

DESERT exposure



MLB umpire Doug Eddings, page 24



A sip of sotol, page 30

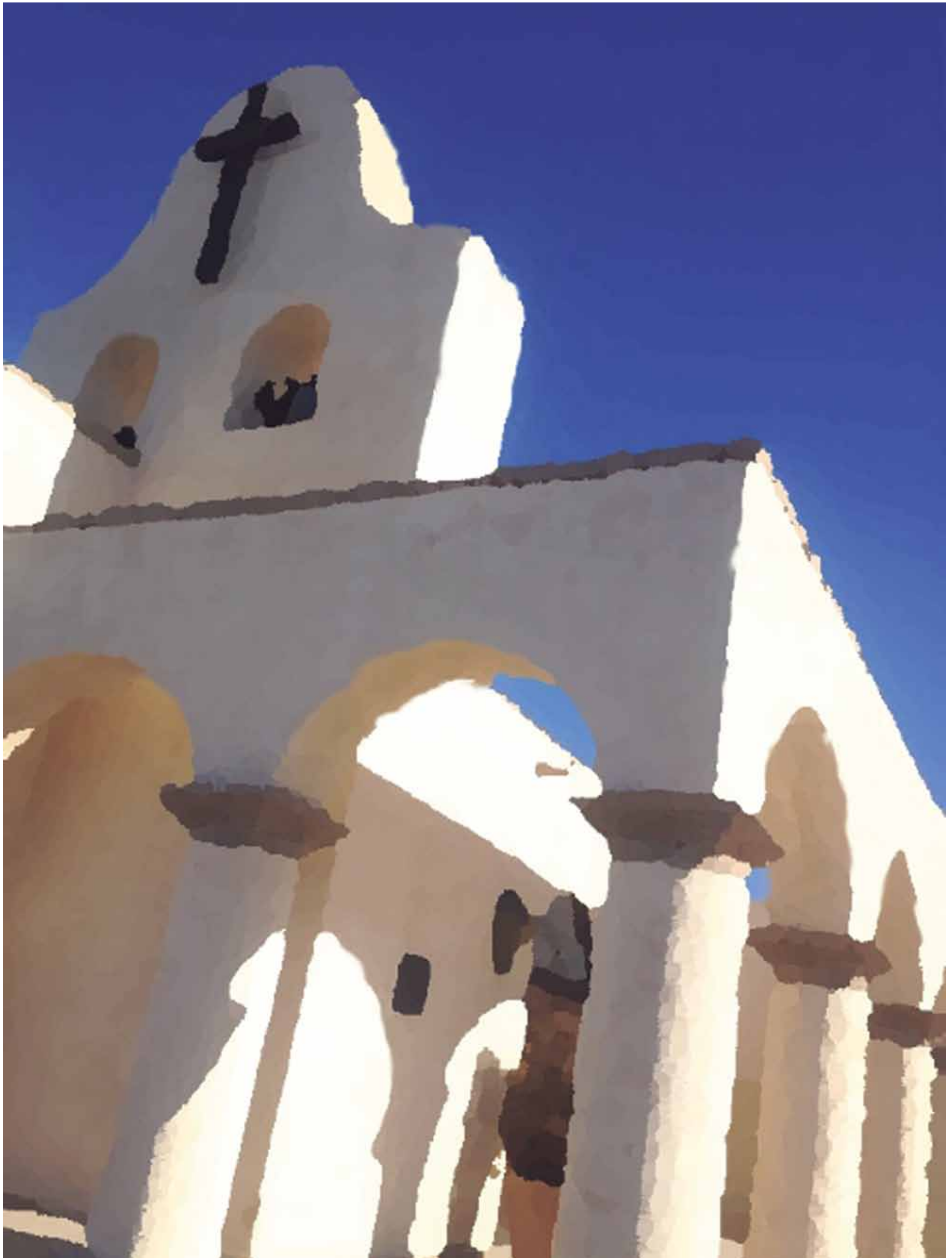


Ravens and crows, page 34

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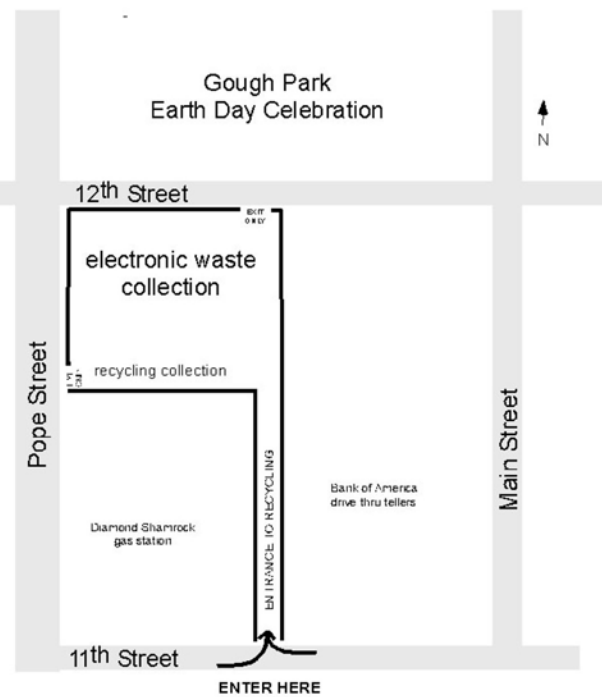
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About the cover: "Church Redux Oil" by Las Cruces artist and gallery owner **Mel Stone** was photographed with an iPhone and manipulated with free iPhone software. See this issue's Arts Exposure section to learn more. Stone's work can be seen at his Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502, www.mesquiteartgallery.com.

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Desert Exposure is published monthly and distributed free of charge at establishments throughout Southwestern New Mexico. Vol. XVI, number 4, April 2012. Mail subscriptions are \$18 for 6 issues, \$35 for 12 issues. Single copies by mail \$4. All contents copyright © 2012 Continental Divide Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without written permission. All rights to material by outside contributors revert to the author. Views expressed in articles, advertisements, graphics and/or photos appearing in *Desert Exposure* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or advertisers.

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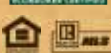
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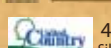
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Freeloaders for Fiscal Austerity

Red-state voters bite Uncle Sam's hand even as it feeds them.

If you live in Mississippi, besides having our sympathy, you can enjoy living a paradox: According to the Tax Foundation, in 2005 (the most recent year for which complete statistics are available), Mississippians received \$2.02 in federal money for every dollar they paid in taxes. Talk about a great return on your investment! The paradox comes in, however, when you compare Mississippi's wallowing in federal largesse with its voters' attitudes towards "big government" and federal spending: According to a Gallup survey, Mississippi ranks as the most conservative-voting state in the nation.

This irony was recently pointed out by "Incidental Economist" blogger Aaron Carroll of Indiana University. But Mississippi is hardly alone in being, as *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman put it, a bunch of "moochers against welfare": Combined, the top-10 "most conservative" states received 21.2% of their income in government transfers, while the 10 "most liberal" states averaged only 17.1%.

In case you're wondering who narrowly beat out Mississippi in scoring the most federal bang for the buck, of course you already can guess the answer: New Mexico, with \$2.03 coming in for every outgoing tax dollar to Uncle Sam. But at least we're consistent (a harsher observer might even say "less hypocritical"), ranking in the middle at number 23 on the conservative-liberal scale. Moreover, New Mexico went for Obama and is represented in Congress by four Democrats and only one Republican, our own Rep. Steve Pearce. (The next time Pearce rants against government spending, however, he might want to check his constituents' pocketbooks. Pipe down, Steve, we're making out like bandits here!)

After New Mexico, though, the states most hooked on what GOP presidential candidate Rick Santorum called "the narcotic of dependency" also tend to vote for those most vocal about putting America on a 12-step program. The rest of the top-10 states on the government teat, with only a few exceptions, reads like a who's who of red states: Mississippi, Alaska, Louisiana, West Virginia, North Dakota, Alabama, South Dakota, Kentucky and Virginia. Except for number-10 Virginia, all went for Sen. John McCain in 2008 in what was otherwise a heavily "blue" election.

It's not just this one statistical snapshot that portrays states biting the hand that feeds them. Research by Dartmouth political science professor Dean P. Lacy has similarly shown that support for anti-government GOP candidates has grown since 1980 in states where the federal government

spends more than it collects. The greater the dependence on everything from crop subsidies and housing assistance to Medicaid, according to the *New York Times*, the greater the tilt toward Republicans: "Conversely, states that pay more in taxes than they receive in benefits tend to support Democratic candidates. And Professor Lacy found that the pattern could not be explained by demographics or social issues."

Recent research by Cornell University political scientist Suzanne Mettler, author of the new book, *The Submerged State: How Invisible Government Policies Undermine American Democracy*, suggests a more charitable explanation than hypocrisy or ignorance for why folks dependent on government programs keep voting as if they weren't. (You could even argue

that these red-staters are voting against their own best interests.) Based on a survey of 1,400 Americans, Mettler concluded that many beneficiaries of New Deal and Great Society programs are confused about Uncle Sam's role in their economic lives.

According to Mettler, 44% of Social Security recipients, 43% of people get-

ting unemployment benefits and 40% of those on Medicare say they "have not used a government program." (That memorable "Keep the Government's Hands Off My Medicare" protest inevitably springs to mind.) Overall, until Mettler's survey starts rattling off a litany of 21 popular government benefits ranging from Medicaid to tax breaks, only 43% of all those surveyed say they'd ever used a government social program. By the time they've heard the whole list, though, 96% fess up.

Now, you might complain that certain programs, such as Social Security and Medicare, aren't really government benefits—you pay into them with every paycheck, after all. But most people will collect far more from Social Security and Medicare than they ever contribute (hence those programs' long-term funding worries). And those programs, like unemployment insurance and Medicaid, are legacies respectively of the New Deal and Great Society that politicians on the right vow to dismantle or "reform" into nonexistence.

Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, the House GOP budget chairman whose proposed fix for Medicare would turn it into a voucher program, characterizes the struggle against the programs red-state voters ironically depend upon as pitting "makers" against "takers." In a speech at the American Enterprise Institute, Ryan warned that the "takers" are winning: "The tipping point represents two dangers.

First, long-term economic decline as the number of makers diminishes [and] the number of takers grows.... Second, gradual moral-political decline as dependency and passivity weaken the nation's character."

There's some truth to that argument, and certainly the nation's politicians need to address the long-term balance sheet of federal benefit programs. But it's no small irony that those cheering Ryan the loudest are in fact the "takers." Perhaps before Ryan and his colleagues like Steve Pearce dismantle the social safety net, they need to take a hard look at who's really "taking" and who's "making."

In our corner of Pearce's Second District, for example, federal programs including



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Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, veterans' benefits, income support and unemployment benefits total far more than the national average of 17.6% of income. According to a county-by-county calculation by the *Times*, as of 2009 Grant County received \$10,520 per capita in federal benefits, totaling more than a third of all income (34.28%). Every county in our part of the state gets more than the national average from Uncle Sam, ranging from 24.57% in Doña Ana to 31.4% in Hidalgo, 34.79% in Catron and 36.17% in Luna County.

At least all those counties except Catron voted "blue" in the 2008 presidential election. It's ironic, though, that Catron County—renowned for its anti-government rhetoric—gets more than a third of its per capita income from Uncle Sam.

The rest of us can take some comfort in the fact that, unlike Mississippi, we know how important that New Deal and Great Society legacy is to our lives. Maybe our representative in Congress, though, should stop throwing in with those trying to undermine it.

Paging Officer Krupke

Downtown Silver City needs a crackdown on crime.

It may be just our perception, having never previously lived in a town this small, but Silver City has always struck us as having more police and sheriff's officers on traffic patrol than anyplace else we've ever driven. Some days we count as many as five or six law-enforcement vehicles on the street just on the five-mile drive to the post office and back. Not that we're complaining—there are certainly drivers on the road whose behavior merits ticketing.

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But such a visible traffic-enforcement presence does make it hard to understand why local police can't do more to deter crime in downtown Silver City. We realize that the Silver City Police Department employs only 24 uniformed officers and five plain-clothes officers, and that it's struggled in efforts to hire two additional officers. Whether the problem is lack of manpower or the allocation of the available resources, though, something needs to be done to protect the heart of Silver City.

Last month as we delivered bundles of *Desert Exposures* up and down Bullard and Broadway, we heard about a rash of recent crimes against downtown merchants. One location was actually burglarized twice. In just the first two months of 2012, downtown saw six burglaries or larcenies, plus two vehicle break-ins and a half-dozen instances of graffiti or property damage. Apparently that's not a sharp increase from past months—but it's still too much.

Downtown merchants complain that the police could be doing more. They'd like better communication—most hear about crimes only from other merchants—and an increase in foot patrols.

The police recently stepped up to help a volunteer group, Silver City Against Tags (an offshoot of the Silver City Neighborhood Alliance we covered in October 2011), tackle the spread of graffiti. "SCAT" and local businesses quickly painted over nearly two-dozen downtown graffiti "tags."

But community volunteers can only do so much. Downtown needs a similar concerted effort to crack down on crime. That demands an increased police presence—even if that means taking some officers out of their cars and sacrificing some traffic-ticket revenue. ☘

David A. Fryxell is editor and publisher of Desert Exposure.



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LETTERS

Movie Memories & More

Our readers write.

Bravo for Dino

Many thanks for the piece on *Rio Bravo* and the effects of time ("Spoiler Alert," Continental Divide, April). I first saw the movie at the Gila in 1959 in company with the characters usually named Rollo and J.F. in my comic articles, and we were thrilled. At the time and before Clint Eastwood, I think they shot off more rounds of ammunition in that flick than in any movie we had previously seen, which probably explains our enthusiasm. And that was the first time, too, that any of us had seen Angie Dickinson, and given the fact that we were seniors in high school, I have to imagine that little remains to be said. Alas, after several decades and after John Wayne played virtually the same character multiple times, the movie did not age well.

In 1958, by pure accident, the Western High School band happened to be in Tucson on a band trip, and we were taken out to Old Tucson while the movie was being filmed, something that the band director failed to mention. So we were merely walking around, taking in the sights around 3 p.m. when a black limousine came around a corner and began to move slowly past my particular group of five or six students. I have never forgotten that moment because the daughter of the college librarian, a very lively and intelligent girl, but a high school girl nevertheless, peered into the backseat, uttered a groan of disgust, screwed up her face and said: "Who is that filthy slob in the... DEAN MARTIN!" and virtually threw herself toward the car, which, fortunately for Dean Martin, breezed right by. Only later, when we all saw the movie, did it dawn on us that we had been in Old Tucson at the time *Rio Bravo* was being made and seen Dean returning to his hotel still costumed in the garb he had worn for dipping his hand into the spittoons.

Thanks again for a fine essay.

Phillip Parotti
Silver City

Well, pilgrim, I reckon I'll respond to the panning of *Rio Bravo*. The column misses the point a little—more target practice might be in order, pardner. *Rio Bravo*'s greatness is not its screenplay or acting; central to its success is its characters. It celebrates the Code of the West and doing the right thing.

In the climax, Dean Martin puts down the bottle and picks up a badge to saddle up with some sidekicks to come to the aid of John Wayne. Out of a sense of loyalty, justice and duty, these heroes take on the bad guys head-on, thereby saving the day and helping save the West. As in *Rio Bravo*, the courage to stand up for what is right is a value that is not dated or out of style.

What makes the movie a true classic is the true grit it portrays. Bravo for *Rio Bravo*.

Paul Hoylen, Jr.
Deming

Moneyball's Losers

Your "Moneyball" editorial (April) scratched the surface. Your experience was in publishing, which gave you other places to go, because you still had an "industry" intact. There are whole industries that were victimized and the victims had no industry left and therefore had to start all over again.

The way it worked was the "investor" milked all the cash out of each acquisition to repay the investment loan, and then sent the jobs to China. This drops the cost of the product to a fraction of the US cost. They then "buy" their product from the Chinese factory via an offshore money-laundering outfit. The Chinese factory sells it to an outfit based in, say, Singapore. It then resells it to the US company at a much higher price and it is imported

and sold at the same old US price. A huge increase in the profits, but since they are accumulated in the offshore outfit, they are tax free. This process was repeated until the whole industry is decimated.

The final step is to buy enough Congressmen to assure that this is legal and untaxed. If it were taxed, the funds might be used for unemployment pay or retraining the laid-off workers. That, of course, would be immoral, so instead the laid-off workers get hired at a part-time minimum wage job at the convenience store. And thus we get the jobs "created" by these geniuses.

Charles Clements
Las Cruces

Tourism Thoughts

I just read your editorial on tourism promotion for New Mexico (April). I can't believe people still think you need a passport to visit the state, and that some confuse Albuquerque and Acapulco. That's very sad.

Anyhow, if the state tourism department does anything, it's doubtful that Silver City, Las Cruces or anything south of I-40 will get much attention. Especially if the budget is only \$2 million.

I actually wonder how well advertising campaigns even work. It seems they might do well in something like *Sunset* magazine, but most of those readers are sophisticated enough to know about New Mexico without needing an ad to stimulate their interest.

I can't name a single person who went anywhere based on an ad. I know I never have. On the other hand, I have purposely sought out places profiled in newspapers and magazines.

This, to me, is where Silver City has a huge advantage. Silver City has much to offer that is unique and charming. We take every out-of-town guest there to visit and none has walked away disappointed.

I'm sure there are parallels for other activities and ventures in and around Silver City for what comes to my mind, but where I see a huge advantage in terms of publicity is the Silver City art market (granted, it's less abundant and interesting than what it was four or five years ago, but there is still a lot of creativity underway). There are many talented artists in Silver City who would garner publicity and photos if they would do a little marketing.

A popular magazine for collectors, gallery owners and artists is *Southwest Art*. Another one is *Western Art Collector*. I read these magazines religiously and the artists/art community of Silver City is rarely—if ever—covered. As you highlight in the editorial, what is more "Southwest" than Silver City? It isn't that the art in Silver City isn't worthy of coverage in these publications; rather, I question the extent to which the artists actually pitch themselves to these and similar publications.

As an avid collector, I know several artists who are doing quite well, independent of what we hear about the economy. While quality is certainly a part of this, the thing that sets many of them apart from artists who are struggling is their ability to market themselves, often with little or no cost. I'm not talking full-page ads in expensive magazines. Rather, I'm told that Facebook, news releases, quick notes to magazine editors, etc. command a lot of attention, which often generates buzz and sales.

If Silver City waits for ad dollars to stimulate tourism, it will be a long, slow process. If the townspeople can find a way of taking matters into their own hands, however, I believe there is a lot of potential. Good luck!

Christopher Alexander
Las Cruces and Rio Rancho

Let us hear from you! Write Desert Exposure Letters, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, fax 534-4134 or email letters@desertexposure.com. Letters are subject to editing for style and length (maximum 500 words, please), and must be in response to content that has appeared in our pages. Deadline for the next issue is the 18th of the month.

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DESERT DIARY

Engineers, Retirees and Crime Gone Wrong

Plus lions and bears, oh my!

Annals of jurisprudence... Since we have no blonde jokes this month, we have no choice but to pick on lawyers instead. Much as we advise offended blondes to substitute the hair hue of their choice, the attorneys out there are invited to change "lawyer" to whatever profession they prefer in this funny from the **Silver City Greek**:

"The United Way realized that it had never received a donation from the city's most successful lawyer. So a United Way volunteer pays the lawyer a visit in his lavish office. The volunteer opens the meeting by saying, 'Our research shows that even though your annual income is over \$2 million, you don't give a penny to charity. Wouldn't you like to give something back to your community through the United Way?'"

"The lawyer thinks for a minute and says, 'First, did your research also show you that my mother

is dying after a long, painful illness and she has huge medical bills that are far beyond her ability to pay?"

"Embarrassed, the United Way rep mumbles, 'Uh, no, I didn't know that.'"

"Secondly," says the lawyer, 'did it show that my brother, a dis-

abled veteran, is blind and confined to a wheelchair and is unable to support his wife and six children?"

"The stricken United Way rep begins to stammer an apology, but is cut off again: 'Thirdly, did your research also show you that my sister's husband died in a dreadful car accident, leaving her penniless with a mortgage and three children, one of whom is disabled and another who has learning disabilities requiring an array of private tutors?'"

"The humiliated United Way rep, completely beaten, says, 'I'm so sorry, I had no idea.'"

"And the lawyer says, 'So... if I didn't give any money to them, what the heck makes you think I'd give any to you?'"

Engineer this... Then we have the engineers, subject of a bit of humor a couple of issues back. That brought this impassioned defense from **Megapod**:

"Engineers are indeed different from regular folks. They are rational, for one thing, and clear-eyed about the world around them. For example, when a regular person might say, 'Where there's smoke, there's fire,' an engineer would note. 'Where there's smoke, there's incomplete combustion.' Or, instead of seeing a glass half-empty or half-full, an engineer would conclude that there was twice as much glass as needed for storing the available liquid."

Got you curious now? Here's another salvo from the **Packrat Out Back**, who submitted our original engineer joke:

"A priest, a doctor and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, 'What's with those guys? We must have been waiting for 15 minutes!'"

"The doctor chimed in, 'I don't know, but I've never seen such inept golf!'"

"The priest said, 'Here comes the greens-keeper. Let's have a word with him.' He said, 'Hello, George. What's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?'"

"The greens-keeper replied, 'Oh, yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime!'"

"The group fell silent for a moment. Then the priest said, 'That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight.' The doctor said, 'Good idea. I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist col-

league and see if there's anything she can do for them.'

"Finally the engineer said, 'Why can't they play at night?'"

Engineers or attorneys, blondes or bald guys, your jokes are welcome at diary@desertexposure.com.

Losing the battle of the sexes... Turning from the world of work to the gender wars, **The Santa Claran** shares this:

"Walking into the bar, Mike said to Charlie the bartender, 'Pour me a stiff one—just had another fight with the little woman.'"

"Oh yeah?" said Charlie, 'and how did this one end?'"

"When it was over,' Mike replied, 'she came to me on her hands and knees.'"

"Really?" said Charlie. 'Now that's a switch! What did she say?'"

"She said, 'Come out from under the bed, you little chicken!'"

You're only as old as you feel... New contributor **Farmor, the Swedish Grandma** passes along this Q&A with the title, "They Ask Why I Like Retirement!":

"Q. How many days in a week? A. Six Saturdays, one Sunday."

"Q. When is a retiree's bedtime? A. Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch."

"Q. How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb? A. Only one, but it might take all day."

"Q. What's the biggest gripe of retirees? A. There is not enough time to get everything done."

"Q. Why don't retirees mind being called 'seniors'? A. The term comes with a 10% discount."

"Q. Among retirees, what is considered formal attire? A. Tied shoes."

"Q. Why do retirees count pennies? A. They are the only ones who have the time."

"Q. What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire? A. 'NUTS!'"

"Q. Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage? A. They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there."

"Q. What do retirees call a long lunch? A. Normal."

"Q. What is the best way to describe retirement? A. The never-ending coffee break."

"Q. What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree? A. If you cut classes, no one calls your parents."

"Q. Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with? A. He is too polite to tell the whole truth."

"Q. What do you do all week? A. Monday through Friday, NOTHING. Saturday and Sunday, I rest."

While we're on the subject of aging, here's a slightly less upbeat take from **GeraldH**:

Postcards from the edge... Responding to our call to send in photos of yourself on vacation posing with "the biggest little paper in the Southwest" (and perhaps to make us a bit jealous, since this arrived in the midst of a Silver City snowstorm), **Deanna Mooney** writes: "My husband, John, and I spent two fantastic weeks in Tahiti, nearby islands and on the *Paul Gauguin*. This picture with *Desert Exposure* in hand was taken on Motu Mahana off the island of Taha'a. (A motu is a private island often used for a weekend getaway, etc.)"

Whether you're in Tahiti or T or C, snap a picture of yourself holding *Desert Exposure* and send it to PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062, or diary@desertexposure.com.



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"Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, 'How old was your husband?'"

"He was 98," she replied. "Two years older than me."

"So you're 96," the undertaker commented.

"She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?'"

C **Crime doesn't pay...** We welcome back **Toni in the Vet's Office**, who shares this supposedly true tale of crime gone wrong:

"When southern Florida resident Nathan Radlich's house was burglarized recently, thieves ignored his wide-screen plasma TV, his VCR, and even left his Rolex watch. What they did take, however, was a 'generic white cardboard box filled with a grayish-white powder.' (That's the way the police report described it.) A spokesman for the Fort Lauderdale police said that 'it looked similar to high-grade cocaine and they'd probably thought they'd hit the big time.' Later, Nathan stood in front of numerous TV cameras and pleaded with the burglars: 'Please return the cremated remains of my sister, Gertrude. She died three years ago.'

"The next morning, the bullet-riddled corpse of a local drug dealer known as Hoochie Pevens was found on Nathan's doorstep. The cardboard box was there, too; about half of Gertrude's ashes remained. Taped to the box was this note which said: 'Hoochie sold us the bogus blow, so we wasted Hoochie. Sorry we snorted your sister. No hard feelings. Have a nice day.'"

K **ids say the darnedest things...** Ah, the wisdom of the young. Take this lesson sent our way by **GeeRichard**:

"Whenever salesman Jim Smith comes home from a road trip he brings his little daughter a surprise. On this trip, when he arrives home, he gives the girl a box of animal crackers. A few minutes later, he finds the child sitting at the kitchen table with animal crackers all spread out. As he enters the room, he sees her reach into the box, pull out a tiger and say, 'Okay.'

"She reaches in the box again, pulls out an elephant, and says, 'Okay.' Next, she pulls out a kangaroo and again says, 'Okay.'

"Dad stops her and asks, 'Sweetheart, are you looking for a special animal?'"

"Yes, Daddy," she replies, 'I'm looking for the seal.'

"What's so special about the seal?" Dad asks.

"See?" she says, pointing to the box. 'It says not to eat if the seal is broken.'"

D **rive, he said...** We couldn't resist double-dipping from **The Santa Claran** this month when we read this one:

"The National Highway Safety Administration recently divulged they had 'covertly' funded a project with US automakers for the past five years, whereby the automakers were installing black-box voice recorders in four-wheel-drive pickup trucks and SUVs in an effort to determine, in fatal accidents, the circumstances in the last 15 seconds before the crash.

"They were surprised to find in 38 out of 50 states the recorded last words of drivers in 61.2 % of fatal crashes were, 'Oh, crap!' (or words to that effect).

"Only the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, southern Missouri and Texas were different, where 89.3 % of the final words were, 'Hold my beer, I'm gonna try somethin'.'"

D **o bears sit in the woods?...** Next, two yarns about, of all things, bears. Growl along with us as we share this one from **Fred in the Garage**:

"A man wakes up one morning in Montana to find a bear on his roof. So he looks in the Yellow Pages and, sure enough, there's an ad for 'Bear Removers.' He calls the number, and the bear remover says he'll be over quickly.

"The bear remover arrives, and gets out of his van. He's got a ladder, a baseball bat, a shotgun and a mean old pit bull. 'What are you going to do?' the homeowner asks.

"The bear remover replies, 'I'm going to put this

ladder up against the roof, then I'm going to go up there and knock the bear off the roof with this baseball bat. When the bear falls off, the pit bull is trained to grab his testicles and not let go. The bear will then be subdued enough for me to put him in the cage in the back of the van.'

"He hands the shotgun to the homeowner.

"What's the shotgun for?" asks the homeowner.

"If the bear knocks me off the roof, shoot the dog."

Then there's this one, also involving bears and firearms, from **Judge Hazard A. Guess**:

"What is the smallest caliber gun you can trust to protect yourself? The best answer: My personal favorite defense gun has always been a Beretta Jetfire in .22 short. I have carried it for many years including while hiking. I never leave without it.

"Of course the first rule when hiking in the wilderness is to use the 'Buddy System.' This means you NEVER hike alone; you bring a friend, companion or even an in-law because if something happens there is someone to go get help.

"I remember one time while hiking with my brother-in-law in northern Alberta, out of nowhere came this huge brown bear charging us and was she mad. We must have been near one of her cubs.

"Anyway, if I had not had my little Jetfire I would not be here today. Just one shot to my brother-in-law's kneecap and I was able to escape by just walking at a brisk pace.

"That's one of the best pistols in my collection..."

T **he greatest show on earth...** OK, so finally we do have a joke involving a blonde, but this one from **Ned Ludd** is not exactly the usual variety.

"A circus owner runs an ad for a lion tamer and two young people show up. One is a good-looking guy in his mid-20s and the other is a gorgeous blonde about the same age. The circus owner tells them, 'I'm not going to sugar-coat it. This is one ferocious lion. He ate my last tamer, so you both better be good or you're history. Here's your equipment—a chair, a whip and a gun. Who wants to try out first?'"

"The gorgeous girl says, 'I'll go first.' She walks past the chair, the whip and the gun and steps right into the lion's cage. The lion starts to snarl and pant and begins to charge her, so she throws open her coat, revealing her beautiful naked body. The lion stops dead in his tracks, sheepishly crawls up to her and starts licking her ankles. He continues to lick her calves, kisses them, and then rests his head at her feet.

"The circus owner's mouth is on the floor. He remarks, 'I've never seen a display like that in my life.' He then turns to the young man and asks, 'Can you top that?'"

"No problem," replies the young man. 'Just get that lion out of the way.' ❀

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



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The buzz about New Mexico around the planet (and beyond).

O Susana... The chatter about New Mexico Gov. **Susana Martinez** as a possible GOP vice-presidential pick—rising after the party's most prominent Hispanic, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, ruled himself out of contention—is being heard from some highly disparate places. In Beaumont, Texas, Martinez has a fan in Thomas Taschinger, opinions editor of *The Beaumont Enterprise* newspaper. Taschinger recently wrote of Martinez: "Not only could she help appeal to female voters, she's widely regarded as a rising star in GOP politics. She also could help Mitt [Romney] carry the Rocky Mountain states that used to be in the GOP's back



Martinez:
A potential *Game Changer* as VP?

pocket but are becoming toss-ups.

"I know what you're thinking: The last Republican presidential candidate picked a little-known female governor, and she turned out to be a flake. Don't worry. Martinez is a serious person who can stand up to the scrutiny."

More on the "rising star" front comes from David Issacharoff, "a 16-year-old high school student living in Jerusalem," who for some reason is a blogger for the Huffington Post (as you'll see, it's not for the young Israeli's way with words). Issacharoff recently opined: "There are few Republicans that can be named rising starts for their colossal rise. They are Marco Rubio, a Cuban-American representing Florida, a battleground state in the United States Senate, and Nikki Haley, an Indian-American woman who is the governor of South Carolina, Chris Christie, the tough, outspoken governor of New Jersey, Susana Martinez, the Latina governor of New Mexico, Bob McDonnell, the governor of Virginia, another battleground state, and Kristi Noem, the young, good-looking Representative from South Dakota, whose already landed herself a key leadership role in the republican majority. All those politicians above, were elected in the 2009-2010 election cycle, and they all can run for president for their background, gender, or importance of state that they govern or represent."

Martinez perhaps gets extra points because the Huffington Post blogger correctly spelled her tricky first name, which puts her one-up on New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell.

Endorsements from Beaumont, Texas, and a blogger too young to vote don't exactly equal a trip to Tampa yet. But the New Mexico governor might want to bone up, just in case, by watching HBO's *Game Change*, about Sarah Palin's 2008 veep adventure.



Playboy and Spaceport America: A match made in orbit? (Image: Thomas Tenery/Playboy Enterprises)

Launch pad... Could octogenarian Hugh Hefner and a bevy of his favorite bunnies one day be lifting off from **Spaceport America**? The March issue of *Playboy* magazine floats the idea of a Playboy Club in space, a "heaven-in-the-heavens" featuring a private "orbital pleasure dome." The imagined club was dreamed up in conjunction with the space tourism company Virgin Galactic, which plans to start shooting tourists into sub-orbital space at New Mexico's spaceport.

"As Virgin Galactic gets closer to becoming the world's first commercial space line, *Playboy* is eagerly pondering the creation of the ultimate

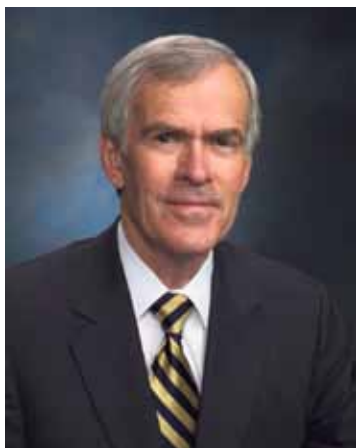
intergalactic entertainment destination," *Playboy* editorial director Jimmy Jellinek said in a statement. "This heaven-in-the-heavens will exceed starry-eyed travelers' wildest dreams, and guests will truly experience a party that's out of this world."

The Playboy Club plans include a zero-gravity dance club, a casino featuring "human roulette," a zero-gravity bungee-jumping facility, a restaurant for fine dining, and an "orbital pleasure dome."

Perhaps not coincidentally, Virgin Galactic founder **Richard Branson** recently succeeded in wresting back control of the triple-x domain version of his own name—RichardBranson.xxx. Such .xxx domains are meant as designations for X-rated content online.

Bye-bye, bipartisanship... Retiring New Mexico Sen. **Jeff Bingaman** is taking some parting shots that surprised the Politico website as well as some of his colleagues. The political website reported on how "the typically mild-mannered chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee let fly" at the ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit "at what he sees as the decline in civility when it comes to energy policy."

Bingaman told summit attendees, "Because of the heightened level of partisanship in energy over the last five years, we've seen an unraveling of what, up until recently, was a fairly strong bipartisan consensus on energy policy." Energy laws passed on a bipartisan basis over the past seven years are "now under sustained attack," he said, adding, "The bipartisan consensus on energy project financing has evaporated."



Bingaman: Not going to take it anymore.

Bingaman cited how efforts to extend production tax credits for wind power projects during the recent payroll tax cut extension negotiations were declared "not open for discussion by House leadership."

Nonetheless, Bingaman introduced a new bill designed to focus discussion on a "simple and

effective" clean-energy standard.

Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) told Politico he understood where Bingaman was coming from—but that he was also a bit taken aback by the New Mexican's statements. Coons commented, "Frankly, it was hard, at the end of his remarks, not to hear a certain heaviness in his heart as he recounted the very real progress that was made on bipartisan energy-efficiency standards, on lighting innovation, on financing vehicles, only to run into the buzz saw of partisanship between the chambers and between the parties."

Come on down...! Next month's national Libertarian Party convention in Las Vegas will determine whether former New Mexico Gov. **Gary Johnson** will be the party's standard-bearer this fall. In the run-up to the convention,



Johnson: Looking for the Libertarian nod in May.

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. Gov. Martinez' hairstylist flap, of all things, helps keep her on top in a slow news period. Meanwhile, we start tracking news mentions of New Mexico's mostly under-the-radar US Senate race, which could prove crucial to control of that half of Congress.

1. (1) **Gov. Susana Martinez**—522 hits (▼)
2. (2) **New Mexico drought**—392 hits (▲)
3. (7) **Virgin Galactic**—296 hits (▼)
4. (9) **New Mexico wildfires**—213 hits (▲)
5. (4) **Sen. Jeff Bingaman**—204 hits (▼)
6. (-) **New Mexico Senate race**—181 hits*
7. (6) **Ex-Gov. Gary Johnson + president**—148 hits (▼)
8. (-) **Sen. Tom Udall**—77 hits (▼)
9. (3) **Ex-Gov. Bill Richardson**—70 hits (▼)
10. (8) **New Mexico + Border Patrol**—61 hits (▼)



On Gary Johnson's veep list: Jennifer Aniston, Drew Carey?

Johnson—who aborted his run for the GOP presidential nomination to try as a Libertarian instead—has been making the rounds of state Libertarian gatherings. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* Political Insider columnist, Jim Galloway, caught up with Johnson en route to the Georgia state convention in Athens.

The always-controversial Johnson, best known for his

stance favoring marijuana legalization, weighed in on the recent controversy over contraception. "It occurs to me that contraception ultimately leads to less abortion," Johnson said. "You can't have it both ways. You can't have no contraception and no abortion, in my estimation. I would think that those that are pro-life would kind of embrace that notion. But they don't."

The newspaper also commented on how, should Johnson win the Libertarian nomination, his next goal would be to gain a spot in the three presidential debates scheduled for this fall: "To win a podium place, Johnson would have to have his name placed on statewide ballots from coast to coast—a task well within the capacity of the Libertarian movement. And he would have to place 15% or better in reputable national surveys."

That seems like a high bar, but Johnson claimed some polls are already showing him at 9% in trial heats against President Obama and GOP frontrunner Mitt Romney.

If he gets the nomination, Johnson would also have to pick a running mate—and here he's voiced some equally surprising ideas. He recently "teased" the *New York Daily News* by floating the name of actress Jennifer Aniston. Johnson said, "It's a fine line between gunning up attention, and getting someone who can hang in the vice presidential debate that goes along with the presidential debates."

A slightly more serious celebrity veep possibility, Johnson said, is Drew Carey, the comedian and host of TV's "The Price Is Right." The former New Mexico governor explained, "He's a Libertarian. I think he's capable of articulating the ideas."

Celebrity-watchers might also note that Carey has recently dropped a lot of weight—perhaps to

get in fighting trim for the campaign?

Strange bedfellows... Meanwhile, Johnson has picked up the support of political consultant Roger Stone, another regular contributor to the Huffington Post. In a recent online column, Stone wrote: "I have long considered myself a Libertarian Republican. I have written extensively about gay marriage as an issue of constitutionally required equality, the expensive and fruitless folly of the 'War on Drugs,' abortion rights, and individual liberty. On Feb. 13, 2012, I formally left the GOP to become a member of the Libertarian Party. I intend to support former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson as the Libertarian candidate for president.



Political consultant and blogger Roger Stone: Switching sides to support ex-New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson. (And no, this isn't the white-haired guy from "Mad Men." Really.)

"The American people have never been offered a candidate who is a fiscal conservative and social liberal. If you voted for the Republican because you favored spending and tax cuts you also had to swallow a ban on abortion and opposition to gay marriage. If you voted for the Democrat because you were pro-choice, you also had to support fiscal policies that would bankrupt us."

