

SSVEC

Currents

LOCAL STORIES ABOUT LOCAL COMMUNITIES

MARCH | APRIL 2024

Warrior Healing Center

Center takes on a new 'war'

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Don8it helps everyone!

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SSVEC Currents

MARCH | APRIL 2024
Volume 3, No. 2

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Kountry Kafe

Elfrida may be a tiny community, after all just over 300 people live there, but it holds a surprise that is attracting folks from all over called the Kountry Kafe.

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Cochise Sheriff was a TV hit

The 1950s drama was created by and co-starred a Douglas native.

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ON THE COVER

Warrior Healing Project, EIN: 84-4586158 is a Qualified Charitable Organization in Arizona, which means that donations to them can offset your State Tax Liability with a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. QCO code for WHP is: 22467.



Jason Bowling, CEO
Sulphur Springs Valley
Electric Cooperative

A season of growth and new beginnings

Spring is a time of new beginnings and growth, not only in nature but also in our organization at Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC). This season, we're working hard to provide service that is cost-effective, reflecting the agricultural community's readiness for planting. We're planting the seeds for a future that offers safe, reliable, and affordable energy.

This spring, our focus is on improving our grid. We are prepared for the seasonal change, and we are also working proactively on system maintenance. Our employees are friendly and skilled professionals who are your neighbors and they are deeply involved in the communities we serve. Their commitment ensures that we always put your best interests first, keeping rates as low as possible while supporting the growth and vitality of our community.

However, we also need to recognize the difficulties we face, especially in keeping our commitment to affordability. The prices of essential utility components like poles, conductors, and transformers have gone up significantly. These are important parts of our infrastructure, ensuring the steady delivery of electricity to your homes and businesses. Their rising prices present a problem, one that we are facing with strategic planning and efficient operations.

Our strategy for these problems is two-fold: First, we are increasing our efforts in preventive maintenance and grid optimization. This springtime maintenance is important, as it not only improves efficiency but also helps in cost management in the long run. Secondly, we are looking into new solutions and technologies that offer more for less – ensuring that every dollar spent brings more value and reliability to you, our members.

In times of rising costs, our mission becomes even more essential. We are a community-focused cooperative that understands the importance of every penny to our members. This understanding motivates us to find ways to deliver the most value while maintaining our commitment to sustainable and responsible energy practices.

As we move forward, we welcome your engagement and feedback. Our promise to you this spring is our commitment to providing excellent service and our dedication to transparency and open communication about the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Together, let's welcome this season of renewal with optimism and a shared vision for a bright, sustainable future. ■

Jason Bowling is the Chief Executive Officer at Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC). He can be reached at jbowling@ssvec.com.

SSVEC hires marketing pros

Two marketing professionals joined the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) Marketing and Communications department on February 5, 2024.

Kristin Gray, right, serves as the Community Relations Manager. She graduated from the University of Arizona, after which her entrepreneurial spirit led her to start two businesses which she ran for 20 years. She then served as the VP of Marketing, Engagement, and Data Analytics at American Southwest Credit Union before joining SSVEC, where she works with

the SSVEC Foundation Grants program, the YES Fair, Washington Youth Tour, and other projects serving the community.

Kate Cox, left, is the Social Media Coordinator and Videographer at SSVEC. Cox earned a bachelor of science degree in Agribusiness and a master's in business administration degree in Services Marketing. She has more than 18 years of experience in marketing and communications. Kate is looking forward to an active role assisting SSVEC in reaching its communication goals. ■



Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) is pleased to announce that our annual meeting will be held on **June 27, 2024**, at Willcox High School. The meeting, normally held in late April, was moved to accommodate our transition to a January to December fiscal year, allowing us to present current and thoroughly audited financial reports.

By scheduling the meeting during the summer break, we hope to facilitate greater participation from our members and enhance the overall experience. The annual meeting is a cornerstone event for SSVEC, where members can learn

about the Cooperative's financial health, achievements, and initiatives.

We look forward to welcoming you on June 27 and sharing valuable insights into the progress and prospects of your Cooperative. Our goal is to offer each member a meaningful opportunity to connect with the Cooperative they own and understand the performance of their investment in SSVEC.

Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!



Phase 2 foundation grants close March 29

Time is running out for applications to the SSVEC Foundation's Phase 2 education grants.

The program offers qualifying teachers \$500 microgrants and education entities up to \$20,000 in funding for innovative initiatives.

Application for these grants closes on March 29, Marcus Harston, Vice President of Marketing and Communications recently stated.

"We have had tremendous success generating interest in this program and we look forward to completing the application process, then awarding Phase 2 grants," Harston said.

The Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) Foundation announced in November, 2023, that it would allocate \$1 million to support teachers and education entities. The funds are being allocated through a three-phase program, with the first disbursement occurring in February, the second in April, and the third in September, 2024.

"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 Chief Executive Officer.

More than 60 applications from teachers in the SSVEC service area were received in the first phase of the grant program. Another 18 applications were made by educational entities. Applications for Phase 1 funding closed January 26.

Phase 2 of the program has generated similar interest, Harston said, attracting substantial numbers of applications.

"There was strong interest and participation in our first phase of grants and we're looking forward to generating even more awareness to support innovative projects and programs through the second phase of this program," Harston said.

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 funds 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 "microgrants" 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 professional development.

Educational Entity Grants 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. ■

SSVEC hosts Willcox elementary students



Four classes of Willcox Elementary School students toured SSVEC Operations on January 17 and January 24, getting an up close look at the SCADA center and the construction yard at the utility's offices on Haskell Drive.

SSVEC linemen offered a chance for students to don protective gloves and handle other safety equipment during the tour. The classes also had an opportunity to get a first-hand look at the heartbeat of the SSVEC infrastructure grid at the SCADA center. ■



Chamber hosts governor's visit

Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs met several Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) employees at the "State of the State in Southeast Arizona" on February 13 at the Klein Center for the Performing Arts at Buena High School. The event was hosted by the Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce. SSVEC Chief Executive Officer Jason Bowling presented introductory remarks at the event. ■



Pictured, from the left, SSVEC Corporate Counsel Sara Ransom, Gov. Hobbs, CEO Jason Bowling, and Marcus Harston, Vice President of Marketing and Communications.



Bowling and Ransom had an opportunity to discuss current issues in the utility industry with Gov. Hobbs.

Your voice matters!

Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative will be conducting a Member survey in April 2024. So, get ready because your feedback is invaluable to us!

We're teaming up with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to ensure the survey is conducted with excellence and accuracy.



The SSVEC mission continues to be providing safe, reliable, and affordable service to our Members. This survey is an opportunity to share your thoughts and help shape the future of our cooperative!

More details are forthcoming.

Willcox farm show

SSVEC and Arizona G&T were well-represented at the annual the Farm and Ranch Trade Show in Willcox on Valentine's Day, February 14.

The event is held to offer information on the latest technologies and trends in the industry. SSVEC was represented by Energy Management Specialist Jennifer Downing, left, and

Arizona G&T, based in Benson, was represented by Mandi Greenmyer, Member and Community Relations Administrator. Both presented information to farm and ranch utility members about the different commercial and industrial rates and programs offered for their operations. ■



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Drones inspect power lines

In January, SSVEC worked with a contractor to deploy drones to inspect some 8,250 high-voltage transmission and distribution poles and lines. The effort started January 7.

Firmatek, a San Antonio, Texas-based company, completed the work utilizing American-made Skydio drones.

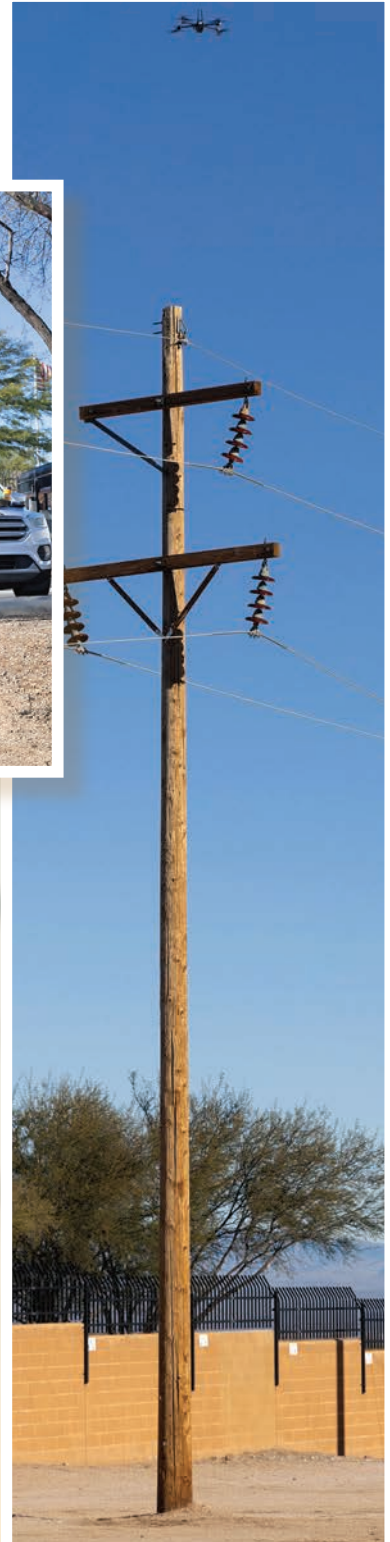
“We utilized this technology to improve reliability and reduce possible fire hazards within our 5,000-square mile service area,” said SSVEC CEO Jason Bowling. “Capturing images of potential maintenance issues early on significantly benefits our members by preventing unexpected and potentially costly power outages.”

Continued Inspection Efforts

Inspection of high-voltage power lines and poles using drones across the SSVEC service territory was scheduled to resume Monday, March 11, and will conclude Friday March 22, said Nathan Hodges, Vice President of Operations for the utility.

He emphasized that the drones are compliant with the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

“We’re finishing up the program that started in January and was delayed at that time due to bad weather,” Hodges said ■



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Don't want it?

Don8it

A community swap meet that bolsters its community

By R.J. Cohn

They pour in from all over; from parts known and unknown throughout Cochise County and beyond, some hauling 20-foot flatbed trailers from rural New Mexico. Others making the trip to and from Sonora, Mexico, loaded with enough mattresses, highboy dressers, tables, refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers to fill a couple of households. All purchased at such ridiculously low prices at Billy Power's big metal warehouse called Don8it on State Route 90.

And like Arlo Guthrie's classic, talking-blues monologue, Alice's Restaurant, you can get almost anything you want at Don8it, from an antique paper cutter to an Amana freezer at rock-bottom prices.

From \$50 to \$300, you can drive away

with a good, working refrigerator compared to plunking down between \$1,200 and \$2,500 for a new one in the appliance department at a big box store.

"This place is just incredible," said Thomas Clarkson, who regularly makes the drive from Hidalgo County, New Mexico, where he recently purchased a house and a small rental. "Unless I want to spend thousands of dollars, there's no way I could afford to furnish them. I have family here, and when they showed me this place during a visit, it was a lifesaver. It's become a regular stop each time I come. There's never been a time I haven't come away with something I really needed that hasn't cost an arm and a leg."

What's even more unique about Don8it, is donors can designate which

local 503(c)(3) charity they want the proceeds from their unwanted items to go toward, whether it's the Boy's & Girls Club, a food pantry, a wellness center or an animal shelter.

That means that money spent at Don8it not only stays in the community; it supports Sierra Vista organizations in a multitude of ways.

