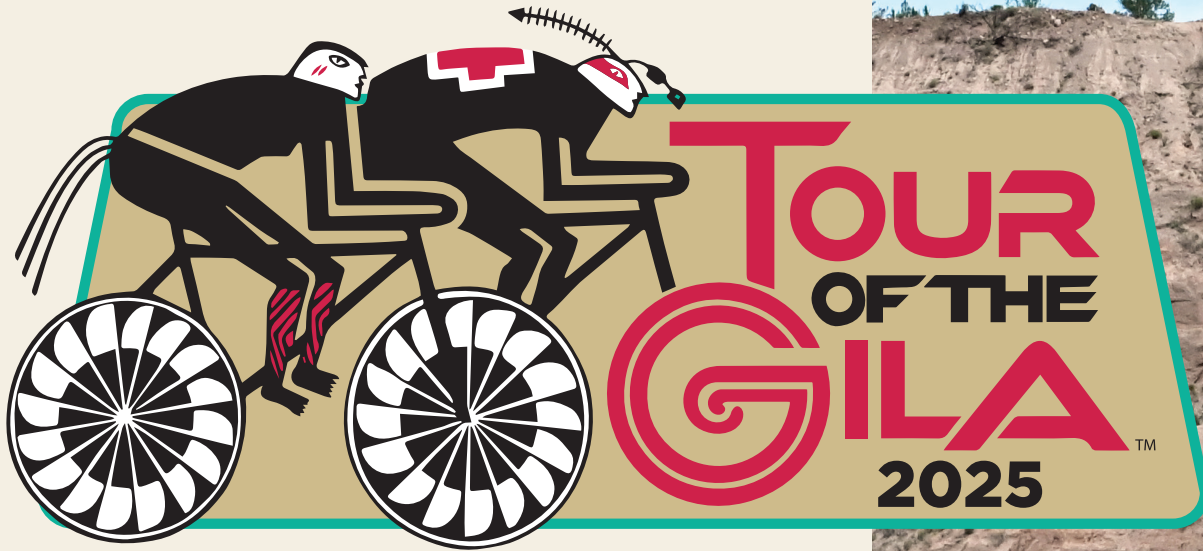


APRIL 23-27, 2025 | SILVER CITY • NEW MEXICO

SPECTATOR GUIDE

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ABOUT

Tour of the Gila is the road bicycling stage race based out of Silver City, New Mexico. Since 1987, Tour of the Gila has become globally renowned for challenging mountain courses.

Over five days, athletes follow routes leading from the town's colorful streets, through the region's rich history, and along the edges of the nation's first designated wilderness. Sanctioned by both the global and national governing bodies of cycling, Tour of the Gila provides a rare opportunity for amateur competitive cyclists to compete on the same courses (and on the same days) as the professional cyclists.

The 38th Tour of the Gila runs from Wednesday, April 23, through Sunday, April 27, 2025.





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Road Impacts TRAVEL INFO

Some southwest New Mexico roads and highways will be impacted while the races take place each day. The race organization thanks residents for their patience and asks for continued respect for the athletes taking on this spectacular challenge.

WEDNESDAY 4/23

New Mexico Highway 90 will be closed on the Tyrone side from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and at US-70 in Lordsburg from 8:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Please yield to Tour of the Gila participants, volunteers, and crew members, or plan any travel on NM-90 either before the Tyrone Individual Time Trial presented by Freeport McMoRan begins or after it concludes.

THURSDAY 4/24

The Mogollon Road Race presented by Grant County travels through downtown Silver City, up Market Street, and west on US-180, looping around on NM-211 and finishing on NM-159 East near mile marker 7. Impacts are expected to run from 8 a.m. through 2:30 p.m. The streets around Gough Park will be closed starting at dawn.

FRIDAY 4/25

During the Inner Loop Road Race presented by Brian and Lynn Robinson and Southwest Bone and Joint, roads impacted include NM 15, NM 35, NM 152, NM 356, and US 180. With rolling closures of US180, NM 35 and NM152, a full road closure of NM-15 is planned for 7:30 a.m. to noon. The road will be closed between mile markers 6 and 25.

Leaders of Enchantment, the podcast created to inspire New Mexicans on why the Land of Enchantment is the land of opportunity, is the Tour of the Gila 2025 media partner.

An alumnus of Tour of the Gila, Doug Campbell is the person behind the Leaders of Enchantment podcast, which stepped up as the Tour of the Gila media partner in 2025. Campbell's Leaders of Enchantment is a podcast designed to showcase successful New Mexicans and highlight the vast amount of talent and opportunity residing in the Land of Enchantment.

The native of Albuquerque relocated to Colorado after earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from UNM, to pursue his engineering career. His two decades in Colorado involved Campbell starting, growing, and ultimately selling two companies: Rocco, LLC, a leading provider of space deployables and small satellite component products, which was sold to Redwire Space in 2020; and Solid Power Inc., an industry leader in solid state batteries for vehicle electrification, which went public in 2021. Doug stepped down from

MEDIA PARTNER

Leaders of Enchantment podcast equips Tour of the Gila with tools to grow the race's reach

his CEO role at Solid Power at the end of 2022 and moved back to the Duke City where he has since ingrained himself in New Mexico's emerging start-up investing ecosystem and the University of New Mexico community through generous gifts along with board service on the UNM Foundation and Lobo Club.

"I was fortunate to spend nearly two decades inside the robust, high-growth tech startup ecosystem in the Denver/Boulder area and would love to see that replicated here in New Mexico. One of my observations, however, is that negative stories and features tends to dominate our news feed here in New Mexico,"

Campbell says. "I've never been one to complain, so I've decided to use my talents to help New Mexico thrive and this begins with highlighting the goodness here in our state."

His work with Tour of the Gila furthers that mission, as his support goes toward shining a light on the community that has hosted this world-class bike race for 38 years.

"The opportunities in New Mexico are limitless," Campbell added. "I want people to hear from New Mexicans who are doing transformative things in our communities and discuss how they got there. My goal is to inspire others to follow their lead and move New Mexico forward."

Listen to the podcast series with Tour of the Gila 2025 media partner at LeadersOfEnchantment.com.



To see what media partner Leaders of Enchantment and Tour of the Gila produce together, follow the race on social media and visit TourOfTheGila.com.

With Leaders of Enchantment as the race media partner, Tour of the Gila plans to provide core fans with timely updates on the UCI men's and women's races along with daily video recaps of each stage. Media coverage will align with the podcast's emphasis on "highlighting the goodness in our state." It will direct a spotlight toward the southwest's landscape, culture, history while telling the stories that play out at the beloved American stage race that the local community that has grown into a world-class competition.

Podcast creator Doug Campbell is a Gila Proven athlete who recognizes the significance of Tour of the Gila to the domestic racing scene as well as to New Mexico. He raced in Silver City during his career as a pro mountain biker.



Doug Campbell raced Tour of the Gila in the late 1990s.

Road Impacts TRAVEL INFO

SATURDAY 4/26

Road closures start at 5 a.m. ahead of the Downtown Criterium presented by the Town of Silver City. Streets affected include Bullard, College, Cooper and Broadway. Entry points into the racecourse are on Santa Rita Street at College Avenue, and Arizona Street at Broadway Street. Residents whose homes are within the closed-loop course will be provided maps and directions for accessing the area. Those coming to watch the races or participate in the citizen fun races are urged to either walk or ride bicycles into downtown as there will be limited parking. For a comfortable and safe day of cheering on the athletes, bring chairs, wear sun protection and ring cowbells.

SUNDAY 4/27

The streets surrounding Gough Park will be closed from 6 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. while athletes begin the queen stage: the Gila Monster Road Race presented by Gila Regional Medical Center. NM-15 will be fully closed from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. between Bear Creek Cabins in Pinos Altos and the intersection with NM-35. Other roads impacted include NM 35, NM 152, NM 356 and US 180.