Stone, who also writes a blog, "The StoneZone," worked for the Reagan campaign and co-founded the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC). His blog boasts, "In 2000 Stone is credited with the hardball tactics which resulted in closing down the Miami-Dade presidential recount. Stone is credited in

HBO's recent movie, *Recount 2000*, with fomenting the so-called 'Brooks Brothers Riot' in which a Republican mob swarmed the recount demanding a shutdown while thousands of Cuban-Americans marched outside the courthouse demanding the same thing."

Stone has also chronicled men's fashion for the *New York Times* and the *Daily Caller*. His annual "Ten Best and Worst Dressed" list has been featured on the Huffington Post and the *New York Daily News* since 2009.

TUMBLE-WEEDS continued on next page



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TUMBLEWEEDS • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Santiago's Saga

Readers help resolve the mystery of what became of Geronimo's captive, Jimmy "Santiago" McKinn.

Regular readers, especially of Jerry Eagan's popular "Hiking Apacheria" series, will recall several mentions of the saga of Jimmy "Santiago" McKinn, Southwest New Mexico's most famous Indian captive. As Eagan recounted in our November 2006 issue:

"On Sept. 11, 1885, a boy named Jimmy 'Santiago' McKinn, who lived with his family in the lower Mimbres Valley, was abducted by Chiricahua Apaches led by Geronimo. His older brother Martin was killed. Accounts of Jimmy's age vary, but he was only about 11 or 12. Taking young captives was common practice in those days, and not only for the Apache;

nette Brown Duplechain, who lives in Houston, wrote us:

"Your article on the abduction and release of Santiago McKinn is well written and extensive. I am a first cousin (twice removed) of Santiago McKinn. I am related to him by his mother, Lucaria Abeyta. Your article states that you could not locate a death certificate for Santiago and that you believed he died in the 1950s. I have located the death certificate for Santiago McKinn and it is attached for your review. Santiago died in December of 1941 in Phoenix, Arizona. As you will note, the attached death certificate shows his parents' names and his wife's name as verification that this is Santiago McKinn who was captured by Geronimo."

The death certificate records that Santiago McKinn died of cardiovascular disease at 8 p.m. on Dec. 10, 1941—more than 56 years after his capture by Geronimo. He was buried on Dec. 13 at St. Francis Cemetery in Phoenix. The names of his parents, John McKinn and "Lucadia Abeyba" (spelling of names was a bit more haphazard back when), wife "Victoria Villaneuba" and son Peter all align with what's known about Jimmy/Santiago. Various birthdates (another thing our ancestors were less careful about) have been given for him, including on his 1918 draft registration (March 15, 1872), but the date here of March 31, 1875, is plausible. That would have made him not yet 10 when the Apaches captured him.

Remarkably, only a few days after the email with McKinn's death certificate attached hit our inbox, we heard from another of his relatives who'd read our story. Bernadette R. Diaz emailed from Phoenix with the news that her uncle, Pete McKinn II, had passed away there. Her uncle, she informed us, was the son of the Pete McKinn Sr. who had signed his father Santiago's death certificate in 1941, and who had died himself in 1986. Diaz added, "Santiago's youngest son Pete had 10 children, eight of those who lived until adulthood, and all eight now have children and grandchildren, and some even great-grandchildren."

Diaz, one of those granddaughters, also wrote about her great-grandfather Santiago's story: "All of us pass on this story and historical event to our children that sadly happened many years ago, and keep his memory alive still within our families, believe it or not.... It's amazing how his story, his many physical and behavioral traits, his determina-



Above: Santiago McKinn's grave marker at St. Francis Cemetery in Phoenix. (findagrave.com) Below: His 1941 death certificate.

tion, strong will, and his true 'fight' and strength continue to live in ALL of us, let me tell you.

"My mother, Pete Sr.'s second to the youngest daughter, has shared these stories, photos and many other accounts with my brothers and I since we were kids. We thought they were fables, actually, until our teenage years when we read them for



C.S. Fly's famous photograph shows Santiago McKinn front and center, at home with his Apache captors.

Mexicans were still taking captives as slaves or servants. For the Apache the practice was more about warrior replacement, with the boys raised as new warriors, the girls as maidens.

"What stands apart about the saga of Jimmy McKinn, however, is that not only was he later rescued by General George Crook, but that he didn't want to be rescued. Jimmy/Santiago had been 'fully Indianized,' according to Fletcher Lummis, a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* who accompanied Crook's troops: 'When told that he was to be taken back to his father and mother, Santiago began boo-hooing with great vigor. He said in Apache—for the little rascal has already become quite fluent in that language—that he didn't want to go back—he wanted to always stay with the Indians.'"

McKinn's story became well-known among Old West history buffs, and he was even photographed in full Apache garb by C.S. Fly, who visually chronicled Geronimo's surrender negotiations. What's less well-known, however, is the answer to a question posed in our 2006 article (available on our website at www.desertexposure.com/200611/200611_apacheria_mckinn_captive.html): "What happened to Jimmy McKinn after he disappeared from the view of the US Cavalry, headed back to a white civilization he no longer wanted any part of?"

Eagan chronicled much of the rest of McKinn's story, tracing the former Apache captive to Phoenix, where McKinn and wife Victoria raised a family. But our story noted one lingering mystery: "No death record can readily be found for Jim McKinn himself."

Now the mystery of the final fate of Geronimo's Mimbres captive has been solved, thanks to a reader and distant relative who spotted our original article online. Recently, An-

ourselves in historical trackings."

We responded by sending her a copy of the death certificate we'd recently received, as well as contact information for her distant cousin in Houston. The address given on the death certificate, 937 E. Monroe in Phoenix, turns out to be the house Diaz' mother grew up in. "Apparently Santiago and Victoria were living with my grandfather Pete and his family," she wrote in a followup email. "St. Francis Cemetery is the same cemetery where my grandfather Pete, his sister Josefina McKinn Brown, and many other McKinn relatives are buried as well, and this is also where we will lay down my uncle to rest." (We were subsequently able to locate an image of Santiago's headstone there online at findagrave.com.)

She added, "I am actually trying to put together a family tree of history for my three-year-old son, so that he has all of this information once he becomes a man himself later in life."

We're glad to have helped record the saga of that boy's great-great-grandfather, and to now be able to write the final chapter in the history of Jimmy "Santiago" McKinn.

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Fear Controls

Whether in the woods or at the gun store, don't be ruled by your fears.

It's amazing what fear can do to a person, or people, or to a society or even a given group of persons. The problem is, there are many special-interest groups out there that try to control you and me using fear.

There is a tried-and-true saying that I learned many years ago in the field of marketing a product. It says that if you tell someone something over and over and over, no matter how ludicrous or ridiculous it may be, they will come to believe it.

That also applies to the concept of instilling fear in someone: If you put the idea of fear into them and keep reinforcing it time and again, they will come to believe and accept what you say is to be feared.

As you know by now, I work in a gun store. Many hikers come in looking for a handgun to buy for the reason that they have been told that they should be afraid of bears and they need a gun to protect themselves. Most have never owned a gun of any sort before.

While bear attack might be a possibility in a remote instance, it is not a given when out in the woods. The exception might be a mama bear in the spring that has youngsters, but even then the possibility of attack is quite low. I know firsthand because I'm out in the woods virtually every spring for days on end hunting turkeys, and while I have come quite close to bears, none has attacked me.

I well remember the first bear that I ever came upon; it was springtime in Pennsylvania and I was on a bike. I came into a clearing on a two-track and there stood a large bear not 30 yards away. It had its back to me and was standing tall on its hind legs and feeding on a bush.

I stood there for several minutes both thrilled and scared to death at his presence, when it turned and saw me for the first time. I'll never forget the look on its face: Its eyes got big as saucers, then it turned and ran straight away like a huge bowling ball knocking over anything in its path!

Since then I've had many close encounters with Br'er Bruin and for the most part, their reaction is always the same: run, run, run!

I say for the most part, because there was one exception. A somewhat smaller bear of around 200 pounds was turning over rocks looking for dinner when I came upon him at a very close range of 30 yards or so.

We both stared at each other, and I'll never forget those small, hard, beady eyes as they peered back at me. He didn't move for what seemed like an eternity. After a while, he finally just turned and ignored me, going back to turning rocks over. But I still remember those eyes seeming to say, "I'm not in the least bit afraid of you!"

I do carry a gun on my person because of that bear and other isolated incidences—not out of fear but out of being prepared for anything.

People who think they need a gun for "bear medicine" out of fear, because someone else told them that's the case, need first to learn gun safety and know-how and develop confidence in their ability to use a firearm in a panic situation. For the most part, I think these novices would be better served with a can of powerful, bear-strength pepper spray!

Fear is beginning to be seen in another way in our society and it began to surface in late February: The guns and ammo distributors are predicting that guns and ammunition and reloading components for ammo will soon be in short supply and will stay that way for the coming year or more.

The reason? Both men and woman gun buyers are afraid of Obama being re-elected! They have begun to panic-buy guns and ammo. Already we at the store are having trouble buying certain semi-automatic rifles and almost any kind of a handgun. There is already a shortage. (That's not to say that many of these buyers have much confidence in a moderate Romney not doing the same to them if he were to be elected.)

I am not saying their fears are justified in thinking that Obama will do something; I am saying that their perspective is that he will do something. That is what panic buying is all about. They cannot base their attitude on recent history, because Obama hasn't done much in the way of gun control. But they fear that as a lame-duck president he will use executive powers to bring about gun control. Certain politicians and news stations and lobbyist groups have promoted and instilled that fear into the public, because they know that fear controls the masses!

Of course, they aren't the only ones doing this. On the other side of the aisle are news stations and politicians and special-interest groups promoting the idea that if all the citizens are armed, then there will be mass violence and killings of the innocent.

FBI statistics clearly show that is not the case, that just the opposite is true, but people have been fed the propaganda so long that it is believed, too. Fear controls!

As an aside, I just watched a new reality show and I was incredulous. It is about the growing movement by the public to build underground bunkers for fear that a cataclysm is soon coming. These folks are stocking them full with food and water for three to six months. Many of these bunkers are as big as my house and have all the furnishings. Why? Because many believe that we as a country are on the verge of anarchy.

And while there may be a whole lot of truth in this theory, what good will being afraid do? Six months later, when these "bunkerers" emerge, will anything be any better? I seriously doubt it.

I harken back to 1999. Remember when the fearmongers were telling us that the world economy would collapse in 2000? I bought into it, too. People were panic-buying then, storing up food, water and generators. Hmmmm, I wonder what happened to all of those things? I wonder who it was that started all of that fearmongering?

I do prepare for the unexpected, especially in the outdoors. I have drawn my gun more than once for protection, but I don't believe the boogie man/critter is around every bush. I refuse to allow fear to rule me; if I did, I wouldn't go anywhere or do much of anything.

A fearful "what-if" attitude is surely not a good quality for a person to have. That will only keep you indoors and hiding under the bed.

As for myself, I prefer to follow the adage given in the Good Book in Matthew, chapter 6, where Christ admonishes us to not worry about tomorrow, but to trust God to supply and care for me. You may scoff at me if you like, but I will put all of my eggs in that one basket. After all, the Almighty has done a pretty good job of it for these 67 years!

And if a rogue critter does happen my way? Well, I'll probably just, as a last resort, pull my old hogleg and give him some lead medicine to cure his errant ways!

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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Reining in Your Costs

Cost-saving ideas for the times that try a horse owner's soul (and wallet).

These are trying times for horse owners. I don't think a single day goes by where I don't hear a comment about the cost of feed, the 60%-plus increase in the cost of hay since last summer, the price of gas for our trucks, and the increases for every little item in your tack room. Whatever your budget was for your horse passion, it has probably been blown out of the water.

Sadly, there are so many forces that influence the cost of owning a horse that I don't think we'll ever see things roll back to where they were even a year ago. Between the long-range forecast for the climate here in the Southwest—hot, dry and getting worse on both fronts—and some basic Economics 101—supply and demand—the upward price pressure on the basics for good horse care will continue. Hay growers will keep fighting the weather and water challenges, and be tempted by more lucrative subsidies for other crops, so will have little incentive to lower prices. If you have managed to find some growers with better prices in moister areas of the country, as many around here have, demand and fuel costs will put upward price pressure on their products as well. And, no matter where you sit on the political scale, gas prices are being driven by international factors and growing demand elsewhere. Cheap gas is a thing of the past. Unfortunately, no one has designed a hybrid that will tow your horse trailer!

Another, more subtle factor is influencing the horse world as well. There was a time when it was relatively easy to downsize your herd if you needed to adjust your budget. Horses were almost a "liquid asset," as there was consistent demand from potential buyers. Today's reality is much different. A large part of the horse business over the past 20 years or so has been driven by the Baby Boom generation—an enormous population with the resources, time and energy to indulge themselves, their children, or their childhood fantasies of owning a horse and riding the range. This demand led to an explosion of breeding, equipment design and manufacturing, the increased value of ranch properties, sales of machinery, and everything else associated with horses.

But guess what? The boomers are getting into their 60s and beyond. Riding might not be as comfortable as it was even a few years ago as knees, hips and backs start to hurt. The daily work of owning and maintaining horses and a horse property for "fun" gets a little harder. Retirement funds, pensions and property values have all taken hits, so the cost of your hobby takes a greater proportion of your income every month. When it takes \$100 or more to fill up your truck to haul the ponies somewhere, you find you ride a little less. Then you realize if you're 65 and riding a 10-year-old horse, the horse will probably live longer than you will—how do you prepare for that? The fact that there are estimated to be 200,000 or more unwanted horses out there, most for financial reasons, is proof we have hit a painful intersection of an aging population, falling demand for horses and a changing economy.

I talked with a couple the other day who fit this profile exactly. Retired, moved here, bought a nice property, set it up for horses, bought a couple of sensible horses given their experience. This was a lifelong dream. Now their comment is, "We had no idea it would be this expensive, require this much work and time, and at the end of the day leave so little time and energy to actually ride the horses. The condo on the golf course with an ATV that doesn't eat and need constant attention sounds pretty good now!"

We're all in this together, and I believe that most horse owners want to do right by their animals and will do almost anything to keep them as part of their families. Given that, here are a few thoughts on ways to cut or control budgets for the major expenses of feed, gas and vets:

Feed by weight and not volume. A horse should get about 2% of his body weight in forage per day. That's 20 pounds for a 1,000-pound horse. Most people feed their horses by volume, a leaf or two twice per day. But how much does a leaf

weigh? I've had them vary by two to three pounds, so feeding by volume—a leaf—could be too much or too little for the health of the horse. To save a lot on waste and feed at healthy levels, set up a simple scale and weigh out the desired daily ration. I have a hanging fish scale in my barn (digital from Wal-Mart, very cheap) with a laundry bucket and rope, and weigh the hay for each horse. I get almost an extra feed per day out of each bale and very little waste taking this step, and I know each horse is getting the correct amount.

Consider a slow feeder. A lot of articles have been written recently about slow feeders—from the very elaborate to the make-it-yourself style. The concept is simple: slow the rate of eating and keep the hay confined, for less waste and a horse that is chewing for a longer period, a more natural way to eat. On the waste alone, I know people who have cut their hay usage by 25% using slow feeders.

Feed for what you actually do with your horse. Any good vet or horse nutritionist will tell you that the average recreational horse—meaning a horse ridden two to three times per week, two to three hours per ride and mostly at the walk—should get 100% of its nutrition from forage. A horse used in this way needs no grain, sweet feeds or concentrates, as it's expending no more energy than a horse just walking in a pasture. If this fits your riding profile, then you should be able to save by cutting back on or eliminating extra feed. Obviously, this equation changes for more active horses, but if you want to cut something, cut the grains and concentrates but not the forage. The forage is essential for good health; the grains aren't.

Feed for what you're going to do, not for what you've done. If you know you'll be taking a longer ride on the weekend, increase the feed a day or two before. You don't need to do it after the ride as well.

Consider adding some beet pulp. It provides almost as much energy as oats but provides more fiber and it digests like hay, all good things for a horse. A good ratio to use is one pound of beet pulp (dry weight before hydration) equals two pounds of hay. Although it would be safe to replace up to 40% of a horse's daily hay with beet pulp, most people simply add a pound or two to the diet. At roughly \$20 for a 50-pound bag, beet pulp can replace your grains and stretch each bale of hay a bit.

Learn to do things with your horse other than ride. I find that as gas gets more expensive, people ride less because of the cost of hauling. The horse just sits around, loses conditioning, then gets ridden too hard for the level of conditioning and gets hurt. Now you have a vet expense. There are a million things you can do with your horse without riding or leaving your property, and you still need to find time to keep your horse fit. This doesn't mean aimlessly running the horse around in a round pen, but learning to do some fun things that you both enjoy. Don't let dollars stand in the way of playing with your horse, even if you can't haul off for a trail ride. Regular, moderate and varied exercise is good for us and for our horses, and there is no better way to control emergency or injury calls to the vet.

Things are tight for all of us these days, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy your horses and still keep them healthy and happy while trying to manage the cost. A little creativity, a little knowledge and some careful resource management go a long way with horses, and will help keep them an important part of your life—and, just as important, not add to that enormous number of unwanted horses. 🌿

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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ARTS EXPOSURE

Arts Scene
The latest area art happenings.

Silver City & Grant County

Seedboat Gallery is now featuring oils by Jean Bohlender, our January 2008 cover artist, and jewelry by Larry McLellan of Quail Ridge Studio. New extended gallery hours are 11 a.m. to "6-ish." 214 W. Yankie St., 534-1136, seedboatgallery.com.

Ginny Wolf Studio and Gallery is featuring batik T-shirts by Sheilah Grebe. 108 W. Yankie St., 313-5709, www.ginnywolf.wordpress.com.

Raven's Nest Boutique is spotlighting pottery by Lucinda, a North Carolina potter. 106 W. Yankie St.

JW Art Gallery in Hurley will have a reception April 15, 2-5 p.m., for *Poems2*, a handmade, limited-edition book of poetry by Sharon Barr, Larry Godfrey, Tom McCoy, Sandy McKinney, Bonnie Maldonado and Elise Stuart. The free reception will feature music by Variations of Three. 99 Cortez Ave., 537-0300.

Copper Quail Gallery will commemorate Earth Day with "Earth-Fest: Art That Celebrates Our Earth," April 20-May 22. Featured artists are Phoebe Lawrence, Martin Apley, John Wachholz, Mark and Jane Bowen, Michael Boyle, Jan Fell, Gerald Gordon, Becky Kerr, Allen Sanders and Susan Rice. 211A N. Texas at Yankie St., 388-2646.

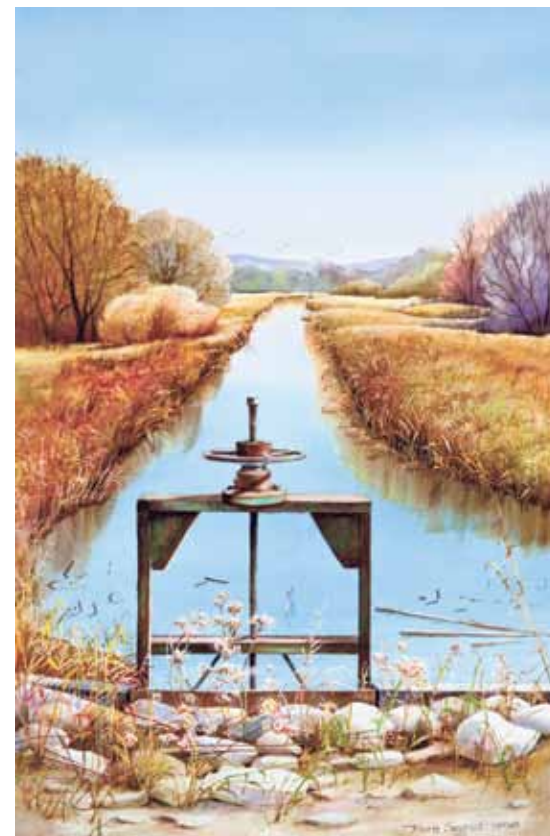
Kate Brown Pottery & Tile will have a one-day intensive tile-making class on April 21, \$95 includes materials. The studio's annual Mother's May Day sale will be May 5-6, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mimbres, 536-9935, katebrown@gilanet.com, www.katebrownpottery.com.

The **Hearst Church Gallery** in Pinos Altos opens for the season on Friday, April 27, with the Grant County Art Guild's annual Members Only Show. A reception, starting at 5 p.m., will feature music by Brandon Perrault. The fine-art judge for this show is local artist Jan Fell; crafts and three-dimensional art will be judged by Wendy Rudick. The Hearst Church Gallery will be open this year from April 27 through Oct. 7 with hours of 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Las Cruces & Mesilla

The **Tombaugh Gallery** presents works by Marie Siegrist and Penny Simpson in "A Brush with Color" for April. The exhibit, running April 1-27, will feature a variety of works by these Las Cruces painters, primarily in watercolor but also in acrylics. An opening reception will be held April 1, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Dr., 522-7281.

Works by Margaret Bernstein, "Aunt Meggie's April Dream," will be on view at the **Mesquite Gallery** April 5-28, with a reception on Saturday, April 14, 4-6 p.m. Bernstein's works incorporate color and form in watercolor and oil, "moving paint around the picture plane with joy and tor-



"A Brush with Color" at the Tombaugh Gallery features works by Marie Siegrist (top) and Penny Simpson (above).



ment." 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502, www.mesquiteartgallery.com.

The **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery** this month features works by Jan Kosnick and Sally Quillin. Kosnick designs and creates pictures with glass, various minerals, foils and grout making. Painter Quillin has been working on colorful abstracts, combining bright color with textures created using a variety of modeling pastes and found objects. 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, 522-2933.

MVS Studios will be featuring work by Amy Rankin on Friday, April 6, during the April Downtown Ramble from 5-7 p.m. The gallery will also host a poetry reading on Thursday, April 26, at 6 p.m., with readings by Terry Hertzler, Joanne Townsend, Frank Varela and Ellen Young. 535 N. Main, 524-3636, mvsstudios.com.

The Las Cruces Arts Association will have a grand

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Among the featured artists at the new Mountain Gallery, through June, is Deborah Morris.

opening for the **Mountain Gallery and Studio's** Collective Artists on Friday, April 6, from 5-7 p.m. This group of 18 artists will be showing their work through June. 138 W. Mountain St.

Rokoko Gallery opens a new show, "Gods, Goddesses, Gurus and Gremlins," exploring faith and fantasy, April 13 from 6-9 p.m. 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877, www.rokokoart.com.

"Native Spirit," works by Mary Beagle, will be featured at the **Unsettled Gallery and Studio**, with an artist's reception on Saturday, April 14, 4-6 p.m. The exhibit continues through May 5. 950 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285,



A show of works by Margaret Bernstein, "Aunt Meggie's April Dream," will be on view at the Mesquite Gallery.

www.unsettledgallery.com. **Nopalito's Galeria** will feature a photo exhibition this month of Daniel M. Reade and David Wood, two California Column soldiers who were given the task of delivering Billy the Kid to Pat Garrett and who established a life in the town of Las Cruces. A talk will be given by Dean Reade, the great-grandson of Daniel M. Reade, and David Wood, the great-great-grandson of David Wood, on April 15 at 3 p.m. 326 S. Mesquite.

If our story about Las Cruces artist Bob Diven ("Jackrabbit of All Trades," May 2011) got you curious about one of his many artistic mediums—sidewalk chalk art—mark your calendar for Saturday, April 28, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. That's the date of "**AvenueArt New Mexico**," a one-day community street art event created by Diven and the Downtown Las Cruces Partnership. The "canvas" will be the newly reopened Main Street in downtown Las Cruces. Juried artists will compete for cash prizes and awards, while special guest artists will create showcase paintings to demonstrate the range of contemporary street painting. Main Street will remain closed to vehicle traffic through Sunday evening to allow people to enjoy the Avenue of Art.

ARTS SCENE continued on next page

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Comcast Cares DAY

Many Hands Mural Project/ Rebuild Penny Park

FREE Hot dogs and sodas for lunch

April 21st, 2012
Time: 9am - 3pm
Mural Introduction at 1pm
Location: Penny Park

Town employees will be on hand to direct work in repainting the wall that surrounds the park. Volunteers are asked to bring their gloves.

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April 27 and 28 at 7:00pm
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Our Cover Artist

Artist, photographer and gallery owner **Mel Stone** took this issue's cover picture with an iPhone 4s, then manipulated it with free iPhone apps. He calls the results, which he exhibited at his Mesquite Gallery in Las Cruces in February, "iPhon-e-graphy." At the time, Stone commented, "A lady from New York visited my gallery the other day and told me iPhone art is very big right now in New York. After the show is over, I may upgrade to paid versions of these apps, but for the time being I like to brag about them being free."



This plunge into digital artwork is only the latest twist in a colorful career that began with earning a BA in chemistry at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. Stone then switched fields—not for the last time—and earned an MA in economics and mathematics and, then, a PhD in economics. He taught at the university level for several years.

"The TV news bug bit me and until my retirement I was a TV news reporter/photographer (one-man band)," Stone says. "I believe 40 years of photographing TV news helped hone my eye. But the cold up north was too much to take."

As he neared retirement, he joined an art co-op in Fargo, ND, and soon became one of its top sellers. "For several years, I'd thought about moving to Las Cruces. With the art co-op experience I decided to find a place I could live in and have a few



rooms as an art gallery. That's what I have at 340 N. Mesquite St."

Besides his own photography, Stone's Mesquite Gallery displays and sells everything from paintings to woodcut prints. "Some of these I bought from Midwestern artists for my gallery, but I also invite select local artists to exhibit in my gallery."

This month the gallery is featuring local artist Margaret Bernstein (see Arts Scene). Hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday-Saturday. 640-3502, www.mesquiteartgallery.com, www.melstonephotography.com.

Above left: Stone in his TV news days. Above: Another view of the church on this issue's cover. Left: Scene from Miami, Ariz.



ARTS SCENE continued

525-1955, www.downtownlascruces.net.

Sierra County

Hillsboro's **Percha Creek Traders** will feature "New Work for Spring" beginning April 1, spotlighting new members David Farrell and Martye Allen and new works by many other members. Farrell, a Hillsboro artist, was a student of Henry Hensche, who from 1932 to 1984 ran one of the premiere schools for outdoor painting in Provincetown, Mass. He paints local scenes on site, returning at the same time each day until the painting is finished. Allen creates Southwestern pottery.

The Traders has also completely re-organized its seven-room space in Hillsboro, featuring new work from member artists, including hand-forged ironwork by Hopper Shannon, ceramics by Kathy Lovell, stained glass by Arlene Lynch, paintings in oil by Lyn Orona and in pastel by Melody Sears, photography by Matilde Holzwarth, silver jewelry by William Lindenau, beadwork and pottery by Jane Turner, wood creations by Gene Washburn,



Above: "New Work for Spring" at Percha Creek Traders features work by new member David Farrell. Right: The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery this month spotlights works by Jan Kosnick.

and fiber art by Marge Myers and Kathy Reed. Hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Hwy. 152, 895-5116, www.perchacreektraders.com.

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



ARTS EXPOSURE

A Hands-On Project

Young people invited April 21 to create a mural at Penny Park.

The Mimbres Region Arts Council's Youth Mural Program, which has created more than two-dozen murals in the Silver City area, is planning its most ambitious undertaking yet at a location special to the community's young people. On April 21, students from area schools will lend a hand—both artistically and literally—to a "Many Hands Mural" at Penny Park. Designated "Comcast Cares Day," it's also "Rebuild Penny Park Day," as the park contractor will be on hand to direct volunteers in bringing the fire-damaged park back to life.



With a little help from area artists, students start their "hands" art.

"The town is building a mural wall that will feature the hands of every school student in the county—that's our goal anyway," says Faye McCalmont, MRAC executive director. "It will truly be a 'hands-on' mural!"

Silver City artist and gallery owner Diana Ingalls Leyba, who coordinates the Youth Mural Program, will be working with students in several schools in advance to complete several hundred "hands" that will be installed on April 21. McCalmont adds, "At the park that day, hundreds more hands will be formed and glazed in preparation for installation at a later time, along with other mural elements to

complete the project, possibly at a summer camp in June."

The classroom from each school district with the largest turnout on the big day will win a pizza party compliments of Gila Regional Medical Center. And everyone who participates can enjoy free hot dogs and sodas for lunch on April 21 at Penny Park. Project hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a mural introduction at 1 p.m.

MRAC's Youth Mural Program, with involvement from a who's who of local artists, has created murals at locations ranging from Yankee Street and the Silver City Food Co-Op downtown to the Bayard Union Hall and the Glenwood Library. Subjects have included the history of Chihuahua Hill, the Gila River, tribal and Hispanic heritage, recycling, World War II heroes, and the 1950 strike at the Empire Zinc Mine, immortalized in the film *Salt of the Earth*. (See "Solidarity in Paint," June 2005.) The program is supported by New Mexico Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and local sponsors. To download a brochure and map of all the mural sites, visit www.mimbresarts.org/ym_home.html.

Penny Park, 1305 N. Grant, was so named because local children collected pennies and donated them to the park, known as the town's "Community-Built Park." The 15,000-square-foot playground opened in April 1999. The facilities at the park were damaged by fire in April 2009 and again in July 2011.

"This is going to be a great community collaboration," McCalmont says of the April 21 event, "and will hopefully give everyone a buy-in to the rebuilding of the park."

For more information, contact the arts council at (575) 538-2505 or see www.mimbresarts.org.



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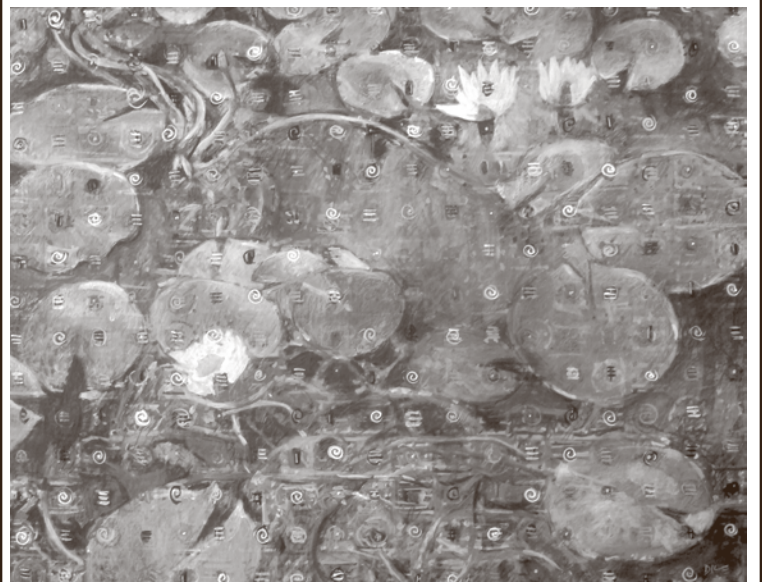
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ARTS EXPOSURE

Gallery Guide

Silver City

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

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

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

CLAYMOON STUDIO, 13 Jade Dr., 313-6959. Marcia Smith. By appointment.

COMMON THREAD, 107 W. Broadway, 538-5733. Mon., Thurs, Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Retail and gallery space for fiber arts. www.fiberartscollective.org.

COPPER QUAIL GALLERY, 211-A Texas St., corner of Yankee 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. Yankee St., 313-5709, ginywolf.wordpress.com.

HOWELL DESIGN & GALLERY, 200 W. Market St., 388.2993. www.anthonhowell.com.

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

KAREN CARR STUDIO, 117 W Market St., 388-4505. By appointment.

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

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

LOIS DUFFY, 211C N. Texas, 534-0822. Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The studio and gallery of Lois Duffy presents a unique and thought-provoking view of the world through the eyes of an artist. Imaginative portraits, surreal places and realistic scenes of life. Original paintings, cards and prints. www.loisduffy.com, loisduffy@signalpeak.net.

MARY'S FINE ART, 414 E. 21st St., 956-7315. Mary A. Gravelle.

MIMBRES REGION ARTS COUNCIL GALLERY, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., 1201 N. Pope St. www.mimbresarts.org.

MOLLY RAMOLLA GALLERY & FRAMING, 307 N. Texas, 538-5538. www.ramollaart.com.

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SEEDBOAT CENTER FOR THE ARTS, 214 W. Yankee St., 534-1136. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. info@seedboatgal-

lery.com.

SILVER SPIRIT GALLERY, 215 W. Broadway, 388-2079.

STONEWALKER STUDIO, 105 Country Road, 534-0530. By appointment. Barbara Jorgen Nance.

STUDIO BEHIND THE MOUNTAIN, 23 Wagon Wheel Lane, 388-3277. By appointment. www.jimpalmerbronze.com.

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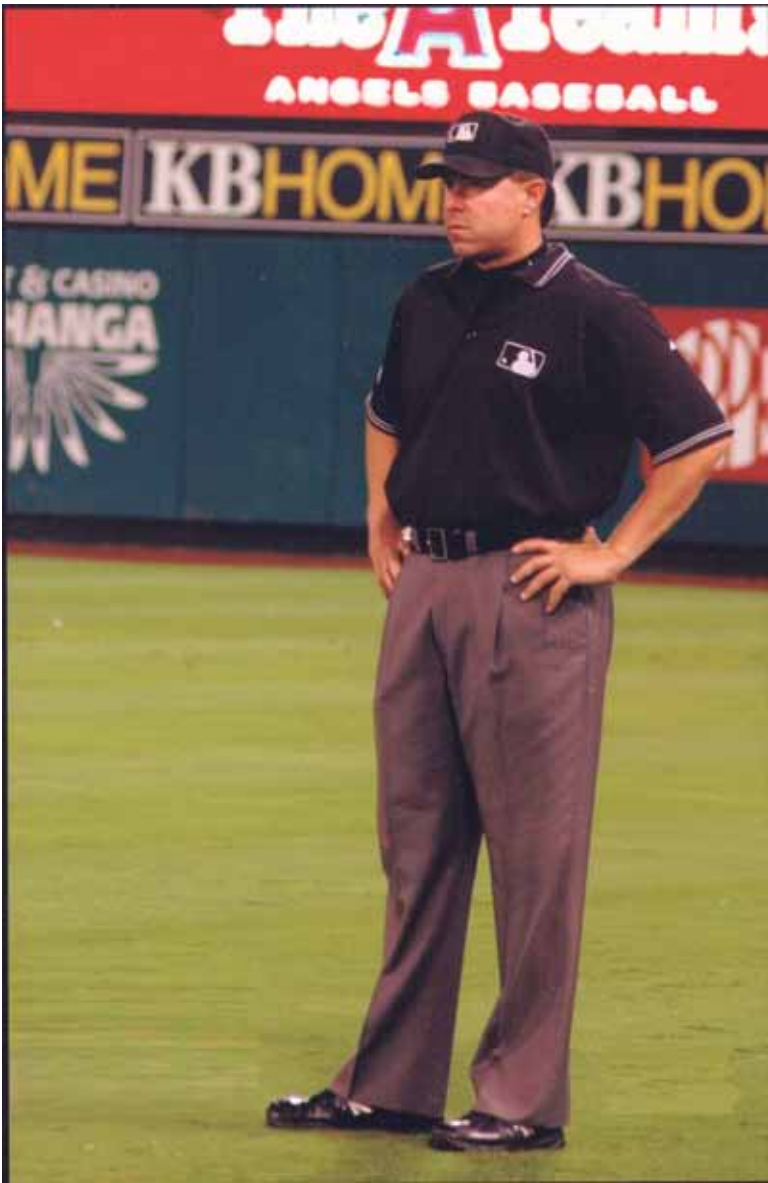
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THE SPORTING SCENE • JEFF BERG

Calling 'Em as He Sees 'Em

When not running the Ump 88 bar and restaurant in Las Cruces, Doug Eddings serves up decisions as a Major League Baseball umpire.



Las Cruces Doug Eddings on the job as a Major League Baseball umpire.

Question: What has two legs, two good eyes (sometimes subject to debate by the unknowing who are usually 50 or so yards away), has been around, nonstop, since 1876, usually exists only in North America, has only one gender, and numbers only 68 in total?

Give up? Major League Baseball umpires.

Since William McLean of Philadelphia umpired a National League game between Boston and Philadelphia on April 22, 1876, umpires have been the bane and existence of baseball players, managers and fans.

And one of them, Doug Eddings, was born, raised and continues to live (when not on the road), in Las Cruces.

Even though Eddings was a player when he was younger, he says he knew that playing baseball wasn't what he really wanted to do. He proved that after graduating from Mayfield High School and attending NMSU for about two years.

"I lived baseball, played all the time," Eddings relates at an interview at the smartly appointed bar and restaurant, Ump 88, that he co-owns in Las Cruces. "My parents were involved in Little League, and one day the umps didn't show up for one of the younger kids' games, and they told me that I was going to fill in."

That was all it took, plus the almost insignificant fact that a few days later Eddings was surprised to receive "\$30 or \$40" for his umpiring stint. His career path was set.

Despite the occasional outraged fan, umpiring is certainly a lot safer than his second career choice—that of a Secret Service agent.

"I would read *The Sporting News*, and see the ads for the umpire schools and at 15 or 16, I knew that was what I really wanted to do," Eddings says. "I graduated high school early, went to NMSU for a while and at 19, enrolled in the Wendelstedt Umpiring School in Florida."

That school is one of only three Major League Baseball (MLB)-approved umpiring schools in the country. Training there can lead to a job that pays a lot less than what MLB players get, as MLB umpires' salary range extends from \$84,000-\$300,000 annually.

Eddings says that his class had 200 students, and that he was "second runner up" in the graduation process, meaning that only two other grads better excelled in the skill of umpiring after the five and a half-week course.

After he graduated in 1989, Eddings went to work in the Arizona Fall League, a short-season instructional league based in the Phoenix area. There, the various MLB teams have co-op teams of up-and-coming minor league players play for a few more weeks after the regular season wraps up. Somebody's got to call those games.

From there, Eddings spent about 10 years working minor league games in the Florida State, Eastern, Texas, International and Pacific Coast Leagues, covering the spectrum from lowest to highest minor league baseball assignments. He also spent time in Central America, where he worked some winter ball in the Dominican and Venezuelan Leagues in the mid-1990s.

Finally, in 1998, Eddings made it to "the Show," working first in the American League and then, starting in 2000, both leagues.

