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Pictured is Brenda Kilmurray, 5th grade teacher at Huachuca Mountain Elementary.



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COVER PHOTOS BY MARK LEVY



Town and Country Elementary School Roadrunner Preschool teacher Peg Puett works with a student recently.



Math teacher Jeff Lindgren teaches in his Town and Country Elementary School classroom.



Joyce Clark Middle School eighth grade Social Studies teacher Tara Floss talks to students this week in her classroom.

# SSVEC's Youth Programs

From its beginnings in the late 1930s, SSVEC has recognized and encouraged the potential of the rural youth of southeast Arizona. From purchase of 4-H livestock at county fairs to sponsorships of Little League teams, SSVEC has contributed to youth and youth programs.

Beginning in 1981 SSVEC started its own annual programs to recognize and reward young people. That year for the first time SSVEC sent six young people for a weeklong tour of the nation's capital under the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Washington Youth Tour. Since that time hundreds of students have participated in the program and traveled to D.C. to see the sights, attend seminars on electric cooperatives and meet with their elected representatives. SSVEC has developed a challenging competition for high school juniors to earn the trip. That competition involves study materials and tests, an essay and an interview process to determine who earns the trips each year.

In 1984 SSVEC sponsored the first Youth Energy Science Fair as part of the cooperative's annual meeting. There were a total of 17 projects entered that year. The program has grown into the Youth Engineering and Science (YES) Fair and now has 250 to 300 project entries each year. The fair is open to students in SSVEC's service area grades 5 through 12. A number of cash prizes and special awards are presented. The top two projects in the high school division advance to the International Science and Engineering Fair each spring to compete for recognition and prizes. All expenses associated with the

trip to the International are paid by the SSVEC Foundation. This includes travel, accommodations, meals, fees and incidental expenses for the students and for their teachers/advisers. This past May our two students who competed at the International earned four-year scholarships (one to Arizona State University and one to the University of Arizona).

Beginning in the spring of 2000 the SSVEC Foundation awarded nine scholarships of \$1000 each to students graduating from high schools in the cooperative's service area. Today the number of scholarships awarded each year has increased to 30 and the amount is now \$1,500. Students in the upper portion (academically ranked) are eligible to complete an application. Students are selected based on their community and extracurricular activities as well as their potential for success.

These three programs are funded through the SSVEC Foundation. The money in the Foundation comes from unclaimed patronage capital credits. Each year revenues in excess of expenses are entered on the books of the cooperative and allocated to each membership based on the amount of electricity used. As the financial condition of SSVEC allows, the directors approve the return of a portion of these funds. Because of the lag in time between the allocation and return of the capital credits, some members relocate without providing SSVEC a forwarding address. SSVEC follows bylaws requirements to attempt to contact these individuals by advertising the information. Any funds not claimed by a deadline date are donated to the SSVEC Foundation.

Though SSVEC's member services department coordinates the three programs, many members (and in the case of the science fair many cooperative employees) are involved in their successes. These include the community members

who serve as essay and interview judges for the Washington Youth Tour competition, scores of individuals who serve as science fair judges, and the group of individuals who review the scholarship applications and select the winners. On behalf of SSVEC, I thank these members who provide their time and expertise in assisting us in recognizing the outstanding youth of our service area.



CREDEN W. HUBER

## YOUTH PROGRAMS AND DEADLINES

### Washington Youth Tour (Nine student tourers)

\*Open to high school juniors  
\*School presentations and delivery of study booklets — August – September 2016

\*Qualifying test follows one week later. Students scoring 90 percent or higher or the top three scores from each school advance to essay round

\*Essay round —October 2016—, top 16 essays including ties advance to the finals

\*Finals —(November 17 in Benson—, students take an exam over additional study materials and are interviewed by a panel of judges. Top nine scores (essay, exam and interview) earn trips to DC

\*Trip to DC (June 8-15, 2017)

<https://www.ssvcyouthprograms.org/washington-youth-tour/>

### Scholarship (30 Winners of one-time \$1,500 awards)

\*Graduating seniors in the top 20 percent of their classes or top 10 individuals academically

\*Online applications available November 2016

\*Application deadline —March 10, 2017

\*Selection committee meets April 2017

\*Scholarship Dinner/Awards ceremony —April 2017 at SSVEC Annual Meeting

<https://www.ssvcyouthprograms.org/scholarship-program/>

### Youth Engineering and Science Fair

(Two high school grand prize projects earn all-expense-paid trips for students and teachers to the International Science and Engineering Fair)

\*Grades 5-12 from co-op area schools are eligible to compete at Fair

\*Cash prizes for top 48 projects as well as for teacher/advisers

\*School presentations/newsletters — August 2017

\*Registration (online) begins November 2017

\*Registration deadline January 30, 2017

\*Fair is February 23-24, 2017, at the Windermere Hotel and Conference Center in Sierra Vista

\*International Science and Engineering Fair (May 2017) in Los Angeles, CA

<https://www.ssvcyouthprograms.org/yes-fair/>



# Be informed this election season

Cooperatives across the U.S. are promoting a campaign known as Co-ops Vote. This effort to get out the rural vote is a nonpartisan effort to remind individuals of the importance of voting and to remind them of the election date and deadline to register. In addition, it identifies key issues important to rural citizens and rural electric members.

The website is [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop). Check it out and take the pledge to vote and make rural America's voices heard.

Because all elections are about issues, Co-ops Vote looks at the key issues facing rural electric cooperatives (Affordable Electricity, Renewables, Economic Development, Broadband Access, Waters of the U.S. and Cybersecurity). You are asked to review these issues and check them against candidates' positions expressed on websites or campaign materials. If possible in a face-to-face meeting (townhall, forum, political meeting) ask candidates to state their positions regarding these co-op issues.

## CO-OP ISSUES AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY: INTRODUCTION

The price of energy is an issue that affects all Americans, and is a key topic of discussion this election season. Whoever wins will ultimately have a major role in developing policies that determine how safe, affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible America's energy production is for years to come.

Before heading to the polls this fall, carefully review the energy proposals of each candidate. Consider which plans will ensure continued access to affordable electricity for you and your family.