"That was the concept when I started this," said Don8it owner Billy Power. "I watched Goodwill and Salvation Army trucks driving to Tucson with merchandise that could be sold here, and I thought that's not right. We need to find a way to keep our money from leaving town."

Power, who also owns Sierra Vista Flowers & Gifts and Sierra Vista Estate Sales in The Mall at Sierra Vista, not only figured it



out; he also made sure local nonprofits could benefit from sales generated at Don8it.

On Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Don8it doubles as a community swap meet. Vendors can purchase a space in the parking lot fronting the warehouse for \$15 to sell personal items, and the place is absolutely packed, sometimes bringing in more than 400 people. Many who purchase household goods say they're thrilled with how much they've saved.

"Do you know how expensive a new washer and dryer, even a refrigerator, costs these days?" asks Eleanor Stone, who drove up from the Benson area with a friend. "Unless you have thousands of dollars to comfortably spend on new appliances, you can go into heavy debt just to wash your clothes. I don't know what I'd do without this place. You might have to dig through a lot of merchandise, but believe me, it's well worth it."

Power, who has owned Don8it for eight years, said he hears that a lot. He opened the business in Huachuca City before moving to Wilcox Drive in Sierra Vista. He then had to move four years later when the roof caved in at that building following a storm. Two years ago, he purchased the building on SR 90 that was a former garage for a truck repair business.



It's been going strong ever since, and Power couldn't be happier.

"We'd get established, build up a clientele, then have to move and start all over again," said Power. "This location has been a big plus for us and the community. The feedback has been tremendous. It's great to see the impact we've helped make on people's lives as well as how we've been able to benefit nonprofits in the community. We've donated thousands of dollars since we started this."

Don8it will also pick up large quantities of donated household items throughout the



county, including purchasing estate sales.

"The community has really turned out to support this," said Kari Day, who has been working at Don8it since November. "Our trucks bring in new merchandise almost daily, and it moves, quickly. It's been a lot of fun being a part of this." ■



Fort Thrift

By R.J. Cohn

For more than a half century, a community treasure of a thrift store tucked away just inside Fort Huachuca's Buffalo Soldier Gate has been giving back to Cochise County in thousands of dollars of scholarships and grants to struggling organizations.

Like the Energizer Bunny, Fort Huachuca Community Thrift with its volunteer staff keeps on going and giving.

"We're like an epicenter of goodness for Cochise County," said longtime volunteer and store council chairperson Rodney Rose. "And in this day in age, goodness is a rarity in this world. Maybe that's why people come here on a regular basis as far away as Nogales. Not just once or twice. But weekly. For years."

On post since 1979, the 30 volunteers and 10 employees who work the 501c3 that divides the store's profits among scholarships and community grants set into motion a mission it has never diverted from: Pay it forward every and any way we can.

That's part of the draw Rose says brings repeat shoppers – not only those on base, but thousands throughout the entire county – for decades into the cavernous 12,000-square-foot quonset hut consignment store.

"I worked retail for years back east, but I've never been a part of anything like this," said Rose. "We're a different kind of thrift store. People know how we give back to this community,

and they support us because we support our students with scholarships and organizations with community grants. It doesn't get much better than that."

Rose is spot on.

Store manager Mary Gartner said the store has been averaging a staggering \$5,000-\$6,000 for the two days it's open each week and close to \$2,000 on the first and third Saturdays.

Last year, she said the store was able to establish \$12,000 in student scholarships and nearly \$4,000 in grants earmarked for the Salvation Army Vista Corps, Coronado Youth Little League and Real Wishes Foundation, which provides assistance to the area's needy. Annually, Gartner said it's been raising a whopping \$10,000-\$14,000 in scholarships for graduating seniors heading to college.

"We're doing very, very well here, knock on wood," said Gartner, who has been with the store since 2007. "The holidays were quite busy for us, but they always are. Christmas, Easter and Halloween are big seasonal draws. Our Christmas season starts earlier than other stores – in mid-November – and stays at a good, steady pace up to Dec. 21 when we close."

What powers thrift store sales is something Rose says most other thrifts don't have: An enormous cycle of donations generated mostly by

military families constantly coming and going.

"We get overloaded with donations and have to put the brakes on taking them in sometimes," said Rose. "With soldiers and their families being deployed and those transferred to the fort, there's a constant flow of new items coming in all the time. I've seen unique pieces from all over the world, like a Japanese music box that was a first anniversary gift to a wife whose husband was stationed in Japan decades ago."

Still, what would make two women Rose says drive regularly to the store from Tombstone, another from Vail and several who make the 135-mile round trip from Nogales?

"It's hard to believe they would come so far on a weekly basis to a thrift store, but when you think about it, it's not difficult to understand," he said.

"We're a different thrift store. We're in a military base, and many families have members who served or are serving and want to support a non-profit thrift store on a base that supports a community like this one."

"There's not many thrift stores that do what this one does day-in and day-out. We take a lot of pride in our store, and it shows off real well." ■



Store

Fort Huachuca Community Thrift pays it forward with scholarships, grants



“An epicenter of goodness that keeps on giving.”

ADOBE STOCK PHOTOS BY MICKAEL



Secret Cavern, cherished transformation

By Jenny Kartchner



My husband, Milo, swore me to secrecy about “Xanadu!” In 1984 before heading back to the UA, we planned to explore this hidden cave on Grandpa Kartchner’s ranch in the Whetstones. The nine “kids” were given headlamps by Dr. Dean (Milo’s dad). Then came the blowhole (easy--though six months pregnant).

We could now get off our bellies and enter a tiny room where Gary Tenen (discoverer) and Dean were talking. As I stood, my head broke a stalactite, and then received Milo’s glare! He’d given many warnings not to touch anything! On top of that, Milo had arrived with a cut hand wrapped in bandages. With my anxiety high, we proceeded on.

I must admit there were unique things: stalactites (hmmm), stalagmites, bacon, soda straws, turnips, and a fried egg. The bats were interesting. Randy Tufts (discoverer) and Gary shone some light on them.

We hiked through a passage and

into the Big-Room. Dean called a lunch break. We perched on a hill, ate our peanut-candy, and turned out our lights. (“Big and Black” doesn’t do it justice!) My cheeks became a mixture of tears and cave kisses. Dean said, “Listen to the drops.” I did so but didn’t treasure it.

We reached the river; I was exhausted and ready to leave! We hiked down the river but not into the Rotunda-Room. Then we headed back the way we came. I was a tough, little farm girl, but not so, now. I was waist-deep in mud, annoyed, and miserable. Mostly, I was worried; I was cramping! Even with Dean’s assurance that the baby was safe, I felt I was bleeding and might have a miscarriage in that blasted cave!

We crawled out the blowhole into the sunshine and took a photo. The cramping stopped. I swore I’d never do that again! The others thought it was a grand adventure! I selfishly stole the shower. I’ll never know how Milo’s mom, Joanne,



washed my clothing to perfection.

On our trip to the (developed) Kartchner Caverns, nearly 40 years later, the majesty of the formations “transfigured” me! I marveled that they are fed by mineral deposits in rainwater that trickles down through cracks in rocks.

I have been on demanding adventures, like hiking the Grand Canyon. In retrospect, my first cave trip wasn’t what I expected. It wasn’t an exotic Xanadu to me.

I reminisced in the dark about mud and pain, the guide told Gary and Randy’s story. They knew J.A. Kartchner

was a man of integrity, preservation, and endurance. I shed grateful tears! I see “Kartchner Caverns” advertised. I get asked, “Are you related to the caverns?” Well, I married into that exceptional family.

Some formations have endured 50,000 years and continue drop by drop. I pray my posterity carries this tradition-- forming good values drop by drop. There were man-made footprints on the moon before human prints in the caverns. Never did I imagine it would become a state park! This transformation journey remains a time to cherish! ■



Doctor's office on wheels rolls into

Huachuca

By R.J. Cohn



CCHC's Chief of External Affairs Dennis Walto stands by the 45-foot mobile care clinic at Huachuca City's Activity Center.

When it came to helping Huachuca City, which doesn't have a medical facility, Chiricahua Community Health Centers (CCHC) felt it had to do something.

And like a big brother, the care provider that operates 15 health centers in Cochise County stepped in with a doctor's office on wheels. The mobile unit arrives every Thursday and is making a difference for residents needing primary health care in a community where preventive medicine and wellness pro-

grams are often financially out of reach. Thanks to a 45-foot mobile medical care unit, residents now have a health provider that drives to them. No one is ever turned away regardless of their financial or immigration status.

"People really appreciate our presence here," said nurse practitioner Jennifer Napier. "They're telling us they didn't realize we could do this much for them medically, on the spot, in a mobile unit like this. We're trying to get the word out that we're here to provide full primary care, from bloodwork to small procedures, on a sliding fee scale. Even if someone can't pay, we're still going to see them."

It's not the first time the mobile unit has served the city of 1,900. The "doctor's office on wheels" made its presence felt in 2017, and CCHC's Chief of External Affairs Dennis Walto said the patient load was consistently steady.

"But then COVID came, and everything shut down," said Walto. "But thanks to a great partnership with the town manager, we're building up awareness of our presence again. The unit is like a one-stop shop for primary care, and it's on the rebound."

Donated by Clinica Adelante, Inc. of Phoenix and nicknamed "Adel," the facility is one of eight mobile care clinics CCHC operates throughout the county, along with two mobile dental clinics. In addition to a nurse practitioner, a medical assistant and a patient service representative work the mobile unit at Huachuca City, which also provides \$5 sports physicals for students.

"It's a godsend that something like this is

Huachuca City

here,” said Helen Armstrong, a snowbird from Illinois who has been wintering the last three years at a nearby RV park. “I don’t have a doctor here and have become frustrated trying to see one. Every office in Sierra Vista is booked for weeks. This mobile clinic is not only accommodating; the service is terrific, and the staff is caring and professional. What’s not to like?”

When it comes to prescriptions, which Napier can order, Walto said CCHC can deliver them to Huachuca City patients at

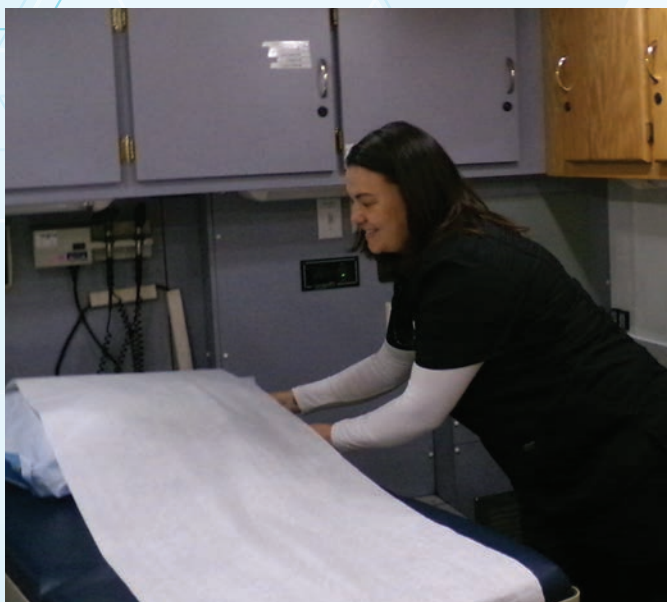
no charge, saving them a trip to Sierra Vista.

“It’s a big plus for residents who have transportation issues,” said Walto. “We’re trying to make things as easy as possible. Not only can we do everything that goes on in a doctor’s office in our mobile clinic; we want to help the Huachuca City community thrive health-wise.”

