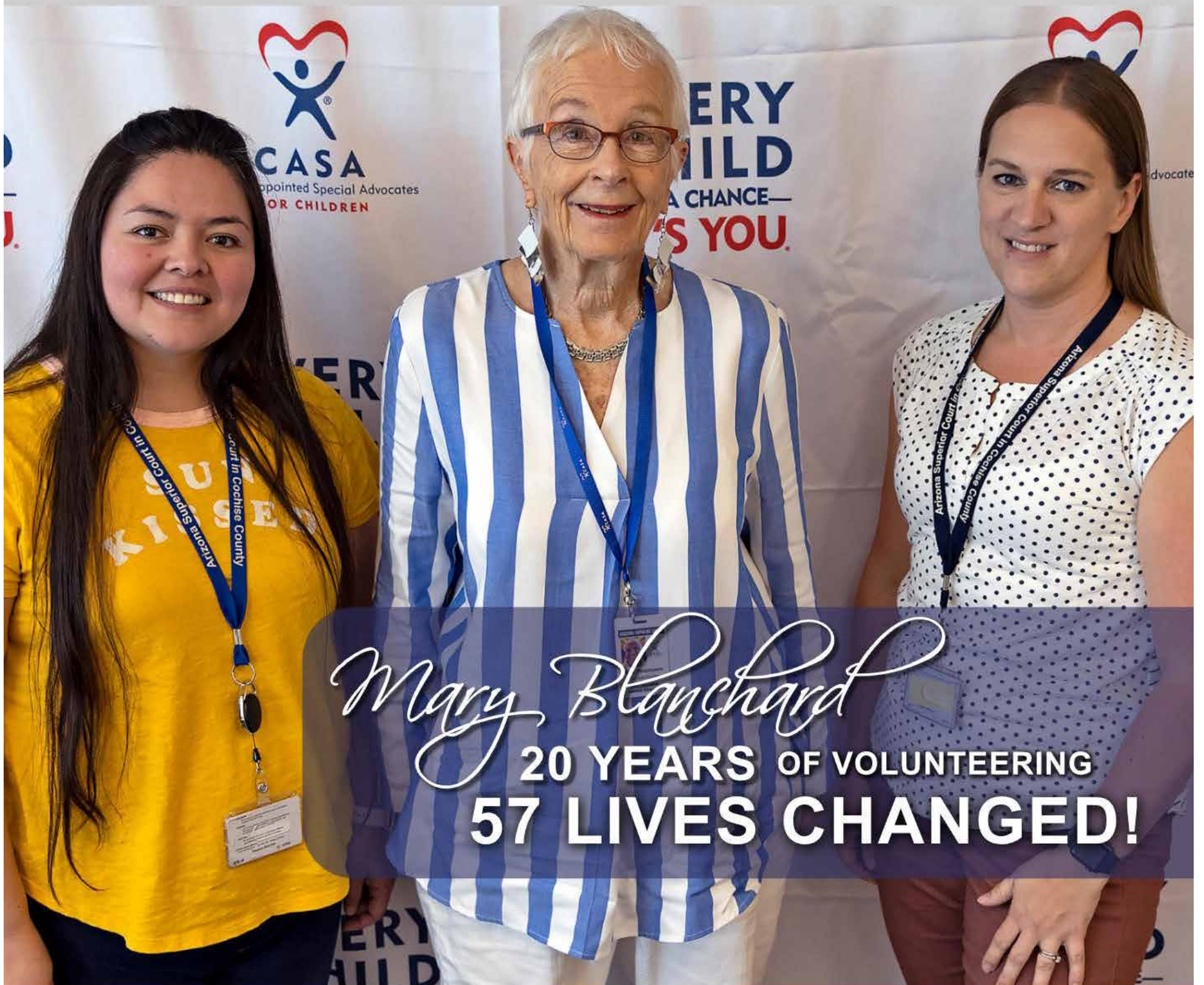


Currents

SULPHUR SPRINGS VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP

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Mary Blanchard

20 YEARS OF VOLUNTEERING
57 LIVES CHANGED!



INSIDE: “Now pitching for the Houston Astros...” (Page 11)

2021 JULY & AUGUST



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Touchstone Energy®

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It's an investment, not just a utility bill

In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it is easy to classify your electric bill as simply another monthly financial obligation. Many of us do not think twice about utility bills, recognizing them only as a charge for services rendered.

In fact, the statement you receive from Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) is much more than "...just another bill." Since our members own the Cooperative, the money paid to SSVEC can be compared to making an investment.

Our members hold an equity position in the Cooperative, and after more than 83 years, that investment continues to increase in value and pays dividends in the forms of reliable service, affordability, and capital credits.

Cooperatives represent a unique business model that seeks to benefit the members. Unlike an investor-owned utility that strives to provide a financial return to those with holdings in the company, cooperatives are guided by seven principles that serve the best

interests of members, youth, and the community. Decision-making is accomplished by democratically elected leadership and "profits", or margins earned by the cooperative, are returned to the members.

Formed in 1938, SSVEC has adhered to those seven principles and steadily increased its service area, improved its reliability, maintained its affordability, and for the past 20 years consistently paid sizable capital credits to its members.

Today, SSVEC is the largest electric cooperative in Arizona with among the lowest kilowatt-hour rates in the state and among the fastest service restoration times in the nation. Thanks to the investment decisions approved by the SSVEC Board of Directors, our electric distribution grid is reliable and modern. Our financial position continues to improve, eliminating the need to borrow funds to maintain and enhance SSVEC infrastructure for the past four years.

Since the formation of SSVEC, almost \$25 million in capital credits – margins earned by the Cooperative – have been

retired and paid to our members. Most of those credits, more than \$17 million, have been retired since 2003.

At the same time, the equity position of our members has steadily increased. In 2020, SSVEC members held approximately 48 percent equity in the Cooperative, a percentage that has increased steadily over the past decade. The strong position allowed SSVEC to earn an "A" credit rating from Fitch Ratings, a recognized Wall Street credit rating agency, which in turn dramatically lowered interest rates for SSVEC and has saved millions of dollars in long term interest payments.

It has taken decades of consistent investment by SSVEC members, wise decision-making by our Board of Directors, and the dedication of our employees to achieve these ongoing goals of reliable and affordable electric service. We're not done.

Maintaining our service and continuing to invest in renewable energy sources while adapting to dramatic changes in our community are demanding challenges that we are committed to achieving.



CREDEN W. HUBER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SULPHUR SPRINGS VALLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Thanks to your continuing investment in this Cooperative, we are confident in a bright future that assures reliable and affordable electricity for our members.

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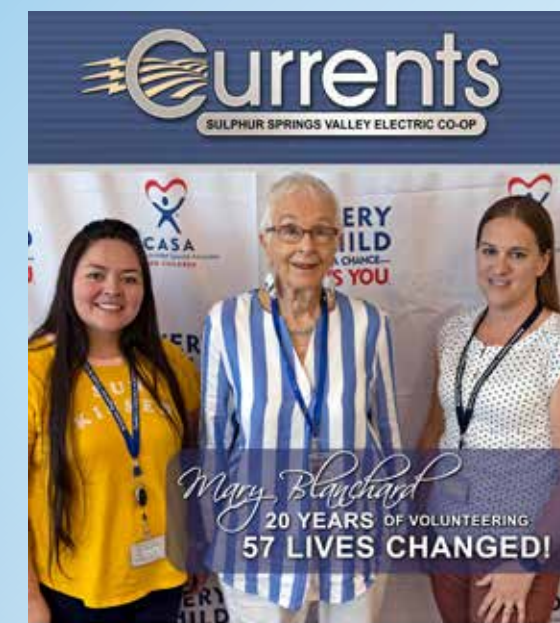
Should Sierra Vista City Council use a "Wards System"?

Should loaded guns be allowed in cars on school grounds?

8 ON THE COVER

Mary Blanchard, center, has served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for more than 20 years. During that time she's worked with no less than 57 children who are victims of abuse, neglect, or other circumstances that result in intervention by the Arizona Department of Child Safety. In this edition of Currents we will talk to Mary about her dedication as a CASA volunteer and her experiences. On the cover, Mary is joined by Lisette Borbon, left, Program Manager, and Abigail Dodge, right, Division Director for the CASA program.

Cover art by Larry Scott.



NEXT EDITION

Getting back to "normal" after the pandemic means it's time to return to bull riding! For our September/October edition we'll have features and information on the upcoming fairs in Cochise and Santa Cruz counties, as well as the annual Where They Buck bull riding event in Sierra Vista. We're looking forward to resuming the activities that make it great to be a cowboy and providing our readers with all the information they need to have fun at these festivities.

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Annual meeting prize winners

We have winners! Each year at the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) annual meeting, members who attend are eligible to win prizes. Names are randomly selected and everything from gift cards to the grand prize of a retired SSVEC vehicle are awarded to lucky winners.

For the past two years, prize selection has continued although not at the annual meeting due to the pandemic. As happened last year, community members and Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Melany Edwards-Barton witnessed the random selection of prize winners. This year the drawing was held May 10 in the Board Conference Room at the SSVEC Office Building at 311 E. Willcox Drive in Sierra Vista.