While the race plans to run on schedule, the closures are subject to change without notice at any time. Organizers will make an effort to share any changes or updates to the schedule on TourOfTheGila.com.

Tyrone Individual Time Trial

p./b. Freeport-McMoRan

Wed., April 23

Length

26 km. (16.15 mi.)

Category Start

UCI Men 9:15 a.m.

Followed by

UCI Women

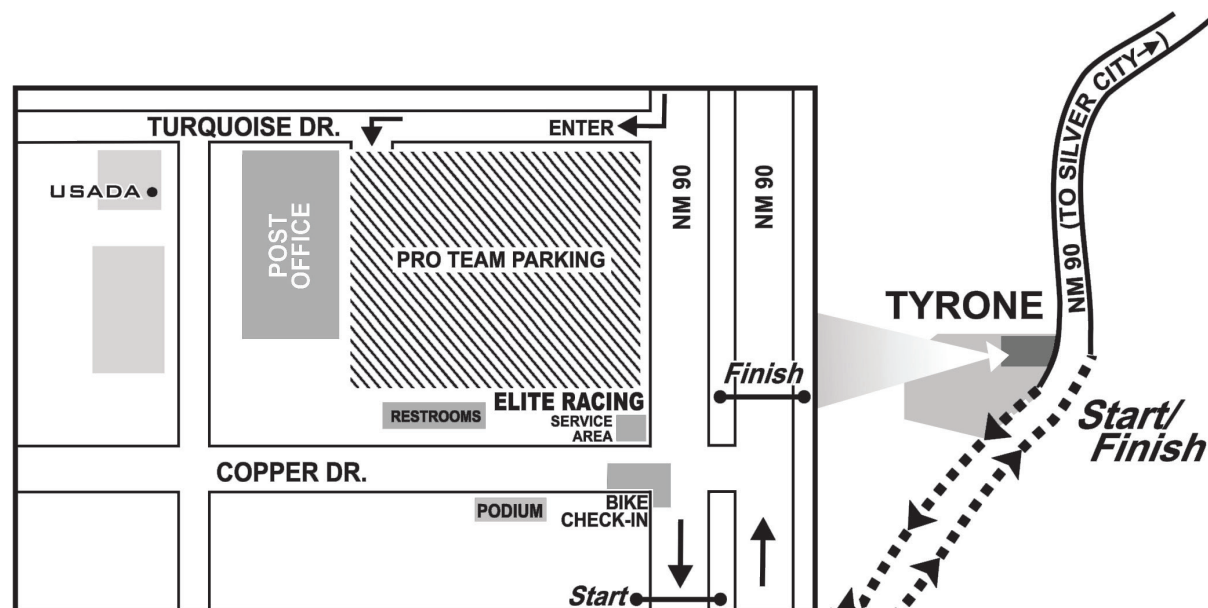
WEDNESDAY 4/23

THE INDIVIDUAL TIME TRIAL is one of the most spectator-friendly stages. With the start and finish lines in the historic mining site of Tyrone, the course is wide-open with places along the roadside to observe the racers, who turn around between mile markers 30 and 29. Wearing aerodynamic helmets, speed suits and specialty bikes, each rider tackles the course alone. Racers leave at 30-second intervals and battle the clock over the 26.6 km. (16.5 mi.) course with 304.8 m. (1,000 ft.) of climbing.

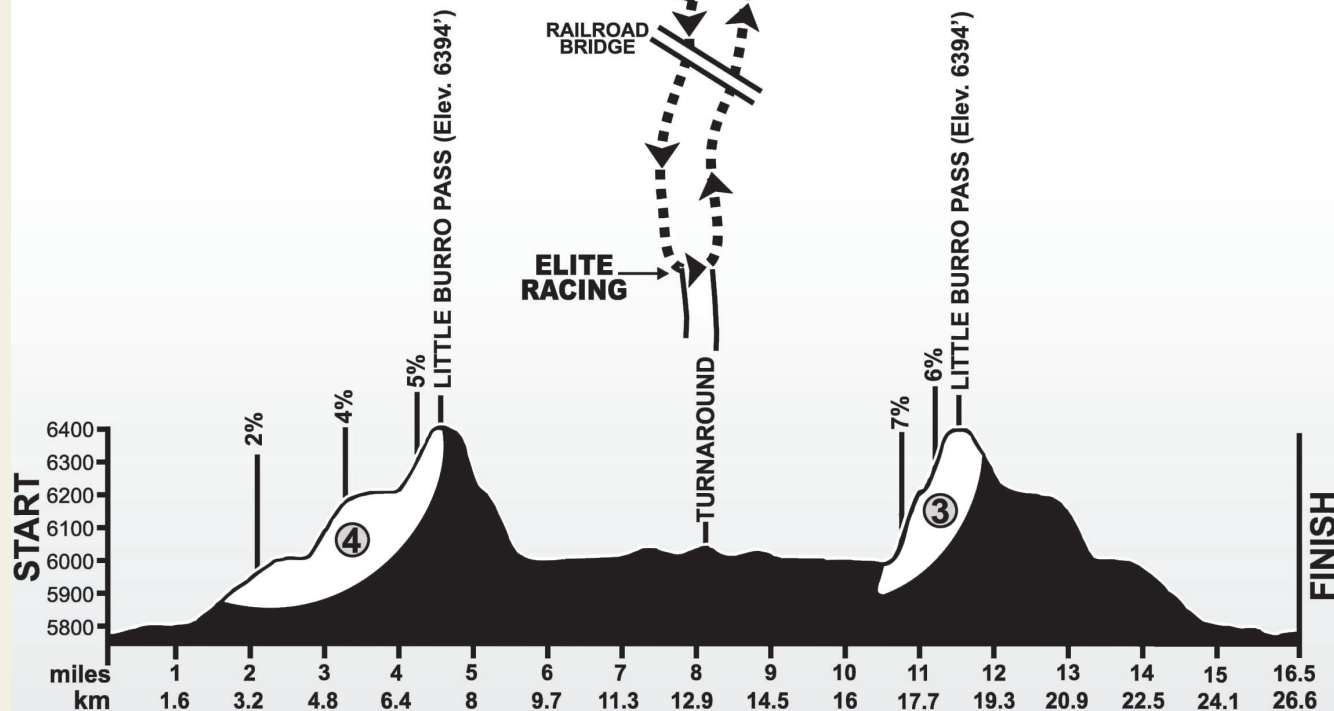
Photos throughout this guide are by Mitch Clinton, Tom Maxfeldt and Brian Hodes/Velolmages.

Articles, unless otherwise noted, and layouts by Tour of the Gila Media Director Jennifer Olson.

