

**End of Summer Book Sale** — Friends of the Esperanza A. Moreno Branch Library, 12480 Pebble Hills, will host a book sale 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, **Aug. 5**, inside the library, with “fill-a-tote” special, paperback and hardcover books, wrapped books for children, and more. All proceeds benefit the library. Information: 921-7001.

**Tumblewords Project** — The writing workshops are 12:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Saturdays at the Memorial Park Public Library meeting room, 3200 Copper. Workshops are free; donations for the presenter are encouraged. The group is open to all writers in a non-critique, non-caustic forum. Information: 328-5484 (Donna Snyder), 566-1034 (library), tumblewordsproject@yahoo.com or on Facebook.

- **Aug. 5:** “Aging: Blood, Sweat, Tears and other Fluids” with Mónica Gómez. Gómez had worked as a writer, performing songwriter, broadcaster, motivational speaker and teacher of creative writing and martial arts. Her creative writing workbook, “Expressercise: Write Answers” contains more than 100 exercises in expression and self-discovery.
- **Aug. 7:** “There’s Nothing There” with Mzuri. Mzuri is an introverted woman of a certain age who sold her house, got rid of her stuff and went rootless.
- **Aug. 19:** “The Radical Amazement of Rumi Part 2” with Robin Scofield. Scofield, author of “And the Ass Saw the Angel” and “Sunflower Cantos,” is poetry editor for BorderSenses.
- **Aug. 26:** “Restoring Silence” with Kit Wren. Wren has been a participant in the Tumblewords Project since he was 12 years old.

**Murder She Read** — The Eastside chapter of the book discussion group supporting women mystery writers meets 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, **Aug. 1**, to discuss “Spider Woman’s Daughter” by Anne Hillerman at Rio Norte Retirement Center Activity Room, 1941 Saul Kleinfeld. The group regularly meets the first Tuesday of each month, and is open to anyone. Admission is free. Information: 629-7063 or labodda9@aol.com.

**Reading Art Book Club** — The book club of the Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main, meets at 2:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are free and open to the public; participants do not need to have read the book. Information: (575) 541-2217, sabdon@las-cruces.org or las-cruces.org/muse-



ums.

**Victorian Sci-Fi Book and Tea Club** — The book club devoted to Victorian era science fiction meets at 2 p.m. Saturday, **Aug. 19**, at Magoffin Home State Historic Site, 1120 Magoffin, to discuss “The Poison Belt” by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 1913. Victorian era or steampunk dress encouraged, but not required. Cost: \$5. Information: 533-5147, visitmagoffin-home.com or Facebook.

**Sept. 16:** “Flatland” by Edwin A. Abbott.

**El Paso Writers’ League** — The league meets 2 to 4 p.m. the second Saturday of the month at the Dorris Van Doren Regional Branch Library, 551 E. Redd Road. Admission is free. Information:

elpasowritersleague@gmail.com or on Facebook at ElPasoWritersLeague.

**Barnes and Noble Saturday story-times** — El Paso’s East Side and West Side, and the Las Cruces Mesilla Valley Mall locations all offer Saturday storytimes. See individual listings for times.

Storytime in celebration of this year’s “Get Pop-Cultured” is **July 29**, featuring “Morning, Superman!,” “Be A Star, Wonder Woman,” and “Bedtime for Batman.”

- **Aug. 5:** Peterrific and Aqualicious
- **Aug. 12:** Goodnight Lab: A Scientific Parody
- **Aug. 19:** Nothing Rhymes with Orange
- **Aug. 26:** How to Get Your Teacher Ready

**Barnes & Noble (East Side)** — The Fountains at Farah, 8889 Gateway West, Suite 120. Information: 590-1932.

“How to” workshop for cosplayers is noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, **July 29**, as part of Get Pop-Cultured summer events. Costume parade and showcase also featured.

Author Lorena Hughes will sign copies of her book “The Sisters of Alameda Street” 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, **Aug. 19**.

Children’s storytime is 11 a.m. every Saturday.

**Barnes & Noble (West Side)** — 705 Sunland Park. Hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday. Information: 581-5353.

Children’s storytimes are 10 a.m. Fridays and

11 a.m. Saturdays.

**Barnes & Noble (Las Cruces)** — 700 S. Telshor in Mesilla Valley Mall. Information: (575) 522-4499.

Children’s storytimes are 10 a.m. Fridays, and 11 a.m. Saturdays. Little Nutbrown Hare visits Friday, **Aug. 18**; and Curious George visits Friday, **Sept. 22**.

