "While that statement won't make some in the Hispanic community happy, Heinrich is the more proven commodity and, at least according to recent polling, the stronger nominee against former congresswoman Heather Wilson, the heavy favorite in the GOP primary."

That poll, by the way, showing Heinrich—but not Balderas—beating Wilson in November, caused a dustup between polling junkies.

Some said the poll, conducted by "left-leaning" Public Policy Polling, over-represented Democrats in its sample compared to the makeup of the state's electorate. PPP spokesman Tom Jensen, however, responded to New Mexico politics blogger Heath Haussamen that PPP's last 2010 poll "came without one point" of Gov. Susana Martinez's margin of victory, and that its final poll on the 2008 New Mexico election "was the most accurate in the state that year." In any case, the poll dented the theory that Balderas might be more electable—and even a boost to President Obama's prospects to carry the state, in a sort of reverse coattails—because of his



Heinrich (left) and Balderas.



appeal to Hispanic voters.

The Democrats do have a Hispanic problem of sorts, though, nationally if Balderas doesn't win the primary. Last month, the party's biggest hope to put Texas' open Senate seat in play, retired Army General Ricardo Sanchez, dropped out of that campaign. He cited lagging fundraising numbers

and "pressing personal challenges," including the recent loss of his family's home due to fire.

Commenting on the Texas news online at Politics365, Alicia Mendendez wrote, "Nationally, Democrats have been slow to fill their bench. In the New Mexico Democratic Senate primary between Rep. Martin Heinrich and State Auditor Hector Balderas, a credible Hispanic candidate, the DSCC has chosen not to endorse. Democrats' paltry efforts are made more obvious by the recent emergence of a slew of high-profile Hispanic Republicans: Marco Rubio, the junior senator from Florida; Susana Martinez, the governor of New Mexico; and

Brian Sandoval, the governor of Nevada."

Heinrich may have gotten some "cover" on his appeal to Hispanic voters, however, when Arizona Rep. Raúl Grijalva endorsed him last month. Grijalva's endorsement could also help assuage party progressives' worries that Heinrich can't be counted on. The Arizona Democrat is co-chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and is considered so left-leaning that he recently got a primary challenger of his own. Former state Sen. Amanda Aguirre of Yuma said she was challenging Grijalva because he's too liberal, especially on immigration issues. ☼

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. Poor Gary Johnson. Not even announcing he'll run for president as a Libertarian can get him ahead of his successor (and Richardson's lingering scandals from his own White House run) in the headlines. Plus a special annual appearance by the New Mexico Bowl football game!

1. (3) **Virgin Galactic**—1,020 hits (▲)
2. (4) **Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson**—665 hits (▲)
3. (2) **New Mexico drought**—628 hits (▲)
4. (-) **New Mexico Bowl**—593 hits *
5. (1) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—379 hits (▼)
6. (8) **Sen. Jeff Bingaman**—350 hits (▲)
7. (5) **Ex-Gov. Gary Johnson + president**—311 hits (▲)
8. (-) **New Mexico + Border Patrol**—267 hits (▲)
9. (6) **Billy the Kid**—220 hits (▲)
10. (-) **New Mexico wildfires**—186 hits (▲)

RAMBLIN' OUTDOORS • LARRY LIGHTNER

The Most Dangerous Game

Sometimes the hunter tries to become the hunted.

One of the most exciting of all my outdoor experiences is to become the hunted by nature's larger predators. In such experiences, the abnormal seems to become the norm.

Over the years, I've had many such encounters and in every instance, I was never bored!

When I become the hunted, I endeavor to sound like a small critter of some sort that is being torn limb from limb by a predator. I use handheld calls that have a reed and I blow air over the reed and through the tube in which the reed resides, to mimic the sound of terror.

The American Indians accomplished the same thing way back when, using a piece of wide-bladed green grass that they stretched between their thumbs. They blew air over it to mostly mimic the sound of a tortured rabbit. You and I probably did such as kids, too.

I remember my first experience of feeling like the prey, at the tender age of 15. It had snowed during the day, and I ventured forth along about midnight to a deserted country blacktop road. I sat up on a bank about 12 feet above the surface.

My new call consisted of two pieces of plastic, three inches long and a half-inch wide. Stretched between them, sandwich style, was a taut, wide rubber band. I blew air over it in a forceful manner, producing a very high-pitched squeal.

I hadn't called too long until I kept hearing a flap, flap, flap every minute or so. It took a while before I realized that the sound was coming from above me. I looked up just in time to see one very large great-horned owl with a nearly five-foot wingspan, diving towards my head, its talons outstretched below its body! I ducked down as it passed very close over me, waving my shotgun at it to keep it away. Talk about an adrenaline rush!

A little over a decade ago, a friend and I were again calling at night, somewhere south of Silver City on a ranch. It was about midnight with a full moon. My buddy was doing the calling not too far from where I hunkered down, when all of a sudden we heard the loud squalls of hundreds of ravens—and they were mad!

Soon they were diving en masse on my buddy's head, as he tried desperately to lie flat on the ground, all the while with me laughing heartily. It was so unnerving that he declared that he was quitting right then and there!

As a side note, we had a curious experience as we drove north from the spot on a two-track: We climbed out of a deep arroyo and saw what looked like a huge angus cow lying in the road. My pal had to suddenly swerve to miss the apparently sleeping or dead bovine.

The jeep skidded to a stop and we proceeded to back up so that I soon was peering down upon the critter from my side of the open jeep. I was shocked to see that instead of the expected cow, it was three illegal border crossers lying side by side under a black plastic tarp with their heads firmly planted on the right track of the road!

Even though I sat not six inches from them, they never moved or twitched a muscle the entire time, even as my buddy and I spoke back and forth. We left them in that exact position, thankful that my pal had good reflexes that night. I'll bet that they all had brown shorts that night and a good tale to tell their relatives!

The first time I called in a cougar, the event gave me brown shorts, too. Lions are supposed to come to a call slowly and deliberate-like, but this one ran through the brush full speed in less than five minutes from the time I began my squallerin', and he came right for me. I was frozen stiff and could not twitch a muscle as he closed on me. At 10 feet he suddenly swerved

and was into the brush in the blink of my eye—if I could have blinked, that is. My eyes were far too large to do so at that moment!

Javelina have made for some interesting moments of terror, too. One time I sat upon a ridge overlooking Saddlerock Canyon, screaming like a jackrabbit. Here came a small herd of five peccaries and they were indeed ticked off. As they got closer, I heard them all making a "chuffing" sound and alternately clacking those rather imposing teeth.

When it looked like they were going to overwhelm ol' Lar, I quit calling (I wanted to see how close they would come). They were at about 20 yards or so. When I quit the call, it was like I turned off a switch; they just stopped and meandered about, before slowly moving away as if nothing had ever disturbed them in the least.

I remember another time in my youth when I was trying to call red fox in the early evening. All of a sudden here came this guy running right for me with a very big, double-bit axe held high. I moved before he got to my spot so that he could see what I was; he declared that he'd never heard such a racket and he had come to rescue whatever was being torn asunder. We both had a good guffaw over that one.

Speaking of calling in humans, one time a little over 15 years ago, I was sitting along the now-Continental Divide trail above Silver City, when two hooded persons came charging up, both holding clubs. They were from the nearby monastery and were again coming to see what was making that horrific noise! They seemed pretty shook up and scared in spite of their bravery.

On that same trail but a mile farther on, another time I called in a frightened mother and her son, who were hiking the trail. It was long before it was designated as part of the Continental Divide trail. When I saw her, I recognized her as a casual friend, and I stood and let her see my figure.

I was chuckling as I took off my face mask. When she saw it was me, she scolded me good and explained that I really scared them, but she had come on anyway.

Over the 52-some years that I've practiced my sport, I've called in all manner of critters. There was the mama woodchuck that would have torn me apart had she reached me (a pond separated us). There have been many bobcats, 12 more cougars, many hawks, some bald and golden eagles, mule deer, antelope, curious jackrabbits, myriads of screaming bluejays, and docile, curious cattle.

I've had a menacing German shepherd dog come at me, as well as a coupla farm dogs and several domestic cats. In fact, early on, I was calling while standing in about 12 inches of fresh snow near a woodlot, when I suddenly felt something brush against my leg as I stood there. I looked down to see a tabby cat rubbing up against me purring for all it was worth!

Some critters have defeated me soundly; I've never called in a raccoon no matter my best efforts, and I've never called in a bear. On the latter, I've been somewhat tentative in calling bears unless I have a good solid backdrop like a cliff or big, big tree. For some strange reason, I don't quite want to be on Bre'r Bruin's menu!

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

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



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ARTS EXPOSURE • MARJORIE LILLY

Passion for Portraiture

Brad Simms labors to put life onto the canvas.

Deming artist Brad Simms says that portrait painting is looked down on by some people in the contemporary arts scene.

"That's the problem with realism," he says. "The art establishment sees it as illustration with delusions of grandeur."

Simms appears to be out to defy the art establishment. Black-and-white head sketches cover the walls of his art studio at home. He draws mostly young boys from his wife's elementary-school classes and a few adults. It's of supreme importance for him to keep practicing his drawing skills.

But he's a public school teacher himself, and gets almost no time to do finished works.

About the only full-blown portrait he's done in the last 10 years is the "New Me" painting on this issue's cover. He and his wife Gina figure it took him 400 to 450 hours to complete. (He paid the model the minimum wage to sit that long.) It's a lavishly and lovingly executed epitome of his painting skills.

School and family obligations jostle for attention in his life.

Simms says, "I come home and get tired." He has one son with Gina at home, her grandchildren drop by often, and her parents live in the same house with them.

An August show at the Deming Arts Council was Simms' debut onto the local arts scene, after living here for 20 years in artistic anonymity. The DAC hosted an exhibit of public school teachers' own art works, which had

an exceptional vigor and quality, and Simms' paintings stood out in that show.

Simms grew up in Manhattan and absorbed the art influences that were in the air. Several of his art teachers moonlighted at the Art Students League, where he studied later.

He and his elementary-school friends could ride the buses for free to the Metropolitan Museum of Art after school. "We loved to play in the Met," he recalls. They'd do their homework at the seldom-visited Egyptian Temple of Dendur, "a cool immense dark space." They sometimes brought their sketchbooks and drew.

After graduating from the University of Vermont, Simms went to the Art Students League back in New York. The League has produced a long list of famous artists such as Georgia O'Keefe and Jackson Pollock.

Between 1995 and 1997 he got a Master of Fine Arts at the Instituto Allende in Guanajuato, Mexico. He still owns a few works he did there, including two fully-executed female nude portraits that still hang in his house. "I love human anatomy," he says. "I love to paint nudes."

He still enthuses over classes taken over the past three years from prominent portrait artist Peter Shanks in Pennsylvania. Shanks has painted subjects including Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul and Princess Diana.

Simms pulls down a couple of large books from his bookshelf to show works by his two favorite artists, Diego Velazquez and John Singer Sargent, whose style he echoes. He sighs over Sargent's portrait of four white-pinafores girls from the Boit family.

Simms first came to New Mexico in 1991—not to paint, but to work with famous falconer Peter Jungemann in Las Cruces (see "Raptor Attention," April 2005). They trained and bred Cooper's hawks and Harris hawks.

"I wanted to have a relationship with a wild creature—he's with you because he wants to be," Simms says. "It's action unencumbered by thought. It teaches you to paint from your gut."

Simms talks over and over about getting some life into his paintings. As he interprets Shanks' teachings, it's essential to paint from live models. "If the model is moving, and the artist is moving, you get to see around the forms slightly," Simms says. "When the model moves around, you can see her profile. With a photo it's just one slice."

Another critical part of Shanks' teaching, he says, is to leave some rough brush strokes to give the painting more life. In contrast, in paintings by such French Academy artists Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Jean-Léon Gerome or William-Adolphe Bouguereau, the "surface is like glass."

Simms says one of the most important lessons he learned from Shanks is to start with "gesture," to simplify the position of the body and limbs of the figure into a few rough lines. Some portrait artists draw the whole picture first and then add paint. Shanks insists on sketching the gesture only.

While working with the model for "New Me," Simms struggled to keep the "gesture" of his model consistent over the year or so that he worked on the painting.

"The feet were hell to manage—the feet depend on the knees, and the knees depend on the buttocks," he says. "It was hard to get her head in the right place. The left eye anchored the whole body somehow."

He adds, "She had so much patience. What I



Detail from one of Simms' nudes.

liked about her was that self-possession."

In "New Me," Simms makes visual quotes from "El Jaleo," a Sargent painting of a female flamenco dancer. The orange at the girl's feet copies an orange on a chair in "El Jaleo," and Simms imitated the "rhythmic nature of the folds in the skirt." His wife's mother shadowing the doorway echoes the Sargent painting of the four sisters.

He calls the painting "an homage to Sargent."

Despite his obvious talent, Simms has always struggled to fit art into his life. "I've done everything," he says. "I've driven taxi cabs, been a bicycle messenger, driven a limousine, and been a janitor in the Sculpture Center School in Manhattan."

He adds, "I tried to make a go at being an artist. You had your fingers in 10 different pots. You made \$100 here, \$75 there. I hated it."

Now with a wife and the rest of their family, being a public school teacher is a necessity. But he says, "If I could just do art, I'd be as happy as a pig in poop."

There are some nationally known portrait painters in New Mexico, in Santa Fe, including Tony Ryder and David Leffel. Simms doesn't think he's prepared to compete with those giants, but feels ready to take his portrait career more seriously now.

Brad Simms' passion for portraiture, you might say, burns slowly but very brightly. ❧

Marjorie Lilly writes the *Borderlines* column.



An improvisation on William Bouguereau's "Two Sisters."

Right: Artist Brad Simms. (Photo by Marjorie Lilly) Below: "Daniel"



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The latest area art happenings.

Silver City & Grant County

The Grant County Art Guild will present an “Old Masters Art Exhibit” for the month of January in the conference room at the Silver City Public Library, opening Jan. 4. The show is an exercise in duplicating the art and style of old masters in painting. Barbara Smith, Lois Delong, Roz Springer and other guild members will study an old master painting and copy or replicate it. To give the exhibit an interactive twist, visitors will be given the opportunity to match the artwork with the old master.

Mimbres artist Michael Murphy is the newest featured artist at **Ginny Wolf Studio & Gallery**. 108 W. Yankie St., 313-5709, www.ginnywolf.word-press.com.

Twin Sisters Cycling has turned its front corner into a mini-gallery to showcase artists who don’t produce enough to warrant a regular gallery showing. Works by Howard Reinert will be featured through the month of February. 303 N. Bullard St., 538-3388.

Kate Brown Pottery & Tile Studio in the Mimbres will have a one-day intensive tile-making class on Saturday, Jan. 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$95 includes all materials. 536-9935, katebrown@gilanaet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com.

Las Cruces & Mesilla

The Tombaugh Gallery of the Unitarian Universalist Church presents “Friends–Art–Food,” works by Cally Williams and friends, on view through Jan. 27. The theme of friendship is evident in collaborative pieces while the separate pieces show the strength and talent of the individual artists in media including painting, pottery, weaving, silk painting, jewelry, photography

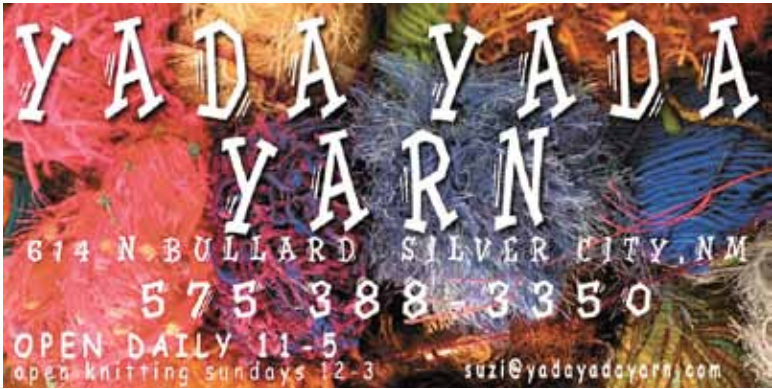
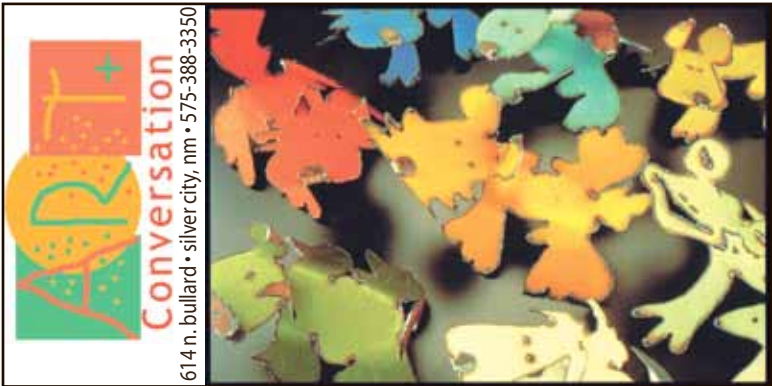


“Backyard Hollies” by Kathryn Holmes is part of the “Friends–Art–Food” exhibit at the Tombaugh Gallery in Las Cruces.

and printmaking. Group members are Cally Williams, Michelle Arterburn, Kathryn Holmes, Jessica Kurtz, Steve Hornung and Elaine Query. 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281.

Appropriately, the final show at the **Preston Contemporary Art Center** in Mesilla will be “The Last Picture Show,” a juried regional exhibition of the works of 64 artists from the Southern New Mexico/El Paso region. The show will open Friday, Jan. 13, with a reception from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and run concurrently with the center’s November Exhibition through Feb. 17. The center and the Mesilla Valley Film Society will partner to screen

ARTS SCENE continued on next page





HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Seedboat Gallery will be open by appointment through the month of January

Please call if you'd like to come in

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UPCOMING EVENTS



www.MimbresArts.org
575.538.2505
Silver City



Gregory Alan Isakov
January 13, 2012 ★ 7:30 pm
BUCKHORN OPERA HOUSE
\$20 Non-members/\$15 Members



The Ragbirds
February 3, 2012 ★ 7:30 pm
WNMU FINE ARTS CENTER THEATER
\$20 Non-members/\$15 Members

PERFORMANCE SERIES



Chocolate Fantasia
February 11, 2012 ★ 12:00 - 4:00 pm
STROLL HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SILVER CITY
20 Gourmet Chocolates for **\$20**

SPECIAL EVENTS





In Partnership for the Arts

Call for Auditions!

Theatre Group New Mexico is casting its spring musical “Alice in Wonderland Jr.”



There are about 40 roles available to all children ages 6 to 18 in this Broadway Jr. show. You must have completed Kindergarten and not have graduated high school.


Performance dates April 27-29, 2012 FACT at WMNU

A get acquainted meeting will held Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 6:00pm in the Parotti Recital Hall at WNMU.

Auditions will be on
Saturday, February 4
9am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm
Sunday, February 5 12pm to 5pm.
Parotti Recital Hall WNMU.
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Rehearsals begin February 9th.
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by **Greg Allen**

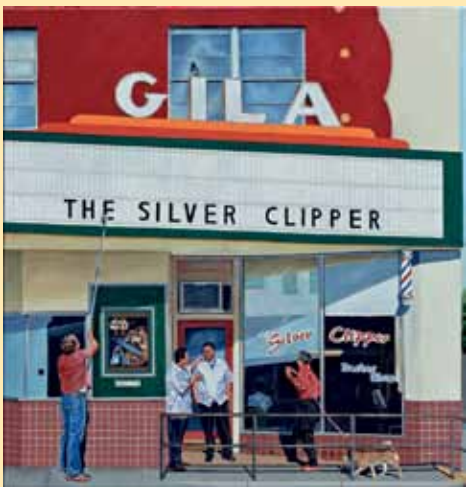
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or call 575 313-9631

Art

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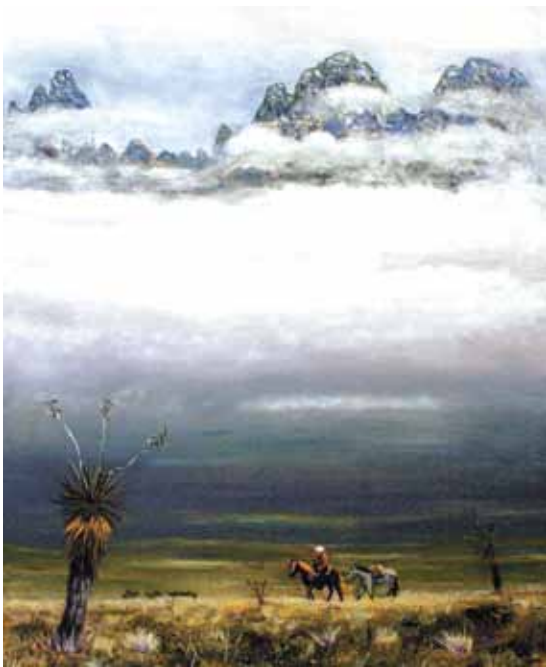
ARTS SCENE continued

Peter Bogdanovich's film, *The Last Picture Show*, at the Fountain Theatre in Mesilla on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 3:45 p.m.

Artists from Las Cruces in the exhibition include Jacob Albers, Barbara Armstrong, Julie Basile, Mary Beagle, Shelley Black, Carl Coker, Yanick D'hooge, Aubrey de Cheubell, Bob Diven, Penny Duncklee, Myles Erwin, Meg Freyermuth, Bill Gardner, Linda Gendall, William Giles, Peter Goodman, Michael C. Gutierrez, Glenn Holgersen, Lynn Insolia, Will Keener, Tomi LaPierre, Joyce Macrorie, Katie McLane, Bob Mitchell, Paul Neff, John Northcutt, Louis Ocepek, Or-Dima, Martha Randall Brown, Frank Rimbach, Susan Rivera, Jim Rodgers, Joshua Rose, Annika Rundberg, Jill Somoza, Jacklyn St. Aubyn, Mel Stone, Ouida Touchon, Roy van der Aa, Scott Weaver, Jean Wilkey and Danielle Wood.

Also included are Silver City artists Jean-Robert Be'ffort, Victoria Chick, Lois Duffy, Rebecca Rands Eisenhauer, Rod Rees, John Rogers and Zoe Wolfe; Mesilla artists Verna Dawson and Tony Lazorko; Mesilla Park artists Linda Hagen and Bree Lamb; Truth or Consequences artists Katharine Kreisher and Olin West; and El Paso artists Ginny Fischer, César Iván and Gildalorena Martinez. Other New Mexico artists included are Ricardo Chavarria, Anthony; Iva Morris, Vagueta; Laura Jean Schneider, Luna; Douglas Stanton, Carrizozo; Deborah Welch, Alamogordo; and Nolan Winkler, Hillsboro. 1755 Avenida de Mercado, 523-8713, www.preston-contemporaryart.com.

A group show, "Mixed Nutz" will be featured through Feb. 4 at **Rokoko Gallery**, with a reception Jan. 13, 6-9 p.m. 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877,



Works by Linda Hagen will be featured at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum.

www.rokokoart.com.

Snoopy's role in the space race will be featured at the **Las Cruces Museum of Natural History**, in a new exhibit, "To the Moon: Snoopy Soars with NASA," Jan. 14-May 6. Just before the first man landed on the moon, Charlie Brown and Snoopy soared through space with NASA's Apollo 10 mission in May 1969. The exhibit examines the history of Apollo 10 and the Peanuts characters' role in that flight, including Charles Schulz's artwork for the strip.




The Las Cruces Museum of Natural History celebrates Snoopy's role in the moon program.




"Rainbow" by Michelle Arterburn, on view at the Tombaugh Gallery.

Schulz's involvement with NASA started in 1968 when he was approached by NASA with a request to use Snoopy as their safety mascot. The Silver Snoopy Award program was instituted to improve the safety record of NASA employees and contractors. Snoopy has been on the job for 40-plus years and continues to this day in his role as NASA's safety mascot.


The crew of Apollo 10 chose to nickname their command and lunar modules "Charlie Brown" and "Snoopy." The flight of Apollo 10 in May 1969 was the "dress rehearsal" for the lunar landing. Astronauts Thomas Stafford and Eugene Cernan piloted "Snoopy" within 50,000 feet of the lunar surface as they scouted the landing area for Apollo 11, while




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313-9631




Artesanos Gallery
211B N. Texas
519-0804



Tundar Gallery
110 W. Yankee
597-0011



The Copper Quail
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388-2646




Seedboat Gallery
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Yankie Street Artists
103 W. Yankee
519-0615

John Young orbited the moon in the command module “Charlie Brown.”

The exhibit, organized by the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa, Calif., also features NASA’s Silver Snoopy Award program, a Silver Snoopy pin that was flown to the moon, and a children’s creative play space. 700 S. Telshor Blvd. in the Mesilla Valley Mall, 522-3120, www.las-cruces.org.

The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum will feature “The World Around Us: The Artwork of Linda Hagen” in its Arts Corridor through April 1, with a reception Jan. 19, 6-8 p.m. The Las Cruces artist’s 33 paintings, mostly oil, reflect her love of horses and the outdoors. This exhibition demonstrates the connection between the land, the people and the animals that are part of the landscape. Originally from Ohio, Hagen captures the tough and enduring agricultural lifestyle in her work, as well as the beauty of the American Southwest. 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranch-museum.org.

Featured artists this month at the **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery** are Ruth Ann Sugarman and Yvonne Postelle, with a reception on Saturday, Jan. 21, 1-3 p.m. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

Members of “Meow Wolf” will give a talk about their “Glitteropolis” exhibit on Jan. 25 at 5:30 p.m. in NMSU’s Health and Social Sciences Auditorium. The interactive installation continues on display at the **NMSU Art Gallery**

through Feb. 18. 646-2545. ☼

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



“The Last Picture Show” at the Preston Center for Contemporary Art in Mesilla includes “Oscillate” by Danielle Wood (top) and “Handrail” by Paul Erin Neff (above).