It's a semi-frantic time for Eddings when we visit, since he's leaving for spring training in Arizona in just two days.

"I love what I do, but the travel can get to you after a while," he says. "I'm pretty excited now, but after about 10 spring games, I'll be ready to go for the regular season, and it continues like a roller coaster. In the off season, I'll be anxious to get back to work in spring training."

MLB umpires do get a couple of perks, including free lifetime passes to any MLB games after they retire and six passes for games for any family or friends who happen to be in the city where the umpire crew is working.

And in case you didn't think they were being watched by someone other than you, about 55% of all MLB games are monitored by an umpire supervisor (there are seven). All through their careers, the umpires are evaluated, with factors such as their pitch evaluation system, missed calls, ejections and demeanor being taken into consideration.

Each crew is made up of four umpires and they stay together throughout the entire season. Two members of the crew are picked by the crew chief, and the other two are assigned by the MLB office, which now handles the umpires, via the commissioner's office. It used to be that the American and National League presidents ran the show, but now it is all overseen by the commissioner's office. And the pay is a lot better than it was in 1878, when the National League began to require that the home team for each game pay umpires \$5 per game.

Once again this year, Eddings will work in tandem with crew chief Dana DeMuth, who starts his 28th season of calling balls, strikes, outs and tossing managers and players.

"There are 17 crews, and 15 of them will be working at one time," Eddings explains. "And we're always on the road, not like the players who will play at least 81 games at home [MLB seasons last for 162 regular season games], so it's really tough. I'm single, but I'd guess that 95% of the other umpires are married and most have kids as well."

But Eddings brings up another perk of his job—namely that he gets several weeks of vacation during the baseball season as well. "It's tough to imagine that I'm doing what I really want to do and even get vacation time while doing it," he says.



Eddings' official picture at MLB.com.

In the off season, for the last three years, Eddings has returned to Las Cruces to work at Ump 88, which was named by his business partner.

"We have night and day personalities," Eddings says with a smile. "And running a restaurant is a lot harder than umpiring," he adds quite seriously.

The building was built in 2008 by the original owner, Patrick Hanlon, when the Picacho Hills Drive bar and eatery was called Brigid's Cross. Hanlon wanted to emulate a real Irish pub and grill, and imported all of the wood from Ireland to do so. The original bill of fare reflected traditional Irish pub fare, but after about 18 months, Hanlon put the place up for sale. Ironically, or maybe not, the restaurant is in the same neighborhood where Eddings lives, and the original owner was a neighbor. A deal was struck, and any spare time that Eddings once had for his other interests, such as playing golf or riding his Harley, was quickly sapped away by the day-to-day operation of Ump 88.

The new name of the pub/grill comes from Eddings' uniform number that he wears. "My partner suggested it," the umpire says. "I never even thought of it."

Eddings introduces me to his manager, a friendly young woman who is one of his best employees. Beyond her and a few other faithful and valued helpers, however, finding and keeping good help is an issue for the owners of Ump 88—a problem that Eddings attributes to a different work ethic nowadays.

Although presently single, Eddings shares his home with his 84-year-old father, who comes to Ump 88 every day to do some light prep work in the restaurant, and maybe to offer bits of paternal advice. The place has a full bar and a varied menu that is a nice blend of Irish pub food and sports bar-type grub. The restaurant is dotted with sports memorabilia from Eddings' career and from meeting other non-baseball sports personalities, and has a lively but not overwhelming energy to it.

Umpiring crews will work both the National and American Leagues throughout the regular season. Those chosen to work the All Star Game are picked at random, and Eddings was selected to work on the 2004 game, which was played in Houston. He has also worked the 2005 American League Championship Series between the Chicago White Sox and the then-Los Angeles Angels, American League Division Series in 2000 and 2002, and the 2006 Japan All-Star Series.

A highlight of Eddings' career came on Oct. 6, 2001, when he was the home plate umpire for Cal Ripken Jr.'s

last game. Ripken, who played an amazing 2,632 straight games as an infielder for the Baltimore Orioles (his streak was broken when he voluntarily took himself out of the lineup for the last Orioles home game of 1998), was also a favorite player of Eddings.

"Ripken was hard on new umps," Eddings says, "but after he knew you a bit, he was good to you. He didn't like it when you called a strike on him, either."

Longevity-wise, though, Ripken doesn't hold a candle to former MLB umpires Bill Klem, who worked 5,368 games from 1905-41, or Bruce



A screenshot from television coverage of a game in which Eddings got an earful from the manager.

Froemming, who was on the field for 5,159 games, until he retired in 2007.

A favorite manager whom Eddings had dealings with was Bobby Cox, who managed the Atlanta Braves team two different times, from 1978-81 and again from 1990 through 2010.

"Cox always looked like he was upset," Eddings recalls. "He was tough to work with but he'd not hold a grudge. He'd see you after a game and say, 'Have a nice evening,' as he left the park."

Eddings also has affection for several stadiums, including Boston's Fenway Park, Wrigley Field and the old Yankee Stadium. "I also like Pittsburgh [PNC Park] and Seattle [Safeco Field]. I also prefer working outside," he adds.

Umpiring, of course, has always been a critical part of the game, and umps, as Rodney Dangerfield would say, "don't get no respect." But that's just part of the game.

Often overlooked, since players have egos and salaries big enough for 10 people, umpiring has an interesting history to it. According to mlb.com, umpires were given jurisprudence to fine players for illegal acts in 1879, a power not revoked until 1950. In 1882, an umpire got the boot himself, when it was found that he was in "collusion with gamblers." The 1910 season saw the first manager in the World Series getting tossed out by the umpire. It was not until 1966 that MLB umpiring was integrated, when Emmett Ashford became the first African-American umpire; Armando Rodriguez became the first Hispanic ump in 1974.

So far, a woman has not umpired a regular MLB game, although two women, Pam Postema and Ria Cortesio, have done MLB spring training games in the past. Both probably encountered sexism in their attempts to become MLB umpires: Postema sued MLB and won an out-of-court settlement. Cortesio, who was released in 2007 from the Southern League, had even spent time as an umpiring instructor. But women have had little to say on the field over the years, and the last woman to work a game in a non-independent league setting was Shannon Kook, who spent two years in the



A controversial call during Game Two of the 2005 American League Championship Series between the Chicago White Sox and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim earned Eddings the ire of fans.

Pioneer League, a short-season single-A league set up for new draftees each summer.

With spring training coming to or having ended as you read this, and the regular season opening April 4, Eddings is on the road somewhere, staying at still another hotel, ignoring the catcalls and cusswords, and doing what he wants to do and doing it well. Some umps will be experiencing the "big time" for the first time in 2012, since some will be promoted from AAA leagues, and others will be on call to fill in for vacations and emergencies.

When asked about boundaries—how far can a player, coach or manager go before he gets the heave-ho?—Eddings casually answers that they can't get personal.

"As long as they aren't saying anything personal to me, they can pretty much do what they want," he says. "After 24 years, I don't take most if personally, and I love what I do."

"After all, it's baseball. It is what it is." ❀

For more info and directions to Ump 88 in Las Cruces, check out ump88grill.com. Jeff Berg calls Las Cruces home plate.



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Judging by the Morris family of Cliff, it's working.



The Morris family of Cliff (L-R): Duane, Dylan, Kim, Auston, Hunter. (Photo by Susie Eickhoff)

The Morris farm sits a short drive off Highway 180 in the Cliff area. A neat red house with white trim is tucked amidst barns, corrals, rabbit hutches, chicken pens, gardens, fruit trees and a "friendship bridge" to the widowed neighbor's house. A little bear statue out front holds a sign that says, "Welcome." That's an understatement.

Duane and Kim Morris and their three blue-eyed, blond-haired sons—Hunter, age 10, Dylan, 8, and Auston, 5—are all ready to greet you with handshakes and smiles if you happen down their driveway. But four days before Thanksgiving last year, smiles were hard to come by.

The boys had been busy raising their 4-H projects, Nigerian dwarf goats (dairy goats), ducks, geese, chickens and bunnies, when a mountain lion, teaching her young cubs to hunt, discovered a lesson, and a meal, in the Morris' goat pen and nearby chicken pen. The boys not only lost some of their 4-H projects, but revenue they earned from selling goats.

Duane and Kim were philosophical—when you live in the country, they understood that things like this can happen. But for the young boys, it was a blow.

Through friends of the family, Jon and Susie Eickhoff of Silver City heard of their plight. They

had recently introduced a desert adapted, heritage breed of cattle, Moris Criollo cattle, to this area (see "Solar-Based Cattle," April 2011), and soon they were donating and delivering two heifer calves and a bull calf to the boys.

"They ran out to peer in the trailer," Jon says of when he brought the cattle out to the farm.

All three boys helped build a corral for the cattle, and are planning to be the first ones to show the sleeker Criollo cattle at the 4-H fair this year. (The two oldest boys will show the cattle. The youngest, Auston, can show only smaller animals, like the bunnies, at the fair.) The boys are already saving money from selling "Three Brothers Country Fresh Eggs," plus bunnies and other projects, to buy another heifer from the Eickhoffs soon.

"They are enterprising," says Kim. With mom's help, they make and sell "Yum Yum" dog biscuits, cat, horse, cow and bunny treats, and fishing worms.

This "farm-raised" family has a flat-screen TV in their living room, but the boys prefer to be outdoors, building forts, searching for unusual rocks and tending animals.

They troop out to show their company the newest additions to the farm, Annabelle, Betsy and Bullseye. As they approach the corral with

buckets of feed, the three young cattle run to greet them. Criollo cattle, known to be gentle, accept hugs like family dogs before diving into the feed.

"We bucket feed them," Dylan explains, then



The Morris boys feed their new Criollo cattle. (Photo by Kim Morris)



Proud 4-Hers in the Morris family. (Photo by Kim Morris)

adds with a grin, "One time Bullseye burped right in mom's face."

Hunter adds, "Annabelle will even lick your face."

Kim says that Betsy has been known to "herd

the chickens back to their pens." She adds, when she says "night night," all three cattle will head for the barn. So the young cattle are adding new experiences all around for this rural family.

Hunter says that he likes to play basketball and

spend time with the cows. He sports a shiny belt buckle, and a healed broken arm, from riding a bull calf at the fair. The cows and chickens on the farm are part of his chores. Dylan says he likes to ride horses, when he's not taking care of the bunnies and dogs. Auston has a tool box and says he likes to "build stuff," when he's not tending the chickens. He carefully holds out a chicken and much larger goose egg for inspection.

They are "self entertaining," their mom says with a laugh. An energetic woman, she has a licensed kitchen for baked and canned goods. She plans to start a farmer's market at the highway this



"We bucket feed them," says Dylan. (Photo by Kim Morris)

Pet Talk • Angela Clendenin It's Showtime

For many 4-H and FFA youth and their animals, it's showtime. Now is the time of year when many young adults are showing off livestock such as cattle, sheep, swine and goats at fairs and competitions all over the country. (Locally, the Cliff-Gila-Grant County 4-H Fair is not until Sept. 26-30, at the fairgrounds near the Cliff schools.) Dr. Floron Faries, professor and extension veterinarian, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M System, has some advice for youth to help ensure their livestock show season is a big hit.

"Plans begin about a year before the livestock show," says Faries. "In fact, the health program begins before you even get the animal."

Faries recommends purchasing healthy animals from places that have good management practices.

"As you travel and look for show livestock, ask the seller to immunize prior to purchase, allowing enough time for the immunity to become established," Faries adds. "If vaccinations cannot be administered at the seller's place, begin vaccinations on day of arrival. Do not wait."

The day the show animal arrives home, perform a visual exam and repeat the exam several times throughout the season.

"Watch the animal every day and observe its behavior and attitude," Faries stresses. "Watch for healthy and unhealthy signs."

He adds, "The most common medical problems seen in show livestock are respiratory diseases or lung diseases. They can be viral, bacterial, or both."

Respiratory diseases are common, because during the

show season animals are mingling with other animals at fairs or other central locations for weighing. Therefore, every time your animal leaves home there is a risk of exposure and often an animal may return with a cough or fever.

Follow a preventive program of administering vaccinations to avoid respiratory diseases. "Become educated as to what viruses and bacteria may cause respiratory problems and talk with your veterinarian," says Faries.

The types of vaccines administered for each species vary, so become familiar with what is needed for your animal. Be sure to read the label and know what vaccines must be repeated.

"I find a common mistake is that the owner does not realize the shots need to be repeated because he or she didn't look at the label," says Faries.

Unless otherwise directed by your veterinarian, always follow label instructions to help ensure that the vaccination is most effective. The noninfectious vaccines, which are unable to multiply in the body, usually require two injections, Faries says. The second injection is given three to six weeks after the first.

"The key to a healthy animal is starting early with disease prevention and not waiting until you arrive at the show to begin treatment," says Faries. "Practicing good health management such as close observations and proper vaccinations will help your chances in any competition."

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed on the Web at vetmed.tamu.edu/pet-talk. Suggestions for topics may be directed to cvmtoday@cvm.tamu.edu.

summer, selling her homemade goods and crafts.

Dad Duane points out that this will be “a new avenue for the boys.”

Not that the boys haven't already learned the art of “entrepreneurship.” They have learned that they can get tips if they carry bags for people at the market. And Auston has offered to trade the neighbor “some of mommy's canned goods” for some of his Alaska-caught salmon.

Kim is never without ideas, from pumpkin painting to marketing her great-grandmother's 100-year-old recipe for beet berry jam. Duane, a big man who looks like there is nothing he can't handle, works at the Morenci Mine in Arizona weekdays, and weekends on the



After the boys' 4-H projects fell victim to a mountain lion, they were given two heifer calves and a bull calf. (Photos by Kim Morris)



family farm.

The Morris farm menagerie includes one goose, two ducks, about 50 chickens, two dogs, a cat, numerous rabbits, and the three young Criollo cattle. In addition to the farm and family chores, Kim does craft classes at the boys' school. When the basketball team needed some “cheering on,” Kim took fresh-baked cookies to school. She also helped the boys' classes make soup jars for the senior citizen center and the teachers.

The Morris family philosophy of “farmers helping farmers” goes back generations.

As modern cars zoom by on the highway near their farm, Kim says, “I should have been born 100 years ago.”

The Morris family likes living off the land in this country community, and they wouldn't have it any other way.

Pat Young is a retired journalist who lives in the mountains near San Lorenzo.

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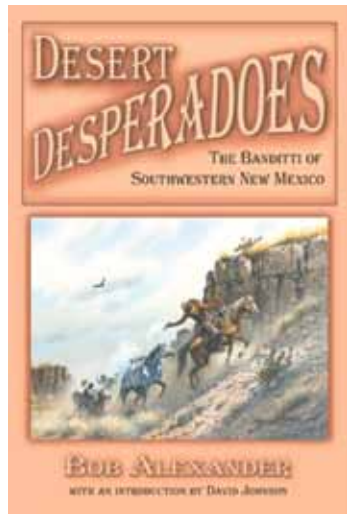
Bury Me Face Down...

The Steins holdup, only 15 years before New Mexico's statehood, dramatically showed that not everybody hereabouts was ready to settle down.

Editor's note: As New Mexico celebrates its 100th birthday in 2012, we continue to present glimpses of the Land of Enchantment's colorful past. This month we feature an excerpt from

Desert Desperadoes: The Banditti of Southwestern New Mexico, by award-winning Western author Bob Alexander. Published in 2006 by our Gila Books imprint, Alexander's rollicking yet scrupulously researched account of our area's outlaws vividly depicted just why they called it the *Wild West*. We revisit *Desert Desperadoes* (you can read a previous excerpt in our October 2006 issue) in this centennial year as a reminder of how wild New Mexico remained even near the turn of the century that would usher in statehood. Here, Alexander recounts an episode in the lawless career of Tom Ketchum (often mistakenly

called "Black Jack") that brought the Texas outlaw and his brother to our still wild-and-woolly corner of the Old West.



Though it wasn't their first stab at outlawry, 34-year-old Tom Ketchum and his brother Sam, nine years his senior, rode their bone-weary horses to the neighborhood of Steins Pass during the afternoon of Dec. 9, 1897. The hell-bent Texas brothers were accompanied by another set of dubiously disposed fellow Texans, Will Carver, Dave Atkins and a really neophyte bandit, Edwin "Ed" Cullen, sometimes called by his comically acquired nickname, "Shoot'em-up-Dick." Outside the little railroad stop and out of anyone's prying eyesight, Tom Ketchum called a board meeting for his little gang; robbing a train was on the agenda. Finalizing the individual roles to be played in the plot, the hijackers went to work.

About sundown, Dave Atkins and Ed Cullen eased into town approximately two hours ahead of the scheduled Southern Pacific's Number 20, which, if on time, would arrive at 8:35 p.m. Sam

Ketchum, adopting an unassuming posture, ambled in shortly after his wily compadres, likewise and according to design, ahead of the train's arrival. Outlaws Tom Ketchum and Will Carver were not idle, and a couple of miles from the railroad stop, had dragged dead brush into two bonfire piles, one on each side of the track. Then, they returned to Steins and began to implement their business model for a highhanded crime.

Sam Ketchum, Ed Cullen and Dave Atkins, rudely displaying their Colt's six-shooters, pried open the closed post office's till, and hijacked the station agent, Charley St. John. Their take for big-time

crooks was pitiable: two bucks from the mail drawer, and slightly under \$10 from frightened St. John's petty-cash box. Meanwhile, Tom Ketchum and Will Carver were industriously cutting the telegraph wires, then returning to their improvised beacons of brush and brambles. Everything, thus far, was falling into place according to the game plan.

There was, though, a catch! Unbeknownst to the diligently working highwaymen, railroad detectives were anticipating a robbery somewhere along the line, and had for some time been acting accordingly. Lawmen were scouring the area on horseback, and shotgun-wielding guards were

riding the rails. The train bearing down on Steins that particular evening was carrying, in addition to regular express messenger Charles J. Adair, two special armed sentinels, C.H. Jennings and the son of Wells, Fargo and Company's proficient investigator John N. Thacker, Eugene, who was making his maiden voyage as a dedicated double-barreled fightin' man.

As expected, the train slowed and then stopped at Steins. The conductor and brakeman were quickly grabbed by the three scowling robbers, and ordered under death's penalty to maintain silence. Then the trio jumped into the locomotive's cab and made acquaintance with engineer Tom North, who with six-shooters jammed into his quivering and nauseous belly, was instructed to continue down the tracks until between two fires, then immediately stop. Which he did. The second stop was not on the schedule, a fact right fast noticed by those in the express car, who up until that time had been enjoyably and nonchalantly eating their supper-time sandwiches. Spitting out the salami, the inside boys grabbed their shotguns, extinguished the coal-oil lamp, opened the heavy sliding door and in the darkness made ready to meet the outside boys—with a thunderous surprise.

When he had stopped the locomotive as curtly ordered, but unknown to the crooks in command, Tom North discreetly set the engine's airbrakes, thus completely immobilizing the train. Unable to uncouple the express car as planned, the badguys had but one profitable course left: move on down to the express car and make entry. Therein was exposed the leak in their plan. The bonfires cast a brilliant light outside, dangerously exposing the outlaws, while darkness in the express car concealed the positions of the heavily armed defenders.

With six-shooters and Winchesters the robbers peppered shots into the car, and were stridently answered with earsplitting blasts and wickedly cascading buckshot. For a half-hour the gunbattle fiercely raged, until finally cold hard reality sank in. The fortified trainmen suffered not a bothersome scratch, and every one of the perturbed robbers, in one body part or the other, had been perforated by a least one pellet. Perhaps this is about the time badman Tom Ketchum whipped out his handkerchief to wipe sweat or blood away from his brow; what's not conjecture is that lawmen later found the hankie, bearing trimly embroidered initials "T.K."

Unknown to the wounded bandits, the trainmen's shotgun shells were running low. The tenacious guards knew once that well ran dry, their last choice was but dismal: Fork over loot or die. Perhaps both. These were mean men. Then Miss Lady Luck stepped in, opportunely for the booty protectors, inopportunely for overwrought Shoot'em-up-Dick. Wildly fishing for more Winchester cartridges from his belt, Ed Cullen leaned way, way too far forward, exposing his face and head. A steely-eyed shotgun man earned himself a brand-new nickname, "Shot'em-up-Jennings." Tenderfoot train robber Ed Cullen reeled backwards, an unsympathetic collection of buckshot weighted in his forehead, mumbling as he fell, "Boys, I'm dead." He wasn't wrong!

Unable to dislodge the gritty guards, the Ketchum boys, Dave Atkins and Will Carver jumped on horses stolen in southeastern Arizona Territory and hightailed it. Eventually posses were notified and rushed to the scene, finding Shoot'em-up-Dick's brain matter oozing onto the railway ties. The lifeless form was first moved west to San Simon, but then back east to Lordsburg for a coro-

ner's inquest the next day. The outlaws temporarily were lost in the lonesome Bootheel, before slipping across the jurisdictional line into southeastern Arizona Territory's Texas Canyon—a nesting spot for nefariously inclined cowboys and outlaws about 120 miles south of Steins.

A posse quietly paused at the entrance of Texas Canyon, checked loads in their Colt's six-shooters and Winchesters, then cautiously advanced toward the ranch of an unsavory character, John Cush, aka John Vinadge. Riding in single file up the defile were Jeff Milton and George Adolphus Scarborough, both deputy US marshals, the first posted at Tucson, the latter at Deming; Wells, Fargo and Company's special agent John Thacker; Cochise County Sheriff Scott White; Samuel F. "Sam" Webb, collector of customs at Nogales; near-legendary New Mexico Territory lawman Cipriano Baca; and no doubt about eight or 10 others not now known. Reportedly, Tom Ketchum and his boys watched from a secreted vantage point as the lawmen proceeded toward Cush's ranch headquarters, a bushwhacking site so perfect "that they could have killed two or three of the posse with one shot if necessary."

The plucky lawmen surrounded Cush's ranch headquarters, and soon latched onto three hard-looking cowboys hanging out there, although the owner was absent. Quickly, Leonard Alverson, Bill Warderman and Walter Hovey, aka Walter Hoffman or Huffman aka Fatty Ryan, were disarmed. Suspiciously attracting considerable notice was Hovey's physical condition; he was suffering with a nasty—and fresh—bullet wound in the leg. Adding to mistrust was the fact that a discarded pair

of old overalls had been found on the trail—a hole in the right leg, on the same side as the festering wound disabling Hovey.

Two more nomadic cowboys, flabbergasted no doubt, rode into Cush's hidden ranch only to be greeted by the business end of six-shooters, rifles and shotguns. It was not a good day for Thomas S. "Tom" Capehart and Henry Marshall—especially after some posse member deduced that maybe that fancy "T.K." on the hankie at the Steins crime scene stood for "Tom Kepert." Sounded pretty damn good to them! All five of the bewildered cowboys were told to consider themselves under arrest. Walter Hovey pitches in with his version:

"They [posse] made camp until the next day then informed us that they were taking us in for the Steins Pass train robbery, which up until then none of us had heard about. After confiscating all of the firearms and ammunition at the ranch, the posse would walk one of us at a time down the canyon to hold a court of inquiry. They would yell and fire their six-shooters at our heads, vilifying and insulting us. They struck Tom Capehart in the face and over the head with a gun and jabbed him in the stomach with a cocked .45 Colt. There was never any doubt but that for one member of the posse, Cipriano [Cipriano] Baca, we would have lost our lives then and there. 'If any of these men are murdered I will kill the officer who fired the shot,' he declared. Being unable to walk I had not been taken out for questioning. The bullet at Silver Creek had been through the right leg. But I didn't escape the grilling and was particularly questioned about my leg wound."

At first the handcuffed cowboys were taken to Tucson, but later moved to Silver City, the proper jurisdictional venue. There's little doubt now, but it was more hazy then: These guys weren't the Steins Station train robbers. At the time and at Silver City, though, there weren't any misgivings. Hovey continued:

"Upon our arrival there on November [December] 17 [1897] we were greeted by a large crowd. Of course I could never blame them for their curiosity at the cowboy strangers they accepted as train robbers. 'He was shot in the train holdup,' one was heard to say. And another declared 'they will probably hang him too. Too bad and he is only a kid.'"



Tom Ketchum (Courtesy The Palomino Photo Collection.)



Sam Ketchum. (Courtesy The Palomino Photo Collection.)



Left to right: Walter Hovey, Bill Warderman [Watterman] and Leonard Alverson. Although innocent of the Steins Station train robbery, this trio was found not guilty at Silver City, but later convicted on ancillary federal charges in Doña Ana County and imprisoned. Later they were pardoned. (Courtesy Robert K. DeArment.)

Later John Cush was run down and arrested. He, too, was hauled off to the Grant County Jail at Silver City. At the calaboose the prisoners were guarded around the clock by two extra guards, both carrying sawed-off shotguns; there'd be no repeat of the earlier time when the murderous Gage train robbers had gained their liberty at lawmen's expense and embarrassment. There was no jailbreak.

At chilly Silver City on Feb. 19, 1898, the six incarcerated and innocent cowboys—Alverson, Warderman, Hovey, Marshall, Capehart and Cush—were criminally indicted by New Mexico's Third Judicial District Court's grand jury for conspiracy to rob a train and other related charges stemming from the caper at Steins. None could come up with the requisite \$10,000 bail bond; all remained in jail. As Jeffrey Burton later chronicled, "They were all thieves and smugglers, but none had participated in the holdup of the post office, station or train. On the other hand, they had been sheltering the Ketchum Gang and had known about the gang's plans." The whole mess would have to be sorted out at trial, which began almost immediately after return of the indictments.

Just what Silver City's jurors knew or did not know about the defendants' reputations is moot. In their wisdom they did know that US District Attorney W.B. Childers hadn't made his case, in spite of the fact that several of the justifiably uneasy defendants were identified by eyewitnesses subpoenaed from Steins. James S. Fielder, a fire-breathing, cigar-chompin', six-shooter-carryin' defense lawyer, argued his case well. The jury was out but long enough to smoke a cigarette, the verdict—not guilty.

Judge Frank W. Parker was outraged. He admonished the jury, hollering that it was "the worst disgrace in a courtroom" that he had ever personally witnessed, and furthermore he'd never hold a session of his court at Silver City again.

District Attorney Childers was wholly bowled over! But not beaten! There were, of course, double-jeopardy protections against retrying the ecstatic defendants for robbing the Southern Pacific's train. There was not, however, any prohibition about making them answer for the federal case of pilfering from the post office at Steins. A spit in Silver City's eye would be just fine, too! The case could just as easily be heard in Doña Ana County at Las Cruces.

After sustaining the motion for a change of venue, it was ordered that the dejected prisoners be shackled and removed to Las Cruces for a not-so-speedy trial. The conviction-minded prosecutor Childers dropped what he thought were the weakest cases, criminal charges against Cush, Capehart and Marshall. For Childers' purposes, Las Cruces, having a more friendly climate for prosecuting Anglo outlaws, was much more to his liking.

One of the Steins defendants was vocal about the tight jam he was in, innocent as he was. Defendant Walter Hovey affords his viewpoint on living conditions that he, Leonard Alverson and Bill Warderman endured, and an unlikely candidate for extending the prosecutor a helping hand:

"The prosecutor had the case transferred to Las Cruces where we were held for months in a huge adobe dungeon with but one door and no windows. Among all the known vermin and filth were the bedbugs, lice and mosquitoes—never for a moment were we permitted to forget our terrible misery in sweet quiet rest. We could not wash our hands and face unless we used our cup of drinking water for

this purpose. The only ray of light came through the steel-barred door. The heat was intense yet the pieces of filthy blanket lying on the floor were damp to the touch.... For breakfast we would have frijoles and tortillas and sometimes later in the day we would have tortillas and frijoles. The sheriff

who was also the manger of this torture chamber, was none other than the notorious Pat Garrett."

During the second trial, according to defendant Hovey, they had not the ghost of a fair chance—largely because of Sheriff Pat Garrett's influence over the Spanish-speaking jurors, "who could not speak or understand the English language, and most could neither read nor write." All three defendants, Walter Hovey (as "Huffman"), Leonard Alverson and Bill Warderman (as "Watterman"), were convicted and under 10-year sentences transferred to the territorial penitentiary at Santa Fe, arriving on Sept. 28, 1898, to serve out their time as federal convicts. Somewhere, running and hiding and laying low, Tom Ketchum smiled.

The smirk was soon wiped from this face. Tired of his insolence and meanness, the rest of his hard gang, his brother Sam included, shunned Tom and opted to operate on their own hook. The remaining Ketchum gang's undoing began with a horrendous rainy-day shoot-out at Turkey Creek Canyon in northeastern New Mexico Territory. Will Carver, William Ellsworth "Elzy" Lay and Sam Ketchum—the latter two seriously wounded—made a semi-successful getaway, leaving dead and dying possemen behind them. Forced to abandon the gravely wounded Sam Ketchum, Carver and Lay kept riding. Luckless Sam Ketchum got picked up and put in prison at Santa Fe, but died on July 24, 1899, after blood-poisoning set in.

Outlaw Tom Ketchum, now gangless, would suffer gunshot wounds after trying to single-handedly rob a Colorado and Southern train near Folsom in northeastern New Mexico Territory. He wound up suffering on a canvas cot at the prison's infirmary. From there, prior to his legally mandated execution, Tom Ketchum sent two messages. The first, a written communication, clearly absolved Alverson, Hovey and Warderman of taking any part whatsoever in the Steins Station robbery, declaring that they were all "as innocent of the crime as an unborn baby," naming the actual guilty parties—himself not excluded. The second communiqué was not written but orally uttered—allegedly—made for the hearing benefit of Frank Harrington, the energetic Colorado and Southern train conductor who had coolly shotgunned him to smithereens, essentially causing Tom's capture: "Bury me face down in the coffin so that goddamned Harrington can kiss my ass!"

Tom Ketchum ultimately made his mark on history as much for the way he died as for the wrongs of his misspent life, literally losing his head during the plummet from the scaffold's trapdoor at Clayton, New Mexico Territory. The hangman's rope was imprecisely measured, his slippery lubricated noose too narrow, like an assassin's garrote. At the sudden stop—after too long a drop—Tom Ketchum was beheaded. ☛

Desert Desperadoes: The Banditti of Southwestern New Mexico by Bob Alexander and his previous *Gila Books* publication, *Six-Guns and Single-Jacks: A History of Silver City and Southwestern New Mexico* are available at retail locations including the Silver City Museum, O'Keefe's Bookstore and Holiday Inn Express in Silver City, Mesilla Book Center and the Log Cabin Curio Shop in Pinos Altos. Or order directly for \$21.95 each plus \$3 shipping and handling from Gila Books, PO Box 191, Silver City, NM 88062.

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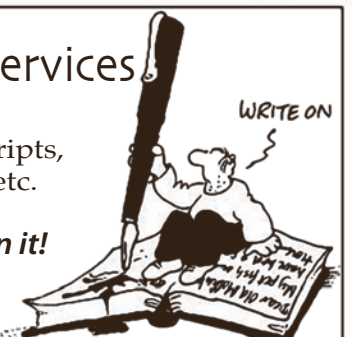
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SOUTH OF THE BORDER • TOM BARRY

A Sotol Story

A modern-day adventure on the road to rediscover a classic Mexican liquor.



Fabián Gil uncovering sotol piñas in Madera, Chihuahua. (Photos by Tom Barry)

For John Grady Cole, the first taste of Mexico after crossing the border illegally was a generous draught of sotol.

The US and Mexican borderlands were different then—no border wall, no Predator drones flying overhead, and no drug war raging. Today, the cattle fences that obstructed Grady's joy in open range riding are the least of the obstructions in the borderlands. Multiple checkpoints, manned by heavily armed soldiers and drug agents often wearing black ski masks, now make traveling through the borderlands something akin to making your way through an occupied zone.

For too many years, the combination of the border security buildup on the US side and the barrage of reports about horrific drug war violence on the other side bred fear and reluctance.

Recently, the violence that has for years wracked the northern reaches of Chihuahua and Sonora has diminished, and you can also find some reassurance in that there have been no reports that noncitizens are being targeted. My eagerness to return to the deserts, grasslands and mountains of the Mexican borderlands has been rising over the past year or two. The border security buildup and the unending drug wars have trapped us in our country.

Unlike Grady in Cormac McCarthy's *All the Pretty Horses* (or Matt Damon in the film adaptation of the great novel), I didn't cross on horseback when I began traveling into Mexico's borderlands a few months ago. But there was something like the same sense of adventure of traveling into unknown parts.

In early January, after driving south from Palomas on a new highway, I turned southwest toward Ascensión and then, after a couple of interviews, headed to Janos—an Apache settlement dating back to the 17th century and later a colonial military outpost. Janos, which sits on the banks of the now-dry Río Casas Grandes, is the gateway to the Paquimé or Casas Grandes ruins that lie about an hour south. Janos is situated almost directly south of the southeast corner of New Mexico's Bootheel. (Google Map it!)

At sundown I arrived at Rancho La Guadalupe on the eastern outskirts of Janos. Celso Jacquez offered me a *copa* of sotol—and I relaxed into the spirit and enchantment of Chihuahua.

I didn't go to Janos to drink sotol, but rather to

interview Celso, the former *presidente* of the Janos Municipio (roughly “county”) and Chihuahua representative on the Border 2012 environmental commission, a binational project of the Mexican and US governments. His counterpart in New Mexico was Allyson Siwik, the environmental expert and determined activist who directs Silver City's Gila Resources and Information Project (GRIP).

But concerns about crossborder water depletion and dust pollution fell away that night as I was treated to a glass of *reposado* sotol—whose alluring aroma seemed to capture the essence of the desert after a long-awaited rain.

In McCarthy's novel, an amused Mexican girl served Grady and his buddy Lacey Rawlins mugs of a strong homebrew that is still a favorite drink in mountain towns and the *rancherías* of Chihuahua, northern Durango and Coahuila—the only areas of Mexico where the *sotol* plant grows. Pleasantly plastered, the two young cowboys let their cares drift away as they began their troubled romance with Mexico.

I, however, was treated by Celso and his son Jacobo to an enticing liquor that poured from a bottle of Don Cuco Sotol into a crystal bar glass. “It is truly more of a spirit, like cognac,” explained Jacobo, describing the *reposado* sotol I started appreciatively sipping. It's a sotol that is picked, cooked, fermented, distilled, aged and bottled by the Jacquez family, which owns the Don Cuco Sotol brand.

Even before I took my first sip, I knew that work was over for the day. First the rich aroma, faintly smoky but also with a tantalizing allure of the desert after a long-awaited rain. “Do you know the song ‘Viva Chihuahua?’” asked Celso. I did, but hadn't until then understood the reference to sotol in the verse he began singing: “*Tierra que sabe a cariño, Tierra que huele a sotol.*” (Chihuahua, “Land that tastes like love, Land that has the aroma of sotol.”)

Since that first drink, I have been, as it were, on the sotol road in Chihuahua, captivated not only by the quality of the spirit but also pursuing sotol's still largely untold story—one that I am finding out has deep roots in our crossborder history and shared natural world.

There are an abundance of possible starting points for the story. You could start with the sotol plant itself. Its name comes from *tzollin* in Náuatl, is formally labeled a *Dasylium*, is often called *sereque* in Chihuahua, and is known as the “desert spoon” on this side of the border. Its thin serrated leaves circle in rosette style the fleshy core or *piña*, which after 7-15 years produces a magnificent shaft or *quiote*, artfully designed to spread its seeds and pollen.



Or you could start the story in Madera with Don Refugio Pérez Marquez—or Don Cuco, as he was affectionately and respectfully known by family and friends in the Sierra Madre. As legend goes, Don Cuco learned the art of sotol selection, fire-pit cooking, fermentation and distilling at least in part from the Tarahumaras who also lived in the mountains around Madera in west-central Chihuahua. His rugged profile appears on the bottles of the Don Cuco brand, which include *blanco*, *suave*, *reposado*, *añejo* and *crema* varieties of sotol.

Don Cuco insisted on the high quality of his sotol, making certain that the distilled sotol had the exactly right aroma and necklace of bubbles (“*collar de perlas*”) when shaken and poured. Don Cuco was the grandfather of Celso, whose entire family is involved in the campaign to introduce this spirit of the desert into the US market. It is a product of “*Las Generaciones*”—the slogan of this family of five generations of *sotoleros*.

Yet the story of sotol goes much deeper into this history of culture than the mid-1800s. Throughout Chihuahua you will find abandoned and still-used stone-lined fire pits, where the sotol *piñas* are buried and then cooked over two weeks until dripping and succulent with their rich desert sugar. Cooking and fermenting sotol is part of the Raramuri/Tarahumara tradition, but you can also find this same type of firepits in the ruins at Paquimé and in other settlements of their precolonial civilization, which emerged around 200 AD and began flourishing around 1200.

Sotol is also part of Mexico's revolutionary tradition. Pancho Villa and his army of rebels drank sotol both as an intoxicant and as a tonic. No different than most varieties of liquor, sotol has long been appreciated for its medicinal purposes in Chihuahua—whether to dull pain or to purportedly cure an array of maladies. You may know of the *gusano* found in the bottom of the bottles of mescal—traditional drink of southern Mexico—and some of us (men) may have even gulped down the mescal-soaked worm in a hopeful attempt to boost virility.

In Chihuahua, folklore has it that drinking sotol that has aged in a bottle containing a rattlesnake can cure just about anything that ails you, including cancer. Telling the story of sotol requires sorting through layers of myths and folktales—the rural legends of the Sierra Madre.

Part of the allure of the sotol story is its history as the traditional home-brewed liquor of peasant revolutionaries, the mysterious and enduring Raramuri people, and the Spanish-speaking mountain men (and women) of the Sierra Madre. When proudly displaying his sotol-soaked snakes, Melquiádes Alvarez, a *sotolero* in Nuevo Casas Grandes, explained that the rattlesnake sotol cure came not from Raramuri tradition, as is commonly believed. Rather, it had a Chinese origin, not a Mexican *curandero* one. As the story goes, in the early 1920s Sonoran *judiciales* forcibly rounded up Chinese immigrants and then left them to their fate in the Chihuahua Desert.



Celso Jacquez at the Don Cuco Sotol distillery in Janos.

