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2019 SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER



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COUNTY FAIRS

Carnival rides, food on a stick, and livestock will highlight two weeks of county fair fun for SSVEC members in September. This edition features insights on entertainment and what to expect at the Santa Cruz and Cochise County fairs.

We're also featuring the inside story on a world-renowned pecan grower, along with one of the best horse ranch operations in the county, and what's next for veterans who love riding bicycles. Don't miss our calendar, packed with everything that's happening for the next few months.



COMING NEXT ISSUE: We'll look to the stars with two prominent organizations that study the night sky. It's also our annual Holiday Edition, which features on celebrations throughout the SSVEC service area. If you have something to contribute, make sure to send it in by October 30 to epetermann@ssvec.com.

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IT'S FAIR TIME!

Few events inspire a sense of community like a fair.

For those who live the urban life, it's a chance to see, smell and get close to a lifestyle not found navigating the daily

commute to an office.

For farmers, ranchers and other rural residents, it's an opportunity to gather with neighbors in the friendly confines of a familiar setting.

For everyone, regardless of where they live, fairs offer carnival fun, live entertainment, tasty food, and experiences like no other.

In southeast Arizona, our annual fairs have stood the test of time.

This edition of Currents provides insights on two upcoming county fairs. Beginning September 20, the 104th annual Santa Cruz County Fair will kick off in Sonoita and offer three days and nights of full time fun. On Thursday, September 26, the 95th annual Cochise County Fair will get started in Douglas and feature 4-H projects, expositions on cultural heritage and the handiwork of local artisans, along with all the trappings of a carnival.



Both events embrace many of the same principles that guide our Cooperative. SSVEC was founded in 1938 when a community came together to invest in a new technology that promised to improve lives, automate agriculture and power modern conveniences.

That "concern for community" eventually included education and training for our members, teaching them about electricity and its many applications.

County fairs promote our sense of community. Fairs display the talents and education of our young people and bolster the local economy, all the while offering great entertainment and that special atmosphere only found at a carnival midway. The SSVEC Foundation is a proud

charitable donor to youth organizations that participate at our local fairs. Funds contributed by the Foundation support the 4-H and Future Farmers of America livestock auctions at the Santa Cruz and Cochise County fairs, inspiring young people who dedicate themselves to raising and caring for their animals throughout the year.

Our fairs are an opportunity to learn new things, meet new people and find out what makes living here so special. Make sure to mark the dates of the Santa Cruz and Cochise County fairs and get out to meet your neighbors while you enjoy all the food, fun and sites of these annual events.



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20 UNDER 40



Cory East, left, Agribusiness & Residential Energy Management Specialist at SSVEC, was celebrated as one of the "20 under 40" honorees at the annual Herald/Review event on July 25. Eric Petermann, right, Public Relations Director at SSVEC, presented the award. The honor recognizes the achievements of young professionals in Cochise County and featured keynote speakers and a dinner at the Thunder Mountain Activity Center on Fort Huachuca.

REDMOND INDUCTED INTO FIRE SERVICE HALL OF FAME

Randy Redmond, a member of the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Directors representing District 11, has been inducted into the Arizona Fire Service Hall of Fame.

Redmond, former fire chief for Sierra Vista and the Fry Fire District, was one of four inductees for the Class of 2019. He joins an elite group of 60 fire service honorees from throughout Arizona who have been recognized in the Hall of Fame since its inception in 1998.

"In addition to his outstanding record as a firefighter and fire chief, and his positive contributions to his community, he has been a tremendous proponent of the Arizona Firefighters Foundation," said Dan Bramble, Secretary of the Arizona Center for Fire Service Excellence.

The foundation, Bramble said, has created a long-term, sustainable source of funding that provides scholarships to firefighters from departments all over Arizona to participate in "fire school," a week-long training academy on skills, leadership, and techniques in firefighting.

"We have 861 firefighters enrolled this year and of those, 400 are on scholarship thanks in large part to Redmond's leadership," Bramble said. "He was the impetus that made it possible and it has had a tremendous impact on fire departments

throughout the state."

Redmond was appointed to the SSVEC board in 2018 to complete the term of Ed Molina, who resigned and moved from the community.

Redmond served more than three decades as a firefighter and Fire Chief for both the Sierra Vista department and Fry Fire District, retiring in 2015.



SSVEC District 11 Director Randy Redmond

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held Thursday, Sept. 5, during the 46th Annual Arizona State Fire School at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, AZ.

Inductees received a personal commemorative plaque and are noted on the permanent Hall of Fame display plaque.

Hall of Fame plaques honoring each person inducted can be found at the Hall of Flame Fire Museum, which is located at 6101 E. Van Buren Street, Phoenix, AZ.

Established in 1998, the Arizona Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who

have made a significant, positive contribution to the fire service and/or community, which brings credit to the fire service. Individuals nominated are evaluated based on their years of service, service on committees, state or national impact, educational impact, operational impact, contributions to community, organizational impact, legislative impact or other areas that clearly demonstrate the individual's significant contribution to Arizona's Fire Service.

WHERE THEY BUCK



Wacey Barta, left, Chief Executive Officer of WhereTheyBuck.com, recently presented a sponsorship award to Ron Lee, right, Chief Financial Officer at SSVEC. The award recognizes SSVEC's involvement in staging the annual Where They Buck bull-riding event, held April 25 in Sierra Vista. More than 40 bull riders from six states as well as Mexico competed at the show. Along with bull riding, other attractions included mutton busting, junior bull riding competitions, food, drinks, live music and more.

WARRIOR HEALING CENTER



Tim Kirk, right, founder of the Warrior Healing Center, located at 1838 Paseo San Luis, in Sierra Vista, accepted a donation of \$15,000 from SSVEC Board of Directors President Dan Barrera, center, and Graham Kaiser, CoBank Relationship Manager. The Warrior Healing Center provides space for veterans and their families to find a variety of services. The space also hosts 37 other organization dedicated to helping veterans in the county, whether that's in a time of crisis or providing them with resources. The check presentation was made at the August 21 meeting of the SSVEC Board of Directors.



DANGEROUS DUTY!

SSVEC Safety & Training Specialist I, Scott Raikkonen, captured on-the-scene photos of lineworkers restoring electric service after four power poles were knocked down and transmission wires were damaged during a monsoon event on Monday, July 22. The storm knocked out power to members along Moson road, north of Hereford, around 5:15 p.m. Electric service was restored to 95 percent of the members within 90 minutes, while a group of about 20 members were without power for several more hours. Line crews worked through the night to replace the poles and completely restore power, finishing up just after midnight on July 23.



\$30M PROJECT WILL IMPROVE SERVICE RELIABILITY

A collaborative project that will cost more than \$30 million will improve the reliability of electric service throughout Cochise County, SSVEC Director of Engineer Daniel Wilson said in a recent interview.

Construction of a new substation, pulling of additional high-capacity lines, erection of new poles and modifying a few existing substations are all part of the massive project, Wilson said.

When it's completed over the next three years the "Cochise County Reliability Project" will provide both Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) members and Arizona Public Service (APS) customers in Cochise County with supplemental back up service when outages occur, Wilson said.

The project is being completed by SSVEC, Arizona G&T (SSVEC's power supplier) and APS.

"The overall project will utilize one existing tie and add two more ties between the three systems that together provide electric service to southern Cochise County," Wilson said. "Most of the modifications will be in the Tombstone area, with smaller projects in the McNeal and Palominas areas."

APS lineworkers have started construction of a new sub-transmission line in the Palominas area, with SSVEC crews scheduled to start construction on the second half soon.

Next year Arizona G&T will start construction of a new substation west of Tombstone while APS begins major modifications to their existing substation east of Tombstone.

These two substations will be connected by adding a second circuit to existing sub-transmission lines in the area. All three companies will also be completing several smaller independent projects intended to help maintain voltage levels under contingency configurations.

The combination of all of these projects are designed to provide full-capacity backup capability for all three systems for the next 20 years. Wilson said.

"Discussion's related to improvements in this area have been going on for the more than 10 years," Wilson said. "Each of these entities recognized the need to provide additional reliability for their members and customers."

A little over five years ago a project was pitched by Boris Tumarin a planning engineer for Arizona G&T. What was latter termed the three-company approach touted more benefits and a much cheaper price tag than any other option that would solve the problems of only one of the three utilities.

After five years of negotiating design requirements and cost-sharing the final approved project remains almost identical to the original proposal from Tumarin.

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FICO earns worldwide reputation for pecans



Loren Miller, left, farm manager, and Brian Driscoll, right, general manager of farming operations, walk among the more than 200,000 pecan trees maintained by FICO. This orchard is located in the San Simon area.

Driving east on Interstate 10 near the New Mexico state line, it's hard to miss row after row of mature trees, contrast against a harsh desert landscape where the greenery is limited to collections of brush, mesquite and the occasional cactus.

Acres of pecan orchards break up the scenery and create a picturesque image of modern agriculture flourishing in southeast Arizona.

Some of these orchards are owned and maintained by Farmers Investment Co. (FICO), which in 1948 came from California to farm cotton, one of the five "C's" that distinguishes the state's economy.

Today, acres of cotton, alfalfa and chile have been replaced by about 200,000 pecan trees in the San Simon valley, which generate nuts that are revered for their quality around the world.

"These are near-perfect conditions for pecans," said Brian Driscoll, general manager of farming operations at the FICO operation near San Simon in Cochise County. "Our orchards are still pretty young, but we're at the right altitude that these trees grow big nuts of very high quality."

FICO planted its first pecan trees in the Santa Cruz valley more than 50 years ago, eventually expanding the operation to San Simon where the company oversees some 3,652 acres.

"It takes five to six years to get them going and start getting them into production," Driscoll said. "We first started planting in San Simon in 2006."