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”@E, 110 W. 7th St., 538-3333, aspace.studiogallery@gmail.com.
AZURITE GALLERY, 110 W. Broadway, 538-9048, Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.azuritegallery.com.
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.
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.
GINNY WOLF STUDIO & GALLERY, 108 W. Yankie St., 313-5709, ginnywolf.wordpress.com.
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, Gorde Headlee, Diana Ingalls Leyba, Dayna Griego, Constance Knuppel, Mary Alice Murphy, Phillip Parotti, Betsey Resnick, Teri Matelson, Joe Theiman, Zoe Wolfe, Melanie Zipin. [\[balngallsARTS.com\]\(http://balngallsARTS.com\), \[LeybalngallsART@zianet.com\]\(http://LeybalngallsART@zianet.com\).
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. \[www.loisduffy.com\]\(http://www.loisduffy.com\), \[loisduffy@signalpeak.net\]\(mailto:loisduffy@signalpeak.net\).
MARY’S FINE ART, 414 E. 21st St., 956-7315. Mary A. Gravelle.
MIMBRES REGION ARTS COUNCIL GALLERY, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. \[www.mimbresarts.org\]\(http://www.mimbresarts.org\).
MOLLY RAMOLLA GALLERY & FRAMING, 307 N. Texas, 538-5538. \[www.ramollaart.com\]\(http://www.ramollaart.com\).
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. \[info@seedboatgallery.com\]\(mailto:info@seedboatgallery.com\).
SILVER SPIRIT GALLERY, 215 W. Broadway, 388-2079.
STONEWALKER STUDIO, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Barbara Jorgen Nance.
THE STUDIO SPACE, 109 N. Bullard St., 534-9291. \[www.jessgorell.com\]\(http://www.jessgorell.com\).
STUDIO UPSTAIRS, 109 N. Bullard St., 574-2493. By appointment.
SUSAN SZAJER STUDIO, Sanctuary Road, 313-7197 By appointment.
TATIANA MARIA GALLERY, 305 & 307 N. Bullard St., 388-4426.
TOP HAT ART, 115 N. Bayard.
TUNDAR GALLERY & STUDIO, 110 Yankie, 597-0011.
21 LATIGO TRAIL, 388-4557. Works by Barbara Harrison and others.
TWIN SISTERS CYCLING, 303 N. Bullard St., 538-3388. Mini-gallery. Tues.-Sat., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
TWO SPIRIT GALLERY, 313 N. Bullard, Suite B, 534-4563. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
WILD WEST WEAVING, 211-D N. Texas, 313-1032, \[www.hosanaeilert.com\]\(http://www.hosanaeilert.com\). Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
YANKIE ST. ARTIST STUDIOS, 103 W. Yankie St., 313-1032. By appointment.
ZOE’S GALLERY, 305 N. Cooper St., 538-8983. By appointment.
Tyrone
MOONSTRUCK ART STUDIO, 501 Covellite Dr., 956-5346, 654-5316. By appointment.
SUN DAWG STUDIO, 501 Malachite](http://www.Ley-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Ave., 388-3551. By appointment.
Pinos Altos
HEARST CHURCH GALLERY, Gold St., 538-9761/538-8216. Open mid-May to mid-Sept. Fri., Sat., Sun. and holidays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Mimbres
KATE BROWN POTTERY AND TILE, HC 15 Box 1335, San Lorenzo, 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com. By appointment.
NARRIE TOOLE, Estudio de La Montura, 313-2565, www.narrietoole.com. Contemporary western oils, giclées and art prints. By appointment.
Bayard
KATHRYN ALLEN CLAY STUDIO, 601 Erie St., 537-3332. By appointment.
T. Ali Studio, 421 E. Elm St., 537-3470. By appointment.
Hanover
LA GARITA, 13 Humboldt, 537-6624. By appointment.
Hurley
JW ART GALLERY, Old Hurley Store, 99 Cortez Ave., 537-0300. Weds.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., www.jwartgallery.com.

Northern Grant County & Catron County
ANNIE’S ON THE CORNER, Hwy. 180 and Adair, Luna, 547-2502.
CASITAS DE GILA, 50 Casita Flats Road, Gila, 535-4455. Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. or by appointment. gallery@casitasdegila.com, www.galleryatthecasitas.com.
RUNNING HORSE GALLERY, Hwy. 180, Pleasanton, 539-2403. Thurs.-Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. www.gilanet.com/runninghorse.
WILLOW GALLERY, Hwy. 15, Gila Hot Springs, 536-3021. By appointment.

Mesilla
ELKIN STUDIO, Oñate Plaza, 635-2025, www.elkinjewelers.com.
GALERI AZUL, Old Mesilla Plaza, 523-8783. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
GALERIA ON THE PLAZA, 2310 Calle de Principal, 526-9771. Daily 10 am.-6 p.m.
GALERIA TEPIN, 2220 Calle de Parian, 523-3988. Thurs.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY, 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.,

GALLERY GUIDE continued on next page

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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

A Bit of Advice

Buying a bit to “control” your horse? Think this through first.

Here's a question I get a lot: “What kind of bit should I use to give me the most control of my horse?”

I wonder what the horse thinks when he hears this. Picture taking your horse into your favorite tack store and showing him all the equipment being offered to “control” him—all the bits, ropes, spurs, tie downs, even electric shock collars. Your horse would probably have a heart attack and drop dead right there. It would look like a medieval torture chamber to him.

People with horses tend to be real equipment junkies, always looking for something that will immediately make a horse safe, soft and obedient, or more competitive and flashier for the judges. What gets lost in this frenzied search for a magic bullet is that a lot of horse equipment has been designed for very specific purposes and actually works well, *if* the proper steps have been taken to develop horse and rider along the way and *if* you're using the equipment as intended. Frustration comes in for horse and rider when you take a tool that works well for a certain set of conditions, then put it in the hands of an inexperienced person or use it in a totally different way. Kind of like taking Roger Federer's tennis racket and giving it to a weekend hacker—the person won't play any better and will probably play worse given the racket is designed for the best player in the world.

As the saying goes, the tool is only as good as the hands that hold it.

When asked about bits specifically, I try to answer in a way that gives a rider a better chance of making the right decision. If I hear the words “more control” or “more stop,” I know I will probably butt heads with this person. I come from the school that believes the welfare of the horse comes first, and that the hands—and, by extension, the reins and bit—should never be seen as a brake, steering wheel, clutch or method of punishment. Your responsibility as a rider is to communicate with the horse through your hands and to position him to accomplish what you're asking. The “control” should come from a solid partnership. If you've ever seen a high-level bridle-less demonstration of reining or dressage, where a horse is soft and collected with true self-carriage, you'll understand that control doesn't come from a bit.

Try these three steps to make better equipment decisions, especially about bits:

Step 1—What kind of riding do you intend to do? Will you ride mostly on the trails or just do arena work? Are you interested in refinement and collection or will you be roping or sorting cows? Your intended use is a critical factor in making equipment decisions.

Step 2—Give a fair assessment of your horse. How developed and athletic is he? Does he give softly to pressure throughout his body or is he stiff and braced when asked to move or bend? Will he give you vertical and lateral softness from the ground in a simple rope halter? How old is he and what was his history before you bought him? Are his breeding and conformation suited for your riding goals?

Step 3—What is your level of riding skill? I believe good riders, regardless of riding discipline, all share the same traits—they ride balanced and centered, they have a true independent seat, and they can separate all of their aids. The best cowboys and trail riders ride like this, as well as the best dressage riders.

What does this actually mean? Well, suppose I put you on a lunge line so that I was going to control the speed and direction of the horse and all you had to do is ride. Sounds easy. But now I ask you to ride without your reins and without your stirrups, and without holding on to anything for balance and security. Suddenly things become a lot more challenging. Now I ask you to do some things with your hands and arms, like passing a ball from hand to hand, then behind your back. Do something with one hand, something different with the other. Or maybe carry two cups of water without spilling, or carry a golf ball in a spoon without dropping it.

Remember, you're still doing this all while you're following the movement of the horse. Then maybe I ask you to move your legs forward and back as if you're walking on the horse, or take one leg out to the side, then the other, then both. Then I ask you to do all this at the trot, maybe even the canter.

What's the point of all this? A good rider pretty much rides the horse from the knees to the lower back, following the horse's movement and staying loose and balanced within that area. This leaves the hands, arms, lower legs and upper body free to work independently to communicate and direct the horse—that is, to separate and use your aids. Your ability to ride like this has a lot to do with the kind of equipment you should be using. If you're constantly out of balance and having to grab the saddle or the reins or grip with your legs, then your communication with your horse is going to be confusing at best. More likely it will cause discomfort or even pain, which often leads to the very behavior in a horse that we think we need to control.

I once heard a US Olympic Team-level dressage rider say at a clinic that he believed no rider should be allowed to use a bit, to influence a horse with a tool that powerful, until they can *prove to the horse* that they know how to be a calm, balanced rider with an independent seat. Think about that.

Whether I'm starting, restarting or fine-tuning a horse and rider, after these three steps my progression to a bit decision starts with a rider using just the rope halter. I do this for two reasons. First, most of your ground work and basic softness/responsiveness teaching is done with a lead rope and rope halter. The horse understands this equipment and how to succeed and be rewarded when taught with it. For consistency, I find it very helpful to work on riding basics using the same piece of equipment. Second, I don't like to see the horse pay the price—that is, a bit banging around in his mouth—while a rider learns to communicate better and how to separate and use all of the available aids.

When I see the horse and rider working well together in the rope halter, then I like to move to a non-leveraged snaffle bit (i.e. no shank). I prefer a bit on a loose ring with a sleeve over the center hinge. My personal preference for this step is a Myler Comfort Snaffle, as it fits the horse's mouth better than most snaffle bits and eliminates the possibility of any pinching. I've been using these bits for over 10 years on all levels of horses with great success. I also like to use a set-up with rope reins and slobber straps, as this step is the important teaching phase. This is where you teach a horse to be soft and when you learn how the bit is supposed to work. It is where you learn to work each side of the horse and how to talk to each hoof. For me, it also gives a clear visual from the ground of what the rider is doing with his/her hands so I can suggest improvements.

When this picture looks really nice—the horse is soft and responsive and the rider is clearly using aids better and not hanging on the horse, using the reins and bit to communicate and support, not for control or security—then we can have our discussion about the best bit for moving forward in your primary riding interest. At this point you can make a decision based on your skills, your riding relationship with your horse and the knowledge of how a bit is supposed to work. The options for the right next step are endless—including no bit at all!

In closing, I wanted to mention a wonderful new horse-rescue operation that has opened here in Silver City. We all know what tough times these are for horse owners given the economy and the effects of drought on the price of hay. This has already led to more abandoned and neglected horses, and they need all the help we can give them. This facility was started by Carol Johnson and offers horses a wide-open 12 acres to roam, form herds and be horses. There is shelter from the weather and the horses are given the best vet, dental and farrier care that we have here locally. There is a full

riding arena and a large round pen so horses can be given the kind of quality rehab and conditioning work they need. In addition, all horses are handled using the principles of natural horsemanship to offer them the best chance for physical and mental rehabilitation before they are ready for adoption. I have offered my time to teach any volunteers the use of the tools and techniques of natural horsemanship, and have been working with Carol and her assistant to develop their skills as well.

The rescue has been given full non-profit status as a 501(c)3 organization (so contributions are tax deductible) and has been inspected and approved by the state vet. If you want to learn more about horses, improve your own skills or just help out a very worthy cause, please contact Carol at (575) 313-5714. 🌱

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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LOOKING BACKWARDS • JEFF BERG

The Rest of the Story

A centennial-celebration miscellany of early New Mexico history, 12,000 BC-1862 AD.

In case you have just happened upon this paper or are just learning about the state of New Mexico, Jan. 6, 2012, marks the 100th anniversary of New Mexico statehood. The achievement of statehood in 1912 culminated a long, arduous process, which failed at least four other times, including a 1906 effort that proposed joint statehood with Arizona (ewwww!). But the state is also filled with history that dates back before most any living creature drew a breath upon the land that was officially outlined to become *New Mexico*.

All sorts of centennial activities have taken place the last few weeks and will continue throughout 2012. Through these events and other publications you will mostly get New Mexico his-

exploration that was shipwrecked in Florida returns to “new” Mexico, leading a small party looking for the rumored Cibola—Seven Cities of Gold.

Esteban, a former slave from Africa, one of the survivors who wandered with Cabeza de Vaca from Florida to southern Texas and Mexico, is taken on as their guide, essentially making a black man the first non-native to come to New Mexico. Esteban, who for many years was viewed as a seer or healer by some of the native tribes, gets killed at the Zuni pueblo of Hawikuh, apparently after making too many demands involving women and turquoise.

But mission leader Fray Marcos exaggerates his findings greatly upon returning to Mexico, thus leading to the fabled Coronado expedition for those Seven Cities of Gold. All Coronado finds is nothing, but it this trip, wherein he ends up going as far north as Kansas, that leads to years of horror for the original peoples of New Mexico. This journey is also said to have had several European women along, thus making the three wives of three of Coronado’s men the first of their gender to visit this area. Another source says an estimated 20% of the group of 560 were women.

In 1582, a wealthy Spaniard, Antonio de Espejo, finances a small expedition to New Mexico, to try to find out the fate of some missionaries who had traveled north in 1581. Marquez’ book claims that this group visited over 70 pueblos, and that Espejo is one of the first to coin the term *Nuevo Mexico*.

Expeditions and colonization efforts continue, and it is not until 1598 that your current place of residence (my assumption) is claimed for Spain during another expedition, this one led by Juan de Oñate, who becomes governor (one who would not cut filmmaker subsidies or eliminate commuter trains). The governor, “Captain General” and “Advocate” takes possession of “New Mexico and of its kingdoms” at a huge “thanksgiving” feast complete with a high Mass and soldiers in formation, on April 30, 1598.

A captain in the group, one Gaspar de Villagra, chronicles all of this in an epic poem. This allows New Mexico to be the “only colony in history to have an epic like *The Iliad*, as a source for its incipient annals.”

It is also at this time that any colonist who stays in New Mexico for at least five years is entitled to use the term “Don” to signify his New Nobility. So, you may now call me Don Jeff Berg.

A few months later, San Juan de los Caballeros, a site where present-day Española stands, is christened the first capital of New Mexico.

Also in 1598, a big year in our history, about 50 soldiers and officers, dismayed because they “didn’t find silver lying on the ground” and because they cannot enslave pueblo people, decide to leave. There are other rumblings of mutiny of a different kind, even as Oñate meets with 38 pueblo leaders, who tend to the needs of an estimated 60,000 people. That number remains somewhat constant, even as late as 1638; the Spanish population of New Mexico is less than 1,000.

To finish up the year, the residents of Acoma pueblo revolt and kill about 25 Spaniards who had stopped to trade with the Acoma people.

The year 1599 starts off poorly, with more combat between the Spanish and the Acoma people, raising the body count for both sides. The Spanish

are victorious, Acoma is destroyed, and a number of Acoma survivors are tried for the deaths of 27 Spaniards. Saved from the death penalty, two-dozen males are sentenced instead to have their toes cut off and to 20 years of servitude. Acknowledged history is that an even larger number of Acoma men had a foot removed, leading, hundreds of years later, to the actual removal of a foot from a huge statue of Oñate near Espanola, by perpetrators unknown.

But Marquez research disputes the dismemberment claim, citing several different historians and records of the time that indicate the toe sentences were indeed handed (pun intended) down, but never carried out.

As is the case today, in the 1600s differences between cultures, interference of church and of state, make for some unruly and occasionally very unpleasant times throughout the state. Most of the Spanish population remains centered in northern New Mexico, although forays to the eastern plains result in the start of New Mexico’s own buffalo slaughter.

In 1657 the 70 Franciscan friars in New Mexico (an area that encompasses a much larger chunk of land then than today) are said to be the most powerful in the territory. The friars make things even more difficult for the power hungry and for the native population, who are sometimes charged and tried for such “crimes” as sedition, witchcraft and something called “sacriligious impersonation.”

After years of harsh treatment, drought and famine, the pueblo revolt begins in 1680 and about 400 settlers and soldiers are killed. The Spanish are forced out of New Mexico and retreat to El Paso. Attempts over the next years to resettle or negotiate a return by the Spanish are unsuccessful until 1692, when a group heads north from El Paso, stopping for a time at present day Robledo, before heading north. The pueblos have suffered much infighting over the years, and the time seems right for a “reconquest.”

A second pueblo revolt fails in 1696. It is now only 50 years until the first Anglos visit New Mexico, in the form of French fur trappers, who trade with the Spanish in 1743.

It is not until 1807, however, that the first non-Spanish expedition comes to New Mexico, led by Zebulon Pike, of peak fame. Pike’s journals become the impetus for changes in the trade system, since traders soon realize that they are being taken to the cleaners by Mexican merchants in Chihuahua.

Gold is discovered in the Ortiz Mountains near Santa Fe in 1822 or 1828 (reports vary)—the first major find in the US, one which continues to draw interest even today. In the early 1990s, a plan to use leach mining to extract gold was thwarted,

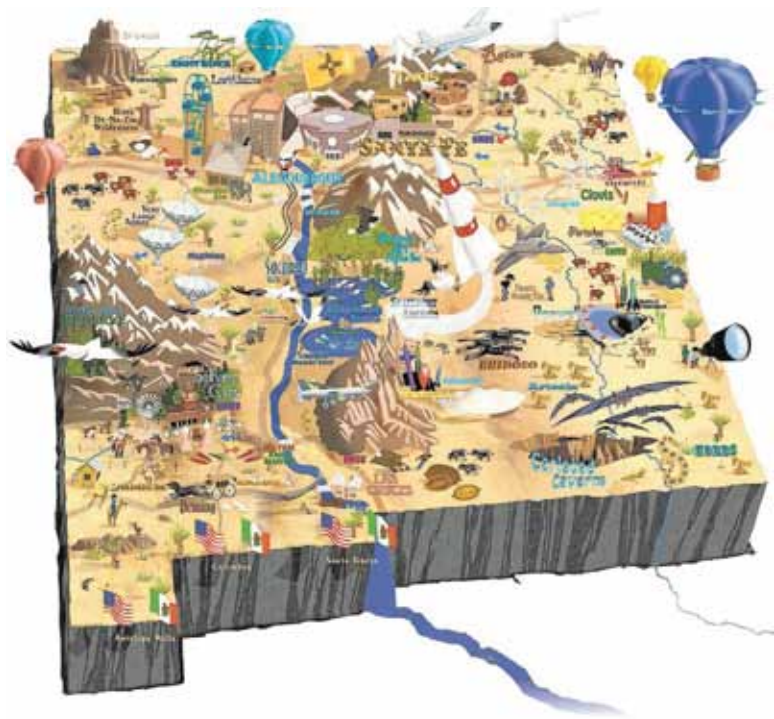
and last September another effort to mine the mineral was dashed. The mine will help bring the first railroad to New Mexico, along with Thomas Edison, who gets involved in a gold separation mill. Edison will also shoot

the first known piece of motion picture film in New Mexico at Isleta Pueblo in 1898.

Another valuable commodity is discovered in New Mexico, often called “hairy banknotes” by their peddlers, as beaver pelts are all the rage. In 1831-1832 pelts worth \$100,000 are hauled over the Santa Fe Trail, which had first been blazed in 1792 by Pedro Vial and two Vicentes, Villanueva and Espinosa.

But beaver populations near populated areas are pretty much played out by 1835. When restrictions and licensing are suggested, not much changes. (Some things just don’t change.)

An interesting aside in Marquez’ book offers that from 1821-1850, there are 218 non-Hispanic names noted in church records, mostly living in the Taos area. These include surnames of French,



The New Mexico History Museum features this colorful map of the state by Silver City artist Karen Carr. To learn more about the state’s history, visit www.nmhistorymuseum.org. The museum is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues. through Sun., closed Monday. (Open until 8 p.m. on Friday.) Admission \$9 out-of-state visitors \$6 New Mexico residents Free on Sunday to New Mexico residents and on Wednesday to New Mexico senior citizens. Free to members and children under 17. Free Friday evenings, 5-8 p.m. 113 Lincoln Ave., Santa Fe, NM, (505) 476-5200.

tory redux: pueblos, chile, kokopellis, Kit Carson, Georgia O’Keefe, Billy the Kid, Buffalo Soldiers, Santa Fe being overrun by gringo artists and wannabes. Same stuff, different year.

This is different. Herein, we present to you, kind reader, some pre-statehood bits of the history of your current home state (provided you aren’t one of the wise out-of-state readers whom *Desert Exposure* may extend to), that you may not know about.

Much of this information is dredged from a wonderful book, nearly 700 pages in length, with no visible coordination of topics, called *New Mexico: A Brief Multi-History* by Ruben Salaz Marquez. Born in 1935 in Belen, Marquez continues to write, but current information on him is elusive. So, with a nod to his fine work, we begin.

Once upon a time, in pre-contact days, those days before European people invaded the Americas—actually long before that, 12,000-15,000 BC—it is said that the Sandia, a roving band of people, came to the Earth via an emergence from a lake called Shibapu. Traveling south from this place, some are said to settle around the Four Corners area, the spot that currently is the only place in the US where the boundaries of four states meet.

Sometime later, Clovis people are said to have their turn, around 10,000-9,000 BC, as they roam the area looking for game.

Folsom people are said to be next, arriving after the Ice Age in about 9,000-8,000 BC. To give you a bit of a comparison to more popular history, this is about the same time as when the Greeks were forming their city-states.

And if Sandia, Clovis and Folsom sound familiar, they are still terms known in New Mexico: Clovis and Folsom are towns and Sandia has a number of connotations.

Before the arrival of the Spanish, from 1 AD to about 1500 or so, other ancient cultures such as Zuni, Acoma, Tiwa, Dine (Navajo) and Keresan are also active in the area. All is well until about 1539, when one of the survivors of an ill-fated Spanish



“United States,” German, Irish and Scotch descent, and then there is Simon Levi, “origin unknown.”

It is also in 1850 that New Mexico, which includes present-day Arizona, southern Colorado, southern Utah and southern Nevada, is designated a territory but denied statehood. This statehood failure would happen several times over the next 60 years or so, sometimes due to slavery issues prior to the Civil War, but also for other racial tensions and misgivings by those in power.

In 1856, the territorial legislature passes a bill restricting the movement of free blacks in New Mexico. Any person of African heritage must post a sum of \$200 to “insure good behavior and the ability to support themselves.” Even with that, blacks cannot remain in the state more than 30 days, and cannot intermarry. Furthermore, newly freed blacks have to be out of New Mexico within 30 days. It is not noted just how these policies are to be enforced.

It is at this same time that the interim governor, W.W.H. Davis, is charged with embezzlement and booted out of office. Davis was also, one notes with irony, the first US attorney for New Mexico. Anglos keep a firm hold on power, and it won’t be until 1897 that a Hispanic, Miguel A. Otero, becomes territorial governor. (Only five other Hispanics will serve as governor during statehood.) In 1860, however, only 18.5% of New Mexico’s population was Anglo.

The first celebration of Yom Kippur takes place in 1860, at the home of Levi Spiegelberg of Santa Fe. That same year, the legislature, in one of its rare fits of rationality, passes a compulsory public education bill, authorizing teachers 50 cents a month per pupil. (I’m pretty sure that, adjusted for inflation, teachers’ salaries are about the same today.)

New Mexico becomes noted in 1861 for the execution of Paula Angel for murder, making her the first Anglo woman executed in western states and territories. They have to hang her twice, no less. There are grim but fascinating accounts of her demise.

Also in 1861 a different kind of conquest takes place: the occupation, albeit briefly, by Confederate troops who enter the state from Fort Bliss in El Paso, under the command of Captain John Robert Baylor and his 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles. Victorious in the first Battle of Mesilla, Baylor names himself governor of the Confederate Territory of Arizona and makes Mesilla the capital. He is soon confirmed governor, while

managing to get into a number of violent scrapes throughout his time in New Mexico and thereafter. The Mesilla battle results in about 20 casualties between the 250 Confederates and approximately 400 Union soldiers. It succeeds in chasing the Union forces out of the area until July 1862, when the second “Battle” of Mesilla takes place, sans casualties, but the last skirmish between the two sides in the territory.

Confederate Captain Baylor, not a gentle man, has no love lost for the native people of the area, most especially the Apaches, as he once issues an order that proclaims:

“Use all means to persuade the Apaches or any other tribe to come in for the purposed of making peace, and when you get them together, kill all the grown Indians and take the children prisoners and sell them to defray the expense of killing the adult Indians.”

No record of this order being followed exists, but it does cost Baylor his job and commission. He later reenlists and rises to the rank of colonel.

The Confederate Army marches northward toward Santa Fe, with the goal of taking Fort Union, advancing to Colorado to procure the gold mines there to finance the war, and ultimately to California while attempting to recruit support from native tribes and Mormons while passing through Utah.

A grand plan, it fails, mostly thanks to the efforts of native-born New Mexican Colonel Manuel Chaves, who leads Union forces to where the Confederates have their supply wagons parked during the Battle of Glorieta in March 1862. The entire camp is captured, effectively ending the Confederate advance, which had been eyebrow-raising successful until then.

Chaos and shortages of everything continue after the Confederate occupation, which ends in May in Mesilla. They withdraw with fewer than half the men (1,500) than the Confederates started with (3,200), just a few months earlier.

Marquez’ book, although very disjointed and sometimes confusing, is a remarkable look at New Mexico history, in particular from the Hispanic viewpoint. It continues in detail through 1997, and continues to offer proof that New Mexico will always be the way it is, by offering this tidbit a few pages from its closure, from the *Albuquerque Journal*: “New Mexico lawyers have a 54% negative rating compared to 34% nationwide.”

Yes. 

Jeff Berg makes history in Las Cruces.

New Mexico “trivia” you surely didn’t know

- There are 27 people in the state who can’t stand chile—red, green or “Christmas.”
- It has not yet been recorded that a New Mexico driver has ever used a turn signal or learned to drive in snow.
- Big cars with tiny wheels are the Official Car of New Mexico.
- Efforts to promote the state through sales of fuzzy green “Zia Pets” failed after drought wiped out the entire crop.
- Billy the Kid actually survived his shooting by Pat Garrett and went on to win the second season of “Dancing With the Stars.”
- The rest areas along Interstate 25 from Anthony to Albuquerque were designed by the same aliens who crashed in Roswell.

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Monday, January 9, 12 pm at the Museum Annex
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Saturday, January 21, 2 pm at the Museum
Book Signing: *Colorado Moon* by Jim Jones

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GOOD NEIGHBORS • HARRY WILLIAMSON

Imagine This

The Imagination Library puts books in the hands of Grant County preschoolers whose parents promise to read to them.