## RENEWABLES

America's electric cooperatives are committed to delivering affordable electricity so consumers



can power their homes, businesses and schools without breaking the bank. Part of this commitment includes using innovative and diverse sources of power.

Electric co-ops are preparing for America's energy future by investing in renewable generation sources that are easier to maintain and provide less expensive electricity for the consumer. As the cost of solar power continues to decline, electric co-ops across the nation are installing new solar farms. Use of hydropower and geothermal energy sources are also increasing among America's electric co-ops. These local, renewable sources of energy are both sustainable and becoming more affordable every day. They will play an important role in keeping energy prices low for rural Americans in the coming years.

This fall, ask your candidates about their commitment to an all-of-the-above energy strategy that includes renewable resources.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: INTRODUCTION

Nearly 60 million people call rural America home. They often face unique economic challenges, which stunt the growth of rural economies. But the 2016 election

gives us the opportunity to make these economic development issues a priority when we head to the polls to vote for our elected officials.

## BROADBAND ACCESS

The widespread introduction of electricity revolutionized Rural America in the 1940s. The future of rural economies depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy. Broadband internet has the same transformative potential for rural communities. With the right state and federal policies, this technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing rural families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways. This will mean more competitive businesses, better education systems and more efficient health care delivery.

## WATERS OF THE U.S.

A recent federal government regulation threatens to place burdensome regulations on rural businesses while doing nothing to strengthen protection of our resources. The rule, called "Waters of the U.S.," or WOTUS, would expand federal regulation to include ditches and other insignificant bodies of

water. This expansion will lead to a red-tape nightmare for families, businesses, and electric cooperatives that own and work on those sites. Fortunately, WOTUS has been temporarily delayed by the courts. It is up to our elected leaders to permanently halt its implementation. This election season, consider whether your elected official will make stopping WOTUS a priority when heading to the voting booth.

## CYBERSECURITY

Over the last decade, cybersecurity has gone from a far-away threat to a daily occurrence in America. Today, it is a top issue for rural Americans and those who provide power to their homes. Each year, thousands of hackers test our cyber defenses, as they seek out personal information like social security and bank account numbers. Some of these hackers even look to disrupt the power grid. As rural electric consumers, it is critical we ensure our state and national leaders understand this issue and are working to strengthen our defenses. A strong cybersecurity policy will not only protect our personal information, but will also help us keep the lights on.

The General Election is Tuesday, Nov. 8. Last day to register for the General Election is Monday Oct. 10.

# Wildlife and avian programs from SSVEC

One of the ways that rural electric cooperatives differ from big city electric utilities is incidence of wildlife "encounters." Because of the miles of power lines and hundreds of poles found in isolated areas, "critters"—snakes, birds, raccoons, even bears—often endanger themselves and threaten power outages for SSVEC. This year in particular there have been a number of bird nests removed from power poles in an effort to avoid electric power outages.

A key SSVEC employee for dealing with wildlife is Stephanie Johnston, SSVEC environmental services specialist. Her knowledge of wildlife and the laws and regulations involving their handling and relocation is vital to the cooperative. She tracks outages, fatalities, nests and injuries throughout the year and reports the count on an annual basis to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department. In addition, she obtains state and federal permits which allow SSVEC to handle, move and rescue injured wildlife.

Taking action when necessary The cooperative is part of a voluntary federal program through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which tracks avian injuries and fatalities. SSVEC has state and federal permits to remove and relocate nests and eggs/chicks.

If an active nest is found on a pole and is at risk of causing a fire or electrocuting birds, SSVEC will try to relocate the nest to a safe area. If that is not possible, the cooperative



**ABOVE: A Benson co-op crew discovered a bear cub on a distribution pole crossarm in the fall of 2012. They notified Sarah Sager (at that time SSVEC's environmental services specialist) who contacted Arizona Game and Fish. The cub was too young to be tranquilized, so linemen used a bucket truck and a pole noose to safely lower the bear to the ground.**

works closely with animal rehabilitators in Tucson and Phoenix who take and care for chicks until they are healthy enough to be released back into the wild.

Reporting nests or other hazards SSVEC asks member to report nests or wildlife on poles. Each co-op power pole has a yellow identification tag attached. Write down the number and give your local SSVEC office a call.

Report any injured wildlife or wildlife fatalities you believe may have been the result of contact with power lines. It is likely the cooperative will not know of this issue unless you report it.

Please note: do NOT try to rescue or relocate birds



**Stephanie Johnston, SSVEC environmental services specialist, spends a good deal of her time in the field and interacting with cooperative linemen and operations personnel.**

**LEFT: SSVEC Lineman Werner Neubauer holds a Swainson's Hawk chick that was relocated to a nest box in mid-June.**



**RIGHT: Nathan Hodges, Sierra Vista lineman, transfers Red-Tailed Hawk chicks to a nest box.**



**Each SSVEC power pole is labeled with a location number. It is six digits arranged vertically on a yellow strip. Provide this number when you report a problem.**



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## View from above!



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SSVEC LINEMAN SAM "BUSTER" FOSTER.

**Travelers along Route 191 just south of Cochise may have seen construction underway for SSVEC's newest substation. But not from this angle! The substation will distribute electric power from a 20-megawatt (AC) solar photovoltaic (PV) solar field being built by SunPower. SSVEC will purchase the solar power produced by SunPower's facility (also located on Apache Generating Station's property).**

## Warning to Those SSVEC Members Considering Installing DG Systems

If you are considering installing any type of distributed generation system, (solar photovoltaic), SSVEC strongly suggests that you incorporate the new rate structure into your decision-making process.

SSVEC is proposing that for DG systems reserved after April 15, 2015, the "new DG" rate will apply. If approved, this proposal would result in a \$50.00 monthly minimum as well as payment for power not immediately consumed at "avoided cost," which is currently 2.58 cents (not at the retail rate).

