

A Legacy Local Monthly Publication

March 2026

The Historic

Mesilla Valley

From the
Publisher's Desk

Tax season planning

Calendar of Events

How many cats have I?

Tips from a Socialite:
The art of the
intellectual pursuit

Recipe:
Crème Fraîche

CREATING COMMUNITY

**while celebrating
the spectrum**



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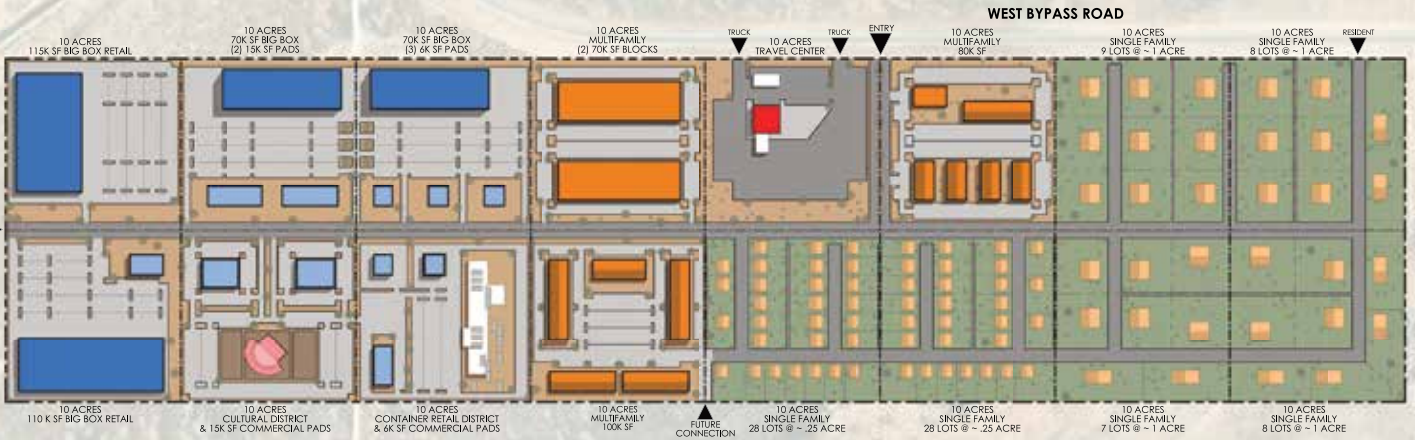


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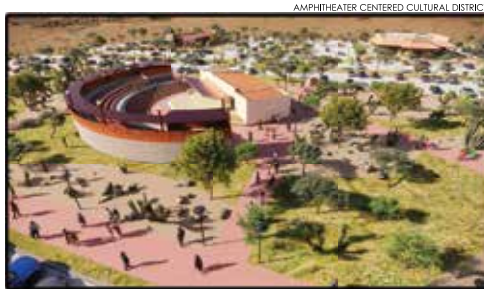
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“FROM THE publisher's desk,”

Welcome to The Historic's March issue, where it's really starting to warm up. My garden has already awakened from the depths of winter, and I feel certain this summer will be a scorcher. Enjoy our collection of community stories and contributions, with a twist on a typical recipe.



Tax season planning

By Jessica Streeter; Owner, Streeter Law Firm, LLC.

Tax planning is a quiet but powerful part of estate planning for New Mexican families. One goal is to reduce income taxes after death by managing “tax basis.” Many assets (like a home, land, or stocks) may receive a “step-up” in basis at death, meaning heirs can sell soon after inheriting with little or no capital gains tax on the appreciation during their lifetime. Keeping good records and coordinating how assets are titled can help your family capture that benefit. By contrast, retirement accounts like 401(k)s and traditional IRAs generally do not receive a basis step-up; most withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income. Good planning may include naming the right beneficiaries, understanding required distribution rules, and considering whether partial Roth conversions during one’s life could lower your family’s total tax over time.

If you own a small business, succession planning should address both taxes and continuity. A written plan can identify who will run the business, how ownership will transfer, and how non-participating heirs will be treated. Tools like buy-sell agreements funded with life insurance can provide cash for a smooth transition. Coordinating your will or trust with beneficiary designations and business documents helps avoid surprises and keeps more value in the family. If you have questions about how you and your family may benefit from coordinated tax planning, please contact Streeter Law Firm at (575) 524-6893.



“Calendar of events”

WEEKLY

- Women's group: Casa De Mi Alma is hosting a women's group every Monday called Café Con Chisme. This group is for women to come together as a community to share their stories, discuss various topics, and more. No registration is required and drop-ins are welcome. Free. 5-6 p.m. 920 N Alameda Blvd., Las Cruces.