TYRONE INDIVIDUAL TIME TRIAL



RACE COURSE MAP





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**For a detailed
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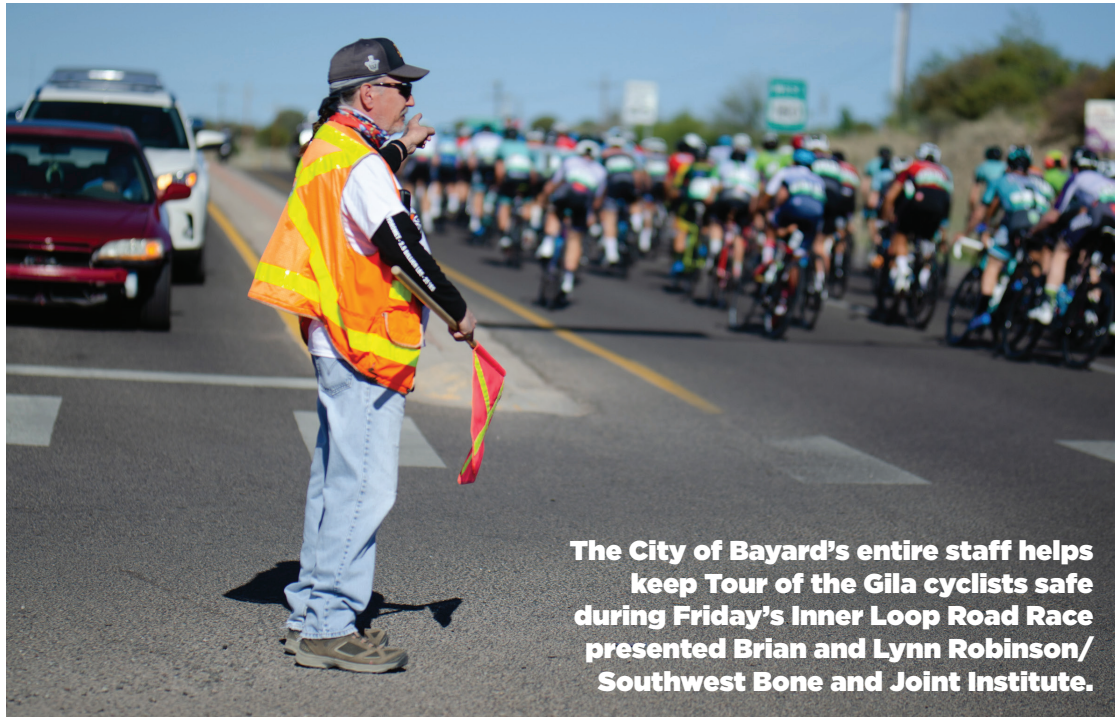
Once a year, Bayard comes to a standstill for the Tour of the Gila cyclists racing through the city and onto a sprint finish at nearby Fort Bayard. It's a big challenge for the fourth smallest city in New Mexico, but the residents relish helping with the iconic stage race.

"We go all out for the race," Bayard Mayor John L. Ojinaga said in a recent interview in

his office in City Hall, located on UCI Men's course for the Inner Loop Road Race presented Brian and Lynn Robinson/Southwest Bone and Joint Institute, scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2025.

Bayard goes all out for the race bringing the municipality's entire staff, aided by community volunteers, to guide cyclists safely through Central Avenue and onto US 180 — both of which will be closed to traffic.

"Everything stops for the Tour of the Gila," Bayard Police Chief Hector Carrillo said about the city's dedication to the race. Chief Carrillo reported there are 15 intersections



The City of Bayard's entire staff helps keep Tour of the Gila cyclists safe during Friday's Inner Loop Road Race presented Brian and Lynn Robinson/Southwest Bone and Joint Institute.

along the estimated 1.3-mile route which passes through the city that must be closed. For comparison, Saturday's Silver City Downtown Criterium has 20 intersections in its 1.08-mile loop, and none of those intersections involve a highway.

"The fire department brings fire trucks to block off the biggest intersections," Chief Carrillo said. "Sometimes the traffic backs up to outside of Bayard

all the way to North Hurley on US 180." He urges spectators and motorists alike to follow directions from course marshals guiding traffic.

To be advised of road closures and other emergency or municipal happenings, Chief Carrillo suggest residents sign up for MyGov.us—an app that allows Bayard to communicate with the public.

"We want to have the safest and best show; it's an honor to host the Tour of the Gila," Chief Carrillo added.

Racers in the UCI Men's field will take less than five minutes to pedal through Bayard, and according to Chief Car-

rillo, the streets will be shut down an additional 20 minutes afterward for the safety of any stragglers who have broken off from the peloton (the main pack of cyclists in a race).

Tour of the Gila Race Director Jack Brennan said the Inner Loop Road Race is a challenge with uphill climbs and steep descents. The course winds from Fort Bayard and back following the Trail of the Mountain Spirits Scenic Byway.

Most of the racers climb toward Pinos Altos on NM 15, turn at Sapillo Creek onto NM 35, and race to San Lorenzo before climbing to Hanover. The UCI Men turn onto NM 356 and head toward Bayard, where they circle onto US 180 and head back to the Ft. Bayard finish line.

Brennan said, "It's amazing to see the 60-70 cyclists at Hanover do a massive group turn after the railroad tracks." This section, an additional five-miles, was included in 2012 to extend the length of the UCI Men's course.

Bayard is where athletes employ their race tactics, Brennan said. "There is an enormous field of cyclists entering the city. The teams have kept their sprinters protected all day long and are setting them up for the sprint finish between Bayard and Ft. Bayard."

Brennan suggested spectators might enjoy the race from the US 180 multi-use pathway between Bayard and Santa Clara, as the straightaway gives a great perspective of the action as team sprinters, vying for the victory, break away from the peloton in a burst of speed. "It's a spectacle as the racers whip by you, then the entourage of the State Police, motorcycles and support cars follows."

The Bayard Public Library offers an insider's view of the straightaway through the city, located at 1112 Central Ave. Head Librarian Cindy "Renee" Provencio promises "a front row seat to the incredible athleticism it takes to compete in Tour of the Gila!" Seating includes a deck and garden with a shady gazebo.

Depending on cyclists' speed, expect delays in Bayard on Friday, April 25, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Times can vary. Spectators should arrive at least 30 minutes early.

Bayard Police Department stations a lookout for racers in Vanadium, located two miles ahead on the course, said Chief Carrillo. "But the cyclists are here before you know it," said Mayor Ojinaga, noting residents and visitors turn out to watch the race. "Teachers bring classes out to cheer the cyclists on. It's great to see our city included in Tour of the Gila!"

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Mogollon Road Race

p./b. Grant County

Thurs., April 24

Length

117.6-151.3 km. (73-94 mi.)

Category Start

Men 1,2 8 a.m.

Men 3 8:15 a.m.

UCI Women 8:30 a.m.

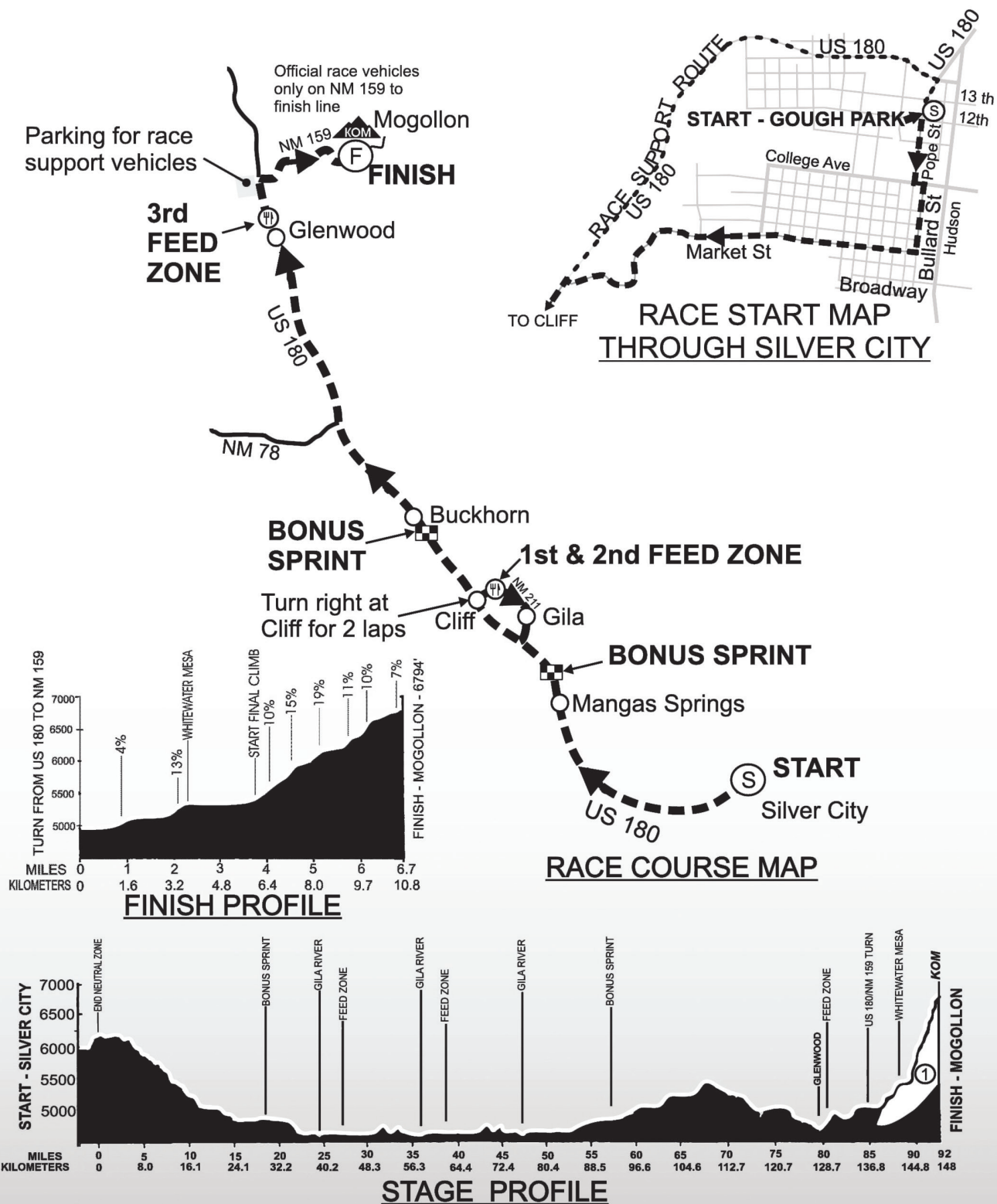
UCI Men 9:40 a.m.

