

SSVEC

Currents

LOCAL STORIES ABOUT LOCAL COMMUNITIES

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2024

Parade Giants *in Hereford*



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Surgery by a
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IN THIS ISSUE



Surgery by a Renaissance genius

The purchase of the Da Vinci Robotic Surgical System has provided better overall patient-care closer to home. The new technology has Tucson residents seeking care at Canyon Vista Medical Center.

Page 8



Getting away from it all

Enjoy a weekend at the Dreamcatcher Inn in Chiricahua. It is an oasis in the high lonesome country where there is an almost magical healing effect on the soul.

Page 12

SSVEC HAPPENINGS	4
MOVIE MAGIC	10
THE MATTER OF RELATIONSHIPS ... THEY MATTER!	14
MOUNTAIN BIKE ECOSYSTEM GROWS IN BENSON	16
BIG BALLOONS BLOW UP IN HEREFORD	18
ACF MAKES GIVING FEEL LIKE CHRISTMAS	20
NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S VISITOR CENTER	22
ASTRONOMER'S CORNER OBSERVING THE MOON	24
RETROSPECTIVE	26
First Sheriffs of Cochise County	
NEVER FORGET	28
SIERRA VISTA GARDEN CLUB SETS PROGRAMS FOR '24	30
CANYON VISTA ADDS 12 TO VETERANS WALL OF HONOR	31
UPCOMING EVENTS	
Calendar of events	32
Whetstone Run registration open	34
Arts council sets spring show	35
Willcox Theater and Arts events	36
SIERRA VISTA FOOD CO-OP	37
IN THE KITCHEN	38
New year's resolution No. 1: Eat better!	

ON THE COVER

Who knew that many of the balloons in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade were designed and produced right here in Hereford by Parade Giants. Big balloons clearly make for a complex and fascinating story.

Embracing

2024



Jason Bowling, CEO
Sulphur Springs Valley
Electric Cooperative

A Year of Innovation and Commitment

As we welcome 2024, it's a time to reflect and envision the future. At Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC), we enter the new year with a clear resolution: **Combat rising operational costs while ensuring reliable, affordable energy for our communities.**

In reflecting on 2023, one of the key things I am most proud of was how we significantly improved communication by keeping members informed quickly and reducing overhead costs through timely text alerts about outages.

Our members can expect more innovative thinking like this from us in 2024. Our 2024 initiatives include:

Drone Inspection Program: As Thomas Edison said, "The value of an idea lies in the using of it." We are set to revolutionize our reliability and wildfire mitigation efforts with our Drone Inspection Program. Drones allow quicker, safer inspections, particularly in remote areas.

Identifying potential issues early is key to maintaining safety, ensuring reliability, and controlling costs. Safety is paramount; undetected maintenance issues can lead to hazards such as downed power lines or damaged structures. Moreover, reliability is critical, as these issues can cause service interruptions. Addressing problems during an outage is rarely cost-effective. By detecting trouble spots early through our drone inspection program, we can schedule repairs proactively, minimizing risks and disruptions. This approach not only enhances safety and reliability but also underscores our unwavering commitment to providing cost-effective service to our community.

Educational Grant Programs: We're continuing our commitment to the community with \$500 teacher grants and up to \$20,000 educational entity grants funded by unclaimed capital credits. Just recently we announced the first wave of our 2024 grant offerings, and our team is already evaluating applications and sending awards to recipients! Please note: we intend to do it again in the summer and fall of 2024. By investing in education, we're energizing and empowering our future.

Enhancing Outreach and Communications: Effective communication is central to our mission. We're bolstering our efforts to ensure every member's voice is heard and valued. Through town halls, surveys, and open forums, we're fostering a dialogue that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of our members. Watch for more information on these opportunities later this year.

As we embrace 2024, we reiterate our core promise: Our relationship with our members is our driving purpose, not profits. We're here to serve your interests with a renewed commitment to energy, efficiency, and community.

Together, let's make 2024 a year of progress, innovation, and strengthened community ties. We're set to navigate the challenges ahead, and with your support and engagement, we'll continue to provide the safe, reliable, and affordable energy you expect from us.

Here's to a year of growth, collaboration, and shared success! ■

*Jason Bowling is
the Chief Executive
Officer at Sulphur
Springs Valley Electric
Cooperative (SSVEC).
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SSVEC celebrates solar array, battery system

Arizona Electric Power Cooperative (AEPSCO), a not-for-profit, member-owned electric generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Benson, has received board approval to develop a new solar project with a capacity of up to 294 megawatts, and battery storage facility with a capacity of up to 940 megawatt hours, at the Apache Power Station in Cochise County.

Also known as the Apache Solar II project, it will be AEPSCO's largest renewable project developed for the benefit of its rural electric distribution cooperative and public power members, and it will provide enough energy to power approximately 54,000 homes.

AEPSCO and its Apache Power Station in Cochise is the primary source of electric power for Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, and five other electric cooperatives throughout Arizona.

"We're excited to add this cost-effective renewable generation to our portfolio," said Patrick Ledger, AEPSCO executive vice president and CEO. "As a not-for-profit cooperative, we work with our member-owners and their boards and managers to ensure that investments in new resources are prudently made.

"Our objective is to provide affordable and reliable power, not to make a profit. The Apache Solar II project demonstrates the advantage of smaller utilities coming together on a larger project to take advantage of economies of scale and substantially reduce costs for all participants and their electric consumers at the end of the line," Ledger said.

"Our electric cooperative and public utility members serve several disadvantaged communities in the state, so we also hope to take advantage of direct-pay tax incentives, as well as new federal grants

under the Rural Utilities Services New ERA grants program, that could help further decrease the cost of the project, providing a truly competitive source of carbon free power for the first time."

In addition to solar power, AEPSCO's Apache Solar II will also provide each participating cooperative and utility member the ability to store solar energy in a 4-hour battery energy storage system with flexibility to dispatch the batteries to meet the unique needs of each member.

The Apache Solar II project is completing siting, design and permitting over the next several months. The project could be operational as soon as the summer of 2025.

AEPSCO's board of directors approved entering into an agreement in October, 2023, with Roadrunner Solar LLC and Roadrunner Storage LLC, affiliates of Clevera, LLC, to develop the solar project.



Janice Beam

Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) is proud to announce the appointment of Janice Beam to the Board of Directors representing District 10. She will be completing the term of her late husband, Joseph Beam.

SSVEC announces new board director

Board President and search committee chair, Curtis Nolan emphasized, "This appointment follows a comprehensive selection process conducted by a committee of three SSVEC directors and three District 10 members. I want very much to express my appreciation to the search committee members' service on behalf of all the members of District 10 and all of the cooperative's membership."

The committee's unanimous decision reflects Janice's deep understanding of the cooperative's values and her commitment to serving the community. Her selection comes after a thorough evaluation of five qualified candidates, who

each demonstrated a strong willingness to contribute to SSVEC's mission by serving on the board.

In accepting the offer, Janice remarked, "I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve my community. It is an extreme honor to be selected and have this opportunity to be a part of SSVEC who does so much for the people and businesses in our service territories."

SSVEC employees and the board remain committed to safe, affordable, and reliable electric energy for its members and our communities. The board looks forward to the contributions and insights Janice will bring to future board meetings.



John M. Shaver, left, District 3 representative on the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) Board of Directors, has received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Shaver earns credential certificate

Shaver was elected to the SSVEC board in April and will serve a three-year term representing the largest district, by territory, in the Cooperative service area. His district stretches from its northern boundary line in the community of Cochise, to the international and New Mexico state line in the southeast of Cochise County.

The nationally recognized Credentialed Cooperative Director certification requires a demonstrated understanding of the five core competencies required of SSVEC board members, including Director duties and liabilities; understanding

the electric business; board operations and process; strategic planning; and financial decision making.

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills, and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model.

SSVEC has a commitment to work through its affiliation with the NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative members.

SSVEC reports 60 percent cut in fuel charge in 2023

Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) has achieved a remarkable 60% reduction in its Wholesale Power and Fuel Cost Adjustment charge this year, CEO Jason Bowling proudly announced. This substantial decrease, marking the fourth reduction since January, follows the SSVEC Board of Directors' decision on November 21 to reduce the per kilowatt-hour (kWh) charge to 2 cents.

"Our board's resolute action reflects our unwavering commitment to keep our members' best interests at heart. We've successfully navigated the national rise in fuel costs while maintaining top-tier service quality, resulting in direct benefits for our members," said Jason Bowling. "This milestone demonstrates the dedication of our board and our exceptional staff to innovative and effective solutions."

SSVEC's Fuel Bank manages the variable energy costs beyond regular rates. The 'Fuel Adjuster' on monthly bills

reflects real-time fuel and market energy costs, acting as either a credit or charge depending on the Fuel Bank's balance. Facing a significant deficit last year, SSVEC allocated its entire operating margin to cover part of the shortfall. The cooperative also established a fuel hedging program and diversified its energy mix. These measures led to a decrease in the Fuel Adjuster to 4 cents in February 2023.

Subsequent reductions in June and September offered tangible savings for SSVEC members. With this latest cut, an average residential member using 700 kWh will see a \$21 decrease in their December bill compared to last year.

Daniel Wilson, Senior Vice President of Operation, emphasized the Cooperative's proactive measures since early 2022 against rising energy costs. "Our aggressive approach in managing power costs and reducing exposure to fluctuating fuel

markets are now delivering real benefits to our members," he noted.

Ron Lee, SSVEC Vice President of Finance, stressed the importance of shifts in power purchasing strategies. "By adopting hedging strategies and preempting market spikes, we've managed to significantly lower fuel charges. Our internal cost-control measures, alongside collaboration with Arizona G&T, our primary power provider, have greatly contributed to this achievement," Lee explained.

Jason Bowling also underscored the strategic role of the McNeal utility-scale solar farm and the support for Arizona G&T's expanded generation portfolio in reducing reliance on the open market. "Looking forward, we remain dedicated to our members' financial well-being. The 60% reduction in our Fuel Adjuster this year is a major step in our strategic plan for a more affordable energy future," Bowling concluded.

Foundation grant applications now available online

Applications for \$500 “micro” grants and up to \$20,000 for education entities are now available online at the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) Foundation website.

Marcus Harston, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, announced that teachers at schools located within the SSVEC service area are eligible to apply for the \$500 grants, which can be used to purchase supplemental educational materials, field trips, and other expenses related to education.

School districts and other education entities are eligible for up to \$20,000 under the grant program to fund large-scale initiatives.

“We’re confident that these new grants will make a difference in the education of our youth and thereby will improve the quality of life in the communities we serve,” said Jason Bowling, SSVEC CEO.

Financial support for the Foundation is generated from unclaimed Capital Credits and community donations. As a cooperative, SSVEC periodically returns “profits” to its members in the form of Capital Credits. When former members move out of the area and can’t be located after numerous attempts, SSVEC transfers the money to the SSVEC Foundation.

“It’s important that people understand that the funding for these Foundation grants are not in any way related to what our members pay for their electricity,” said Curtis Nolan, president of the SSVEC Foundation board. “This is money generated from unclaimed Capital Credits and the mission of the Foundation is to return those funds back to the community.”

Teachers can apply for \$500 “micro-grants” for special programs or needed equipment to improve the educational

experience of students. The funds can also be applied to the costs of a teacher’s continuing education. Eligible teachers must work at a school within the SSVEC service area.

Educational Entity Grants will offer up to \$20,000 to a school district or a comparable organization to support larger-scale initiatives or projects that directly benefit the region’s youth. Interested applicants will submit information on the number of students that will be impacted, and a detailed description of the initiative and its budget.

Eligible organizations include school districts, non-profit educational organizations and institutions of higher education, all located within the SSVEC service area.

Online applications are available at the SSVEC Foundation website, at Foundation Grants | www.ssvceyouthprograms.org.

Eddie Soule leaves a legacy



Eddie Soule, SSVEC Journeyman Lineman and Foreman with 40 years of experience on the job, offers insights to Shelby Fulton, apprentice lineman, at the statewide rodeo in Benson in November.

Forty-one years ago, landline telephones were commonplace, cable television was a “new” thing, and Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) had just three bucket trucks – one each for Benson,

Sierra Vista, and Willcox.

That year – 1983 – Eddie Soule realized a lifelong ambition when he joined SSVEC as a “groundman.”

“That position was limited to working on the ground, only. A groundman couldn’t work in a bucket truck,” Soule said in a recent interview.

After a little over two years, Soule earned an apprenticeship, ascending to the position of Journeyman Lineman in 1988.

In addition to cellphones and more bucket trucks, Soule said the biggest change from his perspective in the electric industry during the past four decades, has been improvements in equipment.

“Without a doubt, the upgrades in our equipment have made things safer and much more productive,” Soule said.

Those enhancements proved vital when SSVEC joined a nationwide effort in

August, 2005, responding to the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana. Together with more than 20 SSVEC workers, Soule drove needed equipment and supplies to the region damaged by the natural disaster.