# KEEPING YOUR LITTLE SLICE OF PARADISE



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# For the Love of LEARNING



To shine a spotlight on some of the many hardworking teachers in our community, near the end of the last school year the Cochise Education Foundation in conjunction with the Cochise County Superintendent's Office honored several "Outstanding Teachers." Superintendent Trudy Berry created the annual teacher recognition program in 2003, and it has grown every year since. She refers to the selected teachers as, "some of the finest" in Cochise County, and indeed there were an abundance of highly qualified teachers to choose from.

Following are just three of the many exceptionally inspiring teachers shaping the next generation in Cochise County.

BY CHRIS FISK



## COCHISE COUNTY ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2016, ERIN BOWLBY OF WILLCOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Willcox Elementary School Principal Valerie Simon nominated Bowlby with this description:

"There is no one more invested in their aspirations to teach and empower students than Erin Bowlby. Each time I visit Erin's classroom I see evidence of her aspirations put into action. I see a classroom full of lively second graders, actively engaged in the process of learning new things. I see children motivated by a teacher who is herself excited to learn new ways to reach her students. I see students who are not afraid to question, to hypothesize and problem-solve, to practice and show their mastery of many new concepts in the course of the year, and even to fail from time to time because their teacher is not afraid to fail. I see young learners and the woman who facilitates their learning, but more

importantly I see a group of people who care about each other, accept each other just as they are, and help each other. They are indeed a family of learners."

Well loved Erin Bowlby has only been teaching for six years, which adds to her sense of accomplishment from the distinction, and recently completed a masters in reading curriculum and reading.

"Personally, it was very exciting to win. When my principal approached me saying she wanted to nominate me, it was a lot of pressure, but I was willing. I was so excited to represent Willcox Schools," shared Bowlby who considers herself, "Just one of many awesome teachers" in Willcox.

Bowlby grew up in Willcox and was delighted to be able to return home to the community that raised her. Interestingly, as a high school senior in 2006 she was awarded an SSVEC scholarship.

"Part of teaching in Willcox is about giving back to my hometown. There are a lot of great things happening in Willcox right now and I am happy to be part of that.

After six years of successful teaching, this year Bowlby is the literacy interventionist for the school, which enables her to address the needs of all the readers in the school.

"It's been a totally different experience to step out of the classroom, although my classroom experience is really helping them. I am loving the challenge," explained Bowlby.



Erin Bowlby works with students at Willcox Elementary School.

## TARA FLOSS, MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2016, JOYCE CLARK MIDDLE

Tara Floss teaches 7th and 8th grade Social Studies at JCMS in Sierra Vista. Roger Hill the Principal at Joyce Clark Middle School and Tara's nominator wrote: "Tara Floss epitomizes the qualities of an outstanding teacher. Tara's passion, preparation, personality, and her persistence keep her classes interesting. Her students experience the curriculum. She builds connections and relationships with not only students but also parents. The positive impact Tara has is incalculable."

Like the others singled out as outstanding teachers, Floss was grateful for the "shot in the arm" that comes with the recognition. "Winning the Award was such a great accomplishment. It made me feel that I was truly making a difference in the lives of young people," enthused Floss.

Some may consider 7th and 8th graders the most challenging to teach, not Floss. She is clearly energized by everything about

the age group and genuinely enjoys teaching them.

"Teaching middle school aged kids is a blast! I adore their individual personalities, their enthusiasm, and I learn just as much from them as they do from me. There is no career more rewarding than being teacher!" said Floss of her work.

She not only kindles enthusiasm with her students, but also those she works with. Last year, with the hearty endorsement of Principal Hill, Floss inaugurated "History Alive Day," where all the teachers and administrators dressed as an historical figure. The entire school was a living lesson in noteworthy characters of the past, which allowed the students to connect on a deeper level with how the different figures shaped the world they live in today. Floss dressed as "Rosie the Riveter, her own spunk matching that of the WWII cultural icon.



Tara Floss gave a living history lesson as Rosie the Riveter.

"I am super excited about this year. I plan to dress up more when teaching about certain topics to help make each lesson memorable and I also plan to create another school wide contest/learning experience, similar to last year's History Alive Day, revolving around geography. Getting the staff involved in some of my wacky ideas truly makes us a



cohesive family and the students absolutely love it!" shared Floss of her plans to make this new school year even better.

## TAYLOR BENNETT, "BEST NEW TEACHER," BEREAN ACADEMY



Berean Academy Principal, Beverly Enriquez, had this to say about 2016 "Best New Teacher," Taylor Bennett:

"Taylor is a great asset to Berean Academy! Her primary role is to ensure that teachers are doing well in their classrooms and that students are passing their classes. It is a huge undertaking for such a young woman, but she is very intuitive and has a natural sense for classroom management and instruction. It is no surprise to me that she was selected for this honor. Her work ethic and determination to have the teachers improve their skills makes her a tremendous asset to Berean. She is very patient and the teachers feel that she does listen to them and care about their struggles and challenges. She was just in the classroom, so she can relate to them more easily."

The awards are not only a pat on the back, the confirmation for teachers that they are on track is quite buoying.

"It actually meant a lot to win because although I felt that I was successful with the students, I loved

getting feedback from my peers. It gave me that extra oomph," said Bennett.

Along with the distinction of being named the Best New Teacher, Bennett's exceptional leadership skills were recognized by the board and administrators of her school. In June she was promoted to Vice Principal and Academic Mentor for the other teachers at Berean.

In her current capacity she mentors other teachers by ensuring complete understanding of the expectations for lesson planning, curriculum, classroom management, and student data. In addition to mentoring teachers she has the opportunity to continue mentoring students by counseling and disciplining, ensuring Berean Academy continues to grow successfully.

"I miss teaching my students very much and the transition to administration is tough at times, but I remember that I have the opportunity to mentor teachers so that all my students have an incredible



educational experience. Mentoring teachers and students has always been my professional goal, and I feel so honored and blessed to have been given this opportunity and recognition from such a great community!" expressed an enthusiastic Bennett.

## Selection Process

The Cochise Education Foundation is proud to sponsor the annual Teacher of the Year Awards. A winner is selected from each of the following categories: Elementary School, Middle School, and High School. The Cochise County Teacher of the Year is chosen from these three categories. A Special Project winner is also selected in a separate classification.