Some of the free books given to local children are spread out in front of Loren and Barbara Nelson, who started The Imagination Library of Grant County. (Photo by Harry Williamson)

"Children without words are licked before they start. Most of them have never seen their parents read a book or a magazine . . ."
—Peter Jennison, historian and novelist

"You may have tangible wealth untold
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
Richer than I you can never be
I had a mother who read to me."
—Strickland Gillilan, poet

*Gather 'round, gather 'round!
Okay, here's the deal. You get a book in the mail
every month for 60 months, absolutely free. That's
it. You don't have to pay a penny.
You've got two kids? Okay, we'll double the offer.
Not only that, we'll pretty much guarantee
your kids will do better in school, and be more
fulfilled in their future lives.
What do you do have to do?
Simple. Grab a pillow or two, settle in, pick up
that book, and read it aloud to your children.
That's it.
Now, sign up right over here.*

A couple of retired Minnesota schoolteachers and grandparents, Barbara and Loren Nelson definitely don't look like flimflammers. But at first blush their Imagination Library can seem almost too good to be true.

"We've had people say that we're probably going to send the books free for a few months, and then start charging them," Barbara says. "And we answer, 'No we won't, ever. There is never any charge. All you have to do is promise to read to your children, and let us know your new address if you move. That's all there is.'"

Approximately a year ago the Nelsons started their Imagination Library of Grant County, Inc. It was New Mexico's first locally sponsored affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which the country singer began in 1995 in her home Sevier County, Tenn. In 2000 Parton's program was made available to any community that was willing to support it locally. Now more than 667,000

books are shipped from Tennessee each month to more than 1,500 communities in all 50 states, Canada, Australia and the UK. Online registration for the program, whose motto is, "Dream more, Learn more, Care more, Be more," doubled in 2011 alone.

Parton says the Imagination Library was not started as a charity or a social service. She explains, "It is simply a gift to all of the preschoolers in a community."

How an Imagination Library was created in Grant County is similar to how many worthwhile programs get started here—motivated people retire to the area.

Loren Nelson says he first visited Silver City when it was on the route of a mountain bike trip he and a couple of friends made along the Continental Divide, from the Canadian border to Antelope Wells, NM.

"When we decided to find a place to spend January, I said we have to take a look at Silver City," he says. "So we arrived in town on a Thursday, and bought a house on Monday when we were leaving to go back to Minnesota."

That was 10 years ago, and the Nelsons, who describe themselves as the type of people "who get into things headfirst," have been busy ever since. Loren was one of the people who helped start the Volunteer Center of Grant County, and he works with several other groups, including being on the board of Literacy Link-Leamos (see "Getting the Word," August 2011) in Silver City. Barbara had spent a lot of her time volunteering, especially reading—sometimes accompanied by her singing and guitar playing—at Literacy Link, county schools and Head Start programs.

"With our own three children, five grandchildren and our students, we've always realized the value and necessity of reading to children," Barbara says.

So when they discovered in the fall of 2010 that New Mexico had no private Imagination Library affiliates, they decided to take a little money from their own savings and start one. Since they were using their own funds—and since "retired teachers do not have any depth of pocket," as Barbara puts it—they began with children under the age of three living in the four mining-district zip codes.

Their first mailing of 100 fundraising letters resulted in an almost unheard-of 46% percent, compared to the average return of 2%-4%.

"I think we got the good response because we hit on a need. That's the only reason I can think of," Loren says.

"And, well, we sent it to a lot of people who like us," Barbara adds. "We got several responses from people that said they really admired what we were doing, and wished they could do it if they weren't employed or something like that."

They received sufficient money to expand to four- and five-year-old children. Later, after receiving a small United Way grant, the program began servicing all of the Grant County zip codes except for those in Silver City.

The Nelsons started out with seven children and are now up 350, providing almost 3,000 books to more than half of the children in rural Grant County. Recipients include 30 five-year-olds who have "graduated," receiving their final book, *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* They've also sent books to a one-day-old and a two-day-old child.

"A full two-thirds of the children in Santa Clara,



Aaliyah Dominguez already has her first book, *The Little Engine That Could*, after her dad Justin signed her up with The Imagination Library of Grant County.

and virtually all of the children in Mimbres Valley are now receiving these free books," Loren says.

Barbara says she works monthly with the rural post offices, correcting addresses and making sure the children are getting their books.

"We couldn't do it without the postal employees," she adds. "They happily tell us about the excited children, parents and grandparents who pick up their books each month. With their help we've had only four undeliverable books since we began."

It will cost approximately \$10,000 for all of the children who are currently registered to receive books in 2012. The county communities that are now included are Arenas Valley, Bayard, Buckhorn, Cliff, Faywood, Gila, Hanover, Hachita, Hurley, Mimbres, Mule Creek, Pinos Altos, Santa Clara, Redrock and Tyrone.

The Nelsons estimate another \$6,000 to \$8,000 would be needed to provide books for newborns in Silver City in 2012, with the hope being to add one-year-olds the following year, and then just go a year at a time up to the five-year-olds. According to the 2010 census, Silver City's 88061 zip code covers between 1,000 and 1,200 children under the age of five.



Geronimo Gonzales Jr. and his dad are ready to start reading after being registered.

Late last year the Nelsons sent out their second fundraising letter, this time to 200 people and businesses, along with another grant request to United Way.

"If we get that grant we'd definitely be able to open it up to newborns in Silver City," Loren says. "We also

asked another foundation for \$10,000 last October and haven't heard back yet. If we get that we would probably open it up carte blanche for all the kids in Silver City under the age of five."

The Nelsons have also started a "sponsor a child" program where people can donate \$30 for a year's worth of 12 books, or \$150, which provides books for one child from birth to age five.

"We have one person who is giving a child a year of reading for each of her six relatives as a Christmas present," Barbara says. "We are also starting to get people who give us three-year pledges, which is really helpful because it allows us to anticipate where we will be."

With their 501(c)3 nonprofit certification now in hand, the Nelsons in the New Year will also be establishing their board. Becky Nell Young is the board's first member, and three others have expressed an interest in joining.

The Nelsons' two responsibilities as program sponsors—or "local champions," as they're referred to by The Imagination Library—are to raise the funds and sign up families who would like to receive the books. They do a lot of this sign-



Johnny Montenegro and his wife Rita of Santa Clara get some snuggle time reading to their children, Lucy, age four, and Joseph, age two. The family receives books from the Imagination Library. (Photo by Harry Williamson)

ing up at local festivals and other public events, along with setting up their little table and banner at some area retailers.

“We just sit there and sign them up,” Barbara says. “Some days we might get zero or we might get 20.”

Johnny Montenegro, for example, was at the Hurley Fair last June when he saw the Nelsons seated behind a small table, with the Imagination Library banner fluttering overhead.

“At first I thought the whole thing was a gimmick,” he recalls, but still decided to register his two youngest children, Lucy, age four, and Joseph, age two. Now, several months and several books later, Montenegro praises the program to everyone he can.

“There is no better thing you can do for your children than read to them,” he says. “And for me, it’s comfort time with my kids—just us, nothing but a book and our imaginations. As I read, I watch their eyes as they try to imagine what is going on in the story.”

He adds that he wants to plant the seed of reading “deep inside their heads” as they begin their formal schooling.

A few parents, however, have displayed a level of unawareness that, in effect, condemns their children to the same often bleak, lifelong path: “Why would I want any books? My kid can’t even read yet.” “We don’t have room for a bunch of books. We don’t have any bookshelves.”

Barbara recalls a police officer at the Santa Clara festival “who asked, ‘Do people really read to kids like that?’ I said that they should. He said, ‘Well, I admire your efforts but I don’t think it’s going to do any good.’”

To any such cynicism, the Nelsons tend to respond, “We know we can make a difference. We have seen it. We can spread the word. We can get people doing in other communities because it’s so vitally important. We want to see all of these kids as learners who can be successful in all aspects of life.”

There are now two other privately funded Imagination Libraries in New Mexico, in Alamogordo and Cloudcroft, along with several affiliates sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Most of the parents have not only signed up, but have encouraged friends and family members with children to also do so.

The Nelsons hear repeated stories of how children look forward to receiving their monthly books, running to the post office with their parents, of how one little girl never leaves the house without her books in her backpack, of how families talk about the changes since they are turning off the television and reading together.

“These stories are helping my kids dream,” one young father says. “I think these books are telling them they can be anything they want to be.”

For the Paz family of Santa Clara, for instance, by the time the youngest of their five children reaches kindergarten, they will have more than 150 children’s books in their home.

How does the program work? A committee that includes educators, child psychologists, librarians and other professionals chooses the age-appropriate books provided by the Imagination Library. The first books are black-and-white, with simple bold lines and shapes, because that’s what a newborn sees.

“The newborn is going to hear somebody’s voice, its father or mother or grandparent, say the few words and turn the pages,” Loren says. “And then, of course, the baby is probably going to chew on the corner.”

Books for the second year stress repetition and predictability, things the baby is familiar with, simple nursery rhymes, along with colors, letters and numbers. Wordless books, where the child and the reader build their own story, are included in the third year of books, along with touching on issues of values and character, love and safety.

“The brain develops 90% of its adult size during the first three years of life,” Loren says. “It’s pretty well accepted that those first three years are critical in language development and potential success in school.”

The books are more complex in the fourth year, with plenty of play, humor and fun, while year five stresses school preparation and readiness, including science and folk tales.

The Nelsons say research has shown that children who have literacy opportunities from birth and who develop the skills of print motivation, vocabulary, phonological awareness, narrative skills and letter knowledge become better learners and readers.

“Besides,” Barbara adds, “they are getting good important snuggle time.”

In its seminal study, “Becoming a Nation of Readers,” the National Commission on Reading examined more than 10,000 research projects done over a 25-year period, finding that “the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children at home and in school.”

The 2001 and 2006 Progress in Reading Studies surveyed hundreds of thousands of fourth graders in 35 counties, including the US, looking at reading comprehension, along with home influences on the child’s learning. Both studies found that reading achievement in the fourth grade was markedly “related to their parents engaging them in early literacy activities before they started formal schooling.” The studies also found that “students from homes with more than 100 children’s books performed much better on reading assessments than students from homes with less than 10 books.”

Shirley Brice Heath, in “What No Bedtime Story Means: Narrative Skills at Home and School,” surveyed ongoing research on factors influencing student success. She noted that “few parents are fully conscious of what bedtime story reading means as preparation for the kids of learning and displays of knowledge expected in school.”

Heath went on, “The bedtime story is a major literacy event that helps set patterns of behavior that occur repeatedly through the life of children and adults.”

Barbara Nelson adds that when parents sign the Imagination Library form, “they are indicating at that point that they realize learning and reading—and bedtime snuggles—are important.”

The Nelsons say they are working with the Cobre School System to do a longitudinal study looking at the changes in pre-school testing as the number of children in the Imagination Library increases.

So, in short, The Imagination Library of Grant County epitomizes exactly what Ronald Dahl was talking about in his book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*:

“So please, oh PLEASE, we pray.
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The address to send pledges is: The Imagination Library of Grant County, Inc., 2529 Cecilia St., Silver City, NM 88061. For more information on the program, pledging or serving on the board, call (575) 534-9156, or email LandBnelson@cybermesa.com. For people living outside Grant County, log onto www.imaginationlibrary.com to find a local affiliate; if there isn’t one, clear steps are outlined on how to start one.

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.



Young readers Sofia and Annabel Diaz are held by dad Moises after he signed the girls up to receive free children’s books.

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SOUTHWEST STORYLINES • RICHARD MAHLER

New Beginnings... and a Fond Farewell

Catching up with the characters from nearly four years of Southwest Storylines.

I am not immune to the venerable tradition of New Year's resolutions. They are perfect excuses for letting go of the past and embracing the future. In that spirit that I am ending this column after nearly four years.

In part this is dictated by circumstances. My wife, Silver City naturopath Stacey Austin, passed

away last August at age 48 after a long battle with terminal cancer. Despite her disabling symptoms—which forced her to give up her chosen work and driving a car—Stacey did not want my role as caregiver to eclipse my profession as a writer. She encouraged me to continue



Southwest Storylines columnist Richard Mahler and wife Stacey Austin in 2010.

with "Southwest Storylines" and, except for a month here and there, I was able to do so. I offer a deep bow of thanks to Stacey for her unwavering support and reminding me of what is most important in life, including knowing when it is time to tackle fresh challenges. In 2012 I will be fulfilling a promise to myself to pursue other writing opportunities. If you wish to stay abreast of where this leads, please check for updates at www.richardmahler.com.

My heartfelt thanks goes to the amazing personalities woven into the colorful tapestry known as southwestern New Mexico. As a final homage, this column offers "where are they now" vignettes following up on what some of these folks have been up to since they were profiled in these pages.

Edith Gutierrez, retired municipal court judge (May 2010)

When we last heard from Edith Gutierrez she was looking forward to her retirement from the municipal court bench in Silver City. The judge anticipated relaxing with her husband in the sleepy village of Gila.

"That lasted about a year," laughs Gutierrez. "It was too quiet. I missed people. I needed to find something to do."

Her solution?

"I'm now an assistant manager for a Family Dollar Store in Silver City," she says, with a trill of delight. "I thoroughly enjoy it. I burn a lot of calories and I'm around people again. It's an honest job and I enjoy the extra income."

In doing so, adds Gutierrez, "I've returned to my humble beginnings. I started working in a Silver City five-and-dime store when I was 14."

So far Gutierrez has worked in one Bayard and two Silver City outlets of the national chain. Currently she is assigned to a Family Dollar near Beall's department store on Hwy. 180. Customers who recognize her sometimes wonder, "What's a former jurist doing in a place like this?"

Gutierrez tells them her story of being "a home-alone judge" and how she feels reinvigorated by being around folks from all walks of life. "The Dollar Store isn't just where poor people shop," she insists. "There are middle-class and rich coming through the door, too, and members of every age or racial group. Really, everybody is looking for a bargain these days."



Karen Lauseng

Karen Lauseng, artist and arts administrator (October 2009)

Karen Lauseng resigned her position last June as Silver City's first Arts & Cultural District Coordinator in order to return to full-time work as a multimedia artist. During her two-year tenure at the ACD she helped establish a strong foundation for meeting the visionary goals and objectives of the town's Cultural Plan, for which Lauseng was praised by New Mexico Main-Street and the New Mexico Arts Commission. Among her accomplishments were the launch of an arts-oriented website for Silver City, co-sponsorship of various art events, and introduction of an annual community-wide Art Yard Sale.

"Since July," says Lauseng, "working in my studio has consumed my days. It is hard to put into words how much I had missed the uninterrupted time to create and be in the moment. I have so many ideas ready to put into action and know 2012 will be a fabulous year for me."

A writer as well as a visual artist, Lauseng has submitted numerous design ideas for how-to articles. "Currently," she reports, "my designs scheduled for publication include step-by-step projects for Lark Books: *Thirty Minute Bracelets*, *A Bounty of Bead & Wire Necklaces* and *The Beader's Guide to Design*. In its January issue *Art Jewelry Magazine* showcases a brooch made by me from plastic spider rings, and a necklace created with plastic dental picks will appear later in 2012."

Luis Pérez, Silver City writer and historian (November 2008)

Luis Pérez continues to prepare and deliver talks he has researched on local history topics, including the Apache of southern New Mexico. He has found rapt listeners recently among audiences at Rockhound State Park and meetings of the Westerners Silver City Posse organization. Of special current interest to Pérez is the so-called "Johnson massacre" of about 20 peacefully abiding Mimbrenño Apaches on April 22, 1837, at Juniper Springs in New Mexico's Bootheel. When his information-gathering is complete, Pérez plans to write an account of this surprise attack, which was led by "scalphunter" John J. Johnson on land now owned by the Animas Foundation and not open to



Luis Pérez

the public.

Since the article about him appeared in these pages, Pérez has spent time in Portugal and Spain, where he visited his beloved Alhambra in Córdoba as well as the historic cities of Seville, Segovia, Madrid and Toledo. Closer to home, Pérez remains an active member of Grant County's Optimists Club. "I hope we can get our club involved with the new library in Bayard," he says, "which is very impressive." The addition of a special collection on southern New Mexico history would please him no end.

Patrick Conlin, Silver City Realtor (November 2010)

Patrick Conlin says "things are pretty much the same" in his personal life and work as they were 14 months ago. "I'm still living at my compound, Snoring Dog Ranch," he points out. "I have only two dogs now, since Max passed away last April."

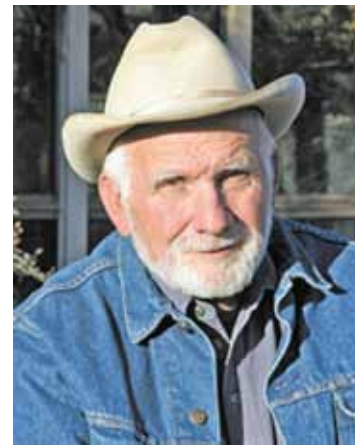
One of Grant County's busiest brokers, Conlin nonetheless found time to celebrate his 40th birthday in Key West and to take a Mediterranean cruise with his mom on the occasion of her 66th. Other travel took him to Oaxaca, Las Vegas, San Diego and Chicago.

"We are staying afloat at work," says Conlin. "There are fewer transactions, but exceptional deals for buyers. Still only a relatively small percentage of properties are selling.... Prices are down. However, properties in all ranges are moving if they're priced aggressively. I ended 2011 selling slightly more property than I did the previous year."

Harley Shaw, Hillsboro biologist, researcher and author (September 2011)

As reported, Harley Shaw recently lent his knowledge and talents to the preparation of a picture-based book about his adopted hometown of Hillsboro. But *Around Hillsboro*, released last August by Arcadia Publishing, has since been eclipsed by Shaw's co-authorship with Mara

E. Weisenberger of a biography from the University of Arizona Press of an early 20th-century influential New Mexico field scientist. Stokley Ligon, a specialist in native birds and mammals, took innumerable long trips with a horse



Harley Shaw (Photo by Craig Springer)



Edith Gutierrez (All photos by Richard Mahler except as noted)

and pack mules through the state’s backcountry, studying and photographing wildlife in great detail.

“Our book on J. Stokley Ligon was published shortly after *Around Hillsboro* came out,” Shaw reports. “So far feedback has been good and I’ve done a couple of signings. I also have been doing some heavy editing on chapters that will go into a wildlife management history to be published by Arizona Game and Fish Department. In addition, I’m currently gathering information about the Animas Creek that drains through Ladder Ranch on the east face of the Black Range. This is a fascinating place with nearly no written science or history, so it’s not going to be an easy project.”

He’ll be signing the book, *Twelve Hundred Miles by Horse and Burro*, on Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. at the Silver City Museum.

Rhonda Brittan, co-owner of Black Cat Coffee & Books, Truth or Consequences (May 2009)

Rhonda Brittan reports her downtown T or C business—housed in what was once a drive-up liquor store—has expanded with the enclosure of a patio, which in a past life was where pick-ups idled while waiting for six-packs to be handed through the window that has grown into a doorway. The new room “will look more like it’s attached to the rest of the building,” says Brittan, with shelving, flooring and a proper ceiling. The changes add more than



Black Cat Books

400 square feet to the store, which virtually overflows with books, videos and art. Oh, yes, there are pastries and coffee, too.

The Black Cat continues to host poetry readings the second Sunday of each month and a tarot-card reader weekends from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The latter are cancelled, advises Brittan, “if there’s a baseball game going on. The tarot reader is a big baseball fan.”

Recent online reviews on Yelp.com of the Black Cat remain uniformly positive. In one posting, Jena of Seattle asked rhetorically: “Do you ever wish that you could disappear into rooms of books and comfy chairs? Do you ever dream of Sunday afternoon poetry readings in a small, sleepy town? Do you ever wish someone would make moist, delicious carrot cake in an individual size? Do you ever wonder if there is a language with a word in it that means ‘to smell books for fun’? Find it all here.” Fred of Bisbee called the Black Cat “small town chill and comfort at its best.” Another Yelp reviewer labeled it “the place in T or C to see and be seen.”

Who says an independent bookstore can’t survive in the age of Amazon, iPad and Kindle?

Michael Berman, Mimbres Valley-based photographer and board member of Gila Resources Information Project (July 2008)

Guggenheim Fellowship-recipient Michael Berman has maintained a busy schedule over the past few years, documenting through his large-format photography stunning landscapes in remote corners of the Chihuahuan Desert and Gila River watershed. When not taking and preparing his pictures, Berman conducts occasional photography workshops and serves on the board of directors of Silver City’s nonprofit Gila Resources Information Project.

“I have a big show up [at the New Mexico Museum of Art] in Santa Fe,” Berman informs, “and I am also working on a new book on the Gila.” Berman did a docent talk at the Museum of Art last Nov. 23 and had a 480-plate exhibition at

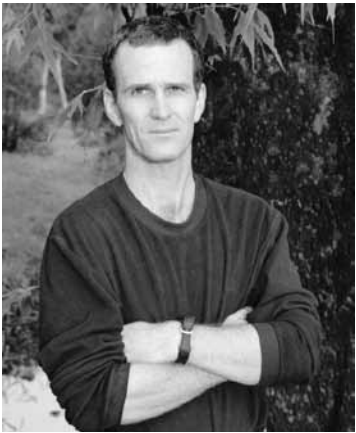
the Lannan Foundation Gallery in Santa Fe during fall 2008. His book *Trinity*, co-authored with Charles Bowden, was published in fall 2009 to enthusiastic reviews.

Brandon Perrault, Grant County singer-songwriter and musician (February 2011)

Last month local music man Brandon Perrault and his mother, Mary, relocated their respective businesses—she cuts and styles hair, he sells guitars—from an obscure location on Memory Lane to one of Silver City’s busiest intersections, on the southwest corner of 12th and Hudson.

“I’m still trucking along,” declares Perrault, “playing music, raising kids, teaching guitar lessons, selling guitars, writing and recording commercial jingles.... I’ve been getting lots of gigs, both as a solo act and with a band. I’m working on a new CD of spiritual songs that will be out in 2012. After that I plan to record and release a CD of all-original material.”

As if that weren’t enough, Perrault has plenty to do on the home front. “My five kids keep me busy,” he laughs. “They range in age from little babies to teenagers. Most-



Above: Michael Berman (Photo by Michael Berman) Below: Brandon Perrault



SOUTHWEST STORYLINES continued on next page



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SOUTHWEST STORYLINES continued

ly it seems like I am a chauffeur for them!"

Dennis Weller, Silver City photographer-sculptor (October 2008)

Remember the remarkable series of panoramic photos Dennis Weller took a few years ago of historic downtown Silver City? He's at it again, albeit in a fresh venue.

"I am working, off and on, on a series of panoramas of the Gila River," says Weller, "where I and my borrowed dog spend a day every week." The photographer, who relocated to New Mexico from Florida some years ago, has done considerable hiking and picture-taking in the Gila's vast watershed. "I also do a little commercial [photography] work around Silver City."

Weller concedes that he has "been dragged kicking and screaming into the digital age, although I still prefer splashing around in the darkroom to sitting in front of a computer. I have also taken up metal sculpture. I take a class at WNMU each term, with Michael Metcalf, and have produced several metal pieces. My yard is about full of steel cacti, sunflowers and a peacock."

Mitch Hellman, Silver City blogger and co-owner of Alotta Gelato (July 2011)

One of Mitch Hellman's pet peeves when interviewed last summer was the deaf ear given to his longstanding complaint about the inaccessibility of the Grant County-Silver City Chamber of Commerce's Visitor Center during times of peak tourism, notably weekends and holidays. More often than not, a "closed" sign greeted visitors.

"The one thing that I can think of that is worthy of note is that the Chamber of Commerce no longer occupies the downtown Visitor Center" on Hudson at Broadway, says Hellman. After losing much of its funding, "the Chamber moved out to the former site of Wrangler's Bar & Grill [east of Silver City on Hwy. 180], where it has established a visitor center of its own. This, I have been told, is not open on Sundays or holidays. But I have not yet visited the Chamber at their Arenas Valley location."

The "old" Visitor Center remains open, however, under new management. "I think the Green Chamber of Commerce is doing a decent job," offers Hellman. "They really stepped up to the



Mitch Hellman



Dennis Weller (Photo by Dennis Weller)

plate on short notice when the [main] Chamber pulled up stakes and moved out. I also note that the Green Chamber manages to keep the Visitor Center open on weekends and holidays. I haven't much opportunity to stop by, so I can't say much more about it other than to comment that the responses I've heard about the change have been positive."

Nancy Gordon, Silver City volunteer spearheading restoration of the Waterworks building on Little Walnut Road (January 2011)

Nancy Gordon was scratching her head when interviewed 13 months ago, wondering where the money and expertise would come from that was needed to help save the impressive 1887 sandstone structure that was Silver City's primary source of water during its early years.

"Soon after the January 2011 article was published," says Gordon, "the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation awarded the Town of Silver City a grant, which I've been managing. This paid for surveying, engineering and other studies [on behalf of the Waterworks] along with educational outreach and a very productive and rewarding 'service learning' project in masonry repair. Some 70 volunteers spent over 900 hours 'repointing' the building last September."

Through Gordon's efforts, "three videos about the Waterworks—its history and restoration activities—have been airing on CATS-TV. In 2012 there will be continued rehabilitation work on the building and pursuit of additional funding. The Town



Nancy Gordon at the historic Waterworks building

may have funds to fix the one-story roof, something that is sorely needed."

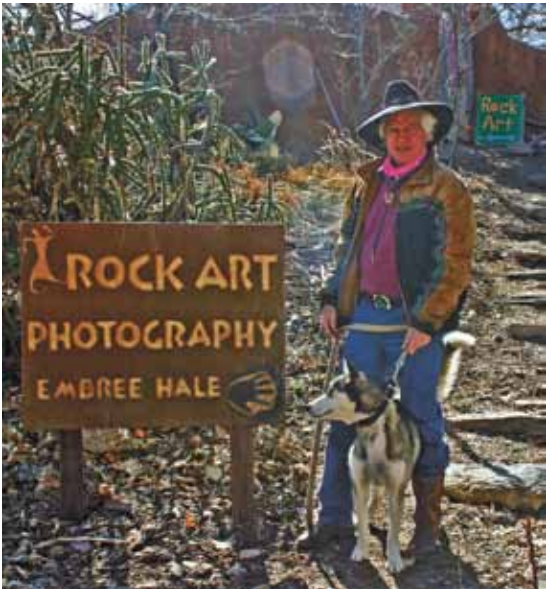
Gordon insists, "This is truly a community project. So many people have helped out, over and above what was expected." She singles out for special thanks staffers at the Town of Silver City as well as "all the contractors who went the extra mile, non-profits like The Wellness Coalition, The Volunteer Center and Gila Conservation Education Center. But I'm grateful especially to the many volunteers who worked on the building and provided support and advice. It makes me feel that there is real hope for restoring one of Silver City's historic treasures."