Work begins at 5:30 a.m. at the orchards where FICO employs about 25 people. This year the harvest will be later than usual, farm manager Lorne Miller said, due to the lingering cold temperatures in May.

"We had a good winter with lots of rain and snow, but the cooler spring temperatures have set us back about six weeks," Miller said.

Orchards are watered using a high-efficiency micro sprinkler system that feeds the trees about 4.5 acre-feet of water per acre of trees annually. Driscoll said the operation is completely mechanized, utilizing tree shakers

that put pecans on the ground, followed by a "sweeper" that pushes the nuts and natural debris into long rows collected by harvesting machines.

The collected pecans are transported to a nearby cleaning plant which separates the pecans from other materials. The cleaned nuts are then transported to FICO's operation in Sahuarita, where the shell is removed. The remaining compostable material is spread back into the orchard, providing a mulch that keeps the ground moist and helps encourage healthy soil conditions.

"What we call our 'crack out' percentage, the amount of nut meat we get compared to the shell, is usually 57 to 59 percent, which is very high," Driscoll said.

Quality testing is done throughout the process, measuring the weight of the pecans, the color and other standards.

Driscoll said the San Simon orchard has different varieties of pecans, with each offering a distinct flavor. The popularity of the nut is also growing, both in the U.S. and abroad.

"In Asia they're using it as a substitute for meat. There are also vegetarian recipes out there that offer unique varieties... like tacos with pecans and mushrooms," Driscoll said. Insecticide use is minimal during the growing season as orchards in southern Arizona do not have the "pest pressure" commonly associated with pecan trees in Texas, New Mexico and Georgia.

"We're virtually free of what they get in other places," Driscoll said. "In the spring and summer, we will get aphids, but that's about it. We don't have many nut pests."

Pruning of the trees is done on a two-year rotation, with trimming machines cutting back limbs in alternate rows in each orchard. The material cut from the trees is then shredded and left on the orchard floor.

"We don't waste anything," Driscoll said. "Pruning the trees creates new growth and improves the health and production of the trees."



ABOVE: Brian Driscoll, general manager of farming operations.



LEFT: Loren Miller, farm manager.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

If you have suggestions for member or business spotlight features, contact epetermann@ssvec.com

Barn manager Jesus Hoyos Martinez cools off one of the horses at the Jon Ray Ranch.



Teaching career helps Denham manage horse ranch

If you're going to manage a full-service horse ranch, it helps to have the mind of an educator.

At least that's the opinion of Sharon Denham, successor trustee and manager at the Jon Ray Ranch north of Douglas.

Denham was one of the first staff members at the University of Arizona South in Sierra Vista, highlighting an education career that put her in classrooms all over Cochise County. She became the manager at the Jon Ray Ranch through a lifelong association with its namesake owner, sharing a mutual interest in horses and how horses can positively impact a person's life.

"I had worked with Jon Ray and this ranch when I had horses of my own," she said. "I knew Jon for a long time, and he was a close friend of our family."

"I had not planned to be doing this," Denham said in a recent interview. "Horses were always my therapy. Teaching is hard work and often very stressful. Knowing my horses were waiting for me after 4 p.m. was a huge blessing."

Today she is the manager of a well-established ranch that cares for, breeds and raises between 35 and 70 horses. Jon T. Ray established the ranch in 1969, raising quarterhorses on the 55-acre spread for ranch work and rodeo competitions. Since then the ranch has expanded its services to include boarding, training, breeding and care for horses recovering from injury. Following Ray's death in 2006, Denham and Barn Manager Jesus Hoyos Martinez are leading the ranch forward with a combined 70 years of horsemanship.

Denham started working at the ranch in 2001 after more than 40 years as a classroom teacher in elementary schools and staff member at the U of A South. Her husband, Paul Denham, was a longtime teacher and basketball coach at Douglas High School and Cochise College. He passed in 2004.

Denham, now 80, graduated from Arizona State University. She earned her master's degree in education from Northern Arizona University and taught in the Douglas school district for 18 years. She was the instructor for a federally-funded bi-lingual program in the mid-1970s.

"That's how I learned Spanish," she said. "I couldn't speak the language at all when I started, so I learned through complete immersion. Everyone I worked with



Sharon Denham, successor trustee and manager at the Jon Ray Ranch.

knew they weren't supposed to speak any English to me, so that I could learn Spanish."

In the late 1980s, she started working for the former Cochise County Schools Superintendent, Tom Campbell, who put Denham in charge of a program helping parents of non-English speaking students and their teachers at rural districts throughout the county.

"I would set up meetings with parents and teachers, I developed curriculums and organized conferences helping with bilingual instruction," she said.

In 1991, she received a request from Randy Groth, Dean at the University of Arizona South. Groth was forming the first faculty for the U of A South teacher training program that was designed to meet the teacher staffing needs of southeast Arizona schools.

"I was hired at the campus in Tucson as an assistant clinical professor of education assigned to UA South," Denham said.

The first "campus" established for the university program consisted of small offices located behind the Lawley Chevrolet car dealership off Fry Boulevard in Sierra Vista.

"We developed a program to provide education for teachers," she said. "We built the entire curriculum and that was important because there was a critical need for teachers in the county who would be prepared to teach in multi-cultural environments."

The University of Arizona South in Sierra Vista has since grown to 27 fulltime faculty members and a classroom student-teacher ratio of 24 to one. Of those attendant, 54 percent of the students are the first in their family to go to college, 30 percent are military affiliated, and 39 percent are Hispanic.

"We weren't in the program for the short-term. We were in it for the long term, so what we were doing had to work," Denham said.

Denham left the education profession in 2001, converting her skills as an educator to what was needed to manage the Jon Ray Ranch.

"If you're going to work with horses, it's probably a good idea to have an education background," she said. "Horses can read people like a book. They know when you're stressed, they know what you're thinking. So, if you know the art of teaching, you're going to find that many of those same skills that you utilize in the art of teaching, are going to be very valuable in understanding horses." Denham said.



VeloVets conquer Iowa and set sights on the Sky Island Tour

Fresh off a 444-mile ride across Iowa, Stu Carter and his fellow VeloVets are gearing up for the fourth annual Sky Island Tour, set for Saturday, October 5 in Sierra Vista.

VeloVets, an organization that helps disabled military veterans enjoy the experience of getting on a bicycle and riding with friends, was started in 2017 by Carter. A group of six riders represented VeloVets Sierra Vista at The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa from July 21 to July 27. Carter, who is himself a disabled veteran, was one of six riders from the area to complete the 75-mile per day ride.

"I can tell you that Iowa's not flat," he quipped during a recent interview. "We followed the tradition of the ride and dipped our back wheels into the Missouri River at Council Bluffs, Iowa, when we started, then dipped our front wheels in the Mississippi River when we finished the ride a week later in Keokuk, Iowa."

It was Carter's 17th time participating in the annual ride across Iowa, but just his second time as a member of the VeloVets Sierra Vista. From humble beginnings in 2017, the group has grown to include 13 disabled veterans, 10 of whom are 100 percent disabled, and 31 support riders. Members gather every Wednesday and Saturday morning in the parking lot at Pueblo del Sol Country Club and ride to local coffee shops to enjoy the social experience as well as the bike ride.

"The first time we finished a ride with a local veteran who was 100 percent disabled, the look of enjoyment made it well worth the effort," Carter said. "Getting out and riding, with the wind in your face and the exercise makes it really a great experience."

The mission of VeloVets Sierra Vista is aimed directly at getting disabled veterans "off the couch," Carter said, improving their lives by providing camaraderie, exercise and stimulating their minds.

Heather and Jon Hocker helped the effort, driving their Ford F-350 and pulling a "toy-hauler" to and from Iowa for the veterans group. They hauled all the gear and the bikes, allowing the Sierra Vista "team" to travel light.

"They were in Council Bluffs when we got there, and they met us in Keokuk when we finished, and hauled six bikes and 12 containers for us. They were just great," Carter said.

Next on the list of bike rides for VeloVets Sierra Vista members is the fourth annual Sky Island Tour, offering five different rides varying from 5 to 62 miles, starting at the Windemere Hotel and Conference Center in Sierra Vista.

Carter said the event, which raises money for the Sierra Vista chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, has grown from 130 registered riders when it started to more than 400 riders this year.

"More than half the riders come from outside the area," Carter said. "It's a great event to bring people here so that can see what the community is like and hopefully they come back."

More information and registration for the Sky Island Tour is available at <https://www.skyislandtour.com/>.



Ernie Batten stands with his daughter, Brittney, at the start of a Southern Arizona Softball Academy practice.



BATTEN HELPS AREA SOFTBALL SUCCEED

It starts with softball gloves placed carefully in a row on the first-base line. The precise formation of the gloves is an example of the discipline and attention to detail expected from girls who participate in the Southern Arizona Softball Academy, an off-season program that teaches girls 15 and younger the fundamentals of the sport.

Benson High School coach Brittney Batten and her father, Ernie Batten, organized the Academy years ago and the results have been impressive. Benson has captured five state softball championships and earned berths in the final four of the state tournament 12 times.

"We really wanted to put something together that the entire community could take pride in," said Ernie Batten.

Batten is a 10-year employee at Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, where he works as the Distribution Automation Operator in the SCADA room at the Willcox office. Prior to SSVEC, Batten worked for 30 years with the Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, headquartered in Cochise.

He also credited the efforts of Burt Cardenas, Trevor Ward and Larry Gabbard in contributing to the success of the Academy and the Benson and Willcox softball programs.

"It really started when we played Hayden (AZ) in the state championship," Batten said. "That school showed up with busloads of fans who were there to support the kids and the school. We looked at that and thought it was pretty special and we could do something similar in Benson."

Batten and his wife are the parents of four daughters, two of whom participated

in track during high school and two who picked softball as their sport. Brittney, who is now in her second year as the Benson High School head coach, earned All-State honors and two state championships during her high school career, before attending Western New Mexico University in Silver City, New Mexico.

