

VOL. 27, NO. 6, June 2013

Desert Leaf

The Catalina Foothills Magazine

Winemakers' Secret Ingredient

—Plus—
Hat Tricks





Catalina Foothills Gem

Perched high on a hill, this stunning custom Mediterranean home, constructed by Nelson Builders, is located on 2.3 lush Sonoran Desert acres and overlooks the city. Highlights of the exquisite residence include a brick paver driveway, an antiqued gate, hand-made wrought iron entry doors, a 4623 sq. ft. main house, a detached 693 sq. ft. one bedroom guest house, dramatic high ceilings, walls of windows, travertine stone flooring, 8' alder doors, three fireplaces, antique columns and sweeping 360 degree views. Additional features include an exercise room, a media room and a three car garage. District #16 Schools. **\$1,750,000**



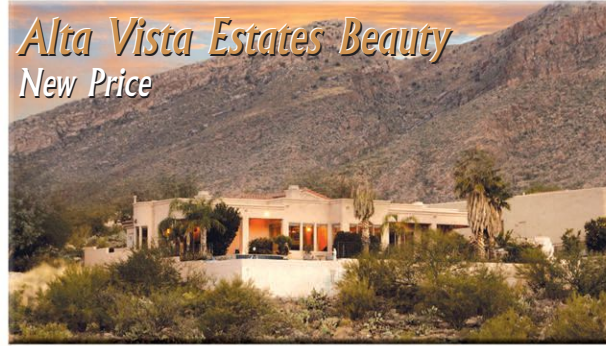
"Hacienda de las Luces"

High on a hill in Cobo Catalina Hills on 4.57 desert acres, this tastefully remodeled home offers sweeping city & mountain VIEWS! **\$1,795,000**



Gated, Custom Horse Property
New Price

This stunning home is located on 2 view lots (dividable) totaling 6.62 acres near Saguaro National Park East. TV Schools. **\$975,000**



Alta Vista Estates Beauty
New Price

Nestled in the heart of the Catalina Foothills, this spectacular 4 bedroom SW home offers city & mountain views! District #16. **\$695,000**



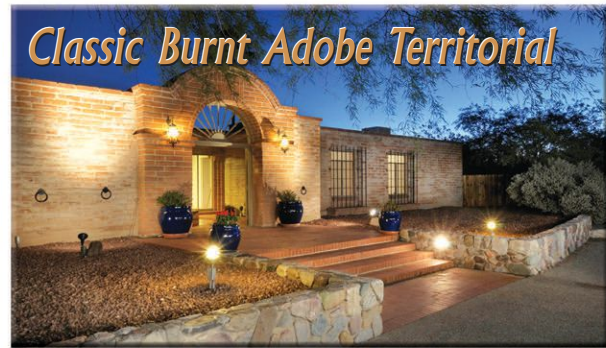
Skyline Country Club Estates

This outstanding 5 bedroom contemporary style home is located on the golf course and offers panoramic VIEWS! District #16. **\$685,000**



Gated Arizona Estates

Located on a private 1.1 acre lot, this highly upgraded Southwestern contemporary offers unobstructed Catalina Mountain views! **\$549,000**



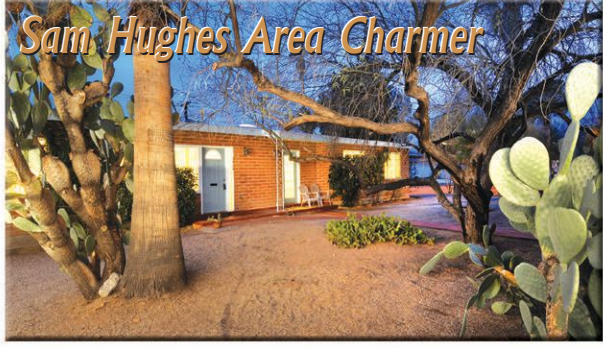
Classic Burnt Adobe Territorial

This absolutely charming & classic burnt adobe territorial home is nestled on a 2.48 acre view lot on Tucson's near east side! **\$475,000**



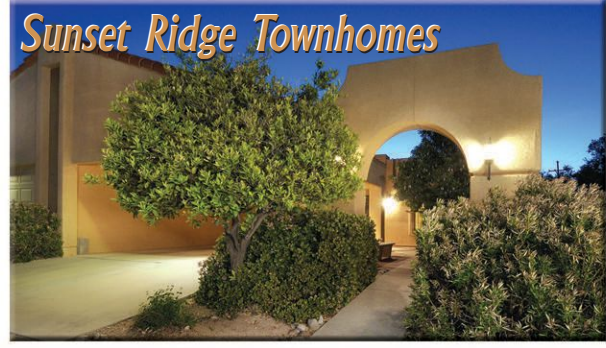
Catalina Foothills Home
New Price

High on a hill on a 1.68 acre lot, this resort-like territorial home offers sweeping mountain, city and sunset views. **\$365,000**



Sam Hughes Area Charmer

Excellent value! This 4 bedroom, burnt adobe home is located in the sought-after Sam Hughes/El Encanto/UofA area. **\$339,000**



Sunset Ridge Townhomes

This immaculately maintained, 2 bedroom plus den (den could be a 3rd BR) townhome is on a corner lot, backed up to the desert. **\$150,000**

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Skyline Country Club Estates

Stunning contemporary Mediterranean in prestigious gated Skyline Country Club Estates. Long private driveway, front courtyard w/fountain, foyer entry w/glass doors, marble floors, exquisite living room w/high vaulted wood ceilings, dramatic fireplace, walls of windows, formal dining room, gourmet island kitchen w/lovely breakfast area, cozy family room w/fireplace, beautiful wood floors. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths (Master suite w/study, fireplace, luxurious bath, 2 walk-in closets, private patio w/fountain). Fabulous backyard w/pool, spa, brick patio, 3 car garage, Dist. 16 schools, mountain, city and sunset views!!