Below: Celso Jacquez and Emma Jacquez in Janos. Below right: Rattlesnake in jar of sotol for medicinal uses.





Melquiádes Alvarez takes a rattlesnake from a bottle of sotol.

The new Chinese members of the Casas Grandes community soon began mixing rattlesnakes and sotol for miraculous cures.

The tradition of sotol is not limited to the southern reaches of the Chihuahua Desert. Sotol grows abundantly in west Texas, southern New Mexico, and southwestern Arizona at elevations between 2,600 and 7,900 feet—but only in rocky, well-drained terrain. In times when our nations are so badly divided and when our understanding of each other is rapidly eroding, it's reassuring to know that the architecturally elegant and drought-proof sotol knows no borders.

But the story of sotol the spirit cannot be told without also telling the story of border control, prohibitions and smuggling—and the visionary plans of the Jacquez family to revive the crossborder marketing of sotol. Before Prohibition (1919-33), drinking sotol was not uncommon in West Texas. Yet soon after the Prohibition laws started limiting American access to booze, Mexican sotol producers began exporting unprecedented quantities of all varieties and qualities of sotol to meet the illegal demand in the US market.

As soon as the US mafia, together with what are now a couple of elite families of Juárez, began opening up their own production facilities for cheap whiskey and brandy, however, the sotol industry went into rapid decline. The Mexican *sotoleros*—burdened with an arduous process of harvesting wild sotol and a long production process—couldn't compete with the cheap grain liquor being churned out in Juárez. The new liquor magnates, together with their associates in government, also began cracking down on the *sotoleros*—spreading the new narrative that sotol was not the drink of the *gente de razón* (nonindigenous) but only of the poor and uncouth.

This narrative that sotol is nothing more than rotgut, a *rústico* drink of sandal-clad peasants, has over the last century nearly killed the tradition of sotol in Chihuahua. There, like elsewhere in Mexico, cheap tequila and Tecate Lite have come to dominate the alcohol market.

Now, however, the Jacquez family is telling a new story about the plant drink that smells like love and the desert to tequila aficionados. Influential mixologists (bartenders who aim to serve the best-quality liquors and mixed drinks) say there is the potential to create a niche market for sotol—perhaps even sparking a boom in sotol demand, mirroring the tequila boom and the current rise of mescal.

The Don Cuco Sotol story is one of family pride in producing over five generations the highest quality of 100% sotol that is wild-harvested, unadulterated (even by water that doesn't come from the

plant itself), and fermented and distilled with care and the wisdom of generations. Sotol, as I have experienced, is a family story.

Truth be told, I don't know much about liquor, let alone the finest of spirits. By no means a connoisseur. A lover of liquor, yes, but an expert? Certainly not.

My appreciation of this special family and the enchantment of the land and people of Chihuahua have undoubtedly contributed to my enthusiasm about the quality, cultural import, and potential of Don Cuco Sotol.

But I am not alone. Don Cuco has been winning gold prizes across the nation. In Albuquerque, I sat down to lunch with Mike Morales at the city's new tequila bar, *Zacatecas Tacos*. Morales, a self-styled "tequila journalist," sponsors an annual tequila-tasting contest and consults nationally for liquor distributors and destination bars. So, with my own expertise in question, I will quote someone who is nationally recognized as an expert in Mexican spirits.

"I fell in love with this family's spirit as soon as I inhaled it!" Morales told me. "To me, Don Cuco Sotol carries the best of all worlds. It opens up—blooms—so much that it demands to be treated like a fine wine. It has the smokiness of some of the best mezcals, but the flavor is simultaneously reminiscent of the best tequilas and then, not at all."

As a former salesman and closer observer of the liquor industry, Morales knows well that the story and image behind the product are critical to good marketing. What makes the Don Cuco Sotol so unusual is not only that the story is so appealing, but also that it is so true—in marked contrast to most of the "lies of the liquor industry."

"There is no mistaking that Don Cuco Sotol is produced—handcrafted, micro-distilled—and lovingly brought into the market by the Jacquez family," Morales told me.

Fortunately, I am still on the sotol road. Many more stories to hear and tell. Many more *copas* to drink. 🍷

You can buy a bottle of Don Cuco Sotol at the Pink Store in Palomas or buy it at many online outlets. And if you are ready for fun and adventure, if you feel that it is time to reconnect the US and Mexico borderlands, visit the Don Cuco distillery in Janos and then continue on to Casas Grandes and Paquimé. You may also want to visit the Don Cuco Sotol website (www.doncucosotol.com) and watch the great video about sotol.

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



Sotol plants. Their thin serrated leaves circle a fleshy core.

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LOOKING BACKWARD • KAREN RAY

History in Headstones

A stroll through the cemetery in the former mining boomtown of Kingston.



Photos by Karen Ray.

The Kingston Cemetery crouches comfortably in the foothills of the Black Range, graceful in its sparseness. Most of the tombstones are being reclaimed, weathered by wind, rain, sandstorms and the soft aging of decades that blur the features, crumble the granite to fine gravel under the trees in this harsh garden. The people of these mountains find beauty in the light, the granite and the clean smell of the juniper that has slowly grown here for lifetimes. A different kind of beauty lies here in the cemetery, scored by the names of men and women and so many young ones who never reached those milestones. The etched memorials marking their brief lives are fascinating. Mamie West (1889) and Charlie Clay (1884) are just two of the children who died young yet witnessed the wild days of this now-hushed mining town.

When miner Jack Sheddon made a rich silver strike in 1882, the town of Kingston sprang

energetically from the rocky ground of the Black Range. According to the Living Ghost Towns website, “word spread, and almost overnight Kingston became a mining boom town. Despite pioneer hardships, smallpox and Apache attacks, it grew. During the 1880s and 1890s the mines around Kingston produced a staggering amount of high-grade ore. By the turn of the century the total value of the silver extracted from the local mines amounted to well over \$6 million.”

The Hillsboro History blog states that although many information sources credit Kingston with a population of 7,000, the territorial census of 1890 documented only 1,249 residents, “slightly more than Las Cruces.” By 1893 the silver panic had conquered Kingston’s dreams and, according to the Western Mining History website, “it all ended as quickly as it had begun.... The establishment of the new gold standard dropped silver prices 90%. With the mines playing out and profits becoming losses, the town began to fold.”

In boom and bust alike, the citizens of Kingston were no strangers to the practicalities of life and death. The district was a favorite target of Victorio’s Mescalero Apaches as well as outlaws “who specialized in running off horses and cattle from the southern New Mexico counties and selling them in Mexico,” according to *Tularosa* by C.L. Sonnichsen.

“Kingston had no graveyard,” writes James McKenna in his 1936 chronicle of the region, *Black Range Tales*. After the smallpox epidemic of 1882 during the town’s early days, “it was concluded to bury the dead in the grove of junipers where the pest tent stood. Here the roots of the trees had softened the rocky ground a little.... A

shallow hole was blasted in the bedrock.”

I marvel at this as I count 12 members of the Reid family who are buried here. The first to inhabit this ground is Simpson Percy Reid (1892) and the most recent is Don R. Reid (2008). Alphabetically there are 108 marked graves, from little 5-year-old Eddie Armer (1905) to 56-year-old Henrietta Reid Wilton (1938).

I inhale the pungency of the junipers and gaze at the mountains rising up behind their tombstones. The rain has stopped and gray streamers of cloud weave their way through the valleys and canyons like some elaborate ribbon dance.


I wonder about women like those from the red light district who volunteered to nurse the 1882 smallpox victims back to health. Not a single patient died after the women took over from the town drunks.

Wandering the serpentine paths among the graves, my husband and I gradually become separated, out of reach of each other’s voice for a time. We come back together where the paths cross. We stop in gratitude at the graves of two veterans of the world wars—the first that should have ended all others and the second a generation later. Farther on is the resting place of Frank Kennett (1906), a veteran of both the Mexican and Civil Wars. Irish James McNally (1904), Medal of Honor recipient, Civil War veteran and miner, is the owner of a well-maintained tombstone chronicling a fascinating life. The words etched into his memorial pay appropriate tribute to a brave New Mexico pioneer.

I walk and consider the hard lives of the people who ranched and mined, gardened and raised children, loved and got drunk sometimes and yelled and cried and died. Many were like Toppo Johnson, Kingston’s meat supplier and sometime desperado. In true western fashion, McKenna attests, “Toppo Johnson may have been a cattle rustler, but he was always ready to do a good turn for a fellow that was down and out.” Johnson’s body is not buried here, but echoes of his life boom through the draws and canyons.

The etched memorials marking their brief lives are fascinating. Mamie West (1889) and Charlie Clay (1884) are just two of the children who died young yet witnessed the wild days of this now-hushed mining town.






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There is one more tombstone I haven't looked at yet. I have purposely saved it for last, circling around it, wondering but delaying the knowing. It is a lady's. At its base is a glass canning jar with a piece of wide-ruled notebook paper folded up inside. Neither the note or the glass has started to yellow. The white granite tombstone reads, "Wedgwood." I spend the drive home wondering about her and watching the shadowed mountains in the rearview mirror. 🐾

Seeking out the far corners of the cemetery, I look for the stories of those on the fringes. Curiously, I find no markers out there, no headstones, no rock rings defining a resting place, no ornamental fence or even a beaten and weathered wood cross. I wonder about women like those from the red light district who volunteered to nurse the 1882 smallpox victims back to health. Not a single patient died after the women took over from the town drunks. McKenna says not one of the unofficial nurses died from the pox, either. Perhaps this western town was more tolerant of its citizens in their final resting places. Or perhaps they are just forgotten by all but the mountains standing watch in the evening light.

McKenna, who worked on the Iron King Mine in 1883, made a return trip to Kingston late in life and "stopped to call on Jim Drummond and his wife, who have lived in this section since the early eighties. Jim is in his eighty-seventh year, and his wife told me he still likes to have his picture taken." Jim Drummond (1937) is buried here in the cemetery, resting near Old Kentuck Mountain.

On the final page of his book, McKenna says, "On our way home we stopped to take some pictures of the cemetery where many old friends lie in their rocky graves, surrounded by weather-beaten wooden palings, and watched over by piñons and junipers."

Karen Ray is a nearly lifelong resident of Las Cruces, who grew up here, attended NMSU, then returned 17 years ago to finish raising her family. She earned a degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin.



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

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

SOUTHWEST WILDLIFE • JAY W. SHARP

Quoth the Raven

Crows and ravens occupy a prominent place in our imagination—and New Mexico skies.



One of the fabled ravens at the Tower of London, photographed by the author about 20 years ago. (Photos by Jay W. Sharp)

For some strange reason, ravens and crows have long played a prominent role across the landscape of the human imagination. It's hard to understand why. Unlike the bald eagle, which soars elegantly above our heads, ravens and crows often fly acrobatically, much like many teenagers driving the family car. Unlike the American goldfinch, the Bullock's oriole or the vermilion flycatcher, which sport exciting splashy colors and patterns, ravens and crows come in one basic color—solid ebony morbidly black. Unlike the mockingbird or the curve-billed thrasher, which perform a wide repertoire of cheerful songs, ravens and crows usually just offer variations on a single coarse note: caw, caw, caw, caw. Unlike, say, the white-winged dove or the Gambel's quail, which feed primly on seeds and fruit, ravens and crows often feed greedily on carrion left beside a roadway or on food scraps scavenged from human trash.

In spite of their loopy flight, gloomy color, raspy voices and gross feeding habits, ravens and crows often star in folk tales, old beliefs and literature. For centuries, notes Samantha Fleming in *White Dragon*, ravens and crows “have had a special place in the mythology of various cultures.”

For one instance, Puebloan peoples, as Charles F. Lummis records in his *Pueblo Indian Folk-Stories*, tell the story of crows dancing and singing, “Alas, Mama! You are shaking, you are shaking!” while they trick an ancient enemy, the coyote, into ending the life of his own mama.

The English long believed that if the fabled ravens of the Tower of London should depart, “the Crown will fall and Britain with it.” Although the English now sniff that they are above such a silly superstition, in addition to the wild population at the Tower, they have kept a captive cadre of ravens since the 17th century. Just in case.

American poet Edgar Allen Poe, mourning for his lost love, spoke of a raven—a “grim, ungainly, ghastly, gaunt, and ominous bird of yore”—that flew into his chambers, lit on a pallid bust, and cast its bleak shadow on the floor.

Given the symbolism of the raven, Poe gave up hope that he would somehow ever recover his soul. “Nevermore,” he said mournfully and famously.

Another poet, whose name, nationality, state and city I've sworn to keep secret, penned the following:

“There was an old crow that so constantly squabbled

His friends all thought that he should be throttled.

They met here of late,
Decided his fate,
And that's how in bond he came to be bottled.”
(Poets, of course, always “pen” their works, they never just “write” them.)

Distinguishing Features

In New Mexico, we have two species of ravens—the common raven (*Corvus corax*) and the Chihuahuan raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*)—and we have one species of crow, the American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).

All three birds, relatively large, have iridescent black plumage, black legs and feet, and black bills. The differences between them become most apparent when they are compared side by side. The typical adult common raven, the largest of the three, measures about two feet from the tip of its bill to the tip of its tail; the adult Chihuahuan raven, a little over a foot and a half; and the adult American crow, almost a foot and a half.

The ravens have somewhat lankier bodies than the crow; they have heavier, slightly hooked upper bills, more developed throat hackles and wedge-shaped tails. The Chihuahuan raven has neck feathers with white bases, which sometimes may be seen if it fluffs its feathers or a wind lifts its feathers. The crow has a smaller bill, smoother throat hackles and a more rounded-off tail; it also has proportionally broader wings.

Range and Habitat

The common raven, according to W. I. Boarman and B. Heinrich in *Birds of North America Online*, “is geographically and ecologically one of the most widespread naturally occurring birds in the world. It is distributed throughout major portions of North America, Europe, Asia and North Africa, and in all terrestrial biomes except tropical rain forests.”

The Chihuahuan raven, according to the eBird website, ranges across most of northern Mexico up through southern and eastern New Mexico, southwestern Arizona, western Texas, western Oklahoma, southwestern Kansas and eastern Colorado.

The American crow, according to N.A. Verbeek and C. Caffrey in *Birds of North America Online*, occurs across most of the United States (excepting the desert regions), from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and across the southern half of Canada.

Within New Mexico, says Stan Tekiela in his *Birds of New Mexico Field Guide*, the common raven occurs throughout the state, typically preferring the higher, contoured elevations with scattered woodlands and human structures. The Chihuahuan raven holds residence primarily in the southern and eastern parts of the state, favoring the lower grass- and shrublands and cityscapes (especially the local landfills). The American crow has made its home in the more northern part of the state, where it frequents open, broken habitats with scattered trees as well as open fields and cityscapes.

Behavior and Feeding

Highly gregarious, adaptable and resourceful, the ravens and the crow typically roost and feed in scattered flocks, sometimes numbering hundreds or thousands. Typically, they migrate only short distances with a change of seasons or variability of food sources. They may welcome newcomers to a flock, leading them to food windfalls. They may attack, or

Some Things to Crow About

- According to Boarman and Heinrich, the common raven engages in aerobatics, perhaps to declare dominance or impress a mate. In mid-flight, it may make a half roll or a full roll or even, occasionally, two rolls. It has even been observed flying upside-down for more than half a mile.

- Given a transitory food supply and significant competition, Boarman and Heinrich note, an experienced common raven may carry meat several miles to a location where it will cache and hide its booty.

- In selected areas within their range, Chihuahuan ravens may gather in flocks numbering as many as 50,000 birds during the winter.

- Where food is exceptionally abundant—for instance, in some places in the southern plains—American crows may gather in roosts of more than 2 million birds, according to Verbeek and Caffrey.

- City-bred American crows, according to National Geographic News, may scatter hard-shelled nuts on a street, waiting for automobiles to run over them and crack them, allowing access to the nut meat: “They do this at traffic light crossings, waiting patiently with human pedestrians for a red light before retrieving their prize.”

- The crows may also kill prey or crack open nuts by dropping them from a height onto a hard surface, say Verbeek and Caffrey.

- The birds may use roosts year after year. At one site in the northeast, they have roosted at the same site for more than a century.



Another of the fabled ravens at the Tower of London.

“mob,” in large numbers, a would-be predator to protect the flock or nestlings or fledglings.

The young birds may play games such as tug-of-war and king-of-the-hill. Apparently just for fun, they may drop and catch objects in midflight or snatch and cache shiny and inedible objects in secret places. (Many years ago, my grandmother's pet American crow stole her car keys, which she found days later in the gutter of her house.)

The birds may attack intruders of the same species, with fights sometimes becoming vicious, even deadly. A common raven may yank the tail of a predator, perhaps just for the fun of watching it react. The bird has been known to peck at the tail of a dog, and if gets away with that, it will peck at the nose of the pooch.

Opportunistic and omnivorous, the ravens and crows feed primarily on the most abundant food source available at the season and place. This could include a broad range of insects, arachnids (e.g. spiders, scorpions), reptiles, small birds, small mammals, pilfered eggs, grains and fruits as well as carrion and human refuse. They have been known to peck at the eyes and noses of newborn calves and



A pair of Chihuahuan ravens in the parking lot at Young Park in Las Cruces.

A pair of Chihuahuan ravens scavenging in the garbage at a shopping center.





A pair of Chihuahuan ravens at the side of an icy puddle in a shopping center parking lot.

may preen each other's head feathers and gently clasp each other's bills. The ravens may engage in acrobatic flight, showing off, trying to impress a prospective partner. The male and female may spread their wings and tails and fluff their feathers. In the common raven's version of a lovers' serenade, the two partners make gurgling, choking and knocking sounds. After mating, a pair turns to home-making, which often becomes a family affair, with two or three "helpers"—often progeny from the previous season's hatch—contributing to the raising of the young.

lambs, taking advantage of these softer tissues.

The birds may team up to attack prey, trail large predators to scavenge leftovers, search highways to find roadkills, or follow farm machinery to catch flushed rodents. In one instance, write Boarman and Heinrich, two common ravens jumped a cat that had just captured a mouse. One of the ravens attacked the cat, causing it to drop its prey. The other raven snatched up the mouse and flew away. Crows, say Verbeek and Caffrey, pluck ticks while walking over the bodies of feral hogs and domestic cattle. When times are lean and competition high, the birds may cache food for later consumption.

Throughout the year, the bird spends substantial time resting, preening, sunning and just plain loafing. It may bathe in shallow waters, sprinklers and even fluffy snows, preening extensively after its bath. It may post itself near an ant bed, allowing the insects to crawl through its feathers, leaving a blanket of formic acid—a natural pesticide that eliminates parasites. After some moments, the bird shakes and picks the ants off, casting the insects aside.

Breeding and Life Cycle

In the spring, when breeding season arrives, raven and crow pairs mate and bond for the year and perhaps for life. During courtship, the birds

Typically, the birds build their nest on a solid platform such as the fork of a tree, the cross arms of a power pole or, sometimes, in the case of the common raven, on a ledge or crack in a cliff face. It appears that the male hauls most of the construction material to the nest site, and the female builds the nest, which she will make sturdy because she may use it again in coming years. First, she braids small branches and twigs and sometimes even bone or wire into a rough bowl shape spanning a foot and a half to several feet in diameter. Then, she lines her nest with whatever softer materials may be available—grasses, shredded bark, leaves, moss, animal fur, sheep wool, mud and maybe even rags or paper. The Chihuahuan raven female, according to J.C. Bednarz and R. J. Raitt in *Birds of North America Online*, "molds a deep cup with her breast by pushing, prodding, and pounding movements." The lined cup may span a foot in diameter and measure a few inches in depth.

Within a few days after she finishes her nest, the female lays five or six generally oval-shaped greenish-colored eggs over a period of several days. This will likely be her only brood of the year. While

RAVENS AND CROWS continued on next page

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RAVENS AND CROWS continued

the female takes the primary responsibility of incubating her eggs, the male guards the nest from predators, feeds the female on her nest, and may even incubate the eggs for brief periods.

After about three weeks, the eggs begin to hatch, probably in the sequence in which they were laid, over a period of a few days. New hatchlings are born blind and helpless, covered with a slight down. While the female carries most responsibility for brooding the newborn, the male and any helpers fetch food—typically insects, grains, carrion and food scraps—for the female and the new arrivals. Sometimes, the male and the helpers dip the food in water to make it softer and easier for the nestlings to swallow.

Within a couple of weeks, the young have opened their eyes and begun sprouting feathers, looking, suggested one author, much like miniature gargoyles. Within four or five weeks, they have feathered fully and become active, moving around the nest, stretching their wings. Soon, they begin short flights, but they remain near the nest for several more days as they perfect their skills. Over several weeks, as they develop the ability to take care of themselves, they stay in the vicinity of the nest, still begging their parents and the helpers for food. After a couple of months, they may leave to join a flock, but some may return the following year to serve their turn as helpers in raising their parents' next brood.

The raven or crow reaches sexual maturity at about three years of age. With good luck, the bird may live in the wild for four to six years, according to the Critter Control website, but in one instance, a banded wild crow reportedly lived for 29 years.

Life's Perils

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources rates the survival of all three of these species to be of "Least Concern." The IUCN points out that the three all occupy an "extremely large range;" their populations range from "very large" to "extremely large"; and generally, their population trends vary from "stable" to "increasing."



A winter flock of American crows (along with a few sandhill cranes and other birds) in a field near the Bosque del Apache.

Still, in some parts of ravens' and crows' range, according to Boarman and Heinrich, the birds have been all but eradicated because they have been considered pests. In some instances, reintroduction programs have even been implemented in response. The birds—especially their eggs, nestlings and fledglings—can also fall to a number of predators such as coyotes, raccoons, hawks, owls and snakes.

Intelligence

Ravens and crows, naturalists believe, belong at the top of any ranking of the most intelligent birds. Relative to their size, they have the largest brains of any of the birds.

A study in 2004, notes James Owen, reporting for National Geographic News, "suggests their cognitive abilities are a match for primates such as chimpanzees and gorillas."

According to the NATURE website, "ravens achieve mastery and possess manipulative powers over other creatures in



A Chihuahuan raven cawing from the top of a light pole at Young Park in Las Cruces. (All photos by Jay W. Sharp)

their domain, often letting others do work for them. For example, ravens will call wolves and coyotes to prospective meals so they can expose the carcass and make the meat accessible to the birds. In addition, ravens will show their true scavenger colors by waiting for other birds with specialized foraging skills to make a catch and then cunningly seize the defeated prey for themselves."

The American crow, Verbeek and Caffrey say, has been known to manufacture and use tools—a capability once attributed only to man and other primates. For instance, one wild crow


"modified a piece of wood by pecking at it and then used it to probe a hole in a fence post."

Perhaps the birds' intelligence explains why humans are so fascinated by them—despite ravens' and crows' loopy flight, gloomy color, raspy voices and gross feeding habits. ❀

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Jay W. Sharp is a Las Cruces author who is a regular contributor to DesertUSA, an Internet magazine, and who is the author of Texas Unexplained, now available as an e-book from Amazon or iTunes. To read all his guides to wildlife of the Southwest, see www.desertexposure.com/wildlife.

BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

Soft Statistics

Trying to get a grip on the numbers for Mexican violence.

Hard statistics about violence in Palomas have been more elusive than usual this past year. All over Mexico, in fact, the numbers are contested, reinterpreted and revised perpetually.

Three or four years ago a man named Martin Avila was Palomas' *ministerio publico* (attorney general's representative). He had a very large ledger book on his desk that he'd open up to verbally count out the murder cases he'd recorded in his neat handwriting.

Avila openly admitted that his list didn't include all murders because "people are afraid!" A lot of people are scared of reprisals if they report murders of family members.

Palomas' next *ministerio publico*, Cesar Castaneda, told me, for some reason, that I needed to call the department in Juarez called *Comunicacion Social* to get Palomas murder statistics. This is an expensive long-distance call with a long wait.

When I dialed up this number, I was passed from one person to another four times and was then informed I should speak to Arturo Sandoval, the spokesman for the office.

Sandoval in turn told me to check the attorney general's website and then scroll down to a small square in the bottom right-hand corner that says "Statistics." But homicide statistics for Palomas were nowhere to be found on this site. (Over a year ago when I called *Comunicacion Social*, I got a courteous man who read me the statistics for Palomas.)

Last month I called the *ministerio publico* in Palomas, and it turned out there was a new representative named Sixto Jesus Aguirre. At first he asked me to call Juarez, but then said he could after all get Palomas statistics for me.

I heard a rustling of papers, and then he returned to the phone and told me there had been nine homicides in Palomas in 2011.

I then asked him to give me a month-by-month account, so I could compare the first half of the year to the last. He read off each month slowly, and this time it turned out, surprisingly, that there was a total of 15 murders. It looks as if this official is not much of a mathematician.

If it's so hard to get reliable statistics for Palomas, it's not surprising that there might be problems in getting accurate statistics for Mexico as a whole.

There are so many issues involved. The one most often mentioned is the high level of disappearances not included in the official tallies. There may also be people reported in the press as wounded by gunfire that later die with no notice in the press. Then there's the fear factor mentioned by Avila, which prevents some homicides from being accounted for.

Aguirre reported nine killings between January and June and then six between July and December. This is more than I'd heard about from anyone else, who mostly say there's almost none. But it's also less than any time in the past four years.

With some reservations, I'd say that it's time for tourists to venture back into Palomas and do their shopping and dentistry and oculist work. There's little violence going on and Palomenses are in a lighter mood.

The violence rate in Juarez and in much of the rest of the country is still high. The number of killings each year in all Mexico, which consensus puts at "more than 50,000," is still increasing.

In the hot competition to be murder capitol of the world, Juarez now runs neck-and-neck with San Pedro Sula in Honduras, according to a Juarez organization called the Citizen Council for Public Security and Penal Justice.

Despite a large decline in numbers, Juarez is still substantially above any other city in Mexico in terms of both numbers and rate of killings. The cities with the highest homicide rate per 100,000 are Juarez (148), Acapulco (128)—where violence rock-

eted upward last year—Torreon (88) and Chihuahua City (83).

This is true even though the number of killings in Juarez has plunged from 3,622 in 2010 to 2,086 last year. But from most reports, residents still don't feel much of a change.

Gustavo de la Rosa, a human rights ombudsman in Juarez, argues that you need to compare current Juarez statistics with those of 1993-2006, instead of those of 2007, the year before the press noticed the exploding violence.

Using his statistics as a base, he claims that in 2010, the year when the murder rate peaked, the number was 15 times more than the average rate a decade before. Last year was 14 times the average—not very different.

Chihuahua State, with 2,086 killings last year, still had by far the highest number of homicides among all Mexican states. Guerrero (where Acapulco is) had only 1,533. Number three was Tamaulipas, which registered 1,153 homicides.

In July last year the attorney general's office for Chihuahua estimated that in Juarez and Chihuahua City combined there were a staggering 14,000 armed cartel members in the state. This figure may be softened somewhat by realizing that in all the state there were probably fewer than 30,000 armed narcos, or just 1% of the total current population in Chihuahua of 3 million.

I read this estimate not long after I finished reading *Revolution in the Family*, Shirley Christian's account of the 1979 Nicaraguan Revolution. She claims the number of Sandinista guerrilla soldiers was only a minuscule 3,000, when the country had roughly the same population as Chihuahua does now.

Last month I talked with three people who had lived in both Chihuahua City and Juarez during the past four years. They all thought the number of innocent people, including victims of crossfire and extortion, was somewhat less in Chihuahua than in Juarez, although still extreme. Two guessed the percentage in Chihuahua was 40% and the other said 25%-30%.

Mexican President Felipe Calderón is still claiming that 90% of the killings in Mexico are between drug cartel members.

One of these people asked me a pithy and thoughtful question about Calderon's drug war. "Will things be better afterward?" he said.

Apart from all the killings and economic hardship, the cartels probably won't be uprooted in a lifetime. The men I talked to were tired of the war. They weren't particularly politicized.

The car parts factory still hasn't reopened in Palomas, contrary to my premature reporting in December. People in town are still struggling with interminable hunger, especially since there's no work in the fields until sometime in May. When the factory opens, it will employ only people with at least a ninth-grade education who are 40 years old or less.

Donations to food projects will always be welcome. Readers can find places to give at the *Desert Exposure* website (www.desertexposure.com/palomas/index.php). ☘



Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.

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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Cancer, the Crab

The ecliptic explained, plus the planets for April.



Almost overhead on April evenings is the constellation Cancer, the Crab. Made up of relatively faint fourth-magnitude stars, this constellation is not easy to find in an urban sky. In mythology, Cancer is most often associated with the giant crab that attacked Hercules as a distraction while he was battling the Lernaean Hydra. The story says that Hercules kicked the crab so hard that it flew up into the sky and became a constellation. Even after this distraction, Hercules was still able to slay the Hydra, which also ended up in the sky.

Despite not being very prominent in the sky, Cancer is one of the 12 signs of the Zodiac from astrology. These constellations (astronomer-speak) or “houses” (astrologer-speak) all have an invisible line in the sky called the ecliptic passing through them. Astrologers use the location of the visible planets in the sky to divine a person’s future. Since the visible planets all stay near the ecliptic, they almost always can be found in one of the 12 Zodiacal constellations.

The ecliptic circles the sky like just like the celestial equator does, but it is tilted relative to the celestial equator by 23 degrees and 26 minutes. This puts the ecliptic far above the equator in the Gemini-Taurus border area and far below the equator in Sagittarius. Since Cancer is next to Gemini, the ecliptic is still well north of the celestial equator as it passes through the Crab.

One object that always stays right on the ecliptic is the Sun. So when the Sun is in the Gemini-Taurus area, the Sun is far north of the equator, putting it high in our sky. This gives us the long,

Facing south and looking almost overhead you’ll see a group of faint fourth-magnitude stars that make up the constellation of Cancer, the Crab. This constellation has the projection of the Earth’s orbit passing through it, the invisible line called the ecliptic, here shown as a dashed line from lower left to upper right. Also plotted is the northernmost point on the ecliptic, where the Sun is located on June 21. This is the June solstice that marks the beginning of summer.

hot days of summer in June and July. When the Sun is in Sagittarius, it is well below the celestial equator and we have the short, cold days of winter in December and January.

You may wonder why, of all the objects in our Solar System, only the Sun stays exactly on the ecliptic. If you think of the Earth riding around on the outside edge of the wheel of a toy gyroscope, the Sun is at the center of the gyroscope where the axis of rotation meets the spokes of the wheel. When they are spinning, gyroscopes will stand upright on their own, always keeping the edge of the wheel in the same plane. Projecting this into the sky, as we on Earth ride around with the edge of the wheel (orbit), we can look down toward the Sun and we will be looking down a spoke of the wheel along the plane of the wheel (ecliptic). The Sun must therefore be on the ecliptic, since it is the projection of the plane of the Earth’s orbit and the “gyroscope wheel.” If we could stand on the Sun, we would always see the Earth on the ecliptic as well, since they must both be in the same plane.

To have either a solar or lunar eclipse, the Earth, Moon and Sun must line up. Since the Earth and the Sun are always on the ecliptic, it is only the Moon that needs to be on the ecliptic and in front of the Earth or behind it to make an eclipse. The name “ecliptic” comes from the word “eclipse,” because the Moon must be very near the ecliptic for an eclipse to occur.

The ecliptic is tilted up from the equator, because the Earth’s axis is tilted from the plane of Earth’s orbit. The ecliptic is a roughly in the same plane as the original dust and gas disc that eventually formed our Solar System. Because the planets all formed out of this same disc, they all orbit in roughly the same plane, so they always stay close to the ecliptic.

By now you are probably asking yourself: If the Sun, Earth and planets are all in the plane of that

Watch the Skies

(times MDT)

- April 3**, 8 a.m.—Venus 0.5 degrees south of Pleiades star cluster
- April 6**, 1:19 p.m.—Full Moon
- April 13**, 4:50 a.m.—Last Quarter Moon
- April 15**, 6 a.m.—Mars stationary
- April 15**, 12 p.m.—Saturn at opposition
- April 18**, 11 a.m.—Mercury farthest west of Sun (27 degrees)
- April 21**, 1:18 a.m.—New Moon
- April 21**, 11 p.m.—Lyrid meteor shower peaks
- April 29**, 3:57 a.m.—First Quarter Moon
- April 30**, 2 a.m.—Venus greatest brightness this apparition

ancient gas disc, why is the Earth tilted over 23 degrees from that plane? The answer is the Moon. Some 4.5 billion years ago, a Mars-sized object struck a glancing blow on the primitive Earth. This knocked material off the Earth that eventually formed the Moon, and, in the process, tilted the Earth’s axis to its current angle.

The Planets for April

Jupiter makes its swan dive into the evening twilight this month. At the beginning of the month, the King of the Gods is about 24 degrees up in the western sky as it gets dark. By the end of the month, it will be lost in the bright evening sky after sunset. Jupiter is moving slowly eastward in Aries this month. At midmonth, Jupiter’s disc is just 33.2 seconds-of-arc across and it has faded to magnitude -2.0. Jupiter sets around 9:15 p.m.

The Goddess of Love still graces our evening sky, shining at magnitude -4.5. During the month, Venus will race eastward almost all the way across the constellation Taurus. At midmonth, Venus’ disc is 38% illuminated and becoming more of a crescent. Venus’ disc is 30.0 seconds-of-arc across and the planet sets around 11:15 p.m. Venus will be at its brightest for this apparition on April 30.

Mars is just past opposition this month. It starts the month moving westward in Leo, but on April 15, it stops and turns back eastward, staying in Leo all month. The God of War’s disc is 11.2 seconds-of-arc across and it is magnitude -0.4 at midmonth. Mars is 50 degrees up in the east as it gets dark and it sets around 4:30 a.m.

The Ringed Planet has its turn at opposition this month, the same day that Mars is stationary, April 15. Saturn will be visible all night. Saturn’s disc is 19.0 seconds-of-arc across, with the Rings tipped down 13.7 degrees showing their northern face and spanning 43.1 seconds-of-arc. Saturn is moving westward in Virgo, not far from the first-magnitude star Spica.

The Messenger of the Gods is the only planet in April’s eastern morning sky. It reaches its farthest distance from the Sun on April 18, when it will be 27 degrees west of the Sun. At that time, Mercury’s disc will be 46% illuminated, becoming fuller, and 7.9 seconds-of-arc across. It will be magnitude +0.4 as it rises at around 5:30 a.m. Mercury will be visible only for the last three weeks of the month. Mercury starts the month moving westward in Pisces, but it soon turns around, heading eastward, clips the corner of Cetus and then back into Pisces where it ends the month.

The April Lyrid meteor shower occurs at the dark of the Moon this year, making 2012 a good year to view this shower. The shower’s radiant is in Lyra and the best observing time will be in the late morning hours while it is still dark. You will probably see about only 15 meteors an hour, but it can still be fun. This shower is the oldest recorded meteor shower, having been observed since 687 BC, according to Chinese records. The meteors are particles from periodic comet Thatcher C/1861. So stretch out under the stars with warm clothes and blankets for the celestial show 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.



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Born to Run

In a biking paradise, is there room on the trails for runners?
Local marathoners and other Silver City runners say yes!

Being a runner for much of my adult life, and a Silver City resident for three years, I've sometimes wondered why this is such an active biking community, but not as much a running one.

After all, mountain trails, single track or double track or old logging roads suitable for biking are also ideal for running, hiking, walking or any other form of bipedalism.

And, as is widely known, this place abounds in killer trails.

There are runners, of course, some quite proficient and even renowned, including one referred to as "running royalty." Each May more than 100 runners gather for the events of the Fort Bayard Wilderness Run, and shortly after Halloween there are the slightly smaller All Souls races. Then there is SCAT (Silver City Adventure Trails), organized by Jim McIntosh, a science and literature teacher at Aldo Leopold High School, which has an informal, no-entrance-fee trail run on most months during the year.

For example, last month McIntosh led the Third Annual San Patricio Trail Run on St. Patrick's Day. Fifteen runners went eight miles on a minimally marked, out-and-back route in the Little Walnut Trail System. No race T-shirts, no course marshals, no fees. Afterward, participants feasted on free corned beef and cabbage that had cooked all night on McIntosh's home stove.

"I set a goal of getting us together once a month.



Long-distance runner Tony Russ, left, and Jim McIntosh, in the tam o' shanter, who heads the Silver City Adventure Trails running group, study a map before the group's annual St. Patrick's Day run. (Photo by Harry Williamson)

We like to run with people, and I think you have to build a running community little by little," McIntosh says. "Like most everything in Silver City, it's going to be homemade and you've got to want it. People sometimes kind of patch it together here."

But none of these runs come close to local biking activities, especially the Tour of the Gila, advertised as New Mexico's premier road race, which every year draws some of international cycling's biggest names. This year's 26th Annual SRAM Tour of the Gila will be held May 2-6. There are also other biking competitions during the year, such as the Signal Peak Challenge.

McIntosh says he is also a biker, like numerous other local runners. "There's a core of biking pros, semi-pros and ex-pros that ride around here, so the level is pretty high for a little 10,000-person town."

Annie Crawford, owner of the Twin Sisters Cycling & Fitness shop at 303 N. Bullard St. in downtown Silver City, says professional cyclists often come here to train, with some buying homes in the area. "Silver City has become known over the years for its cycling," she adds, giving the local biking trails 10 out of 10 points, and the road biking eight points when compared with other cycling destinations in the US.

"The town is also on two major intercontinental bike routes, one that goes from the west coast to the east, with the other running north and south.

These increase our exposure among amateur cyclists," Crawford says.

These two US tours are the Southern Tier Bicycle Route, which goes for 3,058 miles from San Diego to St. Augustine, Fla., and the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route, 2,500 miles from Roosville, Mont., to Antelope Wells, NM. The Adventure Cycling Association operates both tours.

Cindy Neely, an RN whom McIntosh describes as a "tough, experienced runner, biker and triathlete" (see "Going the Distance," March 2007), says the local biking community is also nourished by Silver City Cycling on the web at Google Groups, where approximately 200 members post rides that other bikers



might like to join, or discuss other biking issues. For example, recent postings included a discussion of trail abuse, along with information on a "Tuesday late morning ride for those who can play hooky or are 'retired.'"

Neely says that for her running is a more solitary endeavor, "time where I can think and clear my head," while biking, especially on the road, is often more social, enjoyed in small groups.