Walto credits town manager Suzanne Harvey and former city manager Stephanie Fulton for getting the word out about the mobile clinic.

“They’ve been big promoters of this,” he said. “They know it’s a big asset for the community, and they want residents to know it’s here for them. When we say, ‘health for all,’ this is what we mean.”

CCHC’s mobile clinic will be at 504 Gonzalez Blvd. every first and third Thursday and at the Huachuca City Activity Center, 201 E. Yuma St. the second and fourth Thursday. Information: (520) 364-1429. ■



Registered nurse Jennifer Napier prepares an examining table inside CCHC’s mobile healthcare facility.



Medical assistant Milka Olivares draws blood from Dulce Castillo inside CCHC’s mobile care clinic in Huachuca City.



By Larry Scott



Greg and Jan Moyer have adjusted to life in the country.

Greg on his racing bike. Whatever you love, whatever you do, go all-out!
PAINTING BY LARRY SCOTT

Larry Scott

creative on demand

You too, can be
INSANELY creative....

Being creative is so satisfying. When the juices are flowing, life is so good. But it's not something you toggle on and off at the flip of a switch.

At least that's how I've always seen it - mysterious, intangible, wonderful.

But, according to Greg Moyer, it doesn't have to be that way. One can learn to harness the forces and become creative on demand.

Greg and Jan Moyer live in Elgin - a quiet and peaceful homestead in grassy antelope country among the vineyards.

It's a good place - far from the hustle of Silicon Valley, and Greg's 30 years of high-pressure creative work on the cutting edge of technology.

Much of his work was in what is known as 'audience experience.' People attend a conference where some new technology is to be 'revealed.' They know that, of course - but have no way of knowing how it will happen.

And that's where Greg's magic kicks in. Lights dim, and an un-suspecting group of people are catapulted into a wild-ride white-knuckle adventure.

When the lights return, attendees come back to earth, stunned, in wide-eyed amazement.

It's not easy, of course. There is a numbing array of disciplines to balance; creative thought, writing, set design, lighting, sound, planning, directing. And when one project ends, there are other similar projects underway - each distinctive in its own right.

During his time there, he personally pioneered a new industry - "Automated Show Control," by which most everything is built into consoles, under precise computer control.

"My office in Cupertino was a couple blocks from Apple," Greg says, "The business environment was smoking hot - like running around with your hair on fire.

"Business was growing so fast, we could hardly keep up. And, as Creative Director, I was expected to be insanely creative on demand. Crank it out. NOW! Something exciting, new and wonderful."

"The pressure was unrelenting. Ultimately, I remember being stuck - 11:30 p.m. with a presentation due in the morning and nothing...

"Then, I remembered a technique a mentor-friend had shared with me some years before - a mental process developed during the Renaissance Period that, supposedly, unlocked the doors to creativity, really allowing free flow."

"What did I have to lose? So I sat back, relaxed, closed my eyes, organized my thinking - and started the process as best I could. It worked!"

"That experience launched me on a decades-long research journey, studying the thought processes of the best-known creative people from recorded history - DaVinci, Mozart, Edison, Steve Jobs and many more."

"I soon found clear patterns, processes, skills, and behaviors that appeared repeatedly over time. And they appeared in sequence. Seven basic common elements - 'building blocks.' And with clear scientific brain-research data to support each."

"From this, I was able to incorporate this 'Framework for Inventive Thinking' into my own workflow, which gave me a much-needed competitive advantage in my business. During my time there, we

delivered more than 600 projects."

"Now I've left that environment on a full-time basis and, over time, transitioned to different place in life."

"Several years ago, I decided the best thing I can do now is to share the lessons I learned under-fire in Silicon Valley. As the old masters have proven, the Framework for Inventive Thinking, as we call it, may be applied to a wide spectrum of disciplines from business to science to the arts, to engineering."

"Accordingly, I've spent the last several years carefully assembling a training program."

The program consists of two parts: a basic training program and an advanced mastery program. The first teaches techniques and methodology. The second provides ongoing learning in an environment where one learns to refine and apply them on a daily basis.

The Inventive Guild, as it is known, provides an on-line community where like-minded people, world-wide can connect and share for the good of all.

"The initial training program, for which I had planned to charge \$2,600, I'm now giving away for free," Greg says.

"We offer it as a 7-day challenge - go through the training, give feedback and refer 5 people. Our goal is to share it with 1 million people world-wide, for free during the next 12 months."

How well does it work? As an artist and writer for this magazine, I've been involved, learning and practicing for several months. My work-flow, creativity and confidence are definitely moving in the right direction. I'm in!

For more information, visit <https://greatideasondemand.com/50338/149996>. ■

Warrior Healing Center

Center takes on a new 'war'



For Dr. Tim Kirk and Cathie Goodman, RN, it's too late when it happens.

It's too late to offer relief, it's too late to present opportunities, it's too late to provide treatment.

"We're fighting a war, and we have to treat it like combat," Kirk states in his analysis of a rarely-talked-about horror of the military. "When there is a death during combat operations, there is accountability all the way up the reporting chain."

Something similar is needed to address the tragedy of suicide, which statistics show is an all-too-common occurrence among U.S. veterans. Thanks to the efforts by Dr. Kirk and Goodman, who direct the Warrior Healing Center (WHC) in Sierra Vista, the county is now tracking more closely the number of veteran suicides reported locally. This is an important baseline to manage, as the VA reports that the risk of veteran suicide in Arizona is higher than the national average.

The Center has been working with Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland to develop an innovative program that addresses the immediate and long-term psychological issues surrounding the causes of suicide, and more specifically, looks at the vulnerabilities of veterans to suicide on a microcosmic level.

WHC is implementing the approach of PFA – Psychological First Aid – which helps to address the immediate crisis at hand for veterans, and work with them to create a path to sustainability.

"Johns Hopkins pioneered the PFA concept to assist victims of national disasters, but our work with them showed us the same tools are applicable to veterans in crisis," Kirk said.

Creating awareness of the symptoms of a potentially suicidal military veteran or soldier is the first step toward prevention, Kirk said. Once identified, it's important to provide access to the appropriate resources to start the healing process.

"We ask veterans to score their level of stress when they come in seeking assistance. We listen carefully to them to clearly understand the variables at play contributing to their crisis. We develop a plan with them, often introducing them to the resources that are available," Goodman states. "We don't just assist—we're in the suicide prevention business—that means you have to get involved."

Considering the success that the Warrior Healing Center has had in assisting over 1,160 veterans new to the Center in the past two years, along with the over 2,500 additional veterans who WHC routinely serves, the outlook for overcoming the threat of veteran suicides is bucking the national trend. During the past several years the Center initiated an aggressive effort to help disabled veterans obtain their full VA benefits, working with a veteran organization based in Phoenix.

"We have helped disabled veterans receive more than \$3 million annually in disability benefits they might not otherwise be receiving," Kirk said. "That initiative alone presents a remarkable tool for restoring hope."


Cochise County has about 18,000 veterans, and only 7,500 of them are receiving their disability benefits, according to the VA. Of that total, over half of them are candidates for benefit increases.

"We still have work to do, but we're making progress," Goodman said.

The Warrior Healing Center is a 501c3 organization started because of the need for coordinated services for veterans in Cochise County. The Center has united more than 50 partners under one roof so veterans can visit and easily find the help they need, such as getting a VA disability rating increase, getting prepared meals, help with rent and utility payments, service animal training, and a variety of activity-based therapies. ■



Warrior Healing Project, EIN: 84-4586158 is a Qualified Charitable Organization in Arizona, which means that donations to them can offset your State Tax Liability with a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. QCO code for WHP is: 22467.



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RAY EMMERICH
FIREFIGHTER
WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER
BENSON

REAL PEOPLE, REAL PORTRAITS
Larry Scott kestrelg01@gmail.com

Our firefighters are volunteers - with the same professional training as paid members of big-city teams. But in small-town and rural America, the skill and muscle come from our own neighbors. But often, these individuals work full-time jobs away from home, making them unavailable during the day.

We desperately need new people to gain new skills, and take their places as much-needed home-town heroes.

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Our Lady o continues its w



of the Sierras worldwide appeal

By R.J.Cohn

One of the most iconic structures south-east of Sierra Vista once clouded in a courtroom drama that survived the 2011 Monument Fire, the 75-foot Celtic cross overlooking the San Pedro Valley at the Our Lady of the Sierras shrine has become more than a pilgrimage to a religious mecca for thousand visitors in Hereford's Ash Canyon.

Especially for Bisbee's Richard Martinez, who said he feels compelled when he drives by the 31-foot statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary— its right arm pointing to the Celtic cross and left arm toward the Mexico/Arizona border – to visit the ashes of his family he scattered years ago near the former sanctuary that was leveled in the fire that burned 30,000 acres and 80 homes 13 years ago.

"They loved this place, and it's where they wanted to be when they died," said Martinez, who comes here several times a year. "My cousins and uncles found peace here, came to Sunday masses and because their faith mattered in their lives, I come often to remember them. It sets my head and heart right, keeps my demons at bay. I wish the world could be as perfect as this place."

Martinez isn't the only one who journeys to the shrine of the Celtic cross weighing 30 tons that was constructed from structural steel with concrete/ fiberglass exterior and a hand-sculpted finish, where religious icons spring out of the hillside of several sloped acres.

Tour buses from Mexico – along with

visitors from across the globe come to site, some for personal reasons – to see statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the 10-foot Angel of Revelation, a life-sized Christmas manger scene, Our Lady of Guadalupe Grotto, 14 Stations of the Cross, a hand-crafted rock waterfall, a spectacular stone chapel that seats 30 for Sunday masses and "Mary's Knoll," a combination prayer and visitor's center.

Like Guadalupe Moreno who comes from Sonora, Mexico with her daughters to pray in the chapel before Sunday mass around Christmas and Easter. The shrine holds a special place in Moreno's heart, something she always visits when she crosses the border to visit friends in Douglas.

"It's important that they understand what a holy site this is, and we worship with devout reverence here," she said. "Our faith is a guiding light in our lives, and they are learning how meaningful it is when we come and experience this precious place. I feel our prayers are listened to."

As spectacular as Our Lady of the Sierras is, the project that was the concept of Gerald and Pat Chouinard turned into a bitter and acrimonious four-year courtroom battle in the mid-90s.

Fierce opposition from neighbors sprung up over the shrine similar to one the couple visited in Medjugorje, Yugoslavia, calling their idea "visual pollution," and the area would be overrun with tourists. The Chouinards had to adhere to Cochise County zoning regulations, which didn't allow structures over 30 feet

unless they were considered monuments. To comply with requirements and qualify as a monument, a stone chapel was included for the site.

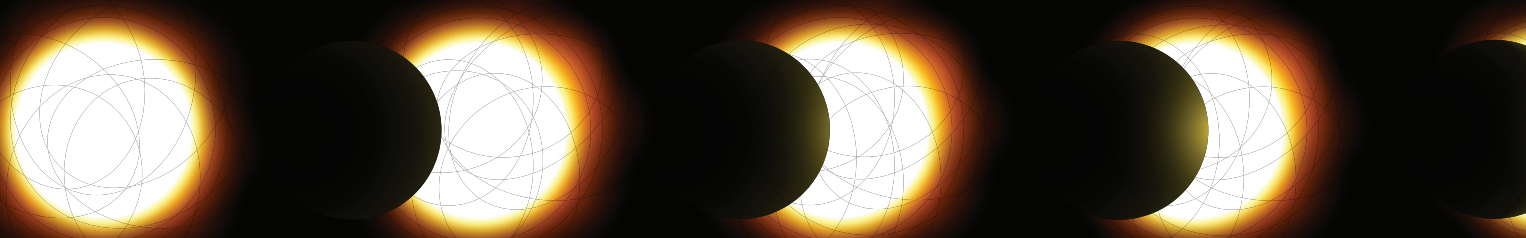
After the courts found in the Chouinards' favor, building permits were reinstated, and Our Lady of the Sierras Shrine was completed in 1998.