The list of winners and the prizes they received are listed elsewhere on this page. Ajanae Lee of Sierra Vista was the winner of the SSVEC vehicle being retired. She won a 2006 Ford Expedition. The vehicle has all-wheel drive, room for eight-passengers, and just over 166,000 miles on the odometer. Ajanae picked up her prize at the SSVEC Construction and Maintenance Yard at 1348 Giulio Cesare Ave, in Sierra Vista.

She was accompanied by her parents, Tim and Allisha Lee.

Next year the 84th SSVEC annual meeting will again be held in April on a date and at a location to be determined. Stay tuned for details on next year's grand prize!



2021 ANNUAL MEETING PRIZE DRAWING			
2006 Ford Expedition	Ajanae L. Sierra Vista	\$50 Bill Credit	Renee R. Benson
\$100 Gift Card	James K. Sierra Vista	\$50 Bill Credit	Allie F. Sierra Vista
\$50 Gift Card	Daniel K. Hereford	\$50 Bill Credit	Linda H. Sierra Vista
\$50 Gift Card	Kristen S. Elgin	\$50 Bill Credit	Bruce W. Sierra Vista
\$50 Gift Card	Richard M. Sierra Vista	\$50 Bill Credit	Derek C. Benson
\$50 Gift Card	Ken C. Sierra Vista	\$50 Bill Credit	Donald P. Huachuca City
\$50 Bill Credit	James G. Sierra Vista	\$50 Bill Credit	Anna N. Willcox
\$50 Bill Credit	Marcia A. Sierra Vista	\$50 Bill Credit	Arlinda M. San Simon
\$50 Bill Credit	John A. Sierra Vista	\$50 Bill Credit	David T. Sierra Vista
\$50 Bill Credit	Dickie F. Benson	\$50 Bill Credit	Les P. Willcox
\$50 Bill Credit	Mark E. Sierra Vista	\$50 Bill Credit	Shelly L. Sierra Vista
\$50 Bill Credit	Laura B. Elgin	\$50 Bill Credit	Karen V. Sierra Vista
\$50 Bill Credit	Maria R. Sierra Vista	\$50 Bill Credit	F. W. B. Patagonia
\$50 Bill Credit	Jose M. Sierra Vista	\$50 Bill Credit	M. Y. Willcox
\$50 Bill Credit	Judith R. Sierra Vista	\$50 Bill Credit	Jessica O. Sierra Vista
\$50 Bill Credit	Anthony G. Benson	\$50 Bill Credit	Erin B. Patagonia
\$50 Bill Credit	Kathleen W. McNeal	\$50 Bill Credit	Armando S. Sierra Vista
\$50 Bill Credit	Tim S. Benson	\$50 Bill Credit	Sylvia R. Sierra Vista
\$50 Bill Credit	Rita A. Willcox	\$50 Bill Credit	Renee D. Sierra Vista
\$50 Bill Credit	Maikai W. Sierra Vista	\$50 Bill Credit	Art R. Pearce
\$50 Bill Credit	William B. Sierra Vista		

2021 Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative Foundation Scholarship Winners

Victoria Hockenbury Benson	Nephi Higginbotham St. David
Darian Grason Judd Benson	Kason Jacquez St. David
Sarah Emmalee Lyman Benson	Brandon Redenbo Tombstone
Myranda Sutton Benson	Alexis Thompson Tombstone
Eliza Dawn Lambson Buena	McKenna O'Malley Valley Union
Amiya C. Matthews Buena	Donna Jackson Veritas Christian Community
Madison Monbleau Buena	Sofia Olsen Veritas Christian Community
Kaitlyn Sutliff Buena	Amanda Whalen Veritas Christian Community
Ashlyn Farris Homeschool	Kennedy Cook Willcox
Chesed Chap Patagonia	Santana Marie Fuentes Willcox
Hannah Young Patagonia	Jack W. Owen Willcox
Ananda Montgomery Primavera Online	Khezialine Rose G. Perolino Willcox
Mikala Driscoll San Simon	Bridger Sanborn Willcox
Destiny Marie Trent San Simon	Brady Thompson Willcox

Scholarship winners



McKenna O'Malley, of Valley Union High School, received one of the 30 scholarships awarded by the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative Foundation. The \$3,000 award was presented by SSVEC Community Relations Coordinator Marcus Harston.



Benson High School graduates Darian Judd, right, Sarah Emmalee Lyman, center, and Myranda Sutton, second from the left, received SSVEC Foundation scholarships of \$3,000 during an award ceremony in May. SSVEC Board of Directors President Dan Barrera made the presentation.

St. David High School graduates Kason Jacquez, right, Julia Dahl, second from right, Claire Daley, center, and Nephi Higginbotham, second from left, received SSVEC Foundation scholarships of \$3,000 during an award ceremony in May. The awards were presented by SSVEC Community Relations Coordinator Marcus Harston.

SSVEC Linemen rescue bear

The following article was published in Rural Electric (RE) magazine, a nationally-circulated trade publication serving the electric industry. The article was written by Victoria A. Rocha, a staff writer for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), with reprint permission granted by the magazine's editor, Scot Hoffman. The photos were provided by Werner Neubauer and Efrén Gallego, linemen at Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC).

Utility lineworkers use hot sticks to engage safely with live power lines. But Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative's (SSVEC) Werner Neubauer knows from 18 years of experience that the 8-foot fiberglass poles also come in handy during animal rescues.

The foreman at the Willcox, Arizona-based co-op recently used the tool to coax a young male bear down a power pole on a highway in remote Cochise County.

Neubauer learned about the wayward bear June 7 from two employees and set out in a bucket truck to investigate with line apprentice Efrén Gallego. They found the bear atop a 40-foot pole, draped between the cross arm and the cross-arm braces, his paws resting on the pole's neutral conductor.

"When we got there, we saw that the bear was in a dangerous spot," said Neubauer. "He could have been electrocuted pretty easy. His head was right by an energized, 7,200-volt phase. If he touched it, he would have been dead."

Immediately, both men de-energized the line at the primary breaker located down the road. Then they got to work. Gallego stayed on the road and Neubauer—with his hot stick—went up in the bucket.

That's when the bear engaged in a little game of peekaboo.

"When I was going up towards him, he tucked his face under his front arm and covered his eyes and wasn't looking at me like he was trying to hide from me," said Neubauer. "It was kind of funny."

Games aside, Neubauer began talking to the bear and used the stick to gently nudge the animal down the pole.

"He wasn't very cooperative at first, and he was probably getting irritated with me. But, after a few minutes, I was able to get him out from between the cross arm and the cross-arm braces. Once he got out of that spot, he climbed down the pole on his own and then ran off."

Neubauer has saved other animals stuck on top of power poles, such as raccoons and cats. A few months ago, he retrieved a bobcat using the hot stick.

"I couldn't get it to climb down, so I actually made up a pole snare type of deal and got it around that bobcat's waist to keep it away from me. He wasn't very happy about it. I took it to the ground and then released it. That wasn't an option with a 100-pound bear!"



Board of Directors

The retirement of two board members and the swearing in of three directors has highlighted recent events for the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) Board of Directors.



At the April 28, 2021 meeting in Willcox, Board President Dan Barrera and SSVEC Chief Executive Officer Creden Huber honored two retiring members of the board. Longtime board member Gene Manning (above) received a plaque of appreciation for his service, as did board member James Johnson (right).



At the May 19, 2021 meeting newly-elected and veteran board members took their oath of office to begin their three-year term. From the left, Lex Herron, Kathy Thatcher, and Dave Kelso were sworn in at the meeting. Mr. Herron was elected as the District 9 (Sierra Vista) board member, Ms. Thatcher will continue her service on the board representing District 1 (Willcox), and Mr. Kelso was elected to represent District 13 (Hereford-Sierra Vista).

New streetlights

SSVEC linemen worked at erecting street lights at the Canãda Subdivision in Sierra Vista. The development is being built out by R.L. Workman and will feature large lots. It is located west of Coronado Drive between the intersections of Busby and Golf Links. Those working include Matt Moreno kneeling on the left (Journeyman Lineman) and Adolfo Marmolejo standing with back to the camera (Apprentice Lineman). The photo below features Moreno at the base of the pole on the right, Marmolejo at the base on the left and Chuck Ugalde in the bucket (Journeyman Lineman).



Northern Cochise Community Hospital aligns with TMC HealthCare

Northern Cochise Community Hospital joined TMC HealthCare on June 1 — bringing additional medical resources and stability to the residents of southeastern Arizona.

“Living in a rural area, access to health care can often be a challenge. Northern Cochise Community Hospital has been a trusted health care provider since its inception and the importance of having accessible health care close to home has become even more evident during the COVID pandemic,” said Steve Metts, chairman of the Northern Cochise Community Hospital Board of Directors. “The decision to align more closely with TMC HealthCare was made to ensure the communities we serve continue to have access to health care for many years to come.”

The NCCH board has identified three key ingredients for long-term success:

- Stronger alignment with a larger system to improve care coordination and financial performance
- Community support, including renewal of the health care district tax in November
- Enhancement of services and programs offered by NCCH

“Community support is critical to maintaining acute-care services in our community,” said Metts. “Having our community’s support by utilizing services at Northern Cochise Community Hospital and the continuation of the healthcare tax district is essential to the continuation of services for our residents.”