Embree "Sonny" Hale, Jr., Hillsboro-area photographer, miner and backhoe operator (March 2010)

When we first checked in with Sonny Hale, he was determined to find and photograph every petroglyph and pictograph in New Mexico. A tall order, since there are a few hundred thousand of them. He's made a dent—documenting close to 5,000 so far—but after turning 75 and suffering a heart attack, the enthusiast has slowed down a mite.

"I get out only maybe once a month now," confides Hale, "except during summer, when it is just too darn hot. And now I usually don't go (searching) by myself. I used to never do that."

Yet he keeps finding new rock art, often by following up on tips passed along by Sierra County residents who know about and respect their neighbor's obsession. There's been some helpful publicity, too. Hale, whose father helped build Hwy. 152 across Emory Pass, was interviewed on video for an hour in connection with New Mexico's centennial of statehood—and a full-page spread about the Hillsboro photographer



Embree “Sonny” Hale

appeared in *New Mexico* magazine last spring. “I still get asked about it,” he says, “and that TV interview was even shown on national television.” Hale and his dog Daisy Mae still share a trailer near the ghost town of Lake Valley, where they seem to survive on Social Security and income from sales of rock art prints. “I want to get up to the area around Reserve,” says Hale, citing reports of some spectacular petroglyphs in Catron County. “I feel more comfortable being out there [petroglyph hunting] by myself, so I may go back to doing that.”

Kyle Johnson, community-radio organizer (October 2011)

Kyle Johnson was hoping that the first programming from KURU, the under-construction outlet of Gila/Mimbres Community Radio, would be heard by the end of 2011. The fact that it didn’t happen hasn’t dampened Johnson’s enthusiasm, however,

“I think within three or four months we will have an Internet presence,” he believes. “We have the computer already and are selecting the necessary software.” Once this is done licensing of music rights can be arranged, a studio rented, and an Internet-only signal signed on. Johnson says GMRC is part of ongoing efforts to place a free wi-fi umbrella over downtown Silver City and WNMU, which would make the new station readily available to area homes and businesses.

“Initially we will be mostly music,” says Johnson, “with programs from other sources added over time.” Meanwhile, KURU’s engineer is moving ahead with the design of a broadcast antenna that when installed will make the station available throughout the region at 89.1 on the FM band.

Jack Brennan and Michele Geels, co-directors of Tour of the Gila bike race (April 2011)

In mid-December the dynamic duo overseeing Silver City’s acclaimed Tour of the Gila bicycle competition received an early Christmas present. Jack Brennan and Michele Geels learned

the Union Cycliste International had upgraded the annual event to a higher classification, allowing more world-class cyclists to participate.

“We are extremely excited,” says Brennan, noting that the additional \$50,000 needed to cover this transition already has been raised. “This will probably bring us our best-ever field of competitors in 2012. They’ll be phenomenal.” Competition this year will unfold May 2-6 on various Grant and Catron County roadways.

The Tour has for years been unable to allow some top-level teams to ride, owing to UCI rules that limited the competition to amateurs and members of professional Continental teams. As a newly designated 2.2 category race, full UCI Pro Continental teams may also now participate. Still excluded are the highest-ranking professional cycling teams.

“We will be open to the two US Pro Continental teams as well as one each based in Canada and China,” notes Brennan. “Interest in our competition among cyclists will be high because we are scheduled the week before the Tour of California and can be used as a training ground for that big race.”

Title sponsor SRAM is returning in 2012 and



Michele Geels and Jack Brennan

is contributing more dollars to the race. Nicole Robbins, former executive director of the Silver City-Grant County Chamber of Commerce, is also credited with lining up funds needed to cover the Tour’s additional expenses. “We are extremely excited to bring international bicycle racing to New Mexico,” Brennan concludes, with a broad smile.

Others:

Santa Rita native and amateur regional historian Melvin Huff (July 2009) lost the love of his life, wife Billy Beth (née Cree), on Dec. 4, 2011, after a long illness. These lifelong Grant County residents, whose children include former Silver City councilor Judy Ward, had been married 72 years. In mid-2010 Mary Vigil-Tarazoff (March 2009) left her position as director of the Small Business Development Center, housed at WNMU. She could not be reached for comment. In 2011 Karen Carr (September 2009) vacated her art studio on Market Street in Silver City but did not respond to an e-mail query. Queries to Mark Nero (December 2009), Nick Seibel (October 2010), and John Counts (June 2011) also did not yield replies.

You can catch up on all of Richard Mahler’s Southwest Storylines columns online at www.desertexposure.com.

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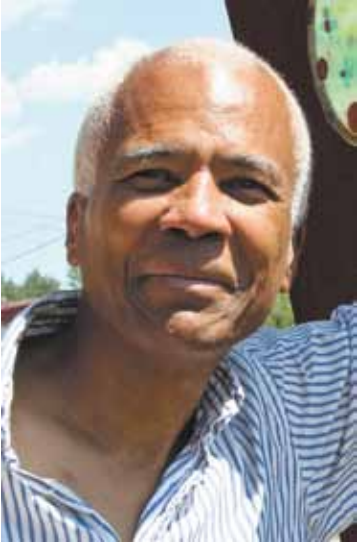
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From 10,000 Lakes to Las Cruces

Is there a club of Minnesota transplants in Las Cruces? Ya, shur, you betcha!



What it looks like in Minnesota about now. At least the dogs look like they're having a great time. (Minnesota tourism photo)

For years, Minnesota's license plate motto has read, "10,000 Lakes." Las Cruces' vanity plate could use a sub-motto that says, "Home of at least 55 former Minnesotans."

Actually, according to the braintrust at Wikipedia, Minnesota has 11,842 lakes that are 10 acres or more in size. This includes nine that are named Bass, four that are called Bear, seven or more Big and Birch lakes, the ever-popular School Grave, and—are you ready?—27 that are named Long.

So, with all of that wonderful water, complete with lots of seasonal mosquitoes, why would anyone want to leave such a lovely state and move to New Mexico?

Well, as you may have guessed, it is mostly because of weather, as Minnesota has long been noted for its sometimes inhospitable winter weather. The folks I visit with at a recent Minnesota Club meeting in Las Cruces all have weather high on their priority lists.

But herein lies a bit of a contradiction. Many flee Las Cruces in the summer, at least temporarily and most head back to... Minnesota.

Another guest at the meeting, which is organized by Dee Kristian and her partner, Bill Smythe, besides myself, is a representative from the Sons of Norway. Not a son herself, this kind and vibrant woman is here to see if any of the Minnesotans are of Norwegian ancestry, and if so, get them to sign up for her group. At this time, the local Sons of Norway is only part of a virtual chapter, and that isn't going to last forever. A real chapter is on the horizon.

I am a bit rude to her, unintentionally, when trying to sit near Kristian, the most talkative of the group at the luncheon, which takes place (and always takes place) at Las Cruces' Golden Coral restaurant.

Kristian tells me, "The first meeting was held at Young Park, and then I dragged out the accordion for another meeting at Good Sam [a

local retirement home, which probably shelters a wealth of Minnesotans since it is sponsored by the Lutheran Church], and then we came here, and we've been made very welcome."

She hails originally from Blaine, Minn., where the winter parking restrictions are currently being enforced (no street parking from 2-7 a.m., until April 1—optimism reigns!), a city of about 55,000, just north of Minneapolis. "Weather, art, friendly people, that's why I ended up in Las Cruces," Kristian explains. "I've been in all 50 states, and chose

New Mexico as my new home two years ago."

She tells me that she is a retired teacher. "But I wear many hats," the gregarious and upbeat woman adds. "I've worked with the chronically mentally ill, been an accordion teacher, started a singles club for business and professional singles, been a news reporter, and I have a passion to do more live theater. And I started a cat collectors club."

Oh?

I swallow a brief sense of panic, as I know my wife will want in on this, if it is what I think it is. Thankfully, it is not, since Kristian is the servant to only two felines, and the club is devoted to collecting cat-related *trinkets*. Smiling again, she adds, "I'm a crazy cat lady," flashing a tote bag with a friendly feline mug shot.

Her partner, Smythe, is a retired computer programmer who is on the road for this meeting, but it seems he is as active as Kristian.

"I'm also a Distinguished Toastmaster," she adds, noting that the only thing she misses about Minnesota are her sons and some friends. As do most of these good folks, she makes the trip back every once in a while to see friends and snowshoe to the grocery store.

Karen Oliver is another semi-"newbie" to New Mexico, having been in Las Cruces for only three years. Born in Rochester, Minn., she also lived in Eden Prairie and worked for Northwestern Bell Telephone for—are you ready?—45 years. That's an awful lot of "number pleases."

She says, "Years ago, the only way you could get a job like that was if you knew somebody who already worked there. I had two sisters who did, and they were thought to be good workers, so they took me on as well."

Oliver, who has also been to all 50 states, shares her unusual if slightly sad tale of how she ended up so far from Minnesota.

"I came to Las Cruces to get married," she starts off. "My eighth-grade boyfriend has a ranch southwest of Las Cruces, 30 miles south of Love's Truck Stop [which itself is about 10 miles west of town]. I have an active life and the ranch sounded like a good idea. So, there was a 50-year class reunion coming up and I called him to see if he was going to come. I was the only person from our class to still keep in touch with him."

Sadly, however, the reunion did not work out; it turned out that her gentleman friend had some health issues that didn't allow for the kind of stable relationship Oliver wanted to nurture. She did, of course, stay in New Mexico, and for her, the pluses include feeling safe and having lots of activities.

And of course, she maintains a Gopher State connection, as she returns on occasion to visit friends who can tolerate the hot and humid summer of Minnesota that Oliver does not miss at all.

Dolores and Arlend Beelman were full-time RV-ers for some years, and they, too, made it to all 50 states, but what hooked Dolores on Las Cruces were the Organ Mountains. "I really like being able to see the mountains," she explains.

Travel was also part of Arlend's life before he retired from the Burlington Northern Railroad, now known as the BNSF, after 27 years. His employment took him (and the family) to Buffalo, NY, Grand Forks and

Bismarck, ND, and finally back to Minneapolis. The Beelmans have four sons, "all over the country," he notes, adding that his work also took him to every one of the 87 counties in Minnesota.

"I was getting somewhat homesick for cold weather," Arlend says. "Until last winter." For those who may have forgotten, southern New Mexico experienced some record-setting low temperatures in February, giving most everyone pause and burst water pipes.

Dolores' past includes furniture refinishing and buying and selling antiques, "after the kids were in school." But now, like Arlend, she is glad to be settled into their own little neighborhood community that has a number of weekly get-togethers and parties.

"Since we sold the RV, we've been to 35 countries and have taken 17 cruises since retiring."

For now, it seems the Beelmans have also put the suitcases in storage as well.

Caryl Hammel, from northerly Bemidji, Minn., came to Las Cruces with her husband Bob, who was among other things a licensed hot-air balloon pilot and owner, to "follow the sun."

She says, "I was born and raised in Minnesota, and I still miss the lakes, trees and green, but NOT the mosquitoes." Hammel is a volunteer at the Safe Haven Animal Shelter Thrift Store, and notes with a smile that one of her favorite pastimes is "to shop."

An extended conversation about Paul Bunyan and the attempt of nearby rival Brainerd, Minn., to claim him as its own reveals that Hammel would be a good spokeswoman for Bemidji. Her take-no-guff thoughts on Mr. Bunyan's attempted hijacking leave little room for argument.

Pam Shaffer Reinhard is experiencing her first Minnesotan meeting, hoping to meet some good people. She may have come to the right place. After 40 years in Plymouth, which is just outside Minneapolis, she came here with her husband Herb, who, sadly, has since passed away. A Las Cruces resident for five years, she played violin professionally before retiring.

Chamber music was part of her repertoire.

She recalls how her husband found Las Cruces: "We had a motor home and he would pore through magazines and he fell in love with the place and we built a home here."

The couple owned several packaging stores, and of all the folks at this meeting, Reinhard is the only one to voice negatives about Las Cruces. Minnesota offered more in the way of arts for her, also better shopping and a better selection of fabric shops. She is also a quilter and garment maker.

"I'm always busy," she adds. "I'm in the church choir, teach children to sing, do beading, needlepoint, cooking and entertaining."

But she is considering a brief return to the Great White North in the future to beat the heat. "I miss the green."

"Weather, art, friendly people, that's why I ended up in Las Cruces. I've been in all 50 states, and chose New Mexico as my new home two years ago."

James and Marilyn Basler are the "senior senior" residents of Las Cruces at this gathering, having been in town since 1960. Originally from St. Paul, Minn., James can also add Arizona and Florida addresses to his resumé, but Las Cruces is the place to come back to.

"I went to the Macalester School for the Blind," he starts off, Marilyn sitting close by. This couple is definitely still in love and maintains a strong relationship.

"I studied math and physics, since there was less competition for a blind math and physics student, and I owe my career to the Germans and Russians," he notes with a smile.



Minnesota Club organizers Dee Kristian and Bill Smythe.



Ex-Minnesotans Marilyn and James Basler have been in Las Cruces since 1960. (Photo by Jeff Berg)

It seems that many years ago, a test V2 rocket that started in New Mexico ended up in a cemetery in Juarez. No one was hurt, and the dead didn't complain, but it was from that incident that James Basler was able to launch his own career at the physical science lab at NMSU.

"I studied wind simulations to help keep rockets on their path," he says. He also was involved in early computer work and describes in detail some of his travails with an early vacuum-tube model, the Burroughs 220.

"It was as powerful as a present-day pocket calculator," he recalls.

He retired after working for 37 years. The Baslers have four kids.

Legally blind, Basler is barely hindered by that, and it never affected his work. He says, "I'd have

fired myself if I thought I couldn't do the work."

Besides making friends and enjoying the buffet, the Minnesota Club also plays Minnesota-type games, such as a card game called 500, which is not like rummy 500, but more like bridge. The next meeting promises a drawing for Minnesota souvenirs. I try to think of some—snowballs, Viking helmets, bags of mosquitoes, sets of twins, a blue ox, bottles of water from one of the Long Lakes?

The only common complaints about Las Cruces are the desert summers and a lack of good health care. That issue is the only other negative that gets mentioned at length during the meeting.


But I don't think that any of the Minnesotans would agree with this quote from journalist Charles Kuralt: "It was cold out there, bitter, biting, cutting, piercing, hyperborean, marmoreal cold, and there were all these Minnesotans running around outdoors, happy as lambs in the spring."

The heat is never as hot as you think. ☼


"I was born and raised in Minnesota, and I still miss the lakes, trees and green, but NOT the mosquitoes."

The Minnesota Club meets the third Wednesday of each month at Golden Corral, 601 Telshor in Las Cruces, at noon.

One of Jeff Berg's many ex-wives' uncles once owned a resort in Minnesota, right near one of those Long Lakes.

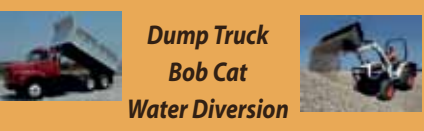


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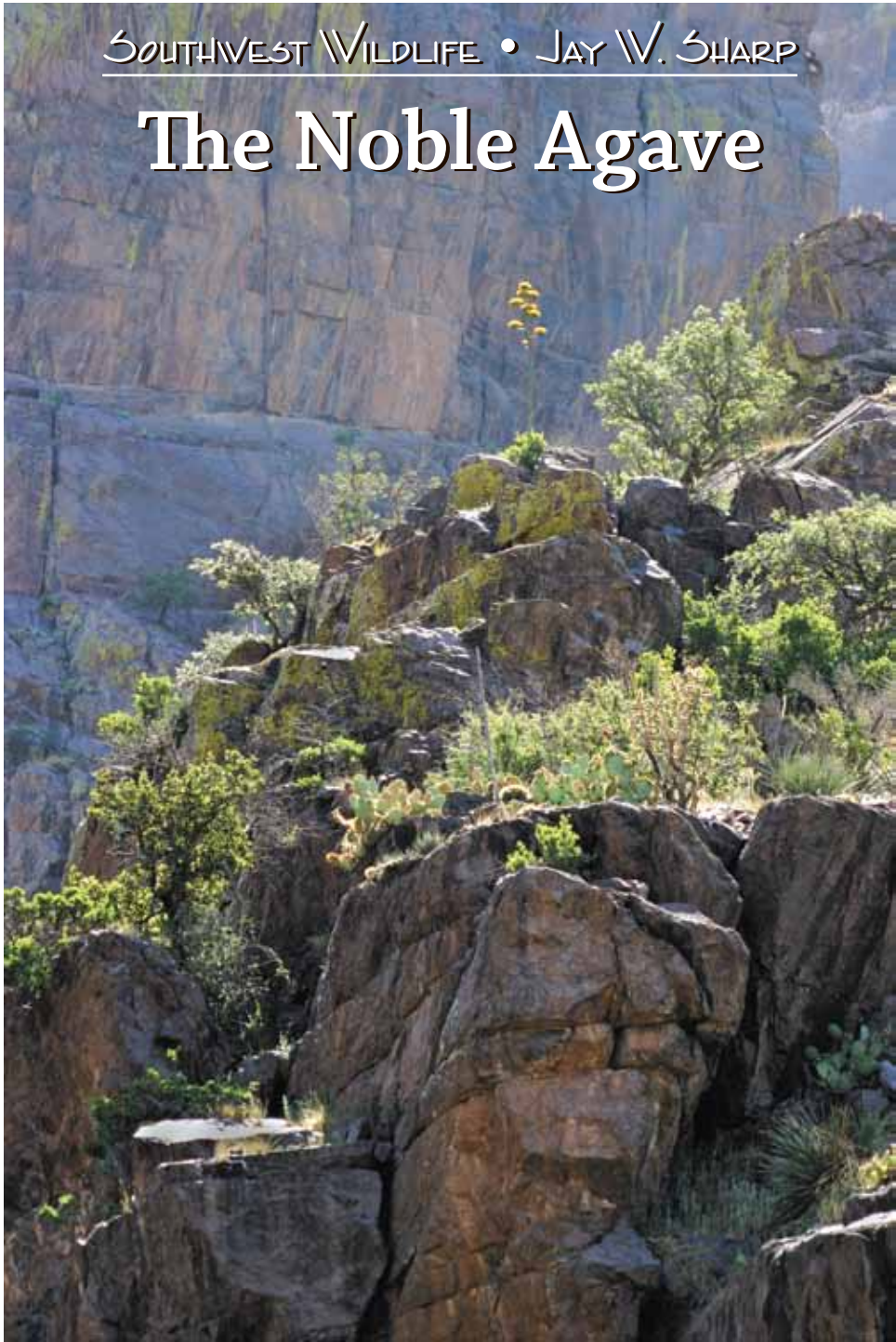


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The Noble Agave



The plant that gives us mescal and tequila also bestows a literally once-in-a-lifetime blooming display, when the agaves flower themselves to death.

Above: Mescal agave in bloom atop a cliff in the Organ Mountains. Below: Agave leaves in tight embrace, before they become fully unfurled. You can see the imprint of an embrace on the leaf at the lower right. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)



Named after the Greek term for “noble,” the agave, with its distinctive rosette, or spray-like, arrangement of succulent leaves, bears a clear resemblance to its botanical relative, the yucca. Like the yucca (see “The Giving Tree,” December 2011), the agave serves as a food and material resource for various animals. But the agave, unlike the yucca, also yields raw stock for several potent beverages that give a whole other dimension to the notion of nature’s “food chain.”

The agaves, which include more than 200 species, evolved, like the yuccas, in the New World. Their range extended from southern Nevada and southern Utah across our Southwestern deserts down through Mexico and Central America and across into Caribbean islands. Since the 15th century, their range has expanded across the Atlantic, propelled primarily by the Europeans. For instance, I have seen the *Agave americana*—the classic “century plant”—growing in Algeria, a former French colony, in village gardens near the Mediterranean coast.

More than a dozen species of agave grow in the Southwest, especially in the desert grasslands of the basins and in the wooded foothills of the mountain ranges. They seem to prosper on slopes that have slightly acidic soils and a rocky overburden.

The typical,

relatively massive agave leaf, with its stiletto point and wickedly barbed edges, would serve as a weapon for Conan the Barbarian. The typical Southwest yucca leaf, by comparison, with a more rapier-like shape and mere filaments along its edges, would better serve as a weapon for Zorro.

In some Southwestern species, an agave leaf rosette may span perhaps a foot and a quarter; in others, several feet. The leaves’ rosette arrangement and channel shapes serve to funnel rainwater to the heart of the plant. The leaves range in color from green to grayish green to bluish green and often bear decorative bands in various shades of green and brown. They vary in shape from short and thick to relatively long and narrow, with some laser-beam straight, others elegantly recurved, and still others inelegantly twisted and bent. Sometimes leaves bear imprints from the tight clasp of neighboring leaves before their rosette fully unfurled.

The agaves’ leaves, according to John Moore of the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Demonstration Garden, have special cells for water and food storage. In fact, he notes, “All the water storage and energy storage of the plant is in the leaves.” Like yuccas, the agaves—in a botanical strategy designed to minimize water evaporation—open their stomata (leaf pores) during the coolness of night to gather the carbon dioxide they will need for photosynthesis during the sunlight of the following day.

Most agaves have a very abbreviated stem. Indeed, the leaf rosette for those species almost seems to spring directly from the roots. (Some yucca species—our Lord’s candle, for instance—have little or no stem, but various others such as the torrey, soaptree and Joshua tree yuccas often have stems that range from 10 to 20 feet or more in height.) Some agave species produce small plantlets—clones sometimes called “pups”—from their abbreviated stems, at the base of their leaf rosettes. “In this way,” according to the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum, “clones (multiple, genetically identical, individuals that originated from a single seed) form colonies that may persist for centuries or longer.”

The agaves, like some yucca species, have shallow, fibrous, radiating root systems that race against competing plants’ root systems as well as high evaporation rates to capture as much water as possible from the desert’s infrequent rainstorms and snow melt.

An agave, unlike a yucca, spends years, often decades, accumulating water and carbohydrates in its heart, preparing for a seminal and life-ending event—the botanical ritual of blooming. When it matures, having stored sufficient resources, the agave begins to flower, producing its blossoms during the summer and early fall. According to the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum, “The carbohydrates provide the energy that fuels the rapid development of the inflorescence (the flowering structure, including supporting stems), which is usually massive compared to the plant that produces it. In all but a few species the rosette dies after flowering and fruiting, having spent all of its life energy to produce a huge quantity of seeds.... The plants literally flower themselves to death.”

In their closing days, memorialized by white to yellowish white to orange or greenish blossoms, some agave species flower during the day, inviting hummingbirds as well as bees and other insects to feed on an abundant reservoir of nectar in return for the critical service of pollination. Other species flower during the night, attracting not only hawk-

moths and other nocturnal insects, but also long-nosed bats, with a banquet of foul-smelling nectar, receiving payment by way of pollination. Indeed, according to the Smithsonian’s National Zoological Park website, “An estimated 100,000 lesser long-nosed bats... converge on southeastern Arizona in late summer for the agave bloom, and an even larger number feed on agaves not far south, in the Mexican state of Sonora. These gray and cinnamon-brown creatures are valuable pollinators of the cacti and agaves they frequent.”

Family Members

Like other desert succulents, especially the prickly pear cacti, the agaves almost seem to take a perverse delight in confounding taxonomists—the scientists who would classify and name the plants. As far back as 1871, Sir Joseph Hooker, a famed English botanist, remarked that the agave species were “difficult to name accurately.” Authority Jan Kolendo, who quoted Hooker in “Issues of Agave Nomenclature,” published on the Globalnet website, added, “The confusion continues to this day.... There are so many unresolved issues that agavologists will be kept busy for some time to come.” The agaves confuse the “agavologist” still further because they have migrated so much in the company of both prehistoric and historic man that biological scientists sometimes have trouble tracing individual species back to their origins.

A few of the more notable agaves in our region include the mescal agave (*Agave neomexicana*), the lechuguilla or shindagger agave (*Agave lechuguilla*), the desert agave (*Agave deserti*), and the classic century plant (*Agave americana*).

The mescal agave, especially common in southwestern New Mexico, grows in grasslands and on limestone shelves up to several thousand feet in elevation. A small- to medium-sized, tough and resilient agave, it produces numerous pups. Like most other agaves, the mother plant dies once it has bloomed. The mescal agave was an especially important food source for the Mescalero Apache, whose name comes from the plant.

The lechuguilla or shindagger, a formidably armed plant that stands as a symbol of the Chihuahuan Desert, grows sometimes as a labyrinthine



The agave leaf’s stiletto-like point.

mass of fierce botanical dirks and daggers on foothills at elevations of 4,000 to 5,000 feet. Also common in southwestern New Mexico, “this formidable plant was a dangerous obstacle in early Southwestern exploration,” notes James A. MacMahon in his Audubon Society Nature Guide, *Deserts*. “The sharp leaves pierced horses’ legs and a rider who fell might lie impaled. Today, leaves of small plants puncture tires of off-road vehicles.”

The desert agave, also relatively small, grows primarily in the Sonoran Desert. As the name suggests, the species—which may husband its resources for decades before it flowers—has adapted superbly to the desert, even the harsh lower Colorado River Valley region. Its stem produces plantlets, slow-growing siblings (or pups) that may

form a dense circle around the mother plant. “Rings 20 feet... in diameter in California’s Anza-Borrego Desert State park may be more than a millennium old,” according to the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum.

The century plant—and here I’m referring specifically to the *Agave americana*—qualifies as one of those of uncertain origin, although it occupies a wide range in Mexico and, more recently, in our deserts of the Southwest. Tolerant of diverse climates and soils and a prolific producer of pups, the century plant “has spread throughout the temperate and tropical areas of the world,” according to the Succulent Plant Page website. One of the larger of the agaves, the century plant rosette may



Patch of lechuguilla or shindagger agave, located in Anthony Gap, between the Organ Mountains and the Franklin Mountains.

reach seven or eight feet in height and span 12 feet in width, with individual leaves reaching six feet in length. It produces a bloom stalk that may reach 30 to 40 feet in height. It has been called the “blue steel” agave, a reference to the color of its leaves.