Improvements and additions to the shrine continued over the years. As word-of-mouth increased, people came from every corner of the world. Sunday masses were conducted by visiting pastors.

But in June of 2011, the Monument Fire that burned for 10 days destroyed the shrine's chapel. Volunteers began rebuilding a new one constructed of local river rock, Douglas Fir ceiling beams, oak cabinetry, an early 1900s antique bronze tabernacle and limestone altar. It was completed in 2014.

"I have friends who visit all the national parks and major league baseball stadiums, but religious sites and pilgrimages have a hold on me more than anything else," said Anthony DiCarlo from Cincinnati, who was admiring the upper grotto on a hill above the chapel. "I've traveled to Mount Parnassus, where the Oracle of Delphi was claimed to have been, the Bevenvento, Pietrelcina and San Giovanni Rotondo shrines and Saint Michael's Cave in Italy.

"But seeing this in the middle of a desert that looks out at mountains and the valley is pretty spectacular in my book." ■



"DON'T MISS APRIL

By Ted Forte

A total eclipse of the sun is arguably the most impressive phenomenon the sky has to offer. Most observers who have witnessed one will agree that the experience is simply magical. It's only during totality that we can glimpse the sun's corona with our own eyes and it's quite a moving experience. Photographs and videos of the event pale by comparison.

We earthlings are quite fortunate in that our moon can exactly match the angular size of the sun so as to create such a spectacular visage. However, the effect is fleeting – the path of totality cuts a narrow strip, barely 115 miles wide, that races across a swath of the planet, about 9,000 miles long, over just a few hours. At any particular spot along the centerline of the shadow, totality can last as little as seconds, and can never exceed 7.5 minutes. While a total eclipse occurs somewhere on the planet about every 18 months or so, the chances of one passing through a particular location is rather rare: about once in 400 years.

In 2017, Americans were treated to “the Great American Eclipse” that crossed the continent from Oregon to South Carolina. An estimated 20 million people enjoyed the event. If you were one of them, you understand what a remarkable experience it was.

The next total eclipse to cross the continental United States will occur on April 8, 2024. The moon's shadow will cross the continent from Mexico to New Brunswick, and transit a dozen states from Texas to Maine. An estimated 32 million people live along the path of totality and as many as 3.7 million others will make the trek to stand in the moon's shadow. In central Texas, one of the more popular destinations, observers will enjoy 4 minutes and 24 seconds of totality. By comparison, totality lasted a maximum of 2 minutes 40 seconds during the 2017

eclipse. We'll have to wait another 20 years before another total eclipse is visible in America. Totality for that eclipse, on Aug 23, 2044, crosses Canada and ends in northern Montana.

Observing the sun can be dangerous; great care should be taken to avoid injury to your eyes. The sun should never be viewed directly with the unprotected eye except during the period of actual totality when the moon completely covers the sun. It's never safe to view a partial or annular eclipse with the naked eye.

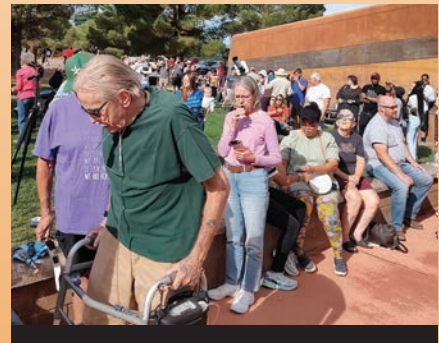
A good way to safely observe an eclipse is to view it with solar glasses. Verify that your solar glasses were manufactured after 2015 and meet ISO standard 12312-2. It is also very important that your glasses are free of pinholes, cracks, or scratches. Hold them up to the bright sky and ensure no light passes through them before looking at the sun. Be sure they cover your eyes completely and remember to turn away from the sun before lowering your glasses. Wait until the sun is fully eclipsed before removing them and be sure to replace them over your eyes before totality ends.

Only experienced observers should use a telescope or binoculars to directly view the sun. Viewing the unfiltered sun is always deleterious, but viewing a concentrated unfiltered sun through a telescope can instantly cause permanent eye damage.

Astronomers employ solar filters that pass just a tiny fraction



L'S SOLAR ECLIPSE



of the sun's total light and block all of the harmful UV wavelengths to safely view the sun. There are also some telescopes that are specifically designed to view our star. Beware, however, of solar filters that screw into your telescope's eyepiece – these are generally of very low quality and subject to shattering. If your telescope came with one of these filters, my advice is to throw it away.

A safe method of observing a solar eclipse is through projection. You can use a pin-hole projector or direct the light from a telescope or binocular onto a white surface. For less than \$25, you can turn a small refractor into a “sun funnel” projector. Type “build a sun funnel” into your browser to see a number of sites

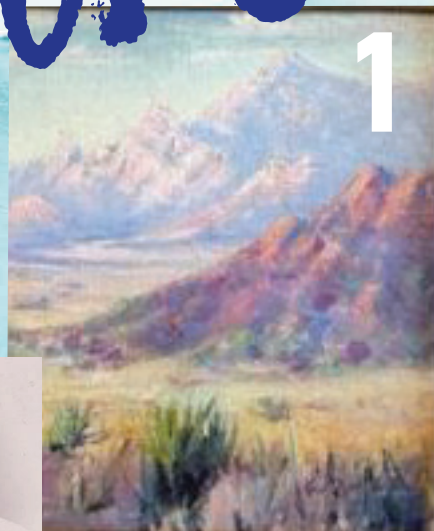
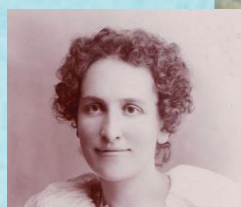
with easy-to-follow instructions for building one.

Here in Cochise County, we will experience a partial eclipse on April 8th that will block about 73% of the sun at maximum. The eclipse begins about 10:05 a.m. and ends at 12:35 p.m. with the maximum occurring about 11:20.

Weather permitting, the Huachuca Astronomy Club will set up solar telescopes at the Sierra Vista library on April 8th to view the partial eclipse. There will be ample supplies of solar glasses provided by the library and the club. This event is free and expected to be well attended. Check the club's Facebook page for other eclipse viewing sites in the area. ■

Artists of the area

Provided by Kathy Klump, President
Sulphur Springs Valley Historical Society /
Chiricahua Regional Museum and Research
Center, 127 E. Maley, Willcox, Arizona 85643



1. Effie Anderson Smith (1859 – 1955) and her husband A. Y. Smith lived in the mine manager's house for the Commonwealth Mine in Pearce, Arizona. They arrived there soon after the town began. She became a well-known artist in her own time with her impressionist style paintings of desert landscapes. She was one of the first members of the Woman's Club in Willcox, and lived for a time at the Gadsden Hotel in Douglas. Many of her paintings may be seen at the Douglas/Williams House in Douglas, Arizona, and a permanent home to display her art is currently being developed by the Effie Anderson Smith Museum and Archive, Inc. to be located in southern Arizona. Visit the website to read her life story and view her paintings.

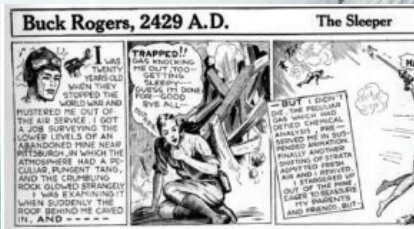
2. R. Phillips Sanderson, (1908 – 1987) a famous artist and sculptor, created the statue of the "Copper Miner" in front of the Cochise County Courthouse in Bisbee. He was paid \$30 per month by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration during the Depression for the six months it took to complete the statue to portray "beauty, toil and simplicity" as a tribute to all the miners who had worked in the Bisbee mines. The dedication ceremony in 1935 was presided over by Congresswoman Isabella Greenway. Sanderson also created the six bas-reliefs that line the entryway in the courthouse depicting "A Cavalcade of Cochise County History." On the second landing of the courthouse is a huge relief map of Cochise County created by artist George Sellers made from forty-four pounds of screws, nails, tacks, and over 2000 cups of plaster.

3. Dick Calkins (1894 – 1962) was the first artist to draw the famous Buck Rogers comic strip, which began in 1929. The strip introduced and popularized such science-fiction concepts as ray guns, robots and rocket ships. Buck Rogers appeared in radio series, films, television and all kinds of toys. Calkins was named as an honorary member of Mercury Seven astronauts as several of his ideas from his comics actually inspired future ideas used by NASA. During World War I, Calkins served in the Army Air Service as a pilot and flight instructor. He co-created and illustrated the aviation-themed comic strip Skyroads. He had a ranch outside of Willcox for many years after he retired. He wrote a regular column in the Arizona Range News called "Calkin's Talkins", and was pictured in the very first Rex Allen Days

***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.*



2



3



4



program. His painting of the “Flying Cowboy” is displayed in the Chiricahua Regional Museum. This was the design he created for the sleeve patches for the local Civil Air Patrol, who were known as “The Flying Cowboys”.

4. **K. Gardner Perine** (1928 – 2010) was a graduate of Massachusetts College of Art. He became an accomplished artist and was Chief of Graphics for the federal government Drug Enforcement Administration. He was Art Director for the BNDD Bulletin published by the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. On October 5, 1971, a new eight-cent postage stamp was released by the U. S. Postal Service to prevent drug abuse. The original artwork of a single figure, representing the loneliness and despair of a young girl with a drug dependence problem dominating the intentionally drab blue and black design, was created by Gardner Perine and Suzanne Rice. The number of stamps printed numbered 139, 080,000. He retired in 1982 and moved to Sunsites, Arizona. He loved the beautiful surroundings, which he exemplified in his many watercolor paintings. He taught watercolor painting classes for Cochise Community College and was very active in the community.



5

5. **Carl D. Clapp** (1940 – 2021) was a local Willcox boy whose family was among the first homesteaders to arrive in Cochise County circa 1909. His parents were Duane and Mildred Reed Clapp. After receiving a degree in art from ASU, he taught at Camp Verde High School. He partnered with his wife's parents on a farm in Casa Grande in 1971. This gave him time to pursue his art. Called Arizona's Ag Artist, he became famous for his beautiful paintings of the blossoms on cotton plants. He very generously donated paintings to raise

money for Cotton Wives scholarships and the Leukemia Foundation. In 1983, Carl Clapp was instrumental in establishing the Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame. Carl painted the portraits of the first six charter members inducted. Those portraits are displayed in the Rex Allen Museum in Willcox.

Real people, real portraits...

By Artist Larry Scott

"The violinist" is one of my all-time favorite paintings. Judith was a high-school student in her mid-teens who, at the time, lived nearby. My reference images came from an informal photo-shoot in my home.

She was quiet, but intense about her passion for music. "I haven't missed a daily practice session in three years. Every day - no matter what." Since, after graduating from high school, she shifted her focus, and earned her RN degree with Cochise College - the hard way - working a full time job in the health care field.