**Books Are Gems** — 7744 North Loop Ste B (behind Compass Bank). The nonprofit organization sells and gives away new and used books. Books are sold for \$1-\$2, and children who come to the store may receive five free

used books. Teachers can also receive free books for their classroom. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday. Information: 845-5437 or booksaregems.org.

**Black Cat Sunday Poets** — Black Cat Books and Coffee, 128 Broadway in Truth or Consequences, N.M., hosts free poetry readings at 1 p.m. the second Sunday of the month. Information: (575) 894-7070.

**Branigan Library 4th Wednesday Happenings** — A new monthly program for adults is 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Thomas Branigan Library’s Roadrunner Room, 200 E. Picacho in Las Cruces. Participation is free. Information, registration: (575) 528-4005 or library.reference@las-cruces.org.

The Tour de France is one of most grueling competitions in all of professional sports. It starts out with 198 riders — 22 teams of 9 riders each. After 21 stages averaging over 100 miles per day, only one person wins the yellow jersey (although there are also winners each day and sub-categories for winners in specific categories such as sprinting and climbing).

This year’s winner of the yellow jersey (for the 3rd time in a row and four times total) was Chris Froome. He never won a single day’s race, but emerged July 23 as the overall leader, finishing just 54 seconds ahead of the first runner-up after more than 86 hours of riding.

Froome obviously a great cyclist, but his success is also credited to being supported by what is universally considered to be the best team in cycling, Team Sky. Every member of that team had defined roles, but the most important was to control each day’s race so that Froome would emerge as the eventual winner.

Almost every day, there were riders who sped ahead of the main pack (what’s known as the peloton) and got a lead of a few minutes. They got a lot of attention and glory for a while, but almost always the peloton used its collective power to catch up and overtake them.

That’s why the Tour de France is hard to understand for outsiders. The team dynamics are not as glamorous as watching a lone rider try to outdistance everyone else.

One of Team Sky’s best riders was Mikel Landa, a Spanish rider who by any standard would be considered a contender to win the Tour de France. But that wasn’t his job. Again and again, he led the way for Froome, especially on grueling mountain climbs, so that Froome could ride directly behind him and not have to work quite as hard. Then near the very end, Landa would drop back and Froome would make the last push on his own.

Sounds positive in a way, but not for everyone. Former U.S. pro cyclist Greg LeMond (who won the Tour three times) publicly stated that Landa should just go out on his own and try to win the Tour. LeMond spoke from experience; he regrets the one Tour title that got away, when he deferred to teammate Bernard Hinault. Froome, by the way, was in the same position himself when he was a lieutenant to team captain Bradley Wiggins in a couple of major cycling events. Froome, however, went on to become captain of his own team, winning the yellow jersey four times.



The Tour provided me inspiration when a friend of mine asked for some input on a sermon she was preparing on the relationship of discipleship and community.

Discipleship is a team sport, I told her, not an individual competition. Our culture (which has infected most churches) has a hard time dealing with that because it focuses on the individual. Most movies have a protagonist who goes out on his or her own, breaking all the rules and prevailing. In real life, that’s not really the way it works. And that should certainly never be the case in a community of believers.

As we grow in Christ, we will be tempted to ride away from the pack and go for it on our own. We may see everyone else as slowing us down. In the church we may often find ourselves in a position of deferring to people that don’t seem as spiritually mature. We feel limited by their pace.

But Jesus saw that coming, which is why he told the disciples that the last shall be first. We lead by serving. It may seem like going forward when we break away from the pack and separate ourselves from fellow believers, but in God’s eyes we’ve just moved backward, not forward.

From God’s point of view, what counts most is not what any one of us achieves. It’s the love that we manifest among us. When we distance ourselves from others in the church, we aren’t moving closer to anything that’s more important. Because spiritual growth is not a finish line — it’s about becoming one, and if that means waiting for others to catch up, so be it. In bicycling, you can be a tremendous help by riding a few feet ahead of the next person — you provide relief from the air resistance so the rider behind you doesn’t have to work so hard. But you’re no help at all if you’re a mile ahead.

Paul had this to say in Col. 2:19 about those who insist on their own way in the church: “They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.”

Randy Limbird is editor of El Paso Scene. Comments? Send to randy@epsccene.com







**Good Food ... Good Feelings®**

It’s time to head back to class  
And start hitting the books  
But who has the time to cook?  
So before you go back to school  
Make sure you stop by  
your favorite restaurant  
Village Inn  
Where there’s good food and good feelings



El Paso: 1500 Airway • 7144 Gateway East • 4757 Hondo Pass • 2929 N. Mesa  
5863 N. Mesa • 7801 N. Mesa • 2275 Trawood • 1331 N. Zaragoza  
Las Cruces: 1435 S. Valley • 445 S. Telshor