Offered at \$949,000

4 Acre Equestrian Hilltop Estate

This home has it all, 4 acre hilltop estate with magnificent views. True Spanish Hacienda w/horse facilities, lush tree lined courtyard entry, 12 reclining seat home theatre in main house, exquisite living room w/high ceilings, dramatic slate fireplace, walls of windows, formal dining room, island kitchen w/lovely breakfast area, cozy den w/fireplace and brick floors, large family room or rec room, beautiful combination of Travertine and wood floors.

5 bedrooms + study, Master suite w/study, fireplace, lux. bath, walk-in closet + separate guest house w/bath. Fabulous backyard w/French doors open to 5 covered verandas, gorgeous pool, spa, fireplace, lush landscaping, 3 car garage, 3 horse stalls, hay barn, riding path, views! views!

Offered at \$1,395,000



Gated, Stone Canyon Estates

Elegant and gracious Tuscan design by Mark Soloway in prestigious gated Stone Canyon Estates. Beautiful front courtyard, exquisite living room w/ high beam ceilings, dramatic Madera Cantera stone fireplace, French doors, formal dining room, gourmet island kitchen w/granite countertops, lovely breakfast area open to family room w/fireplace, limestone & wood floors throughout. 4 bedrooms + library w/wood paneling, 6 baths (including Master suite w/wood floors, fireplace, sitting area, lux. bath, 2 walk-in closets) in 5475 sq. ft. main house + 871 sq. ft. guest house w/living area, bedroom, kitchen & bath. Enjoy fabulous outdoor living amongst natural rock formations, saguaros, solar heated pool, lush landscaping, privacy and majestic mountain views!!

Offered at \$1,575,000



On the Lake in Ventana Canyon

Stunning architect designed contemporary home situated on the lake in prestigious gated Ventana Canyon Country Club. Front courtyard w/fountain, foyer entry, exquisite living room w/dramatic high ceilings, elegant fireplace, walls of windows, formal dining room, gourmet island kitchen w/granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, lovely breakfast area, family room w/fireplace, tile floors, French doors. 4186 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms + study (or 4 bedrooms), sensational Master suite w/sitting area, fireplace, lux. bath, walk-in closet, private patio.

Fabulous backyard w/covered flagstone patio, pool, spa, grass or putting green, lush landscaping, access to lake, Dist. 16 schools, majestic city and mountain views!

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Ask the Expert

Buy, Buy, Buy...

In real estate, the key phrase has historically been location, location, location. That phrase is now being replaced with **buy, buy, buy...** In both the Foothills & Oro Valley, **closings are up while inventories are low.** Buyers who have been sitting on the sidelines are now purchasing homes. Below find some of the reasons why.

Interest rates: Mortgage interest rates have fallen to levels not available in over 40 years.

Foreclosures: In Pima County, 1st quarter 2013 foreclosures hit at a 5 year low. Consequently, distressed home sales have been declining.

Price: Home prices are at levels not seen since the early 2000s. That said, **there has been an uptick in prices and values are projected to rise.** In the Foothills, the median price of sold homes was \$298,500 in March of 2013, up 8% since March 2012. In Oro Valley, the median price of sold homes was \$241,500 in March of 2013, up 9% since March 2012. According to Fiserv Case-Shiller projections, home prices in Tucson will see growth of 6.7% between the first quarters of 2013 and 2014.

Supply vs. Demand: Supply is down and demand is up. In Oro Valley inventory (homes for sale) was down 40% and sales were up 3% in March 2013 compared to March 2012. In the Foothills, inventory was down 10% and sales were up 15% during the same periods. Go demand!

Who knows what the future will bring. If you are looking to buy a home and planning on staying there for 5 years or more hop off the fence and buy, buy, buy... With my coupon I can show you how to **save \$1,000 when buying a home.** Call for details.

Considering buying or selling a home? Contact Lisa Bayless for a free market analysis.

Featured Listing



This custom contemporary home, designed by Premier Southern AZ Architect Ron Robinette, sits high on a ridge and offers breathtaking mountain & city views. Conveniently located on a cul-de-sac in the gated community of Canada Hills Estates, enter through a private courtyard into a great room that offers floor to ceiling windows maximizing the stunning mountain & city views. This gracious split floor plan offers a formal dining room, wine cellar, a 3 car garage & more. \$750,000, MLS#21306054



Please email Lisa your questions.

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Early in the 2013 growing season, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot vines sprout leaves at Callaghan Vineyards in southern Arizona.



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The Catalina Foothills



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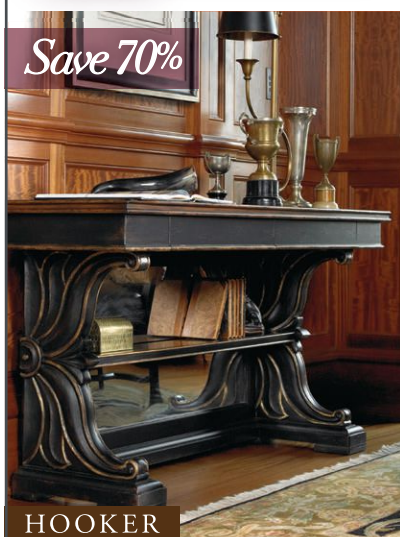
*Second item must be of equal or lesser value. See below for details.



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Letters

Corrections:

In “Barbering: the Long and the Short of It” [April *DesertLeaf*], Jason Castro was incorrectly identified as the proprietor of Speedway Barbers. He is a subcontractor at the shop. Paul Gartman is the owner. Also, a photo in the same article misidentified a Koken barber chair as being located at D&D Barber Shop. Although D&D Barber Shop does have a Koken chair, the chair in the photograph is at Speedway Barbers.