STAGE 2

STARTING AT GOUGH PARK in Silver City, challenge hangs in the air as the neutral parade heads down Pope St., then winds through Historic Downtown Silver City then up Market St. (known to the locals as Snake Hill). Once the riders have made the left turn onto Hwy 180 W., the race officially begins. The course continues toward Cliff and loops through Gila, communities nestled on the banks of the Gila River, New Mexico's last wild river. The area's ranching traditions are evident as the race makes its way through grazing land with vast vistas showcasing the Mogollon Mountains. Hwy 180 then takes the racers on a feed zone near Glenwood. Racers now start up the rolling hills leading to the Category 1 climb to the ghost town of Mogollon. The 640.1-meter (2,100-foot) winds to the finish line. Spectators must either watch from the lowlands or travel to the mountain finish line ahead of the first racers. NM 159 will be closed to all but race traffic before racers turn onto the narrow, single-lane road. People may park at the turnoff to NM 159 and either walk or ride up, as long as spectators stay off well off the road when races come through.

SILVER CITY TO MOGOLLON ROAD RACE

UCI MEN





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Designs Commemorate New Mexico's History and Heritage

2025 LEADER

Race jerseys make leaders stand out from the crowd. The 38th Tour of the Gila reveals its four leader jerseys, which were thoughtfully designed with the southwest region's history and cultures in mind. The Tour of the Gila 2025 jerseys display appreciation for the Mimbres Mogollon people, who thrived in southwestern New Mexico between A.D. 1000 and 1130. The designs also compliment the bike race's longstanding tradition of awarding handcrafted trophy bowls fashioned in the style of and using similar processes to the Mimbres, who are famous for black-on-white pottery.

The patterns and textures featured in this year's jersey designs are inspired by pots in the NAN Ranch collection of the Western New Mexico University Museum, which houses the world's largest collection of Mimbres pottery in Silver City—central to where these prehistoric people crafted their distinctive black-on-white pottery. In consultation with the WNMU Museum director, Tour of the Gila identified ollas and bowls that represent this group of people who inhabited the landscapes the five racecourses pass through. The intentions were to educate participants on the region's history while celebrating the Mimbres people and the ongoing legacy that is Tour of the Gila.

Graphic artist and bicyclist Mitch Ikemoto pulled these concepts together in the four designs on JAKROO Alpha jerseys

The red **New Mexico True leader jersey** is awarded to the individual in each category who is leading the overall time standings. The wearer of this jersey is at the top of what's known as the general classification,



which means they have the lowest overall time after all the stages.

In the UCI races, the polka dotted **Freeport McMoRan climber jersey** is awarded to the racer who has reached and earned the most points by reaching the King or Queen of the Mountain lines at the top of key ascents ahead of all riders with a consideration for each climbs' category rating. At Tour of the Gila points are up for grabs during all three road races.

The green **Gila Regional Medical Center sprinter jersey** goes to the cyclist leading the points classification determined by intermediate sprints and finishing place in certain stages.

JERSEYS



The white **Southwest Bone and Joint/Brian and Lynn Robinson Best Young Rider jersey** signifies the leading rider under age 23 on the general classification.

Crossing the body of the New Mexico True leader jersey are thin horizontal lines—a nod to the intricate detail and fine brush strokes that make up the complex and meaningful designs of renowned Mimbres black on white pottery. The pattern on the left sleeve is based on the horizontal stripes adorning a miniature olla on display in the WNMU Museum's main level.

While the circles that dot the Freeport McMoRan climber jersey appear to



be made of solid lines at first glance, a closer look reveals detail inspired by the designs commonly painted on Mimbres pottery. Peaked shapes come together to form concentric rings formed of adjoining triangles.

The geometric design encircling both the Gila Regional Medical Center sprinter jersey and the Southwest Bone and Joint/Brian and Lynn Robinson Best Young Rider jersey was modeled after a Mimbres Style-III Middle olla that's part of the scientifically excavated NAN Ranch collection.

The bottom of each sleeve finishes the look with a border like might be found on a Mimbres pot. Plus, the left sleeve of each jersey bears the logo of the Leaders of Enchantment podcast, the Tour of the Gila 2025 media partner. This placement acknowledges podcast creator Doug Campbell's contributions to support shining a spotlight on the athletes and the community members who come together for this gem of an event in the Land of Enchantment.

For updates on who earns these jerseys over the course of the race, follow Tour of the Gila on social media and visit TourOfTheGila.com.



Inner Loop Road Race

p./b. Southwest Bone & Joint /
Brian & Lynn Robinson

Fri., April 25

Length

Length: 98.2-123.9 km. (61-77 mi.)

Category Start

Pinos Altos Start:

Men 4,5 8:10 a.m.

Master Men 3,4,5 8:20 a.m.

Women 1,2,3 8:25 a.m.

Fort Bayard Start:

UCI Men 9:00 a.m.

Men 3 9:40 a.m.

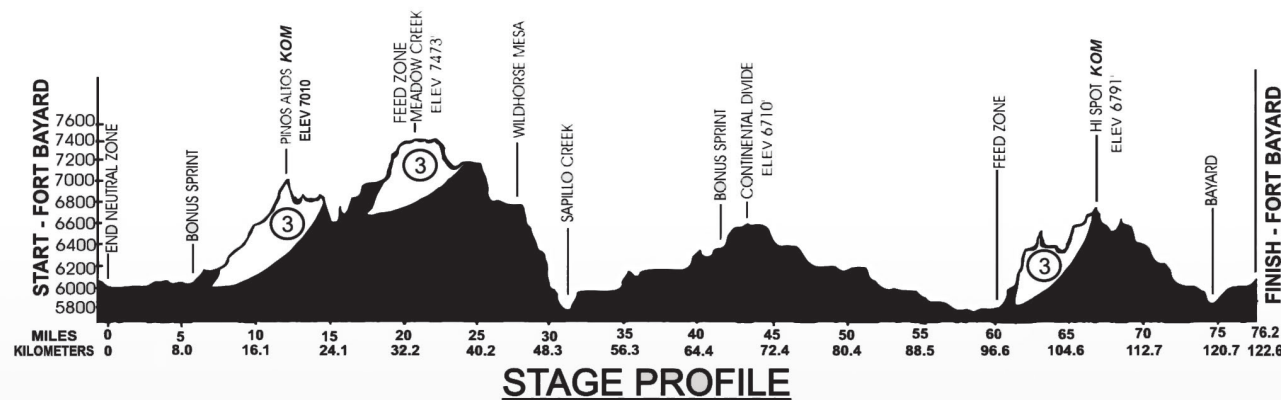
Men 1,2 10:00 a.m.