The recent piece I call "Cutest little girl on earth! Which makes a lot of sense, if you're looking through Grandpa's eyes.

My son, Clement, took the reference photo using his cell phone. To my eye, that particular snapshot somehow stood out among a host of others. And that defined my vision for painting a piece that captures a moment in the life of a two year old.

For me, when I paint a portrait, my first priority is getting the likeness - "nailing it." This is a real person - someone special. With a good likeness in place, I can experiment with

other details that, hopefully, make the piece stand out.

Working with old photos presents its own challenge. You can't go back for a better look. What you see is what you work with - so sometimes it can be difficult. But, a good back-story helps. The Glenn and Carol painting was based on a wallet-size photo from a family box of pictures. On the back, in pencil, "Glenn and Carol - July 4, 1946. What were they thinking? She was a quiet teen-ager from a loving family. He had just returned from military duty in Europe, where he had no assurance he would ever return alive.

While portraiture is at the center of my work, I sometimes find it refreshing to explore other topics from time to time. The locomotive provided an interesting challenge, for sure.

I've spent a lifetime learning portraiture. At two years old, I was trying as hard as a two-year old can. It's who I am. Over the decades, I've worked in oils, graphite and whatever else I can find to work with. These days, I use digital brush, still moving forward, doing my best.

Typically I work from reference photos, generally my photography but not necessarily. Whenever possible I like to meet the subjects of my work, or their families. Somehow, it makes a difference.

I do accept commission work from time to time. But I'm at the time of life when commission work has to be meaningful to me. Real People, Real Portraits. Not just 'a job'. I can be reached by message at 520-237-0716. ■



ABOVE: Larry Scott artfully captures lineworkers setting a power pole. ABOVE LEFT: A special teenage girl, playing classical music. LEFT: Larry's recent painting of his granddaughter.

Kountry Kafe keeps it komfy

10400 State Route 191, Elfrida

Open Mondays through Saturdays
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Closed Sundays
(520) 642-1716



By Shar Porier

Elfrida may be a tiny community, after all just over 300 people live there, but it holds a surprise that is attracting folks from all over called the Kountry Kafe. It's a "Mom & Pop & family" business that provides a substantial menu for a tiny restaurant that offers breakfast, lunch and dinner every day but Sunday.

Owners Donald and Brenda Bartol opened the café in 2016 in a community missing a place to go have a cup of coffee and a chat, or get a good "homemade meal." It became a hit as word of mouth spread. They have no culinary training, at all, said Donald. "We look for recipes and develop our own. People will give us tips and we try them out."

Every morning, they hit the ground running to prepare the days sweets which have become a hit across the Sulphur Springs Valley.

The delicious, gigantic cinnamon buns so very popular with the locals and travelers are an example of his baking skills and his effort to please their customers. The daily sweet treat often doesn't last through the day, but that's where Brenda comes in with her knack for baking a host of different confections like cheesecake, donuts and other pastries.

The 11 types of smoked burgers including a veggie burger, so there's something for everyone's tastes. And the French fries, again a trial and error discovery, are fresh, hot, lightly salted and have the perfect crunch.

The recipe Donald developed for the cafe's fried fish has earned him accolades and a full house on Fridays that extends into the outdoor, heated tent they have set up for overflow. He said it was trial and error until he hit on the right seasonings. He wasn't a fan of the greasy, heavy breaded fish, so he worked at getting the flavor and texture just right. His customers have been pleased and keep returning for Fish Frydays, as they call it. Sometimes they have left over fish to serve up on Saturdays for lunch and dinner, as well.

The mouthwatering briskets, burgers and pork are smoked for 22 hours to impart that barbeque taste found at far pricier restaurants.



Meet the gang! Front row: April, Ethan, Brenda, and Donald Bartol Back row: Shayna Hudson, Hayley Kristant, Bridgette Hall, Doug Spurdens, Tanya Bartol.

There's a 15 percent discount on Mondays for those age 60 and older. On Wednesdays, get 10 percent off any sandwich or basket.

The 50-plus flavors of margaritas made with good tequilas are a hit, or go for a favorite cocktail.

The best thing about eating there is that you are served by smiling and fun loving waitresses. They take the dining experience to a whole new level. The staff is dedicated to pleasing the customers and it makes one feel like family.

Now, people who come to see the wintering greater and lesser Sandhill cranes and flocks of other water fowl have found it and are spreading the word "Hey, go to Elfrida." ■

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ADOBE STOCK PHOTOS BY BLAKE ALAN

SPENGLER *pays it forward*

By Dana Cole

Starting with this edition, Currents will be spotlighting past and present Boys & Girls Club members through stories about Club alumni as well as active members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sierra Vista (BGCSV).

The series starts with John Spengler, a Boys Club member from 1956 through 1957 while an Army brat living in Fort Bliss, Texas. Today, Spengler — a West Point graduate and retired Army Lt. Col. with 25 years of service — sits on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sierra Vista board. Spengler's early affiliation with the organization as a member goes back to a time when it was known as the Boys Club, some 33 years prior to the 1990 inclusion of girls and its subsequent transition to the Boys & Girls Club of today.

"I am an old-timer for sure," said Spengler while recalling his early years with the Club. "I was at Fort Bliss, Texas from 1954 to 1957, enrolled in the Youth Activities (YA) program. That program was connected to the Boys Club of El Paso, and the two organizations shared several activities — track and field events, swimming, boxing, baseball, shop craft, and more — for boys."

The girls of the YA program participated in other sports and activities. Some, such

as fencing, archery and trampoline, were shared with the boys, Spengler noted.

Spengler's father, also an Army officer, encouraged his son to experience as many sports as possible, convinced that sports activities helped keep him busy, promoted a strong work ethic and taught the importance of teamwork.

"I think I participated in nearly every

John Spengler enjoys his time volunteering at the Sierra Vista Boys and Girls Club.



activity offered through the Boys Club and YA," said Spengler, who

feels he learned a lot about himself during that time. "I learned that I'm not a fast runner; I swim pretty good; fencing is hard work; long arms help when boxing and teamwork is important to being successful in many activities and sports."

Spengler credits those early Boys Club and YA experiences for teaching him the value of tackling new ventures, even when intimidating, and attributes

his successful military career to lessons learned through those experiences.

"I am on the Boys & Girls Club of Sierra Vista board because I want to give back to the community through some of the benefits that I got from being in a Boys Club in my youth," Spengler said. "I've been a Boys & Girls Club board member since 2017 and I like interacting

with other board members and Club staff and seeing the kids enjoying the things that we have provided them."

Throughout a 25-year career in the Army, 18 years as a defense contractor and five as an Army civilian employee, Spengler points to family as his foundation and rock, particularly his wife, Barbara. A graduate of Ladycliff College in New York, John says that Barbara also served in the Army as a military wife and community leader. She supported numerous unit and garrison activities and was the household mainstay during John's absences in the field and overseas, sharing many assignments in Germany and the United States. ■



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SIERRA VISTA**

'Mini Library'

book vending machines coming to Fort Huachuca

By R.J. Cohn

If you think Cochise County residents are reading only e-books and streaming movies, then you probably haven't noticed that their love affair with the tactile feel of a bound volume is stronger than ever.

And if you live or work at Fort Huachuca, books of all genres are about to become conveniently available for the first time from the Sierra Vista Public Library.

That's a significant benefit for the 5,600 military, 8,000 civilians and 11,000 family members who lack a public library on the post.

Nearly a year after the city installed an automated library book vending machine in The Mall at Sierra Vista, the response has been so overwhelming that another one is being added in the PX at Fort Huachuca.

And there's a strong possibility that a third machine, also on post, could be added before the end of the year, says the city's public library manager Emily Duchon.

"The fort personnel have been thrilled about having the automated library machine on post right from the start when we approached them with the idea," said Duchon. "They've

been 100 percent supportive of the project. It's also a great partnership between the city and the fort."

Funded in part by the City and the Friends of the Library to the tune of more than \$30,000, the machine at the mall holds 135 books along with DVDs. It can be accessed by scanning a library card or punching in the card number. Once the machine's RFTD tracking chip authenticates the user's identification, the glass door opens and – voila! – you get to check out as many books as you like.

They can be returned to the 'mini library' or to the public library on Tacoma Street in Sierra Vista.

"The book vending machine on base will be the same model with our branded logo that's in the mall and will be installed either in January or February at the PX – their mall, so to speak – not far from Starbucks," said Duchon. "What's so great about the automated library is nothing is ever on hold, and you don't have to wait for a book to be transferred from another branch. If you're looking for a popular James Patterson book, for example, there's a good chance it's in the machine."

Duchon knows the base presents a huge demographic, and the demand for checking out books and DVDs from the automated library may quickly exceed the supply of just one vending machine holding less than 150 books.

"If that happens, then we'll most likely look at putting another one on base, possibly before the end of 2024," she said. "We're all excited about this. This is about getting books into the hands of adults and children who will now have access to library books on base."

"This couldn't be any better." ■



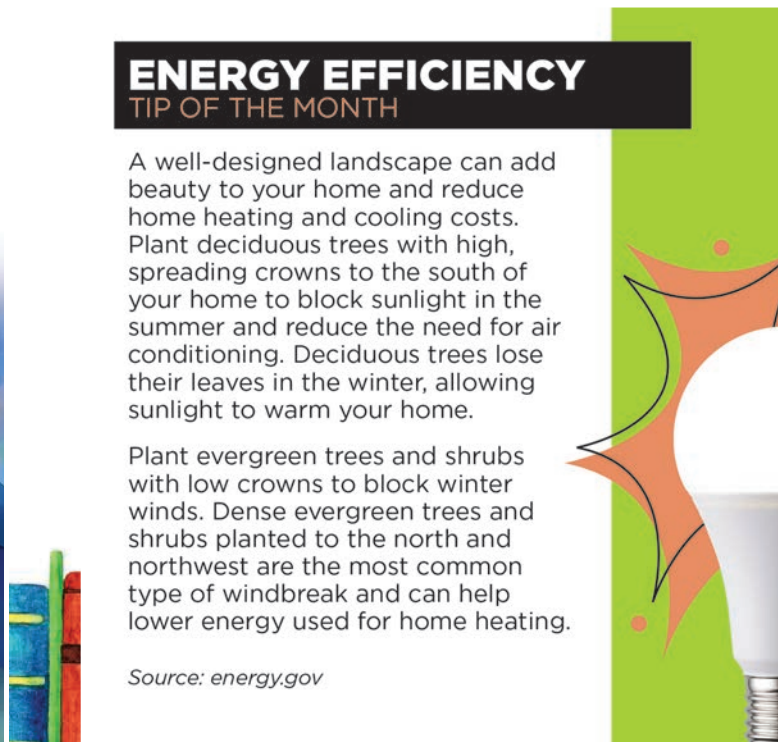
ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Source: energy.gov



From barrel-racing champ to award-winning artist

By R.J.Cohn

Born into a ranching family in Sheridan, Wyoming, where her love of horses took her to the top echelon of barrel-racing – along with four qualifications to the prestigious National Finals Rodeo – Sierra Vista's Karen Galembo has done everything a girl in love with horses could do for most of her life.

Along with riding and training horses, she has created some of the most award-winning pieces of Western art that has brought her recognition and lofty commissions as a sculptor and painter.

She once placed third in the world in barrel-racing, won scores of awards in equestrian futurities' competitions and spent most of her adult life on top of a quarter horse.