NCCH has had a long relationship with TMC HealthCare, including being a founding member of the Southern Arizona Hospital Alliance (SAHA) in 2015.

“TMC HealthCare is pleased to form a closer relationship with NCCH and welcome the Northern Cochise hospital into our system of care,” said Judy Rich, president and CEO, TMC HealthCare. “From our work in SAHA, we are familiar with the NCCH team and look forward to working with staff, physicians and the community going forward.”

Northern Cochise Community Hospital retains its community board and the tax district board will continue to be elected by the community. Mo Sheldon will continue to lead the organization as its chief executive officer.

NCCH is the sole provider of acute-care hospital services in Northern Cochise County. The hospital continues to be critical to the region’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of care for COVID patients in the emergency department and on inpatient units, through testing and, now through vaccinations.

“We have a long history of working together on SAHA and, like NCCH, TMC HealthCare is community-focused. Tucson Medical Center is the hospital of choice for so many in our community when the level of care needed exceeds the capacity of our rural hospital. In fact, the vast majority of our referrals are transferred to TMC,” said Sheldon. “We believe a closer alignment will allow us to better coordinate care for those in need of transfer and, perhaps, allow us to keep more of those patients closer to home.”

TMC HealthCare is a nonprofit regional health system anchored by Tucson Medical Center. Benson Hospital became affiliated with TMC HealthCare in 2018 and became a subsidiary in 2021. Rincon Neighborhood Hospital, a new 60-bed hospital on the TMC HealthCare Rincon campus in southeast Tucson, is expected to open in 2023.



WEST POINT GRAD

credits Boys and Girls Club

Adrian Garlant looked forward to this time. After graduating from West Point military academy in May, Adrian was longing for endless days with friends and family, catching up on his sleep, and escaping the pressure to perform.

After just a few weeks, that changed. Second Lieutenant Garlant is now looking forward to his first assignment as a Field Artillery officer at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, beginning July 20, 2021.

“I’ll figure it out as I go,” he quipped in a recent interview. “I’m excited to get started and I have a five-year commitment, and after that I’ll figure out what’s next.”

Garlant is a 2017 Buena High School graduate, finishing in the top 10 percent of his class. He credits the Sierra Vista Boys and Girls Club for some of his success.

“When I was a junior staff member at the club it really taught me the importance of serving as a role model for the younger kids,” Adrian said. “When I became an upperclassman at West Point, it was similar. It was important to lead by example.”

Garlant was enrolled in the Club at eight-years-old and became a junior staff member when he started high school. “He was great,” said Jay Hamwright, Chief Professional Officer at the Club. “Adrian was always there helping out and making the club and the experience of our kids much better.”

Garlant’s stepfather, Chris Clark, who served 10 years in the Army, played an important role in inspiring Adrian to join the military. Adrian’s brother, Antonio, is also in the Army, serving at Fort Lewis in the state of Washington. Antonio is a Sergeant who is part of the Signal Corps where his job is a Signal Support Systems Specialist.

“I knew I wanted to go to West Point from the time I was in sixth grade,” Adrian said. “My family’s background and my interest in the Army inspired me to set that as my goal.”

He was one of four graduating seniors from Arizona’s Second Congressional District to be nominated by then-U.S. Representative Martha McSally in 2017. Adrian also interned for McSally for one year in her Sierra Vista office. His original class at the prestigious United States Military Academy totaled about 1,200 “plebes” – the equivalent of a college freshman – and finished with about 970 commissioned officers.

Days began about 6:30 a.m. with breakfast, followed by classes until 11:30 a.m. “The food is better than you might think. There’s a common misconception that Army food is bad, but what I experienced was pretty good,” Adrian said.

During “Commandant Hours,” in the afternoon on every other day, cadets would occasionally gather for a presentation from impressive speakers, including high-ranking military officers or other notably public figures.

Classes resumed at 1:30 and continued until 4 p.m., followed by dinner and evenings doing homework. Cadets would also gather for drills, practicing marching in parades, and other activities.

“Really, one of the big lessons you learn at West Point is time management,” Garlant quipped.



Second Lieutenant Ricardo Damiani, left, a close personal friend of Adrian Galant, and Christopher Clark, right, Adrian’s stepfather, pinned Adrian at the United States Military Academy graduation in May.

“You have to become good at time management if you’re going to keep up with all that your responsibilities.”

During the fall, Saturday afternoons required attendance at Army football games when the team played at home.

“Everybody’s got to attend the game and support the team,” Garlant said.

Garlant majored in nuclear engineering at West Point. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation.

As part of a tradition at the commissioning ceremony, Adrian picked who would be his first salute. He picked his brother, Antonio, who holds the rank of Sergeant as a non-commissioned officer in the Army.

“It’s something we’ll always share, but I know I’ll never live it down,” Adrian quipped.

In addition to the local Boys and Girls Club, Adrian credits all those who helped him along the way in his accomplishment.

“It took a village to get to where I am at, my mother has always been there for me unconditionally and for that I am thankful.

“My stepfather raised me as his own and inspired me to go Army, thank you.

“My brothers, who always make sure I stay focused. Pastor Pat with Calvary Chapel, who attended my USMA graduation, thank you.

“The Boys and Girls Club of Sierra Vista, for having a great program where kids can be safe in a great environment. Finally, all those who wrote letters of recommendation on my behalf, thank you.

“Without all these individuals I would not be where I am today, I am blessed.”



Adrian Galant, right, takes the oath of office following his graduation from West Point. The oath was administered by Lieutenant Colonel Russell Lemler, left.



Adrian Galant, center, is presented his diploma upon his graduation from the United States Military Academy by Lieutenant General Darryl Williams.



Following a long-standing tradition upon graduation from West Point, Adrian Galant, left, made his first salute to his brother, Antonio Galant, who is also in the Army, serving at Fort Lewis in the state of Washington. Antonio is a Sergeant who is part of the Signal Corps where his job is a Signal Support Systems Specialist.

SAFETY IN PRACTICE

Less than two weeks after a safety presentation on April 28 by Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative personnel and unfortunate incident at National Pecan proved the importance of knowing what to do in a dangerous situation.

A worker at the San Simon company accident drove a tractor into a power pole, causing a charged electrical line to fall across the vehicle. The driver knew exactly what to do as a result of recent training and was safely evacuated from the tractor. No one was hurt as a result of the incident and SSVEC responded to shut power off and replace the pole within hours after the accident.

If you are interested in setting up a safety presentation for your company, contact Key Accounts Manager Cory East at 520.515.3473, or on his cellphone at 520.678.7657



Award Winner

Orson Garnsey, right, Chief Information and Technology Officer at Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, received the Company of the Month award from Rotary Club of Sierra Vista Officer Kirby Chapman. The honor recognizes a local organization for its contributions to the betterment of the community.

John Peebles, right, Application Support Technician III at Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, received the Employee of the Month award from Rotary Club of Sierra Vista Officer Kirby Chapman. The honor recognizes a local employee for their contributions to the betterment of the community.





Twenty years, 57 lives changed

She's never lost her passion to help kids. For 20 years as a middle school teacher and the past 20 as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Mary Blanchard has been making a difference in her community and changing lives.

Ms. Blanchard has worked with 57 children as CASA volunteer and has never left a case during her tenure.

Court Appointed Special Advocates is a court-based organization of volunteers who work for juvenile court judges to support the best interests of abused and neglected children so that every child can be safe, have a permanent home, and the opportunity to thrive.

In Cochise County there were 128 "open" cases involving 208 children as of June 17, with about one-third of those children being served by CASAs.

"We're always looking for more volunteers," said Abigail Dodge, Director of the local CASA organization. "People who are willing to invest themselves in the lives of these children are making a positive difference for the child and improving their community."

That's some of the reason Mary Blanchard is so special. She started as a volunteer after retiring in 2001 from the former Apache Middle School.

"I always wanted the 'tough' kids in my class," she recalls. "We seemed to have an understanding and it was rewarding to make progress and bond with these kids."

Shortly after putting down the chalk and stepping out of the classroom, Mary joined the CASA program.

"This is what I do now. It's a full-time job and I truly enjoy it."

Mary has advocated for kids of all ages including infants and older teens during her two decades of volunteer service to the organization. She has been named "CASA of the Year" three times and has earned a statewide reputation for her dedication and contributions to the program.

She has also made lifelong friends.

"I have kids who keep in touch," she said.

"My oldest is now 37 and we're working together to help her daughter."

Her longest case spanned four years, during which time Mary took on other cases. She is current serving as a CASA for two cases and even at age 83 has no plans to stop volunteering.

"You have to love being with kids," she said. "I learned to like it when I was in middle school, and that's where I learned everything I needed to serve as a CASA."

Mary said the Cochise County CASA

organization has evolved over time. When she joined, in September 2000, the group was more social, with volunteers gathering regularly.

"Everybody knew everybody, and we all wanted to work with kids to make a difference." Today, while the mission of the organization has not changed, more CASAs are working full-time jobs and they utilize email, texting, and other electronic means to stay in touch with the organization and their kids.