Cochise County School Districts are encouraged to submit one Teacher of the Year application. Due to the size of Douglas and Sierra Vista's Districts, they are allowed three nominees. In addition, each school district is allowed to nominate one Special Project

Nominees for Teacher of the Year must have completed at least one full year of teaching and be a full-time teacher. The nominator must write a nomination letter to include the traits of exemplary performance in the classroom, pursuit of professional enrichment and intellectual growth, involvement in extracurricular activities within the school or school district, and demonstration of outstanding contributions and/or leadership in the school. The nominated teacher also answers three questions to complete their nomination application.

The Cochise Education Foundation's Teacher of the Year review committee has the overwhelming task of reviewing applications of many truly outstanding teachers. No current teaching personnel or school administrator from any school or district in Cochise County may serve on the selection committee, including Trudy Berry, the Cochise County School Superintendent. The committee consisting of retired PreK-12 educators, college education professors, and community members review all Teacher of the Year nominations, score and select the top nominees in each category. These individuals receive a personal interview, which also is scored. The Elementary, Middle, and High School category winners are chosen from among this group. The overall Teacher of the Year is the top candidate from among the three category winners.

The Teacher of the Year is a process that promotes four major outcomes. First, it is our intention to select teachers who are representative of the finest teachers in Cochise County and Arizona. Second, the application process provides an opportunity for educators to reflect on their practice and, in so doing, promote continued personal growth. Third, the Teacher of the Year program provides outstanding recognition for the chosen teachers and their respective schools. Finally, the Teacher of the Year program serves to inspire others.

## Teaching students — and parents

My son, Max, is now a fifth-grade student at Benson Middle School. I had high expectations for him when he entered primary school. I am the daughter of a retired teacher and, at the time Max started kindergarten, I was a part-time preschool teacher.

I put a lot of time into preparing Max for school and I expected positive returns. When he hit second grade, which is the first year Benson Primary issues letter grades, I became obsessive about his performance. I refused to settle for anything less than straight

As, which put a lot of pressure on him. The pace was fast, yet he was doing his best. Our homework sessions at home often included yelling and crying. Max's confidence was shattered and he became afraid to try things out of fear of failure. He was afraid to ask questions. This could be seen by his teacher and by me. It was a difficult year, and I recognized that things needed to change.

Prior to entering third grade, I was pleased to learn that Max would be in Mrs. (Patty) Starr's class. I'd always heard she is a phenomenal teacher, and I knew her vast classroom library would be loved by Max, who is an avid reader. I was optimistic and hopeful.

Early in the year, Mrs. Starr could see Max's reluctance to ask for help. She saw his uncertainty and lack of confidence. These things were mentioned in Max's fall conference and I remember telling her that I was working to change some things personally. As the year progressed, she let me know when I needed to back off. She was never rude or mean, just honest. She knew what was best for him.

By the end of the year, he was willing to ask for help and he became more confident in his abilities. Mrs. Starr helped him, and me, more than she will ever know. He didn't get straight As once during third grade and I was okay with that. It was during his third-grade year that I realized that grades do not define a person. Instead, character defines a person, and it's more important to have a happy and confident child.

I am pleased to report that our home is much happier since Max's third-grade year. It took a lot of personal change and prayers, but I will always credit Mrs. Starr for helping to get me on the right track. As a result, my son is happy and has achieved great academic success and recognition from his teachers for being respectful.

Christine Frost, Benson



# TOP OF THE CLASS

READERS SHARE MEMORIES OF GREAT TEACHERS



Max and Mrs. Starr

## Sandy Moore: A teacher who inspired

As a parent, you watch from the sidelines as your children navigate the school system. Once in awhile, an extraordinary teacher will enter the picture.

Sandy Moore stands out to me among these teachers. During the years she taught fifth grade at Huachuca Mountain Elementary, all three of my children had the good fortune to be assigned to her class. Looking back, it's clear that she was instrumental in recognizing and building up their different strengths.

My oldest daughter credits Mrs. Moore with helping instill the confidence needed to achieve the leadership position she now enjoys with the company she works for. Mrs. Moore noticed these budding leadership skills and presented her with special projects that required organizing, collaborating with others, and making decisions.

One of Mrs. Moore's activities was having students create and run their

own "businesses." The students provided services, made sales, kept records, and collected money vouchers that could be spent at other classroom businesses. Not only was it designed to be a fun, creative process, but it helped the students understand the basics of how businesses operate. My second child now owns her own business and says that Mrs. Moore provided her with a realistic and enlightening introductory experience.

In another of Mrs. Moore's assignments, each student made a report book about one of the fifty states, encouraging research, organization, and creativity. My third child feels that this project piqued his interest in geography, which he is studying in college.

The energy that Sandy Moore put into her students, as well as the respect that she showed them, resulted in children who enjoyed the process of learning. She shows how dedicated teachers can inspire not only their students, but their parents as well.

Diane Jones, Sierra Vista



## A valuable life lesson

Growing up in a small, conservative (some would say 'backwards') town deep in the Piney Woods of East Texas was somewhat of a limiting life experience. In school, most of our teachers just assumed that their students would never aspire to move away. They taught what the curriculum expected but never in a challenging way.

However, in high school I had a teacher who would change my outlook. Howard Perkins was a single, cultured, gentle, middle-aged man who was my 11th-grade English teacher (and also my piano teacher). Mr. Perkins introduced us to the wider world that was out there beyond our expectations.

In class, we read aloud classic novels and short stories. He helped us start a literary magazine. He told stories of

far-away places and encouraged us to dream. I couldn't wait to leave this dreary town and 'really live' and was the only member of my graduating class to attend university out of state. I subsequently lived and worked in some amazing places in the U.S. and in the UK.

I went back to the little Texas town for the first time for my recent 50th high school reunion. Mr. Perkins is, of course, long-gone. But I was amazed to learn that he had never lived more than 25 miles from his birthplace. All his stories, dreams and encouragement came from his imagination, reading, and enquiring mind. I also discovered that the small town I grew up in was a good place after all. It's a valuable life lesson to have learned.