Andy Lande, a geologist with Freeport McMoran Cooper & Gold and a hardcore runner and SCAT member, says this is not a running community because it's not widely promoted as one.

"That is okay with me," he adds. "Running is a more personal sport."

McIntosh says Silver City has a small but good group of runners of all levels. "We have a few of the high school cross-country runners join us every so often, and we have a couple of hotshots who show up. Most of us are older, many in our 50s," he says.

McIntosh has high praise for the trail running in this area. Asked to rank Grant County in terms of climate, altitude, terrain and the variety and number of trails easily reachable, he gives it a 10 in all categories.

"When I came here, I just started running on trails. I love trails so it was a perfect fit for me," he says. "I just can't get over the beauty of the place, and that's as much of an attraction as anything."

His favorite trails list is packed. Besides the San Vicente Creeks trails and those at Boston Hill, he is especially fond of the Gomez Peak Trails, part of the Little Walnut system, that ultimately connect with the Continental Divide Trail. He adds that the whole Fort Bayard system of trails "is wonderful," referring to it as CD (Continental Divide) South, relative to the town of Silver City.

"We go running in the Burros, and run up Jack's Peak, and run up Signal Peak in the Gila," he says. "It's all great."

When McIntosh arrived in Grant County in 2006 and didn't find much of a running scene, he realized he had choices—to do without running (impossible), just run noncompetitively (boring), to

Jim McIntosh, center, who heads the Silver City Adventure Trails running group, gives directions before the St. Patrick's Day trail run. (Photo by Harry Williamson)

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT
continued on next page

Dr. John A. Flores speaks about Pain Management

Dr. John Flores joined Silver Health CARE in June 2011. He is a board-certified internist who has specialized in pain management for more than 20 years. A director of a multidisciplinary pain program in California from 1990-1998, we are fortunate to have him here in our community. With more than 40% of all Americans suffering from both acute and chronic pain, there is certainly a great need for a practice that offers treatment and hope for this debilitating condition.

Here, we present a brief interview with Dr. Flores:

1. What are the most common forms of pain? Most of my patients suffer from back pain, joint pain, and fibromyalgia. Headaches and migraines are also a frequent complaint. In my career, I have treated every conceivable pain disorder.

2. What are the long-term health risks of pain that is untreated? In addition to the physical effects on the body, poorly managed pain can lead to severe functional in-

capacity, depression, and social isolation.

3. How do you treat pain? No two individuals are alike, and they require different forms of treatment. I approach pain from an internist's perspective: that means determining the underlying cause of pain through a comprehensive patient history and physical examination.

4. What are the goals when you treat a patient? My treatment goals are two-fold. The initial goal is to manage pain to more tolerable levels and improve quality of life. The second goal is to manage the condition for the years ahead. This ultimately means curing or stabilizing the condition. For the long term, I am committed to giving the patient tools, such as diet, exercise and possibly counselling, so that control can be put back into the hands of the patient. I work toward patient independence.

5. What if the source of the pain cannot be physically located? Pain is pain. No matter what causes it, it takes a toll on the body and mind.

6. How is your practice unique?

Despite advances in the treatment of pain, the quality of pain care is less than optimal in the healthcare field. My methods for treating pain are fairly unique to my practice, and are based on my extensive experience in this field. Over the years, I have conducted internal clinical studies to determine the best practices for treating various pain disorders. I continue to explore avenues of training and education in the field of pain because I am professionally committed to bringing the most informed medical approach to the great need that is out there.

I'd like to add that many times, a successful outcome is dependent on the patient's commitment to complete a program of treatment with the physician. There are no "magic" cures. Yet, in the long run, my goal is patient independence and self-reliance in dealing with their condition.



If you would like to find out more, Dr. Flores will be speaking on April 20th at 1PM in the GRMC Health Talk series. For details, call 575 538-4870.

Dr. Flores practices at Silver Health CARE at 1600 E. 32nd St and in Deming at 1511 S. Lime St. For an appointment in Silver City call 575 538-2981, or 575 544-4422 in Deming.

El doctor habla español.



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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

travel a long way to races (environmentally irresponsible), or to organize a few runs on his own.

He chose the latter.

"To me, a race is not more fun just because it's bigger. I have no intent to be in charge of a marathon with 10,000 people, or even 1,000 runners," McIntosh says. "What I love is a small, regional race that is low cost, one with very few frills."

For races where a fee is charged to enter, he usually goes about finding local sponsors, and then designs a T-shirt, putting the sponsor's images on the shirts. For prizes for the top runners he buys downtown gift certificates so people are supporting local stores. McIntosh also strives to keep fees very low, with any proceeds going to local schools and charities.

"Even a \$10 fee is a big stretch for the kids from my high school to sign up for the race," he says. "You are not going to have a \$100 or even a \$65 entrance fee for a race around here. That's ridiculous."

McIntosh this year is president of the Grant County Striders, which conducts the annual Ft. Bayard Wilderness Run. The other board members are Tom Barry, vice president; Kyle Rice, secretary; and Bob Schiowitz, treasure.

"Bob and Sue (Schiowitz) have been very faithful about keeping the Ft. Bayard races going all these years. When Bob asked me to step in for this year, I couldn't refuse," McIntosh says.

The 41st Wilderness Run, consisting of an eight-mile run and 5K run/walk, will be held this May 26. The Fourth Annual All Souls Trail Race is scheduled for Nov. 3, on the San Vicente Creek trail and in the Boston Hill area.

"I don't think I'll get many takers to run it with me," McIntosh adds, "but I'm trying to set up a local marathon course, not to create a great big marathon, but just a fun, local, 90%-trail marathon. I'd love to see it finish on Bullard Street."

He says that in all these races his main goal is to get people out on the trails. "If people run on the trails they take some ownership. If that's their place to run (or walk) they'll keep it clean and do a little bit of trail repair."

Some of this area's other top runners include Tony Russ, 27, who in early March completed the 2012 Copper Canyon Run in the Land of the Tarahumara Indians, made famous in Christopher McDougall's book, *Born to Run*.

Another is Lande, the Freeport McMoRan geologist, who just last year ran six marathons along with a half-marathon, part of the approximately 2,700 miles he logged. He says the most difficult marathon he did was Run the Caldera, in the mountains just west of Los Alamos: "In one six-mile stretch, you gain 3,500 feet of elevation."

Earlier this year Lande finished second in the Sierra Vista Trail Marathon near Las Cruces, commenting that, "As far as pounding on the feet, the rocky trail was brutal."



Wearing their finisher metals, members of the running Lande family of Silver City rest after the Arizona Distance Classic half-marathon in Oro Valley. From the left are Lynn Lande, Anna Lande and Andy Lande. (Photo by Tim Eastep)

On April 21, he plans to run the New Mexico-Texas Challenge Centennial Marathon from Lovington to Hobbs, which for him will complete all of the marathons currently offered in the state.

McIntosh, however, reserves his highest praise, "running royalty," for Kyle Skaggs, who in 2008 did what many observers thought impossible—finish Colorado's Hardrock 100, considered to be the toughest ultra-marathon in America, in less than 24 hours. At age 23, Skaggs ran it in 23 hours and 23 minutes, setting a new course record by three hours and beating the second-place finisher by more than six hours.

"This is one of the great athletic barriers that we thought would never be broken."

The 100-mile race takes runners from Silverton to Telluride to Ouray to Lake City and back to Silverton, which on mountain roads is a tough, challenging daytrip even in a vehicle.

"People said it could never be done," McIntosh says. "It was like the four-minute mile of long-distance running finally being broken."

"I don't know if there is a superlative I can use for this," said race director and founder Dale Garland afterwards. "This is one of the great athletic barriers that we thought would never be broken."

After that race, Skaggs was at the top of the long-distance running world. The best of the best, called the "modest wunderkind of mountain ultra-running," in a news article. But then, after a brief career that included 25 ultra-marathons and several other wins, including the Wasatch 100 in Utah, and a course record for the Grand Canyon double-cross crossing, Skaggs stopped running competitively.

He returned to his family's land south of Glenwood where he was raised, to start the 12-acre organic Frisco Farm (see Southwest Gardener, October 2011). Now in his third growing season, he sells his vegetables through a 30-plus member CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and to the Farmers Market and Food Co-op in Silver City and to wholesale vendors across New Mexico.

While not exactly a Grant County guy, living just over the line in Catron County, he did attend high school in Cliff, where his mother Katy still teaches. He graduated from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., with a focus in ecology; there he ran cross-country and got his first taste of distance running.

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In a recent interview at his farm, with his team of Belgian draft horses standing nearby, Skaggs says he lived three summers in Silverton, Colo., before his race, doing seasonal ecology work and running sections of the Hardrock 100 trail.

"I wasn't surprised I did as well as I did in the race," he says. "The trail was a big physical challenge to keep going, but I knew the course in and out, for sure. I was well prepared mentally and physically."

He and his brother Eric, also a long distance runner, are mentioned in *Born to Run*, and he knows most of the people discussed. He hasn't read the book but understands from other's comments that it isn't entirely accurate, with some "half-truths to make a better story."

For example, the book states that he and Eric, referred to as the "Fabulous Flying Skaggs Brothers," hitchhiked to the Grand Canyon race. "That isn't true," Skaggs says. "We drove."

He says he still enjoys and misses running, and when he has time will still take off and run in the nearby mountains.

"When I look at friends of mine who are professional runners and have been doing that for years, that's not what I want to be like," he says. "It's a wonderful endeavor and I love it, but it's very self-centered just to do it full-time. What have you produced for the world? There's more to life than just running around."

Skaggs has no desire to get back into competitive running. "Once I get the farm more under control, I'll probably spend more time recreationally running," he says. "Even when I was competing, a huge percent of the enjoyment was just going out and running the mountains. That is incredibly enjoyable."

Asked why Silver City is not a larger running community, he says that for some reason some places just get picked as running spots, such as Boulder, Colo., and Flagstaff Ariz.

"A lot of places I've lived are running-centric. Oregon and Washington are huge running states, and any major city there is going to have a huge running community," he says. "But I'd rather run here than in Oregon, at least where I was in Oregon. There's better mountain running here, big climbs and lots of nice open dirt to run on."

Although Skaggs has never run a road marathon, he has a great respect for the elite athletes who do. "People think running 100 miles is going to be the toughest thing to do, and it is really physically and mentally challenging. But I look at the elite road marathoners as the topnotch running athletes—a real legitimate breed of athlete," he says. "The only reason I succeeded is that it's a somewhat fringe sport that just requires a lot of stubbornness."

As most runners know, April is Boston Marathon month, the cream of the cream of road marathons. On April 16, 20,000 fast and fortunate people will run the 26.2 miles of the 116th Boston Marathon. It is the third oldest consecutively held sporting event in the United States, behind only the Westminster Dog Show and the Kentucky Derby. It's the only major marathon in the world where you have to qualify by running faster than others in your age group just to get in.

Andy Lande, who ran Boston in 2009 and again last year, says it is the premier marathon in the USA because of

the qualification standards, longevity and organization. "It is a great marathon to run because the spectator involvement is the best I have seen," he says. "If you put your name on your shirt, the spectators will cheer you by name the whole way."

In other words, putting the Boston Marathon on a bucket list makes it—at least in the eyes of a runner—the mother of all bucket lists.

I was fortunate enough to qualify for and run Boston myself in 2006 at age 65. As Lande says, the crowds of people stacking the sides of the race-course are almost small-town in their yelling and encouragement. In later stages people would hold up blackboards showing the current score of that day's Red Sox baseball game.

But it was the 1,800 female students of Wellesley College who really got my attention. About mid-race you could hear these reverberating shrill shrieks blocks away. And then there they were, one of the most-talked-about sights in marathon running, and they were all beautiful. They leaned up against the barricades in front of their school, side-by-side for about the length of two football fields, all yelling, hands outstretched, some holding signs that said, "Kiss me!"

You don't forget that.

So why do all of these runners run, both in Boston and in much lesser numbers in Silver City?

I recall training for a marathon in Kingwood, Texas, near Houston in the early morning dark in a heavy rain with cars splashing by, slowing to a crawl, lights on high as they passed us, as we were running 18 miles in twos or threes in the heavier water near the curb.

"I wonder what they think," my running partner asked. "They must think we're totally insane."

But, on aching legs, water dripping down my face, I wouldn't have chosen to be anywhere else. By the time of the marathon in mid-January I could outrun men 30 years younger.

Insane. McIntosh believes it's deep within human nature to be a runner. "If you look at the human body build before it meet up with corn dogs and Coca-Cola, we're built for running and hunting."

Bernd Heinrich, zoologist and runner, in his book, *Why We Run*, agrees. He writes that for millions of years our ultimate form of locomotion was running, adding that we are, deep down, still runners, whether or not we declare it by our actions: "Since running has been a constant in our lives throughout evolutionary history, it may now be required as a supplement for evolutionary health, analogous to vitamins, which provide chemicals that our bodies have not evolved to produce because they have always been present in the food of our normal diet," he writes.

"We need to take exercise, and vitamins, when our normal lifestyles are at odds with the ancestral conditions that shaped us," Heinrich adds.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page



Kyle Skaggs, ultra-marathon record holder, stands with his two Belgian draft horses, Bess and Kate, at his organic vegetable farm near Glenwood. (Photo by Harry Williamson)

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

In life, Heinrich says, "You don't get anywhere by magic, but only by putting in the required number of steps, one at a time, and in the correct sequence. You can't run the last lap of a mile until you've run the first three. There is a truth, a beauty, and a symmetry in this that is inviolate. Every step counts. Each is an act of beauty."

Incidentally, I personally think Heinrich's *Why We Run* is one of the two best books on running, the other being a novel, *Once A Runner*, by John L. Parker Jr.

And—for equal time if nothing else—my favorite *Once A Runner* quote:

"What did he eat? Did he believe in isometrics? Ice and heat? How about aerobics, est, ESP, STP? What did he have to say about yoga, yogurt, Yogi Berra. What was his pulse rate, his blood pressure, his time for the 100-yard dash? What was the secret, they all wanted to know in a thousand different ways the secret? And not one of them was prepared, truly prepared to believe that it had not so much to do with chemicals and zippy mental tricks as it did with that most unprofound and sometimes heart-rending process of removing, molecule by molecule, the very tough soles of his running shoes."

On the emotional, mental side, writer and runner Joyce Carol Oates, in her book *The Faith of a Writer*, says, "On days when I can't run, I don't feel 'myself' and whoever the 'self' is I do feel, I don't like nearly so much as the other. And the writing remains snarled in endless revisions."

One of the best answers as to why a runner runs comes from a 75-year-old Silver City man: "I run from pain. I go where it doesn't hurt. When I don't run I hurt," he says. "I run because I can't not. I also breathe oxygen and I drink water. They're all about in the same category."

His name is Jeff Davis and drivers downtown and on Hwy. 180 going east have probably seen him running in his own particular fashion. He is the one who's nearly nude, gray shorts and running shoes, no socks, and never a shirt or hat in either summer or winter. His eyes are downcast, looking at the road. His gait is more a shuffling amble than a run. In one hand he carries a water bottle in hotter weather, the other arm angled out a bit, as if searching for a cane or a walker.

Davis was a smoke jumper for 22 years, who starting in 1958 headed teams of jumpers in this area for nine fire seasons from his home base in Montana. Over the years he suffered numerous injuries from the jumping, breaking, as he says, "at least one bone in every part of my body, includ-



Making his way down a Silver City road is Jeff Davis, who at age 75 runs almost every day, often going 15 miles. (Photo by Harry Williamson)



The author runs in the 2006 Boston Marathon, which he remembers as one of the high points of his life.

ing my back." After 28 years he took a disability retirement, moving to Silver City for good in 1984. He has been married twice, and has three grown children and a granddaughter.

"I fell in love with this country, with the people and the town. It was different back then, but its character hasn't changed," he says.

He got into the habit of running as part of an exercise program to pass an annual physical exam so he could keep jumping smoke. He has run numerous marathons, plus a 50-miler some 30 years ago, but now usually does 5-, 10- or 15-mile runs, depending on the time he has available and the weather. Because of an artificial hip, nerve damage in his feet and bad ankles due to the jumping, plus some problems with vertigo, he has to run on asphalt, unable to navigate the uneven terrain of a trail or even parkland.

"Fox Field (the Silver City High School track) would be ideal for me, and I would be less noticeable, but it gets so boring after three hours of running around the same telephone pole," he says.

He gets some criticism for being on the highway, the occasional honk or yell, even though he is either on the side or in the bike lane, where he has every right to be.

"A vehicle cannot come in that space if it's occupied, and it doesn't matter if I'm a runner or a biker," he says. "I have to follow the same rules a vehicle does, red lights and all the rest. So I have to be very vigilant."

Some people also object to his lack of attire.

"After 35 years of running I know what I'm doing," Davis says. "The body is a perfect air-conditioning machine if you respect it. Even in the winter I need to exchange the two or three degrees of heat I'm generating by running."

He adds that he also gets a lot of "attaboys" and thumbs up.

He used to run nine-and-a-half-minute miles. Nowadays, it's more like 22 minutes. But he will never, ever stop.

"I'm fully aware I'm prolonging my physical plant by doing this, but what is going on in my head is much more important," Davis says. "I'm enhancing my life by meditation alone, just that one aspect, which is breathing and staying in the moment. Hell, I'm meditating for three hours out there." ❀

For more information on running in Grant County or on Silver City Adventure Trails (SCAT) contact Jim McIntosh at mrgreendreams@msn.com. If interested in buying vegetables from Kyle Skagg's Frisco Farm, call (575) 539-2169.

Harry Williamson lives and runs in Grant County after moving here three years ago. He has reported and edited for newspapers in New York, Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas. Feel free to contact him at (575) 534-9321 or at editorharrydad5@gmail.com with comments or story ideas.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT • EARTHTALK

Bugs, Be Gone!

Safer bug repellants. Plus dealing with disease clusters.

Dear EarthTalk: I can't seem to find any natural bug repellents that really work, so I end up using the harsh, chemical varieties. Are there any really effective bug repellants that aren't chemically based, or other strategies we can use to keep bugs at bay?

While the industry standard insect repellents rely on the insecticide DEET (N,N-Diethyl-meta-toluamide) to keep bugs at bay, many environmental and public health advocates worry that regular long-term exposure to even small amounts of the chemical can negatively affect the human nervous system.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that, in studies, DEET has been shown to be "of low acute toxicity," although it can irritate the eyes, mouth and skin. The EPA concluded after a comprehensive 1998 assessment that DEET does not present a health risk as long as consumers follow label directions and take proper precautions. And since nothing works quite as well as DEET in deterring disease-carrying ticks and mosquitoes, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is relatively bullish on its use in order to reduce incidences of Lyme disease, encephalitis and other insect-borne diseases.

Regardless, many consumers would prefer natural alternatives, and there are several companies already selling DEET-free insect repellents, many of which use essential oils as their active ingredients. WebMD reports that soy-based repellent formulas (such as Bite Blocker for Kids) are the most effective substitutes for DEET, usually lasting for 90 minutes, which is longer than some low-concentration DEET formulas. Some other leading alternative repellents include All Terrain's Herbal Armor, Quantum Health's Buzz Away Extreme, Lakon Herbals Bygone Bugz, and California Baby's Natural Bug Blend Repellent.

WebMD adds that, despite popular opinion, products containing citronella are not the best non-chemical choice, as their effectiveness typically wanes within an hour. Likewise, peppermint oil and some other plant-based oils are also effective as insect repellents. Even venerable Avon Skin-So-Soft bath oil, long thought to deter pests as well as DEET, keeps mosquitoes away only for up to a half-hour.

Beyond repellents, there are many other ways to keep pests away. For one, avoid floral fragrances from perfume, deodorant or other sources that can attract mosquitoes and other bugs. The EarthEasy website recommends eliminating standing water around your home to keep mosquito breeding at bay. Bird baths, wading pools and pet water bowls should be changed at least twice a week; also make sure your gutters are draining properly. Also, since mosquitoes are attracted by carbon dioxide released from campfires and barbecue grills, EarthEasy recommends throwing sage or rosemary on the coals to repel the mosquitoes.

If all else fails and DEET is your only option, use it sparingly. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends using repellents with no more than a 30% concentration of DEET for kids over two months old (and no repellent for younger babies). Keep in mind that formulas with lower concentrations of DEET may work just as well as others but not for as long. A 10% DEET concentration, for instance, should work for up to two hours outside. Applying DEET-based bug spray to your clothing instead of skin can help minimize any negative effects of exposure. Also, kids and grown-ups alike should wash off any DEET-based repellents when they are "out of the woods," so to speak.

CONTACTS: EPA DEET Fact Sheet, www.epa.gov/opp00001/factsheets/chemicals/deet.htm; CDC Insect



There are several companies now selling natural insect repellents, many of which use essential oils as their active ingredients. (Photo: iStockPhoto)

Repellent Use & Safety, www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect_repellent.htm; EarthEasy, www.eartheasy.com; American Academy of Pediatrics, www.aap.org; WebMD, www.webmd.com.

Dear EarthTalk: There are many areas around the US where "disease clusters" have occurred, whereby unusually large numbers of people have gotten sick, usually because of proximity to a polluter. What if anything is being done to remedy the situation?

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) defines a disease cluster as "an unusually large number of people sickened by a disease in a certain place and time." The organization, along with the National Disease Clusters Alliance (NDCA), reported in March 2011 that it had identified 42 disease clusters throughout 13 US states: Texas, California, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio, Delaware, Louisiana, Montana, Tennessee, Missouri and Arkansas, all chosen for analysis, states the report, "based on the occurrence of known clusters in the state, geographic diversity, or community concerns about a disease cluster in their area."

State and local health departments respond to some 1,000 inquiries per year about suspected disease clusters, though less than 15% turn out to be "statistically significant." Epidemiologists explain that true cancer clusters typically involve one type of disease only, a rare type of cancer, or an illness not usually found in a specific age group.

A classic example of a disease cluster is in Anniston, Ala., where residents experienced cancerous, non-cancerous, thyroid and neurodevelopment effects that they believe were caused by releases of various chemicals, including PCBs. The culprit: a nearby Monsanto-owned chemical maker, according to NDCA. And, indeed, a 2003 study in and around Anniston by the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry did find that one in five locals had elevated PCB levels in their blood.

Clusters are controversial "in part because our scientific criteria for proving that exposure A caused disease B... are extremely difficult to meet," says Donna Jackson Nakazawa, author of *The Autoimmune Epidemic*. "People move, or die, or their disease is never properly diagnosed. How can we prove, with all these variables, that a

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued on next page



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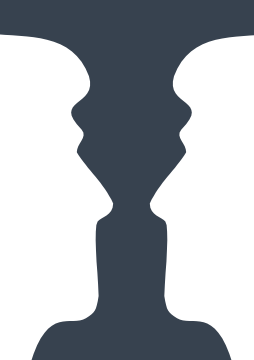
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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT continued

toxic exposure in an area caused a group of people to fall ill with a specific set of diseases?" Nakazawa is hardly skeptical about the existence of disease clusters. She is part of a growing chorus of voices calling on the government to not only remediate existing sites but to also prevent disease clusters in the first place by developing more stringent standards regarding chemical usage and disposal.

"European environmental policy uses the precautionary principle—an approach to public health that underscores preventing harm to human health before it happens," Nakazawa reports. In 2007 the European Union implemented legislation that forces companies to develop safety data on 30,000 chemicals over a decade, and places responsibility on the chemical industry to demonstrate the safety of their products. "America lags far behind, without any precautionary guidelines regarding chemical use," adds Nakazawa.

NRDC says "there is a need for better documentation and investigation of disease clusters to identify and address possible causes." Armed with better data, advocates for more stringent controls on chemicals could have a better chance of convincing Congress to reform the antiquated Toxic Substances Control Act of 1975 and bring more recent knowledge about chemical exposures to bear in setting safer standards.

CONTACT: NRDC report, www.nrdc.org/health/diseaseclusters/files/diseaseclusters_issue-paper.pdf.

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BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

Grant County Weekly Events

Support groups, classes and more.

Sundays

AL-ANON HEALING GROUP—4 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. Art, 313-9400.

ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY—First Sun. of every month, field trip. 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.

BEAD SOCIETY—1 p.m. Alotta Gelato 388-1362.

BINGO—1st and 2d Sun. Doors open 12:30 p.m., games start 1:35 p.m. Benefits Salvation Army and Post 18 charities. American Legion Post 18, 409 W. College Ave. 534-0780

GENTLE YOGA—5:30-7 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.

HOLISTIC PRESENTATIONS—11 a.m. PeaceMeal Coop Deli. 534-9703

PRAYER AND STUDY IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—Sunset. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.

RESTORATIVE YOGA—4-5:30 p.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.

Mondays

A COURSE IN MIRACLES—6:30 p.m., 600 N. Hudson. Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.

AARP CHAPTER #1496—Third Monday. 12:30 p.m. Senior Center, 205 W. Victoria. Contact Marcia Fisch, 388-1298

AARP WIDOWED PERSONS—Second Mondays. 11 a.m. Glad Tidings Church. Contact Donna, 538-9344.

AL-ANON—12:05 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1915 Swan, Silver City. Contact Valerie, 313-2561.

ART CLASS—9-10:45 a.m. Silver City Senior Citizen Center. Beginners to advanced. Contact Jean 519-2977.

KUNDALINI YOGA—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.

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, pheck@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

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.

PFLAG—(Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) 2nd Weds. 5:30 p.m. Wellness Coalition, 509 N. Bullard. 590-8797.

PING PONG—5:30-7 p.m. Grant County Convention Center. Beginners 7-8 p.m.

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Weds. 6:30 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF GRANT COUNTY—Third Weds. 6 p.m. Red Barn.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP—3:30-5 p.m. All-Purpose Room, Billy Casper Wellness Center, Hudson St. & Hwy. 180. James, 537-2429, or Danita, 534-9057.

Thursdays

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—2nd Thurs. 6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center Board Room. 388-1198 ext. 10.

CARDIAC SUPPORT GROUP—3rd Thurs. 4 p.m. Grant County Business and Conference Center, 3031 Hwy 180E, 590-2578.

CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL—First Thurs. 5:30 p.m. Grant County Admin Bldg.

DE-STRESSING MEDITATIONS—12-12:45 p.m. New Church of the SW Desert, 1302 Bennett St. 313-4087.

GRANT COUNTY ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY—2nd Thurs. 6 p.m. Senior Center, 204 W. Victoria St. Kyle, 538-5706.

HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT & TOURISM MEETING—Second Thurs. 10 a.m. Bayard Community Center, 290 Hurley Ave., Bayard. 537-3327.

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.

VINO Y VINYASA (WINE AND YOGA)—6:30 p.m. La Esperanza Vineyard and Winery, off Hwy. 61, turn on Royal John Mine Road, then left on DelaO Road. (206) 940-1502, www.laesperanzavineyardandwinery.com.

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

KUNDALINI YOGA—Noon. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas St.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. Gila Regional Medical Center conference room. 313-9400.

SILVER CITY WOMAN'S CLUB—2d Fri., 10 a.m. 411 Silver Heights Blvd. 538-9326.

TAIZÉ—2d Friday. Service of prayer, songs, scripture readings and quiet contemplation. 6:30 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 538-2015.

WOODCARVING CLUB—2d and 4th Fridays except holidays. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 313-1518.

YOUTH SPACE—5:30-10 p.m. Loud music, video games, chill out. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.

Saturdays

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BEGINNERS—6 p.m. Lions Club, 8th & Bullard (entrance at Big Ditch behind Domino's). Newcomers and seasoned members welcome.

BEGINNING SALSA—7-8 p.m. Javalina's. Instructor Gail Willow, 388-3332.

DOUBLE FEATURE BLOCKBUSTER MEGA HIT MOVIE NIGHT—5:30-11 pm. Satellite/Wellness Coalition.

EVENING PRAYER IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX TRADITION—5 p.m. Theotokos Retreat Center, 5202 Hwy. 152, Santa Clara. 537-4839, theotokos@zianet.com.

KIDS BIKE RIDE—10 a.m., Bike-works, 815 E. 10th St. Dave Baker, 590-2166.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS—6 p.m. New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.

SADHANA MORNING PRAYER, MEDITATION, YOGA—Last Sat. 5-7 a.m. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425.

SPINNING GROUP—1st Sat., 1-3 p.m. Yada Yada Yarn, 614 N. Bullard, 388-3350.

VINYASA FLOW YOGA—10 a.m. All levels. A Daily Practice, 104 N. Texas, 388-2425. ☸

HUMANS & NATURE • TORIE GRASS

7 Billion: The View from Southwest New Mexico

The consequences of overpopulation can be felt even in our sparsely populated corner of the Southwest.

This past fall, the earth's human population reached 7 billion. The United Nations projects that by 2050 the earth's population will reach between 8 and 11 billion. Living in southwest New Mexico, overpopulation and its consequences for the planet seem like someone else's distant problem. We live in small communities surrounded by thousands of acres of open space and beautiful public lands, clean air and the Gila, the last free-flowing river in New Mexico. For many of us, these are the very reasons we live here, far from cities and their associated problems.

According to the US Census Bureau, New Mexico is the sixth most sparsely populated state in the nation. Grant County has a population density of 7.8 persons per square mile, Doña Ana 46 persons per square mile, Luna 8.4, Catron 0.5 and Hidalgo 1.7 persons per square mile. Our two largest cities are a long drive away, which can be an irritation for those seeking big shopping malls, international airports and medical specialists.

Despite our apparent remoteness, we are completely interconnected with the world. Events, government policies and attitudes in Europe, Africa, South America and Asia impact us all in innumerable ways. For example, the recent debt crisis in Greece has created serious worries for the European Union and the stability of the euro. Subsequently, this has heightened concerns for the US financial market, which affects job creation, borrowing and lending rates in the US, potentially taxes and the age at which you can afford to retire. Environmental events can also be felt globally: A volcano erupting in Southeast Asia can affect the climate in North America and therefore impact food production, food prices and what you can afford for dinner tonight.

Human population growth, even on the other side of the world, has far-reaching effects on our well-being in Southwest New Mexico, our society and personal lives. An ever-expanding population with limited world resources is a recipe for increased human suffering and resource wars that impact all of us. Our 7 billion neighbors all need food, clothing, a home and clean water. If their economic situation improves, so does their consumption of resources. Like most of us in the US, they then want more... cars, refrigerators and flat-screen TVs. This requires increased resource extraction, be it copper, water or oil. If nations don't have the needed resources, history demonstrates, they will buy them from someone else, if they can, or start a war to take it from someone else. As food, water and energy resources are strained by an ever-expanding global population, conflict, civil war and environmental degradation increase. In response, the number of political and environmental refugees increases, whether they are fleeing civil war in the Sudan or the heat and sandstorms in Phoenix.

Water wars have been common in the western US since the early days of European settlers. Conflicts increase as population grows, groundwater is depleted and the climate changes. Water scarcity is now a huge source of conflict between states in the eastern and southern US as well as the Southwest.

In Southwest New Mexico, planning and discussion continues regarding the Arizona Water Settlements Act of 2004 (AWSA—see our February 2010 and September 2011 issues). AWSA will eventually determine the use of 14,000 acre feet per year of water for Southwest New Mexico that was authorized by the Colorado River Act of 1968. By the end of 2014, the Interstate Stream Commission will



Street crowds in Dhaka, Bangladesh. (Photo by Ahron de Leeuw)

make its decision for water usage based on input from four counties, passing on that decision to the Secretary of the Interior.

Globally, the water consumption rate doubles every 20 years. But Southwest New Mexico is projected to have adequate water for many years under moderate growth. But that, of course, depends on maintaining good water quality, free from industrial or agricultural pollution. Southwest New Mexico gets its water from the Gila and Mimbres Basins. Currently, approximately 64% of this water is corporate owned, primarily by mining interests.

Mining is the major economic driver in Southwest New Mexico. It provides jobs and an important tax base. You can't eat copper, however, and resource extraction must be done responsibly, in order to protect our groundwater from contamination. Strong legal safeguards and watchdog organizations are crucial to holding all corporations accountable. History has shown that mining corporations, motivated by profit, will not take steps to protect natural resources unless forced to do so. Throughout New Mexico, including the Southwest corner, there are many instances of historical and current contamination of groundwater from resource extraction.

Poverty, food and water shortages and deforestation are all intensified by the addition of nearly 80 million people a year to the world's population, as estimated by the Population Institute. Deforestation includes the removal of trees and native vegetation that results in soil erosion and destabilization. Even back in 1902, deforestation and overgrazing helped create the conditions for a huge flood that washed away downtown Main Street in Silver City, now known as the "Big Ditch."

Besides the environmental impacts of overpopulation, the personal and practical consequences of overpopulation for women, children, families and society are enormous. According to estimates by the Guttmacher Institute, 215 million women in the developing world want to delay or end childbearing but have no access to contraception. Half of the pregnancies in the

OVERPOPULATION continued on next page

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OVER-POPULATION

continued

US each year are unintended. In 2006, 24,000 New Mexican women had an unintended pregnancy.

Unwanted pregnancies take a heavy toll on mothers, children, families and society. Spacing and planning pregnancies and early access to prenatal care decreases a woman's risk for pregnancy and birth-related medical complications. It also protects an infant from the many physical and developmental complications of prematurity and illness related to poor maternal health. Many of these health complications for mother and baby can last a lifetime and carry high financial, emotional and psychological costs. Pregnant women, especially teens, often interrupt or end their educa-

tion, which frequently results in increased family poverty and stress.

In New Mexico, 31% of women lack health insurance and many live at or below the federal poverty level. Fortunately, publicly supported reproductive health services are available at

public health clinics and community health centers in many communities. Most of these clinics are funded by public insurance programs such as Title X of the Public Health Service Act (1970), with pregnancy-related care through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Unfortunately, funding for these programs has declined by 30% since the mid 1990s.

Susan Garrison, a Certified Nurse Practitioner, and Shauna McCosh, a Certified Family Nurse Practitioner and Certified Nurse Midwife, have both practiced in Southwest New Mexico for many years. Garrison provides comprehensive reproductive health care in Grant and Hidalgo Counties, as well as prenatal care in Luna County through the state Public Health Department. McCosh provides comprehensive reproductive health care, prenatal and post-partum care, as well as delivering babies in Grant and Hidalgo Counties through Hidalgo Medical Services. According to both health professionals, the women they serve often face tremendous challenges and obstacles including lack of health insurance, lack of education, dysfunctional families and poverty. Many of these women live in economically depressed communities with few employment options or role models of success. Family violence and drug abuse are common.

Sadly for all of us, this is the population in Southwest New Mexico that is having lots of babies and starting parenthood as teens. In 2005 there were 6,770 pregnancies among New Mexico teens aged 15 to 19, according to the Guttmacher Institute. The cycle of unintended teen pregnancy, high fertility, poverty and dependence on social programs is "heartbreaking," say Garrison and McCosh. Similarly, across the US, women with the

fewest years of education have the most unintended pregnancies. The unintended pregnancy rate for poor women in the US in 2006 was more than five times the rate for women in the highest income level, according to a Guttmacher report.

Providing health care in rural areas like ours costs more money due to the distance providers must travel between clinics as well as the distance clients must travel to access care. Both Garrison and McCosh live in Grant County but commute six to eight hours a week to provide services in a three-county area.

Over the last several years the Public Health Department has not refilled vacant nurse and nurse practitioner positions in rural Southwest New Mexico due to lack of state and federal funding. It has also moved some nurse positions long held in Luna and Hidalgo Counties to Las Cruces, leaving rural areas even more underserved.

As for the current controversy over mandating that health insurers cover contraceptives, both Garrison and McCosh agree that insurers must be required to cover reproductive health care, including birth control. Such coverage is far more cost effective, they point out, than paying for births from unintended pregnancies.

The cost to New Mexico taxpayers of all publicly funded state births from unintended pregnancies in 2006 was \$47.1 million. According to the Guttmacher Institute, without public insurance programs, unintended pregnancy and abortions in the US would be one-third higher. These programs have saved taxpayers \$3.4 billion in 2008, amounting to \$3.74 saved for every \$1 spent providing reproductive care.

We as a society do a poor job of taking care of the children we currently have. Many social problems, such as poverty, lack of education, domestic violence and gender inequality, are exacerbated by rapid population growth. In New Mexico Region 5 (Catron, Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna counties), there were 2,859 Protective Service reports of child abuse or neglect in 2010. There were 1,776 children in foster care at the end of 2010 and 1,086 children with adoption as a permanent goal. One-fourth of all the children under 18 in New Mexico were living in poverty in 2009, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count 2011. The US Department of Education reports the high school drop-out rate in New Mexico for 2007 was 41%, compared to 26% nationwide. Clearly, we are not meeting many of the basic needs of our children.

Some would argue that technology and expertise will solve all our problems. Contraceptive technology certainly has given us improved tools and options, allowing us to limit family size, space pregnancies and improve maternal and child health. Technology has also created many problems, however, such as polluted air, water and soil. Many technological devel-



A poor neighborhood in Cairo. (Photo by David Evers)

opments are driven by profit alone, with little concern for the long-term consequences to the quality of our lives and destruction to the environment and the depletion of non-renewable resources. If used wisely, technology can assist us in solving some of the world's problems—but personal responsibility, compassion, respect and common sense are prerequisites to all our local and global solutions.

Over the last several years the Public Health Department has not refilled vacant nurse and nurse practitioner positions in rural Southwest New Mexico due to lack of state and federal funding.

The enormity of the challenges we face in this country and the world, many of which are human caused, leaves me feeling overwhelmed and immobilized at times. I love children, am a mother of an adult son and have worked much of my 35-year professional career with children and young families.

But if we are the cause of many of our problems, then we can also be the source of the solutions. Sex and sexuality are a normal part of being human. Consensual sex between adults is not criminal activity. Birth control and the improved maternal and child health that results from

its use have been around, in one form or another, for thousands of years. The desire to regulate fertility and thereby have some control over and improve one's life and the future of our children is nearly universal. Access to voluntary reproductive choice is a reasonable human right and directly related to our "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Humans can better meet the physical, emotional and psychological needs of our children if we have fewer of them. In the past, more children meant more free labor. Shifting to smaller families now brings economic benefits. Access to and voluntary, correct use of birth control drastically reduces the number of abortions.