"It's important to feel like you're part of a team and we do that now with monthly meetings and with our newsletter," Mary said.

Though many cases create special and rewarding experiences for volunteers, Mary said she has also worked with children who are openly hostile. She has borne the brunt of abusive language and faced several situations that raised concerns for her personal safety as well as that of the child.

"You can't take it personally," she said. "These kids, and sometimes the parents, are confronted with daunting life challenges and the most important thing you can provide is to be there and advocate for the best interests of the kids."

CASA in Cochise County is supported by a board of volunteers, the Cochise County Council for CASA, which can and has provided financial assistance to foster kids and those who are assigned a CASA. The council has paid for children to participate in a variety of programs, including the Boys and Girls Club, martial arts training and other activities. The council has also provided gift cards to CASA kids, helping to cover the cost of clothing, school supplies, and other expenses. The council is headed up by Sheriff Mark Dannels.

During her more than 20 years of service, Mary said no two cases have been the same. She said she "...gets a feeling" about each case and decides what needs to be done to best serve the interests of the child and the situation.

"There's no prescription on how to be a CASA," she quipped. "Once you figure out what needs to be done, and how you're going to do it, then you can't let up in pursuing that goal." Mary also plays bridge and has competed in tournaments around the country, traveling to Palm Springs, CA, and other cities.

"I haven't got much time to do that at the moment," she said. "Right now, my focus is being the best CASA I can be."

Want to know more about how to become a CASA? Check out our website, or call! www.CASAofCochiseCounty.org / 520-432-7521

FAQs CASA of Arizona

Who is CASA of Arizona?

CASA of Arizona Office is housed within the Arizona Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts and administers fifteen county CASA programs. Each county program is supervised and operated locally by Arizona's Superior Courts within the county juvenile courts. Funds are appropriated annually by the Arizona State Legislature to financially operate each program. Within each county program, dedicated CASA staff provide direct support to volunteers.

What is a CASA volunteer?

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers make a life-changing difference for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. CASA Volunteers are every-day citizens committed to making a difference in their community. Each volunteer is appointed by a judge to advocate for a child's best interest in court. CASA volunteers help judges develop a broader picture of each child's life by working with the legal and child welfare professionals, educators, and service providers. Their advocacy enables judges to make the most well-informed decision for each child to ensure they have a safe and permanent home.

What are the steps to becoming a certified volunteer?

Interested individuals must complete the following items to become a CASA volunteer in Arizona:

1. Complete an application with personal references
2. Complete and pass an individual interview with local CASA staff
3. Submit a fingerprint card & pass a background check to include MVD, FBI, State child welfare registry and State criminal check.
4. Attend and pass a polygraph examination
5. Participate in 30 hours of Pre-service training
6. Observe court and Foster Care Review Board

What kind of educational background or experience is required?

No specific educational background, profession, or experience is required. CASA volunteers are dedicated individuals of high moral character who have a strong desire to advocate for abused and neglected children.

What type of training is provided to be a CASA volunteer?

All volunteers complete 30 hours of pre-service training. Volunteers are educated about child welfare issues including child maltreatment, permanency planning, team work and communication, case assessment, court report writing, and court policies. In many parts of the state, blended learning, partially in person and partially online, is an option. Ongoing in-service training and support are provided in every county program, including opportunities for online training.

What are the main responsibilities of a CASA volunteer?

A CASA volunteer serves as a fact finder for the judge by thoroughly researching the background of the assigned case and gathering additional information about the case as it develops. Volunteers are required to see the child(ren) each month and learn about all aspects of their life to include the needs he or she has while in foster care. A CASA volunteer speaks on behalf of the child in the courtroom—advocating for the child's best interests both verbally and in a written court report—and acts as support to the child for the duration of the case.

- Report to the judge on the child's placement and progress and identify unmet service needs

A CASA Volunteer Should Not:

- Bring the child to his or her home
- Bring the child around other family members, unless that family member is also a CASA volunteer
- Speak about the child or the case with anyone other than the case manager, judge, and Foster Care Review Board
- Keep any case records once the case has ended
- Have any photos of the child displayed anywhere
- Forget that he or she is appointed by the court to gather information to present to the judge

How much time does being a CASA volunteer require?

CASA volunteers schedule their own time, with the exception of required attendance at court hearings and team meetings. Each case is unique. More time must be spent in the beginning, researching files and court documents and conducting interviews. Once familiar with the case and the parties involved, a CASA volunteer spends an average of 15-20 hours a month working on the case. Volunteers balance family responsibilities, full-time or part-time employment, and/or education along with their CASA duties.

How is a CASA volunteer assigned to a case?

A volunteer is matched to a case based on priority of need and when the child or sibling group enters the system. Consideration is also given to any special experiences or skills the volunteer may have. Because the age, gender, and circumstances of cases are constantly in flux, CASAs must be flexible and open-minded regarding case assignment. The CASA does have some freedom in choosing their case.

How long does a CASA remain on a case?

The advocate continues with the case until there is permanency which is defined as reunification, adoption, guardianship or the child turning 18. Often children are moved from one foster care home to another, and there can be a frequent change of case managers, judges and hearing officers. One of the primary benefits of an advocate is for the child to have one positive, consistent adult who is there for them throughout the entire process.

How many cases is a CASA assigned?

A CASA volunteer typically handles one case at a time, which could be one child or, more frequently, a group of siblings. As a case nears completion or activity becomes low, a CASA volunteer may opt to be assigned to a second case after consultation with his or her Program Coordinator.

How does a CASA gather information on the case?

To prepare a recommendation for the Court, a CASA volunteer gathers information on the case by talking with the child, parents, family members, case managers, school officials, health providers, and others who are knowledgeable about the child's history and current situation. The CASA also reviews all records pertaining to the child: school, medical, caseworker reports, and other documents.

How is a CASA different from an attorney or case manager?

Once appointed, the CASA volunteer becomes part of the judicial proceedings working alongside attorneys and case managers. Unlike attorneys and case managers, however, the CASA volunteer speaks exclusively for the child's best interest. Attorneys and case managers have larger caseloads compared to a CASA volunteer. Having just one or two cases allows the volunteer to devote more time to that child and case.

Why does a child in foster care need a CASA?

National research shows that children who have been assigned a CASA volunteer that advocates for their needs tend to receive necessary services sooner, for a longer duration, and more consistently than those children without a CASA volunteer. Judges have observed that children with CASAs also have better chances of finding permanent homes and are less likely to re-enter foster care. For many abused children, their CASA volunteer is the one positive, reliable adult in their lives.

What is CASA?

CASA of Arizona



CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASA volunteers are everyday citizens appointed by a judge to speak up for abused and neglected children in court. CASA volunteers serve as fact-finders for the judge by researching the background and circumstances of a child's case. To access the information needed for the volunteer to advocate effectively, he or she must build a relationship with the child and speak with a variety of people involved in the child's life. The CASA volunteer will then make a recommendation to the court, which represents the best interests of the child. Volunteers are closely screened and highly trained. They are also given background checks and interviewed to ensure the highest level of professionalism. On average, a child who has been appointed a CASA

volunteer spends less time in foster care and has a greater chance at finding a safe and permanent home.

What you can expect from a CASA Volunteer:

- He or she will ask many questions
- He or she will request regular visits with the child
- He or she will request and obtain confidential information as permitted by statute
- He or she will remain persistent and act in the best interests of the child
- He or she will aid the court by providing factual

information to assist the judge in making a decision

A CASA Volunteer Should:

- Talk with the child, family members, case managers, school officials, foster parents, treatment providers and others who are knowledgeable about the child's history and case
- Request governing rules and guidelines of placement and adhere to these rules
- Develop and maintain a relationship with the child
- Attend staffings and Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTs) related to the child's progress
- Attend court hearings and Foster Care Review Board Meetings

A CASA Volunteer Can Help:

- Connect with a child and be a trustworthy and stable advocate during complex legal proceedings
 - Provide consistency and continuity in a child's life during a time of turmoil
 - Serve as the "eyes and ears" for the judge in the case
 - Arrange for visits with siblings
 - Communicate with caregivers about the child's behavior and relationships
- QUESTIONS:** Contact your local CASA program coordinator

A BRIDGE TO REMEMBER

I was driving a power company truck when I first encountered the bridge. It was twilight, and all I really saw was a roadway consisting of two narrow strips of metal stretched across several hundred feet of uneven railroad ties. On both sides, it was, obviously, a long way down. I stopped and stared, then took a deep breath and eased forward.

The next time I approached the bridge, it was daylight, and I happened to look up. While I'd been involved in metal fabrication much of my life, I had never seen anything like it. Instead of H-beams, I was staring at structural members that appeared to be quarter-circle castings, hot-riveted together. There were a lot of strange-looking tension rods, and the corner braces were decorative castings.

Later, I learned the bridge is a lone survivor along the old New Mexico and Arizona Railroad, built in 1882.