Ernie Batten had coached baseball for more than 20 years before he moved to the area from New Mexico to help his mother care for his younger brothers. Upon his arrival to Benson, he was introduced to the softball side of the game.

"I liked it right away," Batten said.

"The game has a much faster pace than baseball and the athleticism of the girls is impressive. They work so hard at the sport."

Despite the depth of his experience, Batten said he is continually "...learning something new" about the game and enjoys being around the players.

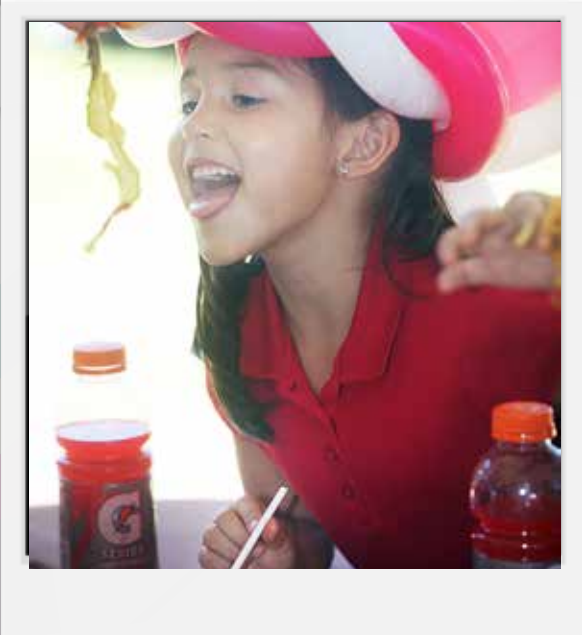
"It's very gratifying," he said. "It's rewarding to help young people in the community and the girls are so much fun to be around," he said.

Practice begins promptly at 9 a.m. for those participating in the softball academy on the high school softball fields in Benson and Willcox. The Academy rotates between the two communities each week. About 15 girls, high school and middle school-age, practice their skills every Saturday morning.

The academy is free to join.

"It's really about paying back to the community," Batten said. "Softball and baseball have given me and my family so much, we can't give back enough."

IT'S COUNTY FAIR SEASON!



How often do you get to eat the ears of an elephant? Where can you go to see collections of crafts, photography and prize-winning home-grown vegetables all under one roof?

What event features unique vendors, a rodeo, live entertainment and thrilling carnival rides all in the same location?

It's fair time folks.

In the span of two weeks southeast Arizona will come alive with county fair celebrations that present the best talents of local communities with plenty of special foods, amusement rides, live animals, musical entertainment and so much more.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTRY

The fun begins with the Santa Cruz County Fair September 20 to September 22 in Sonoita, on the fairgrounds one-quarter mile south of the Highway 82 and Highway 83 intersection. This will be the 104th annual fair and features the return of the Sun Valley Carnival, with new rides and adventurous fun for the whole family.

Admission is just \$5 for adults, with children ages 6 to 12 entering for \$3 and kids under 6 getting through the gate for free. Military Day is Sunday, September 22, where families of four can enter the fair for free with the presentation of military identification.

In addition to a Midway of rides and carnival games, the Santa Cruz Fair will feature an impressive entertainment schedule that includes animal acts, magicians, live music, a pet show, dances, special concerts, a horse show, exhibits, vendors, a wonderful farmers market, and much, much more!

The annual 4-H and FFA competitions will kick off on Friday, September 20, at 10 a.m. with the Dairy Cow show, followed at 11 a.m. by the Dairy Goat show, 1 p.m. with the Horse, Shooting Sports and Exhibit Hall awards presentations, a dog show at 3 p.m. and a swine show at 6 p.m.

Grandstand performances are scheduled for 11 a.m., 2 and 4:30 p.m., featuring the Bert Davis and the Muttley Crew Dog Act.

Activities are scheduled on all three days at the Perishable Foods Tent, Pioneer Hall, the Hedcock Building and Reagan Gardner Building.

Saturday at 6 p.m., the 4-H and FFA "Parade of Champions" is scheduled to start at 6 p.m.

The fair also features a healthy competition of local hobbyists who present their photography, fine arts, quilting, culinary skills, cowboy crafts and other exhibits.

"We want everyone to join the fun at the fair, so bring your best baked goods, your finest flowers, your super sewing, your fabulous fine art, your quality quilts, your terrific tomatoes and your rosiest roses and help celebrate the 104th birthday of this Santa Cruz County tradition," said Jen Rinaldi, Fair Manager. "Your exhibits help make the fair special."

Entry forms are available on the fair's website: <http://www.sonoitafairgrounds.com/>; or can be picked up at the fairgrounds office. The annual Premium Book provides details about how to enter and present exhibits at the fair and is available on the website or at the fairgrounds office.

COCHISE COUNTY FAIR

The 95th Annual Cochise County Fair will be held one week later, September 26 through September 29, on the fairgrounds at 3677 N. Leslie Canyon Road in Douglas. The theme for the 2019 fair is "Cochise County May be a Square, but Not Our County Fair." It was proposed by Huachuca City School student Joshua Givens and chosen from entries in a contest run by the Cochise County School Superintendent's Office.

Brown's Amusements will bring the carnival, featuring the nationally-known "Freak Out" thrill ride.

Towering at 70 feet, the Freak Out seats 16 people and takes them on a journey into the sky! Passengers are secured by over-the-shoulder harnesses as they dangle in expectation. Once the ride begins, the seats slowly rotate as the entire boom begins to swing horizontally. Passengers swing over the midway directly overhead of those watching from the front of the ride. The ride climax is reached as the boom reaches a height of more than 40 feet in the air while the passenger seats rotate.

Brown's Amusements currently own and operate 50 pieces of equipment and the organization presents at five of the 14 county fairs across Arizona.

And if thrilling carnival rides were not enough, kids will have plenty to do at the "Play with Giants" exhibit in the education building at the fairgrounds. The attractions offers an opportunity to play with giant oversized, tradition board games, including Operation and other favorites.

Children will also be attracted to the "Dino Encounters" display, offering an opportunity to ride interactive dinosaurs.

Denise Hoyos, an eight-year member of the Cochise County Fair Board, said she can't imagine doing anything else during the last week in September.

"The Cochise County Fair has its own feel and vibe, and the crowd really comes out for Friday and Saturday evening entertainment, especially, but also for the auction, the rodeo, and the carnival. However, Sunday is one of my favorite days at the fair because there's something really "chill" about it... it's a quiet day but there's still lots going on," Hoyos said.

General admission to the fair is \$6, with children ages 6 to 12 paying \$3. Children age 5 and younger get into the fair for free. Parking is \$3.

Senior Day is Thursday, September 26 with those age 60 and older paying a \$1 admission. Friday is Student Day and Saturday is Military Day, with ticket prices dropped to \$1 for those special days.

Three bands are the featured live entertainment at the fair. Stage acts planned for Thursday, Friday and

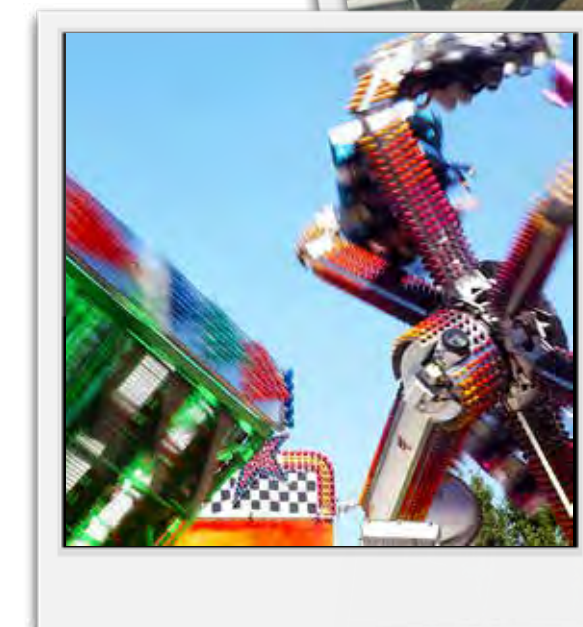
Saturday include "The Partners Band", "Los Plebes De Sonora" and the "Josh Roy Band."

"Our College Rodeo put on by Cochise College always fills the grandstands on Friday and Saturday," said Dominique Valenzuela, General Manager of the Cochise County Fair Association.

The Cochise County Fair provides an exciting venue to showcase the talents of local citizens. Whether it's for largest watermelon or the best photograph, open exhibits make the fair special. For more details about fair entries, contact the Secretaries of Exhibits, Lee and Charla Henney, (520) 458-6148, cochisefairexhibits@gmail.com. The 2019 Premium Book and more information on Open Exhibits are available on the fair's website at: <https://cochisecountyfair.org/fair/exhibitors/>.

"There was a change this year and our Youth Livestock Auction will be held on Saturday, September 28, with the small stock sale from 10 a.m. to noon and our large stock sale beginning at 1 p.m.," Valenzuela said.

In previous years, the auction took place on Sunday, the last day of the fair. Members of 4H who expect to exhibit at the 2019 fair will find the 4H Rule Book on the UA Cooperative Extension website at <https://extension.arizona.edu/4h/cochise>. Rules for the small and large stock auctions are being finalized in partnership with the University of Arizona and will be governed by the Cochise County Fair Association and posted on the fair association website at <http://www.cochisecountyfair.org> as soon as they become available.



Everyone enjoys a Jubilee. The celebration of the anniversary of a special event guarantees those who attend will enjoy lots of fun and festivities. And, a tuba.