"I can't remember ever being without a horse," said Galembo, who spent her early years on a ranch in Miles City, Montana.

But following a debilitating horse-related accident in 1987, she found herself unable to work with horses, and her life took a sudden turn into the world of art. World-renowned sculptor Clay Dalberg visited her ranch to order a saddle from her former husband, a saddle maker.

Captivated by his work, Galembo poured herself into sculpting without any formal training. Suddenly, the world of art opened at her fingertips.

"I was always especially good with my hands, and sculpting felt like something I could master and become fairly accom-



Karen Galembo collars Western art with acclaimed sculptures, paintings

plished at," said Galembo.

Starting with mounds of clay, tools and a few tips from a local foundry that would later cast her work in bronze, she began sculpting human ears – dozens and dozens of them – for 10 consecutive days.

"I sculpted enough ears that I could carve them without looking," said Galembo, whose work was recently shown at the Huachuca Art Association. "I got so sick of sculpting ears I needed to branch out into something else, but they told me not to even think about sculpting something as complex as a horse.

"So of course I began carving horses. I knew them like the back of my hand."

She got a few pointers from Dalberg, who stopped by her ranch in 2014.

"From there, I was on my way," she said, "sculpting horses, cowboys and barrel racers, casting them in bronze and selling them at a pretty good clip."

In her first year of selling her work, Galembo told herself she wanted to make \$20,000.

"I got pretty darn close," she said.

"I made \$19,500. And each year after that, sales increased along with my expertise."

Instead of taking her work to galleries, Galembo took them to horse shows and futurities' competitions, selling them out of her truck.

"I put them in the toolbox in the bed of the pickup, threw the tailgate down, and dozens of horse lovers showed up and bought lots of pieces," she said. "I did quite well."

Galembo's bronze sculptures are riveting, sculpted in extraordinary detail

with features that are breathtakingly realistic.

But following a series of moves and health issues, she stopped sculpting. She moved her Airstream trailer from Texas onto her son's Sierra Vista property in 2013 and began painting.

"I wanted to try something different, and watercolors always appealed to me," she said. "Plus it takes up a lot less time and space than sculpting."

Galembo's work – themed around horses, steers and pets – has been so well received that judges at a September Tombstone art exhibition awarded her two first place ribbons and an honorable mention. Three watercolor paintings took first, second and an honorable mention at a Sierra Vista showing.

Galembo, who has come full circle from a barrel racing champ to a successful multi-talented artist, keeps challenging herself artistically.

"For now, painting is my primary focus, but I'll get back to sculpting again," she said. "I'm far from being done." ■

Cochise Serving Veterans

The mission of an organization can sometimes be determined by the title. Cochise Serving Veterans (CSV) is one of those organizations.

Samantha Bivens had an idea in 2013 to host a Veterans Stand Down in Cochise County and Cochise Serving Veterans began. In 2016 Harry Bowen became the Chair, growing CSV into a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Growth continues under current Chair Justine Ducote.

Today, CSV hosts the Cochise County Stand Down event held in Sierra Vista and Community Connect events throughout Cochise County. These events provide free services for medical, mental, eye, dental care, employment, housing, benefits assistance, haircuts and even pet care.

But Veterans don't need to wait for one of these events to obtain support. CSV established the Veterans Resource and Outreach Community Center, often called the ROCC, to support Veterans year-round, located at 400 W. Fry Blvd, Suite 14, in the Landmark Plaza.

On any given day the CSV team stands ready to provide a

Veteran or immediate family with assistance for food, shelter, health, financial support and more. By collaborating with local, county, state and federal agencies along with other Veteran organizations, CSV provides caring guidance to help Veterans achieve stability and self-sufficiency in their lives. ■



Left to right, Sierra Vista Mayor Mc Caa, Chief Hiser, board member Jane Strain, Chair Justine Ducote during a recent Walking On Wednesdays visit to the ROCC.

You can contact CSV at csvchair@gmail.com or 360.909.9058. You can learn more at cochisevets.org

VISION

The goal of the Cochise Serving Veterans is to provide any needy veteran or their immediate family with quality service and care through collaboration with local, state, federal and other Veteran Organizations. This service shall be through gaining acceptance for service benefits, health care, dental care, behavioral support, spiritual support through collaboration, job and resource fairs, stand downs, and providing "as required" financial assistance.



Keeping the Lights on Since 1961

**By Mandi Greenmyer and
Chris Jimenez**

Arizona Electric Power Cooperative Inc. (AEP CO), a not-for-profit electric generation and transmission cooperative, was established in 1961 by four founding electric cooperative members—Trico Electric Cooperative, Graham County Electric Cooperative, Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative and Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative. Mohave Electric Cooperative joined in 1973, and Anza Electric Cooperative joined in 1979.

AEP CO was created to provide electricity to farmers, ranchers and small communities in rural Arizona that had been overlooked by for-profit, investor-owned utilities.

After AEP CO's first natural gas combustion turbine was installed in 1963, more generation was added throughout the years to provide reliable, local power

to serve the growing population and load growth in electric cooperatives' service areas. AEP CO's dedicated workforce at Apache Station in Cochise continues to efficiently operate these legacy units through diligent maintenance servicing and a conscientious focus on keeping operating costs low. These Apache Station resources—along with modest hydropower allocations and market transactions with neighboring utilities—allowed AEP CO to provide stable, reliable and affordable electric service to our members for several decades.

But things are now changing quickly and dramatically. Energy markets are plagued with rising costs as coal generation is retired. The region continues to grow rapidly, and utilities no longer have excess electricity available for purchase. Hydropower resources are becoming increasingly curtailed, and AEP CO's legacy fleet struggles to compete in

newer markets that reward flexibility with more intermittent renewable power resources available on the system.

Although the world around us has changed, AEP CO and its members have come together to renew their commitment to affordable, reliable and local electricity. The Reliable Energy Plan is how we plan to honor this commitment.

The Reliable Energy Plan uses proven and tested technology—such as the combustion turbines we built in 1963—with newer, more efficient and flexible natural gas generation that will perform well in emerging markets and complement significant investments in solar, wind and battery storage technologies.

Because the electric cooperatives serve some of the most economically disadvantaged areas in the region, it is imperative that AEP CO develops a diversity of new, but proven, resources at the lowest possible cost.



LEFT: AEPCO's Reliable Energy Plan includes a battery energy storage system installed in Cochise, Arizona. PHOTO BY STEFANIE SPENCER PHOTOGRAPHY ABOVE: An aerial view of Apache Station in 1963. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARIZONA ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

The result of several years of strategic planning with AEPCO's member cooperatives, an all-source resource procurement process, and a myriad of sophisticated resource planning modeling scenarios, the Reliable Energy Plan will meet load growth, peak demand, market flexibility requirements and improve system reliability.

The Reliable Energy Plan includes:

- Installing battery energy storage systems at three local member sites; in progress.
- Generating flexible, efficient natural gas at Apache Station; in progress.
- Generating flexible, efficient natural gas at Mohave Energy Park; in development.
- Participating in a renewable wind power project; under negotiation.
- Building a new solar and battery energy storage at Apache Station; in progress.
- Building a new solar and battery energy storage project in central Arizona; under negotiation.

AEPCO determined the additions of

solar, wind and battery storage—when combined with the installations of new flexible and efficient natural gas turbines—resulted in the most affordable, reliable and diversified energy mix (see chart below).

AEPCO's future, like its past, must be guided by its member cooperatives for the benefit of the member cooperatives. The result of this process is the Reliable Energy Plan with broad support and participation among our distribution cooperative and

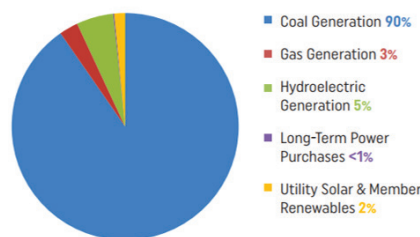
public power members that ensures the generation and transmission cooperative can reliably and affordably keep the lights on for another 60 years. ■

Arizona Electric Power Cooperative (AEPCO) and Sierra Southwest Cooperative Services (Sierra), together, are referred to as the Arizona G&T Cooperatives.

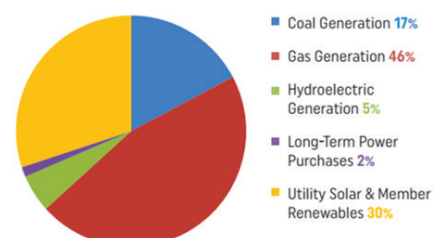
Learn more about AEPCO's plan to keep the lights on at www.ReliableEnergyArizona.com.

AEPCO's Reliable Energy Plan Energy Mix

AEPCO Energy Mix — 2014



Estimated AEPCO Energy Mix — 2026



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.

COCHISE CRAFTERS 2024 Event Dates

Cochise Crafters hosts numerous events open to all crafters, artists, authors, small business owners, home-based and direct salespeople or anyone who would like to promote their business. All events are held indoors at The Mall at Sierra Vista from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Event dates for 2024 are July 13, October 19, November 16, and December 7.

Their fee is \$25 per table and includes a six-foot table and chairs. All 2023 events were completely sold out, so sign up as soon as possible! For more information, visit www.cochisecrafters.com.

Sierra Vista

MARCH 21, 22, 23, 24

El Tour de Zona and Zona in the Park

Arizona's Multi-Day Cycling Tour & Festival is a three-day, fully-supported bicycle tour visiting the towns of Sierra Vista, Bisbee and Tombstone. It will also include a fun festival at night on March 21- 23. Enjoy three-days of destination loop bicycle rides mixed with post-ride festivals featuring live music, great food and a local craft beer garden. Veterans Memorial Park in Sierra Vista will serve as the cyclists' basecamp with day loop-rides to destinations like gorgeous Ramsey Canyon Preserve, the picturesque town of Bisbee, and Tombstone, "The Town Too Tough to Die!" The public are welcome at Zona in the Park to enjoy an array of food trucks, live music, and dancing from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Veterans Memorial Park. For more information, visit ElTourDeZona.org.

Sierra Vista, Bisbee, Tombstone

MARCH 23

Texas Canyon Trail Run/Walk

Run or walk the scenic 5K or 10K courses in an awe-inspiring region. Texas Canyon is marked by spectacular rock formations, including balancing boulders, and trails crisscrossing through open fields of yucca, ocotillo, a variety of cacti, and scattered trees that dot the terrain.

9 a.m. 10K Start Time. 9:20 a.m. 5K Start Time
Once you have completed the race, stay for the Awards Ceremony at 11 a.m. Your race registration also includes free entry into the Amerind Museum and Art Gallery. Simply show your bib number or free passes to the admissions desk to take advantage of this offer. After grab a bite at one of the food trucks or bring a picnic lunch and make a day of it!