In the Food Chain

Although they present their nectar, like fine wine, to their insect, bird and bat patrons, the agaves, especially compared with the yuccas, tender a sparse salad bar for a relatively small number in the wildlife community—for instance, bighorn sheep, javelinas and rodents. The plant may in fact be toxic for some animals, including, for example, rabbits. Agave weevils do manage to chew into the leaves, and according to the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Home Horticulture website, “They lay eggs into the holes and the larvae burrow into the plant to feed. Agaves collapse into a putrid, rotting mess during late summer as a result of bacterial rot and internal infestation of agave weevil larvae.”

The agaves nevertheless have held high importance for thousands of years as a commodity in the economies of Native American peoples across the Southwest and deep into Mexico. Harvested just prior to flowering, when the plant’s energy storage reaches its peak, an agave, roasted, becomes a “sugary, high calorie and nutritious food,” according to

AGAVE continued on next page



Century plant leaves dying after bloom is complete.

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6 AM		Travel With Rick Steves	New Dimensions
7 AM		Commonwealth Club	This American Life
8 AM		Weekend Edition	Weekend Edition
9 AM	Performance Today Intermezzo with Leora Zeitlin intermezzo@nmsu.edu	Car Talk	Marketplace Money
10 AM		Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!	Commonwealth Club
11 AM		American Routes	A Prairie Home Companion
NOON		World Café	Car Talk
1 PM	Afternoon Classics with Julie Amacher	This American Life	Fresh Air Weekend
2 PM		All Things Considered	All Things Considered
3 PM		Fronteras: A Changing America Images	Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!
4 PM		A Prairie Home Companion	Back Porch with Benjy Rivas jrivas@nmsu.edu
5 PM	Fresh Air with Terry Gross fiesta@nmsu.edu	Riverwalk	Thistle and Shamrock
6 PM		Saturday Night Jazz	Hearts of Space
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9 PM	KRWG Jazz Burnsland (Mon.—Tues.) Michelle Rae (Wed.—Thurs.) Afropop (Fri. 9 PM—10 AM) Friday Night Blues (Fri. 10 PM—1 AM)	Classical Music 12:00—6:00 AM	Classical Music Midnight—5:00 AM
10 PM			
11 PM			
12 AM			
1 AM	Classical Music Midnight—5:00 AM	Classical Music 12:00—6:00 AM	Classical Music Midnight—5:00 AM
KRWG Cultural Datebook, 9:59 AM, 12:04 PM & 8 PM ↔ KRWG Community Datebook, 8:49 AM, 11:04 AM & 7:30 PM ↔ Pulse of the Planet, 12:59 PM & 6:59 PM ↔ Universo, 8:00 PM			

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"This is Apache Land, this has always been Apache Land."

AGAVE continued

The Marana Community in the Hohokam World, by Suzanne K. Fish, Paul R. Fish and John H. Madsen. I've eaten roasted agave. It tastes slightly sweet, maybe much like cucumber or squash. It may be high calorie and nutritious. It is certainly chewy.

Agave roasts meant brutal, back-breaking and probably communal labor for the Native Americans. The Mescalero Apache women, for instance, joined together for the roast in the spring. First, they had to free the agave heart from the rosette in the desert soil. In prehistoric times, they had to use "agave knives"—broad, flat stone tools with flaked cutting edges—to slice the heavy, spiny leaves away from the rosette, leaving a pineapple-shaped heart that might weigh as much as 50 or 60 pounds.

Next, the Mescalero women had to dig large roasting pits, which they filled with firewood topped with flat stones, according to James L. Haley in his book, *Apaches: A History and Culture Portrait*. Following a traditional ritual—blessing each part of the plant—they lit the firewood, allowing it to burn down to the coals. They covered the heated flat stones with damp grass. They placed the agave hearts on the damp grass and covered them with more damp grass, then topped off the pit with soil. They then built another fire on top of the filled pit, beginning several days of roasting. When the agave hearts had cooked fully, the Apache women had to dig them from the pits and carry them on their backs, in "burden baskets," to their camps. There, they preserved the roasted agave hearts by drying them in the sun.

Near prehistoric and historic Indian campgrounds across the Southwest—for instance,



A century plant (*Agave americana*) with a new bloom stalk, which signals its final days.

town Tequila in Jalisco. Tequila is to mescal much as Chardonnay is to wine."

As I can testify from my partying days more than 50 years ago at the University of Texas at Austin, tequila is to a hangover much as a siren is to a headache.

"Throughout the history of the New World the agave has been closely associated with mankind in a multitude of ways," according to "The Agave: A Plant and Its Story" by Jan Kolendo. "In the pre [Spanish] conquest era [in Mexico] the agave was well established as an important feature of everyday life and religion and played an important role in the human sacrifice which especially the Aztecs practiced to such an extent [that it] horrified even Cortez and his soldiers.... These [sacrificial] events seem to have been marked by the consumption in large quantities of pulque." Victims were taken to the temples and given pulque to drink, while the priests' "enthusiasm for sacrifice" was fueled by drinking pulque. On a typical sacrificial night, all the celebrants participating would carry on drinking the pulque without restriction.

The agave moved seamlessly from the ancient cultures of the Mesoamerican city states into the new cultures of the post-conquest Southwest. That gave rise to the *dicho* (saying) recorded in "Tequila: A Natural and Cultural History" in *The New Farm*:

"Para todo mal... mescal... para todo bien... también!"

"For everything bad... mescal... for everything good... the same!" ☘



The century plant's bloom stalk may reach 30 to 40 feet in height, towering above the leaf rosette.

along the western flanks of the Guadalupe Mountains—you can still find archaeological evidence for agave roasting pits, often marked by large concentrations of fire-cracked rocks. You can even find surprising archaeological evidence for agave agriculture in some areas.

Beyond their role in the food chain, agave flower stalks are used by birds for nesting and perching, and, according to Moore, man has used the agaves for "soap, clothing, rope and other fibers, needles and thread, paper, glue, weapons, military instruments, medicines, red coloring matter, forage and ornamental and hedge plants."

Pulque, Mescal and Tequila

If the agaves have served both a food-chain and a utilitarian purpose in the economies of prehistoric and historic peoples in the deserts of the Southwest and in Mexico, they have found true botanical stardom as a source for the liquids used in fermenting the intoxicating drinks called "pulque," "mescal" and "tequila." The sugar-rich juices from the leaves of mature plants can be fermented into pulque, according to the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum: "Steamed heads or central stalks are mashed and allowed to ferment with added liquid. After several days, the resulting fluid is distilled in the potent liquor mescal.... Tequila, the most famous legal variety of mescal, is made from the single species *Agave tequilana*, grown near the



The century plant approaching full bloom.

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BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

The Unrecorded

The unmarked graves and unsung heroes south of the border.

Palomas may be quiet, at least for the time being, but the drug-related violence in Chihuahua and the rest of Mexico is not over from the point of view of those who live there.

In Palomas some people are saying that one of the cartels still rules there, thus creating a kind of manufactured peace. One person thinks it's La Linea, the enforcement wing of the Juarez cartel.

It's not easy to get comprehensive information about what's happening in the rest of Chihuahua.

A Mormon man living near Nuevo Casas Grandes has told me that violence there has decreased. A woman living on this side of the border who hasn't visited her family in four years says it's increasing.

The woman knows someone who knew a person killed in an attack on an ambulance in Juarez on Dec. 7. The ambulance had come from Casas Grandes with dialysis patients. Four people were killed. The incident seemed just completely crazy to this woman—the victim her friend knew was totally innocent, she said.

There was a massacre of six people in Bocoyna in southern Chihuahua on Nov. 13. They had been building a school house when they were attacked.

But when things really do quiet down, at least relatively speaking, much of the remains of the violence will still be there.

There are thousands of bodies buried in unmarked grave sites throughout the state. There are certainly hundreds between Palomas and Nuevo Casas Grandes alone.

The man interviewed in the book *El Sicario* by Molly Molloy and Charles Bowden (see "Vintage Bowden," March 2011)

was a professional killer for 20 years until 2006. He claims he knows that only 5% to 6% of the mass graves in Juarez and the surrounding area have been uncovered so far.

I talked with the Mormon man in front of a tire shop in Deming a while ago. He told of some other Mormons he knew who had recently built a fence in their community of LeBaron. When they dug a hole they uncovered a corpse that had been dead for only a few days. It was surprising to them that it was right near a road.

The anecdote is potent as it shows how casually and fearlessly these burials are being carried out.

(Interestingly, Mitt Romney's father George Romney, himself a candidate for US president in 1968, came from one of the northern Chihuahuan communities of Mormons, called Colonia Dublan. The younger Romney has never visited those communities.)

The burials have been going on since long before the outburst of violence in Juarez in 2008. I and many other people have driven past these anonymous graves for years, beside the road, near remote ranches or desert canyons, and never suspected they were there.

The bodies have often been made impossible to identify by burning them or using lye or chemicals to destroy them. Most graves are unmarked and will never be disinterred.

These bodies sown throughout the state will spring into the murderers' dreams for the rest of their lives. That's what happens. I've interviewed someone who was a member of the Italian mafia 30 years ago and he still has nightmares. He said his father, who also belonged to the mafia, told him, "You have to be strong."

I wonder if I've met one of the Mexican killers in a ranch south of Palomas. He sat across from me with guarded, cynical eyes and said very little. There were no cattle on the ranch.

The consciousness of these graves leaves fear like a layer of acrid smog over people's lives. It will set limits on their lives as to what they say or do for years to come.

The dead will rule from the

ground. They include the totally innocent victims of extortion and the half-innocent people who got involved with the cartels because their children were crying for food.

They are those who have killed 4, 14 or 140 people. They may have been put there by cops or soldiers.

They include one man I wrote about in 2008 who had been selling drugs and was "levantado" (kidnapped) from Palomas streets one day and never returned.

Americans and Mexicans will forget, and that's the healthy thing to do. They'll snap their photos and buy pots, go to dances, beauty contests and parties. But on some level they'll remember.

I've recently heard a few local Anglos talk very negatively about Mexicans. I know an elderly couple who spent years bringing supplies to Tarahumara Indians in the Copper Canyon. The man said to me, "I've had it with Mexicans."

It is the Mexican mestizos who've been illegally logging the forests of the Indians and forcing many of them to pick their marijuana and poppies. What is really unbelievable, but true, is that they are known to kill some of these workers at the end of

the season. It's understandable the Anglo couple feel this way.

A teacher in the Deming schools told me a student of hers e-mailed his girlfriend a photo of a woman who was cut up in pieces. This teacher is planning on moving to another school district.

But I'm so glad I know a bit of the other side of this story.

I met a Mexican woman who rode horseback up to the Camp Furlong celebration last March. She immediately agreed she could drive me around Casas Grandes if I were to go there. I said to her I'd be afraid of putting her in danger, and she replied, "No-no-no-no-no." I repeated myself, and she insisted, "No-no-no-no."

I've never thought that I had a wild stroke of luck and found the bravest, pluckiest woman in Casas Grandes. I know there are dozens, if not hundreds, like her, just because I know something about Mexicans.

Another woman stood in the way of the work of some drug traffickers south of Palomas, and lived to tell about it. She was in some dangerous situations two or three times.

But she sits smiling at her kitchen table with her arm over the back of a chair, saying, "I've always known I was in God's hand." The famous "simple faith" of the Mexican poor has never been more simple and sincere than it is with her.

It's just humbling to know these women. I haven't found their courage yet.

That's why it makes little sense to get too self-righteous about all the forces of evil in Mexico these days. There's so much heart and self-sacrifice among the Mexican people that it may be that the unselfish and heroic things that are going on exist as an equal and opposite force, although they'll never be recorded. ❀

Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.




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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Columba, the Dove

Plus the planet for January.

Around 10:30 p.m. on these cold January evenings, the first-magnitude star Canopus can be seen skimming westward above our southern horizon. About 15 degrees above Canopus, you can find the small constellation of Columba, the Dove. This southern constellation is another creation of Petrus Plancius from the stars that were below Canis Major's (the Big Dog) hind legs. These stars were not really part of Canis Major's constellation figure, so in 1592, Plancius grouped them into a new constellation he called Columba Noachi ("Noah's Dove"). By the time the International Astronomical Union formalized the constellations in 1930, this name had already been shortened to Columba, the Dove.

The brightest star in this rather inconspicuous constellation is Alpha Columbae, also known as Phact. This 2.7 magnitude star's name is from the Arabic *Al-Fakhita*, which translates as "The Dove." The next brightest star in this constellation, at magnitude 3.12, is Wezn ("the Weight"). The rest of Columba's stars are unnamed, except for their Bayer Designation.

In the spectral classification sequence, the type O stars are the hottest and brightest along the main sequence. These bluish stars, at the extreme end of the main sequence classifications, are rather rare with only one in three million being a type O star. Most are far away, and even though they are very bright, they appear faint from our perspective due to the distance.

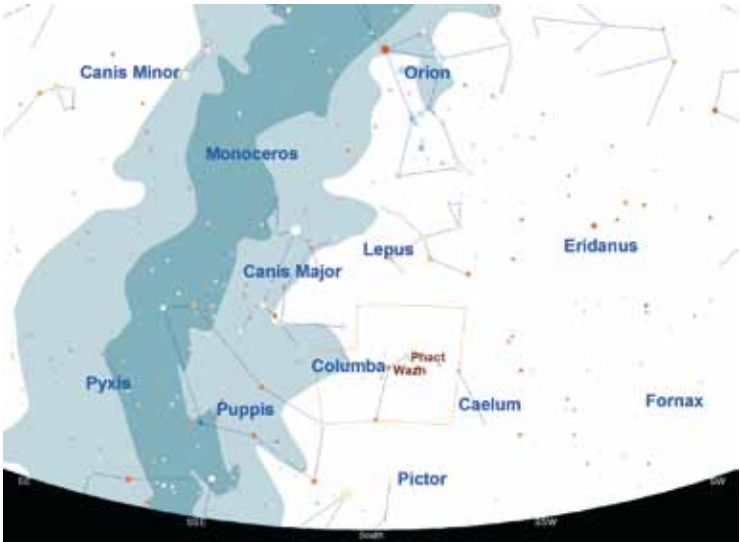
Columba contains one of the few type O stars visible to the naked eye, Mu Columbae. Even so, it is only magnitude 5.15; classified as an O9.5, it is at the smaller end of the type O stars, only 4.5 times the diameter of our Sun. But can you imagine a sun in our sky that is not only 4.5 times the diameter of the sun we see, but with a surface over six times hotter? This would be blinding and make life impossible.

Not only is Mu Columbae a huge star, it rotates very rapidly, completing one turn in just 1.5 days. Compare that to our Sun's rather lazy 25.4 day rotation rate. This means that the Sun's equator is spinning at 1.3 miles per second, while Mu Columbae's equator zips along at 152 miles per second!

Mu Columbae is also moving rapidly through space. Since these huge type O stars burn out very quickly, it cannot have been traveling too long. Astronomers have traced Mu Columbae's motion backward toward the north-northeast into Orion. They also traced another star, AE Aurigae, another O9.5 star just a little fainter than Mu Columbae, back into Orion. Both stars were in the area of the Trapezium, the cluster at the center of the Great Orion Nebula, about the same time.

The thinking is that these two stars were originally part of a pair of multiple star systems in or near the Orion Nebula some two and a half million years ago. Since the Trapezium Cluster is only a million years old, it cannot be involved with this episode. Looking around this area, astronomers discovered that Iota Orionis (Na'ir al Saif), at the southern tip of Orion's sword, is a multiple star system with the brightest component a very close double having an unusually eccentric orbit—a sign of gravitational interactions with other stars.

It appears that another multiple star system approached Iota Orionis two and a half million years ago, and they passed through each other. The mutual gravity among these stars caused the two multiple star systems to exchange two members. In the process, AE Aurigae and Mu Columbae were ejected in opposite directions, separating at a rate of over 120



Around 10:30 p.m. Canopus is just above our western horizon; 15 degrees above it is the small constellation of Columba, the Dove. (Find a larger, printable starmap online at www.desertexposure.com.)

miles per second. While this sounds like a rare event, 10% to 15% of type O and B stars in the sky are "run-away stars," like AE Aurigae and Mu Columbae.

The Planets for January 2012

Venus will grace our evening sky not only in January, but for the first half of 2012. It is the first object visible in the sky (except for the Moon) after sunset. Venus is still rather full with a 79% illuminated disc, slowly becoming less full. At midmonth its diameter is 13.8 seconds-of-arc across and Venus gleams brilliantly at magnitude -4.0. The Goddess of Love sets around 8:15 p.m. It starts the month in central Capricornus, moving into Aquarius, where it ends the month just before entering into Pisces.

Jupiter is the second object to become visible as it gets dark, almost 70 degrees up in the south-southeast. Sparkling at magnitude -2.5, Jupiter starts the month in Pisces and moves quickly into Aries on Jan. 9, where it ends the month. Jupiter's disc is 41.2 seconds-of-arc across; it sets around 1 a.m.

Mars starts the month in Leo, drifting eastward into Virgo on Jan. 13, where it becomes stationary on Jan. 24. Glowing redly at magnitude -0.1, Mars comes up in the east around 9:45 p.m. with a disc 10.3 seconds-of-arc across and 93% illuminated at midmonth.

Saturn glows at magnitude +0.6 as it rises around 12:30 a.m. Saturn moves slowly eastward in eastern Virgo. Saturn's disc is 17.0 seconds-of-arc across while the Rings are 38.7 seconds-of-arc across and tipped down 15.0 degrees with the northern face showing.

Mercury is still visible in the morning sky shortly before sunrise in the east-southeast during the first part of the month. The Messenger of the Gods has "turned around the bend" and is heading around the back side of the Sun. At the beginning of the month, Mercury rises at 5:40 a.m., rising later each day. Its disc is 5.6 seconds-of-arc across and 81% illuminated, becoming fuller each day. Mercury starts the month in Ophiuchus, moving eastward into northern Sagittarius. Not stopping there, it continues into Capricornus, where it ends the month approaching the Sun.

The brilliant stars of winter along with Venus and Jupiter invite you out to gaze upon their splendor. So bundle up to stay warm and "keep watching the sky!" ☼

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



BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • MICHELLE DETTERICK

A Gift for All

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“Spend some time alone every day.”—the Dalai Lama

Time alone recharges every battery I pack: physical, mental, emotional and, most important, spiritual. When I lack daily quality time alone, my energy is low, I operate in robot mode, my banner of love is at half-mast, and the first songs out of my heart are the old spirituals, “It’s Me, O Lord, Standing in the Need of Prayer” followed by “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.”

Quality Alone Time (QAT) is not noticed when missed for a day or even a couple of days, but when the days lead into weeks, I’ve got a problem. I am “out of sorts,” which is kind of like super PMS—confusion, tiredness, grouchiness and discontent with the 99% of my life that is going right.

For some people I know, QAT means a period of meditation, the how-tos of which vary from individual to individual. The psalmist David expressed it like this, “Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and in the Law he meditates day and night.” Krishnamurti said, “Without laying the foundation of a righteous life, meditation becomes an escape and therefore has no value whatever.” Jesus often went to a lonely place to commune with the Heavenly Father and encouraged His disciples to do likewise: “Come along with me to a quiet place.” Jesus revealed to them His nature, character and ways as they turned from fishing nets and the crowds and followed him to the silent places. Meditation is the action of silence, said Krishnamurti. Our silence can give us ears to hear God and, as His followers, hearts to feel “the times of refreshing in the presence of the Lord.”

Quality Alone Time can occur as we hike, do yoga, shoot hoops, garden or spend time in a rocking chair, on a swing, or puttering around—whatever helps you to put aside your list of “to dos” and quietly settles your mind. Try to get around some running water. A fountain will do if a natural source like a river, lake, hot springs or the ocean is not nearby.

Quality Alone Time may include other elements such as reading the Scriptures and other inspirational books, journaling, music or songs of gratitude and praise, writing notes of encouragement to others, and acts of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Finding Quality Alone Time is a challenge for us at all stages of life. There are seasons of our lives where we are more challenged to find even a precious few minutes of Quality Alone Time. An essential element is having enough get up and go to enjoy being with yourself.

My words to new parents are often, “This too will pass” and “Try to take long showers!” We find new challenges as our babies grow and we learn about toddler classes in everything from computers to creative play. We begin to face the challenge of busyness competing for our three-year-old and their QAT. Of course, there is a direct correlation between their busyness and our time in the chauf-



feur’s seat. This will continue to be the case for the next 15 years or so. School activities, youth sports, music lessons, and a whole lot of other wonderful activities will vie for their involvement, and yours, on a 24/7 basis.

With the busyness of work, extended family and other commitments, those of us who are empty nesters are challenged to practice what we learned in kindergarten about crossing streets: stop, look and listen.

I see around me the challenge continues with the retired, footloose and fancy free. They, too, have only 24 hours in a day and some become so busy that they lose their balance by living overly scheduled lives, making them busier than when they worked.

Others fill their days with TV and the Weather Channel, soaps and sports; some are sitting, watching life go by; other folks are golfing daily from dawn to dusk; cribbage, poker or bridge shuffle others through this stage of life. Some couples develop problems in their relationship as they no longer have the same defined periods of apartness as when at least one of the two is employed. The freedom of retirement brings the unique challenge of being alone to some, but primarily it is a challenge of choices, just like all the other stages of life.

Quality Alone Time is a pearl of great price. Cultivating it in our lives, we reap its benefit, living life at full capacity for each individual in his or her own unique way. Balance in living is achieved, bringing us to a healthy place physically, with contentment in our souls, service done through love, and peace abounding in our spirits. Our lives are enhanced as we act upon the wisdom of “Be still and know that I am God.”

Quality Alone Time can occur as we hike, do yoga, shoot hoops, garden or spend time in a rocking chair, on a swing, or puttering around—whatever helps you to put aside your list of “to dos” and quietly settles your mind.

Michelle Detterick is director of Literacy Link-Leamos in Silver City.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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Blessings, Pastor Matt Smith



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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • KATY MARTINO

The Aroma of Healing

Essential oil therapy, popularly called aromatherapy, offers natural aid for body, mind and spirit.

Aromatherapy, what is that? How did this term come about? Where did the term originate? Why do I even need to care?

Aromatherapy is the English translation of the French word *aromathérapie*, which was coined by French chemist René Gattefosse in 1937 while working with essential oils in his chemistry laboratory. Unfortunately, today this term has become used in reference to inconsequential products such as candles and household cleaners.

Until the 1960s most people outside of France were unaware of aromatherapy. This is ironic considering that the healing capability of essential oils has been around for over 5,000 years starting in Egypt. Hieroglyphics on the walls of Egyptian temples indicate they may have been the first to discover the potential of plants. Egyptians were known for using essential oils in the embalming process as well at rituals and in temples, in astrology and medicine. The physicians of Ionia, Attica and Crete came to the cities of the Nile to increase their knowledge. The Romans used essential oils to purify temples, political buildings and steam baths.

The alembic still for distillation was invented by Avicenna (980-1037 AD), an Arab alchemist, philosopher and physician. This type of equipment continues to be used today.

Essential oil use moved rapidly from France to England to the United States in the 1970s. As the demand grew, more and more books were written, and schools for teaching essential oil practice were founded.

What are essential oils? They are aromatic volatile liquids that are steam-distilled from shrubs, flowers, trees, roots, bushes and seeds. These essential oils are chemically complex and much more highly concentrated than dried herbs and are therefore much more potent.

"Essential oil" is actually a misnomer; this is the immune system of the plant. It is considered the "life blood" of the plant and is not oily or greasy. Mother Nature is very clever: Some scents of plants keep them from being eaten by insects, while the scent of other plants attracts insects for pollination.

What are the characteristics of essential oils and why are they of use? All essential oils have antibacterial properties. They are lipophilic (fat soluble, attracted to humans due to fats in our bodies), chemically complex (50-400 chemical components), volatile (if left open to the air, they will evaporate), lighter than water, and also insoluble in water.

"Essential oil therapy" is a more appropriate term than aromatherapy. The term aromatherapy can also apply to synthetically created scents. Essential oil practitioners choose

Essential Oil Room Spritzer

Using an eight-ounce spray bottle, fill with seven ounces of distilled water and add 60 drops of peppermint essential oil (*Mentha piperita*). Shake the bottle before spraying a room. (Be careful to not get on furniture or spray in eyes.) Keep bottle away from small children to prevent ingestion of ingredients. Never take essential oils internally.

only pure essential oils. Essential oils influence both the mind and body, which is what makes them such a unique natural therapeutic source.

They are used by:

- Essential oil practitioners
- Medical practitioners
- Nurses
- Counselors and psychologists
- Massage therapists
- Hospitals

Essential oils can be used for chronic conditions without the severe side effects often seen with pharmaceutical products. This is due to their chemical complexity, synergetic balance, multifaceted actions (anti-bacterial, anti-viral, anti-fungal), and subtle action. Essential oils are excellent for balancing mind, body and spirit.



Geranium has antispasmodic and anti-inflammatory effects and balances hormones.

My curiosity about essential oils began in 2003 when I attended an open house at the College of Botanical Healing Arts in Santa Cruz, Calif. I fell in love with the subtlety of the aromas of plants and their gentle healing abilities. I enrolled in the two-year program. There I learned how to stop an allergy attack by simply placing a drop of chamomile, roman (*Chamaemelum nobile*)

on my upper lip under my nose. A pounding headache was eased by drops of lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) on my temples and the back of my neck. A cold can be stopped by inhaling steams using tea tree (*Melaleuca alternifolia*), eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and peppermint (*Mentha piperita*).

Peppermint is a wonderful essential oil to use in your home. Feeling stressed? Peppermint helps your concentration while eliminating mental fatigue. It lifts your spirits and has a cooling effect on anger.

I use essential oils in my personal life. I used a blend to heal surgical scars on both sides of my left ankle (the scars are almost invisible now). I made a blend for a friend recovering from knee replacement surgery. The blend was so effective at reducing the swelling that the home health care nurses asked if they could use it to help their other patients.

I create custom blends for clients to help them bring balance back into their lives. Uses include sore muscles, hot flashes, night sweats, sleeplessness and stress.

Essential oils are a way to bring nature back into your home and medicine cabinet. ✨

Katy Martino, CEOP BS, owns Kavé Essence and Wellness Center, 601 W. Market St. in Silver City, (575) 519-9083. She received her certification from College of Botanical Healing Arts, Santa Cruz, Calif., and has been working with essential oils for eight years. She also works with flower essences as well as being a Level II Reiki practitioner.

Body, Mind & Spirit • EarthTalk

Garlic and Fish

Eating to prevent cancer and protect yourself.