MARCH 10

- Exhibit: The Mad Hatter Gallery presents a group exhibit honoring Women's History Month, titled "She Creates." The exhibit features female artists who live and work in the Las Cruces area and are members of New Mexico Women in the Arts. The exhibit runs through March 28. Featured artists include Kimberly Arellano, Michelle Arterburn, Page Coleman, Barbara Houghton, Amanda Jaffe, Suzanne Kane, Virginia Maria Romero, and Noël Sandino. Free. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 221 N Main St., Suite C, Las Cruces.

- Music bingo: Lost Hiker Brewing Company & Taproom will host Music Bingo. Match music to numbers to win. Expect familiar tunes,

friendly competition, and plenty of sing-along moments. Free. 6-8 p.m. 2536 Sudderth Dr., Ruidoso, New Mexico.

MARCH 13-15

- Poppies Fest: The El Paso Museum of Archaeology brings the El Paso community together by highlighting local artists, vendors, and performers, while providing a platform for Native American voices and traditions. Poppies Fest is a celebration of Castner Range National Monument - the only portion of the landscape open to the public. This year, the festival will span all weekend: Friday 5-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 4301 Woodrow Bean Transmountain Rd., El Paso, Texas.

MARCH 17

- St. Patrick's Day dinner: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Solstice at Las Cruces with happy hour and dinner. Enjoy a themed menu featuring shepherd's pie and Guinness Irish Stew. Toast with Irish beer to festive Irish music and dancers. RSVP by March 13. Free. 4-7 p.m. 151 N Roadrunner Parkway, Las Cruces.

MARCH 28

- Spring Fest: Real Life Church is hosting Spring Fest, a family friendly event for the community. Guests will enjoy live music, carnival games, inflatables, food, and more. Free. 2-5 p.m. 1040 El Paseo Rd., Las Cruces.

APRIL 1

- Hike: Moonlit Miles Hike & Yoga will take place under the Full Pink Moon. Join WE HIKE in part two of their three-part Full Moon Hike and Guided Yoga series. This event will begin with a guided hike at 5 p.m. Guided yoga begins at 7 p.m. Bring a yoga mat, towel, chair, flashlight, shade, and water. Free. 5-8 p.m. 11055 Loma Del Norte Dr., El Paso, Texas.

APRIL 3

- Trolley rides: Enjoy horse trolley rides throughout Historic Mesquite Street during First Friday Art Ramble. Rides are free, but feel free to bring cash to tip. Boarding is along Mesquite Street at Trails End Gallery. 4-8 p.m. 1732 N Mesquite St., Las Cruces.



APRIL 10-11

- Music fest and rodeo: The 2026 Blue Moon Country Limits Music Fest and New Mexico State University Rodeo return to the New Mexico County Fair Grounds. This year, The Yarbrough Band and special guest Back in the Saddle will perform on Friday. On Saturday, Aaron Watson performs with special guests West Texas and Summer Dean. Gates open at 5 p.m. both days. \$60.14 for two-day weekend pass. 12125 Robert Larson Blvd., Las Cruces.



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How many CATS have I?

By Nancy Akbari

How many cats have I? It depends on the method used to make the count.

For example, if you use the method of stacking one number after the other in an upward direction, do you count the zero? After all, I had no cats, zero cats, nada, none ... before I started having any cats at all. Under those circumstances, zero cats would have counted as “zero”. Zero is in fact a number. So, if you have no cats, you should not answer the question of how many cats you have with “none.” This answer implies that there have been or could have been more cats than even one, as in, “I used to have eight cats but now I have none.”

Now, having had zero cats at one time, I can tell you from experience that there is a difference between having zero cats and even just one cat; I am not mentioning the many changes that take place in one’s household when going from zero to more than just one cat. Anyway, back to how many cats have I?

Believe it or not, some prefer to use the method of counting backwards. If you use this method, you run into different sorts of problems. People with this preference point out that if you count your fingers going forward, you have ten fingers, but if you count them backwards and stop when you’ve finished counting backwards on one hand, you stop on the number six. With five fingers on the other hand, the total number of fingers you’ll count is 11. Yet, my research indicated that people who use this method do so because they want to leave room in their counting for the possibility of having more cats than are present when they’re answering this question. For them, the first and probably most formidable problem is the question of which number to start at.