The original route extended from the Southern Pacific line in Benson, south to Fairbank and, from there, west to Nogales. Ranchers used it to ship thousands of cattle to market. The mines in the Patagonia area shipped ore to the smelters. The little towns – Mowry, Harshaw, Washington Camp, and Duquesne thrived. Sonoita, Elgin, and Patagonia came later.

As time passed, railroad locomotives became heavier – too heavy for the bridges along the way. As a result, full-sized locomotives brought trains from Benson to Fairbank, and a smaller switch-engine took the cars on to Patagonia. The smaller, slower line soon became known as the Burro Train. During the 1930s, the segment from Patagonia to Nogales was discontinued.

Around 1962, after 80 years of service, the little railroad finally shut down and the rails and ties were taken up. Today, the original road grade is still visible on satellite photos, but little else remains.

However, on the Babocomari Ranch,



Overhead, we see none of the usual angle, channel, and H-beam structures now in use.

between Huachuca City and Elgin, portions of the railroad bed still serve as ranch roads. And the bridge across Babocomari Creek is still useable – in a white-knuckle sort of way.

My research identified the bridge as a modular unit designed by Phoenix Bridge Company of Phoenixville, PA. The main structural members are Phoenix Columns, based on an 1862 patent. Each column is a hollow cylinder composed of four or more wrought iron segments, riveted together. The design was lighter and stronger than the cast iron columns of the era.

Soon, the company began standardizing components. Potential customers could study a Phoenix Bridge Company catalog of standardized assemblies and purchase prefabricated components for their specific needs.

Railroads were their biggest customers, although nearly 300 Phoenix Column highway bridges were built between 1885 and 1895.

Old photos indicate that four fairly typical Phoenix bridges served the little railroad before its demise in the early 1960s. However, this one, on the Babocomari Ranch private property, appears to be the only remaining bridge of its type in Arizona.



PHOTOS BY LARRY SCOTT

The bridge across Babocomari Creek is still useable - in a white-knuckle sort of way.

LEFT: On the side, a long way down. Note the riveted structural member. Take a deep breath...

MARTINEZ WAITS FOR A CALL TO THE SHOW



When he was a youngster Seth Martinez built his own ballfield and would re-create the game his father had coached.

Today, he's waiting for the phone call to step onto the mound at Minute Maid Park in Houston and pitch for the Astros.

Martinez is the son of Bobby Martinez, a longtime warehouse worker at the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) maintenance and construction yard in Sierra Vista. He's been Seth's biggest fan since the early days and followed him throughout his career on teams in Tucson, Phoenix, and at minor league locations across the country.

Seth, now 27, is currently a relief pitcher for the Sugar Land Skeeters, a Triple-A affiliate of the Houston Astros that play their home games at Constellation Field, less than an hour's drive from Minute Maid Park.

"He would come along when I was coaching baseball," Bobby said of Seth. "He would play catch with some of the older kids and after the games he would re-enact what had happened in the games."

At the time the Martinez family lived in a rural area and Seth's "playfield" consisted of several acres where he had plenty of room to build his own baseball field and play out the games.

By the time he was nine years old, Seth was on a competitive team in the Tucson area, regularly playing against older and more skilled opponents. When he moved to the Phoenix area a short time later, Seth joined the Arizona Desert Dawgs baseball team where he began to learn from and listen to insights



offered by former professional players. He also earned distinction on his high school team and captured the attention of college scouts.

Eventually, he decided to attend Arizona State University (ASU). "That was a hard choice," Seth said during a recent telephone interview. "The coaches at both University of Arizona and ASU wanted me to play for them, and I had to decide where I wanted to go."

After settling on the Sun Devils and ASU, Seth started his college career with just a few appearances and developed into the top starter for one of the nation's elite baseball programs.

With his 93-mph fastball and

85-mph change up, combined with precise pitch control, Martinez has already made a mark on the Skeeters. Through May he has appeared in six games, pitched 10.7 innings, struck out 20 while surrendering just five hits and seven walks.

"The thing that's always been remarkable about Seth is his control. He can pitch to a spot and that's really helped him as a reliever," Bobby said.

Seth considers his slider his "go to" pitch, using it to strike out batters. His fastball repertoire includes two-seam, four-seam, and a cutter, with speeds between 90 and 93-mph.

As a junior at ASU, Seth was in his first year of eligibility for the Major League Baseball (MLB) professional draft. He was selected by the Oakland Athletics, but stayed in school to continue working on his college degree.

Seth eventually earned his diploma, graduating with a major in Liberal Studies from ASU.

"He wanted to make sure he had his education so when baseball is over, he's qualified for whatever job he's interested in," Bobby said.

Spending his summers at various A and AA-rated minor league teams around country, Seth said he never felt confident that he was progressing with the organization. Eventually, he was selected in the "Rule 5" draft by the Houston Astros and he was immediately assigned to the team's top minor league team in the Triple A league.

"It feels great to be with the Astros and I'm excited for the opportunity," Seth said.

CAS SOLAR GO KART



Students at the Center for Academic Success (CAS) have once again bested all other high school teams from around the state as their solar-powered go karts took the checkered flag. This marks the sixth year that the CAS Solar Go Kart Racing Team has participated in the Racing The Sun (RTS) event, and CAS has won the Grand Championship for three of those years. This year, CAS students won first place in the Standard Kart division, and took second place in the Maker Kart division. To underscore the significance of this year's wins, due to COVID-19 restrictions on in-school classes and after school clubs, CAS students only had three weeks to prepare their karts before race day.

CAS engineering teacher Mr. Ofstedahl explained. "This year became a continuation of last year's competition," Ofstedahl said. The RTS committee decided to cease all operations last year when school campuses were closed to in-school learning and activities. This year, teams



picked up where they left off after the closure but not all schools were open for in-person clubs and teams to meet. "We're really proud of how quickly our students coalesced. They worked every day after school and even on Saturdays

to get their karts competition ready," Ofstedahl said. SSVEC has been a proud support of the CAS Solar Go Kart Racing Team, with annual donations that has made the program possible.

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Compiled by Kathy Klump, president of Sulphur Springs Valley Historical Society, from the archives of the Chiricahua Regional Museum and Research Center, 127 E. Maley, Willcox, AZ.

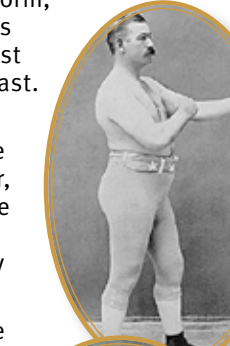
1. General William Tecumseh Sherman arrived at Bowie on the westbound Southern Pacific train in the afternoon of March 31, 1882. General Willcox met him with wagons to convey his party to Fort Bowie. He inspected the troops, then arrived the next day at the Willcox station. Wagons were provided for the trip to Fort Grant. After his inspection of the buildings, he wrote that Fort Grant, in his opinion, was the most valuable post in Arizona. He then traveled on to Fort Thomas and the San Carlos Apache Agency. His party returned to Willcox via Fort Grant, then on to Tombstone by train to Benson and Contention, the railroad terminus. They arrived in Tombstone after dark in wagons drawn by mules. A huge reception had been planned for the General. The next day he toured several mines in Tombstone. Along for the trip was Sherman's daughter Lizzie, General Orlando Poe and his daughter, sixteen-year-old Winnie. After a couple of nights at the Grand Hotel, Winnie was very disappointed. She had expected "at least two or three men killed every day... but they hadn't had a man for breakfast while they were in Tombstone." Sherman's next stop was Fort Huachuca. (See Brad Smith's story in the Cochise County Historical Journal ; vol. 48, No.1)



harnessed six horses decorated with banners and bunting. He gave speeches on "The Free and Unlimited Coinage of Silver." He was famous for starting the Peoples Party. He was described as 59 years of age, a hearty eater, does not use tobacco in any form, and seldom indulges in stimulants, at least never before breakfast.

4.The people of Willcox got a chance to see famous boxer, **John L. Sullivan** as he passed through on the train in February 1896.

5.The Arizona Range News reported in the May 31, 1899 edition that "Lt. L. M. Keeler and wife drove down from Fort Grant Saturday accompanying to the railroad Mrs. Keeler's mother, Mrs. **Susan B. Anthony**, the celebrated female suffrage advocate, and Miss Havens, both of Leavenworth, Kansas. Mrs. Anthony and Miss Havens left on Sunday morning's east bound train." (note: according to her biography, Susan B. Anthony never married or had children, so perhaps Mrs. Keeler was a niece or other relative).



6.In 1899, **Fritzie Scheff**, a famous light opera star, was traveling through in her own special Southern Pacific train. She was trying to take a bath and became very annoyed as the water kept splashing over the tub walls. She ordered the train to be stopped in Stein's Pass until she could finish bathing. She continued to perform into the 1930s.



7.The presidential train was scheduled to pass through Willcox at 6:46 p.m. on May 6, 1901 with **President McKinley** on board. Early that morning Henry Morgan and Pablo Soto, in the name of the citizens of Willcox, sent a message to the president's private secretary.