Solutions to our local, national and global problems will require wise individual, societal, economic and governmental decisions while keeping our eye on the long-term consequences of our actions. Individually and collectively, we have a responsibility to better support, educate, protect and encourage our children and young families. They are *all* our children, whether we gave birth to them or not. Solutions demand correct and age-appropriate family-life education for our children. Solutions require respectful dialogue and compromise by all sides of the issue, not defined by rigid political or religious ideology.

Solutions to the overpopulation problem already exist. Political, financial and personal support for local, national and international family-planning programs and reproductive health care have already proven to be extremely cost-effective and successful in saving women's lives, improving the health of families and pulling families out of poverty. Those of us beyond our child-bearing years have a special opportunity, based on our experiences and resources, to encourage younger people to wisely plan their futures, complete their education and limit family size. We as a society also must make sure they have the tools to do so.

Overpopulation is a global issue that impacts all of us whether the communities in which we reside are crowded or not. We are all interconnected. We are faced with many serious, global problems that demand our attention. None of them will be solved, however, without population stabilization. ☘

Earth Day in Silver City

Earth Day will be celebrated in Silver City on Saturday, **April 21**. The annual event will be held in Gough Park this year from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and will feature information booths, plant sales, food and entertainment. Admission is free.

April 21 is also the date for the annual **Earth Day e-Waste** electronic waste collection and recycling drive, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in the parking lot south of Gough Park (enter on 11th St.). All electronics and other recycling items will be accepted. Voluntary donation \$5 per TV or monitor.

For information on both events, call 519-8987.

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HENRY LIGHTCAP'S JOURNAL • HENRY LIGHTCAP

Haute Hobo

In the fashions of Lightcap land, "GQ" stands for "Goodwill quirky."

A wise man once said that when pondering matters of appropriate attire, one should always "dress to impress." I couldn't agree more, which is why I am such a dogged slave to fashion. Although I keep up with all the latest trends in snooty fashion capitol cities such as Milan and Paris, I tend to gravitate more towards the "downtown Goodwill store" school of fashion, which lets me stroll confidently on the catwalk of life.

The cornerstone of an impressive wardrobe starts with a few well-respected classics, basic togs that give a fashionable man a textile platform upon which to build a unique look. In my case, that would be Wrangler jeans and a full selection of T-shirts. Ideally, you should source your T-shirts for free, in which case they will feature "trés chic" corporate logos promoting feed stores, agricultural fertilizers and/or beer. From there, the dapper gentleman will accessorize smartly with flannel shirts, filthy baseball caps and scabby work boots, a sophisticated look that's guaranteed to make the lady folks swoon.

Since swooning is just another quality service I provide, successful dressing requires paying attention to the latest trends. I distinctly remember in the '80s when the most discriminating cowgirls coined the phrase, "Wrangler butts drive me nuts." Since I am still wearing Wranglers from the '80s, I can confidently say that my derriere is wholly responsible for any ongoing episodes of feminine insanity. Luckily, I've never fallen victim to any so-called denim fashion, including jeans that are acid washed, stone washed, or car washed. In fact, I pioneered the seldom-washed look. I continue to avoid Levi's, as they invariably give the impression that you've got room for a family of bobcats in the caboose.

As well coordinated as my wardrobe may be, I have suffered catty comments at times from those who don't share my vision. My daughter refers to my Reagan-era denim jacket as a "Canadian tuxedo." My authentic Waylon Jennings concert T-shirt is only slightly less mocked than my black satin "Kung Fu" shirt with the embroidered dragon on it. Most important, my wife has questioned the timeless appeal of my substantial selection of Hawaiian shirts, which have been unfavorably designated as haute couture for drooling senior citizens in Miami.

In my quest to stay up-to-date, I agreed to go to the clothes-selling place to preview this spring's fashions. I think the first store we went to specialized in stripper clothes, as it was primarily stocked for women with low self-esteem. The store had a men's section—there was a sign that said so—but it looked like they were storing more women's clothes in that area, or else they were ca-

tering only to French men.

Our second stop was equally puzzling. Did you know they sell shirts inside of other shirts, except it's really just one shirt? I guess it's for the man who's unclear on how to put on two shirts all by himself. There was also a rack of button-down shirts, which are a good choice for funerals, weddings or court appearances, except they had those little epaulettes on the shoulders, which might give somebody the mistaken impression that the wearer is a colonel in the Honduran army, which is apt to get you assassinated. There were various shirts with screen-printed electric guitars, flowers and stenciled letters that looked like the printer wasn't aligned correctly. I passed up those choices, too. In the end, I found a solid-colored polo shirt that I think will come in handy the next time I need to ask the bank for money. It's pretty high up on the "classy" scale.

It's pretty high up on the "classy" scale.

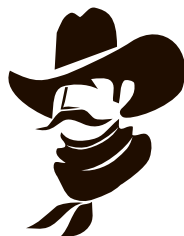
This isn't to imply that I'm not above admitting to infrequent lapses in style judgment. I have ashamedly culled my drawers of some outstanding articles of clothing, many of which were older than my teenage children. My "Frankie Say Relax" T-shirt is long gone, as are all my denim shorts.

My "Members Only" jacket is no longer admitted anywhere, and I really don't have the gravitas to pull off a linen sports coat since "Miami Vice" went off the air. Ironically, by surrendering these chestnuts, I found a new source for designer clothing.

Second-hand clothing stores are the secret to turning heads and making the ladies sigh in adoration. I have discovered some of the most amazing things: A hand-painted camp shirt with a hula dancer on it for \$3. A red T-shirt with the word "SECURITY" printed on it for \$2 (that baby's my backstage pass for all the best concerts). A tweed sport coat with leather patches on the elbows, just like an Englishman would wear to Parliament or a fox hunt, for only \$8. I may have the fashion sense of a brain-damaged gibbon, but I can get an entire new spring wardrobe for under \$40. Hobo chic is "in!"

It's important to dress for success, but it's also important not to crimp your style or face the shame of old photos with you wearing ridiculous-of-the-moment fashion. Trust me, Lady Gaga is going to hate old photos of herself in 10 years. Meanwhile, I'll still be contemplating whether it's time to retire my corduroy pants, and raising the bar for the most sophisticated hobos. 🍷

Henry Lightcap lives in style in Las Cruces.



Second-hand clothing stores are the secret to turning heads and making the ladies sigh in adoration.

EARTH DAY

Gough Park

Saturday, April 21st 10 am—2 pm

Join local organizations and businesses for a day of fun!


- 3rd Annual Electronic Waste Collection & Recycling Drive
- Purchase your plants: vegetable, herbal and native
- Entertainment, food & activities
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Silco Theatre

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delafance@cybermesa.com

SOUTHWEST GARDENER • VIVIAN SAVITT

The Growing Scene

New and expanded nursery offerings in Silver City.

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**Thursday thru Sunday
10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
Closed Monday thru Wednesday**

Located at 2290 Highway 61—2 miles Down River from the Intersection of Highway 152 and Highway 61.

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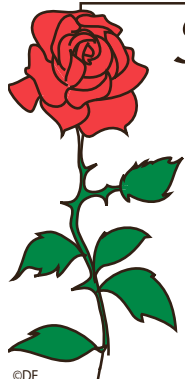


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Jubilation! Spring is officially here and my desire to garden is recklessly insuppressible. Quick, someone give me the right-hand equivalent of Hannibal Lecter's no-cannibalism mask or I won't make it until "frost's over day."

If you are feeling the same urges, subdue them! Read a new gardening book (like *Concrete Garden Projects*, mentioned later) to keep you away from the good earth a while longer. Take your garden plan to a nursery to find that perfect site-specific plant or tree. How exciting that this year two Silver City nurseries have enlarged their spaces and added more merchandise—and a new one opens April 17.

That addition to the growing scene is **Country Girls Nursery** at 2906 Mountain View Road, which features two large greenhouses for growing vegetables and ornamentals. Owner Kendra Wolf, 41, who was an ardent Future Farmer of America (FFA) in high school, grew up on a farm near Cliff, in close proximity to her grandparents' ranch. So the country-girl moniker is bona fide—Wolf was "raised" cultivating a vegetable garden and fruit orchard.

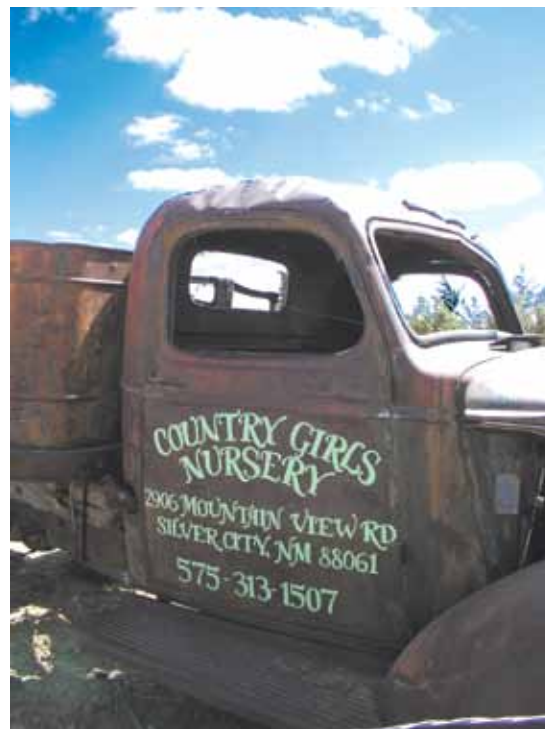
"Back then," Wolf recalls, "I was more interested in eating from the garden than working in it."

Times have changed. After success with her "hobby greenhouse," and the encouragement of friends, husband and relatives to grow a business, Wolf "did the math" and decided to forge ahead. Wielding a larger spade now, her goal is to create a "well-rounded nursery."

Wolf makes her own soil and does not use pesticides.

Last year at the Silver City Farmers' Market, Wolf says that she sold 750 plants, including tomatoes, chile peppers, herbs and some flowers. Then and now, she is assisted by her 15-year-old daughter, Sarah, the other "country girl." Together they plan to continue stocking their booth at the Market as well as running the new nursery.

Expect to find rose bushes, shade plus apple and peach trees, raspberries and table grapes among other items to be available at the nursery location, open Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (575) 313-1507.



A rusted-out 1936 Chevy pickup serves as Kendra Wolf's nursery sign. (Photo by Vivian Savitt)

From the **Ace Hardware Garden Center**, 3025 Hwy. 180 E., supervisor Kristi Dunn (formerly of Dunn's Nursery) reports that a 10% discount is offered on any purchase of five



Kendra Wolf holds a blooming rosemary, one of many herbs she grows along with vegetables and flowers at the new Country Girls Nursery. (Photo by Vivian Savitt)

plants. Fruit trees—ranging from cherry to pear—are now available along with "a full line of Botanical Interest seeds, including heirloom and organic varieties."

Dunn says that the garden center's exterior space is now fully utilized to accommodate staple plants for landscape contractors.

"We still carry a great selection of winter-hardy Vietnamese pots and fountains," she adds, "as well as plants chosen specifically for this climate, including species that are deer resistant and drought tolerant such as those from Mountain States growers."

Open Monday-Saturday 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (575) 534-0782.

A 2,000-square-foot expansion into a ware-

house space at **Silver Heights Nursery**, 1950 Hwy. 180 E., enables owners Regina and Steve Vinson to supply customers with many often-requested items, including shade cloth and landscaper-grade weed barrier.

"We also have redwood trellises, rain barrels, benches and much more in the new space," says Regina. "Our rustic wine barrels from Oregon still retain the scent of Pinot Noir!" she laughs. "This year we have pottery in all shapes and colors from Malaysia, China, Italy and Mexico—as well as locally made garden art."

If you subscribe to the nursery's informative blog (www.silverheightsnursery.blogspot.com) this month, you could win a \$25 gift certificate or a Fox Farm (the fertilizer folks) gift bag. Customers who already subscribe are eligible automatically.

Open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (575) 956-3159.



An array of brightly colored garden and patio items completes the new space at Silver Heights Nursery. (Photo by Vivian Savitt)

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Lovely and sturdy plant holders—as unusual as the object you find for a mold—are small, utilitarian garden art that can be formed from concrete. (Photo by Camilla Arvidsson, courtesy Timber Press)



A stepping stone with lots of traditional garden character becomes a DIY project in the book *Concrete Garden Projects*. (Photo by Camilla Arvidsson, courtesy Timber Press)

house (April 2011), opens for the season on April 12 with an array of locally grown bedding plants, a “shade room” and a wide selection of native and drought-tolerant plants. It’s at 2290 Hwy. 60, two miles from where Hwy. 152 and Hwy. 61 meet. Open Thursday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Heirloom fruit trees are now part of the mix at **Lone Mountain Natives** in Arenas Valley (June 2008). Owners Mark Cantrell and Tricia Hurley continue to offer seeds, wildflowers, cacti, shrubs and trees naturally suited to the area. See them at the Saturday Silver City Farmers’ Market and at Gough Park on Earth Day, or make an appointment for a visit. (575) 538-4345.

Get your plants. Then make garden art.

If you don’t mind lugging 50-pound bags of concrete, you will be delighted with *Concrete Garden Projects* by Swedish writers Malin Nilsson and Camilla Arvidsson (Timber Press, 2011, paperback, 131 pp., \$19.95).

I had fun just using gallon-sized black nursery pots as molds to create a concrete stand for a patio garden table. Then, in clay class, I designed a glazed pizza-shaped top for it. This kindergarten undertaking was a first step in tackling other projects, from stepping stones to unusually shaped planters. For the stronger and more ambitious, the Swedish women also explain how to form bird baths, concrete benches, house numerals and other items.

Project instructions are accompanied by photographs so the reader can easily visualize each step in the process. For example, the stepping stones are created from heavy-duty cardboard tubes that are sawn beforehand into smaller molds—round and perfectly shaped for a garden pathway. These may be embellished with mosaics, pebbles or a scroll-patterned rubber doormat to serve as a stencil.

Besides purchasing concrete and collecting molds, the only other materials you may need during the construction process are a large bucket or tub for mixing the concrete; a trowel or large spatula; cooking oil to prevent the concrete from sticking to the mold; protective gloves; and plastic sheeting for keeping larger projects moist during the drying process. If motivated, buy spray paint and stencils, find pottery shards and mirrored glass to imbue your personal concrete creation with style.

Most of the projects are easy and inexpensive. Concrete is durable and weathers beautifully. As the authors emphasize, it’s an excellent foil for greenery and water.

If you are game, let me know how it goes and whether stirring concrete summons images of ancient Romans planning an aqueduct. By all means send me photographs of your completed project. 🌱

Southwest Gardener columnist Vivian Savitt gardens at Ditch Cottage in Silver City.



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Besides these new and expanded operations, Silver City area gardeners have several other choices to exercise their green thumbs.

The garden center at **JD’s Feed and Supply**, 402 Silver Heights Blvd., will feature flowers, vegetables and herbs similar to last year, as well as Ferry-Morse seeds. Sue, who heads the garden operation, says that deliveries will also continue twice a month. Open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (575) 538-2187.

If this is the year that you are determined to create a pond in your garden, **Peaceful Ponds**, 121 Kirkland Road, can provide both aquatic plants and fish—plus lend expertise and pond maintenance products to your project. Contact owners Kelly or Paul Osuna at (575) 574-5544.

And don’t forget two other gardening meccas previously written about in this space. **Mimbres Farms**, the area’s largest certified organic green-





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A Success!

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<p>Workshop Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ann Owen JJ Dabbs Rick Bohart Judy O’Loughlin Asher Gelbart Fred Pineda Genevive Morgan Russell Dobkins Susan Van Auken Douglas Smith Monica Rude Lloyd Kretizer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ace Hardware Adobe Techniques Alba Electric Axel Canyon Preserve Blythe’s Garden Art Custom Steel Works Carol Mills Earth Services Energy Ideal Finishing Touch Foxworth-Galbraith Lumber Flying-B Honey Ranch Garland Real Estate Gila Farmers’ Market Gila Lavender Farm Gila-Mimbres Community Radio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girl Scouts Little House Green Chamber of Commerce Green Energy Now GC Copper CowBelles Grant County 4H Silver City Grant County Extension Office Habitat for Humanity J&J Stucco Jared Carpenter Pottery John and Mark Stained Glass Joint Office of Sustainability Kate Brown Pottery and Tile Kids in Need of Supportive Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LJ Lundy Realtor of the Year Lloyd Kreitzer Lone Mountain Natives Malika Crozier Mimbres Health Action League Mrs. NM--Johna Cooper People’s Design Silver City Food Co-op Sunshine Solar Greenhouse Sun Valley Hardware Susan Kazaskas The Common Thread Townside Farm Yo Kalisher Liquid Compost 	<p>Silent Auction Donors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Dogs Coffeehouse A Bead or Two Art and Conversation Ann Alexander Bear Creek Herbs Curioius Kumquat Desert Woman Botanicals Diane’s Restaurant Energy Ideal Flying-B Honey Ranch Gila Hike and Bike Gila Lavender Farm Hester House Javalina Lone Mountain Natives Lloyd Kreitzer Mimbres Farms Morning Star Nina McDonald Royal Scepter Silver City Food Co-op SC Museum Store Silver Heights Nursery Single Socks The Rock Center Thunder Creek
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Grand Opening

Sunrise Espresso II
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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.

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It's hard to write this, but we feel we owe you an explanation.

A few months ago, we noticed a change in our 'cream' flavors: some of them were developing a stringy, stretchy texture. (The fruit flavors were unaffected.) We tried a number of things to see if we could remedy the situation, without success.

We notified the manufacturer of the base mixes we use and informed them of the problem; they have now resolved it, and the texture is much improved—smooth and silky, as it should be. (We've even noticed some improvement to the flavors as a result of fixing this issue, which is an unexpected benefit.)

The long and short of it is this: if you noticed the difference and didn't like it, we strongly suggest that you come by and try us again—you'll be glad you did.

For those of you who stuck by us while we straightened this out: thanks for bearing with us.

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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Viva New Mexico Restaurant Program encouraging diners to select more health conscious meals when eating out.

-Silver City-

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Billy's BBQ
Diane's Restaurant
Grinder Mill
Isaac's Grill
Kountry Kitchen
Peace Meal Cooperative
Shevek's & Co.
Silverado
The Jalisco Cafe
The Red Barn
Vicki's Eatery
Wrangler's Bar & Grill

-Bayard-

Little Nisha's
M and A Bayard Café

-Hurley-

Gateway Grill

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Fidencios

Ramona's Café

-Rodeo-

Rodeo Café



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Red or Green?

Southwest New Mexico's best restaurant guide.

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

With each listing, we include a brief categorization of the type of cuisine plus what meals are served: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner. Unless otherwise noted, restaurants are open seven days a week. Call for exact hours, which change frequently. All phone numbers are area code 575 except as specified. We also note with a star (*) restaurants where you can pick up copies of *Desert Exposure*.

If we've recently reviewed a restaurant, you'll find a brief capsule of our review and a notation of which issue it originally appeared in. Stories from all back issues of *Desert Exposure* from January 2005 on are available on our Web site.

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

Remember, these print listings represent only highlights. You can always find the complete, updated Red or Green? guide online at www.desert-exposure.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: Mon.-Thur. B L, Sat. & Sun. B L D.*

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

ASIAN BUFFET, 1740 Hwy. 180E, 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 freewheeling mixture of barbecued ribs and brisket, freshly made pasta, Cajun catfish, seared Ahi tuna, authentic Greek gyros, and pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven and featuring a wide range of innovative toppings." (November 2010) Barbecue, pizza, gyros, pasta: Tues.-Fri. D. Sat.-Sun. L D. Italian nights Weds., Sat.*

BRYAN'S PIT BARBECUE, Mimbres Valley Self Storage and RV Park, (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). Now also BBQ tenderloin and smoked turkey. Barbecue: L D.

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

CAFÉ UN MUNDO, 700 N. Bullard, 956-8752. "The sandwiches...[made with] special home-made 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.... The menu describes the soups as 'Flavour-Driven Concoctions' and the description fits everything else on the menu, as well." (January 2012) Vegetarian and vegan dishes available. Mon.-Fri. L.*

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

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

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

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

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

DIANE'S RESTAURANT, 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) Home-made American, Euro and Pacific Rim: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. D only, weekend brunch, catering.

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

DON FIDENCIO'S, 901 N. Hudson St., 597-3663. Mexican: B L D.

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

DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE, 711 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-2916. Breakfast, American: B L, breakfast served throughout.*

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

GIL-A BEANS, 1304 N. Bennett St. Coffeeshop.*

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.*

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: Fri.-Sun. L D, Sun. brunch, Mon.-Wed. D only.*

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: Mon.-Sat. L D.

JAVA THE HUT, 611-A N. Bullard St., 534-4103. Espresso and coffeeshop: Mon.-Sat.*

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

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

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

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

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

LION'S DEN, 208 W. Yankie, 654-0353. Coffeeshop.

MARGO'S BAKERY CAFÉ, 300 S. Bullard St., 597-0012. Made-from-scratch traditional and specialty breads, pastries and other baked goods, savory and fruit empanadas, quiches. (November 2011) Bakery: Wed.-Sat. B L.*

MASA Y MAS TORTILLERIA, Suite C-The Hub Plaza, (505) 670-8775. Tortillas, tacos, chimichangas, burritos, enchiladas, menudo, tamales and more. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L.*

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

NANCY'S SILVER CAFÉ, 514 N. Bullard St., 388-3480. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

OFF THE HOOK, 1700 Mountain View Road, 534-1100. Country-style Southern cooking: B L D.*

THE PARLOR AT DIANE'S, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Beer and wine bar, sandwiches, light bites: Tues.-Sun. afternoons.

PEACE MEAL 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: Mon.-Sat. L.*

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

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: Mon.-Sat. 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 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 FOOD SHOP, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Sandwiches, burritos, salads, smoothies: Mon.-Fri. L.

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

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

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

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

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

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

YANKIE CREEK COFFEE HOUSE, 112 W. Yankee St. Coffeeshop, coffee, home-made pastries and ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies.*

Bayard

A.I.R. ROASTING HOUSE AND CAFE, 208 Central Ave., 537-3967. Coffeeshop.*

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

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

LOS COMPAS, 1203 Tom Foy Blvd. 654-4109. Sonoran-style Mexican, hot dogs, portos, menudo: L D.

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

SPANISH CAFE, 106 Central Ave., 537-2640. Mexican, tamales and menudo (takeout only): B.

SUGAR SHACK, 1102 Tom Foy Blvd., 537-0500. Mexican: Sun.-Fri. B L.

Cliff

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

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: Sun.-Thur. B L, Fri.-Sat. B L D.*

Lake Roberts

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

Mimbres

ELK X-ING CAFE, 3668 Hwy 35, (352) 212-0448. American, burgers, meatloaf: Thurs.-Sun. B L.

MIMBRES VALLEY CAFE, 2964 Hwy. 35, 536-2857. "You won't go home hungry from the Mimbres Valley Cafe, an oasis of down-home good food in a friendly atmosphere. The menu is simple and hearty, a blend of American and Mexican." (Jan. 2009) Mexican, American, burgers: Mon.-Tues. B L, Wed.-Sun. B L D, with Japanese tempura Wed. 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: Mon.-Sat. D.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

Las Cruces & Mesilla

ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT, 500 S. Main St. #434, 523-5911. American: Mon.-Fri. B L.

ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 526-1271. Mexican plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D.

ANDELE RESTAURANTE, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Mon. B L, Tues.-Sun. B L D.

ANTONIO'S RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA, 5195 Bataan Memorial West, 373-0222. Pizza, Italian, Mexican: Tues.-Sun. L D.

AQUA REEF, 900-B S. Telshor, 522-7333. "Las Cruces' smashing, elegant sushi restaurant is more than dinner—it's a dining adventure.... Though Aqua Reef bills itself as serving 'Euro-Asian cuisine,' the menu feels (delightfully!) hard-core Asian, excelling in the fresh and raw." (April 2008) Asian, sushi: D.

BAAN THAI KITCHEN, 1605 S. Solano Dr., 521-2630. Thai: Tues.-Sat. L D, Sun. L.

THE BEAN, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 523-0560. Coffeeshop.

BLUE AGAVE CAFE, 1765 S. Main St. (inside Best Western Mission Inn), 524-8591. Southwestern: B.

BLUE MOON, 13060 N. Valley Dr., 647-9524. Bar, burgers: Sat.-Sun. L D.

BOBA CAFE, 1900 S. Espina, Ste. 8, 647-5900. "The signature Bubble Tea is just the beginning of an inventive eating experience. The menu—with a long list of soups, salads, sandwiches, appetizers, wraps and 'other stuff'—is the same for lunch and dinner, although Tuesday through Thursday nights Boba lays on special Caribbean fare and Friday nights are Asian-themed, with sushi." (June 2009) Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: Mon.-Sat. L D.*

BRAVO'S CAFE, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: Tues.-Sun. B L.

BREAK AN EGG, 201 S. Solano Dr., 647-3000. "Dedicated to owner Janice Williams' love of movies and theater, movie posters and stills dot the walls. The menu uses groan-inducing but fun movie-related puns, such as "The Ommies," for the nice selection of omelets. Lunch offers a full range of sandwiches, salads, burgers and a few wraps. Portions are done right—just enough to fill the gap without emptying your wallet." (Sept. 2008) Breakfasts, burgers, salads, sandwiches: B L.

BURGER NOOK, 1204 E. Madrid Ave., 523-9806. Burgers: Tues.-Sat. L D.

BURRITOS VICTORIA, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D.

CAFE AGOGO, 1120 Commerce Dr., Suite A, 636-4580. Asian, American, sandwich, salad, rice bowl: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CAFE DE MESILLA EN LA PLAZA, 2051 Calle de Santiago, 652-3019. Coffeeshop, deli, pastries, soups,

sandwiches: B L early D.

CARILLO'S CAFE, 330 S. Church, 523-9913. Mexican, American: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CATTLEMEN'S STEAKHOUSE, 2375 Bataan Memorial Hwy., 382-9051. Steakhouse: D.

CHA CHI'S RESTAURANT, 2460 S. Locust St #A, 522-7322. Mexican: B L D.

CHICAGO SOUTHWEST, 3691 E. Lohman, 521-8888. Gourmet hot dogs and smoothies: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CHILITOS, 2405 S. Valley Dr., 526-4184. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

CHILITOS, 3850 Foothills Rd. Ste. 10, 532-0141. 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.

CIROS MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 160 W. Picacho Ave., 541-0341. Mexican: B L D.

DAY'S HAMBURGERS, Water & Las Cruces St., 523-8665. Burgers: Mon.-Sat. L D.

DE LA VEGA'S PECAN GRILL & BREWERY, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. "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) Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers: L D.

DELICIA'S DEL MAR, 1401 El Paseo, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D.

DG'S UNIVERSITY DELI, 1305 E. University Ave., 522-8409. Deli: B L D.*

DICK'S CAFE, 2305 S. Valley Dr., 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sun. B L, Mon.-Sat. B L D.

DION'S PIZZA, 3950 E. Lohman, 521-3434. Pizza: L D.

DOUBLE EAGLE, 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. "All the steaks are aged on the premises in the restaurant's own dedicated beef aging room... An array of award-winning margaritas and deliciously decadent desserts." (March 2012) Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet.

DUBLIN STREET PUB, 1745 E. University Ave., 522-0932. Irish, American: L D.

EDDIE'S BAR & GRILL, 901 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-8603. Pub food, American, Southwestern: B L D.

EL COMEDOR, 2190 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-7002. Mexican: B L D.

EL PATRON CAFE, 1103 S. Solano Dr. Mexican: Tues.-Thur., Sun. B L, Fri.-Sat. B L early D.

EL SOMBRERO PATIO CAFE, 363 S. Espina St., 524-9911. Mexican: L D.

EL TIBURON, 504 E. Amador, 647-4233. Mexican, seafood, steak: L D.

EMILIA'S, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Burgers, Mexican, soup, sandwiches, pastry, juices, smoothies: L D.

EMPIRE BUFFET, 510 S. Telshor Blvd., 522-2333. Asian: L D.

ENRIQUE'S, 830 W. Picacho, 647-0240. Mexican: B L D.

FARLEY'S, 3499 Foothills Rd., 522-0466. Pizza, burgers, American,

DINING GUIDE continued on page B53



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RED OR GREEN? • MARJORIE LILLY

Save Room for Pie

At the new Elisa's House of Pies and Restaurant in Deming, the southern-style fare is a savory prelude to 35 flavors of pie.

Elisa and Curtis Jackson discovered Deming when they were on vacation in 2008. "We were RV-ing, headed toward South Carolina," says Elisa. "We stopped here to rest and never left. There was something about the atmosphere and the people that we loved."

Elisa and Curtis started a pie business soon after they arrived.

"We were doing great," she says. "I went from business to business—the employees were the ones that bought our pies. We had a customer base of over 800. They called me the Pie Lady of Deming."

For a while they sold pies at Peppers Supermarket in town.

In early February this year, the Jacksons started their own eating establishment—Elisa's House of Pies and Restaurant, featuring pies and "southern cooking." It's a change of pace among the large array of excellent Mexican restaurants and others in Deming.

The restaurant is in a little brick building just north of the Wells Fargo Bank, off the parking lot. The atmosphere inside is what you'd call cozy, with red-and-white checked tablecloths and exposed brick walls.

The quality was recognized so quickly that KRWG (both FM and TV) is making one of its small-town visits to Elisa's on Wednesday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Pies are the headliners of the restaurant. Elisa (pronounced Ee-LEE-sa) says they make 35 flavors and can "throw together" any of them upon request.

"I've been cooking since I was eight years old," says Elisa of her childhood in San Diego. "I was the baker in the family. I started learning to take mixes and mix them. I'd watch my grandmother, mom and aunts. I have a super-big extended family."

"I have always cooked for others," she says. "I would have block parties all at my own expenses. I've fed homeless people. I've even gotten involved with Friends of Palomas, donating pies in Palomas."

I sink my teeth into one slice of her Strawberry Bottom Cheesecake, and it's as silky as whipped cream—like biting into a cloud in heaven. "It was made from scratch," Elisa tells me.

I buy one slice for \$2.75, but the House of Pies also sells whole pies. The cream pies go for \$11 and the regular ones are \$8, plus tax.

All pies are "freshly made, home-made," says Elisa, and are prepared with no preservatives. The restaurant can even make sugar-free pies upon request.

Some of the flavors are Carmel Pecan, Coconut Crème, Old Fashioned Coconut, Apple, Cherry, Key Lime, Lemon Meringue, Peach, Shoo-fly Pie (like molasses pie), Strawberry Cream Cheese Mousse, Peanut Butter Ice Cream, and "Millionaire."

The Millionaire Pie has coconut, pineapple and pecans folded into cream cheese and whipped cream. "It's considered gourmet," says Elisa.

"A lot of the recipes we've made up," she adds. "I also have good friends who have given me recipes."

It's obvious Elisa makes all the flavors with care. Even her apple pie has a "special filling," she claims.



Elisa and Curtis Jackson flank cook Joseph Jaramillo outside their Elisa's House of Pies and Restaurant in Deming. (Photo by Marjorie Lilly)

But this place is not all pies. The entrée part of the menu is lengthy. You'll find fish ("cornmeal dusted"), skillet-fried chicken, ribeye steak, meat loaf ("Elisa's secret recipe"), stuffed bell peppers, croquets ("best with Louisiana hot sauce," advises Elisa), stuffed cabbage, and a BBQ Beef Rib Dinner ("smoked with Curtis' special sauce").

Curtis' sauce manages to be very tangy and very spicy at the same time. It has to be the best for miles around.

Side orders include fried cabbage, collard greens, mac and cheese, and red beans and rice, among others. There is a homey taste in all these dishes that is very rich in flavor.

Each entrée comes with magnanimous extras—three of the "sides" plus a choice of a biscuit, cornbread (I can testify this is soft and sweet), hot-water cornbread, or jalapeño cornbread. All entrees are \$8.95, except for the BBQ Beef Rib Dinner, which is \$10.95.

As for sandwiches, the restaurant offers BBQ shredded beef (again with Curtis' sauce), BBQ beef hotlinks, and hamburgers. These cost between \$5.50 and \$7.25.

I ask Elisa how she makes the fried cabbage, thinking I could make it at home, and she clams up completely. She never breathes a word about the ingredients of anything. They're secrets zealously guarded.

Elisa's has a charming backyard with a wrought-iron fence and pomegranate trees. "We will be having meals outdoors once the winds die," says Elisa.

Free wi-fi is offered with the purchase of a beverage.

Parking is a little tricky. You can either park on the streets bordering the Wells Fargo parking lot, or you can go around the block to Silver Street and enter a parking lot to the right of the old State Engineers Office at 216 Silver.

The restaurant is at 208 1/2 South Silver Alley and is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., closed Sunday. Call (575) 494-4639 for more information. ☞

Marjorie Lilly writes the Borderlines column.



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DINING GUIDE continued

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 24 hrs.
FOX'S PIZZA DEN, 1340 E. Lohman Ave., 521-3697. Pizza: L D.
GAME BAR & GRILL, 2605 S. Espina, 524-GAME. Sports bar and grill: L D.
GO BURGER DRIVE-IN, 1008 E. Lohman, 524-9251. Burgers, Mexican: Mon.-Fri. B L.
GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD, 1420 El Paseo, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.
GOOD LUCK CAFÉ, 1507 S. Solano, 521-3867. Mexican, seafood: B L early D.
GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING, 1345 El Paseo Rd., 526-4803. American: B L D.
GUACAMOLE'S BAR AND GRILL, 3995 W. Picacho Ave., 525-9115. Burgers, pizza, salads, sandwiches, Hawaiian appetizers: L D.
HIEBERT'S FINE FOODS, 525 E. Madrid Ave. #7, 524-0451. Mexican, American: B L D.
HIGH DESERT BREWING COMPANY, 1201 W. Hadley Ave., 525-6752. Brew pub: L D.*
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.
J.C. TORTAS, 1196 W. Picacho Ave., 647-1408. Mexican: L D.
JESSE'S KANSAS CITY BBQ, 230 S. Church, 522-3662. Barbecue: Mon., Tue., Thurs-Sat. L D.
JIREH'S, 1445 W. Picacho. Mexican, American: B L early D.
JOSE MURPHY'S, 1201 E. Amador (inside Ten Pin Alleys), 541-4064. Mexican, American: L D.
JOSEPHINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. "A delicious change of pace. There are a variety of classic deli sandwiches to choose from, all served on freshly baked bread, as well as the soup of the day in a cup or bowl, and salads."

(October 2008) Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Mon.-Thur. L, Fri.-Sun. B L.
KATANA TEPPANYAKI GRILL, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-0526. Japanese: Mon.-Fri. L D, Sat. D.
KEVA JUICE, 1001 E. University, 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D.
KIVA PATIO CAFÉ, 600 E. Amador Ave., 527-8206. Mexican, Southwestern, American: B L D.
LA COCINA, 204 E. Conway Ave., 524-3909. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L.
LA IGUANA, 139 N. Main St., 523-8550. "An interesting combination of styles, with elements of coffeehouse, deli and fine dining imaginatively woven together." (February 2011) Sandwiches, soups, salads, coffee bar: Wed.-Sat. L D, Sat.-Sun. also brunch.*
LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA, 1300 N. Solano Dr, 541-9617. Mexican: L D.
LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ, 195 N. Mesquite, 523-5434. Mexican and American: B L.
LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA, 2410 Calle De San Albino, 524-3524. "A restaurant with history hard-wired into the fiber of its being. Through building, menu and ownership, its roots extend all the way back to the 1840s." (September 2011) Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Sat.-Sun. and holidays also B.
LAS TRANCAS, 1008 S. Solano Dr., 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Sat.-Sun. also B.
LEMONGRASS, 2540 El Paseo Rd., 523-8778. Thai: Tues.-Fri. L D, Sat.-Mon. D.
LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Mon.-Sat. B L.
LORENZO'S, 1750 Calle de Mercade, 525-3170. Italian, pizza: L D.
LORENZO'S PAN AM, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. "Homey, classic Italian fare.... Also features ravioli dishes, in half and full portions, served with salad and a basket of warm, fresh bread. Save room for dessert." (July 2008) Italian, pizza: L D.
LOS COMPAS CAFÉ, 6335 Bataan Memorial W., 382-2025. Mexican: B L D.
LOS COMPAS CAFÉ, 603 S. Nevarez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D.
LOS COMPAS, 1120 Commerce Dr.,

521-6228. Mexican: B L D.*
LOS MARIACHIS, 750 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.
MESILLA VALLEY KITCHEN, 2001 E. Lohman Ave. #103, 523-9311. American, Mexican: B L.*
MESON DE MESILLA, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D.
METROPOLITAN DELI, 1001 University Ave., 522-3354. Sandwiches: L D.
MIGUEL'S, 1140 E. Amador Ave., 647-4262. Mexican: B L D.
MI PUEBLITO, 1355 E. Idaho Ave., 524-3009. Mexican: Mon.-Fri. B L D, Sat.-Sun. B L.
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. "For a true taste of Tokyo, a classic curry, a Vietnamese tidbit or big bite of Australia—all served up with the sophistication of San Francisco—head to Mix Pacific Rim Cuisine for an international dining experience that satisfies." (March 2008) Asian, Pacific: Mon.-Sat. L D.
MOONGATE CAFÉ, 9395 Bataan Memorial, 382-5744. Coffeehouse, Mexican, American: B L.
MY BROTHER'S PLACE, 334 S. Main St., 523-7681. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.
NELLIE'S CAFÉ, 1226 W. Hadley Ave., 524-9982. Mexican: Tues.-Sat. B L.
NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 2605 Missouri Ave., 522-0440. Mexican: L D.
NOPALITO RESTAURANT, 310 S. Mesquite St., 524-0003. Mexican: Sun.-Tues., Thurs.-Sat. L D.*
OLD TOWN RESTAURANT, 1155 S. Valley Dr., 523-4586. Mexican, American: B L.*
ONO GRINDZ, 300 N. Downtown Mall, 541-7492. "Expect Ono Grindz' authentic Hawaiian fare to thrill your taste buds in an atmosphere that charms all your other senses." (Feb. 2008) Hawaiian: B L D.
ORIENTAL PALACE, 225 E. Idaho, 526-4864. Chinese: L D.
PAISANO CAFÉ, 1740 Calle de Mercado, 524-0211. Mexican: B L D.*

DINING GUIDE continued on next page

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
APRIL [2]	APRIL [3]	APRIL [4]	APRIL [5]	APRIL [6]
Available for Regular Catering by Order	3-MEAT or VEGETABLE LASAGNA Tossed Salad Garlic Bread	CHICKEN POT PIE w/ Mixed Vegetables Carrot - Pineapple Salad Dinner Roll	BAKED HAM Minnies Sweet Potato Casserole Spring Greens Salad Dinner Roll	Available for Regular Catering by Order
APRIL [9]	APRIL [10]	APRIL [11]	APRIL [12]	APRIL [13]
CLOSED Out of Town to Visit Dad	CLOSED Out of Town to Visit Dad	SPINACH PIE Antipasto Salad Assorted Savory Muffins	DIJON PORK TENDERLOIN w/ Mustard Sauce Apple Stuffed Muffins Cottage Cheese Salad	Available for Regular Catering by Order
APRIL [16]	APRIL [17]	APRIL [18]	APRIL [19]	APRIL [20]
Available for Regular Catering by Order	OVEN FRIED CHICKEN Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Vegetable Dinner Roll	POT ROAST w/ Vegetables Tossed Salad Dinner Roll	ROAST PORK BUTT w/ BBQ and Bun Baked Beans Cabbage Slaw	Available for Regular Catering by Order
APRIL [23]	APRIL [24]	APRIL [25]	APRIL [26]	APRIL [27]
Available for Regular Catering by Order	SWISS STEAK w/ Vegetables Baked Mashed Potatoes Tossed Salad Dinner Roll	CHICKEN PARMESAN Pasta w/ Pomodoro or Alfredo Sauce Tossed Salad Italian Bread	PORK CHOPS w/ Country Gravy Corn Souffle Cabbage Slaw Biscuit	Available for Regular Catering by Order
APRIL [30]	MAY [1]	MAY [2]	MAY [3]	MAY [4]
Available for Regular Catering by Order	MEAT LOAF w/ Gravy Herb Roast Potatoes Tossed Salad Dinner Roll	GREEN CHILE - CHICKEN ENCHILADAS Mexican Rice Pinto Beans Sliced Tomatoes	ROAST BEEF Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Vegetable Dinner Roll	Available for Regular Catering by Order

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Table Talk

After more than 18 years as a Grant County institution, **A.I.R. Coffee** will be closing its doors on April 30. Louis Baum, who has owned the coffee roaster and coffeehouse in Bayard for the past six years, will hold a closing sale of equipment, furniture, artwork and more on April 20-22, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. After six months of trying to sell the business or find a partner, Baum says the economy dictates that it close.