If you begin by counting upwards, there is room to address the possibilities that more cats may be added in the future. For example, if you have eight cats and acquire one more, then you can easily adjust your answer to the inquirer and say “nine”. With the same objective in mind, if you count backwards and start with the exact number of cats you presently have, there will be no

room to add even one other cat to your count if the family grows. In fact, if one more cat is added by counting backwards, the answer to the inquirer must be zero. But then again, if they are counted as minus one or minus two (or however many more cats have joined your family), would a third party understand that when you answer “minus two,” you mean the subtracted cats are still alive, healthy and happy, and that you – as a proud cat person – are not just some weirdo keeping track of the number of cats you’ve had in your lifetime?

What are the chances of accurately counting the number of cats you may add to your cat family in the future? How can you account for the interferences life inevitably brings? What about your human family? What about work, health, marriage/divorce, or children? To avoid the morass of having to go into the negative numbers when answering the question, you must use the count backwards method, starting with the highest reasonable number, when asked how many cats you have. So what if you wind up with fewer future cats than you anticipated? The person who asked you how many cats you have in the first place will likely never know this; they’ll just go on thinking you have a plethora of cats.

But seriously, for all the above reasons and even more unstated, I strongly advise against using the backward method for counting your cats. There is a major problem I must address that looms no matter which method you use to count – I’m afraid there is no way to accurately count how many cats one has, especially for the purposes of this exposé. Therefore, I cannot honestly answer how many cats I have.

This problem arises if you have any cats living fully or partially outside. Do you count only the ones who stay on your premises full time, if any? How about the

ones that come and go? There may be neighbors who leave food out for cats and are visited by your cat frequently. Should those be considered part-time cats, and if so, how should they be counted? Would you say you have eight and a half cats?

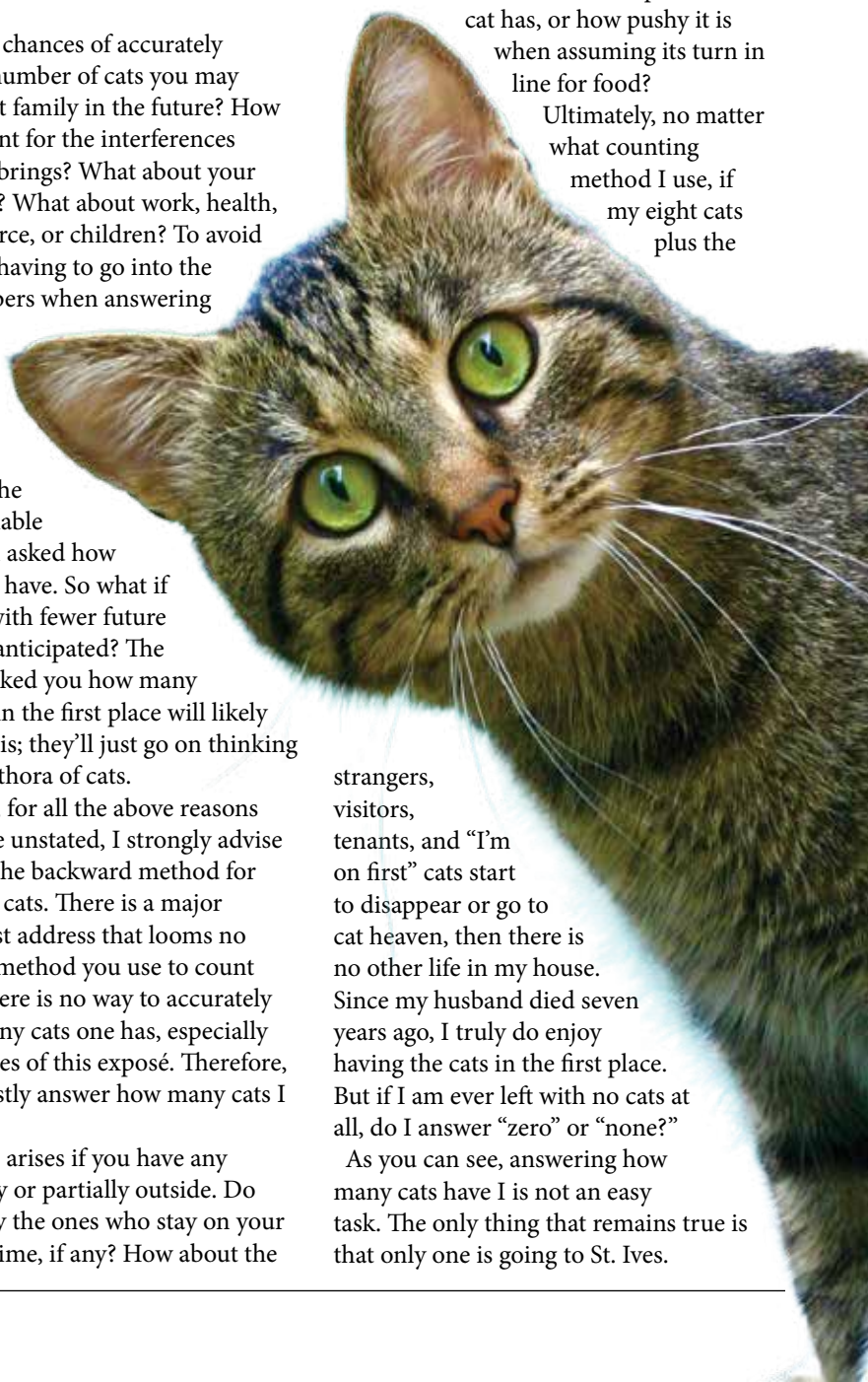
What about those cats who come and go for different periods of time? I call these cats the “strangers.” Do they get counted at all? Are they considered your cats? The easiest answer would be to use the “don’t bother to count them at all” method. But sometimes, a stranger becomes a “visitor”, and one of those visitors may enter the house a few times and look through until they become more of a “tenant”. When do you consider them yours? Does it depend