UCI Women 10:20 a.m.

STAGE 3

THE TRAIL OF THE MOUNTAIN SPIRITS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY is the path most of the race follows for this stage. Some categories start in Pinos Altos; other races start in historic Ft. Bayard and make their way to the first KOM in Pinos Altos. Following a twisting descent to Sapillo Crossing, riders race by Lake Roberts then along the picturesque Mimbres Valley. After a right/left/right turn sequence past San Lorenzo Elementary School, the race travels up Acklin Hill, where the infamous head winds start kicking up for the final 15 miles to the sprint finishes in Ft. Bayard, where spectators can view riders vying for the win. Take time to explore area trails, play disc golf, or tour the grounds of this military fort which dates back to 1866 and was mainly staffed by African-American "Buffalo Soldiers."

INNER LOOP ROAD RACE



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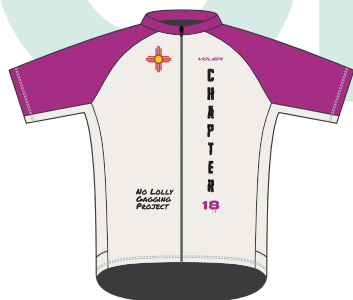
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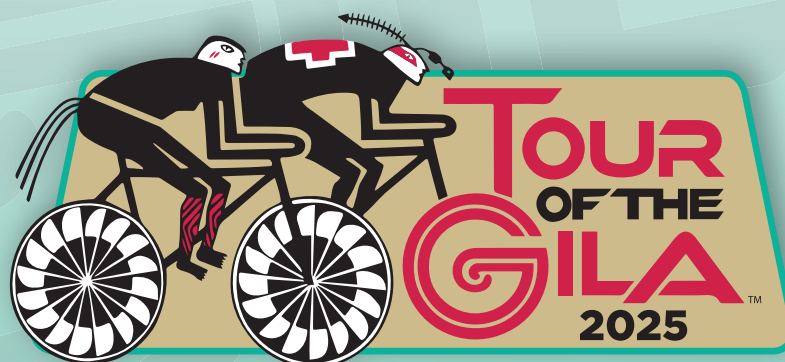
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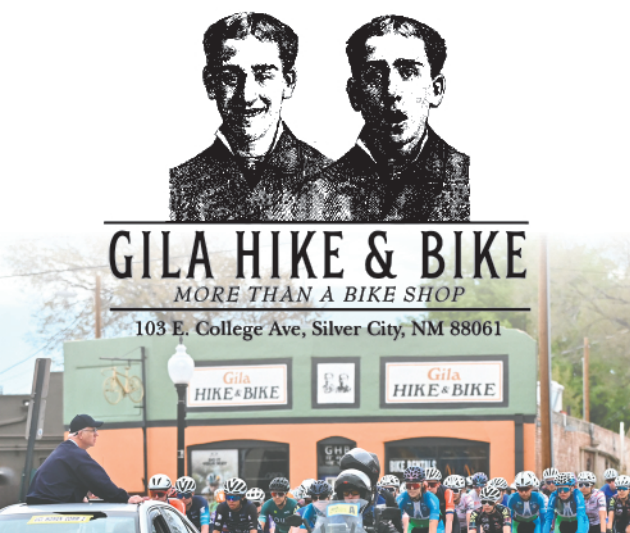
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**Welcome to the 2025
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Domestic elite teams like Landis Cyclery/Trek and TaG Cycling flock to Tour of the Gila, where top-tier competition is the cherry on top of a challenging experience in a welcoming community.

SQAD

Being sanctioned by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), Tour of the Gila can allow UCI teams, club teams, Domestic Elite Teams. The latter sit between a club and a UCI Continental team. They are a steppingstone to the professional level, according to USA Cycling, which formed DETs to “better organize the top level of cycling in the United States.”

The Phoenix-based Landis/Trek Men’s Domestic Elite Team matches the mission by developing amateur cyclists and providing opportunities to compete at a high level. And the director of the Landis Cyclery/Trek Team, Brian Lemke, has competed at Tour of the Gila and brought athletes to race in southwest New Mexico more times than he can count.

“I’ve been coming to Tour of the Gila since 1995,” says the former Cat 1,2 race who missed a few years before attending with Landis Cyclery/Trek Team. “Our club has a very, very long history with Tour of the Gila.”

An early club member was Drew Miller, who won Tour of the Gila in 2003. “That was obviously a big highlight for our team,” Lemke says.

As part of the White Mountain Road Club, the team emphasizes both athletic performance and community engagement. “We believe that we embody the full ecosystem of cycling clubs. We promote Valley of the Sun Stage Race; we give back to the community; and we have beginning riders, masters riders, as well as cat 1 riders,” Lemke says. “Our focus is 100% road cycling.”

Landis/Trek serves as a bridge between amateur club racing and professional UCI Continental competition, providing a platform for category one cyclists to compete against the top professionals at NRC (National Racing Calendar) events. “We’re pretty much we try to remain a local Arizona team,” Lemke says. “Our plan is to just give younger riders, riders the opportunity to do some of the bigger races in the nation.”

The Landis Cyclery/Trek Team starts the season with the club’s own race. “That’s a no brainer,” Lemke says, adding that the Tucson Bicycle Classic follows, and the team holds a training camp in between. March brings local races, and April has both Redlands Bicycle Classic and Tour of the Gila on the calendar. Summertime brings a mix of other stage races and a focus on US Pro Nationals. “That’s been our schedule for the last few years,” Lemke says.

With about ten on the team this year, Lemke brought the maximum number of riders for Redlands Bicycle Classic and planned a squad of seven for Tour of the Gila. “We always have juniors and Cat 2s and other club members who also race at Redlands, but our focus for the DET is doing the UCI event,” he says.

GOALS

The team loves stage racing, and Tour of the Gila is one of the few UCI races on the U.S. calendar. "It's obviously the hardest stage race in the nation," Lemke. "People can't always have the focus of only doing races they

think they'll win. If that was the case, there'd only be one person doing each race," Lemke says of the competition Landis Cyclery/Trek Team faces here. "Being able to compete at that level is super gratifying."

This year, Landis Cyclery/Trek Team aims to be in the top half of the team General Classification and to get some top ten stage finishes. Don't count them out as contenders. "Last year, Stephen Schaffer was second in the Mountain competition after a few days," Lemke says. "We do have a number of climbers who could have good races."

He doesn't ignore the challenge of competing against UCI teams whose riders may be solely focused on cycling. "A lot of our guys are fulltime racers, but they're also balancing careers and life. It's not just about riding your bike."

He says that young people come through the ranks via teams like Landis Cyclery/Trek Team and races like Tour of the Gila, and while dreaming about a WorldTour contract is thrilling, the goal is to prepare for the alternative. "Reality is you have to be able to balance life as well: to become a good citizen, find out

your future and how cycling can be a part of that," Lemke says."

Being a race promoter as well, Lemke appreciates and collaborates with Tour of the Gila not only as fellow members of the National Association of Professional Race Directors (NAPRD). "But Tour of the Gila being a UCI race is at a different level than Valley of the Sun," Lemke says.

With talk of more UCI races being added to the U.S. calendar, the future of American road racing builds on the longevity of domestic elite teams like Landis Cyclery/Trek Team and the races they compete in. "Tour of the Gila has been just such a staple of top professional or amateur road racing," Lemke says. "It's amazing that the little town supports the race so much. It takes so many people to make an event like this happen. Silver City does a great job. They should feel good about bringing a race of this caliber to New Mexico and Silver City."