“Centurions Host a Brouhaha” [“Heart of the Matter,” May *DesertLeaf*] inaccurately attributed the launch of the Fulfilling the Promise Campaign to the Centurions. Fulfilling the Promise is a campaign spearheaded by Carondelet Foundation and is supported generously by the Centurions and other donors to Carondelet Health Network. The two newly installed healing gardens at Carondelet St. Mary’s Hospital were made possible because of a \$120,000 donation from the St. Mary’s Hospital Auxiliary to the Fulfilling the Promise Campaign.

Is There a Better Time?

If Linda Smalley (“Greek Island Adventures,” May issue) is able to figure out a better time to go to the Greek isles, I would love to know. We were there last year at the end of September, and those [islands] were overrun by tourists, most of whom had been dropped off from huge cruise ships at the rate of about 2,000 a day. This squelched my fantasy of an idyllic trip. We also tried to escape the hordes by taking local buses to other parts of the islands. Perhaps the less known and less accessible islands are the way to go.

—Linda Murray Berzok

Switch “Puppy” for “Baby”

As an older, new mother, I thoroughly enjoyed the “Puppy Love” article [“This Space Available,” May *DesertLeaf*]. However, don’t kid yourself, nine months prepare you for absolutely nothing!! And maybe some do have a

magical maternal or paternal instincts, but they don’t seem to kick in until much later. I still struggle with referring to the pediatrician as the vet, and the teething ring as a chew toy. I let our son chew on my heels and distract him with shouts of “squirrel!” as if he were the dog in the movie *Up*. When family, friends and colleagues asked me how I felt about going back to work after my 12 weeks leave, I replied that at work I at least knew what I was doing.

In the article, if you switch “puppy” for “baby,” “puppy fur” for “baby puke,” “Snausages” for “throw up,” and “Alpo” for “formula,” you’re good to go. Of course the “adult dog” paragraph can go . . . but definitely “eating Kleenex and licking freshly applied lotion” stays!

—Danielle A. DuBois

Not So

David Lipschitz’s article [“Too Much Calcium Is Risky for Elderly Men,” “House Calls,” May *DesertLeaf*] on the recently reported observational study showing an increased risk of death from heart disease in men taking calcium supplements had an egregious error. He writes that a “slight increase in calcium leads to a greater production of parathyroid hormone, which drives calcium into bone and maintains a normal level. Low serum calcium reduces parathyroid levels, and calcium leaches from bone to make the serum value normal.” It is the exact opposite. A slight increase in calcium leads to a decline in the parathyroid level, and a low calcium increases the parathyroid level, thereby maintaining normal calcium homeostasis.

—Jonathan Insel, M.D.

Author’s Reply:

I am nothing short of mortified. You are obviously correct and I did indeed make an egregious mistake in getting the values turned around. I very much appreciate you pointing out this error to me and I wish you well.

—David Lipschitz, M.D.

Learned Something New

Many thanks to Lee Allen for his interesting and learning experience about the “Desert Doggies” [“Sonoran Desert Musers,” May’s *DesertLeaf*]. We have learned something new! The photos were colorful and “cute.” We enjoy *DesertLeaf* and look for the issues at our favorite breakfast place when it hits the stand. Bill Norman has become another favorite of ours, with his articles. Keep up the great work.

—Jane Neve

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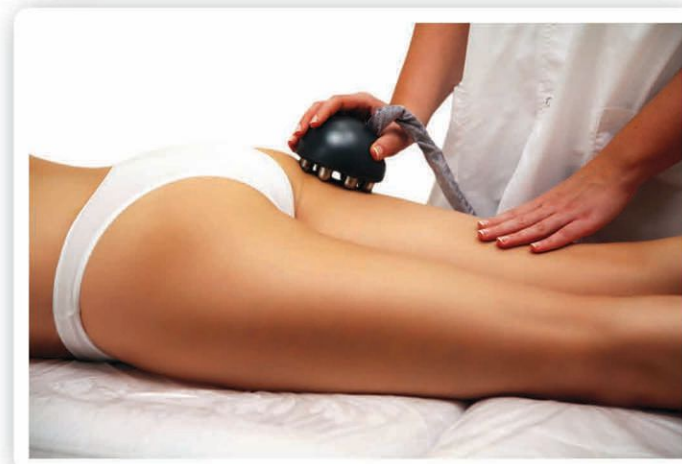
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Poll Position

Study Up for City Elections

by Katherine Jacobson



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Once again, *DesertLeaf* readers have an election choice.

Although most *'Leaf* readers live in unincorporated Pima County and cannot vote in the upcoming City of Tucson elections, they can study up on issues and candidates and volunteer with a campaign to help get the people they most support elected.

This year, three city council positions are on the ballot and all three Democratic incumbents are running for re-election. As of press deadline, only two incumbents had opposition, but candidates have until May 29 to file nominating petitions, so more players may get involved.

Karin Uhlich represents Ward 3, which covers the northern portion of the city. She was first elected in 2005 and is running for re-election because, she says, the city is in a critical period. She says she wants to ensure that progress continues as the city emerges from the economic downturn and in downtown revitalization and infill policies for density in the University area. She also says she is focused on ensuring that the city continues its work on road repairs and improvements.

Her Republican opponent is Ben Buehler-Garcia, an economic development consultant, who narrowly lost his bid to unseat her four years ago. He says he is running again because he is "broken-hearted at what Tucson has been allowed to become." He says he wants to grow jobs and economic vitality so that Tucson will have the money to address other issues. He reminds county residents of one reason why they should pay attention to the city elections: They drink Tucson water, and rates are set by council members.

Richard Fimbres represents Ward 5 on the south central side of Tucson. He has an extensive background in law enforcement and is now completing his first term. He points to the 1100 new jobs created in Ward 5 and says that he

is running for re-election to continue those job creation efforts implemented in his first term. He also highlights the success that the council had in the past three years as it was able to overcome deficits in the city budget without layoffs of police or fire personnel.