Dear EarthTalk: Given the preponderance of carcinogenic chemicals out there today, is it true that eating certain foods like garlic or onions can actually help prevent cancer?

Natural healers have extolled the cancer-preventing virtues of garlic and onions for years, but only recently do we have enough scientific research to draw some conclusions. Several animal studies showing promising results using garlic and other members of the allium family (onions, leek, shallot and chive) to prevent tumors have led to hundreds of studies involving human garlic eaters. While it is nearly impossible to pinpoint a direct link between garlic consumption and cancer

prevention, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) reports that “several population studies show an association between increased intake of garlic and reduced risk of certain cancers, including cancers of the stomach, colon, esophagus, pancreas and breast.”

To wit, a multiyear study of 25,000 people from Switzerland and Italy found that those who ate the most garlic and onions were up to 88% less likely to develop various types of cancer (including cancers of the esophagus, mouth, throat, colon, breast, ovary, prostate and kidney) than those who said they ate little or none. “High onion intake, for example, was associated with a 56% lower risk of colon cancer and a 25% lower risk of breast cancer compared to no onion intake,” reports Karen Collins of the non-profit American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR).

According to Collins, another study found a 32% lower colon cancer risk among Iowa women who ate at least one garlic clove a week compared to others who ate one clove once a month or less, while an analysis of several studies worldwide “linked a 31% lower risk of colon cancer with consumption of about four to five cloves of garlic weekly.” And the results of several studies conducted in China show that those who eat five cloves of garlic a week are half as likely to develop stomach cancers as non-garlic-eaters. Meanwhile, AICR reports that isolated components of garlic have shown the ability to slow or stop the growth of tumors in prostate,



Although there is no definitive proof, many studies seem to indicate that consumption of onions, garlic and other members of the allium family (leeks, shallots and chives) reduces the risk of certain cancers. (Photo: Thinkstock)

bladder, colon and stomach tissue. Just how do allium plants prevent cancer? “Like many vegetables, onions and garlic contain antioxidants that can block highly reactive free radicals from damaging cell DNA and starting the cancer process,” reports Collins. “Laboratory studies have shown that onion and garlic compounds can increase enzymes that deactivate carcinogens in the body, enhancing our ability to eliminate carcinogens before they do any damage.”

Some researchers, however, say that study limitations—that is, the accuracy of reported amounts and frequency of garlic consumed and the inability to compare data from studies that used different garlic products and amounts—make a definitive declaration on the topic unlikely anytime soon. And without such definitive conclusive proof of a causal link, the US Food and Drug Administration will not allow food purveyors to state the health benefits of the garlic in their products on their labels.

NCI would like to see better-designed human dietary studies using predetermined amounts of garlic to discern potentially effective intakes as well as more studies directly comparing various garlic preparations. “Given this protective potential, the challenge now is to identify amounts that will provide optimal effects,” says Collins. In the meantime, don’t skimp on the garlic and onions.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

CONTACTS: National Cancer Institute, www.cancer.gov; American Institute for Cancer Research, www.aicr.org.

Dear EarthTalk: I know that large fish contain a lot of mercury, but where does it come from? And what are we doing to prevent this contamination?

Mercury in the fish we like to eat is a big problem in the United States and increasingly around the world. Mercury itself is a naturally occurring element that is present throughout the environment and in plants and animals. But human industrial activity (such as coal-fired electricity generation, smelting and the incineration of waste) ratchets up the amount of airborne mercury, which eventually finds its way into lakes, rivers and the ocean, where it is gobbled up by unsuspecting fish and other marine life.

Once this mercury gets into the marine food chain, it "bioaccumulates" in the larger predators. That's why larger fish are generally riskier to eat than smaller ones. Those of us who eat too much mercury-laden fish can suffer from a range of health maladies including reproductive troubles and nervous system disorders. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that human fetuses exposed to mercury before birth "may be at an increased risk of poor performance on neurobehavioral tasks, such as those measuring attention, fine motor function, language skills, visual-spatial abilities and verbal memory." Up to 10% of American women of childbearing age carry enough mercury in their bloodstreams to put their developing children at increased risk for developmental problems.

In partnership with the US Food and Drug Administration, the EPA issues determinations periodically in regard to how much mercury is safe for consumers to ingest from eating fish. State and tribal environmental authorities and/or health departments issue fish consumption advisories for water bodies in their respective jurisdictions based on federal guidelines. The EPA consolidates these local and regional advisories on its website, where concerned consumers and fisher folk can click on a map of the states to find out which advisories may be in effect in their area.

As for which fish to avoid, the non-profit Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), which runs the handy Seafood Selector website, reports that people with mercury concerns should steer clear of bluefin tuna, walleye, king mackerel and marlin. Bluefish, shark, swordfish, wild sturgeon, opah and bigeye tuna carry a proportionately large mercury burden as well. Also of concern, but to a slightly lesser extent, are orange roughy, Chilean sea bass, blue crab, lingcod, Spanish mackerel, spotted seatrout, wahoo, grouper, snapper, halibut, tile fish, rock fish and sable fish, as well as blackfin, albacore and yellowfin tuna.

Beyond what individuals can do to avoid mercury, the US government and states have begun working together to reduce mercury emissions from power plants. Earlier this year the EPA proposed new "Mercury and Air Toxics Standards" regulating mercury emissions from utilities across the country, with the goal of reducing the amount of mercury emitted by coal burning by 91% by 2016. Elsewhere, representatives from 140 countries signed on to reduce global mercury pollution at a 2009 United Nations Environment Program's Governing Council meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. The agreement commits signatory countries—including the US—to cutting back on the use and emission of mercury. A legally binding treaty mandating just how much each country will have to cut back mercury emissions takes hold in 2013.

CONTACTS: EPA Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, www.epa.gov/airquality/powerplanttoxics; EDF Seafood Selector, apps.edf.org/page.cfm?tagID=1521.

Once mercury gets into the marine food chain, mostly from human industrial sources such as coal-fired electricity generation, smelting and the incineration of waste, it "bioaccumulates" in the larger ocean predators. That's why larger fish—like the bluefin tuna pictured here—are generally riskier to eat than smaller ones. (Photo: iStock/Thinkstock)

apps.edf.org/page.cfm?tagID=1521.

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Second Thoughts on Seafood Risks

Although certain people, such as pregnant and nursing women, still need to worry about mercury in seafood, recent findings suggest it may not be as big a concern for the rest of us as once believed. In 2006, based on this evidence, an expert panel of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) concluded that the health benefits of eating fish generally outweigh the risks.

"Confusion may have scared people out of eating something that is beneficial for them and maybe for their offspring," says Tufts University nutrition professor Jose M. Ordovas, who served on the panel. "Our goal was to put both the benefits and risks into perspective and see where is the balance. People should not be scared about eating seafood."

The experts' report made recommendations for specific population groups:

- **Females who are or may become pregnant or who are breast-feeding as well as children up to age 12:** May benefit, especially from seafood high in omega-3 fatty acids EPA and DHA. Can reasonably consume two three-ounce (cooked) servings but can safely consume 12 ounces per week. Can consume up to six ounces of white (albacore) tuna per week. Should avoid large predatory fish such as shark, swordfish, tilefish or king mackerel.

- **Healthy adolescents and most adults:** May benefit by reducing their risk of cardiovascular disease. If consuming more than two servings a week, should select a variety of seafood to reduce risk of contaminants from a single source.

- **Adults at risk of coronary heart disease:** May benefit by consuming seafood regularly, especially from fish high in EPA/DHA. If consuming more than two servings a week, should select a variety of seafood to reduce risk of contaminants from a single source.

Since the IOM report, new insight into the potential risks of mercury in seafood has come from a surprising source: thousands of people who donated their toenail clippings for science. In findings published in the New England Journal of Medicine, Harvard scientists who analyzed mercury in toenails—a more accurate measure of long-term exposure than blood testing—report no link between even the highest levels of mercury and increased risk of heart disease or stroke. In fact, they found a slight protective association, probably because of other nutritional benefits of fish, even varieties higher in mercury such as shark and swordfish. The scientists cautioned that pregnant and nursing women and children should still exercise caution about exposure to mercury from fish.

Body, Mind & Spirit • NIH News in Health

Worried Sick

Living with anxiety disorders.

Anxiety is an uneasy feeling that something may harm you or a loved one. This feeling can be normal and sometimes even helpful. If you're starting a new job or taking a test, it might make you more alert and ready for action. But sometimes anxiety can linger or become overwhelming. When it gets in the way of good health and peace of mind, it's called an anxiety disorder.

If you have an anxiety disorder, you're not alone. Each year, tens of millions of Americans of all ages suffer from long-term anxiety. Among children, anxiety disorders are the most common form of mental illness—one they may carry into adulthood.

"Everybody has anxiety," says Dr. Daniel Pine, an NIH neuroscientist and psychiatrist. "The tricky part is how to tell the difference between normal and abnormal anxiety."

For those with anxiety disorders, fears, worries and anxieties can cause so much distress that they interfere with daily life. The anxiety grows out of proportion to the stressful situation or occurs when there is no real danger.

Anxiety activates the body's stress response. Nearly all the cells, tissues and organs in your body go on high alert. This stress response can wear your body down over time. People with chronic (long-term) anxiety have a higher risk of both physical and mental health problems. Some people visit their doctors because of headaches, racing heart or other physical complaints without realizing that these symptoms may be connected to how anxious they feel.

NIH-funded researchers are working to learn more about anxiety disorders. They have discovered that these conditions are caused by some combination of your genes and your environment. But the precise events that lead to anxiety disorders are still unknown. Scientists are also searching for better ways to diagnose, prevent and treat these conditions.

There are several kinds of anxiety disorders. The major types include:

Phobias—Intense, irrational fears triggered by things that pose little or no real danger, such as heights, dogs or spiders. Among the anxiety disorders, specific phobias are the most common.

Social anxiety disorder—Leads to extreme anxiety and self-consciousness in everyday social situations. Also known as social phobia.

Post-traumatic stress disorder—Caused by trauma. This condition leads to flashbacks, nightmares and insomnia. Often accompanied by depression or substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder can occur at any age, including childhood.

Generalized anxiety disorder—Excessive worry about a variety of everyday problems.

Panic disorder—Sudden attacks of terror accompanied by physical symptoms that may include heart palpitations, shortness of breath, dizziness or abdominal distress. Panic disorder is one of the most treatable of anxiety disorders.

Obsessive-compulsive disorder—Persistent, upsetting thoughts (obsessions) and repetitive rituals (compulsions), like hand washing, counting, checking or cleaning. These behaviors are done in the hope of preventing the thoughts or making them go away.

Treatment for anxiety disorders usually includes both medication and cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT). CBT is a form of talk therapy. It helps people change both the thinking patterns that support their fears and the way they react to anxiety-provoking situations. Current treatments can be highly effective for most people.

Dr. Denise Chavira, a psychologist at the University of California-San Diego, works with anxious youth in underserved, rural areas. Her team



is studying ways to make CBT more accessible to these children, who may have trouble getting to therapy sessions. To help make up for the lack of in-person contact, the researchers are examining telephone and self-help approaches that focus on teaching parents how to use CBT skills with their children.

In one study, the scientists are comparing CBT training delivered to parents by phone versus in-person CBT provided to anxious youth and their parents. With a therapist's help, parents and kids create lists of anxiety-producing situations. They learn how to face their fears gradually while using CBT coping skills. Both methods encourage parents to model brave behaviors for kids, and to let kids learn how to be independent. "Some parents do this naturally, but others need some practice," says Chavira. "The phone is a less intense form of treatment, given that it only involves the parents and sessions are shorter. But even that mode can be really effective."

Researchers are also using advanced imaging tools to pinpoint the areas in the brain that underlie anxiety disorders. Still in its very early stages, this approach represents a major shift from how doctors usually diagnose mental illness, which is by looking at symptoms and behaviors. Using an imaging technique called functional MRI (fMRI), scientists are scanning the brain in action—as it thinks, remembers, feels emotion and regulates the body's reactions to things that cause anxiety. By measuring changes in blood flow related to brain activity, fMRI scans produce full-color images of trouble spots in real time.

Dr. Sonia Bishop of the University of California-Berkeley uses fMRI to study people at high risk for anxiety disorders. Her team hopes to prevent anxiety disorders before patients enter a downward spiral. The researchers are working to develop a new type of CBT-related treatment that helps to retrain how patients regulate their emotions and attention.

Scientists are especially curious about brain regions called the amygdala and the hippocampus. The amygdala plays an important role in fear and anxiety by alerting the brain to danger. The hippocampus translates threatening events into memories. Once scientists discover if and how these areas contribute to illness, they might be able to develop better treatments.

"These disorders put a huge burden on the individual, the family and society," Bishop says. "Anxiety disorders are one of the most common reasons that people visit their primary health care provider."

If you are troubled by anxiety, the first person to see is your family doctor or nurse practitioner. He or she can check for any underlying physical illness or a related condition. You may be referred to a mental health specialist, who might help to identify the specific type of anxiety disorder and the appropriate treatment. With proper care, most people with anxiety disorders can lead normal, fulfilling lives.

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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 Presbyte-rian 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; Sha-ron, 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- borgan 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.
VINYASA FLOW YOGA—11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Lori Zitzmann. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.

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 Busi-ness and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy 180E, 590-2578.

CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL—First Thurs. 5:30 p.m. Grant County Admin Bldg.
DE-STRESSING MEDITA- TIONS—12-12:45 p.m. New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.
HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOUR- ISM 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. tim@tam.u.edu.
KUNDALINI YOGA—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center confer- ence 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. Epis- copal 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 BEGIN- NERS—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. Theoto- kos 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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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.*

ALOTTA 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 barbequed 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. 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.*

CUP OF GRACE, 1308 Silver Heights Blvd. (inside Rexall), 388-2115. Coffeehouse.

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.*

DELIGHTFUL BLEND, 3030 N. Pinos Altos Road, 388-2404. Coffeehouse.

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

DIANE'S BAKERY & CAFÉ, 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 diners: 4:30-6 p.m.*

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

GILA BEANS, 1304 N. Bennett St. Coffeehouse.

GOLDEN STAR, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. "If you sometimes long for the guilty pleasures of the Chinese food served at a mall food court—think Panda Express—or just want your wontons without waiting, there's good news.... Normal appetites will find the three-item combo tough to finish, so plan on leftovers whether you're eating in or taking out. All of it's plenty tasty, and you can enjoy it just like in the food court." (February 2007) Chinese: L D.

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

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

ISAAC'S GRILL, Bullard and Broadway, 388-4090. "Situated in the historic and massively renovated Isaac Cohen Building.... Though one certainly can linger over a 'serious dinner' here, or enjoy microbrews and appetizers for hours, it's great for a quick bite, too." (November 2006) American, Burgers, Sandwiches, Sushi: L D.*

JALISCO CAFÉ, 100 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. "The Mexican restaurant where you take out-of-town guests. . . Jalisco's massive menu goes well beyond the traditional combination plates, though it has those, too." (December 2007) Mexican: L D.

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

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

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

LA CUCINA 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.

LION'S DEN, 208 W. Yankee, 654-0353. Coffeehouse.

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

MARY'S RESTAURANT, 1700 Mountain View Rd., 534-9317. Mexican: 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 CAFÉ, 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. "The unique and healthful food is tasty, and the only such of its kind around for miles—maybe even galaxies." (February 2007) 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. "From the friendly staff to the down-home food—steaks, of course, plus chicken, seafood, burgers, sandwiches and a sampling of superb Mexican fare—you might be settling in for lunch or dinner at an especially large ranch house." (October 2009) 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 CAFÉ, 2020 Memory Lane, 538-3612. American, Mexican, hamburgers: L D.*

SILVERADO HEALTH SHOP, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Fresh sandwiches, salads, smoothies: L.

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

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

TERRY'S ORIGINAL BARBECUE, Hwy. 180 and Ranch Club Road. Barbecue to go: L D.

3 DOGS COFFEEHOUSE, 503 N. Bullard St. Coffeehouse.

TRE ROSAT CAFÉ, closed for remodeling of new location.

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. Coffeehouse.*

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



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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.

SUGAR SHACK, 1102 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-0500. Mexican: 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. “You won’t go home hungry from the Mimbres Valley Café, an oasis of down-home good food in a friendly atmosphere. The menu is simple and hearty, a blend of American and Mexican.” 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. Coffeeshop. *

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: B L D.

CAFÉ AGOGO, 1120 Commerce Dr., suite A, 636-4580. Asian, American: L D.

CAFE 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.

CATTLEMEN’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.

DELI AND DOGS, 2215 Missouri Ave. Hot dogs: L early 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 STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD, 1420 El Paseo, 523-2828. Chinese: L 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. Coffeeshop, 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.

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. Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: B (Fri-Sat), L.

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

LA IGUANA, 139 N. Main St., 523-8550. “The restaurant is an interesting combination of styles, with elements of coffeeshop, deli and fine dining imaginatively woven together.” (February 2011) Sandwiches, soups, salads, coffee bar: B L D. *

LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. Mexican and Steakhouse: B (weekends) 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 Mercade, 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.

DINING GUIDE continued on page B47

Silver City Food Co-op

Member-owned community market since 1974
everyone can shop-anyone can join

organic and local produce, dairy, meat, bulk foods, herbs, and supplements

January Community Forum: “Community Bulk Seed Ordering”

Combine seed orders from heirloom and organic seed companies for bulk order discounts.

Prepare ahead by selecting seeds online or from catalogues, and please bring your checkbook.

Facilitated by Carolyn Smith,
Co-op Community Outreach Coordinator.

Presented twice
Tuesday, January 10th noon-1pm
Thursday, January 12th 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

GIL-A BEANS COFFEE SHOP

Silver City RV Park & Self Storage
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Silver City

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Tea • Hot Cocoa • Non-coffee drinks
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Real comfort food Fresh & homemade

Our potatoes are never frozen
We make our own corned beef for corned
beef hash &

Our Reuben Sandwiches

Real comfort prices

B’fast: m-sat: 7-10:30a sun: 8a - 2p
Lunch: m-sat: 11a-2:30p
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Downtown, Silver City, NM





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Casual Haute Cuisine

Shevek & Co. Restaurant & Wine Bar

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

11th Anniversary Celebration

2012 is the year of our 11th anniversary. To celebrate we’re holding drawings on the 11th & 22nd of each month all year. Enter each time you dine with us!

Mexxe Madness

Friday, January 27.
A rollicking six-course dinner of Middle Eastern foods & matching wines.
Reservations Required.
Banquet seating at 6:30pm.
See website for menu.

Closed January 3-12 for vacation & cleaning.

RED OR GREEN? • PEGGY PLATONOS

No Flat Food

Everything's fresh at Silver City's Café Un Mundo.

When Julie Good first saw the Bullard Street building that now houses Café Un Mundo, she fell in love with it. It was a 1929 Conoco gas station, long abandoned and desperately in need of repair, but Julie was unfazed. She saw its potential, purchased the building in 1986, and with the help of her brother and contractor father, made her vision reality.

The original "building" was actually two separate units. "What's cool about this is that the part that is now the entryway and kitchen of the café was prefab metal. It was just dropped into place," Julie says. The garage part, now the main dining area, was constructed separately of locally produced brick.

The large multi-paned window in the front wall of the main dining area was the original garage door. "My dad took all the hardware off it and somehow glued it together and made it a window," Julie says.

A side window with similar glass panes was retained and creatively incorporated in Julie's renovation plan. "We flipped the window around and created a walkway to connect the two buildings."

That walkway now provides additional seating at two small tables, as well as access to the main dining area.

In the winter, the seating in the café is fairly limited. A total of 22 people can be seated at tables and an additional six at what was once the juice bar. "But in the summer months, we also have front and back patio seating," Julie says.

Julie did not initially set out to create a restaurant in her beautifully renovated building. "I had just given birth to my son and was wondering what I could do to make a living as a single mom," she recalls. "I decided I wanted to have the proverbial espresso shop. My fantasy was I'd be sitting here discussing politics over coffee, not working too hard, and raising my son."

So she opened the business as a coffeehouse. "But you know, you have your dream and you open. Then the market starts talking to you through your customers, and you'd better listen or you'll fail," she says.

Julie's customers told her they wanted food—not just coffee—and more substantial food than the made-from-scratch coffeecakes she was offering. "So I added food—sandwiches and soups—and they kind of took over," she laughs. "Since I had started out making everything from scratch, I figured I had to make my own bread, too. So I dug out a recipe and learned to make bread. And that's the same recipe we've been using for nearly 25 years now."

The sandwiches she has created through the years with her 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.

"We're famous for our soup," Julie says. The menu describes the soups as "Flavour-Driven Concoctions" and the description fits everything else on the menu, as well.

"The main thing is the flavor. My motto is: No flat food," she says, and she describes the food at Café Un Mundo as "fresh, fun and flavorful. When people ask me what's good on the menu, I have to say it's all good, or it wouldn't be on the menu."

And the food looks as good as it tastes. "I'm really into presentation," Julie says. "Manny and I



Cafe Un Mundo owners Julie Good and her husband, Manuel ("Manny") Rodriguez, show off their elegant Cape Cod Chicken Salad. (Photo by Peggy Platonos)

are both artists, so we have to be creative with our food, our service, our décor."

Manny—formally, Manuel—Rodriguez entered Julie's life in 1995, and is now her husband. Julie had closed the restaurant and was renting out the building at the time. But the two decided to reopen the restaurant together in 2002, and changed its name from "The Last Ditch Café" to "Café Un Mundo"—the new name designed to "acknowledge that we are one world, one people," Julie explains. "And, of course, I pull my inspiration from all kinds of cuisine, regardless of the origin."

And regardless of their origins, each dish has an unmistakably individual twist to it. The café's version of hummus, for instance, is unique in my experience, with what seems to be a slightly Southwestern tang blending perfectly with its basic Mediterranean flavors. All sandwich entrées are served with chips and a choice of either hummus or salsa—both homemade, of course.

Prices are reasonable, starting with downright bargains like \$3.25 for a dinner salad as entrée or \$3.75 for a cup of soup and a homemade roll. The top price on the menu is \$7.95, which will get you either a Reuben sandwich, or the Last Ditch Café Chile Cheese Melt with ham or turkey breast, not to mention the generous Un Mundo Caesar Salad with herbed chicken breast.

"We try to make the experience rich at the café without making it expensive," Julie says.

Café Un Mundo is located at 700 N. Bullard and is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Because of the limited seating, it's advisable to call ahead if you're bringing a large party. The café's telephone number is (575) 956-8752.

Julie handles all catering arrangements and can be reached directly at (575) 956-8730. ☘

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



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
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Mon.-Fri. 6am to 7pm




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Silverado
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Wrangler's Bar & Grill

-Bayard-
Little Nisha's
M and A Bayard Café

-Hurley-
Gateway Grill

-Mimbres-
Bryan's BBQ
Elks Crossing

-Lordsburg-
El Charro
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January 2012

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3:00 pm to Close • Take out available!
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DINING GUIDE continued

LOS COMPAS, 1120 Commerce Dr., 521-6228. 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.

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

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

PAISANO CAFE, 1740 Calle de Mercado, 524-0211. Mexican: 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.

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.

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 CAFÉ 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 keftedes 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.

SEREFINO’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 CAFÉ, 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, 1800 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. Irish pub: L D.

VALLEY GRILL, 1970 N. Valley, 525-9000. American: B L D, Friday Fish Fry.

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

WOK-N-WORLD, 5192 E. Boutz, 526-0010. Chinese, 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

DINING GUIDE continued on next page

Alotta Words about ALOTTA GELATO



We will be CLOSED FOR VACATION during part of January. Be sure to call our answering machine or check our Facebook page for the days and hours we’ll be closed.

We’ve noticed that a lot of our customers are acting a bit sheepish lately— many of them are apologetic and embarrassed to admit that they crave our gelato even in the dead of winter. For those of you needing reassurance, now hear this: THERE’S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU— IT’S PERFECTLY OK TO EAT OUR WONDERFUL FROZEN TREATS ANYTIME! If you still feel a little funny being seen eating gelato on a wintry day, we have a solution: we will happily hand-pack a pint or quart container of the flavors of your choice and place it in a plain, unmarked bag for you to devour in the privacy of your own home with the shades discreetly drawn.

If you need to shake off the winter doldrums, we suggest one of our music CDs from local artists such as Melanie Zipin, Wally Lawder, or Brandon Perrault to name but a few, or wonderful World Music CDs from the Putumayo label. Also, we’d like to point out that gift certificates are available for all occasions, can be purchased in any amount, and can be used a little at a time to stretch the delicious experience throughout the year.

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 warm your insides when it’s chilly outside, and we also carry delicious dessert items such as Key Lime Bars, Raspberry Streusel Bars, Chocolate Chip Brownies, Triple Lemon Cheesecake, slices of flourless Chocolate Raspberry Torte, cookies, and big honkin’ wedges of triple-layer Carrot Cake!

Resolve to treat yourself right and enjoy the best gelato in the state! 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.**



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

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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.

Please call for reservations 575 538 2538

January 5th

Minestone Soup with lots of veggies homemade ravioli and beans served with herbed focacci with Tiramisu for dessert \$16.

January 12th

Real Tortilla Soup loaded with chicken with sunflower seeds, avocado, lime, Monterey Jack cheese, and tortilla strips served with Lynne’s signature bread and Mexican Rice Pudding for dessert \$16.

January 19th

Carrot Ginger Soup served with buckwheat oatmeal bread and pear-apple cobbler with real whipped cream for dessert \$16.

January 26th

Gumbo with chicken and sausage served with buttermilk biscuits and bread pudding with carmel-bourbon sauce for dessert \$16.