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BRIAN AND LYNN ROBINSON



Monē Hachita Frameset To Be Raffled off to Amateur Bike Racers

The winner will be drawn during the Silver City Downtown Criterium on Saturday, April 26.

In mid-March, amateur competitive cyclists learned of another reason to enter Tour of the Gila 2025. The Silver City-based stage race partnered with Monē Bikes, a bicycle fabrication operation also based in southwest New Mexico, to give away a frameset to one lucky participant in this year's USA Cycling-sanctioned races.

Every person who competes in a USA Cycling category at the 38th Tour of the Gila was automatically entered to win a Monē Hachita, a multipurpose design named after a community in the booth-eel of New Mexico due south of the race's home base.

"Silver City is my favorite place on earth, and the Tour of the Gila is a wonderful and unique part of our town," said Cjell Monē, the owner/operator designer fabricator of Monē Bikes, who donated this frame to Tour of the Gila. "As a cycling focused business, we are honored to be able to support the race this year."

"Any cyclist can appreciate the artisanship that goes into a Monē Bikes frame," race director Jack Brennan said.

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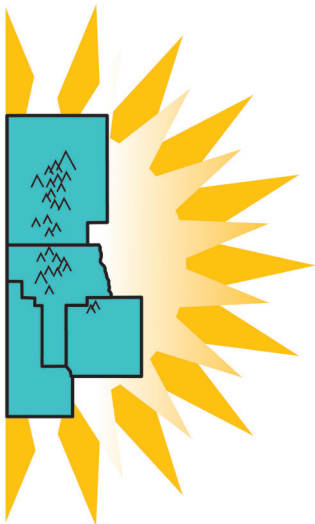
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DOWNTOWN CRITERIUM

Downtown Criterium

p./b. The Town of Silver City

Sat., April 26

Course length

1.08 mile (1.74km)

Category Start

Men 4,5 8:00 a.m.

Master Men 3,4,5 8:45 a.m.

Women 1,2,3,4 9:35 a.m.

Men 3 10:25 a.m.

Men 1,2 11:25 a.m.

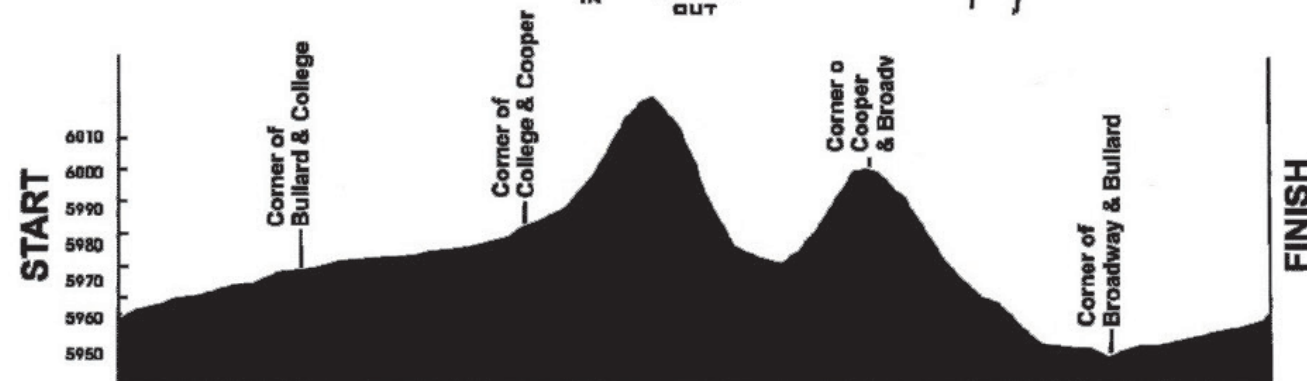
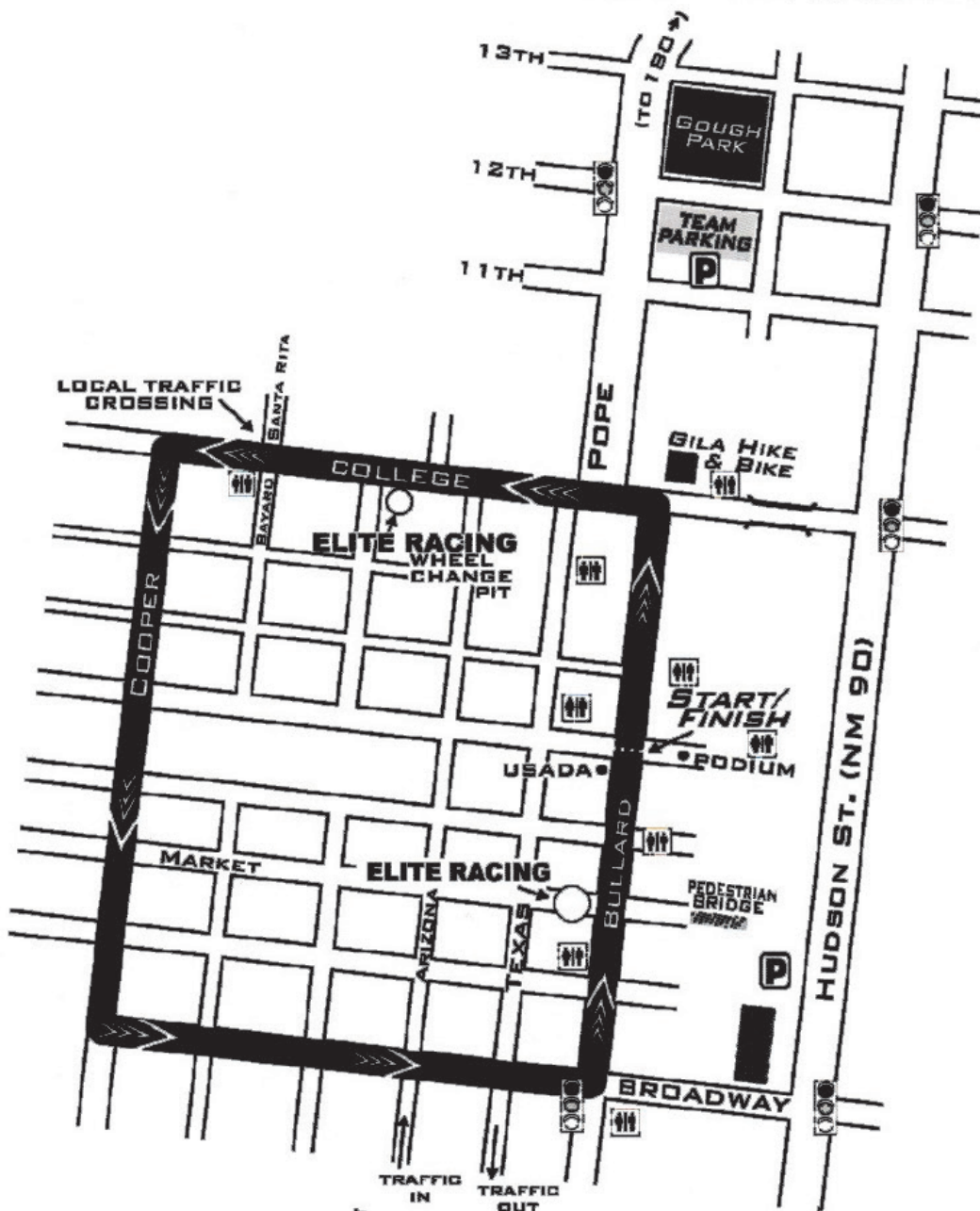
Citizen Races 12:30 p.m.

UCI Women 1:30 p.m.

UCI Men 3:10 p.m.