Merrie Sims Longbottom, Sierra Vista

## Our very own Mr. Rogers

I grew up in a small rural community in Montana, and not only did I know pretty much everyone in town, but I usually knew who my teachers were before classes started in the fall. When a teacher's reputation is strict, they are generally the least likely candidate to be a student's favorite. But that wasn't the case with Mr. Rogers, my junior high and high school history teacher.

On the first day of seventh grade his reputation preceded him. While at only about 5-foot-2, he seemed to loom over the classroom as we waited anxiously for our instructions. He told us we weren't in elementary school anymore; things would get hard and he would grade us as though we were in college, not in junior high school. He also said that every time we addressed him or the class we had to stand. I still remember thinking that this guy was nuts and I was never going to pass the class. As I looked around the room at classmates whom I had known since kindergarten, they had the same look on their faces.

As the school year progressed, we started to figure out the rhythm of the classroom and while Mr. Rogers was indeed strict, he also absolutely loved teaching history to kids. It was evident in his entertaining teaching style. While our essay questions were graded with the most critical eye, he was actually a cheerful teacher with an infectious laugh. He would bring fun into the learning environment with games, debates or small group projects. After having him for six years, my favorite thing of all and my most vivid memory is when he taught us about pioneers settling the west. He made the classroom into a real-life Oregon Trail game where you had to make decisions, answer questions or play simple games to determine whether or not you survived, caught malaria or would succumb to larger ill-fated threats.

I did indeed learn how to be a college student from this man. As we progressed into high school the assignments got longer and our tests got harder. But he had such a positive, fun-loving spirit that was reflected in his teaching style; you couldn't help but enjoy it. To this day as you go onto his Facebook page, his wall is full of well-wishes from past students. Most leave a comment thanking him and telling him he was their favorite teacher. He was the kind of teacher who wanted all of his students to succeed in life, not just in school and he inspired his students with his passion for learning.

Robyn Martin, Sierra Vista

## Sister Constance: Grace under grief

November 22, 1963—my 13th birthday. It's 2:30 p.m. and I'm counting down the last hour of my school day before planned birthday celebrations begin: cupcakes for dessert and an evening of ice skating at the church-sponsored outdoor rink. This is, after all, Lewiston, Maine, where ice skating is de rigeur from November through March.

Sister Constance burst my daydreaming bubble as she burst into the eighth-grade classroom at Holy Cross School, interrupting an unremarkable lesson in French? church history?

"President Kennedy is dead," was all she said.

With tears streaming down her face, she rolled a tiny black-and-white TV into the classroom so that we could receive the most dreadful current events lesson of our young adolescent lives. No one spoke. No one cried, except for Sister Constance. We barely comprehended that nuns had regular anatomies tucked under all the folds of their habits and headgear. Hair? Maybe. Emotions? To be determined.

We were released from school promptly at 3:30 p.m. to pick up the history lesson in the living rooms



Sister Constance, left, at Diane Nadeau's eighth-grade graduation from Holy Cross School.

of our very Catholic families. The birthday candles were never lit, the cupcakes went stale, and the ice skating rink was closed. November 22 was forevermore never about me. It never had been, but I hadn't known that until that day.

Sister Constance's demeanor was as much about her own grief as it was about witnessing the loss of our innocence. She taught us that when a light goes out in the world it sometimes never comes back on. But mostly, she demonstrated that it's not a sin to cry.

Diane Nadeau, Sierra Vista



## The five words

At age 18, I arrived at a small liberal arts college in my home state of Michigan, worrying if I would ever be able to do college-level work. I had been raised in a small town with a so-so school and was the only female in my class who went to college.

Because Alma was a small college, the faculty was very available for contact, but I would never have dared to seek the reassurance I so desperately needed. Unlike many college students, my freshman year wasn't my first time living away from home.

I had spent several summers helping my dearest aunt on the family farm she and her husband ran in Nebraska. Even so when my mother delivered me to campus two and a half hours from home and said, "We'll see you at Thanksgiving."

I was adrift in a sea of uncertainty.

All Alma College, students had to take Western Civilization for each of their first four semesters. The class was taught with lectures by various professors from the department relevant to that day's topic. We

were then assigned a Western Civilization professor to meet in a small-class setting.

My "personal prof" was Dr. Kirk, an austere, never-married, older woman, who was reputed to be a staunch believer in well-written work with precision grammar. When the first assignment for the class was due, my first roommate, Lydia, and I labored away in our dorm room, pouring our nervous efforts into our work for Dr. Kirk.

The papers were returned the next week. I had a much higher grade than Lydia, who marched over to the professor's office a few hours later to demand an explanation. Lydia explained that she had spent just as much time on her paper as I, her roommate, had on mine; therefore, she deserved the same high grade.

Dr. Kirk's five-word answer has stayed with me in the decades since and has given me confidence in some very challenging times. She said simply, "Suzanne is a deep thinker." Since then I have always tried to believe in those words and by extension, myself.

Suzanne Malpass Rogers, Sierra Vista snowbird

# HISTORIC SCHOOLHOUSES

## Bowie School District

HEART OF A TOWN IN TRANSITION

The Bowie School District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in April 2015. The district includes Bowie High School, the Bowie Unified Schools gymnasium and the Eva E. Hall building. The campus also includes a swimming pool, tennis courts and SSVEC-installed solar shades.

Bowie High School was built in 1922. It's an imposing structure surrounded by several lower profile buildings of the campus and surrounding town. The arches of the main entry are described as Mission Revival, while the rest of the building is rectangular.

The swimming pool sits adjacent to the high school. Constructed in 1936 as a part of President Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA), the pool was used for athletics, as well as for community recreation. Today, the high school swimming pool is still open to Bowie residents every summer.

Albert R. Spikes was superintendent for the Bowie Unified School District for nearly 20 years until his election to the Arizona House of Representatives, and later the Senate, in 1941. The Bowie High School building is dedicated to him. His granddaughter Evelyn Spikes Lathram graduated from Bowie High in 1967. She remembers a very different town.

"Highway 86 went right through here. We had a train station with a lovely café and a hotel. Then, the highway bypassed us, farms lost their federal subsidies, the railroad reorganized and that was it."