His Republican opponent is Michael Polak, who is making his first run at elected office. He told *The 'Leaf* that his current job is selling parts and accessories such as firearm magazines, grips and hand guards, at gun shows. He says he is running on jobs issues: The lack of higher paying jobs is a priority and he points to the greater success that Phoenix has had in job creation compared to Tucson. He also says he feels that the police are underfunded and that the council is not spending money in the right places.

Councilmember Steve Kozachik represents Ward 6, which covers the central part of Tucson. He was elected in 2009 as a Republican. In January of 2013, he changed his party affiliation to Democratic because, he told the *'Leaf*, he could no longer wear the label of R with its right-wing radio talk and Phoenix legislators' policies and attacks on Tucson.

He incurred the wrath of his former party; many saying he would face stiff opposition in his re-election bid. As of press time, he had no opponent and when asked why, he said: "The Republicans know I have studied the issues and can debate on any significant issue. The Republicans do not have anyone in their farm system who has studied the issues and could reflect the values of the City of Tucson in a debate with me."

He did point out that he expects Republicans to field a candidate, because there is a lot of right-wing anger over his positions, especially relating to the gun buy-back he organized earlier this spring.

All candidates this year have said they will be using the City of Tucson's

matching funds program. In order to qualify, candidates collect at least 200 contributions of at least \$10 each from city residents. The candidates also agree to each limit total expenditures to less than \$115,000. Once they qualify, candidates receive city money to match contributions until the combined total hits the spending limit. The program has been in place since 1987 and has served to keep Tucson city races less expensive than in other cities.

Suzanne Mesich is the assistant city clerk who oversees city elections. She explains that all registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail. The city hopes that most voters will return those ballots by mail before Election Day, but one polling place will be open in each ward so voters can deliver ballots. People can also vote at those polling places if they have misplaced their mail-in ballot.

City elections are ward-based for the primary, and citywide for the general. That means that voters in wards 3, 5 and 6 will receive both primary and general-election ballots while voters

in wards 1, 2 and 4 will receive only general-election ballots.

The deadline for city residents to register to vote for the August 27 primary is July 29. The deadline to register to vote in the November 5 general election is October 7.

Voters who are registered as Republicans, Democrats, or Libertarians will automatically receive their party's ballot in the primary. Voters who are registered as Independents, or with other smaller parties, or with no affiliation at all, will receive a postcard from the city clerk's office asking which primary ballot they want to receive.

More information about Republican candidates and their positions is at www.pimagop.org or by phone at 520-321-1492. For Democratic candidates, go to www.pimadems.org or call 520-326-3716.

DL

Katherine Jacobson is a local freelance writer, a Democratic precinct committeeman and active in local politics. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

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Removing Cognitive Biases from Investing Decisions

by Sam Swift, CFA



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With two major instances of market turmoil in the past 15 years, many investors are starting to wonder how they'll ever reach their goals.

For those near retirement or already retired, plans made years ago may already have been disrupted to the point where one must work longer than anticipated or live on a reduced budget. The dirty secret is that poor financial outcomes are rarely caused by "the market," but more likely by individual behavior—often many years before retirement.

The good news is that these mistakes are preventable, and young professionals just embarking on their financial futures will be wise to learn from the generations before them.

The biggest mistake one can make is not taking advantage of long-term compound returns. For those with a long investment time horizon, having the ability to invest cheaply in an asset (the market as a whole) that has historically grown at an incredible pace is the gift that keeps on giving.

Of course, to take advantage of that growth, you must have a well thought-out savings plan. A good rule of thumb is to save 10-15 percent of your salary, but there is not a right or wrong

amount to save. The simple truth is that the more you save now, the more flexibility you will have in the future in terms of changing careers, retirement age, your ability to spend, etc.

Everything is a trade-off. For every dollar that you don't save now, you will have to save almost three dollars 10 years from now to make up the difference.

A good savings plan is a mandatory step on the path to financial success, but it is only the beginning. We all have cognitive biases (flaws in judgement) when it comes to investing. These biases can derail even a well-thought-out plan. They are what I was referring to earlier when I said that an individual investor's behavior and not "the market" often causes poor financial outcomes.

Being aware of these biases is the first step toward avoiding them.

Overconfidence

There are situations where overconfidence can be a good thing. Deciding what to invest in is not one of them.

Many smart people overestimate their abilities to beat the market, and they end up severely harming their plans by being over concentrated in one or several stocks. Not even financial professionals can consistently beat the

market over time, so don't get tricked into thinking you will.

The worst thing that can happen to someone who goes to Las Vegas for the first time is to win at the tables. Don't mistake luck for skill. Put together a well-diversified global portfolio that will eliminate luck from the equation.

Familiarity

It's often an option that you can invest 401k savings in your company's stock. This is a terrible idea in that the majority of your financial future is already tied up in your company by virtue of working there. The urge to put a significant portion of your savings into your company stock stems from this familiarity bias—the idea that we're far more comfortable investing in something we know, even though that may lead to decreased diversification.

Self-attribution

This is simply giving oneself credit when things go well and blaming outside forces when things go poorly. I probably don't have to tell you this isn't just specific to finance.

Recency

This describes the tendency for investors to rely on short-term historical data in determining their portfolio. It's why many couldn't buy enough stock as the market peaked in 2007 and why many sold everything in 2009 and are just now starting to re-enter the market after missing the recovery of the last four years.

Herd Fever

Many investors in a well-diversified portfolio were tired of watching their neighbors do so much better in tech stocks during the late '90s so they bought-in just in time for the crash. The idea that "everyone was doing it" led to a poor investment decision. The same can be said of panic selling during market crashes.

We all would be well served to remember these inherent biases before making emotional decisions regarding finances. For younger generations especially, the market is a powerful tool that can work wonders, but when utilized improperly can do more harm than good.