STAGE 4

THE CRITERIUM IS A SPECTATOR'S DELIGHT. A full day of racing in the Historic Downtown area of Silver City, where athletes make up to 40 laps around a closed course on Bullard, College, Cooper, and Broadway streets. At the corner of Broadway and Bullard streets, racers negotiate a 90-degree corner while reaching speeds in excess of 65 kmph. The start/finish line at Sixth and Bullard streets will have people lined up three-deep to watch exciting finish sprints. Don't forget the backstretches, including a steep descent on Cooper Street. Enjoy the vibrant galleries, merchants, and restaurants, and put your cowbells to work cheering on your favorite team.



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Watch and race

The Tour of the Gila brings world-class bicycle racing to New Mexico—but don't just sit on the sidelines.

Since 1987, Tour of the Gila has invited visitors to southwest New Mexico annually to watch top bicycling talent compete on the roads in and around Silver City. Set for Wednesday, April 23, through Sunday,

April 27, 2025, Tour of the Gila challenges both pro and amateur athletes.

As cyclists pedal scenic racecourses over five days, fans can get a close-up view of the sport that is beloved worldwide. The most spectator-friendly stage is the Downtown Criterium on Saturday, April 26.

Young and old, recreational cyclists can pedal their own bikes during the citizen fun races on Saturday, April 26, and also Sunday, April 27. "My favorite part of the week is when the tiny little ones roll up on their bikes," race director Jack Brennan said. "It's even more fun when the whole state turns out to cheer them on."

One of the longest continually running bike races in the country, Tour of the Gila is again sanctioned by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI). Professional and elite cycling teams from across the globe received



invitations to compete in Silver City for points that count toward events like the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics. Tour of the Gila is one of the only UCI stage

races in North America.

Tour of the Gila also offers a range of USA Cycling-sanctioned races open to men and women of varying experience levels.

During Tour of the Gila, locals and visitors interact with the sport's top names, while the participants develop a deep connection to southwest New Mexico.

Beyond passive spectating, the Tour of the Gila race organization provides unmatched opportunities to get involved though volunteering. Those with guest rooms can host racers. Others may serve as course marshals and mechanics, drive officials in the race caravan, provide emergency medical services, and manage radio communications.

No matter how familiar someone is with the sport of cycling, they can appreciate Tour of the Gila when they get involved.

Citizen Fun Races
p./b. 1st New Mexico Bank

Sat., April 26

Course length

Age group

3 & 4: 7th St. to Finish Line (400 ft.)

5 & 6: Up & Down Bullard St. (0.5 mi.)

7-9: Up & Down Bullard St. (0.5 mi.)

10-12: Up & Down Bullard St. (0.5 mi.)

13-16: 1 lap (1.08 mi.)

17-34: Women 1 lap (1.08 mi.)

17-34 Men: 1 lap (1.08 mi.)

35+ Women: 1 lap (1.08 mi.)

35+ Men: 1 lap (1.08 mi.)

AT THE DOWNTOWN CRIT

ONE OF THE MOST TOUCHING

events at the Tour of the Gila is the one where kids of all ages, 3 to 103, take to the streets of Historic Downtown during the Citizen Fun Races.

Registration is available online at bikereg.com/tour-of-the-gila-citizen-fun-races and at The Hub Plaza near the start/finish line. All kids 12 and under race free! The fee is just \$5 for 13-16 year olds and \$10 for people 17 years and older. Helmets must be worn, and parents or guardians must sign registration for children under the age of 18. Free T-shirts for participants while supplies last.

Saturday's citizen fun races start at 12:30 with the youngest participants going off the start line first.

On Sunday, the 31-mile Citizen Road Race is open to riders age 13 and older. The course runs from Camp Thunderbird to Pinos Altos.

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Participants travel from across the globe to compete in Silver City

An Irish racer targets Tour of the Gila—again

“The Tour of the Gila isn’t a race to me. It’s almost a way of life,” says Dermot Kealy, a master’s bike racer from Ireland.

A former BMX rider, he has competed in road cycling across Europe and started also getting his USA Cycling license after his brother Paul moved to Arizona. “I’m not a pro, but I’ve done a lot of racing,” he explains. “Something about that race drew me in.”

Dermot first raced Tour of the Gila at least a decade ago during a visit to see Paul, who’s also a multi-time Tour of the Gila competitor. “I did the five-day race and got my arse kicked,” Dermot recalls.

Returning many times, Dermot has gained more fitness and learned enough to be “a wee bit more competitive” with each edition of Tour of the Gila. In 2014, he sprinted for a one-second bonus in the Mimbres Valley without even realizing he was in podium contention. “I was blown away and started to think I could win this; it changed my mindset,” he remembers.

Living in London, Dermot uses much of his annual leave to race. He trained for the 2025 edition of Tour of the Gila and is eager to ride to Mogollon again. “The Tour of the Gila is what keeps me motivated



Pictured left to right: Paul Kealey, Tour of the Gila Race Director Jack Brennan and Dermot Kealey.

all winter,” he says. “Tour of the Gila has helped through personal struggles. It’s a lot more to me than four or five days out in the desert.”

He appreciates Silver City’s quirks and the diverse group of rural residents who work together to pull off the race. “From the outside, you’d think there’s no freaking way this eccentric bunch of guys could

do that,” he says. “The synchronicity is amazing.”

Ahead of the 2024 El Tour de Tucson in November, Dermot and Paul rode to the event expo. On the way, Dermot reminisced about how race director Jack Brennan seems to be everywhere. Still, the brothers could only blink when they rolled into the Tucson Convention Center and saw Brennan. “He’s a proper legend,” Dermot shakes his head.

Hearing how much Dermot adores him, Jack responds, “Well, I did kiss him!” The race director celebrated the Irishman’s criterium win one year with an embrace and a brotherly smooch.