“That’s the most devastation I’ve ever seen,” Soule said. “When I got up in a bucket truck, and I could see everything, all the trees were all sheared off at a certain height.”

For two weeks, SSVEC crews bunked and showered in a gymnasium with other aid workers and residents. The final week of their stay – the third week – the SSVEC crew moved to a motel.

“We came back after three weeks and a new crew from here (SSVEC) came in to continue the repair.”

Soule moved with his family to Sierra Vista in 1971, when his father – a

journeyman linemen in Vermont – took a similar position at Fort Huachuca, maintaining electric service at the local post. From a very young age, Eddie Soule has always wanted to be among the ranks of Journeymen Linemen.

“There’s a picture somewhere of me with my dad, and I’ve got his boots on,” Soule joked. “I used to go to work with him on Saturday mornings.”

Eddie indicates he has a long list of projects he wants to get to when he retires in February. He plans to stay in the area – he lives in Hereford – and keep in touch with his 26-year old daughter, Morgan.

“I’ll do some traveling,” Soule said. “But this is home.”



SSVEC donated bikes at Christmas time to the Salvation Army. Donations were collected from employees during the drive headed up by Paula Jackson. Delivery was made December 13, 2023 by (from the left) Bob Hardy, Field Service Supervisor, Paula Jackson, Lead Collections Specialist, and Scott Rogers, Field Service Representative. Heather Baze, an officer at the Salvation Army, accepted the bikes.



Former professional players and coaches offered skill insights and playing tips to players at the annual SSVEC Youth Basketball camp, held December 9, at Buena High School. Volunteers for the all-day affair included SSVEC employees and the Sierra Vista Boys and Girls Club. About 100 players, ages five years old to teenage, attended the camp.

What's the cost of charging my EV?

Welcome to our new Currents column, where we answer your energy questions! Do you have an energy question? Submit to energyaudit@ssvec.com.

Q: Please tell me more about electric vehicles (EVs) and the cost of charging the vehicle at my home. Check out our online EV tool: <https://ssvec.org/programs/ev.php>.

EV CHARGING LEVELS EXPLAINED

Level 1 (120 volt – Residential) - Level 1 EV chargers plug into standard 120-volt wall outlets and can charge your car in 15 to 24 hours (adds 5 miles per hour of charge).

Installation: Because installing Level 1 chargers are as easy as plugging in any other electronic device, you won't need the help of an electrical contractor.

Cost: Level 1 chargers are often included with the car, so they require no additional installation costs.

Level 2 (240 volt - Residential/Commercial) - Level 2 chargers plug into 240-volt outlets, which allows your EV to charge much faster (20-60 miles per hour of charge).

Installation: If your home already has 240-volt electric service installed, you'll just need to hire a certified electrician to complete the charging station installation. The National Electrical Code requires that Level 2 charging outlets are on a separate branch circuit. If your home isn't prepared to support the Level 2 wall connectors, you'll need an electrical service upgrade.

Cost: Basic 240-volt Level 2 chargers cost about \$600, but some charging stations include features like an enhanced touchscreen display and smartphone app control, that will add to that cost. Your EV manufacturer should be able to recommend equipment that is compatible with your vehicle.

Level 3/DC Fast Chargers (480 Volt – Commercial) - DC Fast Chargers add 60-100 miles per 20 minutes of charge. DC Fast Chargers are not for residential use.

EV RATES AND COSTS

SSVEC currently has no special time of day pricing on our standard residential rate of 10.3 cents per kWh. So, if a member is on our residential rate, it does not matter if they charge their electric vehicle in the middle of the day, or night. It will cost them the same.

To estimate the cost of a specific vehicle please check out the handy website above. Inputs include miles driven per day, model and year, and electric rate. The tool also provides the charging time based on which level of charger you have.

Surgery by a Remote

Local doctors utilizing robotic surgical system for life-saving operations

By R.J. Cohn

For years, hundreds of Cochise County residents needing robotic surgeries fled to larger hospitals for the less-invasive operations, something that wasn't available at Canyon Vista Medical Center.

But that's suddenly changing.

After purchasing a \$3.5 million Da Vinci Robotic Surgical System last December and a \$1 million VELYS Robotic Assisted Solution for knee surgeries in September, the 4-star hospital is not only providing better overall patient-care closer to home; it's becoming a medical center that Tucson residents are now seeking for robotic surgery.

And that's just the tip of the horizon for the direction the hospital's CEO Shaun Phillips wants to take CVMC. He's hoping by the end of 2024 to have one or two cardiac-cath labs with state-of-the-art imaging technology up and running.

"Cardiology is the number one reason patients leave Cochise County for other hospitals," said Phillips. "But we're going to change that by investing significantly into cardio. We have the space at CVMC, we have three top cardiologists and another coming on board. People need cardio surgical care in Cochise County, and we are gearing up to meet that demand."

Phillips and his surgical staff have already met a growing demand for general surgeries with the Da Vinci surgical robot that has currently performed more than 200 non-invasive hysterectomies, prostate, kidney, appendix and hernia removals through 2023, often doing four operations a day. Six physicians are currently using the Da Vinci in urology, ob/gyn and general surgeries. Three providers use the VELYS orthopedic robot.

And the VELYS orthopedic robot, which is touted for providing a better implant fit, has performed more than 70 knee replacements.

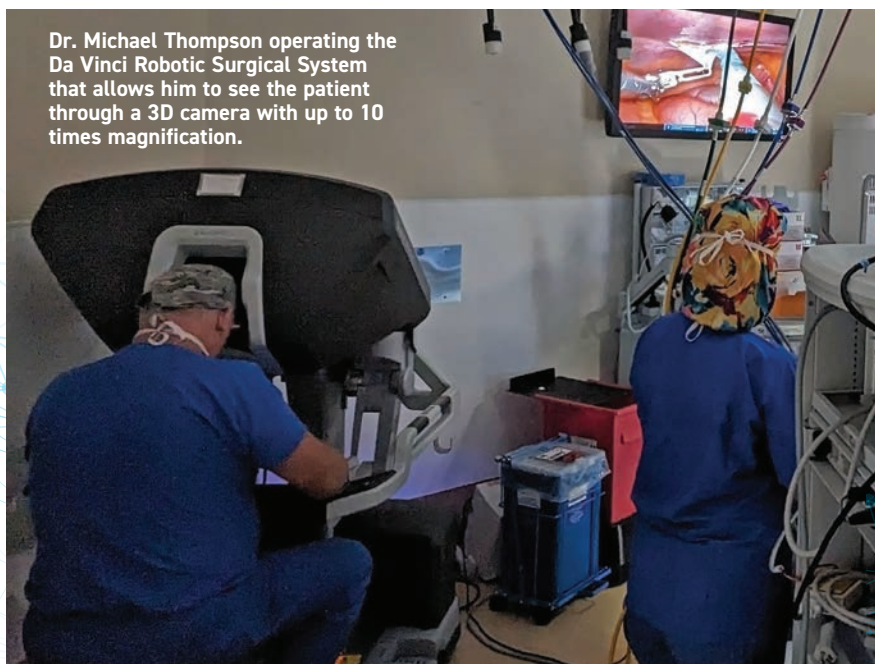
"Instead of cutting a patient from stem-to-stern to remove a gallbladder, just a few ports are created – sometimes just a single port – and the majority of patients leave the same day," said Phillips. "This is a major advancement in surgical technology, and our community needed this."

"We're blessed that we have some of the best and most highly trained surgeons with a lot of experience on the Da Vinci, like Dr. Paige Brainard who has performed thousands of robotic surgeries," said Phillips. "Being able to offer this in a rural community hospital is a major breakthrough. There's less pain, less chance for infection and blood loss and better overall patient care. Plus, they leave here a lot happier than when they came in."

Along with surgeon Dr. Michael Thompson, physicians operating the Da Vinci see the patient through a 3D camera that has up to 10 times magnification. The high-resolution view enables a surgeon to perform precise, complex surgery through tiny surgical incisions.

"This is something I always wanted to have at CVMC," said Phillips. "I'm absolutely thrilled, and the feedback we're getting from patients has been outstanding. There's more work for us to do yet, but we're trying hard to make things better here because at the end of the day, this community deserves it." ■

Dr. Michael Thompson operating the Da Vinci Robotic Surgical System that allows him to see the patient through a 3D camera with up to 10 times magnification.



naissance genius

Canyon Vista Medical Center's Dr. Michael Thompson and his surgical team perform an invasive operation with the new Da Vinci Robotic Surgical System.



Cinematic movie poster roll of movies filmed on Mescal movie set.

MOVIE Magic

Benson Couple Oversee Renovation Of Historic Movie Set

By Terri Jo Neff

True fans of Westerns know Clint Eastwood (The Outlaw Josey Wales), Lee Marvin (Monte Walsh), and Paul Newman (The Life & Times of Judge Roy Bean) once filmed at the Mescal Movie Set in northwest Cochise County, then owned by Old Tucson Studios.

But the 70-acre property spent decades playing second fiddle to the company's main 360-acre movie set located west of Tucson. So, it may surprise fans of the genre to learn the

Mescal Movie Set's 1880s "town" in the high desert plains is still standing.

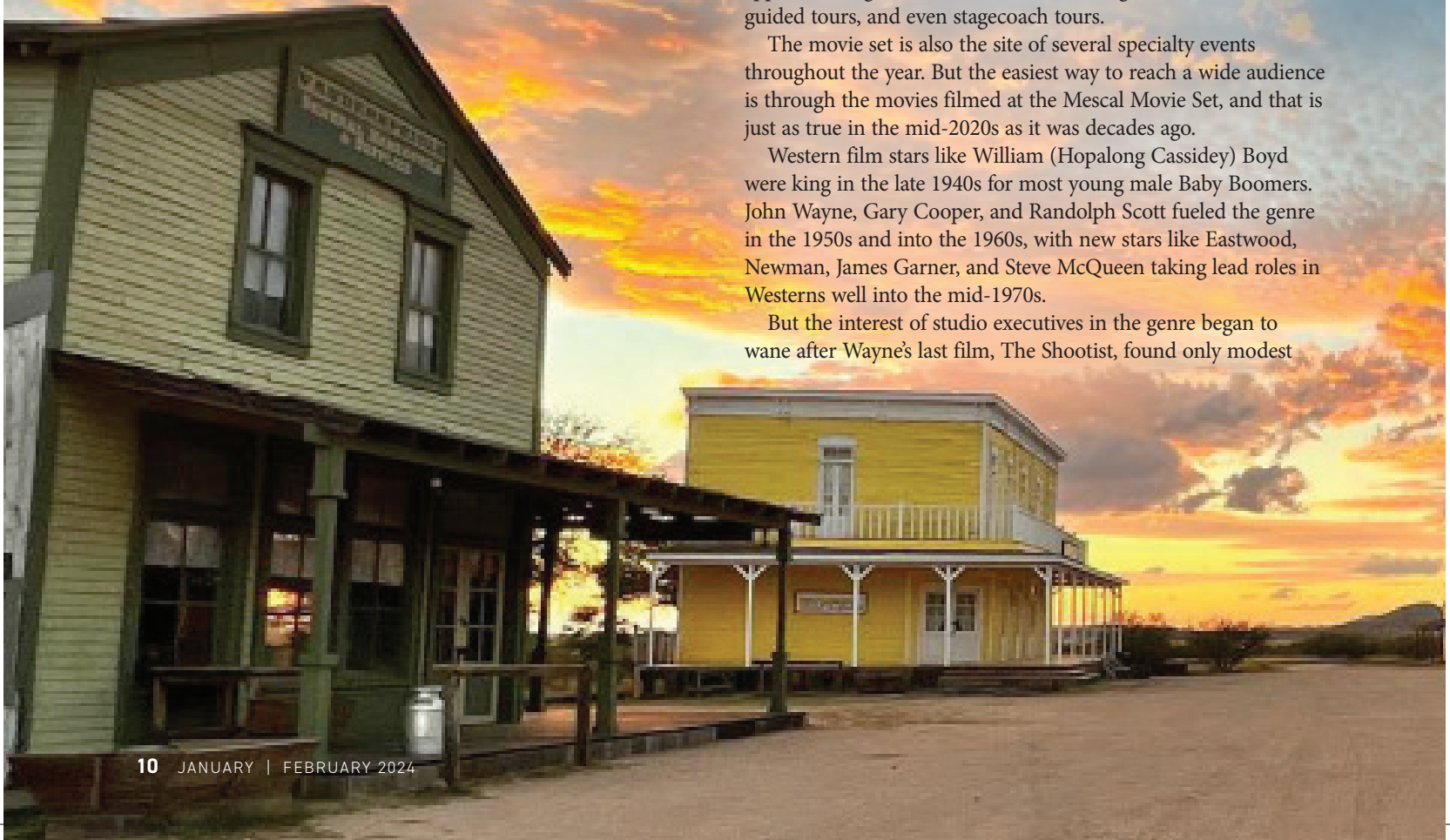
In fact, the buildings and property are the subject of an ongoing multi-million dollar renovation and expansion spearheaded by two Benson residents, Jacob and Jennifer "J.J." Kartchner. They have shored up, painted up, and restored life to most of the set's 28 buildings with the help of a dedicated group of volunteers.