on the number of sleepovers the cat has, or how pushy it is when assuming its turn in line for food?

Ultimately, no matter what counting method I use, if my eight cats plus the

strangers, visitors, tenants, and “I’m on first” cats start to disappear or go to cat heaven, then there is no other life in my house. Since my husband died seven years ago, I truly do enjoy having the cats in the first place. But if I am ever left with no cats at all, do I answer “zero” or “none?”

As you can see, answering how many cats have I is not an easy task. The only thing that remains true is that only one is going to St. Ives.



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Directions

1. In a large skillet coated with cooking spray add La Posta Verde Tomatillo Salsa and heat, while stirring, over medium heat. Slowly add tortilla chips, coating & tossing well with salsa. Top with Monterey Jack cheese. Reduce heat, and simmer until chips are soft yet still a bit crispy around the edges, about 3-5 minutes. For crispier tortilla chips, simmer 1-2 minutes.

2. While tortilla chips are simmering, coat a small skillet with cooking spray or oil, and fry eggs "your way". Place fried eggs evenly distributed on top of chips.

Ingredients

- 24 Crispy Corn Tortilla Chips
- 1½ 16 oz jars (3 cups) La Posta Verde Tomatillo Salsa
- ¾ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 4 eggs
- 2 green onions, mostly green part, minced
- 2 tbsp. minced cilantro
- 1 avocado, seeded, peeled and thinly sliced or diced

3. To serve, scoop servings of chips and egg onto individual plates. Garnish with onion, cilantro, and avocado. Serve with refried beans, seasoned black beans or your favorite Mexican side!

Notes: (1) For Chilaquiles Rojo (Red) - substitute the La Posta Verde Tomatillo Salsa with La Posta Sundried Red Chile Sauce and use cheddar cheese. (2) For Heartier, Meaty Chilaquiles: Follow Step 1. Add 2 cups cooked shredded chicken or beef (warmed) on top of chips. Add the cooked eggs if desired. (3) For Vegetarian Chilaquiles: Follow Step 1. Delete the eggs and add 2 cups of your favorite veggie, sweet potato cubes, pinto or black beans, or seasonal squash on top of the chips.



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cover story

A CHILD PLAYS WITH LEGOS AT THE CELEBRATE THE SPECTRUM EVENT, HOSTED ANNUALLY BY THE NMSU PAPER-APRENDAMOS AUTISM DIAGNOSTIC CENTER.



CREATING COMMUNITY

while celebrating the spectrum

By Sylvia Quintanilla

New Mexico State University's Papen-Aprendamos Autism Diagnostic Center is hosting their fifth annual Celebrate the Spectrum event on April 11 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on the third floor of Corbett Center Student Union. A mixture of community specialists will be present for all ages of New Mexicans on the autism spectrum.

Monica Nosseir is the Family Support Provider at the NMSU Autism Diagnostic Center. She has been working for the department for three years and looks forward to this event each year. Nosseir mentioned that Celebrate the Spectrum

began on campus at Preciado Park.

"It started off very small as a way to embrace and support the autism community," she began. "At that point, I think we had 12 agencies. We didn't have a lot of engagement from other agencies. There wasn't as much awareness."

This year, the event will include nearly 60 groups and agencies that support the autism community in some fashion.

"It's really grown," Nosseir remarked. "I think what has really helped it grow is the commitment from the organizations and agencies – they are asking to be a part of this. They have a passion for serving

our families."