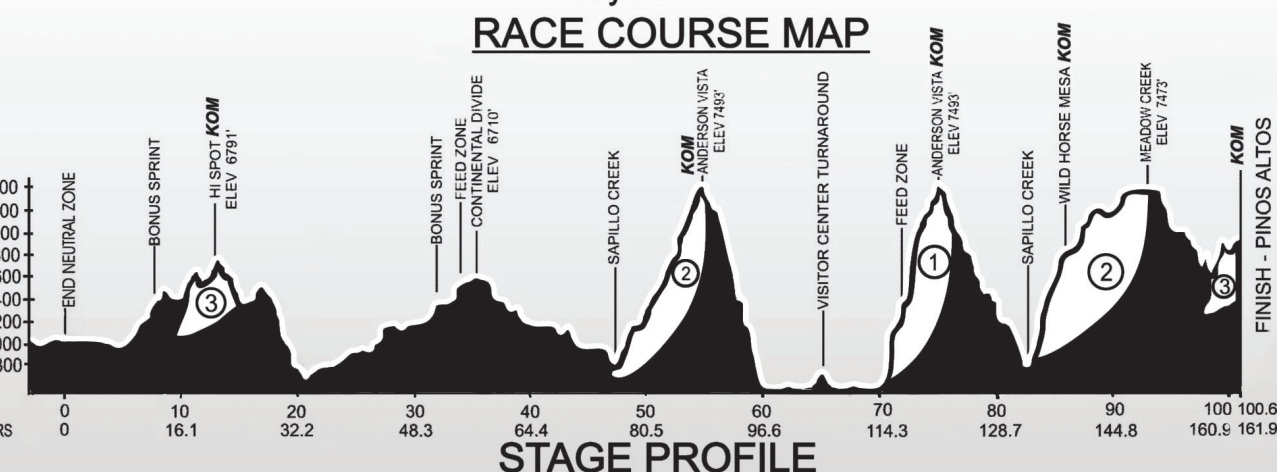
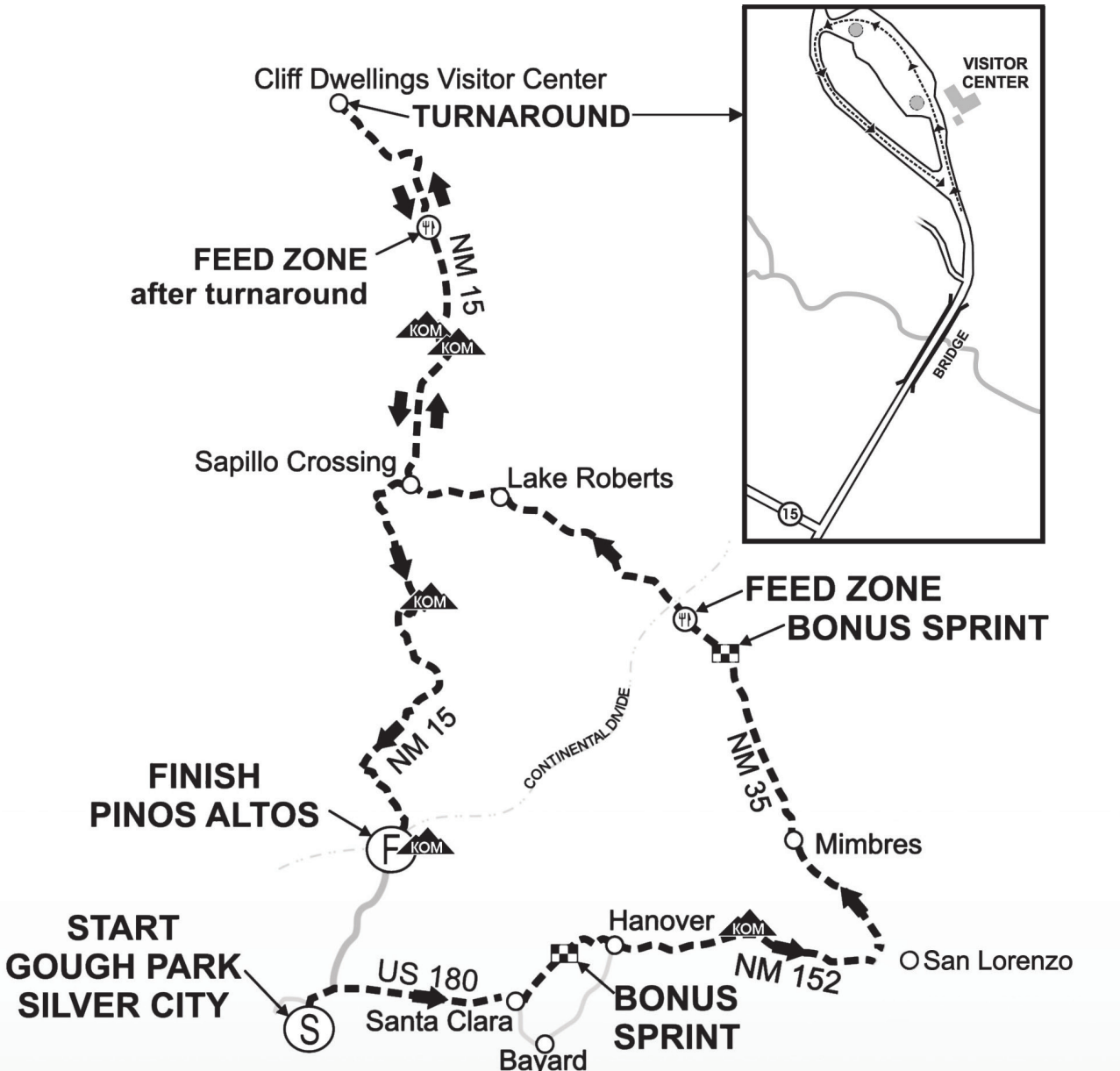
“Anytime I see him, he gives me a big hug,” Dermot confirms.

A graphic for Morning Star featuring a large white star on a black background. The text 'MORNING STAR' is arched over the top of the star, and 'EST. 1992' is below it. To the left, 'QUALITY PRODUCTS FOR QUALITY PEOPLE' is written in a circular path. To the right, there's a silhouette of a cyclist. Below the star, various brand logos are displayed: OluKai, Kuhl, prAna, SCREEN PRINTING, EMBROIDERY, OUTDOOR APPAREL, SPORTING GOODS, KEEN, sherpani, goodr, patagonia, smartwool, CAMELBAK, and OUTDOOR RESEARCH. At the bottom, the address '809 N. Bullard, Silver City, NM' and website 'morningstarsports.com' are listed.



GILA MONSTER ROAD RACE

UCI MEN



Look for local faces racing through familiar places at this year's Tour of the Gila.



Gila Monster Road Race

p./b. Gila Regional Medical Center

Sun., April 27

Length

Length: 111-165.8 km. (69-103 mi.)

Category Start

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Men 1,2 | 7:30 a.m. |
| Women 1,2,3, 4 | 7:40 a.m. |
| Men 3 | 8:00 a.m. |
| Master Men 3,4,5 | 8:20 a.m. |
| Men 4,5 | 8:50 a.m. |
| UCI Men | 9:45 a.m. |
| UCI Women | 10:05 a.m. |

Camp Thunderbird Start

Citizen Road Race 8:30 a.m.

STAGE 5

THE QUEEN STAGE IS RENOWNED as one of the toughest days of racing in North America. This iconic course takes the racers in a counter-clockwise direction around the loop they rode on Friday. After a screaming descent down Hwy 152, the course travels 30 miles through the Mimbres River Valley and around Lake Roberts. Racers face the grueling ascent from Sapillo Crossing to Wild Horse Mesa and complete the climb to the Pinos Altos finish. The UCI Men's race turns right at the intersection with Hwy 35 and follows Hwy 15 for seven steep miles to Copperas/Anderson Vista, where the road tips down toward the turnaround at the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument Visitor Center. The Category 1 climb from the Gila River only leads to another speedy descent and the arduous Sapillo climb. From Wild Horse Mesa, the road winds through the splendor and shadows of the Gila National Forest. UCI Men complete 2,853 m. (9,360 ft.) of climbing over 166 km. (103 mi.) before reaching the finish, where spectators can enjoy the rustic charm of this historic gold mining village.

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Who to watch for as the drama unfolds

RACE PREVIEW

2024 UCI Women's winner Lauren Stephens



Tour of the Gila is the country's most storied stage race, and the only multi-day UCI event on the American circuit. The race's grueling parcours also makes it one of the most difficult domestic events to win, and a proving ground for the continent's elite aspiring talent. Gila has produced a sparkling list of former champions, including Olympic and World champions, and Tour de France stage winners. The 2025 edition promises another wave of world-class riders fighting for a victory that would make their entire

season and possibly tilt the trajectory of their careers towards the World Tour.

This year's Tour of the Gila features deep international fields on both the men's and women's sides, with teams and riders travelling from Mexico, Canada, the United Kingdom, and even Uzbekistan. In the women's race, defending champion Lauren Stephens returns on the Aegis Cycling Foundation mixed team. She will have to fend off proven

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contenders like last year's third overall finisher Eleanor Wiseman of Fount Cycling and 2022 overall women's winner Lauren De Crescenzo. Watch for emerging stars like TaG Cycling's 17-year-old Sidney Sweirenga and Speedblock's Kira Payer, who delivered dominant climbing performances in last week's Redlands Bicycle Classic. It should be a breathless battle for the win that will only be settled on the final slopes to Pinos Altos on Sunday.

In the men's field, the race is wide open and there for the taking. Last year's champion, Project Echelon's Tyler Stites, isn't returning, nor is Team Medellín with the other two podium finishers. Echelon will look to keep the red leader's jersey within the team, though, returning with 2024's Best Young Rider, Jonas Walton, among other potential GC talent. They will fight with their hands from both international teams like Canels-Java, but also from North American threats like Redlands stage winner Quinn Felton and his teammate Eric Brunner of Competitive Edge Racing.

Winning the Tour of the Gila requires power, skill, and often cunning race tactics. We will find out who has what it takes this week in Silver City.

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