The 1960s and early '70s were good for Bowie schools. The 1969-1970 school year saw a little more than 200 students attending all three schools in the district. The largest



The entrance to Eva E. Hall, the oldest building on the Bowie school campus.

graduating class was the class of 1973 with more than 80 students.

Eva E. Hall was built in two different stages. The first was completed in 1912; the second was completed two years later. Formerly called the Bowie Grammar School, the building is the oldest on campus. The building was later renamed for a beloved teacher who passed away in the 1960s.

Mary Doyle Elementary School is the newest and most stylistically divergent building on the campus. Built in 1961, the school's architecture is different from the other, much older, buildings. According to National Register of Historic Places documents, the school was built at the peak of Bowie's population and prosperity.

Nancy-Jean Welker graduated in 1973 and has been a Bowie mainstay for decades. She's the president of the Bowie Economic Development Group and the Chamber of Commerce, and she serves on various town committees. After school enrollment sharply declined, she spearheaded the effort to move high school classes online.

Today, Bowie High School enrollment sits at 20 and elementary school is around 30. The town of Bowie is well past its heyday, but



Evelyn Spikes Lathram, Nancy-Jean Welker and Superintendent of Bowie Unified School District Jeffrey St. Clair pose in front of Bowie High School.

citizens like Welker and Lathram are determined to see it return to its former glory.

"Whatever happens in the economy impacts the rural areas first and everything good hits us last," says Lathram. Her friend Welker agrees.

"Things that worked for us when we were a vibrant, growing community don't work anymore.

"So, right now, we're figuring out what's ahead, what's going to bring us back around."

STORIES AND PHOTOS BY KAY PHILLIPS

## Pearce Elementary

CLOAK ROOMS AND COAL-BURNING STOVES

Like many small-town schools, Pearce Elementary began as a one-room schoolhouse. In 1901, the Commonwealth Milling and Mining Company built and donated the schoolhouse to the town. Thirteen years later, a larger building was added. By the 1920s, this new school was called Whitewater Grade School until the name was changed in 1955 to the Pearce School.

That Whitewater Grade School building is now called Building C and still used for classroom instruction. The building's simple brick mission style façade is the focal point of the green expanse of the Pearce Elementary campus. Four chimneys on each roof corner correspond to coal burning stoves that sat in each of the four classrooms.

Building C's four classrooms were formerly used for kindergarten through 12th grade.

Each of these four classrooms had cloak closets and a coal-burning stove. Over the years, the school added a gymnasium, a library and an administration

See PEARCE, Page 13



Pearce Elementary School.



Close-up of the original Pearce Elementary School facade. The two chimneys are from a time when coal-burning stoves sat in each classroom.

PEARCE, From Page 12

building.

Longtime Pearce resident Patti Burris attended Pearce Elementary in the early 1960s and remembers the school as a vibrant hub of the community.

"We had fall carnivals with homemade booths and they were great," she remembers. "Bean bags, fishing pole over the wall... Just old fashioned country fun."

Burris also remembers when eight grades were taught in one room.

"Mrs. King was the only teacher, so during recess, the big kids helped out and took care of the little kids."

Lunches were brought from home; there was no cafeteria. Sometimes students would take their lunches across the street to eat on the porch of the town's general store, Pearce Mercantile.

Another vivid memory Burris has is being sent to the cloakroom as punishment.

"Girls weren't allowed in sports back then," she recalls. "So, when we did play at recess, the boys got the good basketball and the girls got the flat

ball. We knew it was ours because the word 'girls' was written on it."

One day, Burris wrote the word 'girls' on a better ball and ended up in the cloakroom.

"The cool thing was, that became our ball because nobody could get the marker off!" she laughs. "That was worth an afternoon in the cloakroom."

Today, Pearce Elementary School's 105 students come from a radius of more than 20 miles. The rooftop school bell still rings at the end of every period. The in-room stoves are long gone, but their chimneys still stand as a testament to a bygone era.

Burris makes her home in the old Pearce post office building and has plans to renovate Pearce Mercantile.

Despite residing in one historical building and undertaking renovation of another, Burris maintains that the real heart of the community is the school.

"Our school has survived every mine, every industry that's ever been here. The school is the community."

## San Simon School

DECO IN THE DESERT

Constructed in 1913 by contractor H.M. Hall, the original San Simon School was one of the oldest school buildings in Cochise County. The red brick building stood in the northwest corner of the present playground. That building was replaced by the current school in 1936.

The single story's sculpted façade is a muted nod to the Art Deco movement of the times, while the tile roof is reminiscent of those found atop the Mission Revival style schools in nearby Bowie.

Inside the school, a short hallway bisects the lobby. Bright green lockers share wall space with trophy cases. A gymnasium was completed in the late 1930s. When the school was remodeled in 1978, more classrooms and a cafeteria were added.

According to Norma Helton (née Barnes), class of 1959, the remodel wasn't without hiccups. Helton remembers how the contractors switched the location of the male and female bathrooms during the remodel, causing embarrassment and confusion for faculty and students alike.

Above the front door, the words "San Simon High School" are engraved into the exterior of the building. All except one of the letters are cut into the building.

Helton's daughter Lesti Webster graduated from San Simon School in 1981. She explains, "The 'G' in the word 'high' is actually a 'C.' I'm not sure why, but it's been painted to look like a 'G.'"

"For years, we'd say it like, San Simon 'Hick' School," Webster laughs.



San Simon High School. The main building was completed in 1936.

RIGHT: Norma Helton, class of 1959, poses near a trophy case in the lobby of San Simon High School.



Webster's children also attend San Simon School, marking four generations of her family that have passed through its doors. The mother and daughter are reluctant to claim as fact that they are the only four-generation San Simon School alumni; they are certain of other families with at least two generations in attendance.

"Several families have around three generations who've attended the school," Helton says.

Helton is not only an alumna, but she is also the school's former business manager. Her fondest memories include all the times the school served as a de facto community center.

"There weren't laws regarding public use, so you

could use it without having to pay insurance or fee or what have you," she says.