"We earnestly request that you make a stop at Willcox to give us opportunity to see the president." He replied, "Impossible to reply definitely, but will be glad to bear it in mind, and if found practicable, to make a very short stop." In anticipation of the visit, a number of people came in from the surrounding country. Flags were floating from the business houses, and bonfires were built in the streets ready to light on the approach of the train. Promptly, on the time scheduled, the whistle at the ice plant blew announcing the arrival of the president's train. It stopped at the water tank and the crowd made a rush for the Olympia, the rear car. The conductor stepped off and announced they would make a short stop. The bonfires blazed out in the street while the crowd surged to the depot. President McKinley appeared on the rear end of the car and bowed to the ovations of the crowd who gathered around to shake his hand. During the hand shaking, I. E. Ruth was led up to the president by postmaster Samuel Geddes. The old man, now nearly blind, extended his hand, which was grasped by the president. "Do you know Isaac Ruth?" he asked. "No," replied the president. "Do you remember 'Chub'?" asked Mr. Ruth. "I do" replied the president and again shook the old man's hand warmly. "Do you remember the charges we made together?" asked Ruth. "I certainly do, and didn't we charge brilliantly?" said the president. "I am old and almost blind," said Mr. Ruth, "I can't see you, but I can feel you." With another warm pressing of hands the two old comrades parted and the train pulled away slowly amid cheers. The old man was led away almost overcome with emotion. President McKinley and Mr. Ruth first met at Knoxville, Tennessee in the Civil War. Both were under the command of General Sherman and saw service together for nearly two years. Ruth, being the smallest orderly in these corps, was nicknamed, "Chub".

10.February 1905 brought famed author **Stewart Edward White** to Willcox. He stayed with Captain **McKittrick** at the JH Ranch. He indulged in a good old fashioned bear hunt for the purpose of obtaining material for another of his interesting stories of western life. From that visit, he wrote the book "Arizona Nights."



11.On January 29, 1913, **Kathleen Scott**, wife of famous explorer **Robert Falcon Scott**, who led two expeditions of the Antarctic, arrived in Willcox. She was a guest of Col. Randolph of the Southern Pacific Railroad. They had just returned from a tour of Sonora. They were met by H. L. Johnson, whose outfit was camped on his Diamond Box range. He promised Col. Randolph to give Mrs. Scott an opportunity to see something of Arizona ranch life. She left Willcox to sail to New Zealand to greet her husband on his return from the South Pole, only to find that he had died there with four of his men in a terrible blizzard in March 1912; a year before. She was famous in her own right as a sculptor, and studied with Auguste Rodin, famous for "The Thinker". Some of her noted friends were the famous dancer Isadora Duncan and J. M. Barrie, who wrote Peter Pan.

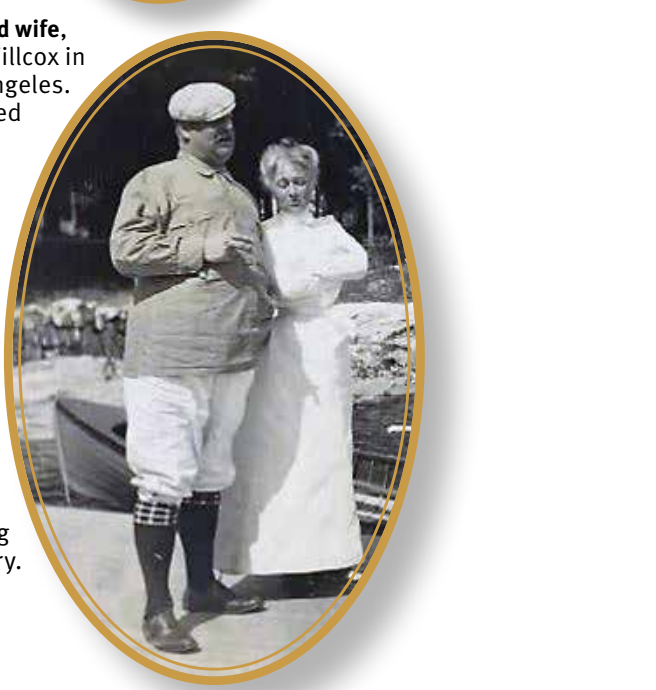


It was Barrie who introduced her to Scott at a party at his house. She later owned Barrie's home. Three of her busts are in the collection of London's National Portrait Gallery. Her full-size sculptures are located in parks in England and Christchurch, New Zealand. In 1922, she married the politician Edward Hilton Young and received the title Baroness Kennet.

8.In February 1902, **General Arthur McArthur** arrived at Willcox on a special train accompanied by Arizona's Governor **Murphy**. They headed up to Ft. Grant on his tour of inspection. He was the father of Douglas McArthur.



9.**Frederick Remington and wife**, of New York, arrived at Willcox in January 1903 from Los Angeles. They had been entertained there by Willcox town founder, John H. Norton and his wife. Henry Morgan escorted the couple to Col. Hooker's ranch. Mr. Remington was gathering sketches of rural life and spent three or four days at the ranch. He had visited here twelve years before in 1891 at Fort Grant. It was probably during that time that he did the painting depicting the Wham Payroll Robbery.



Upcoming Pioneer Days features fun, festivities!

BY LARRY SCOTT

The photo, dated 1918, shows two young ladies identified as **Nettie Miller** and **Maud Billingsly** in their buggy. Not surprising, they look like teenagers - cool and relaxed with feet propped on the dashboard. It's said they loved to hitch up old Nell and trot off to Benson for a 100-pound block of ice. The round trip to Benson's electricity and ice plant near the corner of Land and Fifth Streets took about two hours. Often, they made the run without encountering anyone along the way. That evening, after a few hours of diligent preparation, the community would gather for home-made ice cream and, perhaps, fiddle music and a dance.



Saint David farmers had a ready market throughout the region for local grain, fruit, and vegetables. After all, miners, railroaders, and townspeople like to eat too! Here, the Coons family harvests Chile Peppers in the Curtiss Flats area south of Saint David. -photo courtesy of St. David Heritage & Cultural Arts Society

These girls knew exciting technology. Of course, railroads, telegraph, and automobiles were great, but ice cream in July! How good is that? Nowadays, as visitors pass through Saint David on their way to Tombstone and Bisbee, they see a sleepy little farm community. To most, nothing special. But how many realize the little Mormon farming town was here first?

Saint David was founded in 1877, not as a railroad or mining boomtown, but for family. A place for kids, grandkids, and coming generations as we see today - where the family names of the original settlers are still evident throughout the region. How did it feel to live there? Without question, the early days were extremely difficult. Hardship and survival were very real issues. But as community elders noted, along with hardships, there were certainly happy times.

The community was tuned to the rhythms of nature: seedtime and harvest. Days were spent plowing fields, as well as tending gardens and orchards. Mornings began with the crowing of the rooster, and tending to the family milk cow. Strange as it may seem now, fried-chicken Sunday dinners required a fair amount of planning, beginning with the capture of the designated chicken.

Conveniences we take for granted were seen as wonderful. An old photo shows the Goodman home across from where the Latter-day Saints Chapel once stood. Inside the gate, and to the right, a newly-drilled artesian well flowed continuously. "Every morning, mother would get up early and go out to see if the water was still flowing," a family member noted. "My, how she - and all of us - appreciated that water! We had carried water for 14 years." "One afternoon during the early 1920s Mama looked up to see a terrifying sight," Clea Brown remembered. "Soldiers advancing on our community! Cavalry and infantry soldiers, marching in formation. Behind them, we could see wagons and trucks. Mama hastily called us in, locked the doors and pulled the curtains - as did the other women of the community. I still remember hiding under the bed. We soon learned they had set up camp in lower St. David.

"When our men came in from the fields, they cautiously approached the soldiers and learned they were the U.S. Army from Fort Huachuca. "This is just a training exercise," they explained. "We will be heading back in the morning." "And, they did. Exercise or no, everyone breathed easier when the soldiers were finally out of sight the next day." While it's hard to imagine today, the tumultuous history of the Mormon



Nettie Miller and Maud Billingsly in their buggy. -photo courtesy of St. David Heritage & Cultural Arts Society

Church was still very real among these families. The soldiers' visit came at a time when some of the newest arrivals to the community were refugees from the 'colonias' of Mexico. Just ten years before they had been forced to walk away from everything, driven from homes and farms by Pancho Villa and his revolutionaries. A number of these refugee families were rebuilding their lives in a new settlement known as Pomerene, about ten miles to the North.

Times were changing quickly. In 1920, industry came to town as Apache Powder Company began construction of a giant explosives plant, just across the San Pedro River to the west.

The company, headquartered out of Bisbee, with its mining-industry management style, contrasted sharply with the practical simplicity of everyday life in Saint David. But the company brought jobs

and welcome cash-flow to the community. Soon, familiar Saint David family names appeared on the organization's rosters as workers, supervisors, and middle managers.

To many locals, the plant loomed large, a sort of brooding presence. Four times a day, the blast from the powerhouse air horn echoed across the valley, defining the dynamite plant's work schedule.

The air horn blasts were fine with everyone. What folks did not want to hear - and feel - was described recently by a local physician.

"My folks moved to Saint David when I was eight years old. I still remember my first day at school, when the teacher told me that, if I were to ever hear a really big boom, I was to dive under my desk.