The Kartchners are careful to be respectful of the movie set's history and longtime Westerns fans while finding opportunities to introduce the genre to a new generation or two. They offer by-appointment guided tours with a knowledgeable historian, self-guided tours, and even stagecoach tours.

The movie set is also the site of several specialty events throughout the year. But the easiest way to reach a wide audience is through the movies filmed at the Mescal Movie Set, and that is just as true in the mid-2020s as it was decades ago.

Western film stars like William (Hopalong Cassidey) Boyd were king in the late 1940s for most young male Baby Boomers. John Wayne, Gary Cooper, and Randolph Scott fueled the genre in the 1950s and into the 1960s, with new stars like Eastwood, Newman, James Garner, and Steve McQueen taking lead roles in Westerns well into the mid-1970s.

But the interest of studio executives in the genre began to wane after Wayne's last film, *The Shootist*, found only modest





ABOVE: Far Haven saloon. **FAR RIGHT:** Mescal movie jail. **RIGHT:** Mescal movie stagecoach.



success at the box office in 1976. The turn away from Westerns was speeded up in 1980 after McQueen's Tom Horn was a box office bust.

Yet by the end of the 1980s, the surprise hit television show The Young Riders filmed at Mescal attracted another generation of Western / Cowboy fans. This led to a revival of Westerns by the big studios, including Tombstone (1993), Maverick (1994), and The Quick and the Dead (1995) which starred Sharon Stone with up and coming actors Russell Crowe and Leonardo DiCaprio.

Then in April 1995, many of the buildings, props, and wardrobe at the main Old Tucson Studios location were destroyed by fire. The loss, along with Hollywood studio executives once again looking for something new, meant the set in Mescal would spend the next several years falling into disrepair.

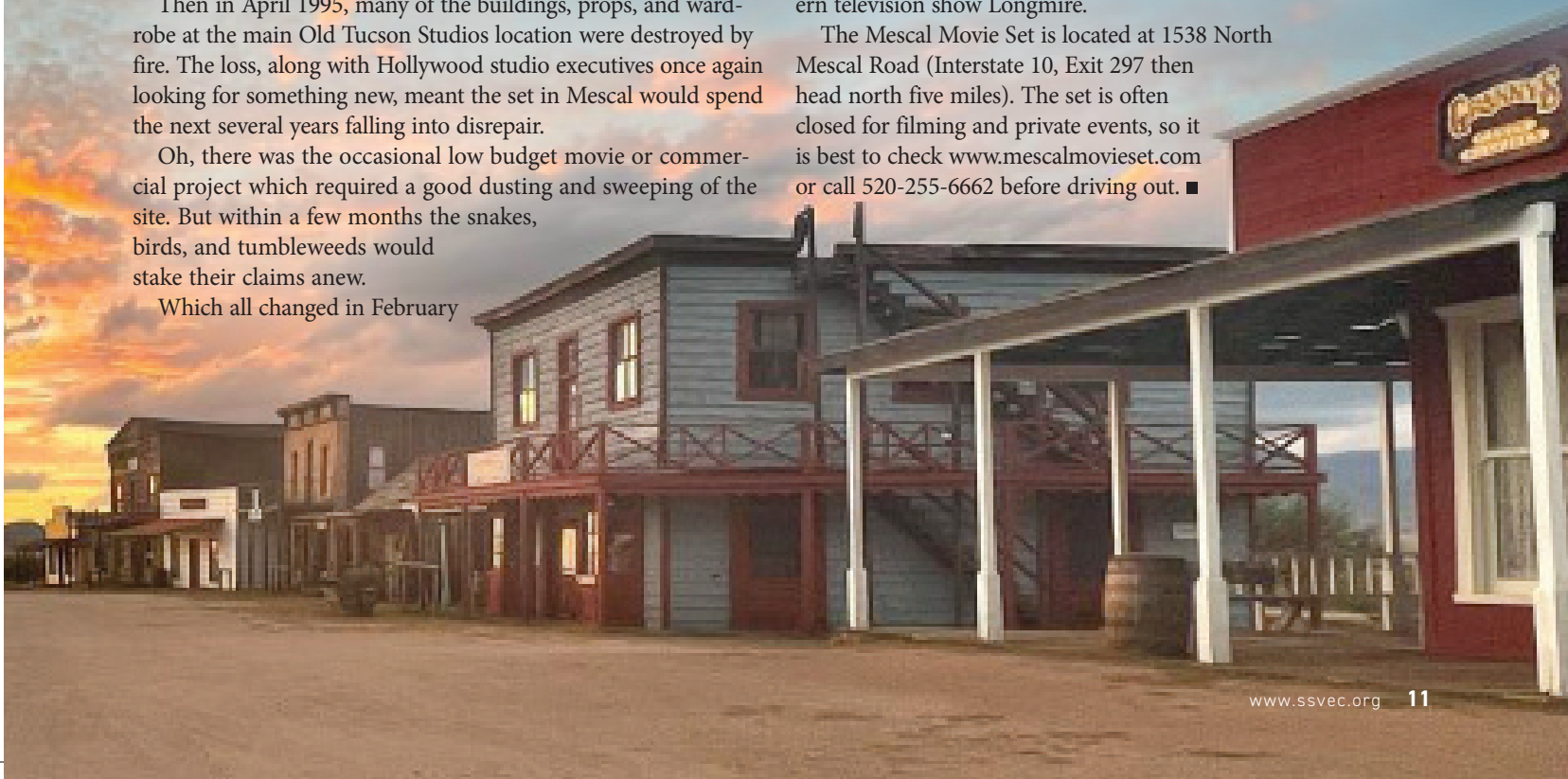
Oh, there was the occasional low budget movie or commercial project which required a good dusting and sweeping of the site. But within a few months the snakes, birds, and tumbleweeds would stake their claims anew.

Which all changed in February

2021 when Cochise County-based Kartchner Ventures LCC bought out the Mescal Movie Set's lease from Old Tucson Studios. Several emergency repairs were made with the help of Westerns fans, and there are plans to expand the "town" in 2024 by adding a blacksmith shop, a land office, and even a cemetery, according to the set's website.

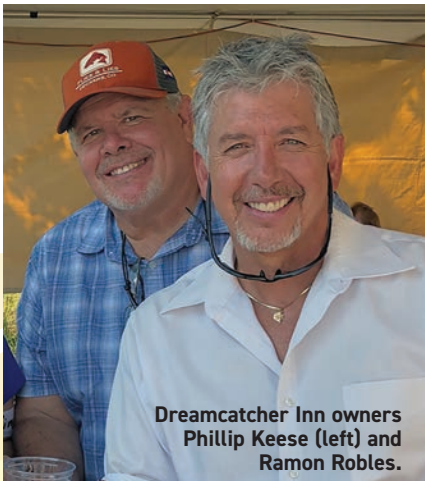
A handful of filming projects have also utilized the movie set in recent months. One project was the INSP-TV Western drama Far Haven which was released in late 2023. The movie stars Bailey Chase, who appeared in 33 episodes of the hit modern-Western television show Longmire.

The Mescal Movie Set is located at 1538 North Mescal Road (Interstate 10, Exit 297 then head north five miles). The set is often closed for filming and private events, so it is best to check www.mescalmovieset.com or call 520-255-6662 before driving out. ■



Getting Away

By R.J. Cohn



Dreamcatcher Inn owners Phillip Keese (left) and Ramon Robles.

from it all

When you feel the need to recharge your batteries – whether it’s from the grind of work or you just need to get away for a weekend and take a deep breath, the Dreamcatcher Inn at Chiricahua is that oasis in the high lonesome country where sunsets and the largest of Arizona’s Sky Island mountain ranges have an almost magical healing effect on your entire psyche.

Located about 10 minutes from the entrance of the spectacular Chiricahua National Monument on State Route 181 in the Sulphur Springs Valley, owners Phillip Keese and Ramon Robles have

created a paradise for visitors in an adobe-style bed-and-breakfast that’s difficult to leave after a weekend stay.

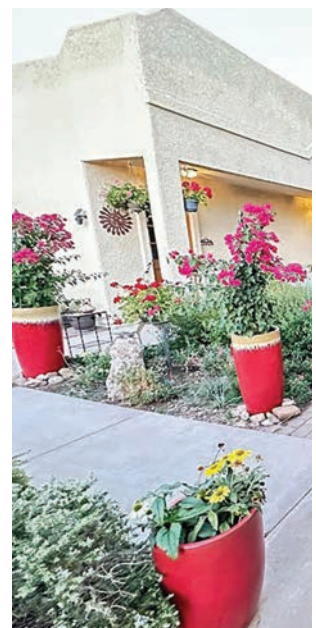
Purchased two years ago from John and Julia Kirk, who spent 26 years creating a legacy with their inn among hunters coming to bag quail and visitors excited to explore the Chiricahuas, Keese and Robles have revamped the beloved bed and breakfast into a showcase destination.


With wall-mounted fountains, colorful shrubbery – along with red Bougainvillea, potted lemon trees, succulents, hanging plants and stunning artwork – guests

Enjoy a weekend at the Dreamcatcher Inn



Guests at the Dreamcatcher Inn enjoy the splendor of the inn’s courtyard with owner Phillip Keese (right).





Sunsets over the Chiricahua Mountains are a regular evening sight from the Dreamcatcher Inn.



sit and talk on couches by a tiled fire pit and quickly become fast friends. The intimate setting features four tastefully decorated rooms mounted with heritage artwork, all with king size beds, and tiled showers, private entry, wi-fi, satellite TV and a mini fridge.

Featured in Arizona Highways magazine and Thrillist, an online media website covering travel and entertainment, Dreamcatcher Inn is a hidden treasure tucked away in the middle of big sky country.

“We’ve been very, very busy since we took over the inn two years ago,” said Robles, who has owned several restaurants and knows his way around a commercial kitchen. “We’ve been

blessed, but we’ve worked hard to create this stunning atmosphere and setting at the Dreamcatcher. The testimonials from our guests have been overwhelmingly positive. It’s a great feeling when you consistently receive that kind of feedback.”

While the rates for the only lodging on the highway to the Chiricahua National Monument are more than reasonable, for an optional fee Keese and Robles – both outstanding chefs – will prepare sumptuous dinners, like pistachio-crusted mahi-mahi or chicken adobo with rice pilaf, roasted vegetables, salad, desert along with a glass of wine. Guests are seated at a long table in the inn’s main lodge; after a couple of

dinners – which are more like culinary feasts – they become more like family than visitors.

Though exploring the Chiricahua mountains brings most visitors to the Dreamcatcher Inn, there are scores of other activities in the area. Aside from birdwatching, history buffs hooked on Tombstone history can visit outlaw Johnny Ringo’s gravesite on Turkey Run Road about seven miles from the inn. There are also the wineries, the Rex Allen Museum and Apple Annie’s Orchard in nearby Willcox.

“We wanted to create a place where people could come to stay and experience the beauty of this place and everything it has to offer,” said Keese. ■



Tucked away in the high, lonesome country minutes from the Chiricahua National Monument, the Dreamcatcher Inn is an oasis for visitors from all over the world.

The matter of relationships

Just in time for Valentine's Day!

they

By Jenny Kartchner, Contributor

What kind of relationship do you have with your country, your God, pets, neighbors, and others? SSVEC is “dedicated to community growth, quality of life, and a positive vision for the future.” Their service includes Sierra Vista, Huachuca City, Patagonia, Elfrida, Benson, St. David, Bowie, San Simon, Willcox, Sonoita, and Pearce-Sunsites. Let’s look at effective relationships in our district.

FOUR GENERATIONS OF RELATIONSHIPS

Sylvia Richardson (Benson)

- 10 children (9 girls)
- 47 grandchildren
- 44 great grandchildren
- Sylvia makes good “peasant food” with her daughter, Faye Mayberry (St. David)
- Faye has four children
- nine grandchildren
- and enjoys quilting and baking
- she loves Cochise County
- on Tuesdays Faye picks up her daughter’s children, Candace Evans (Sierra Vista)
- Candice is a nurse
- Her oldest, Hannah Evans has flown nest, providing a new dimension to the family relationships

- Hannah has a good heart, she is a force for good
- All four women bless others with music. The lesson? Dedication amid hardships builds open and supportive communication.

MOTHER-BABY RELATIONSHIP

Kami Allred (Bowie)

- six children
- needs her Little Miles
- sweet smiles, snuggles, innocence
- brings peace in otherwise overwhelming phase of life
- Miles helps her slow down, focus on life’s brightness
- young light to all.

FRIEND RELATIONSHIP

Audra Sloan (San Simon)

- nurse, department of Veterans Affairs
- husband, Jason, Lieutenant for the Arizona Enforcement Compliance Division
- Audra’s friendships offer an opportunity to express herself and live dreams
- provide support, guidance, happiness, comfort
- spend time with mutual activities or just being together.