Create a financial plan so that when turbulent times hit, you can put things in perspective and not let emotion and cognitive biases drive decisions.

DL

Sam Swift is director of the ASPIRE program at TCI Wealth Advisors for young professionals. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

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Oracle State Park: A Double Jewel

Story and Photography by Bill Norman

One of the signature visual aspects of Oracle State Park is granite boulders—lots of them.

Although I had driven past it hundreds of times, Oracle State Park until recently held little interest for me.

I knew, vaguely, that an old ranch house was located on the property, but that didn't really excite me. The park was identified in 2009 as one that was going to be shut down, at least temporarily, by Arizona State Parks, due to a budget crunch, but I felt no particular sense of personal loss.

It wasn't until February of this year that I felt idly interested in checking out the 4,000-acre park northeast of Tucson, and that was simply because State Parks had announced it would be able to re-open the site to the public on weekends for several months.

Even that would have been impossible were it not for a tremendous showing of public support that included financial donations, arduous physical labors and long hours of volunteering personal time to help with administrative tasks.

Prominent among the supporters was the non-profit Friends of Oracle State Park.

When I showed up, the first thing I learned was that hiking trails crisscross much of the property. If you strap them all together you can tally up a good 15 miles, of which nearly half is on the Arizona National Scenic Trail, which extends the full north-south length of Arizona from Utah to Mexico.

None of these trails is especially rig-

orous in its hiking demands, and in fact many are casual meanderers among rolling hills festooned with granite boulders, oak bosques and windblown grasses at an average altitude of about 4,100 feet. The area lies on the northernmost foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains.

Visual bonuses include spectacular views east to the San Pedro Valley and the rugged façade of the Galiuro Mountains as a skyline backdrop.

I elected to split a day of hiking into two parts. This was in late March, and

recent rains had prompted verdant growth alongside the unassuming, relatively narrow and sparsely traveled trails.

First, I put in about five miles of foot effort, starting when the park opened at 8 on a Saturday morning. To amass that distance I had to combine three different trails.

Then it was time for a break.

Kannally House Tour

The "old ranch house" I mentioned earlier is a historical treasure, and testimony to the hardiness of Arizona pioneers. It's on the National Register of Historic Places.

Docent-led tours (about 45 minutes long) of the imposing four-story, double-adobe-walled home take place at 10 a.m., Saturdays and Sundays, when the park is open.

After enjoying the tour experience, I would willingly have stayed another two hours just to hear more about the perseverance, elegance and kindness of the Kannally family, and to marvel visually at the artifacts and artworks they left behind.

From the time in 1902 when the first Kannally man arrived on the scene until more than seven decades later when a half-dozen-plus other family members had joined him, lived and died, this hard-working, frugal, yet world-traveled and sophisticated Irish clan



Members of the Kannally family handled most of the construction on their large, four-story, hillside home.



At one time, the Kannally family raised cattle on more than 50,000 acres.

made its mark of success in the western ranching world.

The greatest sign of their philanthropy was that, upon the death of the last surviving family member, the full 4,000-acre site was donated to Defenders of Wildlife. That group, in turn, signed the property over to State Parks.

Back to the Hike

After that marvelous tour of the Kannally home it was easy for me, in resuming my morning's walk and tacking on another six miles, to want to transport myself into their minds and values and habits and idiosyncrasies that the tour docent had so carefully researched and described.



The park's hiking trails meander among granite boulders, stands of oak trees and billowing grasslands.

The hills over which I was walking were the same ones they had ridden across countless times in the days when they punched cows on more than 50,000 acres.

Not once in my 11 or so miles of hoofing it did I encounter another person. I won't necessarily make this a regular item on my hiking regimen, but for a first-timer it was sweet.

For more information about Oracle State Park, visit <http://azstateparks.com/parks/ORAC/>.

Note that the park will not re-open until October, which is just as well since days will have begun cooling by then. In addition to offering both hiking and the ranch home tour, the park has shaded tables ideal for a picnic lunch. A bigger group-use area with large ramadas and industrial-strength BBQ grills is located mid-park with ready access to walking trails and a visitors' center/gift shop in the ranch house itself.

Getting There

From Tucson take Oracle Road north to Oracle Junction and turn right onto Highway 77. Drive 9.4 miles, turn right onto American Avenue and go 2.4 miles through the town of Oracle to the junction of American Avenue and the Mt. Lemmon Road (Control Road 38) on the right. Follow the latter 1.1 miles to the park entrance, on the left. Entrance fees (that also earn visitors park information literature and a hiking trails map) are \$7 per vehicle unless you have a \$75 annual pass that gets you into all Arizona State Parks for a year.

DL

Bill Norman is a local freelance writer, photographer and DesertLeaf editor. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

Some of the hiking trails have steep stretches, but they're short.

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Cursive: Going,

When was the last time you wrote in cursive script?
How about your kids or grandkids?

With computers, smart phones and tablets displaying information using manuscript text, the use of cursive writing has suffered a dramatic downturn. That reduced use of cursive has had an impact on education, with many school districts putting distinctly less emphasis on children learning and perfecting the fine art of cursive writing.

So the question to be answered is, "In today's world, is cursive obsolete?"

Catalina Foothills School District has four elementary schools, all of which teach grades kindergarten through five where cursive instruction is given as part of the curriculum.

CFSD Associate Superintendent Mary Jo Conery, Ed.D, says manuscript instruction is taught in kindergarten through second grades, while cursive writing is taught in third.

"When the district integrated the national Common Core State Standards into its curriculum, there was still a language requirement in kindergarten and first grades, for students to print their letters in manuscript," Conery says. "States are allowed to add additional standards if they wish and we added manuscript in second grade and cursive in third."

The Common Core State Standards (adopted by Arizona in 2010 and scheduled to be fully implemented by all schools by the 2013-2014 school year) are designed to provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help the kids.