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

Happy New Year 2012



JANUARY
TAKE AWAY DINNERS
575-313-9005

Desserts will be offered ala carte for \$1.00-\$2.50.
Each night we will offer unique selections.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
January	2 January	3 January	4 January	5 January
				6
	Closed	Thru	January	9th
January	9 January	10 January	11 January	12 January
				13
No Take Away	Oven Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes and Gravy Vegetable Dinner Roll	Lasagna Tossed Salad Garlic Bread	Beef Stew with Vegetables & Potatoes Salad Dinner Roll	No Take Away
Open for Regular Catering Orders				Open for Regular Catering Orders
	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	
January	16 January	17 January	18 January	19 January
				20
No Take Away	Pork Roast Red Cabbage Salt Baked Potatoes Crusty Roll	Roast Beef Garlic Mashed Potatoes Gravy Green Beans Dinner Roll	Green Chile Chicken Enchiladas Pinto Beans Tossed Salad	No Take Away
Open for Regular Catering Orders				Open for Regular Catering Orders
	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	
January	23 January	24 January	25 January	26 January
				27
No Take Away	Chili Con Carne or White Chicken Taco Salad Corn Bread	Pork Chop Scalloped Potatoes Tossed Salad Dinner Roll	Chicken Pot Pie with Potatoes and Vegetables Tossed Salad	No Take Away
Open for Regular Catering Orders				Open for Regular Catering Orders
	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	
January	30 January	31 January	February 1	February 2
				3
No Take Away	Meatloaf Baked Potato Broccoli Dinner Roll	Chicken and Rice Green Beans Dinner Roll	Ham Baked Potato- Sweet or White Tossed Salad	No Take Away
Open for Regular Catering Orders				Open for Regular Catering Orders
	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	

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.



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Table Talk

Time flies when you're serving great food: Silver City's **Shevek & Co.** restaurant will be celebrating its 11th anniversary in 2012. Diners can enter to win anniversary drawings that will be held twice a month throughout the year. This month, the restaurant will be closed Jan. 3-12, then features "Mezze Madness" on Friday, Jan. 27, a six-course Middle Eastern extravaganza with matching wines (reservations required). 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168, silver-eats.com.

A warming new option for winter at **Bear Mountain Lodge** is "Soup, Bread and Thou," Thursday night meals by the fireplace featuring hearty soup, artisanal bread and dessert, 5-6:30 p.m., \$16. Call ahead for reservations, 538-2538. 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road,, Silver City.

Las Cruces now have a new place to get their Chinese fast-food fix: **99 Express Chinese** has broken out the chopsticks at 1001 E. University Ave., former home of Five Brothers Chinese. Hours are 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. daily. 532-6868.

DINING GUIDE continued

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.

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, barbequed 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

In another Las Cruces eatery switcheroo, the one-time site of Lorenzo's Avanti is now home to **Lorena's Mexican Fast Food**. Hours are Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday-Saturday to 9:30 p.m., and Sunday to 8:30 p.m. 3901 E. Lohman Ave.

And the place that was briefly The Cake shop, at 2215 Missouri in Las Cruces, is now home to **Deli and Dogs**. It's all hot dogs and only hot dogs, but you've got 45 toppings to pick from. Hours are Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and Saturday to 2 p.m.

As promised in our September review, **La Posta** in Mesilla is now open early on weekends and holidays, serving breakfast 8 a.m.-11 a.m. 2410 Calle de Sam Albino, 524-3524.

Mexican food on the move: **Los Mariachis** plans to relocate from 2790 Avenida de Mesilla to a new spot on Motel Drive, near the county government center. 523-7058. And **El Tiburon Mariscos** seafood restaurant has opened a second location, this one serving traditional burrito-type fare, at 605 E. Lohman Ave. The new **El Tiburon Mexican Restaurant** will be open Sunday-Wednesday 9 a.m.-10 p.m. and Thursday-Saturday to 2 a.m. 541-5003. 🌮

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. Home-style: B 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. Italian: D (Tues., Sat.).

Other Catron County

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. 🌮

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40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going on in January
Plus a look ahead into early February.

JANUARY SUNDAY
NEW YEAR'S DAY
1 Silver City/Grant County
AMOS TORRES—Sunday morning music. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.
DANE DEXTER—Soft Sunday breakfast music. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Vicki's Eatery, 315 W. Texas St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
NMSU AGGIE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. SHAW—3 p.m. \$5-\$20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.
BLACKTHORN—Through Jan. 5. Mateo Gil's elegiac Western takes as its starting point the idea that Butch Cassidy (Sam Shepard) survived, took up the name James Blackthorn, and lived in Bolivia for years. In fact, at the opening of the film he's already at a quite advanced age for the era (he looks to be well into his sixties). This won't be a film about a young hero; it will be about an old man trying to stay alive and get home. In English/Spanish, with 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.
POPCORN BOWL II—Special screening of the classic 1969 film, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, which was partially shot in New Mexico. 11 a.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

TUESDAY
3 Silver City/Grant County
SPINNING TUESDAYS—Tuesdays in January. Beginning spinners will learn fiber preparation, different spinning techniques, and how to make yarn. More experienced spinners will learn to make a consistently even yarn. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BOOK OVERSTOCK SALE—Through Jan. 7. Hardcover mystery and fiction. Tu.-Fri 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Books two for \$1. Books & More, inside Branigan Library, 596-0264.
TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN AND WINTER FERAL CAT CARE—Feral cat care, Joe Miele. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY
4 Silver City/Grant County
BARB & JOE—Buckhorn Saloon,

Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.
Las Cruces/Mesilla
BALANCED LIVING BOOKCLUB—Siddiq Shabazz. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY
5 Silver City/Grant County
KNITTING THURSDAYS—Thursdays in January. These informal sessions provide beginning knitting instruction or help with your ongoing knitting projects. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
EVERETT HOWL AND THE WOLVES—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
OUR RELUCTANT PRESIDENT—Dale Liikala of Ohio will portray President William Howard Taft in a Chautauqua performance in the museum's theater. 7-8 p.m. \$2. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.
PSYCHIC READINGS AND ENERGETIC HEALINGS—Reiki Master and Reverend Dawn Cheney. 12-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

FRIDAY
NEW MEXICO STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL
6 Silver City/Grant County
CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY CAKE AND SILENT AUCTION—4-7 p.m. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, www.silcotheater.com.

CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY PARTY—Results of the Centennial Birthday Cake contest. 5:30-6 p.m. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, www.silcotheater.com.
FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN—Statehood day celebration. Brandon Perrault and Rhythm Music. Downtown Silver City, www.SilverCityMainStreet.com.
LEGO MINDSTORM—3:30-5 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.
RODNEY HENDERSON & THE ROAD-RUNNERS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.
SILENT FILMS FROM 1912—7:15 p.m. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, www.silcotheater.com.
TUCK—Randy Carr presents

excerpts from his one-man play about Dan Tucker, Chief Deputy Sheriff for Grant County from 1877-1888. 3 and 6:30 p.m. Seedboat Gallery, 214 W. Yankie St., seedboatgallery.com.
VOICES OF NEW MEXICO—Kick-off event for the Student Centennial Reading Project essay and illustration contest. 4-5:30 p.m. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, www.silcotheater.com.
WALLY LAWDER—Coffee house concert. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.
WNMU CAMPUS HISTORY—Refreshments and a short program. 2-5 p.m. WNMU Campus Museum, 534-4750.
WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL vs. ADAMS STATE COLLEGE—7:30 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.
WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL vs. ADAMS STATE COLLEGE—5:30 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.
AUDUBON FIELD TRIP—Gila Bird Area and Bill Evans Lake. Meet 8 a.m. WNMU Fine Arts Center parking lot. 388-4210.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
CENTENNIAL LUNCHEON—A special fund-raising luncheon will follow the re-enactment of the statehood proclamation signing at the museum. 12:15-1:30 p.m. \$25. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.
BOBBY JOHNSON—Exhibit through Jan. 31. Artist Reception. 5-7 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.
DOWNTOWN RAMBLE—Do the Main Street Downtown Ramble through galleries, shops, businesses and restaurants. Enjoy art openings, exhibits, music, entertainment, open mic opportunities, shopping, refreshments and more. 5-7 p.m. Free. Downtown Mall, 523-2950.
ENCHANTED VISIONS OF NEW MEXICO—Exhibit through Jan. 28. Quilts that highlight events and memories of the first 100 years of New Mexico statehood. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.
EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY: NEW MEXICO BECOMING A STATE—On Jan. 6, 100 years ago, President William Howard Taft met with a delegation of New Mexico residents and signed the proclamation making New Mexico the 47th state, ending a 62-year-long wait.

Featuring professional actor Dale Liikala of Ohio as President Taft, the museum's living history program presents a dramatic re-enactment of this event—100 years to the minute after the actual event in Washington, DC. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

HOWLING COYOTE COFFEEHOUSE AND OPEN MIC—7-9 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

LITERARY OPEN MIC—An open mic for poets and storytellers. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

MARGIN CALL—Through Jan. 12. As a last-ditch act of loyalty, a downsized risk-management executive (Stanley Tucci) hands the program he was working on to one of his analysts, a young sharpie played by Zachary Quinto. What he learns is that the company's leverage has veered out of orbit: The bundling of mortgages with no value has caught up with it. He delivers the bad

news, and the company's leaders then spend one long night trying to figure out what to do. The plan that emerges is dastardly: The only way to save their financial skins—never mind anyone else's—is to dump their now-worthless holdings onto an unknowing market, as each of them pockets millions and walks away. 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.

THE CENTENNIAL BALL—Hosted by the Amador Museum Foundation. Amador Hotel, 522-1332, amadormuseumfoundation.org

Deming
TRASH BARREL PAINTING CONTEST—5 p.m. Luna County Courthouse, 700 S. Silver, 546-0494.

SATURDAY
7 Silver City/Grant County
BROTHER—Staged play reading. For mature audiences. 2-3 p.m. Silver City

EVENTS continued on page 51




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.

January Shows

Jan 1	Popcorn Bowl II—begins at 11AM featuring <i>Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid</i> (1969, partially shot in New Mexico!) Followed at 2.30 by <i>Blackthorn</i> (2011)
Jan 7	<i>Coyote County Loser</i> (2009, made in New Mexico, with special guest, director, Jacob Roebuck)
Jan 14	Made in New Mexico- <i>The Good, the Bad, and the Curious –Non Westerns, Part 2.</i> (2012)
Jan 21	<i>Leon: The Professional</i> (1994, rated R for strong violence)
Jan 28	<i>Strangers in Good Company</i> (2000)

For more information call 575-524-8287 • www.mesillavalleyfilm.org



JANUARY FILMS

Jan 6-12	<i>Margin Call</i> (Stanley Tucci and Zachary Quinto)
Jan 13-19	<i>The Mill and the Cross</i> (Poland, in Spanish and English, with subtitles.)
Jan 20-26	<i>The Women on the 6th Floor</i> (French and Spanish, with English subtitles.)
Jan 27-Feb 2	<i>Le Havre</i> (French with English subtitles.)

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THE HISTORIC SILCO THEATER

◆ **Fri, Jan 6** *Statehood Day Celebration.* Free birthday cake and silent auction of cake contest winners 4-7 pm. Centennial Birthday Party 5:30-6 pm. 1912 Silent films 7:15 pm.

For other statehood activities downtown, see SilverCityMainStreet.com

◆ **Jan 20-21** *Growing the Entrepreneurial Spirit workshop.* Friday 1-4 pm and Saturday 9-4 pm. More information and free registration at SilverCityMainStreet.com

◆ **Wed, Jan 25** *Progressive Voters Alliance of Grant County* monthly meeting. 7 pm.

◆ **Sat, Jan 28** *Wild & Scenic Film Festival.* Gila Conservation Coalition. Kids' Program with films, activities and healthy snacks, 2pm, \$5 admission/ family. Wild & Scenic Film Fest with speakers, raffle, refreshments and more, 6:30 pm, \$8 admission for non-GCC members, \$5 for GCC members, \$15 admission plus GCC membership. For more information on the program and links to film trailers, visit www.gilaconservation.org

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Photo courtesy of Tyrrell Hamblin

THE TO DO LIST

Events to ring in 2012

We ring in the New Year with an unusually busy January. Ordinarily the slowest month on the calendar, January 2012 has plenty to lure you out of hibernation.

Start with a new Friday night **Coffee House Concert Series** at Yankie Creek Coffee House in Silver City. Each informal concert will run from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and the series kicks off **Jan. 6** with Wally Lawder and continues through March 16. Don't forget that Yankie Creek and its nearby sibling, Vicki's, also offer music every Sunday morning. Check our complete events listings for performers.

Then on **Jan. 7 and 8**, the Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Lonnie Klein (see our December issue), will present its annual **Pops Concerts**. Both concerts will be held at the Las Cruces Convention Center, a new venue for the LCSO offering a casual, fun atmosphere. The concerts star Broadway performers Christiane Noll, Capathia Jenkins and Rob Evan with a theme of "Broadway Rocks!" and showcase music from rock-inspired Broadway hit musicals including *The Wiz*, *Hairspray*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *The Lion King* and *Tommy*. A 50-member local chorus will accompany the orchestra and Broadway artists.

The latest in the Mimbres Region Arts Council's Folk Series brings **Gregory Alan Isakov** to the Buckhorn Opera House on **Jan. 13**. Originally from Johannesburg, South Africa, Isakov shows influences of Leonard Cohen, Iron and Wine in his song-craft. He's been described as "strong, subtle, a lyrical genius" and has shared the stage with touring artists such as Calexico, Mumford & Sons, Fiona Apple, DeVotchka and Brandi Carlile. He has performed throughout the United States and Europe and appeared at numerous music festivals such as South By Southwest, Telluride Bluegrass Festival and Rocky Mountain Folks Fest. Isakov has toured solo and with his band "The Freight," and has released a quartet of albums: "This Empty Northern Hemisphere" (2009), "That Sea, The Gambler" (2007), "Songs for October" (2005) and "Rust Colored Stones" (2003).

The holidays aren't quite over, either: On **Jan. 14**, join the young students of the Conservatory of Dance in their annual **Nutcracker** production at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

On **Jan. 21**, the Grant County Community Concert Association brings **Intersection**, a trio of classical musicians, to the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. Intersection consists of pianist John Novacek, cellist Kristina Cooper and violinist Laura Frautschi. Novacek has performed with Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell and Leila Josefowicz, and has appeared as a featured performer on "The Tonight Show" and "Entertainment Tonight." He's performed at Wolf Trap, Summerfest La Jolly, the Mostly Mozart Festival at the Lincoln Center, and at the Seattle chamber Music Festival. Cooper has appeared with the Osaka Symphony, the Jerusalem Academy Chamber Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony, the Prague Chamber Orchestra and the Shanghai Symphony. She won the Walter M. Naumburg Chamber Music Award and has been featured on CNN, CBC Television and "60 Minutes." She plays on a 1786 William Forster cello. Frautschi is concertmaster of the New York City Opera Orchestra and has internationally toured as Concertmaster of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Note that tickets for the jointly sponsored December concert by the Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra performance that couldn't be used because of snow will be honored at this performance.



Randal Bays and Davey Mathias

You don't even need a ticket for the free Sunday afternoon Irish-music concert, **Jan. 29**, by **Randal Bays and Davey Mathias** at the Public Library in Silver City—but get there early, as space is limited. Irish fiddler Bays kicked off the library's House Concert Series in 2010 and is returning by popular demand, joined by guitarist Davey Mathias. Although Bays is an American, his 2005 release "House to House" (with Roger Landes) was selected by the *Irish Times* as one of the top five traditional recordings of the year. Mathias comes from a musical family in South Carolina, where he teaches guitar and banjo, plays with the group Corner House, and is co-director of the Redbird School of Irish Music.

This month is also busy because of the welcome return of the **Red Paint Powwow**, **Jan. 20-22**, after a hiatus in 2011. The 8th annual celebration of the area's Apache heritage, sponsored by the Red Paint Tribal Council, also returns to its original setting on the WNMU campus. Each day will feature an Indian Market. Friday features Apache social songs and dances, while both Saturday and Sunday spotlight gourd dancing, a handdrum contest and the traditional grand entry.

This year the powwow will be augmented by a Friday night concert, **Jan. 20**, on the theme of "**Winter Night's Count... We Remember the Stories.**" Performers will include Gabe Ayala, classical guitarist named "Native Artist of the Year"; singer Fred-die Kaydahzinne; storyteller Lauren Russell; flutist Orlando Secatero; singer Big Boy; flutist Allen Roy Paquin; and comedian Andrew Lacapa.

January wraps up with the **Wild & Scenic Film Festival** on **Jan. 28** at the Silco Theater in Silver City, sponsored by the Gila Conservation Coalition. The afternoon offers a special kids' program with films, activities and healthy snacks. Then the evening brings speakers, a raffle, refreshments and screenings of *Wild Water*, *1% of the Story*, *The Fishman*, *Incident at Tower 37* and *Slow the Flow*.



Intersection

EVENTS continued

Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway.

HISTORY OF THE RAILROADS IN GRANT COUNTY—In May 1883 the first steam engine arrived in Silver City, and since then the railroad has played an important role in both the mining industry and in the development of Grant County. Donald Beem, local historian and longtime railroad enthusiast, will give a program. 11 a.m. Public Library, 515 W. College Ave, 538-3672.

MAKE A LAMP—Form petals with handmade paper and create a flower lamp. 2-4 p.m. \$30, \$20 SWFAC members. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiber-artscollective.org.

THE STRING BEANS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

THREE SISTERS YUCCA MOSAIC CLASS—For children. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway.

WNMU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL VS. FORT LEWIS COLLEGE—5:30 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

WNMU MEN’S BASKETBALL VS. FORT LEWIS COLLEGE—7:30 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla NMSU AGGIE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL VS. BOISE STATE—6:30 p.m. \$5-\$20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

BIRDING TOUR—8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

BROADWAY ROCKS!—Through Jan. 8. Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra. Rock-inspired Broadway hit musicals including *The Wiz*, *Hairspray*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Lion King*, *Tommy* and many more performed by Christiane Noll, Rob Evan and Capathia. 7:30 p.m. Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., 646-3709, lascrucessymphony.com.

CENTENNIAL PARADE LAS CRUCES—Parade will mark the significant passage of 100 years of statehood for New Mexico. Passing through historic parts of Las Cruces will be cars, equipment, representations of people and events, and groups formed in each decade. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Main & Mesquite Sts., 525-1955.

COYOTE COUNTY LOSER—Made in New Mexico, with special guest, director Jacob Roebuck. In this oddly charming film independent film, Jack is on his way to Los Angeles to assume the mantle of a syndicated talk radio host heard by millions of listeners. Unfortunately, his car breaks down in the middle of the desert in Coyote County (actually Roswell). Rather than acting as though he is trapped in the middle of a virtual nowhere town, Jack employs his conversational skills and quickly makes friends, and one very feisty enemy. Soon he enters into a playful battle of wits with a DJ who dishes out relationship advice. Jack cooks up a contest that has the local losers competing for a date with Coyote County’s most eligible bachelorette. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

GRAVITY AND ORBITS—Saturday Science. Children will participate in demonstrations and build their own hovercraft. Registration required. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., 522-3120, museums.las-cruces.org.

RAYMOND SCOTT AND MUSIC OF THE AMERICAN SPACE AGE—Lecture. Dr. Jim Shearer, Regents Professor of Music at New Mexico State University, speaks on works influenced by the space age era. Part of the History Notes Lectures Series. 1 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

TY ELWIN—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

Deming

ROD ERICKSON—International yodeling champion. 2 p.m. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

SUNDAY

Silver City/Grant County

DAVID NELSON—Sunday morning music. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Yankee Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankee St.

ESTHER JAMISON—Soft Sunday breakfast music. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Vicki’s Eatery, 315 W. Texas St.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY JANUARY BOOK SALE—9 a.m.-1 p.m. FOL Bookstore, Market St.

THE OVERSOULS—Every Sunday in January. Music trio. 4 p.m. Diane’s Parlor.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BROADWAY ROCKS!—See Jan. 7.

3 p.m. Convention Center, 680 W. University Ave., 646-3709, lascrucessymphony.com.

SCENES FROM MOLIÈRE—Student showcase. 2:30 p.m. \$5. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

Deming

DPAT JAM SESSIONS—Every Sunday. Come out and dance, socialize and have a great time. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

MONDAY

Silver City/Grant County

CENTENNIAL BROWN BAG LUNCH—“Local, Regional and Binational Politics” with Dr. Magdaleno Manzanarez. 12 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE—Randy McGowan will talk about Cooks Peak. 11 a.m. \$10, includes lunch. Glad Tidings Church, 538-9344.

TUESDAY

Silver City/Grant County

COMMUNITY BULK SEED ORDERING—Combine seed orders from heirloom and organic seed companies for bulk order discounts. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Food Co-op, Community Room, 388-2343.

TEA PARTY PATRIOTS MEETING—6 p.m. Red Barn Family Steak House, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-3848.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

50s SOCIAL EVENING—Every other Tuesday. Enjoy an evening of conversation in an artful and relaxing environment with friends and future friends of similar age. 7-9 p.m. Cafe de Mesilla, 2501 Calle de Santiago.

CREATING A CHEMICAL-FREE HOME ENVIRONMENT—Wendy Robin. 6-7 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY—Fast Lane performs country and blues. 5:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

WEDNESDAY

Silver City/Grant County

GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY—Potluck and meeting. Bring a dish and a friend. 5:30 p.m. 3060 Hwy. 180.

PETER & MICHELLE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.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.

THURSDAY

Silver City/Grant County

COMMUNITY BULK SEED ORDERING—Combine seed orders from heirloom and organic seed companies for bulk order discounts. 12-1 p.m. Free. Silver City Food Co-op, Community Room, 388-2343.

GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—Potluck and meeting. 6 p.m. Senior Center, Victoria St., 534-1393.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

NMSU AGGIE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL VS. UTAH STATE—3 p.m. \$5-20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

NMSU AGGIE MEN’S BASKETBALL VS. UTAH STATE—7 p.m. \$5-\$20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

EAST MESA BAND—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

FRIDAY

Silver City/Grant County

GREGORY ALAN ISAKOV—Folk series. 7:30 p.m. \$20, \$15 MRAC members. Buckhorn Opera House, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com

GREEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—5:30 p.m. Isaac’s, Bullard and Broadway.

DOUG SNYDER—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

JONNY MAHAFFEY—Coffeeshouse concert. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Yankee Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankee St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

MIXED NUTZ—Opening reception. Artwork inspired by nuts, about nuts and general nuttiness. 6-9 p.m. Rokoko Art Gallery, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877, www.rokokart.com.

THE LAST PICTURE SHOW—Exhibition of the works of 64 artists from the Southern New Mexico/El Paso region. Opening reception. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Preston Contemporary Art, 1755 Avenida de Mercado, 523-8713, prestoncontemporaryart.com.

THE MILL AND THE CROSS—Through

Jan. 19. This film leverages the latest technology to bridge cinema with 16th century painting and the timeless rituals of daily life. There is scarcely any dialogue in director Lech Majewski’s explication of Pieter Bruegel’s painting, “The Way to Calvary.” But as Bruegel (Rutger Hauer) outlines to his patron (Michael York), the scene he envisions is teeming with drama. In 1564 Flanders, Spanish occupiers are persecuting the peasantry. Bruegel plans a canvas that equates the suffering of the populace to the passion of Christ. Majewski, using computer animation, re-creates the canvas with costumed actors. Then he burrows beneath the surface to show the cycle of life that wheeled them into the frame. On Jan. 14, Margaret Goehring, assistant professor of medieval and renaissance art history at NMSU, will be guest speaker. From Poland, in Spanish and English, with 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

Silver City/Grant County

NUTCRACKER—Annual performance of the holiday classic by young students at the Conservatory of Dance. 2 p.m. \$5, \$3 children under 11 and seniors over 65. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

RHYTHM MUSIC—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

TWELFTH NIGHT DANCE—Featuring the Mullany Family Band from Albuquerque’s East Mountain area, joined by Bayou Seco and the Fiddling Friends. A family-friendly dance with simple instructions for contradances, polkas, waltzes, two steps, etc. 7:30-10 p.m. \$8, \$3 12 and under. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 3845 N. Swan St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

NMSU AGGIE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL VS. IDAHO—3:30 p.m. \$5-\$20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

NMSU AGGIE MEN’S BASKETBALL VS. IDAHO—7 p.m. \$5-\$20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

ANNUAL MESILLA VALLEY BALLOON RALLY—Also Jan. 15. Over 90 unique and colorful balloons fill the skies over the Mesilla Valley. Food vendors and activities. 7 a.m. Free. Brown Farm Field, mvbr.com.

DAN LAMBERT—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

LE CHAT LUNATIQUE—7-9 p.m. \$10-\$15. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

NOSTALGIA CLUB ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLE SHOW—Through Jan. 15. Show and sale. Free appraisals. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$1.50. St. Genevieve’s Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave., 526-8624.

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE CURIOUS—The latest installment of film clips of movies that have been shot at least in part in New Mexico. This all-new compilation of 20 or so clips from years past starts with a recently rediscovered six-minute short comedy by silent film icon Mack Sennett filmed in Albuquerque in 1912. From there, we’ll revisit nearly all genres of films, with live narration by MVFS board member Jeff Berg. You’ll see: grass huts in Gallup, used as a location for an African-based film; Gene Barry chasing bad guys in Bandelier National Park; singer James Taylor in his one and only movie role. Special attention will be paid to some of the many “counterculture” films made here in the late 1960s and 1970s, with a nod to some of the rarely seen films shot in and around Las Cruces and smaller budget films shot around the state. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

SUNDAY

Silver City/Grant County

KEEGAN SEVERE—9:30-11:30 a.m. Yankee Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankee St.

PAUL SMITH—Soft Sunday breakfast busic. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Vicki’s Eatery, 315 W. Texas St.

ASTRONOMY SOCIETY—“How to Set Up an Observatory on a Shoestring.” New Celestron telescope door prize giveaway. 1 p.m. Free. Isaac’s, Bullard and Broadway.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

ANNUAL MESILLA VALLEY BALLOON RALLY—See. Jan. 14. 7:30 a.m. Free. Brown Farm Field, mvbr.com.

EVENTS continued on next page

BUCKHORN SALOON & OPERA HOUSE
January 2011

Mondays

Open Mic Night @ 7pm

Wednesdays

Saloon Spaghetti

Wed 4	Barb & Joe
Fri 6	Rodney Henderson & the Roadrunners
Sat 7	The String Beans
Wed 11	Peter & Michele
Fri 13	Doug Snyder
Sat 14	Rhythm Mystic
Wed 18	Peter & Michele with Barry Namm
Fri/Sat 20 & 21	Steve Reynolds
Wed 25	Wally Lawder
Fri 27	Kevin Pakulis
Sat 28	Baxtalo Beng with Alma Zazz!

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Thu 1/5 • Everett Howl & The Wolves

Sat 1/7 • Ty Elwin

Thu 1/12 • East Mesa Band

Sat 1/14 • Dan Lambert (El Paso)

Thu 1.19 • The Deming Fusiliers

Sat 1/21 • Gypsy Lumberjacks (Minneapolis)

Thu 1/26 • Dylan Charles (Bisbee, AZ)

Sat 1/28 • Bearmouth

Thu Feb 2 • Gal Holiday & The Honky Tonk Review (New Orleans)

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Centennial Events

New Mexico's once-in-a-century celebration fills Silver City and Las Cruces with history... and cake.