"Tuba" will highlight the Silver Jubilee celebration hosted by the Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra at its first performance of the 25th season, entitled "Jubilation," on October 12, 2019 at the Klein Performing Arts Center. Symphony board president Deb Koltveit explained the significance of the Tuba Concerto that promises to highlight the special opening night.

"The tuba concerto is an homage to a previous member of the symphony, Marty Huffman, and Grant Hays, a former member of the board of directors," Koltveit said. "Marty played in the symphony until a few years ago when he moved to Phoenix and Grant is a previous board member who played tuba in the Army band." The Tuba soloist is David Morgan who is the Principal Tuba Player with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets are already available online at sierravistasymphony.org for the entire three-performance season of the Symphony with the Winter Jubilee scheduled for January 11, 2020 and the Spring Jubilee set for April 18, 2020. Those planning to attend the October 12 performance can purchase tickets at Dillard's department store at The Mall at Sierra Vista, Safeway food store, the Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce office, the Oscar Yrun Community Center or at the Symphony Association Office at 21 E. Wilcox Drive in Sierra Vista.

Pre-concert lectures are offered prior to each performance, featuring conductor Toru Tagawa.

A native of Hiroshima, Japan, Tagawa started playing the violin at age 6, and joined the Kurashiki Junior Philharmonic Orchestra at age 9. He received his Violin Performance degrees from the University of Tulsa (BM) and the Florida State University (MM), and a Music Education degree (MME) from the University of Arizona. He is the Music Director and Conductor of the Tucson Repertory Orchestra, Artistic Director of the Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra and Director of the Canyon del Oro High School Orchestra.

"At the preconcert, Conductor Tagawa talks about the pieces that will be performed, the composer and sometimes the era when the piece was written," said Koltveit.

Two fundraisers are planned beginning with the Symphony Fall Gala on November 16 at the Thunder Mountain Activity Center on Fort Huachuca. Tickets are \$75 for an evening that features a semi-formal dinner followed by dancing. There will be a String Trio from the Symphony to serenade you during the cocktail hour, which will feature a live band for dancing.

On March 28, 2020, local celebrities will compete at the annual "Men Who Cook" event, featuring food tastings, a silent auction, a raffle and live entertainment. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door.

The October 12 Silver Jubilee will be highlighted by two Mozart pieces, including the don Giovanni Overture and Symphony No. 25. Tickets begin at \$25 for general admission, with reserved seating available at \$30, family tickets at \$30 and students get in for \$10. Children under 14, accompanied by a paying adult, are admitted free of charge.

The January 11, 2020 performance entitled the "Winter Jubilee," will feature Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite and Fanfare, composed by Sky van Duuren.

"Sky van Duuren use to play trumpet in the Sierra Vista symphony," Koltveit said. "Also at that concert, the Huachuca Art Association will be providing pictures to be viewed at intermission."

The "Spring Jubilee" performance on April 18, 2020, will join in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Along with "The Star-Spangled Banner," other highlights of the evening will include Beethoven Symphony No. 5, first movement; and Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

The Sierra Vista Symphony Chorus will perform a Courtney piece, "From Earth to Heaven."

"At the April concert, the piece by Courtney that will be sung by the Sierra Vista Symphony Chorus was selected by Ashley Ricks, who directs three local groups who have combined efforts to be the symphony chorus," said Koltveit.

More information on the Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra is available by calling (520) 458-5189, online at sierravistasymphony.org or by sending an email to info@sierravistasymphony.org.



Symphony readies for a new season



Broker offers insights on Medicare

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Jenifer Patterson



Operation Round Up®

(A voluntary community donation program)

Operation Round Up® is a voluntary program that "rounds up" your monthly electric bill to create a fund that helps fellow Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative members in their time of need.

Example: A bill of \$56.63 will be rounded up to the next whole dollar, or \$57, for members who participate in Operation Round Up Program®. That 37-cents is contributed to the SSVEC Charitable Trust, and these funds are offered to fellow cooperative members who face a dire financial situation at a critical time.

- Operation Round Up® funds have helped families recover after a fire, paid for gas for cancer patients traveling to get care, contributed to unexpected funeral expenses and covered other costs when fellow members experience a tragedy.
- The assistance is given once and is provided to get the recipient through a difficult time.
- Amounts are limited to \$2,000 for an individual and \$4,000 for a family.
- Each application is reviewed, and payment is made when it is determined the circumstances leading to the request were beyond the control of the applicant. Operation Round Up® funds are not to pay for past electric bills or credit card payments.
- All money collected in the Trust goes toward member assistance. There are no administrative charges.
- To participate, fill out the form below and send it with your next payment. SSVEC will take care of the rest.
- Members who want to contribute more or want to make a one-time donation, may do so by indicating that choice on the form below.
- Contributions are tax-deductible and participating members will receive an annual summary of the amount donated to the program.



Complete and return this form with your bill payment or to your local Cooperative office.

YES, I want to be part of **Operation Round Up®** and contribute to the SSVEC Trust Fund to assist Cooperative members in need in the following way.

- Round Up my bill to the next whole dollar each month.
- Add \$ _____ to my bill each month
- I would like a ONE-TIME donation of \$ _____ to be added to my next bill.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Signature: _____ Account Number (if available) _____

- I have multiple accounts and want **all of them** to be placed under the **Operation Round Up®** program

A collection of books authored by Howard Buffett is among the newest editions available at the Elsie S. Hogan Public Library in Willcox.

Michelle Cooley, Library Director, announced that the collection of 12 books featuring Buffett's photography and his experiences on the Southwest border went on display in late August. Volumes include impressive images of wildlife, landscapes and people photographed by Buffett all over the world.

"We certainly appreciate this generous donation," Cooley said. "It's an impressive collection of Mr. Buffett's work and I know our readers will enjoy them."

First thoughts of Buffett in Cochise County have usually been associated with multimillion-dollar contributions by his Foundation to the Sheriff's Office. Donations from the Foundation have topped \$20 million since 2012 and include more than \$14 million to bring a regional dispatch center online. Since 2015, the Buffett Foundation also contributes the entire funding for operating Cochise One, the Sheriff's Department helicopter, along with multiple contributions to other entities throughout the county.

Howard Buffett's skill as a photographer and the impact of his images at an international level have escaped comparable coverage in Arizona, where headlines in state newspapers have questioned his sizable role in Cochise County's largest law enforcement agency. His past employment as Sheriff in Macon County, Ill., and his current service as Undersheriff for the same agency, have contributed to an image as a strong supporter of law enforcement.

"I have spent the last 20 years working in countries where there is little accountability for criminal behavior and seeing the consequences of what that means for people trying to make better lives for themselves and their families," Buffett said.

"Those experiences made me understand how fundamental public safety and good law enforcement is to quality of life. Our Foundation is committed to supporting public safety in the communities where we have employees and operate, and my own experience in law enforcement helps guide how we direct our support."

Mr. Buffett's donation to the Willcox library puts his skills as a photographer on public display. Buffett said the Foundation has provided books to schools and libraries across the country.

"Photography can be a great tool in education – some people learn better by seeing, I certainly do. I'm glad these books can help support the library and share with the community some of what I see in my travels" Buffett said in an email.

Buffett's photography is a featured attraction at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. The seven-story museum celebrates the freedoms of the First Amendment and last year toured more than 770,000 visitors.

His collection of "40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World" presents scenes from around the globe depicting man's progress in agriculture and featuring the faces of those in the farming industry.

During a recent telephone interview Buffett said support for law enforcement and his photography



Michelle Cooley, Library Director, stands with a collection of photo books donated by the Howard Buffett Foundation to the Elsie S. Hogan Library in Willcox.

represent two priorities that foster the success of communities everywhere.

"I believe that there has to be rule of law and a free press for a society to prosper," Buffett said. "Unless you have both, the absence of either results in a community failure."

Buffett's connection to Cochise County started with visits to Arizona State University. It developed into relationships with other universities, including Penn State, Texas A&M and the University of Missouri, who have partnered on the development of a research farm owned by the Foundation in Willcox. Through this farm, agriculture experts in Africa and South America have worked with U.S. researchers.

He also supported programs at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at ASU, noting that his first "love" was journalism. Buffett started farming in Nebraska in 1986 and later developed agricultural research programs in Illinois in 2002.

The Foundation is funding and building an agriculture institute in Rwanda which opens this fall, enrolling 84 students each year while another 200 fellow Rwandans are attending the University of Nebraska to learn the latest science in agriculture.

Buffett's foundation started research in South Africa in 1999 but, "Eventually it just got too dangerous there and we began looking at recreating the conditions of that environment here in the United States," he said.

After flying over eastern Cochise County several times, Buffett began working with a real estate agent to purchase property near Willcox. Buffett operates pivots on his farm in Nebraska, so the wells pumping water to large sprayers creating large circles of green, viewed from the air, were

familiar and caught Buffett's attention.

"I would fly home out of Tucson, and it was during one of those trips that I started noticing the pivots," Buffett said.

He said investigating the agricultural opportunities in Cochise County gave him a "huge education," and has allowed the research to continue.

"We found a couple of farms and spent a lot of time and money to upgrade the property and the wells," Buffett said. "We studied drought tolerance, which was an extension of our work in South Africa, and focused on developing plants that stay strong with very little water."

His development as a photographer began about 35 years ago when he pestered his daughter for the use of her camera.

"Erin wanted her camera back and so my first camera was a Christmas gift from my wife," he joked.

His interest grew quickly and "evolved," he said, with more equipment and the opportunity to photograph around the globe.

"I've traveled to every country in Africa," Buffett said. "For me, photos are an education. Knowing that I'm learning something with every image drives me to get photos I might not otherwise get."