"At one time, Catalina Foothills taught half a year of manuscript and a half year of cursive in second grade, but we do all manuscript in second grade now," Conery adds. "We've been instructing cursive for 7- and 8-year-olds in third grade since 2007. Teachers in fourth and fifth grades can incorporate more cursive instruction because they still have the expectation of students writing legibly for their assignments in cursive."

Conery points out that some studies have linked writing well with reading, where practicing making visual shapes and letters was an indicator to reading success.

"Writing in cursive is faster than writing in manuscript," Conery observes, "and I think there's more flow to the thought process when writing in cursive, and kids are more creative than when working on a computer where they might be reworking sentences."

David Baker, Ed.D., superintendent of Flowing Wells Unified School District, points out that the Common Core State Standards are silent on the issue of cursive writing.

"Districts have had to readjust to the standards and while we've spent a lot of time practicing print and cursive writing in the past, we don't do as much any more," Baker says. "We teach a unit of cursive writing in grade three with the primary goal that students can learn to read cursive writing. At the end of grade three, we give the kids the choice to use either print (manuscript) or cursive."

In today's world, is cursive obsolete?

Going... by Alan M. Petrillo



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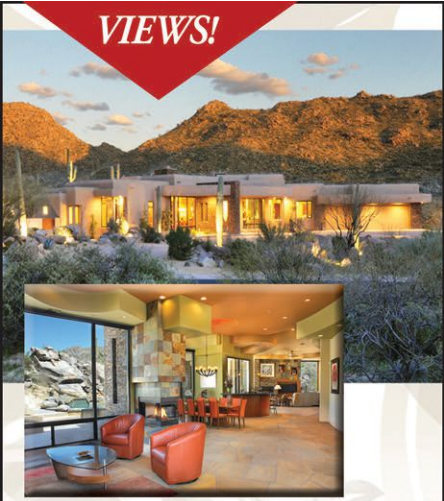
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Flowing Wells operates seven elementary schools where cursive writing is taught.

Baker points out that besides manuscript and cursive, children can communicate by typing, which serves them well, especially at the secondary level.

"We're teaching kids a whole new set of skills where technology is involved—presentation, keyboarding, video construction, databases, spreadsheets, charts and graphs," Baker says. "We have a number of assignments that are submitted to teachers electronically, especially at the middle and high school levels, so kids will be interfacing far more through the electronic medium."

And yet, there still is a need for children to be able to communicate their message carefully and neatly, Baker adds. "How they organize their document does matter because people must be able to read it accurately. Kids still have to be exposed to cursive writing, but I see us offering them the choice to use it or manuscript in their writing."

Tanque Verde Unified School District has two elementary schools—Agua Caliente and Tanque Verde—and allows teachers to decide whether or not to do classroom instruction in cursive writing.

Sally Glennon, Ed.S., director of

professional development and curriculum for TVUSD, says the staff at Agua Caliente decided to focus on keyboarding skills and to send cursive handwriting practice home with the kids so parents can help with those skills.

"Tanque Verde Elementary staff decided students have to be able to read cursive and continue to teach it in third grade, but there's not a big emphasis on it," Glennon says. "They also send practice home with the kids."

Glennon notes that TVUSD is exploring more digital tools for students, stressing keyboarding skills instead of using pencil and paper.

"You can see two- and three-year-olds manipulating iPhones and iPads," Glennon observes. "The focus has shifted to digital tools."

But Glennon said she believes there's still a need for cursive in a digital world, although not one so focused on it as in the past.

"I think manuscript is going to be enough for the coming generation," she says, "but I don't see cursive handwriting going away entirely. The most important element is that kids are able to turn in their work legibly, but not necessarily in cursive."

Monica Nelson, associate superintendent for school operations at Amphitheater Unified School District, says the district still teaches cursive

writing in all 13 kindergarten through grade five elementary schools and two kindergarten through grade eight campuses, although the principals and teachers at those schools make the decision on whether to teach it.

"The majority of teachers in those classes still teach cursive writing, but they don't spend a lot of time on it, so I'd say we are phasing out cursive instruction," Nelson says. "The future is in keyboarding and typing, and not cursive."

With the Common Core standards, students are being asked to use technology at an earlier age, Nelson notes.

"In the shift to Common Core, there is a different way of expressing how kids can share their writing skills," she says. "For instance, second graders could be asked to compose a good graph using a word processor in one class session."

Nelson notes that when she was a teacher, she used cursive to put notes on the board, and while some students turned in assignments done in manuscript, they still could read cursive.

"More teachers today are using smart boards and projections from computers which display in manuscript," she says, "so a lot of what is presented to kids visually is in manuscript form. But until all teachers do that, kids will probably have to learn to

read cursive for longer than they will have to learn to write it.”

Kim Parker, curriculum coordinator for Marana Unified School District, says the district begins manuscript instruction for students in kindergarten, and then refines that instruction in first and second grades. Marana has 11 elementary schools in its district.

“We start direct instruction in cursive in third grade and refine it in fourth,” Parker says. “By the fifth and sixth grade, students have the ability to use and read cursive. Most kids want to learn cursive because they feel adult by learning it.”

While learning cursive is important, Parker says that printing is better for them in terms of maximizing handwriting clarity.

“Some kids write neater in cursive, while others are more legible in manuscript,” Parker notes. “But we want to teach and expose them to cursive so they can read it, write it and sign their name.”

Still, students in Marana use a lot of electronic devices, Parker points out. “They can access their student Drop Box electronically through our Synergy system,” she says, “and wherever they can access the Internet, they can turn in papers or assignments.”

The school district that’s the elephant in the room, regionally speaking—Tucson Unified School District—has 67 elementary schools that give cursive writing instruction, some offering more emphasis than others.