"Later that morning, we were busy with our studies when I heard what I perceived to be a really big boom. I was ready to dive under my desk but, when I looked around, no one else appeared to have even noticed. It was, I learned later, just a regular-sized boom from Apache's explosives test station.

"Fortunately, the 'big boom' never happened during my family's time there or during the years since."

While reminiscence of St. David are fascinating, stories from the mysterious world inside the fence at Apache Powder Company paint a wonderful picture, as well.

Once again, this year Saint David invites us to their Pioneer Days Celebration on July 24.

Let's take that walk together, sampling highlights of a simple life in a little farm community and the dark mysteries of the neighborhood dynamite factory.


We will see how, in time, Saint David gradually changed, becoming more culturally relaxed and socially diverse.

We will also follow Apache Powder Company's journey from "ominous dynamite factory" to modern chemical plant - a much friendlier environment for all concerned.

For more information, visit saintdavidheritage.org

Adapted from the book *Chili Peppers & Mastadons*, by Larry Scott, St. David Heritage & Cultural Arts Society, St. David, Arizona. All material has been reviewed by members of the St. David Heritage & Cultural Arts Society.





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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Deadline for the September 2021 issue of Currents featuring events for the months of October and November is August 12. Email information to epetermann@ssvec.com

July

JULY 15-24

Sierra Vista

Theater on the Move

Theater on the Move will be holding auditions for our next show in September.

Auditions will be held July 15, 16, 22, and 23, at 6 p.m. Also, on July 17 and 24 at 2 p.m. Auditions will be held at Village Meadows Baptist Church, 1407 El Camino Real (Bldg. 1-Adult classroom). The show is "Killer in the Shadows," a radio murder mystery and comedy set in 1943 with singing, dancing, and audience participation. Shows are scheduled September 16, 17, 24, 25 and 26. We're looking for three female singers who can sing 1940s songs, and a couple who can Jitterbug. More information to follow as we get closer to auditions. You can also follow us on: facebook.com/theateronthemove. Tell your friends!

JULY 24

Sierra Vista

Symphony Brass Quintet

Sierra Vista Symphony Brass Quintet performs Americana and Patriotic music. 7 pm at Klein Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$20 and available at Ace Hardware, Dillard's, the Greater Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce, Safeway, online at Eventbrite and the sierravistasymphony.org, and at the Symphony office, 21 E. Wilcox Dr.



The Sierra Vista Community Chorus has been shut down since March of 2020 due to the pandemic, but now they are ready to resume activities. After their director of over 20 years, Sharon Keene, passed away in March of 2021, the SVCC Board was thrilled that well-known local musician and musical director Roger Bayes agreed to take over the helm. Rehearsals for the fall semester will begin at 9 am on Monday, Aug. 30, at Kino Hall at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 800 Taylor Dr. in Sierra Vista, where they will begin rehearsals for their annual Christmas concert to be held at First Baptist Church at 1447 S 7th St, Sierra Vista, AZ on Dec. 3. New singers of any age are always welcome. Questions? Email General Manager Martha Conklin at mconklin3@cox.net or phone 520-378-0730.

Available on-demand 24 hours a day, August 4-7, 2021. Come as you are, when you please - www.swwings.org

AUGUST 30

Sierra Vista

Chorus Rehearsal Resumes

The Sierra Vista Community Chorus has been shut down since March of 2020 due to the pandemic, but now they are ready to resume activities. After their director of over 20 years, Sharon Keene, passed away in March of 2021, the SVCC Board was thrilled that well-known local musician and musical director Roger Bayes agreed to take over the helm. Rehearsals for the fall semester will begin at 9 am on Monday, August 30, at Kino Hall at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 800 Taylor Dr. in Sierra Vista, where they will begin rehearsals for their annual Christmas concert to be held at First Baptist Church at 1447 S 7th St, Sierra Vista, AZ on Dec. 3. New singers of any age are always welcome. Questions? Email General Manager Martha Conklin at mconklin3@cox.net or phone 520-378-0730.

August

AUGUST 4 TO 6

Virtual Online

Southwest Wings 30th Annual Nature and Birding Festival

Our 30th Anniversary Southwest Wings Summer Festival will be offering a free,

virtual, three-day program August 4-6, 2021, in conjunction with our self-drive car caravan guided field trips. We highlight an outstanding roster of speakers with a diverse range of topics that we hope will inspire and delight you! Some will be live streamed on Zoom (and also recorded for future viewing) and others will be pre-recorded and posted on our website for on-demand viewing at your leisure. Enjoy!

September

SEPTEMBER 11

Whetstone

3rd Annual Run/Walk/Roll

Choose a distance! Grab a friend! Join the fun at the 3rd Annual Whetstone 5K Run Walk Roll 5K and 10k Challenge Run in the

beautiful foothills of the Whetstone Mountains. Whether as a Participant, Volunteer, or Spectator, do not miss this amazing community event promoting fitness, health, and family fun - Sept. 11th from 6:30 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. I-10 Exit 297 South onto J-6 Ranch Road - follow the signs to event parking. The 5k is great for ages 4 to 104! This in and out course gently climbs 230' in elevation to a sweeping turn-around for a fast downhill finish framed with magnificent valley views. Walk, Run, or Roll (Sport Chair) as an individual or a team - all finishers receive a custom medal with Tribute Lanyard, post-race nutrition with local flair, and are automatically entered in the General Raffle for great gift certificates and surprises. Awards will be presented to the Overall Male and Female thru 3 places, and the top Male and Female winners in each of the 9 five-year age categories! The 10k Challenge Run switches multiple times from pavement to dirt path, looping the 230' elevation change twice before the fast 2.5k downhill finish! Such a challenge warrants Cash Prizes for the Top 3, Males and Females. All participants receive finisher medals and Tribute Lanyards and those participants who collect route tokens are eligible for a bonus raffle for a mega-spectacular prize! On-Line Registration, Chip-timed, Early Bird Specials. https://runsignup.com/whetstonefun.

SEPTEMBER 18

Benson

Classic Cars

Saturday September 18, 2021- Benson Clean and Beautiful presents Classic Cars OFF Main. Lion's Park Benson, AZ. 10-2. All years welcome with cash prizes and plaques for 1-3 and plaques for Best in Show and People's Choice. Food Vendors, DJ and Live Music by Dave Owens Band. 50/50 Raffles, prize raffles, t-shirts, mural guidebooks for sale.

SEPTEMBER 18

Sierra Vista

Men Who Cook

Local celebrity chefs prepare their best dishes. Columbian Hall, 157 Kayetan Dr., Sierra Vista. Doors open at 5 pm. Food tasting begins at 6 pm. Tickets are \$30 and available at Ace Hardware, Dillard's, the Greater Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce, Safeway, online at Eventbrite and the sierravistasymphony.org, and at the Symphony office, 21 E. Wilcox Dr.

October

OCT. 2

Sierra Vista

Dine Under The Stars

The University South Foundation is hosting its 19th Annual Dine Under The Stars Scholarship Fundraiser 'REACH for the STARS' on Saturday, October 2, 2021 from 6-9 pm on the University of Arizona Sierra Vista Campus. Tickets are \$50 per adult, \$25 student, and \$15 for children under 10. Tickets will be available after August 16. Enjoy hors d'oeuvre by Indochine Family Restaurant, dinner by Texas Roadhouse, and dessert by Bobke's For Lunch. Live music by Desert Fever, and performances by Alma Dolores International Dance Centre will entertain you. The evening's activities will include auctions, raffles, and stargazing. The Patterson Observatory, with its giant 20-inch telescope will be open during the event and members of the Huachuca Astronomy Club will be on hand as your guides to the wonders of the night sky. The University South Foundation has awarded over \$612,000 in scholarships to University of Arizona students enrolled at the Sierra Vista



ST. DAVID PIONEER DAYS

JULY 24

HISTORY - PARADE - GAMES - BBQ VENDORS - MUSIC - FIREWORKS
www.SaintDavidHeritage.org

"CELEBRATION!" - EVENT SCHEDULE

Events take place at St. David School (Hwy 80, St. David, AZ) unless noted otherwise

SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2021

9:00 AM Traditional Pioneer Day Parade, N. Miller Lane. Theme: "Celebration!" Road closes to vehicles at 8:45 AM.

9:30 AM-12:00 Noon Old-fashioned Games, Mormon Battalion Encampment & More on school grounds (Crawford Field). Games, races, pioneer activities and demonstrations, black powder rifles, fire engines, tractors and engines display, wagon rides, and more.

10:00-11:30 - "Celebrating 100 Years: Apache Nitrogen Products" (Lansing Auditorium, 1938 Building) Historical displays and presentations explore the unique community-building partnership between what was earlier known as Apache Powder Company and the St. David community. Former and current ANPI employees are invited to help tell the story.

11:00-12:00 PM Traditional BBQ Meal (K-Hall) BBQ Beef, Beans, Cole Slaw, Tortilla, Chips & Salsa, Drinks, Dessert. \$7 Adult/\$5 under 12; \$1 discount per plate with Heritage Society membership (available at the door).

1:00-5:00 PM Local Farm and Business Tour - Visit various locations in the area showcasing our rural lifestyle. See online list and schedule by using the QR code or go to stdavidpioneerdays.com.