SON-FATHER RELATIONSHIP

Brek Haymore (Huachuca City)

- 10 acres, clay soil- created regenerated process-biochar, swales, berms to grow grass pastures
- hunting, pack goats, building



FOUR GENERATIONS
Left back: Hannah Evans, Candace Evans. Left front: Sylvia Richardson, Faye Mayberry.
PHOTO COURTESY OF CARTER MAYBERRY.

MOTHER BABY RELATIONSHIP
Miles Allred
PHOTO COURTESY OF KAMI ALLRED



SON FATHER RELATIONSHIP
Brek Haymore and children
PHOTO COURTESY OF LEAH HAYMORE

IS...

matter!

- love of land encompasses love and respect for children
- 3-year-old Mack admires Dad. If Dad digs, Mack digs. If Dad's hair needs a buzz, Mack's does too. If Dad feeds animals, Mack does.

MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

Joe and Renee Sowards (Pearce-Sunsites)

- Joe was raised in Colorado, Renee in Chicago, Ill.
- married in Scottsdale in 1979
- moved in 2016 to the Dragoon Mountains Foothills, 5.5 acres
- Joe, law-enforcement for 37 years, Renee has been an animal zookeeper for 20 years,
- relationship secrets: respect, joint decisions, prayer, service, calmness, apologies, spontaneity, be newlyweds, laugh, listen.



MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP
Joe and Renee Sowards
 PHOTO COURTESY OF RENE SOWARDS



SIBLINGS RELATIONSHIP
Julie Nolan and Gary Hatch
 PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE NOLAN

SIBLINGS RELATIONSHIP

Gary Hatch and Julie Nolan (Willcox)

- both taught Cochise College classes
- a college security-officer, knowing both were married, voiced concerns to the director. The director laughed, informing him they're siblings! Officer's sister doesn't treat him like that
- relationships can richly bless or canker. Gary, Julie, siblings, spouses want to be friends. Love and forgiveness work the best to keep the friendships alive!

EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE-RELATIONSHIP

Kimberly and Michael Moreno (Patagonia)

- both grew up in Patagonia, then moved back to the area
- Michael is a former employee of Kartchner Caverns

- The Morenos own "MorQ BBQ & Bakery"
- They are willing to do everything employees do, mutual respect, open communication, know they're being heard.

SSVEC RELATIONSHIP

- Members of the SSVEC district show an abundance of love and commitment
- members can converse with anyone by finding one thing in common ... we have common cooperative!
- let's bring peace and harmony to our surroundings
- relationships – find something that can bring together.

People are more important than things. Kindness matters. Relationships matter! ■

Mountain bike ecosystem

By Larry Scott

Several years ago, Nick and Jess Dalaportas came back to their roots from Alaska, with their family of bicycle enthusiasts. Presumably they came south to thaw out and ride mountain bikes.

And, judging from the photos, they are going all-out!

Clearly, these folks take fun seriously. Already, they've launched a community movement to make the Benson area a destination for mountain bikers from all over.

When I asked for more information, I was directed to Christy Crowley – also from Alaska – who is playing a key role in launching and realizing a big dream. And it's happening – a sort snowball effect. She has quite a story:

“On Sept 23, a group of us rode at The Amerind Museum's 4th Annual Texas Canyon Mountain Bike Race,” Christy said. “It was super fun; so exciting to just get out there and ride. Our team was sponsored by Benson Hospital. We had a total of 15 riders, and our Benson members took first, second, and third in the youth category for male and female competitors.

“There's a growing momentum here in Benson to create a mountain bike ecosystem. We have seen huge benefits that happen when mountain bike trails are available in an area, and it can really satisfy a lot of needs we see in our culture.

“You know – getting outside more, getting kids on bikes, more family activities, opportunities for people of all ages to get outdoors – really engaging in the healthy activity of what mountain biking is.

“Here in-and-around Benson, we have a prime landscape for cultivating trails. A group called Benson MTB Incorporated has banded together to make it happen. So, we want to let everyone know what's happening and invite people to climb aboard!

“Under the umbrella of Benson MTB, we have a couple different programs. Last year, Benson Unified Schools Superintendent, Micah Mortenson sparked the start of Benson High School's mountain bike team, which performed phenomenally – with several members placing at NICA (National Interscholastic Cycling Association) state level.

“That really launched a number of local families into mountain biking

– maybe for the first time or perhaps to rekindle a passion that had cooled due to the lack of good trails in the area.

“A major partner from the beginning has been Wheel Fun, a Sedona-based bike club, and 501c3 nonprofit organization. They support schools, helping to get more kids on bikes, via after school bike clubs.

“Wheel Fun also provided us with a really amazing bicycle trailer, ‘Huckwagon’ that holds (more than) 20 bikes.

“Because our local trails have yet to be developed, we have to transport the kids for more exposure to riding. So the new trailer opens a new level of opportunity for the kids in town to get out and ride!

“And the TREK bike shop in Oro Valley has been really phenomenal in their support. They've donated a lot of time building and delivering donated bikes from Wheel Fun at no charge.

“The momentum is building with our strong networking relationships with Benson City Council. Councilmember Cindy Tapia has been quite active in her support.



Enzo catching air at the Sierra Vista pump track.

System grows in Benson

“Also, Benson Hospital, Benson Unified School District, the local Chamber of Commerce, and landowners open to trail development.

“Presently, we’re working to develop trails in and around the Benson area which will create opportunities for all of us to get out.

“Check out our website, www.bensonmtb.org for more on what’s happening, with a detailed look at where we are in the stages of planning and developing. The website also announces upcoming events. And you can sign up for emails that will keep you up-to-date on our progress and

continued momentum. There are also Facebook and Instagram pages.

“Because Benson MTB is a 501c3 non-profit, donations can be write offs, if you want to help fund the movement or need tax write offs, we have donation link set up on our website.

“We invite you to join us in cultivating this mountain bike ecosystem!” ■



Hanging out on the Huckwagon.

Big balloons blow

Parade Giants makes its mark all over the world

By Larry Scott

Amazing! The 95 foot-long Spiderman. The equally impressive Betty Boop, Andy Panda, Peace Dove, Snoopy, and 95 foot-long Blue Whale.

More follow. Huge displays of Micky Mouse, Oaxaca Doll, Coldstone Ice cream, Mr. Potato Head, Snapper the Dragon, Snowden, Bull Dog. And so many more!

I'm watching videos of the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. Wonderful floats, marching bands, and an incredible collection of gorgeous balloons.

They bring out the little kid in me! But who knew that many of them were designed and produced right here in Hereford by Parade Giants.

Recently, I visited Parade Giants in the Hereford area, where Ken Moody and his son, Wade work their magic. The building looks like a moderately-sized aircraft hangar.

Inside, a lot of materials and equipment, and a big one – of which we cannot speak particularly because, as is often the case, it's confidential – for now.

So, how on earth did the Moody's become involved in something so... different?

"I made my first balloon in 1982," Ken said. "And then I attended the Art Institute of Seattle from '84 to '86. There, I teamed up with John Hilding who showed me how to build balloons using plastic and tape.

"Soon I was working for a company, Kemp Balloons. Target had a national

ad campaign from 1987-1999, which featured a snowman character called Snowden. We did two balloons of that character and Andy Panda. And then a huge Woody Woodpecker.

"Followed by Haggard the Horrible, Mr. Potato Head, Yogi Bear, a 15 foot-tall Dairy Queen ice cream cone, and a huge piece for 'Carnival' in Brazil.

"Now, these many years, and many projects later, we're still at it," Ken Moody said.

So what does the process of fabricating a balloon look like?

"New projects begin with a line drawing and then a hand-sculptured plaster scale model," Ken explained. "A plastic material is then sprayed on, and painstakingly peeled off a section at a time. The individual sections are



Helicopter for Peninsula Hotels - Hong Kong and Shanghai, 150 year celebration.

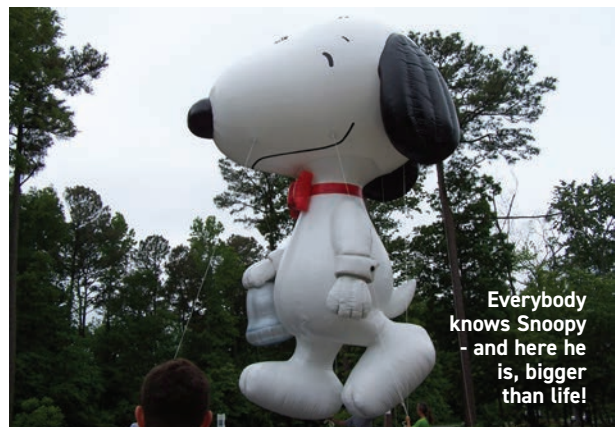
up in Hereford



And, there's. Elmo!



Ken Moody, working on Spiderman.



Everybody knows Snoopy - and here he is, bigger than life!

carefully cut so they can lay flat.”

These miniature patterns are then projected on the wall at the desired size, and the balloon's individual shapes are cut out – much like the pattern a seamstress might use in sewing a new shirt.

Individual shapes are then “seamed together” and inflated. Often, the finished balloon consists of numerous smaller components, which are inflated separately. During the process, attachment points for tether ropes are strategically placed.

The finished balloon is then painted – often with a complex graphic layout. Clearly an involved process.

Finished balloons are deflated,

packed, and shipped to the point of use. There, they must be unpacked and inflated with air or helium depending on the intended use and launched with the appropriate tether ropes.

While some processes have remained constant over the years, today's balloons are very different from the early days. Sheet materials, adhesives and paints have changed dramatically over time. A change in chemistry by a supplier, and what worked beautifully before no longer works at all – definitely frustrating.

Big balloons clearly make for a complex and fascinating story. There are a couple online videos that provide

a beautiful overview of an amazing project in which PARADE GIANTS was involved.

Six years ago, Peninsula Hotels celebrated 150 years of service at their Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels. Videos show beautiful architecture, to be sure – and huge balloons around and above the hotel.

Check it out on YouTube. “Peninsula Hotels – 150 years Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels” and “HSH 150th Anniversary Gala – The Peninsula Hotels.”

For more information on the work Ken and Wade are doing, check their website, biggideas.com. ■

Arizona Community giving feel like Chris



ABOVE: Arizona Community Foundation Staff and regional Board of Advisors include, from the left: Kimberly Kur, Jana Flagler, Mark Phillips, Susan Pater, Colleen Luliucci, Sally Holcomb, Jason Zibart, Gwen Calhoun, Deborah Moroney, Mary Kay Ponder, Angie Laskarides. PHOTOS BY R.J. COHN

BELOW: Several of the staff and board members from the Sierra Vista Boys and Girls Club were on hand to receive one of the 21 awards recently announced by the Arizona Community Foundation. Pictured, from the left, are Demetrius Drake, Jennifer Wantz, Ramona McCaa, and Jay Hamwright.



By R.J. Cohn

When it comes to stepping in and funding Cochise County's rural nonprofits which provide essential and critical community no one contributes, and touches lives, the way Arizona Community Foundation does.

The overall impact ACF has had on Cochise County since it began in 1998 has been enormous: More than \$12 million in grants has been awarded to scores of struggling nonprofits in areas of health innovation, education, environment and sustainability, community improvement, along with arts and culture.

"In just 25 years, \$12 million has come into this community and has helped in such a huge way," said Janet Flagler, chairperson of the ACF Grant Committee at an October 24 ceremony at Cochise College. "That level of sustainability is incredible to me."

Awards totaling \$80,000 were presented to 21 nonprofits at the gathering.

"We love the work we do to provide some sustenance to our local nonprofits," said Gwen Calhoun of Sierra Vista, who chairs ACF's Board of Advisors. "We've touched and helped so many lives throughout Cochise County by giving to so many different nonprofits that have made a big difference in the quality of life here."

But ACF didn't come to a ceremony to toast itself or the foundation's achievements. It had two more personal awards to hand out.

Les and Kathy Orchekowski, longtime supporters of the Boys & Girls Club of Sierra Vista for more than 25 years, were awarded the Carol Huddleston Volunteer of Year, while Step Up Bisbee/Naco was named the 2023 Nonprofit of the Year. The 100 percent volunteer organization helps supply hot water, electricity and indoor plumbing along with providing


Foundation makes istmas

home repair work for low-income, disabled and elderly residents.


"There's always more to do," ACF Senior Regional Director Angie Laskarides told the crowd. "There's more money to raise, more needs to attend to. But tonight is a night to celebrate for what we've achieved this year, which has been a lot."