The Amerind Museum

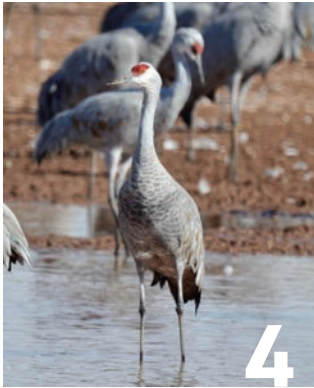
Chorus sets spring concert May 11

Sierra Vista Community Chorus will present their annual spring concert, IT'S A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING, on May 11 at 7:00 P.M. at the Klein Center for the Performing Arts located at Buena High School. This is the concert where they wear their fanciest clothes and present a selection of songs loved by all. Those of you who attended the Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra concert on April 6 know that the Community chorus joined them to perform songs from Beauty and the Beast, Carousel, and Music Man. You will hear those same delightful songs at the spring concert, too, along with On My Own from Les Misérables, and popular

tunes from all ages, including That Old Black Magic, They Can't take That Away from Me, and You Are the Sunshine of My Life. There will be other familiar songs sung by several ensembles and a performance by singers from Buena High School. Beginning on Monday April 15, Tickets will be available for \$15 from chorus members, Safeway and Ace Hardware, or they may be purchased at the door on May 11. Children 12 and under are admitted free with a paid adult. Only cash or checks, please. No credit cards! Questions? Call 520-378-0730 or email mconklin3@cox.net.



Reader photos



1. Karen Peitsmeyer of Sierra Vista brought the San Pedro River near Hereford to life with this photo.

2. Gary Smith captured this photo in Ramsey Canyon. The brilliant colors and the wildlife are further evidence of the beauty of southeast Arizona.

3. Gary Smith captured this photo he affectionately calls "Sandhill Cranes Happy Hour" at the Whitewater Draw on January 25.

4. Michele Smith of Sierra Vista captured this photo December 7, 2023 at the Whitewater Draw.

APRIL 6

Kars for Kids

The Boys & Girls Club of Sierra Vista and The Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 28, present the 11th annual Kars for Kids, car, truck and motorcycle show. Rain or shine, the event opens at 8 a.m. in the parking lots at Hobby Lobby and C-A-L Ranch Store, Arizona 90 at the intersection of Charleston Road. Spectators are always free of charge.

Sierra Vista

APRIL 8

Solar Eclipse Watch

10 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Come watch the partial solar eclipse with the Huachuca Astronomy Club. Several solar telescopes will be set up outside of the library to safely view the eclipse. Free solar glasses will be distributed (while supplies last). The maximum eclipse (77 percent obscured sun) will be at 11:20 a.m. This event is weather dependent and will be cancelled if skies are overcast.

Sierra Vista Library

APRIL 11 (7:30 P.M.)

Patterson Public Night

Come join the Huachuca Astronomy Club for this free, family-friendly stargazing event at the Patterson Observatory. The observatory is located on the campus of the University of Arizona, Sierra Vista at 1140 N. Colombo Avenue. Registration is required; go to www.usfaz.org/Patterson-observatory to reserve your spot. This event is weather dependent and will be cancelled if skies are overcast. Call (520) 636-6649 to check for cancellation.

Sierra Vista

APRIL 12, 13, 14

Rose Festival

Tombstone celebrates one of its unique events: The Rose Tree Museum, which houses the World's Largest Living Rose Tree! Festival includes a formal gathering on Friday at 6 p.m. under the Rose Tree where guests can flaunt their finest 1880s attire. Crowning the Rose Festival Queen is the highlight of the evening. Festivities continue with a parade on Saturday at 11 a.m., and a Tea Party under the Rose Tree at 4 p.m. benefitting the Tombstone Friends of the Library. There will be a

historical fashion show Sunday on Allen Street at 12:15 p.m., kicking off an afternoon of Old West gunfights and skits performed by the Tombstone Vigilantes. Come enjoy the softer side of Tombstone and visit the World's Largest Rose Tree!

Tombstone

APRIL 18

Commemorative Celebration

Formal Commemoration event - 100 years ago President Coolidge established the Chiricahua National Monument to preserve the spires and balancing rocks formed by a cataclysmic volcano eruption 27 million years ago. The event celebrates its 100th year and will run from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Faraway Historic Ranch at Chiricahua National Monument, 12856 East Rhyolite Creek Road, Willcox, AZ 85643.

Chiricahua National Monument

APRIL 18

Plant Sale

The Sierra Vista Area Garden Club is having its annual plant sale on Thursday, April 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Veteran's Park in Sierra Vista. Items for sale include bedding plants, houseplants, cacti, herbs and much

more including an extensive selection of free seeds. The plants have been grown by club members.

Veterans' Park, Sierra Vista

APRIL 19 Living History Day

Faraway Ranch living history day with people in period dress and interpretive programs given by park rangers event will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Faraway Historic Ranch at Chiricahua National Monument, 12856 East Rhyolite Creek Road, Willcox, AZ 85643.

Chiricahua National Monument

APRIL 20 Chiricahua Rocks

Guided geology walks. This event will be at a couple of different locations. Updates can be found at <https://www.nps.gov/chir/centennial.htm>, or by visiting the Chiricahua National Monument visitor center.

Chiricahua National Monument

APRIL 20 Blessing of the Vines

46th Annual Blessing of the Vines from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Father Greg from St. Andrews and all his cohorts will be blessing or Vines at noon. \$25 per person; \$10 for Non-drinker. Live music all day by Liz and Pete and Jeff and Jill. Yes, there will be food trucks.

Sonoita Vineyards

MAY 1, 2, 3, 4 Spring Fling

The Southwest Wings 2024 Spring Fling will run from Wednesday May 1 to Saturday May 4, with Early Bird Check-in and a free welcome pre-festival for Jamboree for registrants only on Tuesday April 30. Find out more at www.swwings.org.

Sierra Vista

MAY 5 Children's Market

A farmer's market run entirely by kids! The market will be held at Veterans' Memorial Park, 3105 E. Fry Boulevard. Registration for this market is open. The Children's Market is partnering with Fort Huachuca for Family Day at the Fun Festival! They expect 1,000 patrons at this event and there will be food trucks, rides, games, and activities for the whole family! For more information, check out www.childrensentrepreneurmarket.com.

Sierra Vista

MAY 16 (7:30 P.M.) Patterson Public Night

Come join the Huachuca Astronomy Club for this free, family-friendly stargazing event at the Patterson Observatory. The observatory is located on the campus of the University of Arizona, Sierra Vista at 1140 N. Colombo Avenue. Registration is required: go to www.usfaz.org/Patterson-observatory to reserve your spot. This event is weather dependent and will be cancelled if skies are overcast. Call (520) 636-6649 to check for cancellation.

Sierra Vista

MAY 17, 18, 19 Willcox Wine Festival – Spring

Featuring 15 of Arizona's best wineries along with over 30 non-winery vendors including fine arts, artisan foods, vintage vendors, and non-stop entertainment along with food trucks. Willcox Wine Country is Arizona's premier wine region. It is a wine region located in Cochise and Graham counties in southeastern Arizona. The Willcox area leads Arizona wine grape production by growing 74% of the state's wine grapes. Wines from the region and wines made with Willcox grapes have been highly rated by Wine Spectator, San

Francisco Chronicle, Tastings.com and the Arizona Republic.

MAY 27 Sierra Vista Sips and Skies

The Sips and Skies event includes Sierra Vista's Beer, Wine & Spirits Festival held in conjunction with the Sky Islands Summit Challenge. Over Memorial Day weekend, Sky Islands Summit Challenge invites outdoor enthusiasts to seize one, two, or three routes into the Huachuca Mountains – taking hikers (and trail runners) to soaring peaks and endless views. Afterwards, enjoy vintages and brews from Arizona's top makers in expansive Veterans Memorial Park, plus live music and art vendors.



SEPTEMBER 14 Whetstone 5k Run Walk Roll and 10k Challenge Run

Sign-Up now for Whetstone 5K! 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. Sign up at www.runsignup.com/whetstonefun.

Benson

WE WELCOME YOUR CALENDAR EVENTS!

For the May/June 2024 edition, we must receive your event information not later than **April 10, 2024**.

The publication is due in mailboxes **May 21, 2024**. Events should be dated to occur no earlier than **May 24, 2024**.

If you are looking to promote your event

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

There is no charge for contributions to the calendar.

LIVE ON STAGE!!

Willcox Theater and Arts

GREENLEE THEATER CO. – “The Clifton Cliffhanger”, a new play from the Greenlee Theater Company sponsored by Art Depot in Clifton is 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 23 at 7:00 pm at the Palace of Art and Theater.



CLARA HURTADO TRIO – Soprano Clara Hurtado, tenor Brian Stucki and Jeffrey Price on piano bring unparalleled musicality to Willcox. A mix of crossover, Broadway, song and opera arias showcase the warm soprano voice of Clara Hurtado and masterful interpretations of Brian Stucki, with Jeffrey Price's distinguished accompaniment. April 11 at 7:00 pm at the Palace of Art and Theater.

TRACE BUNDY, “ACOUSTIC NINJA”

- His music is poetry in motion, using harmonics, looping, multiple capos, and his unique banter and stage presence to deliver an unforgettable live concert experience. Seeing the “Acoustic Ninja” play live confounds everyone as to how one person can do all that with just two hands and ten fingers. May 25 at 7:00 pm at the Palace of Art and Theater.



RETRO REWIND: - The 2nd Friday of every month watch classic movies on the big screen: April 12 shows 1946's “Dressed to Kill” with Basil Rathbone and March 8 brings Pat O'Brien and Ben Hecht in The Front Page. \$5 for admission and fresh popcorn.

ENGINEERING-TECHNOLOGY

SUMMER INSTITUTE: - Ten days at our Engineering Technology Summer Institute will spark enthusiasm for ages 12 and up – the next generation of problem solvers. Students participate in team-based, hands-on projects, hear from and interact with working engineers, and experience off-campus site visits to local engineering companies. June 3-14

SUMMER PREVIEW: - Classes, workshops and activities for ages 3-93 in art, photography, music, crafts, science, and field trips in history, art, and geology. The Arizona Science Center will bring two week-long science camps, exploring “under the Sea” and “Icky, Sticky, Slimy” things. Registration begins in April.

BROWN BAG HISTORY: - Catch a noontime talk about Arizona history, co-hosted by the Sulphur Springs Valley Historical Society – and don't forget to bring your lunch.

April 11, The Arizona Rangers Ron Gold presents a history of the Arizona Rangers from their time as the police force for the Arizona Territory (1901-1909) to the present day.

May 9 100 Years Grand – The Story of Arizona Highways Magazine Win Holden shares the inside story of how this extraordinary publication has not only survived but thrived, and features dozens of historical and contemporary photographs.

Talks are at noon in The Palace, 116 N Railroad Ave, Willcox. No 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,

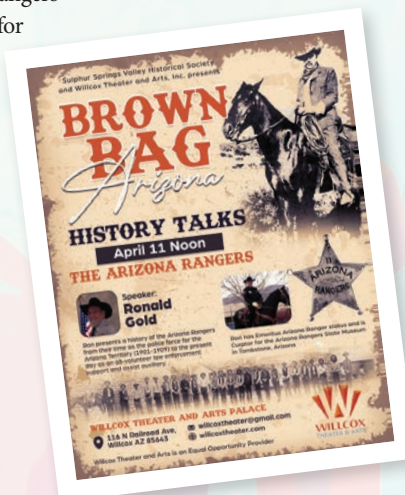
Friday Afternoons: Makerspace; use 3D printers, laser cutters, microcomputers, 3D design, photo editing, videography, virtual reality – and more – Open to the Public ages 10 and up

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 on Facebook.



Fort spouses announce events

The Fort Huachuca Community Spouses Club (FHCSC) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and all of the proceeds raised from its fundraisers throughout the year go back into the community as scholarships and grants. We hope to see you at one or more of the events!