The school was often used to for pie suppers — an event where pies were baked and then sold under the condition that the pie maker had to enjoy a slice with the person who bought it.

"I was about 14 years old and my friend and I sold our pie to these two old men," Helton remembers. "We ended up having to have dinner with the oldest men in town!"

Today, San Simon School is the only school in the San Simon Unified School District. The building rises like a bright mirage from the subdued desert landscape welcoming generations of K-12 students just as it has for the past 100 years.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Deadline for the November issue of Currents featuring events for the months of December and January is October 14. Email information to [wcrane@ssvec.com](mailto:wcrane@ssvec.com).

## OCTOBER 2016

### SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH OCTOBER 2

#### 65th Annual Rex Allen Days, Willcox, Arizona

Thursday evening the annual Cowboy Hall of Fame Dinner at the Willcox Community Center hosted by the Willcox Chamber of Commerce. For more info, call (520) 384-2272. Gun Show all day Friday and Saturday at the Willcox Community Center starting at 9:00 a.m. both days; Carnival at Keiller Park runs Friday to Sunday; Friday Night Rodeo at 4 p.m., Pre-Rodeo starting Saturday at 12:30 p.m., and Rodeo at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and on Sunday; Parade through downtown Willcox Saturday at 10 a.m.; Cosplay Costume Contest on Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Willcox Commercial; Reyna Contest on Saturday at 6 p.m. at Keiller Park; Family Games such as "wet pig" races at Keiller Park on Saturday and Sunday along with Pony Rides and so much more! Please check our website [www.rexalldays.org](http://www.rexalldays.org) for a detailed schedule of events or contact Michael at (520) 409-7123.



### OCTOBER 1 AND 2

#### 45th Annual Art in the Park, Sierra Vista, Arizona

The annual Art in the Park is held at Veterans Memorial Park Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m..

Approximately 200 fine art, photography, crafts, metal, wood and handmade jewelry vendors from all over the United States will have handmade items for sale.

Food vendors who share their profits with non-profit organizations in our area will be present.

This event is sponsored by the Huachuca Art Association. (520) 803-1078 or [www.huachuca-art.com](http://www.huachuca-art.com).

### OCTOBER 7, 8, AND 9

#### 30th Anniversary of Butterfield Days, Benson, Ariz.

On Friday Oct. 7 we will have live music at Lions Park from 7-9. We will also have food available for purchase. No charge for the music.

On Saturday Oct. 8 we have a full line up of events. There will be a car show, Pony Express post office, Buffalo Soldiers, Tractor Pulls, Antique Engine Display, Historical Reenactors who will be "arresting" folks that will have to pay to get out of jail, food truck, multiple vendors and assorted other events still yet to be determined. Events will be 10-2 after the parade.

On Sunday Oct. 9 we will again have a car show, an Art in the Park by Doug and Sharon Quarles, face painting, vendors and a food truck. Set up will start at 8 am and events will run until 2 pm. For further information, please contact Cindy Allen at (520) 631-5507.

### OCTOBER 7 THROUGH 9

#### 28th Annual Patagonia Fall Festival, Patagonia, Arizona

Recognized as one of the finest, best attended art festivals in Arizona, the Patagonia Fall Festival is produced by Sky Island Tourism Association. This year we are expecting over 125 artists, wineries, non-profit organizations, and food vendors.

We have added a children's activities tent and have a fantastic line-up of entertainment for the entire family. Admission is free. Hours are Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information visit [www.patagoniafallfestival.com](http://www.patagoniafallfestival.com)

### OCTOBER 8 AND 9

#### Huachuca Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, Sierra Vista, Arizona

Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cochise College (901 N. Colombo Avenue).

Free admission and free parking (handicapped accessible). Vendors inside and outside, live demonstrations, educational displays, gems, geode sales and cuttings, jewelry, lapidary supplies, fluorescent displays, raffles, and food and beverages. A certified gemologist will be on-site both days to identify mystery gemstones individuals may present. (There is no charge.) There will also be a mineral display from Arizona Desert Museum and a museum representative present.

For vendor information contact Ingrid Baillie at (520) 459-3718 or [ibaillie@cox.net](mailto:ibaillie@cox.net). For general information contact Maudie Bailey at (520) 378-

6291 or [gmbailey@msn.com](mailto:gmbailey@msn.com).

Presented by the Huachuca Mineral and Gem Club; Profits Go to Scholarship And Education Funds.

### OCTOBER 21 AND 22

#### 13th annual Sierra Vista Community Chorus Benefit Concert, Sierra Vista, Arizona

The concert will be held at the Faith Presbyterian Church (2053 Choctaw) at 7 p.m. on Friday and repeated at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is free and not ticket is required. Although there is no charge for admission, a free will offering is collected at both concerts and this year the entire offering will be donated to the Buena High School Choral Department for equipment and travel expenses not paid for by the school district.

The chorus, under the direction of Sharon Keene, feels a strong commitment to helping with the needs of the community through their singing of gospel music. The chorus hopes that you will attend one of the concerts and listen to their stirring and inspirational gospel music and support the Buena High School Choral Department.



### OCTOBER 22

#### 1st Annual San Simon Valley Fall Festival, Bowie, Arizona

The Festival will be held on the Bowie School Campus, 315 West 5th Street, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in conjunction with National Make A Difference Day.

In keeping with National Make A Difference Day, please bring (if possible) a non-perishable food item. Boxes for these food items will be located on site, and each box will display a Make A Difference Day logo. All donated food items will be given to the local food pantry for distribution to needy area families.

The festival will include arts and crafts booths,

See **CALENDAR**, Page 15

## HEARTY MEALS | IN THE KITCHEN



### WE WANT YOUR RECIPES.

Submit your favorite recipe for the November-December issue of Currents. Send them to [liz.manring@svherald.com](mailto:liz.manring@svherald.com) by Oct. 10 for inclusion in the next edition.

### Your recipes:

#### OZARK STIR-FRY

Dice or slice the following:  
1 med peeled potato,  
1 c. okra (I use frozen okra),  
sprinkled with oat bran  
1/4 c. onion  
1 med apple  
3/4 c. sweet potato fries (I use frozen cut in approximate thirds)

"browning."  
Serves 2 - 3 people, but can easily be expanded.