2003 Arizona Cochise Foundation Grant Awardees:


- * Act One
- * Arizona Science Center
- * Bi-National Arts Institute
- * Boys & Girls Club of Sierra Vista
- * Boy Scouts of America, Catalina Council
- * Chihuahua Community Health Centers
- * City of Douglas
- * Echoing Hope Ranch
- * Family Healthcare Amigos
- * Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona
- * Naco Wellness Initiative
- * Project Wildlife: Bisbee
- * San Simon Fire District
- * Sierra Vista Symphony Association
- * Soldier's Best Friend
- * Step Up Bisbee/Naco
- * United Way of Sierra Vista and Cochise County
- * Verde Valley Wheel Fun
- * Willcox Community Food Pantry
- * Willcox Theater and Arts Inc. ■





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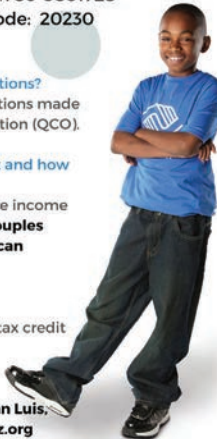
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WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Q: What is the Arizona Tax Credit for Charitable Organizations?
A: You may claim a tax credit for voluntary cash contributions made during a taxable year to a Qualifying Charitable Organization (QCO).

Q: Do I have to itemize my deductions to claim the credit and how much can I give?
A: Yes. You must itemize deductions on your Arizona state income tax return. The form to use is **AZ 321**. For 2023, **married couples filing jointly can contribute up to \$841; individual filers can contribute up to \$421.**

Q: Is this the same as the School Tax Credit?
A: It is similar, but taxpayers can take advantage of both tax credit opportunities.

Q: How can I make an Arizona Tax Credit donation?
A: You can mail this ad with a donation to **1746 Paseo San Luis, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635** or donate online at www.bgcsvaz.org

Have Questions? Please call 520-515-0055

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City, State, Zip: _____

Email me my receipt: (circle one) Yes No

Donate by
April 15, 2024

Always
Consult Your

Not your grandfather

The Coronado National Memorial Visitor Center is on the cutting edge of history

By R.J. Cohn

This is not your grandfather's visitor center with a couple of restrooms and a rack of souvenirs to buy for the neighbors back home.

With more than 13,000 visitors who passed through the Coronado National Memorial Visitor Center last year, the center is more than a jumping-off point for hikers. It's a 4,720-acre park in Hereford, backed up against the southeast flank of the Huachuca Mountains, and established in 1952.

The hidden gem off State Route 92 maintained by the U.S. National Park Service is a dream-come-true for Cochise County students who can't get enough of early Arizona history and how the landscape inside the memorial was formed.

With education programs tailored to meet Arizona state curriculum standards – from geology and historical

significance to how plant and wildlife co-exist in the park –the field trip given by park rangers may be what you wished for to enrich your understanding of the ecosystem in your own backyard.

And if you're a history buff of the first major Spanish expedition that marched through the San Pedro Valley in 1540, U.S. Park Ranger and education coordinator Callie Caplenor knows her history of the region like the back of her hand.

You'll almost feel like you're marching with the expedition led by Conquistador Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in his two-year search for the mythical Seven Cities of Gold that changed the way of life of the region's indigenous people forever.

"The National Park Service has always had a robust education program, and we're making people aware, especially through education programs primarily for third to seventh

Painting of the Coronado reenactment.



er's visitor center



The 600-foot, 70-foot-wide Coronado Cave is one of the more stunning features at the Coronational Memorial and is one of the few open, undeveloped caves in southern Arizona. It may have served as a shelter and hideout by middle archaic people 8,000 years ago and by the Chiricahua Apache and other Apache peoples, Mexican and European miners and settlers.

graders, of what the park has to offer," said Caplenor who has been at the visitor center two years.

For many, this is a first-of-a-kind, hands-on experience of the study of geological formations and wildlife adaptation in a natural habitat.

"We stay pretty busy year-round with our community-outreach program at the visitor center, but with the arrival of out-of-state snowbirds from October to April, this is our busiest period," said Caplenor. "Last year, over 100,000 vehicles passed by the center, many on their way to hike the interpretive trails, or to camp at Parker Lake. There's a lot to see and do here."

For those who want to learn a little more about Coronado's campaign that followed the San Pedro River, Caplenor can give you an earful, especially about recent artifacts that are still being

discovered nearly 800 years after the conquistadors marched through the region.

"Though there's no documentation that Coronado's expedition came through the park or the scenic overlook of Montezuma's Pass, archaeologists are still finding artifacts like pottery shards, cutlery – even a canon – mostly on the other side of the San Rafael Valley to the west by the Patagonia Mountains, where they think an early settlement may have been.

"It's very exciting knowing that at this late in the game they're still finding evidence of Coronado's campaign," she added. "And when you hike the trails by Montezuma's Pass, you can almost imagine the hardships the soldiers endured with the thousands of animals they marched with and everything they hauled through this region." ■



Observing

By Ted Forte

William Shakespeare has Juliet admonish Romeo ... “Do not swear by the moon, for she changes constantly.” We can be sure the Bard didn’t intend the inconstancy of the moon to be an attribute, but lunar observers would disagree. It’s that very variability that makes the moon such a captivating target!

Each month the moon goes through a series of distinct changes that provide a fascinating panorama of light and shadow. The cycle begins with a new moon, where our satellite is directly between us and the sun and is invisible to us.

As the moon advances in its orbit, the sun-moon-earth angle starts to open up and we begin to see a tiny sliver of illuminated surface in the evening sky. This is our first opportunity to make a significant observation. Moon watchers revel in sighting the “young” moon and strive to break their record for the “youngest” moon they can see just before sunset in the first hours after new moon. A reliable record for capturing a young moon by eye is held by the famous observer/author Stephen James O’Meara: 15 hours and 32 minutes. For most people, the moon must be more

than a day “old” (24 hours or more from the moment the moon is exactly opposite the sun) to be detectable by the eye alone.

Observing the moon is most convenient when it’s waxing. It takes about two weeks for the moon to move half way around the Earth and reach full moon. We see the waxing moon in the evening sky, with the size of the illuminated surface increasing each night. Each evening, it sets about an hour or more later. At first quarter, the moon rises around noon and sets around midnight and 50% of the earth-facing side is in sunlight. Public Nights at the Patterson Observatory are scheduled near first quarter to take advantage of this remarkable telescopic target. (Visit www.usfaz.org and pull down the Patterson tab to register for this free event.)

We can enjoy the moon by eye alone, but binoculars or a telescope will convert the moon into a world that can be explored in exquisite detail. A good map will be invaluable. I recommend the wonderful freeware program Virtual Moon Atlas. Just plug that title into your search engine and you’ll find numerous sources to download it. That map can

The moon sets over the Huachuca Mountains.

ing the moon

be set to depict the moon at any time or date and be oriented (inverted or reversed) to match the view in your type of telescope. Instruments that employ an odd number of reflections like a refractor or SCT with a star diagonal provide a mirror-reversed image. Telescopes with an even number of reflections, like a typical reflector, will invert the image. This can make things rather confusing. It's of great benefit to have a map that can present the moon the same way your telescope displays it.

The line between the lit and unlit portion of the moon, called the "terminator", advances ever so slowly across the surface. As it progresses, different features catch the sun. Shadows appear and evolve: first lengthening and then shortening. Mountains and crater rims briefly catch the first rays of sunrise, standing out from the surrounding dark terrain. The appearance of features transform dramatically as the sun angle changes. Bright rays become visible in more direct sunlight, and shadowing can create interesting illusions. Many smaller features require just the right sun angle to be visible at all.

The waning moon is just as interesting and varied, of course, but during that quarter, it's above the horizon only in the wee hours.

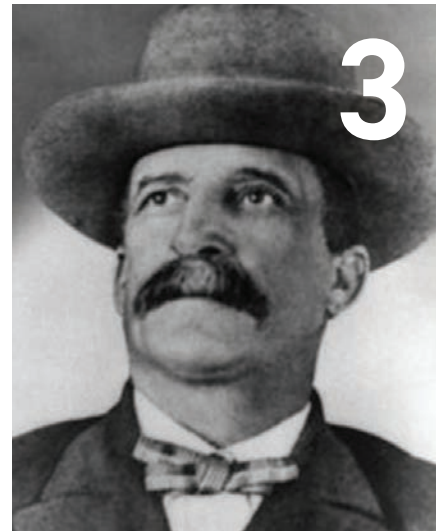
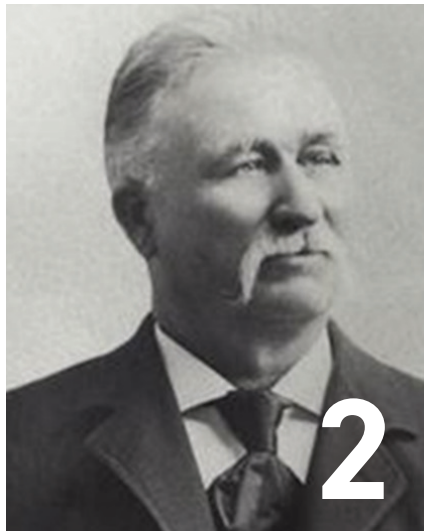
Full moon garners a lot of attention; being so bright, it's hard to ignore. Observers will find, however, that the direct sun angle makes the full moon perhaps the least interesting portion of the visible phases. Even then, though, there are features such as the magnificent moon-spanning ray system of the crater Tycho, that can only be truly appreciated when the moon is full. The moon must be full for us to experience a lunar eclipse, and that is another time when a full moon makes for a remarkable observation. As the moon slips into the Earth's shadow, we see it redden. This beautiful red hue

is the result of light from continuous sunrises and sunsets refracted through our atmosphere.

Speaking of eclipses, the most remarkable sight the heavens can provide occurs when a new moon exactly lines up with our sun causing a total solar eclipse. The geometry of this alignment is referred to as syzygy. Store that one away for your next game of Scrabble. Make your plans now for the next American total solar eclipse that will occur on April 8, this year. The path of totality will stretch from Mexico to Newfoundland. ■



Setting up to shoot the moon.



COCHISE COUNTY'S first sheriffs

By Kathy Klump

1. John Behan was the first sheriff of Cochise County, which was formed out of Pima County on January 1, 1881. He had been serving as deputy sheriff under Bob Paul. The first county officials were appointed until the first elections could be held in 1882. Behan served as sheriff until then, but chose not to run for office. The most famous incident during his term was the shootout near the OK corral involving the Earps, Clanton's and McLauri's. After Behan killed Dick Joby, who was resisting arrest, he never again carried a gun.

2. Jerome Lemuel Ward, was the first elected sheriff serving one term from 1883-1884. On March 28, 1884, Ward supervised the hanging of five members of the gang that committed "The Bisbee Massacre" on an oversized gallows constructed specifically for the occasion. An

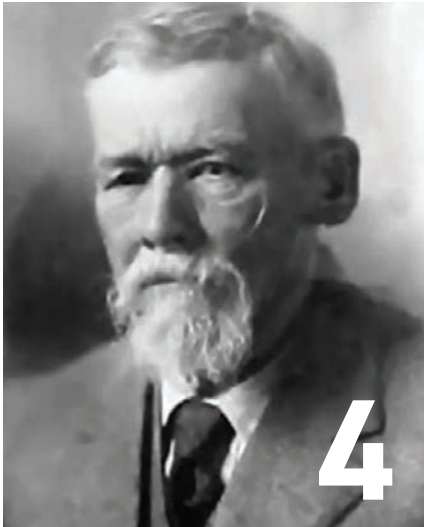
angry and well-armed lynch mob took prisoner John Heath, the presumed mastermind, from the jail and had hanged him themselves from a telegraph pole one month before. Dr. Goodfellow, who witnessed the lynching, ruled his death as "emphysema of the lungs, which might have been, and probably was, caused by strangulation, self-inflicted or otherwise, as in accordance with the medical evidence." All six are buried in Tombstone's Boot Hill.

3. Robert S. Hatch ran unopposed in the election of 1884 and served one term as sheriff from 1885-1886. He was part owner of Campbell & Hatch Saloon. It is said he was a colorful character and kept a jar of frogs on the counter as their croaking helped him predict the weather. He was playing a game of billiards in his saloon with Morgan Earp,

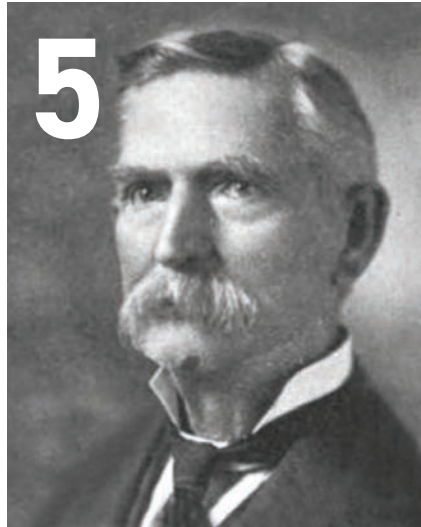
when the back window was shattered by gunshot mortally wounding Morgan, who died soon after on March 18, 1882. During his tenure, Florence Hamseth was hired for \$50 a month as "Janatrix" to keep the court house clean. Five dozen Hardin's hand grenades were purchased for \$2,600 for protection of county buildings, and the county paid \$150 for a piece of ground to build a county hospital.