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT NEWSEUM
<https://www.newseum.org/exhibits/traveling/40-chances-finding-hope-in-a-hungry-world>
 To Find out More About "Friends of the Library"
https://www.sierravistaaz.gov/venue/friends-of-the-library-bookstore/?tribe_venue=friends-of-the-library-bookstore&tribe_event_display=past

Provided by Kathy Klump from the archives of the Chiricahua Regional Museum and Research Center, 127 E. Maley, Willcox, AZ 85643



Willcox Lighting, Pumping, Ice Co. - 1899.JPG

1. The big news of March 22, 1899 was that Willcox was to have electricity! F. E. Cadwell joined with his partner T. D. Swatling, Superintendent of the Commonwealth Mine at Pearce, to begin building the Willcox Lighting, Pumping, and Ice Company. It was to be located at the Northeast end of town close to the railroad tracks. Chisholm & Norfleet's well-drilling machine was already in place to drill the well with a depth of 270 feet to secure pure water. (The well produced a hundred gallons of water per minute). The power would be furnished by a large engine driven by two fifty-horse power boilers, each with 400 light capacity. A stand pipe seventy-five feet in height would afford a pressure sufficient to throw a strong stream of water over any building in town thus saving property owners in cost of fire insurance.

The electric light plant would consist of two dynamos and a three-wire Edison direct system of 125 and 250 volts; the latest improved design. The ammonia and compressed air engine for making ice arrived by the end of May. Three tons of ice could be produced daily. One ton per day was for Willcox, and two tons would be shipped to surrounding towns. The cold storage ice plant would be large enough to hold three train-car loads. They had a soda bottling works and bottled 1000 bottles of beer a day. The total price of building the plant came to \$16,000.

By June, Mr. Abbott was hired to put electric light fittings in the buildings. Electric light poles were set and men began stringing wires on June 28, 1899. The furnaces were first kindled on the 4th of July, and the whistles blew a salute to the nation's birthday. The big pump was tried out for the first time on July eleventh. As a result, Willcox had a flood of water running down the main street. One hundred and fifty electric lights were turned on August 3, 1899 in the hotels, restaurants and stores. The people turned out to see them and enjoyed their novelty and brilliance. A large blue arc light at the plant lit up the town with a soft light. By the middle of September, 400 lights were on and two arc lights were put in the street; one in front of Hauser's Saloon (corner of Maley & Railroad Avenue) and one near Norton's warehouse (corner of Stewart Street & Railroad Avenue).

There were a couple of setbacks at the beginning. One evening the lights had to be turned off when a bolt worked loose. Another night the steam pipe exploded. It became too expensive to keep the lights on after twelve o'clock at night with so little electricity being used. The Saloon owners protested, but lights went out promptly at midnight. The plant closed in 1902.



2. In January 1920, The Willcox Light, Power and Manufacturing Company was incorporated. Officers were: Frank Rottman, President; H. A. Pace, Vice-President; J. P. Cummings, Secretary-Treasurer; and L. G. Wilson, director. The city held a special election on March 16, 1920 to grant a franchise to this company to provide electric light, power, and water. The company took over the old ice plant and purchased new machinery. This included two De Laverne engines. One was fifty horse-

power and one was eighty horse-power. There had been no electricity for many years since the first electric company closed. Ice could be delivered daily. Coal was delivered in winter months. Their bottling works had a capacity of 100 cases per day or 2400 bottles of soda water in all flavors.

The company sold water and installed water mains in portions of the town. They also built a swimming pool behind the building. It was built of concrete 60 feet long and 30 feet wide. Twenty-four dressing rooms were constructed on the sides of the pool. First shower baths were constructed with hot and cold water. They advertised that "Fresh water is running at all times, and the pool is drained and washed twice a week. Monthly ticket, \$2.00. Season Ticket, \$5.00." In August 1920, the Willcox Hotel was lighted by electricity, and that plant supplied electricity to the new Riggs Bank and the Palace Hotel upstairs above the bank. At some point this electric company also closed.

3. City ordinance #46 granted W. F. Ritter a franchise to construct, operate, and maintain an electric light and power plant. It was signed by Mayor J. C. Wilson August 5, 1925 stating, "Whereas this ordinance requires early operation in order to protect the public peace, health and safety, therefore an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this act shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council and approved by the Mayor." A special election was held. Ninety-three votes were cast; all were affirmative. Willcox Power Company was incorporated with W. F. Ritter, President; M. P. Walker, Secretary/Treasurer; and attorney John C. Gung'l, Vice President.

4. September 18, 1925, the very first local newspaper advertisement for radios for sale appeared by Stafford-Alberts Auto Company located in the Masonic building. T. H. Wilson, the owner, was the first to install a radio set in his office and invited his friends over

every evening to enjoy this new kind of entertainment.

5. Electric lights were turned on again in the evening of March 12, 1926 with a celebration at the light plant. Mayor J. C. Wilson delivered a short address then turned on the switch. The street lights, businesses and residences that had been connected were ablaze with light. An auto procession around town took place with honking horns. Other than those first two light poles in 1899, it was the first time in town history that the streets of Willcox were electrically lighted. Electric current during the day was not available yet, but anxiously awaited. It was estimated that in another month all houses would be wired.



Dr. J. C. Wilson, Mayor of Willcox



Willcox cattle pens

6. The stock yards were wired in September 1928 and connected with city electricity to provide light for loading cattle at night.



7. Willcox Power Company moved their office from the old ice plant to the lumber company office now the Friendly Bookstore building. They put in a plate glass show window to display their electric appliances for sale in the Jan. 18, 1929 newspaper. The first electric appliances offered were irons, waffle irons, and toasters.

8. Effective May 1, 1930 – Willcox Power Co. was sold to North Continent Utilities Co., who also purchased the Benson and Bowie power companies. M. P. Walker remained as manager. It then sold to Arizona Power and Light Company who sold out in 1941, when Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative purchased the building. Rex Emrick bought the building in 1947, and created an apartment to live in out of the butter room from the old creamery. His Willcox Water Company sold water to the city. He sold the entire water system to the City of Willcox in 1956.



First Radio AD



Rex Emrick

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The 18th annual Dine Under the Stars scholarship fundraiser for the University South Foundation, Inc., is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2019, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Join the foundation at a Mardi Gras celebration on the University of Arizona Sierra Vista Campus, while raising scholarship funds for University of Arizona Sierra Vista and Douglas students.

Guests will enjoy a dinner buffet sponsored by Texas Roadhouse, appetizers sponsored by Indochine Family Restaurant, and desserts by LaCasita Mexican Family Restaurant and Cantina.

Live music will be performed by Desert Fever, and entertainment by Alma Dolores International Dance Centre dancers.

As always there will be Stargazing through the large Patterson Observatory telescope and the

Huachuca Astronomy Club's telescopes. Guests will enjoy the fundraiser's silent auction filled with generously donated items from business and community members.

The newly-crowned Miss Sierra Vista and Miss Sierra Vista Outstanding Teen will display their talents during the event and assist the Masters of Ceremonies, Mark Dannels and Jeff Davenport, with door prizes during the celebration.

Ticket reservations are available at the University South Foundation office at 1140 North Colombo and www.universitysouthfoundation.com/events.

Ticket locations will be announced. For more information, call (520) 458-8278 ext. 2129. Ticket Prices are \$50 Adult, \$25 Student (with valid ID) and \$15 Child (12 and under). MasterCard and Visa are accepted.

The University South Foundation, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) Corporation.



ELKS READY FOR OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION

It's Oktoberfest time at the Elks Lodge, so get off the couch, dust off those German dirndl and lederhosen, and come on out to join us for Sierra Vista's only authentic German Oktoberfest being held on September 27 and 28, from 4 to 11 p.m.

This is the 32nd year that the Sierra Vista Elk's Lodge 2065 will put on its traditional Oktoberfest at the Elks Lodge, located on the corner of Elks Lane and Wilcox Drive, just east of Buffalo Soldier Trail. The Oktoberfest is the primary fund raiser for the Elks who use the funds to support benevolent and charitable work focused on our communities' veterans, severely ill children, youth activities and the underprivileged.

The Sierra Vista Elks donate thousands of dollars to local organizations each year, including at least \$1,500 in scholarships, \$700 to the food bank, and \$2,500 in funds to the annual Project Graduation at Buena and Tombstone High Schools among many other charities and activities.

Back by popular demand, the Bouncing Czechs from Tucson will be back in full force playing traditional folks music and favorite Oktoberfest tunes for your dancing pleasure.

There will be contests for the best German costumes and photo opportunities for those who wish to capture their Oktoberfest memories.

So come on out on September 27 and 28 and help celebrate this 32-year tradition of putting on the best Oktoberfest in Cochise County.

We will begin each day with traditional cakes and coffee, followed by a full menu of traditional German cuisine including bratwurst, currywurst, baked chicken, potato salad, sauerkraut, pretzels, and pickles.

Let's not forget the German beer and a variety of wines to complete the authentic Oktoberfest experience. There will even be American beer for those who prefer to buy American.

Our sponsors, Huachuca Shuttle and Taxi and the Arizona Rangers, will ensure you get home safely. Or, if you prefer, stay the night at our sponsor hotel, Gateway Studio Suites, at the special Elks Oktoberfest rate of only \$70 per night.

Call 458-2065 for more information. Herzlich Willkommen vom your community Elks Lodge. We will see you there! Prost!

LATE AUTHOR CAPTURES CHIRICAHUA'S MAJESTY

Documenting a more than 65-year "love affair" with the wildlife and the majesty of the Chiricahua Mountains took more than a lifetime for Betty Jones, formerly of Willcox.

Jones, who died in October, 2017, captured her experiences as an explorer in "Range Roaming," a 300-page book that is both a companion guide and a personal journal of her experiences throughout the massive mountain range that defines much of the Sulphur Springs Valley.

Her brother and sister-in-law, Rob and Doris Jones, together with Willcox area residents Jana Riggs and Kathy Collins, finished editing and working on the book after Betty Jones died of cancer.