This is a super simple recipe and you could easily add other ingredients, such as zucchini or yellow squash.

By *Jeanne Quinn, Sierra Vista*

Toss together and fry in small amount of olive oil (can also use coconut oil), about 15 - 20 minutes. Stir often to keep it

#### SPAM AND RICE DINNER (SPAMISH DINNER)

1 can Spam - diced  
1/2 medium onion - diced  
1 green or red pepper - diced (may use both or only half)  
1 12 oz. can diced tomatoes  
1 cup white rice  
2 cups water (may use chicken or vegetable stock)  
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil (may use olive oil or butter)

Salt the onions and peppers in oil, throw in diced Spam, stir and cook 3-4 minutes on medium-high heat to let

meat brown on one side. Slowly add canned tomatoes and water, stir, bring to a boil then add rice. Bring back to a simmer for one minute. Turn heat down to medium and stir again. Turn heat to medium-low and allow to cook undisturbed 15-20 more minutes. Serves 5-6.

If you miss your favorite cheese, you can pour cooked dinner in a baking dish, sprinkle cheese and bake 7 minutes in preheated oven to 400°.

*Josephine Tyson, Sierra Vista*

### CALENDAR, From Page 14

food booths, craft demonstrations throughout the day, Chess Tournament, Magician, Cake Walk, Fish Pond, Bingo, Live Music, Children's Halloween Costume contest and other children's games. To enter a child in the Halloween Costume Contest, call Richard (number below).

The National Pecan Company will hold an equipment show during the festival and company personnel will talk about how the equipment is used. There will also be a booth and short ceremony honoring all area veterans and active service personnel. If you know an area veteran or anyone in active service, please call Richard (phone number below) to leave a name, address and phone number where the person can be reached.

Spaces for arts and crafts and food booths are free and no commission will be charged. All vendors must bring their own tables and displays and be at the Bowie Campus grounds between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. to set up. All arts and crafts must be handmade. If anyone is interested in setting up a booth - either artisan or food, please call Richard (phone number below) or stop by the Jimmy Libhart Library in Bowie, for an application.

This festival is organized by the San Simon Valley Literacy Organization, Bowie Unified School District, and the Bowie Chamber of Commerce. For more information about the festival, please call Richard, (520) 847-2522, or Laurel, (520) 847-4848 or (520) 507-8851 (cell).

### OCTOBER 29

#### 39th Annual Sierra Vista Woman's Club Fashion Show and Luncheon, Sierra Vista, Arizona

The Sierra Vista Woman's Club will present the Fashion Show and Luncheon at 11 a.m. at the Columbian Association Hall (156 W. Keyetan Drive). Come join us for a show of contemporary and designer fashions, lunch, silent and Chinese auctions.

Tickets for the event are \$25 per person. Tables for parties of eight or ten may be reserved when tickets are purchased and paid for in total at time of purchase. Individual tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis and may be purchased from club members, Dillard's, Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce, PanTerra Gallery in Bisbee or by calling (520) 220-6481.

Proceeds benefit Cochise College nursing students, high school students and local

community organizations that have a similar mission as our club.

### OCTOBER 29

#### 15th Annual Dine Under the Stars, Sierra Vista, Arizona

The Annual Scholarship Fundraiser for University of Arizona Sierra Vista will "blast off" with a cosmic celebration event. Hosted by the University South Foundation, this fun event raises much needed scholarship funds for University of Arizona South students.

Festivities begin at 6 p.m. on the University of Arizona Sierra Vista campus. Guests will enjoy a complete buffet dinner sponsored by Outback Steakhouse. Entertainment will be provided by Alma Dolores International Dance Centre. Stargazing through the Patterson Observatory Telescope and the Huachuca Astronomy Club's telescopes is an annual tradition at DINE UNDER the STARS. Both newly crowned Miss Sierra Vista and Miss Sierra Vista Outstanding Teen will be joining in the celebration. Adding to the night's festivities is the silent auction with items generously donated by business and community members!

Tickets are available online at [www.](http://www.)

[universitysouthfoundation.com/events](http://universitysouthfoundation.com/events) and the University South Foundation office at 1140 North Colombo. For more information call (520) 458-8278, ext 2129. Tickets are \$45 Adult, \$25 Student (with valid ID) and \$15 Child (12 and under).

## NOVEMBER 2016

### NOVEMBER 12 AND 13

#### A Fall Family Festival of Arts, St. David, Arizona

A Fall Family Festival of the Arts will be held at Holy Trinity Monastery. Gates open at 10 a.m. The Festival will feature Arizona artisans who have crafted an array of items to decorate your home or provide delight as holiday gifts. Foods offered range from home-made tamales and Southwest pulled beef dinner, to oven-fresh baked goods and other delicious foods. Stroll down a children's arts activity alley, shop, snap shots of our photogenic peacocks, ponds and pecan orchard. Take in live entertainment, all included in the \$2 parking fee.

From I-10, take the exit for Benson/Tombstone. The monastery is located on the west side of Hwy. 80 at mile marker 302.5.



KBRP COMMUNITY MEDIA  
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# BISBEE BLUES FESTIVAL

JAREKUS SINGLETON  
BETTY FOX  
CEDRIC BURNSIDE  
TRAIN WRECKER  
CAT DADDY



2016

BLUES  
CAFE

FRIDAY  
SEPTEMBER 9  
BISBEE  
ROYALE  
BISBEE, AZ

7:00-11:00 PM

DOORS 5PM • FOOD • DRINK

GRAMS & KRIEGER  
BLUES WIZARD  
LITTLE SUGAR  
"HILL, STOMP,  
HOLLER" 7 PM

BLUES  
VILLAGE

SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 11  
BISBEE  
ROYALE  
BISBEE, AZ

10:00-2:00 PM

ROMAN  
BARTON-  
SHERMAN  
LIVE MUSIC  
WORKSHOPS

---GATES OPEN---  
NOON-10 PM  
\$20 ADVANCE  
\$25 AT GATE

SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 10  
CITY PARK  
BISBEE, AZ



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