4. John Slaughter was the fourth sheriff and served two terms from 1887-1890. He was only five feet four inches in height, but made up for it in toughness. He spent most of his term on horseback chasing horse thieves and other outlaws. Burt Alvord, later the constable from Willcox who masterminded two train robberies himself, was his deputy who helped during the arrest and killing of the Agua Zarca train

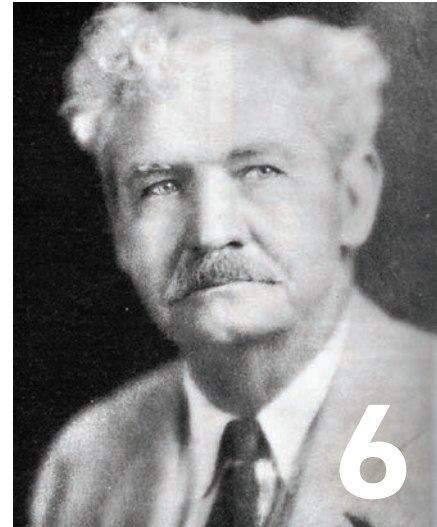
The Story of Willcox, a new book of the fascinating and previously untold stories of the people and events of Willcox from the Gadsden Purchase through World War I, by Kathy Klump and Peta Anne Tenney, is now available. The price is \$35 plus \$5 postage. Contact the Chiricahua Regional Museum, (520) 384-3971; or the Friendly Bookstore, 125 E. Maley, Willcox, AZ 85643 (520) 766-2665; or our website ssvhs.weebly.com.



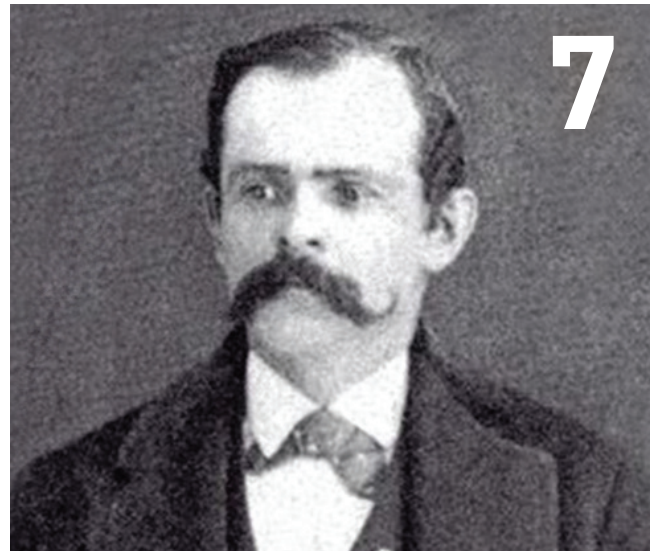
robbers in Nogales in 1888. Heading the gang was Jack Taylor, a blacksmith formerly from Willcox. Slaughter built up his San Bernadino Ranch to include 70,000 acres to graze 50,000 head of cattle. He was the first person to raise alfalfa in Cochise County.



- 5. Carlton B. Kelton** served one term as sheriff from 1891-1892. He was a captain in the Confederate Army. He came to Tombstone in 1879. As sheriff, he was kind-hearted and worried about the health of his prisoners. He permitted them to exercise in the jail yard. This practice caused him to lose a few prisoners who managed to scramble over the brick wall when the jailors had their backs turned. Mr. Kelton was elected to the House of Representatives in the first Arizona legislature in 1912. He proved up on a homestead east of Courtland and about 25 miles south of Cochise to try dry-land farming. This became the junction for the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad. The train stop was named “Kelton” after the sheriff. It is now a ghost town.



- 6. Scott White** served three two-year terms that were split, one from 1893-1894 and also from 1896-1900. He lived in Bowie, Arizona. He was a bicycle enthusiast, so instead of riding horseback to attend to his duties, he pedaled about the county on his shiny new “wheel.” He also had income from copper mines in Cananea and Cobre Grande. In 1892, he won election to the county board of supervisors. He was then serving as supervisor and as sheriff at the same time. This caused a huge controversy. One supervisor refused to vote, so his seat was declared vacant and another man appointed to his seat. Then one side took the money and records from the safe. The jailor refused to give over the key. The governor was brought in to decide who was legally elected, and finally Scott White decided to just be sheriff. During his tenure, the Halderman brothers were hanged in Tombstone. He sent out ornate, black



bordered invitations to the hanging, but put a stop to the sale of pieces of the execution rope.

- 7. Camillus Sidney (C. S.) Fly** was elected as sheriff in November 1894 for the 1895-1896 term. He is very famous as the photographer who followed the military to Canon de los Embudos during the Geronimo campaign and took the only known photos of American Indians at war. He and his wife, Molly, had a studio, which overlooked the OK Corral in Tombstone. Fly was serving as sheriff when Joe George and Grant Wheeler robbed the train blowing up 8,000 silver dollars which scattered inside the train car and all over the dry lake. Fly Peak in the Chiricahuas is named after him. ■

Kathy Klump is the President of the Sulphur Springs Valley Historical Society / Chiricahua Regional Museum and Research Center.



Never forget

Wreaths Across America tugs at a community's heartstrings, honoring its veterans

By R.J. Cohn

It was beyond paying respect to thousands of deceased veterans of every denomination at Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

More than 300 relatives, community members and volunteers came to honor their fathers and brothers, mothers, sisters, cousins, and soldiers they

never knew, buried in the 145,000-acre cemetery at the foot of the Huachuca Mountains, for the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony Dec. 16.

In the quiet of a brisk Saturday morning, the annual ritual remembered their commitment to the country they served, some of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice.

With the flag at half-staff, 1,380 balsam fir remembrance wreaths, shipped from

Maine and embellished with red velveteen ribbons, were placed on the gravesites of veterans. Since 2002 when it opened, the local cemetery is the final resting place for more than 3,000 servicemen and women.

Sierra Vista Mayor Clea McCaa came to lay a wreath on the gravesite of his father, SGM Clea McCaa.

"He was one of the first veterans buried here after the cemetery opened,"



Sierra Vista Mayor Clea McCaa and his mother, Julia McCaa, place a wreath at the gravesite of Clea's father.

said McCaa. “I’ve never missed a Wreath Across America ceremony since they began here 17 years ago. They mean everything to me and to this community. Absolutely everything.”

It also means everything to Jae Jones, who sat for hours by the gravesite of her father, William Jones – a veteran of the war in Vietnam.

“I come here as often as I can to honor and remember him,” said Jones. “I wasn’t able to come last year, or many in the past because I was working. But now that I’m retired law enforcement, I’ll be attending every single one of these.”

The turnout that drew scores of visitors from as far away as Texas for the annual ceremony was especially moving, as hundreds of participants placed wreaths on veterans’ gravesites while saying their names out loud. Some stood in reverence and saluted.

In the past 15 years, Wreaths Across America has grown by leaps and bounds, with more than 3,700 participating

cemeteries, including 6,000 sponsorship groups. Last year, nearly three million wreaths were placed on veterans’ gravesites across the nation, including cemeteries in Normandy honoring soldiers who died during World War II’s D-Day invasion.

“The first year we held the ceremony we only had 40 sponsored wreaths,” said Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery administrator Joel Larson. “This year we had nearly 1,400. It’s by far our largest, most coordinated event at the cemetery. I’ve watched this grow and grow since it began 17 years ago, not only in the amount of wreaths, but in attendance and participation, which has been tremendous.”

Wreaths Across America was started as a 501(c) nonprofit in 2007, 15 years after the first wreaths were donated to Arlington National Cemetery by Morrill Worcester and the Worcester Wreath Company from Maine.

Each sponsored wreath costs \$17, with \$5 given to the group sponsorship program paid to community partners

including American Legion posts, VFWs and auxiliaries, Civil Air Patrol, Boy and Girl Scouts and other nonprofits. Since its inception, Wreaths Across America has given back more than \$20 million to other organizations to support their local efforts.

Roughly two million volunteers nationwide – including veterans and Gold Star families – prepare and ship the wreaths across the country.

Like Phoenix-based truck drivers Skip and Lisa Durbin, who attended the Fort Huachuca ceremony and have been part of the operation that hauls boxes of live wreaths for years. When the couple learned that Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery was one of their destinations, they immediately signed on.

“Skip’s father and uncle are buried here,” said Lisa Durbin. “We stayed the day after we dropped the shipment of wreaths here so we could attend this ceremony. This is something we just didn’t want to miss.” ■



Wreaths Across America at the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery attracted more than 300 people on December 16, 2023.



HERE FOR YOU!
VOLUNTEERS

“I was first on-scene following the birth of a baby on the side of the road. I got to cut his cord and wrap him in my own daughter’s blanket, before sending him and mom off in an ambulance. That’s a memory I will always cherish.”

DEIDRA TULK
FIREFIGHTER EMT
BENSON

Our firefighters are volunteers - with the same professional training and certifications as paid members of city teams. But in small-town and rural America, the skill and muscle come from among our own neighbors. Government programs provide training and beautiful equipment - which roars to life under the hands of able volunteers. But often, these individuals work full-time jobs away from home, making them unavailable during the day.

Now, we desperately need new people bold enough to step outside their comfort zones, gain new skills, and take their places as much-needed home-town heroes.

Benson 520-586-9832	Mescal-J6 520-586-4690	Portal Rescue 520-558-2206	St. David 520-720-4045
Bowie 520-847-2553	Palominas 520-803-9919	San Simon 520-845-2439	Tombstone 520-457-3742
Elfrida 520-642-3749	Pomerene 520-586-2706	Sonoita-Elgin 520-455-5854	Willcox 520-384-4673

Garden club sets programs

Sierra Vista Garden Club sets speakers, programs for '24

The Sierra Vista Area Garden Club (SVAGC) is having an exciting lineup of speakers and programs in 2024. In January Matthew Halldorson from the Arizona Winegrowers Association and the University of Arizona will be speaking about the history of vineyards in Arizona. A visit to some of the local wineries will be discussed. In addition, Ray Kozel, SVAGC member, will give a presentation on seed starting for the upcoming growing season.

February will feature Ted Moira, master gardener who is a longtime volunteer with Friends of the San

Pedro River. He is the designer of the xeriscape garden at the San Pedro House and has written a book to document that design. He will be discussing how you can create your own xeriscape garden.

In March videographer Mike Foster will share some of his videos and discuss the plants of our canyon areas. Foster has documented many of the natural areas, history and celebrations in our state. He is also the Carr House site host who introduces visitors to the flora and fauna of the area.



The following is a schedule of the club's meetings:

January 18	10 a.m.	Salvation Army, 180 E. Wilcox, Sierra Vista
February 15	10 a.m.	Salvation Army, 180 E. Wilcox, Sierra Vista
March 21	10 a.m.	Salvation Army, 180 E. Wilcox, Sierra Vista
April 18	10 a.m. to 1p.m.	Plant Sale, Veteran's Park, Sierra Vista
May 16	10 a.m.	Salvation Army, 180 E. Wilcox, Sierra Vista
June-August	Garden tours, time and dates TBD	

April is our annual plant sale which will consume all our energies. No formal meeting is planned.

May is scheduled for Reed Booth, an expert on killer bees. He will be talking about your options to remove a hive and share some videos of the process.

June through August are garden tours. Exact schedules and dates to be determined.

These speakers will present lots of great information, but the scope of these discussions may not cover all your areas of interest. Therefore, we are starting a new program to meet your personal gardening issues. Starting with the January meeting we will have seasoned gardeners from the club hold a question-and-answer session after the meeting. Bring your questions and let us try to help. Come and join the fun and learn something, too. Please bring a non-perishable food donation to the meetings at the Salvation Army and help support their incredible efforts. ■

S I E R R A V I S T A
Symphony Orchestra

Music at Twilight
Saturday, February 24, 2024
7:00 p.m.
Kino Hall, Sierra Vista

Tickets: \$30

Featuring
Toru Tagawa on violin
&
Fanya Lin on piano

Tickets available at Ace Hardware, Dillard's, Safeway, Chamber of Commerce, the Symphony Office, and online at Eventbrite.com

For more information contact the Symphony office at 520-458-5189 or by email at info@sierravistasymphony.org. All proceeds benefit the Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra.



Canyon Vista honors 12 Veterans

New honorees for 2023 on the Veterans Wall of Fame at Canyon Vista Medical Center.

By R.J. Cohn

Every hero deserves to be honored.

Especially the way Canyon Vista Medical Center (CVMC) has recognized Cochise County's military veterans with a heartfelt tribute for the past eight years.

Annually for the past eight years, Canyon Vista in partnership with the Legacy Foundation has honored 12 of the region's veterans, recognizing those who not only served their country, but have made a positive difference in the community.

"This event is a labor of love," said Margaret Hepburn, Chief Executive Officer of the Legacy Foundation at the event on November 9, 2023. A crowd of more than 135

CVMC's Veterans Wall now boasts 96 inductees.

The celebration featured a crowd studded with local dignitaries, the posting and retiring of the colors by the Tombstone High School JROTC Color Guard, and a moving speech by Fort Huachuca Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Clark Kurling.