ROB JONES QUOTE HERE

Betty Jones didn't just write a complete digest about the Chiricahua Mountains, she lived it. Her first experience was during a Methodist Church camping trip when she was 12. For the rest of her life Jones would return to the mountain range spending hours studying birds, living off the land, hiking, fishing and investigating edible wild foods.

"Although I probably didn't reap the benefits expected from a church camp in the area of pious instruction, my time spent in the Chiricahuas as a youth did inspire a personal spiritual connection to the mountain range that still activates whenever I approach," Betty wrote in her book.

Betty Jones worked as a physical education teacher for the Tucson Unified School District until her retirement in 1973. She spent years after that - well into her 70s - packing up her truck and venturing into the mountains. In 2012, she moved permanently to Willcox and dedicated much of her time to her book.

"My life has been enriched from all the beauty and rewards the mountain range offers," Betty Jones writes in Range Roaming. "I've seen rock formations unique enough to be designated a National Monument and I have enjoyed views from mountain peaks that could grace the cover of a jigsaw puzzle box."

Following Betty's death in 2017, Rob and Doris Jones finished the book that required almost a lifetime of research and personal experiences to write. Range Roaming was published in December, 2018 and has been available for purchase at the annual "Wings Over Willcox" birdwatching event each January, as well as at the annual Tucson Festival of Books.

To find out more, or to purchase a copy of Range Roaming, email superabba15@gmail.com.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Deadline for the November 2019 issue of Currents featuring events for the months of December and January is October 12. Email information to epetermann@ssvec.com.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 21

Constitution Week Presentation Sierra Vista

A meeting of the Tombstone Chapter of the Arizona Society Daughters of the American Revolution (ASDAR) will be held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., featuring a presentation by Carolyn Keith on Constitution Week. While Independence Day is a beloved national holiday, fewer people know about Constitution Week, an annual commemoration of the living document that upholds and protects the freedoms central to our American way of life. For more information and reservations, call 378-4117.

SEPTEMBER 26

Spotlight on Speakers Huachuca City

Human Trafficking will be the topic at the first Spotlight on Speakers event, beginning at 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 26, at the Huachuca City Town Hall, 500 N. Gonzales Boulevard, in Huachuca City. Being close to an international border this topic is bringing Lucia Arteaga of the Arizona Attorney General's Office, in Phoenix, to Huachuca City to discuss how trackers find their victims, teenage girls. Also, steps teens can take to protect themselves. Grandparents, parents, teachers are encouraged to attend.

SEPTEMBER 26 TO 29

Cochise County Fair Douglas

The Cochise County Fair Association will host its 95th fair. The theme is "Cochise County may be a square but not our County Fair." Enjoy exhibits, live entertainment, fair food, livestock shows, contests, a carnival, and much more. Great times for the entire family so don't miss out! Admission for the fair is \$6 Adults, \$3 children ages 6 to 12, parking is \$3 per day.

Time: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Location: 3677 N. Leslie Canyon Rd, Douglas, AZ; Contact: (520) 364-3819 or www.cochisecountyfair.org.

SEPTEMBER 29

Lenio 5K Run/Walk

Please join us for our more than 20 years running the Paul Lenio 5K Run/Walk. The race starts at 8 a.m. for runners and walkers. Registration is on race morning from 7 to 8 a.m. at Pueblo Del Sol Country Club. Proceeds will benefit Casa de la Paz Hospice in memory of Paul Lenio. Fee is \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids.

Time: 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Location: 2770 Saint Andrews Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ; Contact: (520) 249-2984 or www.thundermountainrunningclub.org

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 3

See the night sky Patterson Observatory

The Patterson Observatory and the Huachuca Astronomy Club invite you to a public viewing of the night sky held once a month on the Thursday nearest to the first quarter moon. Weather permitting, you will be able to view the heavens with the 20-inch Patterson Telescope and other instruments. Among possible sights are craters of the crescent moon, gas giant planets Uranus and Neptune, double stars, various star clusters, nebula, planetary nebula and distant galaxies. This event depends on the weather. The telescope dome cannot be opened during rainfall or high winds and the event could be

cancelled due to weather conditions.

Time: 6:30 to 8 p.m.; Location: 1140 N. Colombo Ave., Sierra Vista, AZ; Contact: (520) 458-8278

OCTOBER 5, 6

Art in the Park Sierra Vista

Come see why Art in the Park is one of the Southwest's largest and most popular outdoor arts and craft fair. Stroll down aisles of returning and new vendors who offer various selections of fine art, photography, jewelry, pottery, and specialty food items. Mark your calendar today so you don't miss out on this favorite fall event.

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday; Location: 3105 E. Fry Blvd, Sierra Vista, AZ; Contact: (520) 803-7157.

OCTOBER 5

NAMI Sky Island Bike Tour Sierra Vista

Bicyclists of all ages and ability are welcome to ride on the 4th annual Sky Island Tour bike ride starting and finishing at the Windemere Hotel in Sierra Vista. The metric century (62 mile) ride kicks off at 7 a.m. and loops through Bisbee. Other rides and start times are: 44 mile ride, 7:30 a.m.; 30 mile ride, 8 a.m.; 20 mile ride, 8:30 a.m.; and 5 mile fun ride, 9 a.m. Sponsored by and benefiting the National Alliance on Mental Illness Southeast Arizona (NAMI SEAZ) and guided by Cochise Bicycle Advocates.

Time: 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Location: 2047 S. Hwy 92, Sierra Vista, AZ; Contact: (520) 459-3228 or http://skyislandtour.com

OCTOBER 5

Dine Under the Stars Sierra Vista

Saturday, October 5, from 6 to 9 p.m., the University South Foundation, Inc. will host its 18th Annual "Dine Under the Stars" Scholarship Fundraiser. Join the University South Foundation in a Mardi Gras Celebration on the University of Arizona Sierra Vista Campus while we raise scholarship funds for University of Arizona Sierra Vista and Douglas students.

Ticket reservations are available at the University South Foundation office at 1140 North Colombo and www.universitysouthfoundation.com/events. Ticket locations will be announced. For more information, call (520) 458-8278 ext. 2129. Ticket prices are \$50 Adult, \$25 Student (with valid ID) and \$15 Child (12 and under). MasterCard and Visa are accepted.

OCTOBER 5, 6

Wine-Tasting Tombstone

Come sample Arizona wines while celebrating the spirits of the "Town Too Tough to Die" on Saturday, October 5, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday, October 6, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Tombstone City Park, located next to the historic OK Corral. The event features live music, food and merchandise vendors. Raffle tickets will be on sale.

Tickets are \$15 per person and include a commemorative wine glass and five wine-tasting tickets. Additional wine-tasting tickets will be available for purchase.

This event is sponsored by the Tombstone Forward organization.

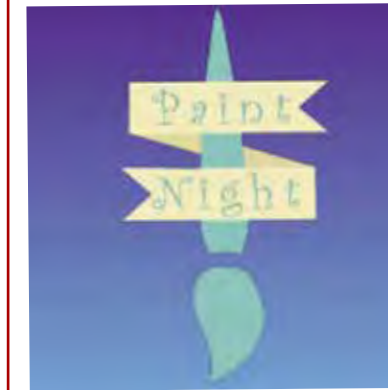
OCTOBER 10

Spotlight on Speakers Huachuca City

The story of America's First Territorial Church, 1882, will be presented beginning at 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 10, at the Huachuca City Town Hall, 500 N. Gonzales

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE WILLCOX THEATER?



Get your creative juices flowing at Willcox Theater and Arts this fall

Enjoy Paint Night on September 21 - Our instructor will help you create your painting in your own style, with our canvases and paints. Come with friends, family or by yourself, and leave with your finished painting. Check our website for Paint Nights in October and November.



If performing is your creative muse, join us Friday, September 27 for **Open Mic Night**. Voice, Instrument, Poetry, Stand-up - Solo or Group - show off your talent and enjoy your neighbor's as well. Also Friday, November 15. No charge to perform or attend, but performers must sign up in advance.



Saturday September 28 from 10 am to 3 pm is Open Lab time at our digital **smARTMAKER Lab**. It's your place for everything tech - with projects to tackle, expert help and equipment ranging from 3D printers to digital art to video, audio and photography. Program a video game, build a robot or design and print 3D art. Every fourth Saturday. No charge. Ages 10 and up.

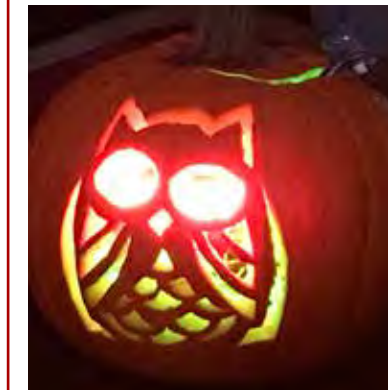


Willcox Theater and Arts, with Sulphur Springs Valley Historical Society, presents the **Brown-Bag History talk Terror on the Santa Fe Trail: Kit Carson and the Jicarilla Apache**, with speaker Doug Hocking. Thursday, October 10 at noon. Plus Thursday November 14, Bill Cavaliere will talk on Naiche: Last Hereditary Chief of the Chiricahua Apaches. No charge.



WTA is proud to presents the classic country sounds of Willcox' own Cindy Rae, in a solo act with her Dad's Gibson guitar, singing the classic country songs and relating her experiences with music and musicians. Friday, October 11 at 7 pm. No charge, but donations are welcome.

Our spooky **Halloween Dinner Theater** at Willcox Historic Theaters Studio 128 on Friday October 25 offers a creepy evening with a mystery dinner, a spine-tling classic scary film and who knows what other scary things.



Check our website for a complete schedule of upcoming events, performances, films, workshops and classes in art, photography, digital and computer art, plus unique cinema offerings, jam sessions, history talks, and much more.