The ADC has designed this event to be sensory friendly from the moment one enters Corbett Center. Since getting up to the third floor can be a bigger task, they designed the elevators and stairs with sensory-friendly encouragement activities to create an engaging and welcoming experience right away.

Nosseir mentioned that families attending the event come from all over New Mexico, including Artesia, Hatch, and Las Cruces. Families from El Paso and Colorado have also attended. She said it's

Continued on Page 12 ►



TIPS FROM A Socialite.

The art of the intellectual pursuit

By G. Buck

In the modern world, education and the arts seem to have fallen a bit by the wayside – we often spend less time focusing on intellectual endeavors while sequestered within the confines of technology. It is imperative that we afford this younger generation the ability to pursue a multi-disciplinary focus on creative and social outlets, while also pushing them into those realms in the wider world. The arts have forever been an arm of the international sphere, bringing countries together over commonality and enriching the academic mind. Additionally, encouraging young people to connect more with world affairs and politics can enhance their understanding of the world while allowing them to appreciate how cultural diversity shapes the globe.

It is with much gratitude I can say that our parents afforded us the ability growing up to pursue intellectual endeavors. My adult life transpired into building businesses and self-employment, but without some assistance and the option to focus on what I was interested in, my life may have turned out very different. As they're able, families should assist their children in the pursuit of self-driven studies from a young age. Monetary constraints don't mean one is entirely restricted from attending the theater, taking internships, or studying various languages during their adolescence.

◀ Continued from Page 11

been nice knowing their event has been represented across Doña Ana County and so much of southern New Mexico.

A few of the agencies that will be in attendance are Applied Behavioral Analysis (therapy geared towards those with autism), Las Cruces Museums (who host neurodivergent nights), the Las Cruces Police Department (who has their own autism division), and Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (who has a mock doctor's office where guests can become familiar with equipment and medical surroundings).

Nosseir expressed that she has personal experience that she brings to this event and beyond. She said her view on how to organize Celebrate the Spectrum is unique. While the entire third floor of Corbett Center will be utilized, the ADC was very deliberate with how the tables will be set up, along with ensuring

a division with draping to limit visual stimulation. If families need a break, there will be a "zen room" available. Separation of food will also be enforced. At the end of the day, the NMSU Autism Diagnostic Center wants the families who attend the event to feel supported and seen, so adding these details was crucial.

"For every parent, grandparent, sibling, friend, [or] any individual – celebrate the spectrum," Nosseir said. "I really want them to feel like this was a space of genuine care for them. Regardless of where they are on their journey, they are not alone; they are understood and extraordinary."

Free "Celebrate the Spectrum" t-shirts and a light lunch will be provided for attendees while supplies last. For more information on the NMSU ADC, please visit their website at <https://cd.nmsu.edu/autism/autism-diagnostic-center.html> or call them at 575-646-3177.



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Recipe



Caviar Service

By G. Buck

Caviar is a delicate dish enjoyed by many with a salty taste and firm texture.

Caviar comes exclusively from sturgeon with a refined salty and buttery taste. Roe is a generic term for fish eggs, typically of salmon and trout, with a different price point. Roe often carries a more intense and crunchy profile.

Caviar/roe should only be served with mother of pearl spoons and saucers, as metal spoons oxidize the delicacy and taint its flavor. Keep caviar fresh by elevating it atop ice in a bowl or special serving dish.

Enjoy caviar with traditional crème fraîche and blini. Take a trip on the wild side by mounding baked potatoes with the salty treat or use potato chips and sour

cream as a vehicle for this indulgence. Many people even enjoy McDonald's fries with caviar. However, one can never go wrong with a traditional accompaniment atop bread.

Just make sure to have your favorite dry champagne on ice, ready to sip on while enjoying.

Crème Fraîche

Ingredients:

- ¾ cup heavy whipping cream
- 2 ¼ tsp buttermilk (or plain yogurt)
- 8 oz canning jar with tight fitting lid

Instructions:

1. Pour heavy whipping cream into the jar.
2. Add the buttermilk or yogurt and stir well.
3. Place the lid tightly on the jar and leave out at room temperature. At the 12-hour mark, open the jar and check to see if the cream has thickened. If the cream is not thickened, wait another

12 hours and check again.

4. If after 24 hours the cream has still not thickened, continue to check every 12 hours. The process can take up to 36 to 48 hours, depending on the temperature inside your house.

5. Once the cream has thickened quite a bit, give it a good stir and refrigerate at least four hours to finish the thickening process before using. It will keep for up to two weeks refrigerated.





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