This month brings the sort of party we get to enjoy, oh, only every hundred years or so. On Friday, Jan. 6, New Mexico marks the centennial of achieving statehood in 1912. For a complete list of celebratory events, this month and all year long, see nmcentennial.org/events.

Locally, Silver City will celebrate with a Centennial Birthday Party downtown, where galleries will be open with special 100th birthday events. No birthday would be complete without cake, so there's a Centennial Birthday Cake Contest, with the winners announced and a silent auction for the goodies at the Silco Theater, 4-7 p.m. Literacy Alive, which will benefit from the auction, will present "Voices of New Mexico," the kick-off event for its Student Centennial Reading Project essay and illustration contest, 5-5:30 p.m. at the Silco.

At the Seedboat Center for the Arts, Randy Carr will present excerpts from his one-man play about Dan Tucker, chief deputy sheriff for Grant County from 1877 to 1888, 3-3:30 p.m. and 6:30-7 p.m.

Over at the Silver City Museum, children can enjoy "Lego Mindstorm" and fun with New Mexico's state symbols, 3:30-5 p.m. The WNMU Museum will present a talk by Cynthia Bettison at 3:30 p.m. on "Aspiration, Politics and Willpower: The People Behind the Formation of the Normal School in Silver City."

The Friday centennial activities wrap up with silent films from 1912 at the Silco at 7:15, followed by a dance with music by Brandon Perrault and Rhythm Mystic.

But the party's not over! Saturday, Jan. 7, the celebration continues with exhibits at both museums, themed events at downtown galleries, and a presentation on the history of railroads

in Grant County at the Public Library at 11 a.m. by Donald Beem. Then at 2 p.m. the Silver City Museum offers a staged play reading of *Brothel* (for mature audiences, in case you couldn't tell by the title).

On Monday, Jan. 9, the Museum Annex will host a centennial brownbag lunch with Magdaleno Manzanarez on "Local, Regional and Binational Politics."

The state's centennial activities in Las Cruces kick off at the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum on Thursday, Jan. 5, when Ohio actor Dale Liikala portrays President William Howard Taft in a Chautauqua performance at 7 p.m. "Our Reluctant President" introduces the audience to the only man in history who served as president and chief justice of the Supreme Court—and who signed New Mexico's statehood proclamation in 1912.

Then on Friday, the museum and Liikala will present a re-enactment of Taft signing the proclamation making New Mexico the 47th state. The event is called "Eyewitness to History: New Mexico Becomes a State" and begins at 11 a.m. in the Tortugas Gallery. Designed as a "time-travel" program, the presentation will have a news anchor and a reporter, along with a commentator (Dr. Jon Hunner of NMSU) set in 2012 reporting on the event, 100 years to the minute after it happened in the Oval Office at the White House. Local "actors" will portray the New Mexico delegates and cabinet secretaries who were present at the signing in 1912. The program is expected to last about an hour and is free to the public.

Immediately following Friday's re-enactment, Dr. Hunner will speak about New Mexico's long struggle to statehood during a luncheon at the museum, which will feature some 1912-style items on the menu.

The Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum also has two new exhibits that provide a look into New Mexico's first 100 years. "Land of Enchantment: Commemorating New Mexico's Centennial" features the largest collection of previous New Mexico statehood celebrations memorabilia (40th, 50th,



A worker at the New Mexico History Museum puts the finishing touches on the installation of a 47-star flag, America's official symbol from the time New Mexico became a state on Jan. 6, 1912, until Arizona became the 48th state on Feb. 14. (New Mexico History Museum photo)

60th and 75th). The exhibit also shows some of the highlights of New Mexico's first 100 years as a state and chronicles the almost-comical journey to become a state. "It's All Symbolic: The State Symbols of New Mexico" reviews the icons, images and emblems that help make New Mexico stand out. While there are numerous unofficial symbols, these are the 40 symbols officially adopted by the legislature.

Elsewhere in Las Cruces, the Branigan Cultural Center will feature "Enchanted Visions of New Mexico," through Jan. 28, a show of quilts that highlight events and memories of the first 100 years of New Mexico statehood.

Friday night, the Amador Museum Foundation will host a Centennial Ball at the Amador Hotel.

And on Saturday, Jan. 7, Las Cruces' centennial parade, passing through historic parts of the city, will feature cars, equipment, representations of people and events, and groups formed in each decade of New Mexico's 100 years of statehood. 🌵



President William Howard Taft at the Jan. 6, 1912, signing of the proclamation of New Mexico's statehood.

EVENTS continued

MAKING BUTTER—Kids' crafts. Parents must be present. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

NOSTALGIA CLUB ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLE SHOW—10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$1.50. St. Genevieve's Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave., 526-8624.

**MONDAY
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
Las Cruces / Mesilla
New Year, New You**—Learn how to improve your life in the New Year with herbs and supplements for a good night's rest, managing stress and maximizing daily energy. First of three-part series. 6-7 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**TUESDAY
Las Cruces / Mesilla
ARCHAEOLOGY ON THE MOON**—Dr. Beth O'Leary, cultural anthropologist at New Mexico State University will lead the discussion on the importance and difficulties of preserving historic sites on the moon and explore lunar archaeology and preserving the historic moon landing sites for future generations. 5:30 p.m. Museum of Natural History, 700 S. Telshor Blvd, 522-3372, museums.las-cruces.org.

EVENING WITH A DOCTOR—Dr. Elkins will focus on looking at today's health issues and information we don't all have access to. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**WEDNESDAY
Silver City/Grant County
PETER & MICHELLE WITH BARRY**

NAMM—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

WILL SIGN-UP SOCIAL—Become a WILL member and register for WILL courses and Institute for Foreign Language Study courses. 5:30 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.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.

LOSING WEIGHT THROUGH SENSIBLE NUTRITION AND EXERCISE—Rosa Lopez, registered dietitian. 12-1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

**THURSDAY
Las Cruces/Mesilla
KIRSTIN CHAVEZ SINGS!**—A one-woman concert of selections from various operas—*Carmen*, *Rigoletto*, *Barber of Seville* and more—sung by the international known mezzo-soprano. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

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—Informative store tour with health coach Connie Gahyl. 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THE ARTWORK OF LINDA HAGEN—Exhibit through April 1. Artist's reception. 6-8 p.m. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

THE DEMING FUSILIERS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

**FRIDAY
Silver City/Grant County
RED PAINT POWWOW**—Through Jan. 22. Come celebrate the lives, culture and heritage of the Chiricahua Apaches who live in southwest New Mexico. Enjoy daily dancing, cultural exhibits, vendors, music and more. Indian Market 9 a.m., performances begin at noon. \$5, students and teachers free. WNMU, 534-1379, www.redpaintpowwow.net.

WINTER NIGHT'S COUNT... WE REMEMBER THE STORIES—Red Paint Pow Wow concert. Indian market. 6:30 p.m. \$15. WNMU, 534-1379, www.redpaintpowwow.net.

ESTHER JAMISON—Coffeehouse concert. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Yankee Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankee St.

GROWING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT WORKSHOP—Also Jan. 21. 1-4 p.m. Free, registration recommended. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, www.silcotheater.com.

STEVE REYNOLDS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla
THE SISTERS ROSENWEIG**—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. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

THE WOMEN ON THE 6TH FLOOR—Through Jan. 26. Set in Paris in 1962, the film begins with husband and wife Jean-Louis (Fabrice Luchini) and Suzanne (Sandrine Kiberlain) perfectly content with their routine lives. He is a conservative stockbroker and she a

high-strung socialite. Unbeknown to them, half a dozen Spanish maids are living up on the sixth floor. Destined to bridge this gap is a newcomer with a sunny disposition named Maria. She is joining her aunt and seeking work just at the moment that Jean-Louis and Suzanne are looking to hire someone. Little by little, circumstances make Jean-Louis take notice of all these Spanish women on the sixth floor. Almost against his will, this dull man becomes fascinated by the expressive exuberance of these women and finds that nothing can remain the same after he lets them into his life. French and 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
Silver City/Grant County
GROWING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT WORKSHOP**—9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free, registration recommended. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, www.SilverCityMainStreet.com.

COLORADO MOON—Book signing by Jim Jones. 2 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP—For details see rollingstonegms.blogspot.com.

INTERSECTION—Think of Intersection as a classical piano trio—violin, cello and piano—on a journey. The group literally journeys the world, touring in Asia, Europe and the US, but they also present a varied program of repertoire from all parts of the world. Grant County Community Concert Association. 7:30 p.m. \$20. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre, www.gcconcerts.org.

WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY—5:30 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY—7:30 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

RED PAINT POW WOW—See Jan. 20. Through Jan. 22. Indian Market open 9 a.m., gourd dancing 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., grand entry 1 and 7:30 p.m., hand drum contest. \$10, \$5 children, seniors. WNMU, 534-1379, www.redpaintpowwow.net.

STEVE REYNOLDS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

TILE-MAKING CLASS—Make tiles from a 16"-by-20" clay slab. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$95 includes materials. Kate Brown Pottery & Tile Studio, Mimbres, 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com.

**Las Cruces/Mesilla
Co-op Rocks!**—Monthly concert and art show. 5-11 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

COOKIN' BREAKFAST—Mo and Caitlin. Scones. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

GYPSY LUMBERJACKS—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

HAFLA—Dance, music, and food with a classical Middle Eastern, African, American belly dance, tribal and Indian flair. 4-8 p.m. \$10. Grapevine Ballroom, 3900 W. Picacho, 644-4156.

LEON: THE PROFESSIONAL—As visually stylish as it is graphically violent, this thriller directed by Luc Besson concerns Mathilda (Natalie Portman), a 12-year-old girl living in New York City who has been exposed to the sordid side of life from an early age: Her fam-



Ron Scott and Classique present a benefit concert in support of the Candlelighters in the community, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre in Las Cruces.

ily lives in a slum and her abusive father works for drug dealers, cutting and storing dope. One day, she returns from an errand to discover that most of her family has been killed in a raid by corrupt DEA agents, led by the psychotic Stansfield (Gary Oldman). Mathilda takes refuge in the apartment of her secretive neighbor, Leon (Jean Reno), who takes her in with certain reluctance. She discovers that Leon is a professional assassin, working for Tony (Danny Aiello), a mob kingpin based in Little Italy. Mathilda makes a deal with Leon to become his protégé in exchange for work as a domestic servant, hoping to learn the hit man's trade and get revenge. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

REALISTIC ADVICE TO ASPIRING ACTORS—Among the topics presented will be the do's and don'ts of the industry, how to put together an impressive resume and photos, preparing for auditions and call backs, truth and realities of the current state of the working actor, necessary books and periodicals to help understand the business, how and when to procure an agent or manager, and other topics as an aspiring actor or parent of an aspiring actor. 2-4 p.m. \$20. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

THE BOWL OF LIFE—A workshop of transition and transformation. Carlos Aceves. 2-4 p.m. \$25. Cultural Center de Mesilla, 2231 Called de Parian.

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG—See Jan. 20. Through Feb. 5. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

TRAIL DEDICATION—Join park staff and volunteers to cut the ribbon dedicating the newly redesign Resaca Trail, complete with a self-guiding trail booklet. This newly redesigned trail will allow visitors to stroll the trail at their own pace, spotting and reading about various points of interest along the way. Also being dedicated is the new pond shade structure designed and constructed by Eagle Scout candidate Gavin Hill of Boy Scout Troop 484. 10 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

TREE AND SHRUB PRUNING DEMONSTRATION—Information about structure, buds and selection for pruning of many trees and shrubs. 2 p.m. \$7.50, free to members. Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-1886, gardens@zianet.com, nmenchantedgardens.com.

Deming
94TH CHAMBER ANNUAL EVENT—6-11 p.m. Learning Center, 2300 E. Pine.
KEITH LONGBOTHAM—2 p.m. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

Glenwood
GILA NATIONAL FOREST VOLUNTEER TRAIL PROJECT—Basic trail maintenance of cutting brush, logging-out downed trees and minor tread repair. Volunteers of all levels from beginner to veteran are welcome. Glenwood Ranger District, 539-2481.

SUNDAY
22 Silver City/Grant County
AMOS TORRES—Sunday morning music. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.
KEEGAN SEVERE—Soft Sunday breakfast music. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Vicki's Eatery, 315 W. Texas St.
RED PAINT POW WOW—See Jan. 20. Indian Market open 9 a.m., gourd dancing 11 a.m., contest powwow-grand entry 1 p.m., hand drum finals, awards and closing 6 p.m. \$10, \$5 children, seniors. WNMU, 534-1379, www.redpaintpowwow.net.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG—See Jan. 20. Through Feb. 5. 2:30 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.
WWE WORLD TOUR—See your fa-

vorite wrestler in action. 5 p.m. \$15-\$60. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

TUESDAY
24 Silver City/Grant County
TEA PARTY PATRIOTS MEETING—6 p.m. Red Barn Family Steak House, 708 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-3848.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
50s SOCIAL EVENING—Enjoy an evening of conversation in an artful and relaxing environment with friends and future friends of similar age. 7-9 p.m. Cafe de Mesilla, 2501 Calle de Santiago.
EVERY OTHER TUESDAY—Mariachi Real de Chihuahua. 5:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

RON SCOTT AND CLASSIQUE—Benefit concert for Candlelighters. 7 p.m. \$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

WEDNESDAY
25 Silver City/Grant County
BEEKEEPING AS A HOBBY—Travis Kirkland. WILL Lunch & Learn. Bring a lunch. 12-1 p.m. Free. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com.

PROGRESSIVE VOTERS ALLIANCE OF GRANT COUNTY—7 p.m. Silco Theatre.
WALLY LAWDER—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.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.
MEOW WOLF'S GLITTEROPOLIS—Exhibit through Feb. 18. Public talk about the group's values, methods and goals. 5:30 p.m. NMSU Health and Social Sciences Auditorium, nmsu.edu/artgal.

THURSDAY
26 Silver City/Grant County
ALICE IN WONDERLAND—Get-acquainted meeting for auditions for *Alice in Wonderland*, April 27-19. Theatre Group New Mexico. 6 p.m. WNMU Parotti Hall. 313-2373.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
NMSU AGGIES WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NEVADA—7 p.m. \$5-\$20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.
DYLAN CHARLES—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
PRESERVING OUR FOOD SOURCES—Dr. Lois Stanford. Find out about the contribution of native cultures to the work of plant breeders and in food technology. Dr. Stanford draws from the centers of origin and history of New World food plants including those from Peru, Mexico and the Amazon. 5:30 p.m. Museum of Natural History, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., 522-3372, museums.las-cruces.org.

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG—See Jan. 20. Through Feb. 5. 7 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

FRIDAY
27 Silver City/Grant County
DANE DEXTER AND EDIE STEED—Coffeehouse concert. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.

KEVIN PAKULIS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.
WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT COLORADO SPRINGS—5:30 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.
WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT COLORADO SPRINGS—7:30 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
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. The police find a container filled with them, and a young boy slips under their arms and runs away: Idrissa, from Gabon. The cops announce a manhunt. The film's hero, Marcel Marx, is fishing near a pier and sees the boy standing waist-deep in the water, hiding, and mutely appealing to him. He returns, leaves out some food and finds the food gone the next day. And so, with no plan in mind, Marcel becomes in charge of protecting the boy from arrest—and, ultimately, tries to find Idrissa's father in a refugee

camp and raise money to send the boy to join his mother in England. 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.

LOOK WHO'S DANCING—Technical judging. Competitors are competing for an additional trophy: people's choice. Community members get to buy votes. 7 p.m. \$10-\$15. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG—See Jan. 20. Through Feb. 5. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

SATURDAY
28 Silver City/Grant County
BAXTALO BENG WITH ALMA ZAZZ!—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL—Gila Conservation Coalition. Kids' program with films, activities and healthy snacks, 2 p.m., \$5 per family. Wild & Scenic Film Fest with speakers, raffle, refreshments and more, 6:30 p.m. Featured films: *Wild Water*, 1% of the Story, *The Fishman*, *Incident at Tower 37*, *Slow the Flow*. \$8 admission for non-GCC members, \$5 for GCC members, \$15 admission plus GCC membership. For more information on the program and links to film trailers, visit www.gilaconservation.org. Silco Theatre, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005.

WNMU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY-PUEBLO—7:30 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

WNMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY-PUEBLO—5:30 p.m. www.wnmumustangs.com.

SOCK DOLLS—Learn how to make sock dolls and creatures. 1-3 p.m. \$20, \$10 SWFAC members. The Common Thread, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733, www.fiberartscollective.org.

TWELVE HUNDRED MILES BY HORSE AND BURRO—Book signing with Harley Shaw. See this issue's Southwest Storylines. 2 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
NMSU AGGIES WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. LOUISIANA TECH—\$5-\$20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

BEARMOUTH—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

BECOMING A BIRDER SERIES—8:15 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

CLASSIC AND MODERN SUSHI—Internationally renowned Chef Tatsuo Miyazaki. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

PLUG INTO THE SUN—Positive Energy Solar. Solar energy seminar. 2-3 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

RIVER OF LIFE OR DEATH—Naturalist Richard Quick will discuss how the fish and other local wildlife are affected by the low water levels this winter. 10 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

ROSE PRUNING DEMONSTRATION—A properly pruned rose bush will produce more blossoms and be more resistant to pests and diseases. Learn to prune a variety of rose species. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$7.50, free to members. Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-1886, gardens@zianet.com, nmenchantedgardens.com.

SKY SAFARI—Nebulas in the night sky. The night begins with a short presentation about nebulas to familiarize participants with the topic and a hands-on project available for our youngest participants. Then, using high-powered telescopes and the expert guidance by the NMSU Astronomy Department, view these incredible star-forming crucibles. Bring your questions or your own telescope and join us as we explore the wonder of the night sky. 7 p.m. Tombaugh Observatory, NMSU Campus, 522-3120.

STRANGERS IN GOOD COMPANY—Seven long-lived Canadian women are on a sightseeing trip when their bus breaks down in an unpopulated rural area. They find shelter in an abandoned farmhouse, where they make the best of a bad situation by sharing the stories of their lives and talking about family, marriage, love, work, religion and death. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG—See Jan. 20. Through Feb. 5. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

SUNDAY
29 Silver City/Grant County
ESTHER JAMISON—Sunday morning music. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.
RANDAL BAYS AND DAVEY MATHIAS—Traditional Irish fiddle and finger-style guitar. 2 p.m. Free. Public Library, 515 W. College Ave, 538-3672.

THE DESERT LARKS—Soft Sunday breakfast music 9:30-11:30 a.m. Vicki's Eatery, 315 W. Texas St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
CICLOVIA HEALTH EVENT—Bike riding, walking, jogging, dancing, aerobics, gymnastics. Skates welcome. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG—See Jan. 20. Through Feb. 5. 2:30 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

TUESDAY
31 Hillsboro
ACOUSTIC IDOLON CONCERT—Celtic, World, Latin and folk music with a double-necked guitar and a cello. 7-9 p.m. \$5. Hillsboro Community Center, Eleonora St., 895-3300, maxyeh@windstream.net.

FEBRUARY
WEDNESDAY
1 Silver City/Grant County
WILL LUNCH & LEARN—"The First 180 Days of Transforming the Future Together." WNMU President Joseph Shepard. 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.

LOVE OF ART MONTH—Through Feb. 29. Many participating art galleries. See details in February Arts Exposure section. artformsnm.org.

THURSDAY
GROUNDHOG DAY
2 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.

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG—See Jan. 20. Through Feb. 5. 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—Coffeehouse concerts. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie 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. Celebrate at downtown restaurants and watch for special events and performances to be announced. Downtown Silver City, SilverCityMainStreet.com.

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
ARTFORMS—Exhibit through Feb. 29. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

DOWNTOWN RAMBLE—Do the Main Street Downtown Ramble through galleries, shops, businesses and restaurants. 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.

SHADOWLANDS—Through Feb. 19. A dramatic play about a crisis in the life of C.S. Lewis by William Nichol-

son and directed by Patrick Payne. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. Las Cruces Community Theater, 313 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1200, www.lcctnm.org.

THE MANY FACES OF DOÑA ANA EXHIBIT—Through Feb. 25. Sculpture exhibit of artists who work in ceramic, French papier maché, aluminum, fiberglass and steel. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., 541-2154, www.las-cruces.org/museums.

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG—See Jan. 20. Through Feb. 5. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

SATURDAY
4 Silver City/Grant County
ALICE IN WONDERLAND—Also Feb. 5. Auditions for *Alice in Wonderland*, April 27-19. Theatre Group New Mexico. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. WNMU Parotti Hall. 313-2373.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
NMSU AGGIES MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. LOUISIANA TECH—7 p.m. \$5-\$20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

NMSU AGGIES WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NEVADA—Time TBA. \$5-\$20. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

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.

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.

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG—See Jan. 20. Through Feb. 5. 8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

SUNDAY
5 Silver City/Grant County
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. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.
ALICE IN WONDERLAND—Auditions for *Alice in Wonderland*, April 27-19. Theatre Group New Mexico. 12-5 p.m. WNMU Parotti Hall. 313-2373.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
CLASSICS FOUR—See Feb. 4. 3 p.m. \$35-\$45. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

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 ROSENSWEIG—See Jan. 20. 2:30 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

WEDNESDAY
8 Silver City/Grant County
FRUITFUL QUESTIONS: GENERATING WRITING—Half-day workshop with author Sharman Apt Russell, sponsored by WILL and the Southwest Festival of the Written Word. Registrations accepted beginning Jan. 9. \$50. Contact maryhotedt@aol.com to reserve your place.

WILL LUNCH & LEARN—"Navajo Weaving: Then, Now and in the Future." 12-1 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com.

THURSDAY
9 Silver City/Grant County
SUK-JUN KIM—Artist Lecture Series. 6:30 p.m. WNMU Parotti Hall, 538-2505. ☞

Send events info by the 20th of the month to: events@desertexposure.com, fax 534-4134, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062 or NEW—submit your event online at www.desertexposure.com/submitevents.


BEFORE YOU GO:
Note that events listings are subject to change and to human error! Please confirm all dates, times and locations.

Silver City's

STATEHOOD DAY
CELEBRATION


"TUCK"
A ONE MAN SHOW

JANUARY 6TH, 2012 AT THE SEEDBOAT PERFORMANCE SPACE
214 W. YANKIE ST. SILVER CITY, NM
30 MINUTE PERFORMANCES AT 3 PM & 6:30 PM




The Program: It is January 7, 1912. Silver City, like the rest of New Mexico, is still celebrating being admitted to the Union the previous day as the 47th state. An old timer named Dan Tucker has returned to Silver City for a visit. A reporter for the local paper, the Silver City Independent, learns Tucker is in town and asks to interview him about the "old days" when he was chief deputy sheriff. Tucker declines the interview, but agrees to talk to a small group of townspeople as a favor to Wayne Whitehill, the son of his old friend and boss, former Sheriff Harvey Whitehill.

The Background: In his eleven years in Grant County Dan Tucker was Chief Deputy Sheriff, Town Marshal in Silver City twice, Special Agent for Wells Fargo and for the Santa Fe Railroad, Deming Constable, and Deputy United States Marshal, often holding multiple offices at the same time. Tucker's adventures as a lawman are factual and well documented in newspapers and first person accounts. Tucker was the Chief Deputy Sheriff for Grant County in the New Mexico Territory from 1877 to 1898. He became one of the most feared, fearless and deadly lawmen of his time, credited with besting at least ten men in shootouts.



Visit www.SilverCityMainStreet.com for info on other Statehood Day events.

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Silver City's

STATEHOOD DAY
CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 2012





New Mexico Centennial Exhibits
9 am – 5 pm, Silver City Museum, 512 W Broadway

Children's Activities
Lego Mindstorm with the Silver City Public Library, and State Symbol activities. 5:30 – 5 pm, Silver City Museum, 512 W Broadway

WNMU Campus History Permanent Exhibit
with refreshments and presentation by Dr. Benson at 5:30 pm on "Aspiration, Politics, and Willpower: the People Behind the Formation of the Normal School in Silver City", 2 – 4:30 pm, WNMU Museum, 1000 W College

Downtown galleries open with special Centennial events

Birthday Cake and Silent Auction
Enjoy free birthday cake and bid to take home a winning cake from the Centennial Cake Contest. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Literacy Alive project, 4 – 7 pm, Silco Theater, 511 N Bolland

Enter the Centennial Birthday Cake Contest! Youth, Recreational, and Professional categories. Register at www.SilverCityMainStreet.com by Jan 2. Or call (575) 534-1700.

Literacy Alive presents "Voices of New Mexico"
the kick-off event for the Student Centennial Reading Project essay and illustration contest, 5 – 5:30 pm, Silco Theater, 511 N Bolland

Centennial Birthday Party
Community celebration of New Mexico's 100th birthday and recognition of the Centennial Cake Contest winners, 5:30 – 6 pm, Silco Theater, 511 N Bolland



"Tuck" Performances
Randy Carr presents excerpts from his one-man play about Dan Tucker, Chief Deputy Sheriff for Grant County from 1877 to 1888, 3 – 3:30 pm & 6:30-7 pm Seedboat Center for the Arts, 214 W Yankee

Silent Films from 1912
7:15 pm, Silco Theater, 511 N Bolland

Dance with Brandon Perrault and Rhythm Mystic
8 – 11 pm, Silco Theater, 511 N Bolland

The celebration continues on Saturday
with exhibits at the SC and WNMU Museums, themed events at downtown galleries, and a presentation on the history of railroads in Grant County at the Silver City Library at 11 am.





Visit SilverCityMainStreet.com for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS



www.MimbresArts.org
575.538.2505
Silver City



Gregory Alan Isakov
January 13, 2012 ★ 7:30 pm
BUCKHORN OPERA HOUSE
\$20 Non-members/\$15 Members



The Ragbirds
February 3, 2012 ★ 7:30 pm
WNMU FINE ARTS CENTER THEATER
\$20 Non-members/\$15 Members

PERFORMANCE
SERIES



Chocolate Fantasia
February 11, 2012 ★ 12:00 - 4:00 pm
STROLL HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SILVER CITY
20 Gourmet Chocolates for \$20

SPECIAL
EVENTS



Town of Silver City Lodgers Tax