Information and tickets at willcoxtheater.com or 520-766-3335



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE HUACHUCA CITY LIBRARY?

Spotlight on Speakers: Thursday at 10 a.m., speakers are featured at the Huachuca City Town Hall, 506 N. Gonzales Boulevard, in Huachuca City.

SEPTEMBER 26

Human Trafficking. Being close to an international border this topic is bringing Lucia Artega of the Arizona Attorney General's Office, in Phoenix, to Huachuca City to discuss how trackers find their victims, teenage girls. Also, steps teens can take to protect themselves. Grandparents, parents, teachers are encouraged to attend.

OCTOBER 10

The story of America's First Territorial Church, 1882. Local adobe bricks, imported chandeliers, Belgium stained glass all tell a story. Too, the intriguing people who made the church happen, including the financial donations of Tombstone's "scarlet ladies." Speaker is Jon Donahue, Tourism Director, Tombstone.

OCTOBER 24

Fort Huachuca, 1877. One of a chain of forts established to guard southern Arizona settlers, against the Chiricahua Apaches. Christopher T DeMille, Museums Education/Programs, Fort Huachuca Museums presents. Photo attached for this presentation if you can fit in.

SATURDAY SEMINARS WILL BEGIN ON OCTOBER 26!

On Saturday, October 26, the topic will be "Animals & Hauntings & Psychic Awakenings." The presentation begins at 10:30 a.m. and is scheduled to continue to 12:30 p.m. Paranormal experts Dwight and Rhonda Hull. Recently published books available for purchase and signing. \$10.

For more information, call Tuesday through Saturday, (520) 456-1063.

QUILTS AND MORE AT THE HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Sunsites Quilters Holiday Boutique, Saturday, November 2 from 8am till 3pm at the Sunsites Community Center on Treasure Road, off 191, in Sunsites.

Quilters, crafters, artists and writers offer their wares for your early holiday shopping pleasure in the comfort of an indoor setting. Items include quilts and hand sewn items, table runners, bags, hot pads; jewelry, pottery, books, and back again this year Kathryn the state licensed nail tech from Venue in Sierra Vista offering manicures on sight; Christmas items for decoration or gifts. Vintage toys.

Vendors are also located outdoors.

As always, parking and admission are free! Clean indoor restrooms. Food available.

Raffle tickets will be available for purchase for the gorgeous red, white and blue king-sized quilt, second prize also to be drawn. Winner chosen Saturday at 3. Need not be present to win!

Door prizes on the hour!

For more info contact Gail at gpenney@hotmail.com Or call Susan at: 520-826-1961.

Please note: Sunsites no longer has a gas station, so please gas up before making the trip!

CALENDAR

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Boulevard, in Huachuca City. Local adobe bricks, imported chandeliers, Belgium stained glass all tell a story. Too, the intriguing people who made the church happen, including the financial donations of Tombstone's "scarlet ladies." Speaker is Jon Donahue, Tourism Director, Tombstone.

OCTOBER 12

Cars in the Park

Sierra Vista

Take a stroll through a fantastic display of vintage cars at this premier annual event while listening to oldies and variety music. Check-in for participants 8 to 10 a.m., judging 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and awards at 3 p.m. There will be product and food vendors, a raffle, door prizes and more.

Time: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; 3105 E. Fry Blvd, Sierra Vista, AZ; Contact: (520) 249-9756 or <http://www.sierravistacarclub.org/>

OCTOBER 12, 13

Huachuca Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show

Sierra Vista

Each year for two days, the Huachuca Gem, Mineral & Jewelry show offers gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, lapidary equipment and much more for avid rock collectors and jewelers. There will be live demonstrations and educational displays, raffles, kid's games, and geode sales/cutting. A certified gemologist will be available for free identification of your puzzling gemstones. Food vendors will be on site. This year's mineral display will be from the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum.

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday; Location: 901 N. Colombo Ave.; Contact: (520) 417-6960, (520) 378-6291 or visit <http://www.huachucaminerallandgemclub.info/>.

OCTOBER 18, 19

Sierra Vista Community Chorus Gospel Concert

Sierra Vista

The annual gospel concert featuring the Sierra Vista Community Chorus and other voices will be held Friday, October 18 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, October 19 at 2 p.m. Both concerts will be performed at the Faith Presbyterian Church, 2053 Choctaw Drive in Sierra Vista.

The theme of the concert is "Sing for Joy!" This will be a "cost-free" performance, with a free-will offering opportunity. For more information, contact Chorus Director Sharon Keene, (520) 417-2305, or Martha Conklin, general manager, (520) 378-0730.

OCTOBER 19

Astronomy Event

Chiricahua Astronomy Complex

The Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association (TAAA) will be hosting Evening Under the Stars, a free star gazing event on Saturday, October 19, at their Chiricahua Astronomy Complex in the Turkey Creek area. The site will be open by 5:30 p.m. Activities will start at 6 p.m.

TAAA Members will have telescopes set up for your observing pleasure. Bottled water and light refreshments will be provided for your enjoyment. We need to know how many people will attend this event, so reservations are required. We ask that you respond by email and advise us of the number of attendees in your party and the number of vehicles. Driving directions will then be sent to you.

Please send your reservation request to John Kalas: jckalas@cox.net.

OCTOBER 19

Kartchner Caverns Star Party

Kartchner Caverns

Want to learn more about the stars and planets? Do you have any little ones curious about the cosmos? Then head to Kartchner Caverns, an International Dark Sky Park, for a star party! Star parties are popular draws for people who want to take advantage of the chance to learn from knowledgeable and experienced local astronomers. Who knows what will be in the sky? Volunteers from the Huachuca Astronomy Club will be setting up telescopes in the bus loading zone of the parking lot.

Time: 2 to 8 p.m., Location: Kartchner Caverns State Park, 2980 Hwy. 90, Benson, AZ. 85602, Contact: <https://azstateparks.com/kartchner/>

OCTOBER 24

Spotlight on Speakers

Huachuca City

Fort Huachuca, 1877 will be presented beginning at 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 10, at the Huachuca City Town Hall, 500 N. Gonzales Boulevard, in Huachuca City. One of a chain of forts established to guard southern Arizona settlers, against the Chiricahua Apaches. Christopher T DeMille, Museums Education/Programs, Fort Huachuca Museums presents. Photo attached for this presentation if you can fit in.

OCTOBER 26

Saturday Seminars Huachuca City

On Saturday, October 26, the topic will be "Animals & Hauntings & Psychic Awakenings." The presentation begins at 10:30 a.m. and is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



COMMUNITY CHORUS OFFERS YEAR 'ROUND FUN

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The theme of the concert is "Sing for Joy!"

This will be a "cost-free" performance, with a free-will offering opportunity. For more information, contact Chorus Director Sharon Keene, (520) 417-2305, or Martha Conklin, general manager, (520) 378-0730.

"Sing for Joy!" will feature inspirational, soul-stirring music performed by the Sierra Vista Community Chorus, and the women's barbershop chorus, ensembles, and soloists. The concert always closes with the song "House of Gold," by Hank Williams, and the audience is encouraged to sing along and clap their hands.

As the chorus has done each year, a free-will offering will be requested at each gospel concert to support a worthy charitable organization. This year, the entire collection goes to Volunteer Interfaith Caregiver Program (VICaP), a 501(c)(3) organization that has been providing services to the elderly, disabled, and homebound residents of the Sierra Vista area since 1994. Their goal is to help their neighbors continue to live independently and maintain their quality of life. VICaP services are free of charge to those needing service.

The award-winning Sierra Vista Community Chorus, under the direction of Sharon Keene, offers an opportunity for men and women of all ages to share in the joy of singing in four-part harmony. No auditions are necessary and there is no fee to join. Since singers use part-appropriate CDs to memorize their music, the



ability to read music is not required. Rehearsals are held every Monday at 9:30 a.m. at Kino Hall at St. Andrews the Apostle Catholic Church in Sierra Vista.

The chorus presents four concerts each year - the gospel concert in October, a Christmas Festival of Songs in December, Sweet Treats & Swingin' Sounds, a musical revue accompanied by wonderful homemade desserts in March, and a big spring concert in May. The 2020 spring concert will be based on Motown music.

In addition, the chorus and various ensembles perform for luncheons, dinners and for various community organizations throughout the year. Call (520) 417-2305 for information. There is no fee, though a donation is always welcome to help with the expenses accrued by this all-volunteer organization. In addition, as a community chorus they also share their music

frequently at the local care, rehabilitation, and assisted living facilities.

The Sierra Vista Community Chorus is financially-independent and relies on ticket sales and donations for the majority of its expenses. Donations are very welcome and help to purchase music, costumes, sound equipment and pay for the rental of performance venues. There are no paid positions in the chorus. All positions from the director to the singers, and all the work behind the scenes is a volunteer effort. To become a patron of the chorus or to make a donation of any size, please send checks payable to "SV Community Chorus Society, Inc." P.O. Box 2791, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-2791.

Learn more about them at their website SVCommunityChorus.org and at their Facebook address of Sierra Vista Community Chorus.

CALENDAR

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scheduled to continue to 12:30 p.m. Paranormal experts Dwight and Rhonda Hull. Recently published books available for purchase and signing. \$10. The event will be held at the Huachuca City Library, 506 N. Gonzales Boulevard, Huachuca City.

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 2 White Elephant Sale

Sierra Vista

The 45th annual Christmas Bazaar, hosted by the Ladies of St. Andrew's, will be held Saturday, November 2, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, 800 N. Taylor Drive, in Sierra Vista. Lunch will be served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring Filipino, Mexican and German food. The "Huge White Elephant Sale" will feature handmade crafts, baked goods, a book sale, jewelry and Christmas items. There will also be a raffle.