Originally a key part of downtown Silver City's Yankee Street revitalization, A.I.R.—sort for "artist in residence"—was founded by Jacqueline Shaw, an escapee from the corporate rat race in coffee-crazed Seattle. It opened its doors on Halloween 1993 in the partitioned-off six front feet of Shaw's place on Yankee Street. The "coffee bar" moved down the street to 112 W. Yankee St. two and a half years later.

In our story on A.I.R.'s 10th anniversary in October 2003, we recorded some of what it meant to the town: "Still, something was happening in Silver City—and Shaw's espresso machine was at the center of it. *Newsweek* ran a story on 'cappuccino vs. cowboys, the new war for the Old West,' which opened and closed with A.I.R. Coffee, where the reporter had set up headquarters. Sen. Jeff Bingaman stopped into the coffeehouse one day. 'He couldn't believe his old cowtown had a serious espresso bar,' Shaw says. He men-

tioned it to a reporter at the *Washington Post*, which ran another story, which in turn got picked up across the country on the wire services. *The New York Times* wrote up Silver City, with a big photo of A.I.R. Coffee."

Shaw sold the locally beloved coffeehouse in 2005 and it briefly operated as Dos Baristas before being sold again and rechristened Yankee Creek Coffee House, which continues in business at its long-time downtown location.

But Shaw retained the roastery in Bayard, which she'd started in 2001, and the A.I.R. name. Baum bought the Bayard operation and the A.I.R. name in 2006, adding a coffeehouse to the wholesale coffee business. 208 Central Ave., 537-3967.

The folks at Bear Mountain Lodge want you to spend Easter with them. The lodge's **Café Oso Azul** is planning a special Easter menu, April 8, by reservation only. Entrées will include crab cakes, lemon-pepper-roasted ham, chicken in a white-wine mustard sauce and white vegetarian lasagna. 60 Bear Mountain Road, Silver City, 538-2538, www.bearmountainlodge.com.

Shevek & Co. in downtown Silver City is now pouring something called "scrumpy," which turns out to be a British term for artisanal hard ciders. You can get a sample, along with wines and beers new on the menu, for \$5 for five tastings on First Friday, April 6. 602 N. Bullard St., 534-9168, silver-eats.com. ☘

DINING GUIDE continued

PANCAKE ALLEY DINER, 2146 W. Picacho Ave., 647-4836. American: B L, early D.

PARKER'S BBQ, 850 E. Madrid Ave., 541-5712. Barbecue carryout: L, early D.

PASSION ULTRA LOUNGE, 201 E. University Ave. (inside Ramada Palms), 523-7399. Steaks, burgers, salmon: L D.

PEPE'S, 1405 W. Picacho, 541-0277. Mexican: B L D.

PEPPERS CAFÉ ON THE PLAZA (IN THE DOUBLE EAGLE RESTAURANT), 2355 Calle De Guadalupe, 523-6700. "Creative handling of traditional Southwestern dishes.... [plus] such non-Mexican entrées as Salmon Crepes and Beer Braised Beef Carbonnade." (March 2012). Southwestern: L D.

PHO SAIGON, 1160 El Paseo Road, 652-4326. Vietnamese: L D.

PIT STOP CAFÉ, 361 S. Motel Blvd., 527-1993. Mexican, American, steak: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

PLAYER'S GRILL, 3000 Champions Dr. (NMSU golf course clubhouse), 646-2457. American: B L D.

PULLARO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 901 W. Picacho Ave., 523-6801. Italian: L D.

RANCHWAY BARBEQUE, 604 N. Valley Dr., 523-7361. Barbecue, Mexican: Mon.-Fri. B L D, Sat. D.

RASCO'S BBQ, 5580 Bataan Memorial E. (inside Shorty's gas station). Barbecued brisket, pulled pork, smoked sausage, ribs.

RED BRICK PIZZA, 2808 N. Telshor Blvd., 521-7300. Pizzas, sandwiches, salads: L D.

ROBERTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 908 E. Amador Ave., 523-1851. Mexican: B L D.*

ROSIE'S CAFÉ DE MESILLA, 420 Avenida de Mesilla, 526-1256. Breakfast, Mexican, burgers: Sat.-Thurs. B L, Fri. B L D.

SAENZ GORDITAS, 1700 N. Solano Dr., 527-4212. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.

SANTORINI'S, 1001 E. University Ave., 521-9270. "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: Mon.-Sat. 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, vegetarian, vegan, wraps: L D.

THE SHED, 810 S. Valley Dr., 525-2636. American, pizza, Mexican, desserts: Wed.-Sun. B L.*

SI ITALIAN BISTRO, 523 E. Idaho, 523-1572. "Wood-fired pizzas are the star of the show, along with plenty of authentic pasta dishes." (February 2006) Italian: Mon.-Sat. L D.

SIMPLY TOASTED CAFÉ, 1702 El Paseo Road, 526-1920. Sandwiches,

soups, salads: B L.

SI SEÑOR, 1551 E. Amador Ave., 527-0817. Mexican: L D.*

SMOKY DICK'S BBQ, 2265 S. Main St., 541-5947. Barbecue: L D.

SPANISH KITCHEN, 2960 N. Main St., 526-4275. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.

SPIRIT WINDS COFFEE BAR, 2260 S. Locust St., 521-1222. Sandwiches, coffee, bakery: B L D.*

ST. CLAIR WINERY & BISTRO, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-0390.

"Home for the tasting room for the wide variety of wines produced by the Deming-based New Mexico Wineries. You can combine your sipping with feasting from an innovative menu that ranges from steaks to panini sandwiches." (July 2007) Wine tasting, bistro: L D.

SUNSET GRILL, 1274 Golf Club Road (Sonoma Ranch Golf Course clubhouse), 521-1826. American, Southwest, steak, burgers, seafood, pasta: B L D.

TERIYAKI BOWL, 2300 N. Main St., 524-2055. Japanese: Mon.-Sat. L D.

TERIYAKI CHICKEN HOUSE, 805 El Paseo Rd., 541-1696. Japanese: Mon.-Fri. L D.

THAI DELIGHT DE MESILLA, 2184 Avenida de Mesilla, 525-1900. "For the adventurous, there are traditional Thai curries, soups and appetizers to choose from, all of which can be ordered in the degree of heat that suits you.... The restaurant is clean, comfortable, casual in a classy sort of way, and totally unpretentious." (January 2011) Thai, salads, sandwiches, seafood, steaks, German: L D.*

TIFFANY'S PIZZA & GREEK AMERICAN CUISINE, 755 S. Telshor Blvd #G1, 532-5002. "Greek as the Parthenon, the only pure outpost of Greek food for 200 miles.... When the food arrives, it's in portions that would satisfy a Greco-Roman wrestler." (February 2005) Pizza, Greek, deli: Tues.-Sat. B L D.*

UMP 88 GRILL, 1338 Picacho Hills Dr., 647-1455. "An authentic taste of the Emerald Isle in a delightfully authentic pub atmosphere." (December 2008) Irish pub: L D.

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

VINTAGE WINES, 2461 Calle de Principal, 523-WINE. "The atmosphere is casual and relaxed, the handful of tables situated snugly as in a real French bistro to encourage conversation. Kick off the evening with wine and tapas inside, or wrap up the night out on the charming, cozy patio with a dessert wine or port." (June 2008) Wine and cigar bar, tapas: L D.

WOK-N-WORLD, 5192 E. Boutz, 526-0010. Chinese: Mon.-Sat. 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, pasta, also sandwiches at adjoining Popular Artisan Bakery: Mon.-Sat. L D.

ZEFFIRO NEW YORK PIZZERIA, 101 E. University Ave., 525-6770. Pizza: L D.

Anthony ERNESTO'S MEXICAN FOOD, 200 Anthony Dr., 882-3641. Mexican: B L.

LA COCINERA, 908 W. Main Dr., 589-1468. Mexican: L.

Chapparral EL BAYO STEAK HOUSE, 417 Chaparral Dr., 824-4749. Steakhouse: Tues.-Sun. B L D.

TORTILLERIA SUSY, 661 Paloma Blanca Dr., 824-9377. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.

Doña Ana BIG MIKE'S CAFÉ, Thorpe Road. Mexican, breakfasts, burgers: B L D.

Organ THAI DELIGHT, 16151 Hwy. 70E, 373-3000. Thai, steaks, sandwiches: L D.

Radium Springs COUNTRY CUPBOARD, 827 Fort Selden Rd., 527-4732. American: B L D.

Santa Teresa BILLY CREWS, 1200 Country Club Road, 589-2071. Steak, seafood: L D.

LUNA COUNTY Deming ADOBE DELI, 3970 Lewis Flats Road SE, 546-0361. "The lunch menu features traditional deli-style sandwiches... The dinner menu is much grander, though some sandwiches are available then, too. Dinner options include filet mignon, flat iron steak, T-bone, ribeye, New York strip, Porterhouse, barbecued pork ribs, Duck L'Orange, Alaska King Crab legs, broiled salmon steak, shrimp scampi, pork chops, osso buco, beef kabobs." (March 2010) Bar, deli, steaks: L D.*

BALBOA MOTEL & RESTAURANT, 708 W. Pine St., 546-6473. Mexican, American: Sun.-Fri. L D.

BELSHORE RESTAURANT, 1030 E. Pine St., 546-6289. Mexican, American: Tues.-Sun. B L.

CAMPOS RESTAURANT, 105 S. Silver, 546-0095. "Owner Albert Campos prides himself on the authentic Mexican and southwestern food he cooks up, inspired by his home in the Mexican state of Zacatecas—such as the fantastic BBQ Beef Brisket Sandwich, a family recipe. But the restaurant has much more than Mexican fare." (June 2007) Mexican, American, Southwestern: L D.*

CANO'S RESTAURANT, 1200 W. Pine St., 546-3181. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. L D.

CHINA RESTAURANT, 110 E. Pine St., 546-4146. Chinese: L D.

EL CAMINO REAL, 900 W. Pine St., 546-7421. Mexican, American: B L D.

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

EL MIRADOR, 510 E. Pine St., 544-

7340. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D.
GOLDEN SUN STAR, 500 E. Cedar St., 544-0689. Chinese: L D.
GRAND MOTOR INN & LOUNGE, 1721 E. Pine, 546-2632. Mexican, steak, seafood: B L D.
IRMA'S, 123 S. Silver Ave., 544-4580. Mexican, American, seafood: B L D.
LA FONDA, 601 E. Pine St., 546-0465. "Roomy, bright and airy, La Fonda is no mere taco joint. The extensive menu features all the Mexican favorites at bargain prices, plus a wide range of Anglo fare and a breakfast that's worth the drive to Deming. Famous for its fajitas: Choose chicken, beef or both, fajitas for two, or try the unusual stuffed fajita potato or seemingly contradictory fajita burrito." (September 2009) Mexican: B L D.*
LAS CAZUELAS, 108 N. Platinum Ave. (inside El Rey meat market), 544-8432. "This gem of a restaurant turns out perfectly cooked steaks and seafood, as well as a full line of Mexican fare." (June 2011) Steaks, seafood, Mexican: Tues.-Sat. L D.*
MANOLO'S CAFÉ, 120 N. Granite St., 546-0405. "The menu offers breakfast, lunch and dinner choices, and it's difficult to convey the immense range of food options available. In every section of the menu, there's a mixture of American-style 'comfort' food items and Southwest-style Mexican dishes which no doubt qualify as Hispanic 'comfort' food. There's nothing particularly fancy about the food, but it's fresh and tasty. And the prices are reasonable." (February 2012) Mexican, American: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.
MIMBRES VALLEY BREWING CO., 200 S. Gold, 544-BREW. Craft beer, burgers, wings, paninis: Tues.-Fri. D, Sat.-Sun. L D.
PALMA'S ITALIAN GRILL, 110 S. Silver, 544-3100. "Even if you think you don't like Italian food, you might want to try this family-run enterprise, with Harold and Palma Richmond at the helm. In addition to the name, Palma brings to the restaurant her Sicilian heritage and recipes that came to the United States with her grandmother. Harold brings training in classic Continental cuisine, along with his family's New England food traditions." (Sept. 2010) Italian: L D. Sat. prime rib, Sun. buffet.*

PATIO CAFÉ, 1521 Columbus Road, 546-5990. "The famed burgers are ground fresh daily from 85% lean beef—a half-pound apiece before cooking—and formed for each order. You can adorn your burger in any of a dozen different combinations of cheese, bacon, chiles, pico de gallo, sautéed onions, barbecue sauce, fresh mushrooms, even ham." (February 2006) Burgers, American: Mon.-Sat. L D.*
PRIME RIB GRILL (INSIDE HOLIDAY INN), I-10 exit 85, 546-2661. Steak, seafood, Mexican: B D.
RANCHER'S GRILL, 316 E. Cedar St., 546-8883. Steakhouse, burgers: L D.*
SI SEÑOR, 200 E. Pine St., 546-3938. Mexican: Mon.-Sat. B L D, Sun. B L.
SUNRISE KITCHEN, 1409 S. Columbus Road, 544-7795: American, Mexican, steaks: Mon.-Thur. B L, Fri. B L D.
TACOS MIRASOL, 323 E. Pine St., 544-0646. Mexican: Mon., Wed.-Sat. B L D, Tues. B L.

Akela
APACHE HOMELANDS RESTAURANT, I-10. Burgers, ribs, "casino-style" food: B L D.*
Columbus
PATIO CAFÉ, 23 Broadway, 531-2495. Burgers, American: B L.*

HIDALGO COUNTY
Lordsburg
EL CHARRO RESTAURANT, 209 S. P Blvd., 542-3400. Mexican: B L D.
FIDENCIO'S, 604 E. Motel Dr., 542-8989. Mexican: B L early D.
KRANBERRY'S FAMILY RESTAURANT, 1405 Main St., 542-9400. Mexican, American: B L D.
MAMA ROSA'S PIZZA, 1312 Main St., 542-8400. Pizza, subs, calzones, salads, chicken wings, cheeseburgers, shrimp baskets: L D.
RAMONA'S CAFÉ, 904 E. Motel Dr., 542-3030. Mexican, American: Tues.-Fri. B L D, Sun. B mid-day D.

Animas
PANTHER TRACKS CAFÉ, Hwy. 338, 548-2444. Burgers, Mexican, American: Mon.-Fri. B L D
Rodeo
RODEO STORE AND CAFÉ. 195 Hwy. 80, 557-2295. Coffeeshop

food: Mon.-Sat. B L.
RODEO TAVERN, 557-2229. Shrimp, fried chicken, steaks, burgers, seafood: Weds.-Sat. D.

CATRON COUNTY
Reserve
ADOBE CAFÉ, Hwy. 12 & Hwy. 180, 533-6146. Deli, American, Mon. pizza, Sunday BBQ ribs: Sun.-Mon. B L D, Wed.-Fri. B L.
BLACK GOLD, 98 Main St., 533-6538. Coffeeshop, pastries.
CARMEN'S, 101 Main St., 533-6990. Mexican, American: B L D.
ELLA'S CAFÉ, 533-6111. American: B L D.
UNCLE BILL'S BAR, 230 N. Main St., 533-6369. Pizza: Mon.-Sat. L D.

Glenwood
ALMA GRILL, Hwy. 180, 539-2233. Breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, Mexican: Sun.-Wed., Fri.-Sat. B L.
BLUE FRONT BAR AND CAFÉ, Hwy. 180, 539-2561. "Plentiful appetizer platters, perfectly done and tender ribeye, weekend special barbecue dishes smoky sweet and ample." (Nov. 2007) Mexican, American, weekend barbecue, Friday catfish fry: L D.
GOLDEN GIRLS CAFÉ, Hwy. 180, 539-2457. "Dig into an honest taste of the local scene and a down-home breakfast you'll surely wish your mama had made. The specials listed up on the whiteboard all come with biscuits and gravy, and the ample menu has all the usual suspects—omelets, pancakes, French toast and, of course, breakfast burritos—cueing you into the rib-sticking satisfaction ahead." (Nov. 2007) Breakfast: B.

MARIO'S PIZZA, Hwy. 180, 539-2316. "This unpretentious eatery serves up better pizza than you'll find in many a big city. But a recent visit to the tiny, scenic mountain town will forever be remembered as the time I had, absolutely, the best calzone of my life." (Nov. 2008) Italian: Mon.-Tues., Fri.-Sat. D.

Other Catron County
PURPLE ONION CAFÉ, Mogollon, 539-2710. "Seasonal, quirky and way off the beaten path... serves eclectic fare and 'famous' pie." (August 2011) Breakfast, burgers, veggie melts, pita pockets, pies: Fri.-Sun., Mon. holidays, May-Oct.: B L.
SNUFFY'S STEAKHOUSE AND

SALOON, Quemado Lake, 773-4672. Steakhouse: D (Dec.-April: closed Mon.-Tues.)

SIERRA COUNTY
Hillsboro
BARBER SHOP CAFÉ, Main St., 895-5283. American, Mediterranean, sandwiches: Thurs.-Sat. L.
HILLSBORO GENERAL STORE & CAFÉ, 100 Main St., 895-5306. American and Southwestern: Sun.-Wed., Fri.-Sat. B L.
LYNN NUSOM'S KITCHEN, Main St., 896-5602. Soups, paninis, burritos, tacos, pies: Wed.-Sun. B L, early D.

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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Health Talk

Got Pain?
 Learn to manage it

April 20, 2012
1:00pm - 2:00pm
 at the
Gila Regional
Conference Room
 1313 East 32nd St.
 Silver City, NM

For more information call
575/538-4870
 or at
www.grmc.org

All Health Talks are FREE

Dr. John A. Flores will speak on the topic of **pain management**. Learn more about managing acute or chronic pain and preventing it from affecting your professional and personal life.

Future Health Talks:
May 18, 2012 - Joint Replacement - Dr. Brian Robinson
1:00pm at the Southwest Bone & Joint Institute Conference Room

Find details online at
www.grmc.org



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.

April Shows

April 7 **Astronaut Farmer** (2006, 104 minutes, rated PG, made in NM!)

April 14 **Ulzana's Raid** (1972, 103 minutes, rated R)

April 21 **Joffrey: Maverick's of American Dance** (2012, 87 minutes, not rated) with special guest, Rochelle Ziede Booth, former Joffrey dancer.

April 28 **The Mission** (1986, 125 minutes, rated PG)

For more information call 575-524-8287 • www.mesillavalleyfilm.org



APRIL FILMS


April 6-12 **The 2012 Oscar Nominated Short Films** (2012, 150 min., subtitled as needed)

April 13-19 **King of Devil's Island** (2011, 120 min., in Norwegian, w/ English subtitles)

April 20-26 **Chico and Rita** (2011, 94 min., in English and Spanish, w/ subtitles as needed)

Apr 27-May 3 **Garbo: The Spy** (2011, 88 min., USA)

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THE HISTORIC SILCO THEATER

- Fri, Apr 20** "Gasland" film. 7 pm. Sponsored by Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SC, Great Old Broads, Gila Resources Information Project, Joint Office of Sustainability, SC Food Co-op, Aldo Leopold HS, and Lone Mountain Natives. Suggested Donation \$5. 538-8078.
- Wed, Apr 25** Progressive Voters Alliance of Grant County monthly meeting. 7 pm. PVA-GC is a non-partisan group designed to serve as a clearinghouse, point of contact and carrying agent for advocates of social and economic justice, political equality, and environmental stewardship issues.

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40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

What's Going on in April

Plus a look ahead into early May.

APRIL PALM SUNDAY SUNDAY

1 Silver City/Grant County
AWAKENING TO LOVE—Author/therapist, Dr. Mary Rose Bennett from Albuquerque on the challenges in seeking love, cultural mythologies, ways to clear obstacles and enhance relationships. 1-4 p.m. \$20. Agave Spirit Retreats, 519-4509, director@agavespiritretreats.com.

WNMU SOFTBALL VS. FORT LEWIS COLLEGE—11 a.m. WNMU, wnmumus-tangs.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

A BRUSH WITH COLOR—Marie Siegrist and Penny Simpson. Opening reception. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Tom-baugh Gallery, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano, 522-7281.

A SEPARATION—Through April 5. Written and directed by Asghar Far-hadi, this film from Iran focuses on the sophisticated, well-educated middle-class residents of Tehran, people who have problems and personal situations much like our own. But gradually, bit by bit, the ordinary gets devastatingly out of hand and minor misunderstandings, confusions and evasions morph into a slow-motion nightmare that threatens to destroy everything and everyone in its path. In Persian 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.

BECKY'S NEW CAR—By Steven Dietz, directed by Nikka Ziemer. Have you ever been tempted to flee your own life? This play takes the audience on a smart, comic cruise through the perils of middle-aged longing. 2:30 p.m. \$7-\$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

CLASSICS FIVE—The Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, with featured pianist Jeffrey Biegel, performs works by Gioacchino Rossini, Camille Saint-Sans and Edward Elgar. 7:30 p.m. \$35-45. NMSU Atkinson Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe, 646-2421.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—Please bring binoculars, water, sunscreen and wear hiking shoes. 3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

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.

Hillsboro

NEW WORK FOR SPRING—Art show welcoming new members David Farrell and Martye Allen. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Percha Creek Traders, 895-5116, perchacreektraders.com.

JACK GLATZER—Virtuoso solo violinist performs Bach and Paganini. 3-5 p.m. \$5 donation. Community Center, Elenora Street. 895-3300, maxyeh@windstream.net.

TUESDAY

3 Las Cruces / Mesilla
350s 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. Café de Mesilla, 2051 Calle de Santiago, 652-3019, 520-2954.

CS TRUCKIN—C.S. Truckin opened shows for Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow (Deep Purple), REO Speedwagon, Quicksilver Messenger Service, Brian Auger and The Buddy Miles Band (Jimi Hendrix). Fast forward to 2011 and we discover that The Truck has re-emerged. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

DOÑA ANA CAMERA CLUB—Photo-shop selection tool by Ron Woolfe. 7 p.m. Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall, 532-1919, dacameraclub.org.

TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN AND WINTER FERAL CAT CARE—Taught by nationally recognized expert on 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
MARTYN PEARSON—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buck-hornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

CANDIDATES' FORUM—Office of District Attorney. 6 p.m. Grant County Administration Building.

JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE—Movie and discussion. "The Emanating Brilliance of Stars" with Todd Duncan. "Birth of the Solar System" with Craig Kochel. St. Mary's, 1809 Alabama St., 590-5561.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

SELF MASTERY BOOK CLUB—With Siddeeq Shabazz. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

TAROT READING—Spiritual psychic

Linda Carr. 1-5 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY

5 Silver City/Grant County
CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN NEW MEXICO: NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART—Brown bag talk by Ardene Rickman. 12 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla

BEIJING GUITAR DUO—Meng Su and Yameng Want. Winner of the Solomon H. Snyder Award. 8 p.m. \$15, \$10 NMSU students. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs. 7-10 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

BOURBON LEGEND—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

PSYCHIC READINGS AND ENERGETIC HEALINGS—Reiki master and Reverend Dawn Cheney. 12-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

STORE TOUR—Learn how to shop savvy while meeting your every dietary need. 5-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

NMSU GOSPEL CHOIR EASTER SHOW—7-9 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

FRIDAY GOOD FRIDAY

6 Silver City/Grant County
FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN—Haiku: A Celebration of Spring in Poetry. First street dance of the season with The Roadrunners. 6-9 p.m. Downtown Silver City, SilverCityMainStreet.com.

GET MUGGED DOWNTOWN—Purchase a limited-edition Silver City Museum Society mug and fill it at one of the participating restaurants. \$12. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

GOOD GRIEF—Lee Gruber, Patty Reed, Diana Ingalls Leyba. The fourth of five presentations in the Women Speaking Series 2012. 2-5 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

RUSSELL CLEPPER—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buck-hornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

SPRING CRAFTS AND POETRY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN—Come to the museum and make a pinwheel. The museum will also have magnetic haiku



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Bayou Seco gets a send-off for their European Tour on April 7 at the Buckhorn.

poetry available, so bring your imagination! 4-7 p.m. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

SWNM AUDUBON MEETING—Birding hotspots of central New Mexico. Judy Liddell, freelance writer and birding blogger. 7 p.m. WNMU Harlan Hall, 534-1115.

VAN CLOTHIER—Van Clothier talks about the history of water in the area. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Yankie Creek Coffee House, 112 W. Yankie St.

Las Cruces/Mesilla 2012 OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS—Through April 12. This year's finalists for the Oscar for best animated and best live action short films will be presented in this program. Various languages, subtitled as needed. 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.

AMY RANKIN—Artist's reception. 5-7 p.m. MVS Studios, 535 N. Main, 524-3636.

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. Downtown Mall.

HOWLING COYOTE COFFEEHOUSE AND OPEN MIC—7-9 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

J. CARLOS WEST—Artist Reception. 5-7 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

RANGER LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. Free, \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SATURDAY PASSOVER 7 Silver City/Grant County BAYOU SECO—Send-off for the Europe Tour. 7:30 p.m. Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

MOCCASINS—A staged play reading of the ninth play in Victoria Tester's 15-act New Mexico Ghost Play Cycle. Mature audiences. 2 p.m. Free. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

ROADRUNNER GEL PRINT CHILDREN'S CRAFT CLASS—The class will give children an opportunity to learn about the New Mexico state bird while using their hands to make a unique craft. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5 per class. Silver City Museum, 312 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

SILVER CITY ART MARKET—Saturdays. Local handmade arts and crafts. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, silverartmarket@live.com.

SWNM AUDUBON BIRDING TRIP—Pitchfork Ranch, looking for migrants and resident birds along a stretch of riparian habitat at the southern end of the Burros, on a ranch being restored to pre-farming habitat. It will involve off-trail walking, with two to three miles including possible stream crossings; dress appropriately. 7:30 a.m. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. 388-4210.

Las Cruces/Mesilla ANNUAL SPRINGFEST—Egg hunt, free children's activities (giant Legos, chalk board area), Springfest mural for kids to paint, beading area, jumping balloons, and Easter Bunny photos for a small charge. Live music throughout the day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO THE GARDEN—Create a habitat that is beneficial and inviting to butterflies.

Learn more about butterflies in the garden. 2 p.m. \$7.50, free to members. Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-1886, gardens@zianet.com, nmenchant-edgardens.com.

BEYOND THE MYTH—ACTION Programs for Animals presents a screening of this documentary about dog breeds commonly referred to "pit bulls" and those who love these breeds. Proceeds benefit Second

Chance Dogs Fund. 7-9 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

BIRD TOUR—Please bring binoculars, water, sunscreen and wear hiking shoes. 7:30 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

RUSSELL CLEPPER—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

THE ASTRONAUT FARMER—Made in New Mexico. The title astronaut, played by Billy Bob Thornton, is a farmer—named Charlie Farmer. Charlie was once a bona fide NASA man, but he left the space program to save the family farm. Now his freelance goal is to circle the earth in a rocket of his own construction and he's built a DIY rocket in his barn. Wife Audie (Virginia Madsen) stands by her man even though Charlie walks a thin line between aspiration and insanity, and the three Farmer kids love their daddy even though he eats dinner in his silver orbit-wear. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

Deming MAINSTREET TRASH AND TREASURES—Garage sale extraordinaire. 8 a.m. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine, 545-2436.

SMOK'N OLDIES CAR SHOW—Swap meet. 1980 and older cars. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$7 for dinner. Courthouse Park, 700 S. Silver.

Glenwood FUN KITE FLYING PICNIC—Plenty of space without fences to celebrate the spring winds. Walk a labyrinth, tailgate. 12 p.m. Whitewater Mesa Labyrinths, Route 159, 539-2868, wmlabryinth.com.

White Sands TRINITY SITE OPEN HOUSE—Location of the first atomic bomb test. White Sands Missile Range, Stallion Gate off Hwy. 380, 678-1134, wsmr.army.mil.

SUNDAY EASTER Las Cruces / Mesilla RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

VOZ VAQUEROS—Easter Concert. Singing men of Las Cruces. Grab your coffee thermos, folding chair, dress warmly and come out and enjoy this colorful men's chorus. 7 a.m. Free. Young Park. 522-1934.

MONDAY Silver City/Grant County AARP WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE—Entertainment by Charles Stearns and Ellie Mae Cleveland. 11 a.m. \$10 includes lunch. Glad Tidings Church, 538-9344.

TUESDAY Silver City/Grant County QUINOA—Also April 12. An introduction to the history, culture, politics, nutrition and taste of this valuable grain. Talk by Samaya Jones. 12-1 p.m. Free. Food Co-Op Community Room, 520 N. Bullard St, 388-2343.

Las Cruces/Mesilla HEALTH CONSCIOUS SINGLES—These gatherings are open to all but geared towards area singles looking to take responsibility for their own health: physical, emotional and spiritual. 6-7 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY Silver City/Grant County JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE—Movie and discussion. "Life's Emergence" with Terry Deacon and Ursula Goodenough. "Learning, Living and Dying" with Terry Deacon. St. Mary's, 1809 Alabama St., 590-5561.

PETER & MICHELLE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla FILM LAS CRUCES—Monthly forum for filmmakers, digital media artists, students and interested members of the community. Trailers for locally made films will be screened, alongside short films by student filmmakers, followed by Q&A sessions with the filmmakers. 7-9 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

SELF MASTERY BOOK CLUB—With Siddeeq Shabazz. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY Silver City/Grant County MICHELLE SHOCKED—Roadworks Tour: Roccupy. A wide variety of styles, attaching segments of rock, folk, and soul to her biting critiques and affectionate moments. Mimbres Region Arts Council. 7:30 p.m. \$25 reserved, \$20 non-reserved. Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, www.mimbresarts.org.

QUINOA—See April 10. 12-1 p.m. Free. Food Co-Op Community Room, 520 N. Bullard St, 388-2343.

ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETING—Potluck. Wendy Shaul will show slides of an unforgettable raft trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. 6:45 p.m. Senior Center, Victoria St., 534-1393.

VANESSA LIVELY DUO—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—High Society Orchestra. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

CHAUTAUQUA: MEET PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA GILPIN—Deborah Blanche will perform as famed photographer Laura Gilpin. She packed her equipment in on horseback to photograph the source of the Rio Grande, did studio portraits for society matrons, directed pilots to fly low over Shiprock to capture the light and shadows from every possible angle. 7 p.m. \$2. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org.

CONNIE GAYHL—Health coach presents strategies and foods that heal and maintain vibrant energy for women. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

DANCERS UNLIMITED—Also April 13. In a show entitled "As Seen On TV: The Following Program Has Been Rated DU," members of Dancers Unlimited perform routines featuring various styles of dance, including ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, modern, lyrical, contemporary and swing. 7-9 p.m. \$8, \$6 students and seniors. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

DAVID VIDAL—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

GOOD TIME SINGERS—Also April 15. Tribute to veterans and 1940s music. Community chorus. 7 p.m. \$5. St. Paul's Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Ave., 405-7133.

FRIDAY Silver City/Grant County RJ VANDYGRIF—"The Cowboy Ain't Dead Yet." RJ Vandygriff appeared with Chuck Norris on the show, "Walker: Texas Ranger." A cowboy celebration for the whole family. Benefits GRMC Foundation. 7:30 p.m. \$15, \$7 children under 11. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

KEVIN PAKULIS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—Meeting and program. Russell Kleinman will give a talk on the "Mosses of the Gila." 7 p.m. Free. WNMU Harlan Hall, Room 100, WNMU.

Las Cruces/Mesilla CREATE A LABYRINTH GARDEN—Jane Grider will lead a workshop on creating a labyrinth in your garden. 2 p.m. \$7.50, free to members. Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-1886, gardens@zianet.com, nmenchantgardens.com.

DANCERS UNLIMITED—See April

EVENTS continued on page 59

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 Sat 4/7 Russell Clepper (Whidbey Island, WA)
 Thu 4/12 David Vidal (Los Angeles)
 Sat 4/14 Dan Lambert (El Paso)
 Thu 4/19 Lillis Urban
 Sat 4/21 Pee Wee Moore (Austin)
 Thu 4/26 Montana Skies (Atlanta)
 Sat 4/28 The Deming Fusiliers

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THE TO DO LIST

A shower of must-see events.

Appropriately for April, famous for its showers (even if hereabouts it's mostly just wind), the can't-miss events of the month kick off with a talk and Q&A by local rainwater harvesting expert **Van Clothier**. If our story on Clothier back in July 2011 ("Letting the Water Do the Work") piqued your curiosity, here's your chance to learn more—**April 6**, 7:30-9:30 p.m., at the Yankee Creek Coffee House in downtown Silver City.

Another treat for *Desert Exposure* readers gets served up the next day, **April 7**, at the Silver City Museum Annex: **Moccasins**, the latest staged play reading in the New Mexico Ghost Play Cycle by frequent contributor Victoria Tester. (You'll recall her Voice of a Ranchwoman and Going to Palomas series in our pages, both still available in full at our website.)

Music takes center stage on **April 12**, when the Mimbres Region Arts Council brings **Michelle Shocked** and her 2012 Roadworks Tour: Roc-cupy! to the Buckhorn Opera House in Pinos Altos. Shocked, who describes herself as "the most sophisticated hillbilly you'll ever meet," has carved out a 20-plus-year career that has seen critical acclaim at every juncture. In the early 1990s, she famously escaped "major-label indentured servitude," and has continued to release critically acclaimed albums on her Mighty Sound label. Says one critic, "She tackles a wide variety of styles, attaching segments of rock, folk and soul to her biting critiques and affectionate moments."

The next day, **April 13**, you can discover your inner cowboy while helping a good cause: The Gila Regional Medical Center is sponsoring **"The Cowboy Ain't Dead Yet!"**, starring R.J. Vandygriff. His show is not about country music or rock 'n' roll cowboys—it's about "the crackling of campfires, the smell of horses and cattle and warm summer nights on a trail drive listening to old cowboys tell tales—some tall and some not so tall." You may remember Vandygriff from his appearances with Chuck Norris on the TV show "Walker, Texas Ranger."

On **April 20**, it's the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning's turn to take you back to class, in partnership with WNMU. This year's **One-Day University** at the Global Resource Center features three talks by WNMU faculty: Curtis Hays on "Crime Causation or Why Do Those @\$\$#! Do It!"; Alexandra Neves on "Where I'm From: Developing Intercultural Competence Through Students' Poetry"; and Manda Clare Jost on "From Sanskrit Talks to Tarantula Hawks: The Power of Evolutionary Trees." Reserve your spot in the "class" by emailing mcarthur@wnmu.edu or calling 538-6320.

And WILL is just warming up. That same day,



Squirm Burpee Circus

April 20, at 5:30 p.m. it brings best-selling mystery author **J.A. Jance** back to town. The author of mysteries set in the Southwest (and Seattle) will talk on "Tales from the Writing Life" at the WNMU Global Resource Center, and also sign books and chat with readers on **April 21** at 10:30 p.m. at the Silver City Public Library. (Read our interview with Jance, "From Bisbee to the Bestseller List," in the March 2007 issue at www.desertexposure.com/200703/200703_ja_jance.php.)

Also **April 20 and 21**, for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Buckhorn Opera House will present **"A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant, and a Prayer,"** a collection of monologues by Eve Ensler and Mollie Doyle. The next weekend, **April 27**, observe **15 minutes of silence** for victims of such crimes at Gough Park at 6 p.m.

On a decidedly lighter note, **April 21** also brings the Handsome Little Devils in **Squirm Burpee Circus**, part of the Mimbres Region Arts Council's Performance Series at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. The Denver-based troupe of Mike Huling, Dave Clay, Cole Schneider and Jason Knauf—all veterans of the stage—promises "an exhilarating, fantastical adventure featuring classic vaudeville comedy, high-skill circus acts and a plot rooted in American melodrama."