“Cursive is not a requirement, but the majority of elementary schools teach it,” says Kendra Bell, TUSD’s elementary director. “Between kindergarten and second grade, students start manuscript writing, while cursive starts from second to third grade, with the emphasis at the third-grade level.”

Some TUSD teachers send home practice lessons on cursive with students, she notes, but the district leaves it up to the teacher on the amount of emphasis put on cursive instruction.

“We have more of an old school philosophy in terms of cursive,” Bell says. “We think kids still need to be able to write cursive, and while computer skills compete with their time, they still need to be able to sign their name in cursive writing. But as less time is dedicated to cursive writing because of the competing time for instruction in classrooms, more kids will end up using manuscript.”

So, is cursive handwriting worth learning even though it may play an increasingly minor role in the future of today’s children?

Conery of Catalina Foothills be-

lieves there are important benefits to the act of handwriting in cursive.

“There are mental processes involved for children in the act of handwriting,” she says, “where they are manipulating letters, linking them to sounds and storing information. I see this as a good thing.”

DL

Alan M. Petrillo is a local freelance writer. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

Types of Writing Defined

Manuscript

1. Calligraphy based on the handwriting found in medieval manuscripts.
2. Writing that consists of un-joined letters made with lines and circles. It often is taught in elementary school.

Cursive

1. Any style of penmanship in which the language symbols are written in a co-joined or flowing manner, generally for the purpose of making writing faster.

Reference: merriam-webster.com



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The spiny seahorse lives in warm waters of the Pacific Ocean. It prefers habitats near shore—like lagoons and seaward reefs.
Note: All undersea life pictured can be found in the waters surrounding the Philippines.



Bill Kimball

The mantis shrimp is a lightening-fast predator—one of the fastest known to man. Its powerful limbs can deliver a blow that is equivalent to the force of a bullet.

Diving in the Muck

by Mary Peachin

While scuba diving in the shallow reefs of the Philippines, if you are very lucky and typically during a night dive, you might observe the deadly blue-ringed octopus.

I had made my first sighting of this elusive creature in West Papua, Indonesia, but my longtime dive buddies, Jan Hanson and Bill Kimball, saw their first blue-ringed octopus when the cotton ball-sized cephalopod flashed his “keep away” blue circles during our first dive of a 10-day trip to Anilao and Puerto Galera, in the Philippines.

Surfacing from a dive near Sombrero Island, a 10-minute boat ride from Anilao, an exuberant Jan Hanson exclaimed, “I only waited 27 years to see a blue ring.”

We were diving from somewhat rustic *bancas*, which are similar to Mexican *pangas*, and had boarded a banca—powered by an engine and makeshift propulsion system of dubious origins—by climbing a not-so-sturdy, foot-wide gangplank.

Our gear was placed in the middle of the banca, and we sat on the gunwales. Bamboo outriggers that stabilized the watercraft extended far enough beyond the boat’s frame to allow the divers to make back rolls into the sea.

It was during this trip to the Philippines and in the muck—a diving term for shallow water with low visibility—of Anilao’s Secret Bay that I saw my first wonderpus. Sightings of this octopus species (*Wunderpus photogenicus*)



Dave Huskey

with the unforgettable name have been recorded for decades but it was only within the past 10 years that the wonderpus received its formal, scientific description.

It has a small head, long tentacles and a color pattern of white spots and stripes on a brownish-red background.

Also during this dive we sighted creatures that included the green leaf-like *Halimeda* ghost pipefish, which looked like a piece of floating seaweed. When a camouflaged spiny devilfish, a member of the scorpion fish family, had had enough of us, he quickly buried himself in sand.

Several of us also saw the mimic octopus, similar to the wonderpus but unique in its ability to camouflage itself from

continued on next page

A bite from a blue-ringed octopus can completely paralyze and kill an adult human in a matter of minutes. There is no known antidote.

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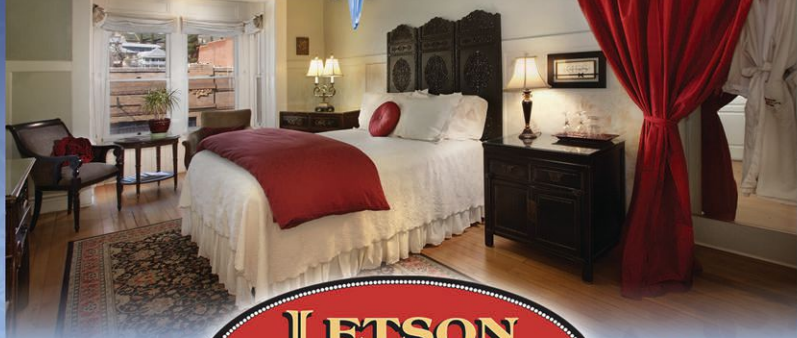
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New species of nudibranch are being identified almost daily. Their scientific name, *Nudibranchia*, means naked gills, and describes the feathery gills and horns that most species wear on their backs.

Dave Jasky

predators by imitating lionfish and other critters.

Although stories about the origins of muck diving are varied, most are set in the South Pacific, specifically in the seas surrounding Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. What became a bonafide diving specialty about 10 years ago, today has grown in popularity and is practiced worldwide.

Muck diving has given divers opportunities to discover and even name critters that may have avoided prior detection because they live in low-visibility waters.

Flying to the Philippines can feel like traveling to the end of the world. After more than a dozen hours in the air, various connections, and a hefty jet lag hangover, you might question your sanity. But in the Philippines, the underwater world is home to some of the most unusual and fascinating critters on the planet.

From Manila, the republic's capital city, our journey to Eagle Point Resort, which edges the small village of Anilao in the province of Batangas, took us three-plus hours in a shuttle van and then required us to transfer ourselves and our gear into a resort-owned vehicle for the final mile down a winding, narrow, steep road.