2024 Spring Online Auction

2024 SPRING ONLINE AUCTION

Pre-registration is now open for the 2024 Spring Online Auction at this address: <https://event.auctria.com/ed7cc59a-097f-45f3-8d3d-477cad0ea3a3/>. We are working hard to have an amazing variety of baskets for you to bid on.



Get there soon! Bidding started March 1.

The FHCSC Annual Golf Scramble



THE FHCSC ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

The FHCSC Annual Golf Scramble is happening on March 23rd at the Mountain View Golf Course on Fort Huachuca. \$75 per golfer registration includes green fees, cart fee, range balls and lunch. 8 a.m. shotgun Start (limit 23 teams/92 golfers). Registration closes on March 20th. For more information visit our website: www.fhcsc.com/golf-scramble

How You Can Help - We are still in need of donations for our auction and golf scramble. If your unit spouses' group, coffee group, church group, friend group, or business, is interested in making a donation, please reply to publicity@fhcsc.com. No donation is too small. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please send an email!

The 2023-2024 FHCSC board, thanks you for your time and attention.

We truly believe that "Together We Thrive!"

HOME SWEET NURSING HOME Part Deux: The Cruise!

Those adorable ladies you loved so much in Home Sweet Nursing Home are back! But, this time, they are off on a cruise! The high seas will never be the same!

The K Palace
THEATER
290. S. Huachuca Blvd
Huachuca City, Az

SHOW DATES
March 8, 15 & 22, 2024 @ 7pm
March 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 & 24, 2024 @ 3pm
(Doors open one hour before showtime)



Beer, Wine, Soda & Popcorn available at Kelley's Bar (inside theater)

TICKETS: \$20 Adults \$17 Military, First Responders, 55+ & Kids Under 16



Purchase tickets at the door
or online at: www.thekpalacetheater.com

520-222-8711 • totmarizona@gmail.com



When The Sheriff of Cochise was a TV hit

The 1950s drama was created by and co-starred a Douglas native

By R.J. Cohn

When TV Westerns in the 1950s popularized lawmen going after crooked cowboys of the Wild West, millions of television viewers got a first-hand look at Cochise County as the half-hour series of *The Sheriff of Cochise* played across their TV screens every Sunday for three years.

Running alongside popular Westerns like *Sugarfoot*, *Gunsmoke*, *The High Chaparral*, *Laramie* and *Maverick*, *The Sheriff of Cochise* – filmed on locations around Cochise and Pima counties with Bisbee's Cochise County Courthouse as a familiar backdrop – was more of a contemporary police drama than a true Western.

Despite its low-budget, formulaic scripts, the black-and-white show starring John Bromfield as a tough, no-nonsense Sheriff Frank Morgan became a big hit for Hollywood. Bromfield once boasted that 40 million viewers watched the show weekly in the mid-1950s. It was eventually renamed *U.S. Marshal* and remained in syndication until 1960. A total of 156 episodes were produced under both titles.

The show that had more fistfights and car chases through the high desert of Cochise County than gun battles also had authentic local roots.

Its series creator, songwriter/actor Stan Jones, was born and raised in Douglas and was a Cochise County boy through and through. He wrote the immensely popular “Ghostriders in the Sky” song and also co-starred in the show as Deputy Harry Olson before leaving to team up with acclaimed Western director John Ford, writing songs for Ford's *The Horse Soldiers* and playing the part of Ulysses S. Grant.

Like Willcox's Rex Allen, Jones – who loved his native Arizona, especially Cochise County – was one of the top-singing cowboys of that era.

Born in 1914, he grew up on a ranch in Douglas – his father claimed to be one of the first settlers in Cochise County – Jones competed in rodeos, worked as a miner, a firefighter and a park ranger in Death Valley, California. He also earned a master's degree in zoology from the University of California at Berkeley.

But it was as a songwriter where Jones made his mark. During his career, he wrote more than 200 songs, 100 of which were released, and was inducted posthumously into the Western Music Hall of Fame in 1997.

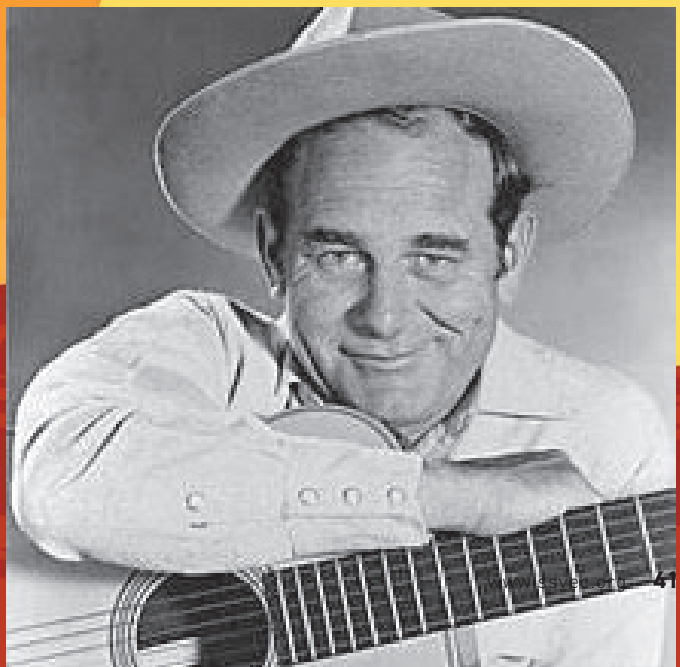
While *The Sheriff of Cochise* was co-produced and syndicated by Desilu Productions and National Telefilm Associates, the show was all Jones' idea. He told television associates he wanted to bring recognition and filming to his beloved Cochise County.

What was perhaps most memorable about *The Sheriff of Cochise* was Sheriff Morgan's classic 1958 Chrysler New Yorker Town & Country station wagon with a rifle holstered inside the driver's door, which he could quickly unsheath when he was in hot pursuit of a villain.

With its three-speed Torqueflite push-button transmission and an enormous 392-cubic-inch Chrysler Hemi engine that pushed the New Yorker to 120 mph in 8.8 seconds, it enabled Morgan to nab getaway cars trying to outrun him across Cochise County to the Mexican border.

The show – which also depicted early methods of going after bad guys in the '50s with police radios, helicopters and roadblocks – had a long run before it went off the air; 78 episodes were produced and syndicated between September 1956 and December 1957.

Jones' last role was in the 1960 movie *Ten Who Dared* with Brian Keith and James Drury. ■



Vive la différence!

Of all the things I always have on hand, perhaps the most important is parmesan cheese. Its versatility is incredible. Its ability to make everyone happy is a miracle. And, even the cheap stuff in a jar can transform many a dish from OK to de-lish-ious!

Of course, the purists will have a lot to say. I was most definitely educated in cheese at cooking school and know that there is a lot of not-parm out there labeled parmesan. However, I say, vive la différence!

Our friend parmesan is also a great helper. It can thicken soups and stews just enough at the last minute. It will make any casserole-y thing look golden and irresistible. I love roasting veggies in the toaster oven, and sprinkling a little parm on them for the last minute in the oven transforms them into something special.

When your soup is a little underwhelming, or just

"missing" something, chuck some parm on top. Parmesan rinds are actually a traditional seasoning in many Italian soups, and testament to the beautiful frugality of the cooks.

Perhaps my favorite way to use the stuff in the jar is on popcorn. I have a nice stovetop popper that makes the best popped corn ever, and finishing with a little sprinkle of parm is like no other popcorn you've had.

Now, confession time. Because I can only be in your mailbox every other month, I get a little over-eager. I go through so many different thoughts about what I want to share with you. Well, I had planned to feature puff pastry. In part because Pepperidge Farm has finally improved their packaging with parchment between the layers, which used to cause me to sew a few bad karmic seeds trying to use it! So, I changed horses in the middle of the race and have double parmesan-ed and puff-ed once. I hope that's OK.



ORZO, GARBANZOS, AND SPINACH SKILLET

This is a one-pot wonder. I had forgotten how much I love orzo — sometimes labeled risoni. I discovered it when I lived in Egypt, where they call it "bird tongue" and use it in a nice brothy soup. Terrifying to see on a translated menu if you don't know its pasta!

It makes a great pasta salad and you can actually eat this dish hot from the pan or as a nice salad. Served warm it's quite a bowl of comfort.

About 2 servings

1 Tbsp butter	1 Tbsp olive oil
1 small red onion, sliced	2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 can garbanzo beans, drained	1 bag baby spinach
Splash of milk or cream, optional	2-3 Tbsp parmesan

Cook the orzo in a skillet in salted water until almost tender, then lightly drain and return to skillet, reserving some pasta water. Add the butter, oil, onion, and garlic, and let cook 1 minute. Then add the garbanzos and toss to combine. Pile spinach on top, add a little of the pasta water, a some salt, and then cover to wilt spinach.

Mix to combine the spinach. Add the milk or cream if using, and parmesan, then stir to combine. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed, then mangia!



ITALIAN VEGGIE CAKE

This is a fun “puttering in the kitchen” type of recipe. It can be made with fresh garlic and onion, and fancy parmesan for company. I usually go for the easy-peasy factor, though. When cut into smallish pieces and served with dip, like sour cream, these make a great appetizer.

You can make this in a cake pan for a more elegant presentation, and in mini muffin tins for a nifty nosh. If you went out and bought a waffle iron after my previous article, you could turn this into waffles!

6-8 Servings

3 medium yellow potatoes, grated
2 medium carrots, grated
2 small zucchini, grated
About 2 tsp. salt
½ cup parmesan cheese, and some for the top
2-3 Tbsp olive oil
½ tsp garlic powder
½ tsp onion powder
½ tsp paprika
1 cup flour
¼ cup water
Cornmeal for dusting

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking pan (about 9 X 12) with parchment and sprinkle with cornmeal.

Put the grated veggies into a large mixing bowl. Add remaining ingredients, except cornmeal, and stir to combine.

Transfer mixture to the prepared pan and smooth the top. Sprinkle with cornmeal and more parmesan. Bake for about 40 minutes or until the top is deep golden brown. Let cool, then cut into squares. Can be made ahead and gently warmed.



BAKED SAINT-ANDRÉ WITH FIGS, WALNUTS, AND ROSEMARY

Saint-André cheese is one of life’s greatest treats. When I first had it in cooking school, it felt like I had had a little crush on brie, and had now fallen deeply in love. Even if you never make this recipe, take some home when you find it. It must be close to room temperature to fully appreciate its wonderfulness.

If you can’t find it, try Gruyère. It’s quite different, but works well here, can be found in the grocery store, and has equally great flavor. This elegant appetizer never fails to get a lot of attention and disappears very quickly.

6-8 Servings

1 sheet puff pastry partially thawed
½ pound Saint-André, well chilled
6 dried figs, chopped
½ cup chopped walnuts
1 sprig rosemary, leaves chopped
1 egg

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.

Cut the cheese into small cubes, best you can. Place the puff pastry on a sheet pan with an edge, brushing off excess flour. Mound half of the cheese in the middle of the pastry. Top with half the figs and walnuts. Top with remaining cheese, figs, and walnuts, then sprinkle with rosemary. Fold all 4 corners in to meet in the middle and pinch slightly together.

Lightly beat egg with a little salt. Brush pastry with eggwash and place in the oven. If the pastry has gotten very soft, place in fridge for 15 minutes to chill to ensure “puffing” of the pastry.

Bake for about 25 minutes, or until pastry is deep golden brown (corners will unfold), then serve. I have made this ahead and gently rewarmed. Nobody complained!

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