The 2023 Wall of Honor honorees include: Lawrence Boutte (U.S. Army), currently the Sierra Vista Deputy Chief of Police; Dr. Jacqui Clay (U.S. Army), currently the Cochise County Superintendent of Schools; Justine Paulette Ducote (U.S. Army), currently the chair of Cochise Saving Veterans

and vice-chair for the United Veterans Council; James Evans (U.S. Air Force), who serves on Prison Ministry Teams; John William Hansen (U.S. Air Force), former president of the Sierra Vista Sunrise Rotary Club; Harold L. Hinkley (U.S. Navy), posthumous award; Doug Jacques (U.S. Army); Ramona McCaa (U.S. Army), currently president of United Way of Sierra Vista and Cochise County; Eva McElroy (U.S. Army); Elmer Carly Reese (U.S. Army) posthumous award; Ben T. Traywick, (U.S. Navy), Tombstone's first official town historian; and Theresa Walsh (U.S. Army), who serves as chair of the Veterans Assistance Program. ■



CALL FOR ARTISTS

Ann Boyd Wade Spring Show

April 4-5-6 2024

Community Center
312W Stewart St
Willcox AZ 85643

Fine Art -Photography-Sculptures

enter MARCH 2024
www.willcoxartleague.com



Log the miles you run, walk or cycle during March 2024.
For every 10 miles run or walked, or every 30 miles cycled, earn one entry in a prize drawing.
Search "Pathway to \$150k" at runsignup.com or scan the QR code.
\$40 + tax & processing fee.
Proceeds provide scholarships for Cochise County students.
Early-bird registration deadline: Dec. 4, 2023
Early-bird prize: Fibr Fit Versa 4 (Sierra Toyota)
Late registration ends March 31, 2024



Platinum Sponsor

Jacobs

Prize Sponsors
Sierra Toyota
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Dr. Joanna and John Michelich



Other Sponsors



SULPHUR SPRINGS

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

Visit the many festivals, historical sites, deserts, national parks, and mountains of southeastern Arizona on a scenic hike, a road trip, or a mountain climbing expedition to test your endurance.

JANUARY 27, 2024

Winter Concert

Klein Center for the Performing Arts
Buena High School

"Grand Canyon" January 27, 2024, 7 p.m.
Pre-concert lecture 6 p.m. Concert features concerto competition winner, Garrett Parnaby, performing Guilman's Morceau Symphonique. Orchestra will also perform Finlandia by Sibelius, Wagner's Lohengrin: Prelude to Act III, Offenbach's Orpheus in the Underworld Overture, and Grand Canyon Suite by Ferde Grofé. Tickets available at Safeway, Ace Hardware, Dillard's, the Chamber of Commerce, online at Eventbrite.com, and at the door.

SIERRA VISTA

FEBRUARY 1-27

43rd Annual Tombstone Quilt Show

Located directly across the street from the OK Corral, the Tombstone Art Gallery will present its annual quilt show. The Gallery is open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On February 24, at high noon, there will be a raffle drawing to award a quilt.

TOMBSTONE

FEBRUARY 13

Spaghetti Dinner

The Annual Sunizona-Ash Creek Community Association Spaghetti Dinner will be held

on Tuesday, February 13, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Association Hall behind Mustang Mall. Adult dinners are \$8, children from 6 to 10 are \$4, children 5 and under are free. The students from Ash Creek School will be performing for us at 7 p.m. Come join us for some good food and fun entertainment. For more information contact Maryclare Tiuan at (520) 429-5580 or Stella Brown at (520) 780-1521.

SUNIZONA-ASH CREEK

FEBRUARY 16-18

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mata Ortiz Pottery Show and Sale

Lineup set for Cowboy Poetry



After a year's hiatus, the Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering is excited to announce that we are "Back in the Saddle" again. We will hold our 31st Gathering at The K Palace Theater, 290 S Huachuca Blvd, Huachuca City, Arizona, on February 9th and 10th. The 9th and 10th evening performances will start at 7 p.m. The Saturday afternoon performance will start at 2 p.m.

This year's program headliners are:

Friday evening, February 9th. The Sonoran Dogs- a dynamic Bluegrass Band who have toured all over Southwest Arizona and internationally throughout Australia.

Saturday afternoon, February 10th. Randy Huston- winner of many Western music awards including the International Western Music Association 2022 "Songwriter" and "Male Performer of the Year."

Saturday evening, February 10th. Doug Figgs- also winner of numerous Western music awards including the 2021 International Western Music Association "Western Album of the Year."

Tickets are \$35 per person per performance and can be purchased online at our secure website <https://www.cowboypoets.com>. Only 100 seats per performance are available, so get your tickets early because we expect to be sold out early. We will have just a few tickets at the door.

For more information contact Steve Conroy (520) 266-0558.

**MARCH 2-3
Hummingbird Quilt
Guild Annual Show**

Buena High School

The Sierra Vista Quilt Guild presents a spectacular show with more than 200 quilts on display, boutique sale items, vendors, opportunity quilt tickets, and a chance to win a quilt each day. Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$7, children under 12 free. Location: Buena High School with free parking and handicapped accessible. hummingbirdquiltguild.com

SIERRA VISTA



Amerind Museum

Visit Amerind's Mata Ortiz Show and Sale and meet Award-winning potters Hector Gallegos Jr. and Laura Bugarini from Mata Ortiz, Chihuahua, Mexico. The artists will conduct demonstrations, firings (weather permitting), and offer their exquisite ceramic pieces for sale. This husband-and-wife team creates both collaborative and solo pieces of art. Hector and Laura's work is among the finest of Mata Ortiz potters. This event is included with regular Museum admission.

DRAGOON

**FEBRUARY 24
Music At Twilight**

7 p.m.

St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church February 24, 2024, at St. Andrew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, 800 Taylor Dr. 7 p.m. Featuring Toru Tagawa, violin, and Dr. Fanya Lin, piano. Tickets are \$30 and available at Safeway, Ace Hardware, Dillard's, the Symphony Office, the Chamber of Commerce, online at Eventbrite.com, and at the door.

**FEBRUARY 24, 2024
Dave Stamey Concert**

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Western Music Hall of Famer Dave Stamey returns to the Klein Center Little Theater at the Buena Vista High School for one night only. Dave has been called a true cowboy troubadour when it comes to songwriting about life with horses, mules, cattle, dogs and western landscapes. Dave says he likes to think of his music as a shared heritage, an appreciation of the West both as a place and a state of mind. A portion of sales to benefit Buena HS Fine Arts Productions. "If you haven't discovered him yet, it's time to broaden your horizons..." -- Cowboys and Indians Magazine. Tickets: www.GoPattyWagon.com

SIERRA VISTA

**MARCH 2
Men Who Cook**

Columbian Hall

Featuring at least 20 celebrity chefs from the community, preparing their favorite culinary delights. Don't miss the great food and all the fun! Saturday, March 2, 2024, 5:30 p.m., Columbian Hall, 156 W. Kayetan Dr., Sierra Vista. Tickets are \$40 (\$45 at the door) and available at Safeway, Ace Hardware, Dillard's, the Chamber of Commerce, the Symphony Office, and online at Eventbrite.com

SIERRA VISTA



**WE WELCOME YOUR
CALENDAR EVENTS!**

For the March / April 2024 edition, we have to receive the information by not later than **February 8, 2024**. The publication is due in mailboxes around **March 25, 2024**. Events should be dated to occur no earlier than **March 29, 2024**.

If you are looking to promote your event

**SUBMIT
TO events
epetermann@ssvec.com**

There is no charge for contributions to the calendar.

Arts council sets spring show

By **Deb Warner**, Chairperson, Celebrate the Arts

San Pedro River Arts Council (SPRAC) is a c3 nonprofit organization located in Benson, for the purpose of supporting the Arts in Cochise County. SPRAC has been in existence since 2007, when it began as Benson Arts Commission. In the fall of 2009, the organization broadened its role in the arts by incorporating in Arizona as a nonprofit and expanded beyond the Benson city limits to the San Pedro River Arts Council (SPRAC).

The current President of SPRAC is Mary Lee Bringham with approximately 200 members. Endeavor Art Gallery located at 298 E. 4th St, Benson and is a part of the SPRAC organization. Each

year SPRAC presents a photo art show at Cochise College in October and the Celebrate The Arts, judged Fine and Contemporary Art Show in Cochise College during the entire month of March. In 2023 there were approximately 110 participating artists from all over Southern AZ, with approximately 300 pieces of art being displayed.

Besides SPRAC supporting local artists with a venue to display their art, Endeavor gallery is a docent run gallery. SPRAC supports the local youth with yearly scholarship donations. Cochise County regional businesses have been generously donating to keep these events supported. The mission for SPRAC is one of art education, community collaboration, artist's support and promotion of all art of

varying talent levels.

Please come to support our local artists by attending the Celebrate The Arts show during the month of March at Cochise College, 1025 AZ-90, Benson, AZ. The reception which showcases all the ribbon winners, People's Choice, Best of Show, Mayor's Choice, and Best of Division recipients on Saturday, March 16, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Please consider donating to this worthy cause by stopping by the Endeavor Gallery 4th Street, Benson, or participating in the reception on March 16, 2024, at Cochise Community College, Benson.

If you are interested in donating some time and becoming a docent or becoming a member of Endeavor Gallery, that is always a welcomed opportunity!

Whetstone Run registration open

The J-6/Mescal Community Action Task Team (CATT) and long-time volunteers are jump starting plans for the September 14th, 2024, Whetstone 5k Run Walk Roll and 10k Challenge Run in the cool foothills of the scenic Whetstone Mountains.

Harry Stacy, Race Co-Facilitator, explains that the event goal established in 2018 by our communities has not changed.

"We are all here to provide an opportunity for neighbors, family, and friends to support each other in setting fitness and mental health goals and to encourage and recognize effort – it's about being engaged – doesn't matter as a participant, volunteer, spectator, or sponsor – we all win!"

Race Facilitator, Mary McCool, added that those interested in joining the team can contact the crew at www.runsignup.com/whetstonefun. CATT Facilitators are excited to renew work with the 50 community volunteers, multiple service providers, generous local business owners, and returning participants to achieve a physical fitness celebration that offers a unique opportunity to be a winner!

Awards and recognition for participants include:

- Oldest and Youngest Male/Female Participants – Ambassadors Across the Ages. Current registration fee is refunded, and next year's is waived. Highlights the importance of starting a fitness goal/ habits at an early age, and maintaining



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY ROBERT WILSON

the discipline to "Keep Moving, It's a Matter of Life."

- Together is Better Campaign — rewards teams for setting fitness goals three months prior to race day. Monthly drawings for product awards with submitted photos of group fitness activities.
- Together is Better \$100 Raffle — Team must have minimum of three finishers. Bragging Rights and Trophies for Largest Team on Site, Fastest 5k and 10k Teams.
- Red, White and Blue Mega Raffle - \$50 Gift Card – Entry based upon check in at three points on 10k extended route.
- 35-Custom Gift General Raffle – Race/Fitness themed custom gifts – Bib pickup activates entry.
- Custom die-cast finisher medals with inscribed fitness motto and access to Results, Photos, Printable Certificates at www.runsignup.com/whetstonefun.

K Palace seeks volunteers

The K Palace Theater wants your help. Volunteering for your community theater is a great way to make new friends, express your creative talents on and off the stage and to provide wonderful entertainment for the local community and surrounding cities.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Acting
- Set designers
- Curtain Pullers
- Stage Manager
- Directors
- Prop and Costume handlers
- Seamstress
- Bartender
- Ticket Sales
- Marketing and Graphic Design
- Website
- Technical Team

The K Palace Theater extends an open invitation to all to come out and be a part of your community theater and share in the opportunity to give back to your community. It's fun – come join us!

Contact Tommy Kelley at (520) 222-8711 or totmarizona@gmail.com.

SCFPA 2024 schedule

Founded in 2005, the Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts (SCFPA) is dedicated to promoting the performing arts on behalf of Santa Cruz County Arizona by presenting high- quality live performances of chamber music in all its various forms.

Patagonia's bustling community frequented its own opera house over a century ago. In 2017 SCFPA, inspired by the classical elegance of the music salons in Europe, revived the experience by building a new one in the heart of the community. Noted for its superb acoustics and elegant design, the Benderly - Kendall Opera House has attracted musicians from around the world.

Today the nonprofit SCFPA brings world class performers and local talent to the stage through a series of concerts in

the Opera House, our exquisite 80 seat performing arts venue and from our "Music on Wheels" outdoor mobile stage - the Concert Haul®.