5:00-9:00 PM EVENING EVENTS - at St. David High School's football field (Apache Nitrogen Stadium) --

•5:00-6:45 Youth Tiger Football/Cheer Camp Games

•Food and Craft Vendors

•Visit and Picnic, Music

•Fireworks Donation Prizes & Silent Auction

•Heritage Quilt Drawing (Value \$1,500)

•GRAND FINALE FIREWORKS!

Your Fireworks Donations & Drawings are Greatly Appreciated!

Special thanks to Apache Nitrogen Products, Arizona G&T Cooperatives, St. David Volunteer Fire Department, R&R Pizza, St. David Schools, St. David Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, presenters, vendors, and LOTS of volunteers. —St. David Heritage Society

IF YOU OR YOUR BUSINESS WOULD LIKE TO DONATE A DRAWING OR SILENT AUCTION ITEM, CALL SHERRIE, 520-442-4460, OR EMAIL SAINTDAVIDHERITAGE@GMAIL.COM



and Douglas centers: an achievement made possible through the generous support of our community. The Foundation hopes to raise \$30,000 for scholarships this year. Contact Ted Forte at tforte@arizona.edu for more information.

OCTOBER 2

Sierra Vista

Sky Island Bike Tour

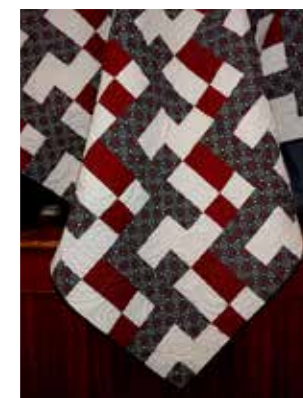
Save the date! The Sky Island Tour is coming back on Saturday, Oct. 2, at the Windemere Hotel & Conference Center in Sierra Vista. The Tour welcomes bicyclists of all ages and abilities. Rides include a metric century (62-mile) ride that loops through colorful Bisbee, as well as 44-mile and 30-mile rides. A 20-mile ride travels the Cochise Vista Trail in Sierra Vista, and a 5-mile ride completes the ride choices. The event benefits the National Alliance on Mental Illness Southeastern Arizona (NAMI SEAZ). For more information and to register, go to skyislandtour.com.

OCTOBER 30

Sierra Vista

Symphony Orchestra Fall Concert "Emperor"

Featuring guest piano soloist Kyungsun Choi performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 "Emperor". The orchestra will also perform Schubert's Unfinished Symphony and Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro Overture. Tickets are available online at Eventbrite and sierravistasymphony.org and at the symphony office, 21 E. Wilcox Dr., Sierra Vista. Six weeks before the



HERITAGE QUILT DRAWING

Queen Size Quilt - Red, Black, Cream by Wilda Dillman (\$1,500 Value)

Awarded July 24 - just before the Fireworks

— NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN —

TICKETS:

\$5 / 3 for \$10 / 7 for \$20 / 20 for \$50

- At Pioneer Days Events
- St. David School Office
- Michelle's Hair Corral, St. David
- Benson Feed, Benson
- Benson Museum
- Email saintdavidheritage@gmail.com
- StDavidPioneerDays.com



For Schedule, Quilt Tickets

Membership Discounts

Fireworks Donations

Vendor Information

Parade Registration

StDavidPioneerDays.com

Facebook: St. David Heritage & Cultural Arts Society

performance, tickets will be available at Ace Hardware, Safeway, Dillard's, and the Greater Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce. General Admission tickets are \$25. Reserved section tickets are \$30. Student tickets, with valid ID, are \$10. Family tickets, with children 14 years and younger, are \$30.

Want to promote your event on this calendar? Send an email to epetermann@ssvec.com. Please make sure to include contact information if follow up is necessary.

The Huachuca Art Association Presents

The 49th ANNUAL ART in the PARK

Veterans Memorial Park
SIERRA VISTA

Sat Oct 2nd 2021 9AM to 5PM
and Sun Oct 3rd 9AM to 4PM

Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra
Brass Quintet
Performs Americana and Patriotic Music
at the Klein Center for the Performing Arts
Saturday, July 24, 2021
7:00 p.m.
\$20
Purchase ticket now!
Available at Safeway, Dillard's, the Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce, and online at Eventbrite.com
Tickets Available at the door.
This performance made possible by a generous donation by the Arizona Chapter of Children of the American Revolution
Sierra Vista Symphony Association
21 E. Wilcox Dr, Sierra Vista, AZ
520-458-5189
www.sierravistasymphony.org

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New Noodle Know-how



BY CHEF CHRIS

Every culture has its noodles, and all of them cook quickly, making them a good choice for a summer supper. You know, when the thought of turning on the oven is fairly horrifying. Noodles will give you a satisfying meal in under 30 minutes — noodle slurping is optional.

There is a dizzying variety of noodles, and these days even the regular grocery store has an impressive selection on the “International” aisle. What to do? Grab some noodles! There are always instructions on the package. You got this!

A favorite noodle dish for me, Cold Sesame Noodles, harkens back to my first year in New York. Chinese restaurants are (were) on just about every block, and I learned that there were certain differences between them. Mainly, Szechuan and Cantonese. You needed to know this if you were looking for, say, Egg Foo Young, which is Cantonese. Szechuan is known for its heat. My favored noodles had a little kick and could only be found in a Szechuan restaurant.

After leaving New York it became pretty tough to find them, so I decided to just make my own. Although with some take-out it's not easy to replicate flavors well at home, this one tastes like the real thing. Apologies if I've given you a new obsession.

Cool Peanut Sauce Noodles

They are called cold sesame noodles in Szechuan Chinese restaurants, but peanut sauce is almost more appropriate. Make this with straight tahini if peanuts are a problem. Chinese egg noodles are traditional, but nearly any pasta will do, even spaghetti! I used Japanese Udon because it was what I had on hand. Any noodle in a storm, I say!

About 4 servings

- 1 pound noodles
- 3-4 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp. rice vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. tahini
- 2 Tbsp. sesame oil
- 2 Tbsp. smooth peanut butter
- 1-2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp. grated fresh ginger
- 1-2 tsp. chili-garlic sauce (or other “heat”)
- 1 cucumber, julienne
- 3 scallions, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup peanuts, chopped

Cook noodles until just tender. Drain and rinse, then toss with a few drops of sesame oil.

In a medium bowl, whisk together soy sauce, rice vinegar, tahini, sesame oil, peanut butter, garlic, ginger and hot sauce.

Just before serving, toss the noodles with the sauce and garnish with cucumber, scallions and peanuts.

A Noodle By Any Other Name

Lurking in the produce section near the “riced cauliflower” these days, sealed tightly in a plastic wrapped foam package, is spiralized veggies. Most commonly zucchini. These are essentially a noodle called a zoodle. Those eschewing carbs love them, and they are a truly fun way to eat more veggies, whether you're a mom with kids or lightening up your diet.

Please make your own! The spiralizer was all the rage a few years ago, and now the prices have come down. I love mine, and you may find it freshens up the weekly line up of meals.

My favorite to use with it is purple sweet potatoes, which appear this time of year, and like all sweet potatoes cook more quickly than regular potatoes - a good summer choice!



Sautéed Swoodles with Collards

Any leafy green will work here. Add more flavors if you like.

2 servings

- 1 medium sweet potato
- 1 bunch collards, cut into ribbons
- Butter or olive oil
- Orange juice needed, about ¼ cup

1-2 cloves garlic, finely chopped

Peel the sweet potato and using a fat “blade,” spiralize them, then drizzle with a little oil and season with salt.

Heat a large skillet over medium heat, then add the butter or oil and garlic. Add sweet potatoes and orange juice, and let cook for about minutes, covered.

Place collard ribbons on top of sweet potatoes, season with salt, and cover. Let cook about 2 minutes or when sweet potatoes are softened, then carefully transfer to plates and enjoy.

Ramen Alert!

Don't judge a noodle by its “10 for \$10” reputation

Because noodles feature prominently in Asian cuisines, it's not surprising that convenience versions appeared. Need I remind you that instant mashed potatoes are a staple for some?

Hiding on the shelves of most grocery stores are a variety of ramen to choose from, that barely resemble the dorm room staple. Some are organic, which this chef keeps on hand for her quick meals, although the “flavor packet” is discarded. Feel free to use yours however.

All dried ramen noodles cook in less time than spaghetti, and only need a few classic flavors

and veggies to make a meal. Rotisserie chicken, a seasoned teriyaki tofu, or some leftover protein all work well, and you can make a noodle dish or a noodle soup - chef's choice!

Fresh ramen noodles can also be found and can simply be dropped into your seasoned veggies and broth. These are my current favorite.

My go-to flavorings are: Tamari (soy sauce), garlic (fresh or dried), ginger (fresh or dried), ponzu (a citrus sauce found in the Asian section) and toasted sesame oil. You can always add more, but once it's in, it's in, so go easy at first. Scallions thrown in at the end make a huge difference!

Preferred veggies are: Celery, cabbage, broccoli, and carrots. I have been known to add asparagus when it's on sale.