Fun for all ages but especially kids can be found **April 27-29** in the Theatre Group New Mexico production of **Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr.** Audiences will go through the rabbit hole at WNMU's Fine Arts Center Theatre at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee.

Bicyclists who can't wait for next month's Tour of the Gila can warm up and help a good cause on **April 28** at **Pedalista 2012** in Silver City's Gough Park. The family-fun celebration of the bike is a fundraiser for The Bike Works, the nonprofit community bike shop.

Making way for May flowers, the month wraps up with the folk-roots-Americana music of **Round Mountain**, performing the evening of **April 28** at the Buckhorn Opera House as part of the second annual New Mexico Music Series. Santa Fe-based brothers Char and Robby Rothschild, a "two-man singing folk orchestra," describe their style as "Americana meets the neighbors."



Van Clothier



Michelle Shocked.



R.J. Vandygriff



Round Mountain

EVENTS continued

12. 7-9 p.m. \$8, \$6 students and seniors. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

GODS, GODDESSES, GURUS AND GREMLINS—Collection of work exploring faith and fantasy. Opening reception. 6-9 p.m. Rokoko Gallery, 1785 Avenida de Mercado, 405-8877, www.rokokart.com.

KING OF DEVIL'S ISLAND—Through April 19. A brooding, evocative Norwegian juvie-hell drama set in 1915, Marius Holst's movie lands us in secluded, wintry Bastoy Island, home to the near-medieval "school" for "maladjusted boys," just as a new, unbreakable young felon (Benjamin Helstad) is admitted, much to the concern of the principal (Stellan Skarsgard). In Norwegian, 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.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SATURDAY 14 Silver City/Grant County FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE—9 a.m.-1 p.m. Market Street Bookstore.

HISTORIC FORT BAYARD TOUR—Meet at the Commanding Officers Quarters. Come see the 100-year-old buildings and relive some of the history of this important military fort and hospital. 9:30 a.m. Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, 956-3294, fortbayard.org.

SILVER CITY ART MARKET—Saturdays. Local handmade arts and crafts. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, silverartmarket@live.com.

SILVER CITY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY—The Kepler spacecraft is imaging some 100,000 stars, looking for Earth-like planets in these systems. We'll look at some of the data from this spacecraft and the implications. We'll also define life as we know it on Earth, its limiting conditions and possible locations of life elsewhere in our solar system. Then, we'll look at the data on extra-solar planets and examine what it's saying about the possibility of life on them. Finally, we'll discuss the possibility of intelligent life in the Universe. Telescope giveaway. 1 p.m. Isaac's, 200 N. Bullard St. silvercityofstars@gmail.com.

WNMU SOFTBALL VS. COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINE—12 p.m. WNMU, wnmumustangs.com.

SPRING BOUTIQUE—Also April 15. Handmade crafts and gifts, food, decor, knife sharpening and more. Over 50 vendors. Business & Conference Center, Hwy. 180E, 519-2795.

WALLY LAWDER AND THE RAPTURED COYOTES—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

WNMU WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY—WNMU, wnmumustangs.com.

STARS-N-PARKS—Venus and Jupiter in the west; Mars high in the east, six weeks after opposition; Saturn rises in the east by program start. The spring sky is well presented. 8:50 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. City of Rocks State Park, astro-npo.org.

Las Cruces/Mesilla ALAN JACKSON IN CONCERT—7:30 p.m. \$34-\$61.50. Pan Am Center, 646-1420, panam.nmsu.edu.



Alan Jackson performs April 14 at the Pan Am Center in Las Cruces.

ANNUAL FASHION FORWARD—1912-2012. Fashion show presented by GFWC Progress Club. Luncheon. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Hotel Encanto, 522-5474.

ANNUAL MEMBER PARTY—Celebrate another year with the Co-op Expo, dinner from local restaurants, and locally brewed beer. 5-9 p.m. Free for Mountain View Market members. GreenWorks, Downtown Mall, 523-0436.

AUNT MEGGIE'S APRIL DREAM—Reception for exhibit April 5-28. Works by Margaret Bernstein. Watercolor and oil. 4-6 p.m. Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St., 640-3502, mesquiteartgallery.com.

BIRD TOUR—7:30 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

DAN LAMBERT—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

MESILLA VALLEY IRIS SHOW—Mesilla Valley Iris Society. 38th annual show. 1-6 p.m. Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor, 652-7550.

NATIVE SPIRIT—Mary Beagle. Artist's reception. 4-6 p.m. Unsettled Gallery, 905 N. Mesquite St., 635-2285, unsettlegallery.com.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SNAKES ALIVE—Naturalist Richard Quick will answer all of your questions about snakes of New Mexico. Learn what to do if you encounter a venomous snake in the desert. He will have a few of these critters to show you. 10 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

ULZANA'S RAID—In this 1972 film, Burt Lancaster plays McIntosh, a scout for the Army in late 1880s Arizona. He is assigned to help a party of troopers find a band of renegade Apaches led by a warrior named Ulzana. McIntosh accompanies a young lieutenant, played by Bruce Davison, who is ordered to bring Ulzana in, dead or alive. Preferably dead. Directed by Robert Aldrich. CineMatinee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

Deming BIG JIM ADAM AND JOHN STILLWAGEN—2 p.m. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

DESERT ALIVE! AND NATIVE PLANT SALE—8 a.m. Rockhound State Park, 9880 Stirrup Road.

Gila Hot Springs HEART BAR RANCH VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROJECT—Through April 15. Heart Bar Ranch volunteer service

project. Join the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance and New Mexico Environment Department in the heart of the Gila (near the hot springs and cliff dwellings) to help restore habitat along the West Fork of the Gila River. \$20, \$10 NMWild Members. nmwild.org, kim@nmwild.org.

SUNDAY 15 Silver City/Grant County

POEMS2—Reception. A handmade, limited-edition book of poetry by Sharon Barr, Larry Godfrey, Tom McCoy, Sandy McKinney, Bonnie Maldonado and Elise Stuart. The free reception will feature music by Variations of Three. 2-5 p.m. JW Art Gallery, 99 Cortez Ave., Hurley, 537-0300.

WNMU SOFTBALL VS. COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES—11 a.m. WNMU, wnmumustangs.com.

SPRING BOUTIQUE—See April 14. Business & Conference Center, Hwy180E, 519-2795.

Las Cruces/Mesilla 2012 SYMPHONY SPRING TOUR—Various locations. Call for time and admission. 646-3709.

GOOD TIME SINGERS—See April 12. 2 p.m. \$5. St. Paul's Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Ave., 405-7133.

METRIC CENTURY BICYCLE RIDE—Chose from either a full metric century (62 miles) or a half metric century (31 miles). Begin at NMSU tennis courts and loop around Las Cruces. Free T-shirt to first 50 who register. 8 a.m. \$30-\$35. NMSU Tennis Court.

RANGER LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

Deming ARTS COUNCIL RECEPTION—Deming History through art. 1-3 p.m. Arts Center, 100 S. Gold, 546-3663.

FRIENDS OF ROCKHOUND—Celebrating statehood. 1 p.m. Rockhound State Park, www.FriendsofRockhound.org.

THE JAMMERS—Dance and socialize. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

TUESDAY TAX DAY 17 Las Cruces / Mesilla

DOÑA ANA CAMERA CLUB—New camera technology by Paul Schranz. 7 p.m. Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall, 532-1919, dacameraclub.org.

EVENING WITH A DOCTOR—6-7 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

VERDE ACADEMY OF DANCE—6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

WEDNESDAY 18 Silver City/Grant County

AWAKEN YOUR ALL-KNOWING HEART—Acclaimed Maine author and psychic Rosalie Heart presents an interactive demonstration on how to access your intuitive knowing and shares passages from her book about love, creativity and embodied spirituality. 6:30 p.m. Free. 1st Church of Harmony, 7th

EVENTS continued on next page

BUCKHORN SALOON & OPERA HOUSE
April 2012

Wed 4 —Martyn Pearson	Wed 18 —Uncontrolled Substances (AKA: Barb & Joe)
Fri 6 —Russell Clepper Americana - Washington	Fri 20 —The Roadrunners
Sat 7 —Bayou Seco Trio	Sat 21 —The Stoke
Wed 11 —Peter & Michele	Wed 25 —Jeff Crosby & the Refugees Americana - Idaho
Thurs 12 —Vanessa Lively Duo Songwriter - Austin	Fri 27 —Don Conconoscenti Singer Songwriter-Taos
Fri 13 —Kevin Pakulis Folk Rock - Tucson	Sat 28 —TBA
Sat 14 —Wally Lawder & the Raptured Coyotes	

Sat 28—In the Opera House—ROUND MOUNTAIN!

buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com or 575-538-9911

BUCKHORN Opera House
2nd Annual New Mexico Music Series
Door 7:00 pm Music 7:30 pm
Saturday April 28
Round Mountain
Folk~Roots~Americana

Local Opener Andrew Dalh-Breding

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Friday, May 4th
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EVENTS continued

and Arizona St. 519-4509, director@agavespiritretreats.com.

CANDIDATES' FORUM—District 38 State Representative. 6 p.m. Grant County Administration Building.

HANDS-ON GREENHOUSE WORKSHOP—Learn how to build a hoop greenhouse in one day. Bring food, water, cordless drill (if you have one) and appropriate clothing. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Behind San Lorenzo Elementary School, (202) 361-4071.

UNCONTROLLED SUBSTANCES—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BARBARA HINNENKAMP: SAINTS OF THE DAY—11 large, colorful mixed-media collages that feature the Mexican people and their connection to nature and the cycles of the earth. Hinnenkamp, an artist from Cochiti Lake in northern New Mexico, uses discarded calendars and magazines to create her collages. Opening reception. 6-8 p.m. Free. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmdranchmuseum.org.

SELF MASTERY BOOK CLUB—With Siddeeq Shabazz. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

TAROT READING—Linda Carr 1-5 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY
19 Las Cruces / Mesilla
LIFE IN THE FAT LANE—Through April 21. Las Montanas Charter High School. 3 p.m. \$6, \$3 students. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

LILLIS URBAN—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

PSYCHIC READINGS AND ENERGETIC HEALINGS—Reiki master and Reverend Dawn Cheney. 12-2 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

STORE TOUR—Learn how to shop savvy while meeting your every dietary need. 5-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

FRIDAY
20 Silver City/Grant County
A MEMORY, A MONOLOGUE, A RANT AND A PRAYER—Also April 21. "Writings to End Violence Against Women and Girls" is a collection of monologues by world renowned authors and playwrights, and is edited by Eve Ensler. Sexual Assault Awareness Month. 7 p.m. \$10. Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

CLAIMING YOUR SOUL'S MAGNIFICENCE—Through April 22. Rosie Heart leads a weekend retreat for women only. Advance registration required. 6 p.m. Agave Spirit Retreats, Pinos Altos, 519-4509, director@agavespiritretreats.com.

GAZLAND—Kick-off film for Earth Day, this documentary film by Josh Fox explores the natural gas drilling technique called fracking. 7 p.m. \$5 donation. Silco Theater, 311 N Bullard, 538-8078.

ONE DAY UNIVERSITY—Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) and Western New Mexico University (WNMU) let you go back to the classroom for a day with no tests and no tuition. Three outstanding professors

offer their wisdom and insights concerning crime, poetry and evolution. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Free, rsvp required. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. 538-6342, will-learning.com.

PAIN MANAGEMENT—Talk by Dr. John A. Flores. Learn about managing acute or chronic pain. 1-2 p.m. Free. Gila Regional Medical Center Conference Room, 1313 E. 32nd St., 575-4934, www.grmc.org.

THE ROADRUNNERS—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

J.A. JANCE—Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) hosts J.A. Jance's presentation of "Mystery Writer: Tales from the Writing Life." Jance is the bestselling author of the Ali Reynolds, J.P. Beaumont and Joanna Brady series plus four southwestern thrillers featuring the Walker Family. 5 p.m. book signing, 5:30 p.m. talk. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
ADVENTURE ARTS COLLABORATION—NMSU Outdoor Rec's Adventure Arts Series concludes with an evening highlighting local musicians, film, dance and poetry inspired by the natural world. 7-9 p.m. \$8-\$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.rgrandetheatre.com.

BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—CDs. Western dance. Western attire encouraged. 7-10 p.m. \$7. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.

CHICO AND RITA—Through April 26. From pre-revolutionary Havana to New York and Hollywood in the fifties, Paris



Dance with the Big Band Dance Club in Las Cruces April 5, 12, 20 and 26.

in the sixties and modern-day Las Vegas, retro, hand-drawn animation tells the tormented love story of a beautiful singer and talented piano player narrated in the form of a tragic bolero (with Bebo Vald tickling the ivories). The film opens in Havana circa 1948. Chico the piano player and Rita the sensual Cuban chanteuse meet, fight and fall in love. They take their act to the top in Havana, and then pride, misunderstanding and fate separate them. Spanning 60 years, we follow them from Havana to New York and Hollywood, Paris and back to modern-day Havana and Las Vegas. In English and Spanish, with subtitles as needed. 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.

LIFE IN THE FAT LANE—See April 19. Through April 21. 8 p.m. \$6, \$3 students. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL—Through May 6. Taking you back to the music, the fashion and the freedom of the 1960s! This revue tracks five "groovy gals" as they come of age during those liberating days that made England swing. By Phillip George, Daid Lowenstein and Peter Charles Morris. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

SATURDAY
21 Silver City/Grant County
A MEMORY, A MONOLOGUE, A RANT AND A PRAYER—See April 20. 7 p.m. \$10. Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com

EARTH DAY—Information booths, plant sales, food and entertainment. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Gough Park. 519-8987.

EARTH DAY E-WASTE—Annual Earth Day electronic waste collection and recycling drive. All electronics and other recycling items accepted. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Voluntary donation \$5 per TV or monitor. Parking lot south of Gough Park (enter on 11th St.). 519-8987.

MANY HANDS MURAL—See story in Arts Exposure section. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Penny Park, 538-2505, mim-bresart.org.

ROLLING STONES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP—Call for information, 388-2010.

J.A. JANCE—Book signing and Q&A with mystery author. 10:30 a.m. Public Library, 515 W. College Ave, 538-3672.

SILVER CITY ART MARKET—Saturdays. Local handmade arts and crafts. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, silverartmarket@live.com.

SQUIRM BURPEE CIRCUS—A fantastical adventure featuring classic vaudeville comedy, high-skill circus acts and a plot rooted in American melodrama. Mimbres Region Arts Council. 7:30 p.m. \$20, \$15 members, \$5 students. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre. 538-2505, www.mimbresarts.org.

THE STOKE—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

TILE-MAKING INTENSIVE—Class with Kate Brown. \$95 includes materials. Kate Brown Pottery & Tile, Mimbres, 536-9935, katebrown@gilinet.com, katebrownpottery.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
DOÑA ANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE—David A. Fryxell, founder of *Family Tree Magazine* and editor of *Desert Exposure*, and Jane Buck



The Fountain Theatre in Las Cruces screens the animated *Chico and Rita* April 20-26.

of Family Tree DNA. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$50. First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Boutz Rd., dacgs2012@gmail.com, dagenealogy.blogspot.com.

BIRD TOUR—Bring binoculars, water, sunscreen and wear hiking shoes. 7:30 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

BRI BAGWELL VIDEO RELEASE—Las Cruces native and country musician Bri Bagwell swings through her hometown on the Banned Music Tour. 7-8 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

CO-OP ROCKS—Concert and art show. 6-11 p.m. Free. GreenWorks, Downtown Mall, 523-0436.

HUMMINGBIRDS AND OROLES—Join Kristie Lane from Wild Birds Unlimited and learn how you can create a wildlife refuge for these nectar feeders in your own backyard. Learn the types of hummingbirds and orioles found in this area. 10 a.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

JOFFREY: MAVERICKS OF AMERICAN DANCE—With special guest, Rochelle Zide-Booth, former Joffrey dancer. A look at the first truly American dance company. Narrated by Mandy Patinkin and directed by Bob Hercules. The film weaves a wealth of rare archival footage and photographs along with interviews featuring former and current Joffrey star dancers, showing the full history of the company from its founding to the present. It describes how the Joffrey repeatedly resurrected itself after devastating financial and artistic setbacks and introduced cutting-edge choreographers such as Twyla Tharp, Laura Dean and Margo Sappington to larger audiences. CineMatienee. 1:30 p.m. \$4, \$1 MVFS members. Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, 524-8287, mesillavalleyfilm.org.

LIFE IN THE FAT LANE—See April 19. 8 p.m. \$6, \$3 students. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

LOW-MAINTENANCE PERENNIAL BEDS—A careful selection of perennials can create a colorful, long-blooming garden bed or border. A good selection can also be easy to maintain and use low water. 2 p.m. \$7.50, free to members. Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, 524-1886, gardens@zianet.com, nmenchantedgardens.com.

PEE WEE MOORE—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL—See April 20. Through May 6. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

VEGETABLE AND HERB SALE—9 a.m.-4 p.m. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmdranchmuseum.org.

Deming
CENTENNIAL SPEAKER—Sheriff Raymond Cobos: Child Soldier in Villa's Army. 9-11 a.m. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

SUNDAY
EARTH DAY
22 Silver City/Grant County
DIVINE AND THE DEVASTATED: A PARADOX OF WOMEN IN INDIA—Talk by Manda Clair Jost. 2-3 p.m. Silver City Museum Annex, 302 W. Broadway, 538-5921, www.silvercitymuseum.org.

SPAGHETTI DINNER—Benefit for the Eastern Star. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$8. Masonic Hall, 11 Ridge Road.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
OLDIES BUT GOODIES—Classics from the 1950s and 1960s. 2:30 p.m. \$10. Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall, 523-1223, www.no-strings.org.

POULENC TRIO—Oboist Vladimir Lande, bassoonist Bryan Young and pianist Irina Kaplan. The Poulenc Trio, now in its eighth season, is the most active touring piano/wind chamber music ensemble in the world. 3-5 p.m. \$20. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL—See April 20. Through May 6. 2 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

VEGETABLE AND HERB SALE—12-4 p.m. Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, 522-4100, www.nmfarmdranchmuseum.org.

Deming
THE JAMMERS—2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

TUESDAY
24 Las Cruces / Mesilla
HEALTH CONSCIOUS SINGLES—These gatherings are open to all but geared towards area singles looking to take responsibility for their own health: physical, emotional and spiritual. 6-7 p.m. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

WEDNESDAY
25 Silver City/Grant County
JEFF CROSBY AND THE REFUGES—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

PROGRESSIVE VOTERS ALLIANCE OF GRANT COUNTY—7 p.m. Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard St., 534-9005, www.silcotheater.com.

CANDIDATES' FORUM—County Clerk and County Treasurer. 6 p.m. Grant County Administration Building.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
SELF MASTERY BOOK CLUB—With Siddeeq Shabazz. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Free. Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo, 523-0436.

THURSDAY
26 Silver City/Grant County
WILL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING—5:30 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BIG BAND DANCE CLUB—High Society Orchestra. 7-10 p.m. \$9, \$7 members. Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court St., 526-6504.




MONTANA SKIES—High Desert Brewing, 1201 W. Hadley, 525-6752.
POETRY READING—Terry Hertzler, Joanne Townsend, Frank Varela and Ellen Young. 6 p.m. MVS Studios, 535 N. Main, 524-3636.


FRIDAY
27 Silver City/Grant County
ALICE IN WONDERLAND JR.—Through April 29. Disney musical adaptation for younger audiences and the whole family. Theatre Group New Mexico. 7 p.m. \$10, \$5 students. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

DON CONCONOSCENTI—Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandoperahouse.com.

GRANT COUNTY ART GUILD'S ANNUAL MEMBER SHOW—Brandon Perreault performs. 5 p.m. Hearst Church Gallery, Pinos Altos.

SILENT VOICES FOR VICTIMS—15 minutes of silence for victims of crime.





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The Good Time Singers perform a tribute to veterans and 1940s music on April 12 and 15.

6 p.m. Gough Park.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
GARBO: THE SPY—Through May 3. The account of an extraordinary Spanish double agent during WWII who helped change the course of history. The former manager of a chicken farm, Juan Pujol was in hiding during much of the Spanish Civil War, which gave the Catalan a distaste for fascism. In 1940, he offered his services to the British as a spy against the Nazis but was rejected. Instead, he set himself up as a German agent, operating out of Lisbon but pretending to the Nazis that he was based in London. On his fifth try, the Brits accepted him. The peak of his career came in 1944, when he succeeded in diverting German defense forces to Calais while the Allied landings were taking place in Normandy, thus averting considerable bloodshed. Historian Nigel West tells how, 30-odd years later, he tracked down Garbo—so called by his Brit employers because he was the best actor in the world. 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.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL—See April 20. Through May 6. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

BACH B MINOR MASS—Also April 28. This mass by Bach is considered by many one of the finest choral works ever composed. NMSU Choirs under the direction of Dr. Jerry Ann Alt will be accompanied by La Catrina Quartet, NMSU's Artists-in-Residence, augmented by other instrumentalists from NMSU's music department. 7:30 p.m. \$15, \$20, and \$5 for students at Pan Am Center Ticket office. NMSU Atkinson Recital Hall, 646-1270, 646-2067.

SATURDAY
28 Silver City/Grant County
ALICE IN WONDERLAND JR.—

Through April 29. See April 27. 7 p.m. \$10, \$5 students. WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

HISTORIC FORT BAYARD TOUR—Meet at the Commanding Officers Quarters. 9:30 a.m. Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, 956-3294, fortbayard.org.

PEDALISTA!—A family fun celebration of the bicycle. A park full of activities including cooperative bike games, obstacle courses, food, and a raffle of two bicycles plus lots of other prizes. Fundraiser for The Bikeworks. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$10 per family, \$5 per person. Gough Park, 388-1444.

ROTARY CLUB GALA AND CHARITY AUCTION—4:30-8:30 p.m. \$20. Business & Conference Center, Hwy. 180E, 388-3521.

ROUND MOUNTAIN—Second annual New Mexico Music Series. 7 p.m. Buckhorn Saloon, Pinos Altos, 538-9911, buckhornsaloonandopera-house.com

SILVER CITY ART MARKET—Saturdays. Local handmade arts and crafts. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, silverartmarket@live.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
BACH B MINOR MASS—See April 27. 3 p.m. \$15, \$20, and \$5 for students at Pan Am Center Ticket office. NMSU Atkinson Recital Hall, 646-1270, 646-2067.

CHALK ART COMPETITION—Participants will use chalk to paint on the newly reopened Main Street in Downtown Las Cruces. An all-day event, three featured artists, kids' area, cash prizes, juried event. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Downtown Mall, 525-1955.

FARM VOLUNTEER DAY—1-3 p.m. Mountain View Market Farm, 523-0436, mvmoutreach@gmail.com.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DANCE—The Seventh Annual Day of Dance celebrates the International Day of Dance initiated in 1982 by the International Dance Council, under the auspices of UNESCO. The event presents culturally diverse dance forms found in the Las

MONDAY
30 Silver City/Grant County
HELPING WITH HEALING—The law as a tool. Sexual assault legal needs forum. 6-7:30 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 313-6203.

MAY
TUESDAY
1 Las Cruces / Mesilla
DOÑA ANA CAMERA CLUB—Photoshop, color and levels. With Ron Wolfe. 7 p.m. Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall, 532-1919, dacameraclub.org.

KELCEE COVERT SENIOR RECITAL—6:30 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

Columbus
7TH ANNUAL CACTUS CARNIVAL—9 a.m.-2 p.m. Pancho Villa State Park.

WEDNESDAY
2 Silver City/Grant County
26TH SRAM TOUR OF THE GILA—Through May 6. The area's premier bicycle racing event. www.TouroftheGila.com.

CANDIDATES' FORUM—District Judge-6th District-Division 2. 6 p.m. Grant County Administration Building.

THURSDAY
3 Silver City/Grant County
26TH SRAM TOUR OF THE GILA—Through May 6. The area's premier bicycle racing event. www.TouroftheGila.com.

FRIDAY
4 Silver City/Grant County
26TH SRAM TOUR OF THE GILA—Through May 6. The area's premier bicycle racing event. www.TouroftheGila.com.

FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN—Tour of the Gila Expo Kick-Off. Street dance and special activities. 6-9 p.m. Downtown Silver City, SilverCityMainStreet.com.

WILL'S REFLECTIONS OF AN ARTIST—Western Institute of Lifelong Learning (WILL) hosts Judy Muller, ABC and CBS correspondent, and Dutch Salmon, local author/conservationist, as they team up to celebrate small towns and love of nature. Following their presentation, they will be joined by WNMU's writer in residence, J.J. Wilson, who will act as moderator for a panel discussion dealing with their lives as artists. 5 p.m. WNMU Global Resource Center, 538-6835, will-learning.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
HOWLING COYOTE COFFEEHOUSE AND OPEN MIC—7-9 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL—See April 20. Through May 6. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

SATURDAY
CINCO DE MAYO
5 Silver City/Grant County
SRAM TOUR OF THE GILA
DOWNTOWN EXPO—Bicycle rodeo, kid zone, bike races, beer garden, booths, food, live music all day. Bullard St. between Morning Star and Western Stationers. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.TouroftheGila.com.

26TH SRAM TOUR OF THE GILA—Through May 6. The area's premier bicycle racing event. Community races downtown. www.TouroftheGila.com.

GREENWAYS GUIDED BIRD HIKE—Bird walk along San Vicente Creek led by Brian Dolton. 7:30 a.m. Free.

HISTORIC FORT BAYARD TOUR—Meet at the Commanding Officers Quarters. 9:30 a.m. Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, 956-3294, fortbayard.org.

SILVER CITY ART MARKET—Saturdays. Local handmade arts and crafts. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703 N. Bullard, silverartmarket@live.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
17TH ANNUAL LAS CRUCES TOUR OF GARDENS—Six gardens. The annual garden tour is presented by Mesilla Valley Garden Club and Desert Daubers Garden Club of Las Cruces. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$7, free 12 and under. Purchase tickets at Enchanted Gardens.

CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA—Also May 6. The event commemorates the victory of Mexican soldiers over the French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. The fiesta features mariachis, folkloric dancers, flamenco dancers,

live music, dancing, games, food, drinks, art and crafts. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext. 116, mesilla-nm.org

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—Please bring binoculars, water, sunscreen and wear hiking shoes. 3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL—See April 20. Through May 6. 7:30 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

LUIS NAVARRO—Artist reception. 5-7 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

Deming
CINCO DE MAYO—8 a.m. Luna County Courthouse, 546-2674.

SUNDAY
6 Silver City/Grant County
26TH SRAM TOUR OF THE GILA—Through May 6. The area's premier bicycle racing event. www.TouroftheGila.com.

GREENWAYS GUIDED BIRD HIKE—Ecology walk along San Vicente Creek led by Dave Menzie. 12 p.m.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA—See May 5. Old Mesilla Plaza, 524-3262 ext 116, mesilla-nm.org

MESILLA VALLEY CHORALE—"Sentimental Journey." 3-5 p.m. \$10. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

RANGER-LED NATURE HIKE—3 p.m. \$5 per vehicle. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle de Norte, 523-4398.

SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL—See

April 20. 2 p.m. NMSU Hershel Zohn Theatre, 3014 McFie Circle, 646-4515, theatre.nmsu.edu.

Deming
THE JAMMERS—Come dance, socialize, and enjoy. 2-4 p.m. Free. Morgan Hall, 109 E. Pine.

WEDNESDAY
9 Las Cruces / Mesilla
FILM LAS CRUCES—Monthly forum. 7-9 p.m. Free. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com.

THURSDAY
10 Las Cruces / Mesilla
ANNIE GET YOUR GUN—Mesilla Valley Christian School annual musical. 7-9 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall, 523-6403, www.riograndetheatre.com. ✪

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.desert-exposure.com/submitevents.



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EARTH DAY

Gough Park

Saturday, April 21st 10 am—2 pm

Join local organizations and businesses for a day of fun!

- 3rd Annual Electronic Waste Collection & Recycling Drive
- Purchase your plants: vegetable, herbal and native
- Entertainment, food & activities
- Film — GASLAND

Friday, April 20th 7pm
 Silco Theatre

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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Think globally & act locally by carpooling, biking or walking to Gough Park

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CONTINENTAL DIVIDE • DAVID A. FRYXELL

Mister Clean

There's spring cleaning. And then there's "man cleaning."

Many of you are probably engaged in spring cleaning this month, sweeping your house free of winter's accumulation of dust and grime to make room for the warm-weather months' dust and grime. Given our area's spring winds, you're no doubt tempted to simply open the front door plus a few strategically selected windows on the back side of your house and let the dirt blow out, along with small pets and kitchen appliances you probably don't need anymore anyway. (The appliances, I mean, not the pets—please hold those angry letters, ASPCA.) But before you adopt such extreme measures, permit me to introduce you to a kinder, gentler alternative—at least one that's kinder and gentler to you. These two little words will change how you think about household chores:

Man cleaning.

No, I don't mean cleaning the man in your life, though heaven knows some of us could use it. Nor am I so sexist as to suggest that women, too, cannot engage in man cleaning. The gender affiliation here is purely attributable to the fact that some men—



A robot that does the Swiffering for you! Now that's "man cleaning," 21st-century style!

and, fellas, I emphasize the word *some*—are a teensy bit more lackadaisical about cleaning. Thus it has been since caveman times, when the man of the cave thought it was perfectly fine just to toss the mastodon bones in the back, where no one would see them, or perhaps to conceal them under a handy sabertooth-skin rug. (If not for such thinking, I might add, today's archeologists would

know far less about peoples of ancient times. All those arrowheads and other clues found heaped about our predecessors' dwellings? The women of the house wanted to "pick those up"!)

But "man cleaning" is not mere messiness. Rather, certain males of the species realize that, once a decade or so, our dwellings need a bit of sprucing up. Especially if we share an abode with a female, the accumulation of beer cans, rotting mammoth corpses, pizza boxes and skulls of our vanquished foes must occasionally be dealt with. While we're at it, men figure we might as well squirt some Pledge in the general direction of any dust buildup thick enough to write one's name in.

The point is, however, that men approach this chore with practicality first in mind. For example, if no one is ever going to see a household object or surface, and no deadly pathogen can be proven by the Centers for Disease Control to be growing there, why bother to clean it? We have more important priorities to devote our time to, like finding the Higgs boson and fine-tuning our fantasy baseball teams.

Over the many years of our marriage, I like to think that my wife—who once turned up her nose at my style of "man cleaning" in favor of, well, cleaning—has slowly come around to my way of thinking. Either that, or I've simply eroded her

standards. Oh, now and then she'll go on what I call a "cleaning binge," scrubbing the toilets and washing the floors, even vacuuming (disturbing dust that, I point out, was perfectly happy deep within our carpets, not bothering anyone). But if someone's coming over who might not look too closely, she sometimes makes do with man cleaning.

I like to make the point, moreover, than periodic man cleaning, inadequate though it may be, is better than more thorough but more rare real cleaning. I like to make this point, but over those many years of marital bliss I've learned to keep my mouth shut about it. Hence the bliss.

Whoever and whatever gender does it, man cleaning starts with the obvious. If you can see dust or stains, zap them with some sort of liquid and follow up with a quick wipe. Men are big on cleaning liquids, smartly letting Pledge or 409 or Windex do the heavy work while we check out the scores on our iPhones. Don't be shy about applying this stuff—really douse it, stopping just short of actual puddle formation.

When it comes to wiping, paper towels are your friend. What good does it do to simply transfer the gunk to something else, like a dust rag, that you're still going to have to get clean? Wipe and throw it away. I'm pretty sure paper towels are biodegradable (or at least they are until they get loaded up with the deadly chemicals in cleaning sprays, not to mention whatever bacteria-laden gunk you wipe up), so the Earth is happy about this arrangement, too.

When you tackle floors, however, if you ever do, you don't want to be down there on your hands and knees scrubbing with paper towels. Who do you think you are, anyway, Cinderella? That's when you pull out the Swiffer. The Swiffer is like a paper towel for the floor, sort of an oversized Wet Wipe attached to a stick like a broom or mop. (Don't worry, it's not an actual broom or mop—we haven't gone over to the Dark Side here.) It is God's—or at least Procter & Gamble's—gift to man cleaning. In our household, in fact, the Swiffer has become a verb, as in, "I'm going to Swiffer the floor in the den." (If any Procter & Gamble trademark attorneys are reading this, please edit the previous sentence to: "I'm going to Swiffer-brand cleaning product-ize the floor in the den.")

The beauty of "Swiffering," like using paper towels, is that when you're done and a thick layer of disgusting grayish grime, cat hair and insect feces has been captured by the Swiffer wipe, into the trash it goes! The stick part goes back on its hook in the laundry room for another month or two or four, and you can go back to finding that pesky Higgs boson.

Surely, this is also better for Mother Earth than contaminating a bucket of precious water by mopping. Future generations will thank us, even as the chemical-laden Swiffer wipes pile up around their ears.

Once you're armed with powerful chemicals, paper towels and a Swiffer, the true secret to man cleaning is selectivity. Here's the rule: If you can't see the dirt, nobody else can, either! That inch-thick layer of dust on and around your desk? By all means, Pledge the living day-lights out of it. But the dust, if any (who's gonna look?), under your computer keyboard, printer and fax machine? Fehgetaboutit, as man cleaners in New York would say.

Sure, Swiffer (insert disclaimer and trademark symbol here) the floor around your favorite easy chair. But why in the world should you move the chair to clean under it? First of all, how could dirt even get under there? If your Swiffer can't reach it, how can grime? Even if gunk does somehow sneak into the hidden recesses under your chair, who's going to see it? If you have the sort of dinner guests who move your furniture around, looking for dirt, you need to change your friends, not your cleaning technique.

Kitchens demand a more rigorous approach, since after all you are eating the food prepared there. (A 100% takeout diet would be true to the spirit of man cleaning, but might not be kind to your cardiovascular system.) Here you want to deploy

a real blitzkrieg of cleaning chemicals, figuring that kitchen surfaces can take it better than, say, your wife's precious walnut armoire that her great-grandmother carried on her back from Norway. (Who knew oven cleaner could do that to wood?) I even clean the stovetop, despite the logic that the high temperatures there are bound to kill any lurking pathogens. Spare no effort to stop salmonella, I always say.

Bathrooms are more of a judgment call. You want to clean the mirror, of course, so you can see when you're shaving and don't nick yourself. Before the towels go in the laundry (which for heaven's sakes get your wife to tackle—aren't you doing enough?), wipe the bathroom counters and sink with them. Scrubbing Bubbles is a good choice for chemical blitzkrieg in the bathroom—let those little bubbles do the work instead of you! I think the Swiffer is just fine for the bathroom floors, too, but certain women who don't appreciate how hard it is to hit the toilet when you're standing up have been known to disagree.

As for cleaning the toilet itself, frankly, that seems like a waste of time. You're just going to dirty it up—in the most gross and disgusting ways—a few minutes later, anyway. What's the point? The toilet is the perfect place to draw the line with man cleaning—because eventually somebody won't be able to stand it anymore, and your house will finally get a real cleaning.

Who knows? Maybe she'll find the Higgs boson while she's at it. ☘

When not down on his hands and knees, scrubbing, David A. Fryxell edits Desert Exposure.



If you have the sort of dinner guests who move your furniture around, looking for dirt, you need to change your friends, not your cleaning technique.



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MLS 28975 • \$60,000

Renovated 3bd/1ba home in Lordsburg. Over \$21k in recent repairs by licensed contractor. New roof, interior/exterior paint, new vinyl & laminate flooring, new kitchen countertops, new dishwasher, remodeled bathroom. Mandatory Waiting Period Days 1-7: Offers will not be reviewed. Days 8-12: Offers ONLY from NSP buyers, Municipalities, Non-profit organizations and Owner-occupants will be reviewed. Days 13+: We will consider offers from all buyers.



MLS 28978 • \$109,900

Quaint hideaway in town - ideal for an artist. The property consists of the main house, a studio, possible guest quarter and a storage building. The home has a good size kitchen with an eating area, a large living room, a bedroom with a office/closet addition and another room that could be any room your imagination wishes. The property is wood fenced for privacy. Large trees provide cool shade in the summer. There is a zen area and patio space.



MLS 28898 • \$359,000

Set in a private canyon & bordering national forest is this multi-story log cabin in excellent condition. Ponderosa pines, wrap-around covered deck, horse set-up, two wells, water rights & all on 8.4 acres. Lots of character & just off the paved road. Ride or hike directly into the forest from your property!



MLS 28929 • \$99,000

Cozy log cabin in the tall pines with panoramic views. Large deck for relaxing and entertaining. Lower level with laundry room, storage and carport. Community water and well. Fishing nearby at Lake Roberts. Endless recreation opportunities with Gila National Forest boundary adjacent to the property.



MLS 28895 • \$359,000

Own a income-generating turn key business in beautiful Lake Roberts. This business/residence totally remodel and newly furnished. There are a total of seven rooms, four have kitchenettes. Another separate cabin has a full kitchen and two rooms. Currently the office is also a residence. Room enough for 6 additional units. Lake Roberts is 1/2 mile away and is surrounded by the Gila National Forest.



MLS 28931 • \$55,000

9.5 acres in XYZ/Club Ranch area. Competitively priced, southern exposure, dramatic views, nice trees.



MLS 28945 • \$168,880

Rural Ranch-Style-Living only about 20 minutes from town! Wildlife abounds! Beautiful views, peace and quiet, privacy.



MLS 28933 • \$59,000

7 unrestricted acres north of Silver City & near Pinos Altos in the desirable Sanctuary Road area. Rugged & beautiful land offering privacy & tall pines, southern exposure, views to the south.



MLS 28906 • \$34,000

Desirable lot in Manhattan Park. This parcel is on the high ground with views towards the West and the Eastern Mountains. Some trees and a rock outcropping. Established community. Utilities to lot line. Ready for your new home.



MLS 28958 • \$75,000

Sweet weekend getaway or building site for a new home. Small 1 room cabin with photovoltaic solar and well. Gorgeous views. La Esperanza Winery within walking distance and Gila National Forest nearby. Unrestricted with horses allowed.

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