2024 Benderly Concert Series Schedule

Jan 14 - Carla Fabris, Harp and Zach Warren, Flute

Jan 28 - String Quartet

Feb 11 - Duo Entre-Nous, Clarinet and Saxophone

Feb 25 - Evan Kory, Piano

Mar 10 - William Feasley, Classical Guitar

Mar 24 - Ear Palace Salon Society Ensemble - "Schubertiade"

Apr 10 - Bin Hu and Jing-Xia - "Chinoiserie"

Apr 21 - Solistas de Sonora, Wind Ensemble

May 5 - Ear Palace Double Trouble Ensemble, Oboe, Bassoon, Piano

May 26 - The Sky Island Trio

Symphony hosts U of A clarinet professor

The Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra's final regular season concert, "Be Our Guest", is April 6, 2024. Guest clarinetist, Dr. Jackie Glazier, will be performing Artie Shaw's Clarinet Concerto in B-flat and a new composition, Fin de la Tierra (The End of the Earth) Concerto by Jenni Brandon.

Like many, Dr. Glazier began her musical studies with piano lessons, then in fifth grade she chose the clarinet and the rest is history. She knew she would pursue studies in clarinet while performing in the youth orchestra in Charlotte, NC, while in high school. From high school she studied at Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, University of Florida, and Florida State University. Upon graduation, Dr. Glazier applied for all of the approximately six open positions for clarinet performance in the country. One of those positions was at the University of Arizona, where, for the last eight years, she has been the Associate Professor of Clarinet Performance. Her students have performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, premiere military bands, become music educators, and entered arts administration.

Dr. Glazier loves the sound and warmth of the clarinet, of which she owns six. Her favorites being the B-flat and E-flat

clarinets. She doesn't have a favorite composer, likening it to picking a favorite child, but she does believe in supporting living composers by commissioning and performing their compositions. She has commissioned over 30 works, working closely with the composers on the compositions and seeking funding and avenues for performance. Clarinet Concerto World Premiere, the composition she'll perform with the Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra, was commissioned by a consortium of eight clarinetists of which she is a part. Her performance with the SVSO will be Dr. Glazier's first performance of the concerto. Please see Dr. Glazier's webpage, <https://www.jackieglazier.com>, to find out more and see videos of some of her performances.

In addition to the performance of Dr. Glazier, the Sierra Vista Community Chorus will be performing music from Beauty and the Beast, Carousel, and The Music Man. Please come and see our great guest performers on April 6, 2024, 7:00 pm, at the Klein Center for the Performing Arts at Buena High School. Other dates to remember: Music at Twilight with Toru Tagawa and Dr. Fanya Lin, February 24, 2024; and Men Who Cook, March 2, 2024. Find out more at <https://sierravistasymphony.org>.

UPCOMING EVENTS



WILCOX THEATER AND ARTS



Val
Vigoda



Doug
Figgs



Creative
Cartel



The Pirates Of
Penzance

LIVE ON STAGE!!

Val Vigoda – Willcox Theater will premiere Val's new show "Play On", an intimate evening with singer/songwriter Val Vigoda, her electric violin and her deeply personal stories. In the brand-new "Play On", Val brings you on an effervescent journey: from good girl to rebellious daughter, and struggling Army cadet to touring with rock stars...all of which led to a surprising career as a leading lady off-Broadway.

Val is a pioneering writer-actor-musician, with acclaimed original musicals and many songs, and years touring with Cyndi Lauper, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and her own band. "Exhilarating!" – The New York Times. January 18 at 7:00 pm at the Palace of Art and Theater.

Doug Figgs – Doug Figgs is a farrier, day working cowboy, and Western music singer/songwriter from New Mexico. He is inspired by the cowboy/Western life he lives, writing songs from his experiences while drawing from the history of the West. He has performed all over the West with his hard driving music with a hint of southern rock to beautiful ballads, and everything in between. February 15 at 7:00 pm at the Palace of Art and Theater.

Greenlee Theater Co. – The Greenlee Theater Company will present the play: "The Clifton Cliffhanger", a new production from the Greenlee Theater Company sponsored by Art Depot in Clifton. Written and directed by Pamela Harrington, the Clifton Cliffhanger follows the antics of some of the most colorful residents of Clifton as the town grapples with a spree of crimes and murders committed by a ghost from their past. Brilliantly written, you will be riveted to your seat in suspense. March 22 at 7:00 pm at the Palace of Art and Theater.

STAGE TO CINEMA:

The Pirates of Penzance – You can't keep your feet from tapping at Gilbert & Sullivan's hilarious operetta. Telling the thrilling tale of Frederick, who was accidentally apprenticed as a Pirate instead of a

Pilot, it has hilarious songs such as "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major General", and "When a Felon's Not Engaged in His Employment". This production was recorded Live in Cinematic HD from the London Coliseum, featuring the English National Opera. February 2 at 6:30 pm and February 4 at 2:00 pm. Details and tickets available on Willcoxtheater.com.

Retro Rewind:

The 2nd Friday of every month watch classic movies on the big screen: Feb 9 see 1939's "They Made Me a Criminal" with Claud Rains and March 8 has Fred Astaire and Jane Powell in Royal Wedding. \$5 for admission and fresh popcorn.

Dino Week:

March 11 through 15 – experience dinosaurs from every perspective – movies, crafts, and fossils plus plain old fun with Minecraft and Board Games. FREE OF CHARGE

CREATIVITY OF ALL KINDS, EVERY WEEK

Friday Mornings: Kid's Art Club for Elementary age students

Friday Afternoons: Pencils of Doom, for Middle and High School age students,

Friday Afternoons: Makerspace; use 3D printers, laser cutters, microcomputers, 3D design, photo editing, videography, virtual reality – and more – Open to the Public ages 10 and up

Every other Wednesday Morning: ACE of Arts for Seniors – Bring Your Lunch!

Second Saturdays: Paint Night – NO experience required, everyone welcome. You'll leave with your own masterpiece even if you've never held a brush before! – February 10 and March 9

Saturday Mornings: Creative Cartel – for adults from beginner to advanced: learn new techniques or work on your own projects during Saturday morning Studio Time.

For a complete schedule of upcoming shows, events, workshops, art classes, and programs, and for tickets and registration, check willcoxtheater.com, 520-766-3335 or follow us at [WillcoxTheaterandArts](https://www.facebook.com/WillcoxTheaterandArts) on Facebook.

Sierra Vista Food Co-op

By Mariel Figueroa

After five years of working on forming a food cooperative, the Sierra Vista Food Co-op opened its doors in 2011 and has provided Sierra Vista with a specialty grocery store for the past twelve years. The only food cooperative in Sierra Vista, Arizona, offers its members multiple discounts, voting privileges, and ownership privileges. However, being a member is optional; it is not necessary to be a member to shop and enjoy what the Sierra Vista Food Co-op offers. With food, general merchandise, local coffees, local art, a large herb selection, local meats, local dairy, and local bakery items, the Sierra Vista Food Co-op has something to offer everyone and welcomes you to come by and browse through all they have. They provide an exceptional organic produce selection that is frequently tended to, ensuring their produce is consistently the highest quality. "If you haven't been to the co-op, please come by and look at what we offer," states Debbie Russell, General Manager at the Sierra Vista Food Co-op; with such a fantastic variety, it is unlikely you will not be able to find what you are looking for. Still, if you cannot find what you are looking for, being a local cooperative allows for



customer input, "We have a suggestion box for any items customers may like." states Russell. As a food cooperative, the Sierra Vista Food Co-op ensures that they make decisions that help maximize service to their community and its needs rather than maximize profit.

The location and building of the food co-op allow quick and easy access to purchase quality food, whether for a specific diet, including gluten-free, keto, paleo, or natural, local products that benefit well-being. With the recent purchase of their current building, the food co-op looks forward to continuing to grow with future renovations and expansions to one day offer a deli, a seating area, and a classroom. To help execute these goals, they have a roundup program where you can round up your total at the register, which will help the food co-op gain the funding to grow and offer more to their community. Supporting local is crucial, especially for local vendors in the community, and the Sierra Vista Food Co-op has allowed many vendors to provide their products at a storefront that is open daily. The food co-op has developed strong relationships with its vendors, members, and community and would love to continue to grow. Everyone is welcome to shop, whether a member or not. ■



Inside the Sierra Vista Food Co-op.



Staff pictured at the Sierra Vista Food Co-op includes, from the left, Joy Meserve, Debbie Russell, Jasmin Lopez-Ortiz, Holly Haupt and Elub Gonzales.



New year's resolution No. 1: *Eat better!*

By Chef Chris
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I know what most of us are thinking this time of year. We are "resolving" to take better care of ourselves, which usually involves our eating habits. Habit being the operative word.

One of the most reliable ways to improve our diet is through small changes adopted over time. For example, one less teaspoon of sugar per day can end up making you 1.7 pounds lighter this time next year. Not bad! We do tend to focus on the cutting out part though, and that can feel like deprivation. So, I'm hoping to inspire you to think a bit about the "more of" approach to making this year happier and healthier. That's where I'm going here.

Hopefully helping you make some small additions to your regular diet that will have a long term, lasting impact.

The most important part of making real change that sticks, is to make a firm decision to take care of yourself. I can say from my own experience, when I prioritize the quality of what I eat and make a sincere effort to move more, I absolutely feel better... which makes me want to do more of it. Like that.

I hope the new year brings with it much peace and good health for you and yours.



GREEK-ISH BARLEY SALAD

Whole grains are a simple way to add a better nutrition profile to your menus. There are a few types of barley to choose from, and farro, buckwheat (not what, actually), and kamut are other powerful grains to have some fun with. I used a purple heirloom barley... it doesn't stay purple, when cooked fyi.

I used the Vio-Life "just like" feta, which has a milder flavor than traditional dairy feta. Kalamata olives would be the "right" olive, but cooks choice on that one!

Serves 2.

- 1 cup barley, cooked
- ½ English cucumber, chopped
- 1 shallot or red onion, thinly sliced
- ½ pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- 2 oz. Feta cheese
- Olives of choice, about 10
- Olive oil
- Red wine vinegar
- Chopped parsley, optional

Toss everything together in a bowl, adding a little salt. Taste and adjust seasoning. Serve warm or chilled.



COCONUT AND GINGER DAL (Yellow Split Pea Curry)

This has a few ingredients, but if you put the split peas on to cook, then make some rice, it will all come together without too much fuss. For a cheat, you can use brown lentils that cook quickly, or use prepared — canned or packaged in the produce section.

Going meatless one or more days a week will bring significant benefits to your health. It will also be easier on your budget, and word is mother earth will thank you as well.
2 Servings.

- 1 cup yellow split peas, cooked
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 Tbsp. coriander
- 2 cups broth, or as needed
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 1 Tbsp. grated ginger
- 1 medium potato, ½ inch dice
- 1 cup diced tomatoes
- 3 scallions, chopped
- 1-2 Tbsp. cumin
- 1-2 tsp. turmeric
- Cilantro, chopped
- Cooked rice

Heat a soup pot over medium-high. Add just enough oil to coat the bottom of the pan, then add the onion and let brown. Add the garlic, cumin and coriander, and cook 30 seconds.

Add the broth, coconut milk, and ginger, and stir up any brown bits from the bottom of the pan. Add potatoes and turmeric, season with salt or Tamari, and bring to a boil.

Reduce heat and let simmer until potatoes are just about tender, about 5 minutes.

Add split peas and tomatoes, then let cook another 5 minutes. Taste and adjust seasoning. When yummy, serve over rice, with scallions and cilantro.

SUPERFOOD SPRINKLES

If you are pressed for time, these are a few easy ways to amp up the nutritional power of your regular diet. Add them to yogurt, oatmeal, or even boxed cereal. You can also sprinkle them into a salad.

HEMP SEEDS

These little guys add a slight nutty flavor, are good for your heart, and great sources of magnesium, calcium, and iron. These are the easiest to add, so start with these if you do nothing else.

CHIA SEEDS

These tiny little superheros have several vitamins and minerals, good fiber, and the all important omega-3s. Use them in things with decent moisture content and let soak a few minutes before eating.

TAHINI (SESAME SEED BUTTER)

Full of calcium, magnesium and phosphorus, which are connected with good bone health. Also loaded with antioxidants and trace minerals associated with optimal health. Stirrs into oatmeal well, but does thicken it.

GOJI BERRIES

A relative newcomer, so the science is still catching up, but are said to be good for your eyes, your immune system, and your liver. They seem to help with blood sugar regulation as well.

BLUEBERRIES

Are good for everything! I have found the dried berries are easier to keep on hand, but frozen berries are also pretty convenient. I would recommend buying organic.

TURMERIC

Can help with inflammation and pain associated with arthritis. This rhizome is rich in phytochemicals that offer a lot of protection for our cells. It is more powerful when consumed with some freshly ground black pepper.

DRIED MULBERRIES

Rich in antioxidants, mulberries also offer iron and vitamin C, and may help reduce cholesterol.

CACAO NIBS

Their mildly chocolate flavor is a plus, but the best part is how rich they are in antioxidants. There is evidence that antioxidants reduce cell damage, which can help prevent Alzheimer's, heart disease, and cancer. They do have a very small amount of caffeine.

WALNUTS

Good for our hearts and our brains because they are our "good fat" friends. They are good sources of antioxidants, and their polyphenols may help with stress and inflammation.



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