The Ladies of St. Andrew's was established to encourage the Christian community spirit of each member to perform charitable works for the Parish community and to provide every woman in the Parish family the opportunity and means to meet with one another in spiritual and social actions.

With willing hands and loving hearts through our programs and fund raisers we support the accomplishment of Our Lord's work in the Parish and Community.

NOVEMBER 10

Hymn Festival

Sierra Vista

Everyone is invited to join the 12th Annual Community Hymn Festival, "Give Thanks and Sing," on November 10, beginning at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's

Church, 800 Taylor Dr. Sierra Vista. The event will offer an opportunity to say thanks for our many blessings, as well as recognize our military veterans. All are invited to be part of the event, either as a member of the Hymn Festival Choir, or as a member of the assembly. The choir will perform "I Bring a Heart of Thanks to You" by Pepper Choplin.

This is a free event. An offering will be taken to benefit a local veterans' organization. For additional information on being part of the choir, or general information about the Hymn Festival, call (520) 456-5555.

NOVEMBER 11 Veterans Day Parade

Sierra Vista

The 26th Annual City of Sierra Vista Veterans Day Parade will be held on Monday, November 11. The parade will begin at 9 a.m. Parade route will run down Fry Blvd., beginning at 7th street, ending at Veterans Memorial Park. A short ceremony will follow in Veterans Memorial Park.

Time: 9 am; Location: Fry Blvd., beginning at 7th Street, Sierra Vista, AZ; Contact: (520) 458-7922.

NOVEMBER 12

Sunizona Turkey Dinner

The 15th Annual Sunizona-Ash Creek Community Association Turkey Dinner will be held Tuesday, November 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Association Hall behind Mustang Mall. Adult dinners are \$8, children 10 and under are \$4. There will be lots of door prizes and a raffle for a Henry .22 Gauge U.S. Survival AR-7 Semi-Automatic Rifle. You do not have to be present to win the raffle. Come join us for some good food and friendly conversation. For tickets or more information contact Stella Brown (520) 780-1521 or Maryclare Tiu (520) 429-5580.

NOVEMBER 14, 15, 16 Holiday A'Fair

Sierra Vista

The 43rd annual Holiday A'Fair Arts & Craft Show will be held Thursday and Friday, November 14 and 15, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, November 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Cochise College Student Union, on the Sierra Vista campus at 901 N. Colombo Avenue. This is Sierra Vista's premiere holiday art and craft sale!

NOVEMBER 21 Night sky viewing

Patterson Observatory

The Patterson Observatory and the Huachuca Astronomy Club invite you to a public viewing of the night sky held once a month on the Thursday nearest to the first quarter moon. Weather permitting, you will be able to view the heavens with the 20-inch Patterson Telescope and other instruments. Among possible sights are craters of the crescent moon, gas giant planets Uranus and Neptune, double stars, various star clusters, nebula, planetary nebula and distant galaxies.

Please note this event depends on the weather. The telescope dome cannot be opened during rainfall or high winds and the event could be cancelled due to weather conditions.

Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m.; Location: 1140 N. Colombo Ave., Sierra Vista, AZ; Contact: (520) 458-8278

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 7 Christmas in Elgin

Elgin, 10 a.m.

The 9th annual "Christmas in Elgin," a fine arts and crafts festival, will be held on Saturday, December 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the historic Elgin Community

Clubhouse located at 475 Elgin Road in Elgin. This event features local artisans, unique gift items, festive decorations, seasonal music and raffles. For lunch, chili and cornbread will be served. Santa will be available for photos from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and there will be Christmas Alpacas for the children to meet and pet. Come enjoy the beauty of Elgin wine country, make new friends and shop for the holidays. Contact Brett Smith (520) 732-1736 with any questions.



FAIR FOOD IS FUN FOOD!

BY CHEF CHRIS

Like peanuts and Cracker Jack at a ball game, certain foods are synonymous with a county fair. Frequently fried, often on a stick, and rarely in the “good for you” category, nobody leaves a fair hungry. Indeed, there are more than a few vows made as exiting to never eat another this or that again... until next year!

We eat things at a fair that we wouldn't dare eat anywhere else. What comes over us? Many of the things we gorge on can only be found at such an event, which is definitely part of their lure, but there is just something about being at a county fair that causes us to throw caution to the wind with our digestive tract.

“Novelty” and “fun” are prevailing descriptors for fair food, along with “deep fried” and “sugar coated.” There isn't much that somebody hasn't tried to deep fry, with most of us concluding that battered and fried is definitely better - at least while strolling the fair.

Fried Pickles have become the latest favorite fried food. They must be sampled to be appreciated, hence no recipe here. I hadn't even known of their existence until a friend from Michigan shrieked with glee when she saw them offered as a pizza topping recently. That said, the earliest record of fried pickles was way back in 1962, so they took their time becoming a trend. The number of fried pickle devotees is growing exponentially these days thanks to county fairs.

Another constant at these annual events is food on a stick. The variety of foods - and even whole complex dishes - that can be served on a stick is staggering. The Iowa State Fair, the GrandDaddy of all fairs, boasts a whopping 69 different options of food on a stick. The list includes sausage stuffed waffles, capri salad, deep fried tater dogs, and deep fried cherry pies all on a stick, just to name a few.

What all these ingenious and irresistible foods have in common, besides the fun factor, is that they are all meant to be eaten on the go. This allows us a modicum of comfort knowing that we are at least getting our steps in as we eat four times the suggested number of calories per day.

Although fair food tastes best at the fair, of course, homemade will always have that most elusive of ingredients, love. I loved making these for you, and I'm certain your family will get a thrill from making and eating these in the comfort of your own home too.

BAKED NOT FRIED

We love fried food, but it doesn't always love us. Too much can take a toll on us in a number of ways. To avoid frying sometimes, a favorite trick of mine is a dusting of paprika. It will give your fritters, potatoes, and lots of other traditionally fried foods that lovely golden color we love so much, but without all the oil. Paprika is more of an aromatic than a real spice, so it won't affect flavor dramatically.

This, of course, won't work with donuts or funnel cakes.



FUNNEL CAKES

These are as much fun to make as they are to eat, and are surprisingly simple to prepare. Older kids will love getting in on the action of making them. Hot oil can swiftly spoil all the fun, though, so let's be careful out there!

About 6 cakes
 1 cup flour
 Healthy ½ tsp. baking powder
 2 tsp. cinnamon
 Few grates nutmeg
 Pinch of salt
 ¾ cup milk
 2 Tbsp. sugar
 1 egg
 1 tsp. vanilla
 Oil for frying
 Powdered sugar, as needed
 Fruit, caramel, whipped cream, optional

Mix the dry ingredients together in a medium bowl. Mix the wet ingredients together in another bowl.

Heat a small skillet with about ½ inch of oil. Add wet ingredients to dry and mix until just combined, then place in a squeeze bottle or zipper bag with a corner cut off.

When oil is hot, check for sizzle with a tiny amount of batter, squeeze batter into the oil in little loops to form a round cake. Let cook until golden brown, about 1-2 minutes, then carefully flip with tongs and a flat spatula. Let cook another minute or until golden on both sides.

Transfer to paper towels to drain about 30 seconds, then sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve. Top with optional ingredients if using. Repeat with remaining batter.



To keep from over doing with a giant funnel cake, you can make minis. Although pulling them apart and sharing with a friend is half the fun of a funnel cake!

APPLE HAND PIES

You don't need to worry about “perfect” crust with these little cutie pies. They are made with biscuit dough from a can! You know, the one we use to whack on the edge of the counter to open? Well, now we're encouraged to press a spoon into a seam, which isn't quite as much fun, but it still makes the satisfying “pop” that we love.

Feel free to use the idea to make any kind of pie you like, sweet or savory. The dough is forgiving enough that even the littlest of kids can help make these. Egg wash will make them extra golden and irresistible, but is optional

Makes 8 mini pies
 1 can biscuit dough
 4 apples (I like Granny Smith)
 3 Tbsp. flour
 ¼ cup brown sugar
 Pinch salt

Few shakes of cinnamon
 Few grates of nutmeg
 Squeeze of lemon juice

Open the dough and separate the biscuits, then place on a sheet pan in the freezer for 10 minutes. Cut the apples into small pieces (smaller than for a normal pie).

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Using a serrated knife, split the biscuits in half. Lightly flour the counter and roll out each piece of dough to about 3-4 inches. Place 8 pieces on a baking sheet and top each with about 3 Tbsp. of apples. Mixture can mound slightly, but edges must be clear. Reroll remaining dough as needed to ensure it will cover the base, then place on top of apples.

Dip a fork in flour and seal the edges of each pie well. Egg wash if desired. Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until deep golden brown. Let cool and enjoy.

CORN AND SCALLION FRITTERS

I don't know about you, but when I hear fritter, I say, “Yes, please!” This version has a nice biscuit-y texture that I love. They make a novel side dish and reheat well, so they're good for entertaining. They can be baked rather than fried if you are having funnel cakes for dessert.

Use either fresh kernels off the cob or defrosted frozen corn. I like them plain, but you could serve them with ranch dressing if you like.

1 cup flour
 1 tsp. baking powder
 Pinch salt
 1 egg
 2 Tbsp. melted butter

6 Tbsp. milk
 1 cup corn
 3 scallions finely chopped
 Oil for frying

Mix the flour, baking powder and salt together in a medium bowl. In another bowl, mix the egg, butter, and milk together, then add to dry ingredients and mix until just moistened. Fold in the corn and scallions.

Heat a medium skillet with about ½ inch of oil. When hot (check with a tiny piece of batter), spoon 2 Tbsp. dollops of batter into oil, flattening slightly once they are in the pan. Let cook until golden brown, 1-2 minutes, then carefully turn and cook another minute or so until golden on both sides. Remove to paper towels to drain. Serve immediately or make ahead and gently reheat in the oven.