Eagle Point—overlooking the South China Sea—is what you might call a real “cliff hanger.” Where the resort begins, the road ends. The surrounding waters rank high on the list of world class muck-diving destinations.

There are 1,100 species of hermit crabs. Most are aquatic and live in varying depths of saltwater.



Dave Jasky



Dave Jaskey

Tomato clown fish take a time-out in *Anemone*.

dedicated to divers. We spent five days and four nights based at the resort.

Each day, our group was divided in two before boarding two small speedboats for the three daily dives plus a night dive.

Atlantis Resort is an open-air, oceanfront property. A small path separates the dive operation and boats from the resort. Following two morning dives, the highlight of the topside day was lunch—a buffet of vegetables, pork, chicken, and raw fish of your selection, stir-fried with either soy or oyster sauce, and chili oil, garlic and ginger.

My group of dive buddies, self-titled the Chicken Divers, was celebrating 10 years of diving together. Founded when a collection of like-minded divers put a rubber chicken in a bait ball for a shark feed in Papua New Guinea, Chicken Divers has expanded to more than 30 international, experienced divers, although usually only about a dozen participate in any given trip.

Inspired by a YouTube video depicting people offering hugs to strangers, the Chicken Divers—in celebration of our anniversary and with the help of Atlantis Resort staff who made

“Free Hug” signs—spent several hours standing on a village path, giving free hugs to pedestrians.

Some passersby doubted the word “free,” others made a sharp detour to avoid us, and one man expressed his “need” for a hug. The resort staff eagerly participated in the hugging. The event attracted a big crowd and was enjoyed by the recipients as well as the huggers.

Although “free hugs” are not guaranteed on a Philippines visit, you can expect to find many unique critters in a place offering world-class muck diving.

DL

Mary Peachin is a local freelance writer. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.



Bill Kimball

Chicken Divers gave free hugs to celebrate their 10th anniversary.

The Halimeda ghost pipefish can vary in color from green or red to white.



Dave Jaskey



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Waiting for Rain

by Diana Turner



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(This is the first of a three-part series about Tucson's monsoon season.)

ally mean warm air, high winds, clouds and storms. The desert Southwest is no exception.

Something in the air had changed. What? I didn't know. Was it humidity? Atmospheric pressure?

The start of the monsoon also has to do with dew point.

Animals sense changes in atmospheric pressure, so perhaps people do, too, without being completely conscious of it.

"Dew point," the temperature at which dew forms, is the intersection of two things: 1) the amount of moisture in the air, and 2) the temperature of the air. The hotter air is, the more moisture it can hold. When moisture-laden air cools it cannot "hold" all its water anymore, so it releases condensation in the form of clouds, rain, even ice.

When I had left the house for a walk I noticed the tops of saguaros ringed by red emptied fruits, each one peeled outward like a gaping mouth. A crop of pods hung heavy on a big mesquite. The wash was dry and sandy and dimpled with tracks.

You can see this phenomenon illustrated in a small way on your glass of iced tea. Airborne water condenses on the glass as the icy glass surface chills the moisture-laden air.

It was the 7th of July.

On that day I wrote in my little black book of nature notes: "Everything is unnaturally quiet and still."

Meteorologists' rule of thumb is this: When the dew point in Tucson reaches 54 degrees F. for three days running, the monsoon is upon us.

Of course we were all waiting for rain.

There was nothing new about that.

The "official" (National Weather Service version) start of Tucson's monsoon season is June 15. The "real" (Nature's) start is less date specific. It has to do with the heating of the desert and of the Pacific Ocean off the Baja California peninsula. Since they warm at different rates, they pull and push at the high altitude winds.

What this means is that our winds are now saturated with water from the warmed Pacific and the warmer gulfs, and as this moist air moves northward it scoots up mountain slopes, and higher, where it cools to 54 degrees, and then...we get clouds.

That's how it starts.

By midsummer the baking desert surface has heated the air, which rises over us like an immense balloon, creating a low-pressure trough. Cooler and heavier moist air from the ocean and from the gulfs of Mexico and California surges northward to fill this gap.

Clouds pouf up over the mountains, and (sometimes) you can hear the clouds grumble. Lightening season begins even before rain falls, or before rain reaches the ground. Rain may fall out of the clouds, but it evaporates before it reaches the earth. This veil-like phenomenon is known as virga. The rain may not get to us, but lightening does.

Low-pressure areas anywhere usu-

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And wind.

Early monsoon winds can reach 50 and even 70 miles an hour, stirring up dust storms and pollen and fanning flames.

This is fire season.

Several years ago, after a dry winter and a May and June that reached the triple digits every day, a Forest Service friend told me that there was no perceptible moisture in the mountain vegetation. None.

Was it dead? She wasn't sure. Maybe! Coronado Forest was such a horrendous fire hazard that parts of it were under fire restrictions and other parts were closed to people completely.

On June 21, 2008, early monsoon lightning started the Distillery Fire in the Rincon Mountains. The next day, Arizona was clawed with 928 cloud-to-ground strikes. Two of these touched off the Bear Mountain and Hot Air fires in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, burning more than 10,000 acres. Of all those lightning strikes, 218 struck Pima County.

Lightening ignites more than 2,300 fires in the Southwest every year, burning an average of 277,000 acres. Many of these fires are finally suppressed by monsoon rains.

Back to my morning walk... I saw movement along a ridge and stopped to watch. It was a mother coyote. From the shape of her belly she was obviously feeding puppies. Or trying to. She was emaciated and trotted with her head down, empty teats swinging.

She didn't see me or—more likely—couldn't have cared less.

Seeds hung everywhere. Reddish twirled seedpods on sweet acacias, bacon-like twists on the cat-claw acacias, pale flame-like pods on palo verdes. There wasn't the slightest breeze to swing them and rattle them against each other.

Fruits were reddening on the prickly pears.

All those seeds—waiting!

Underground, ants, too, were waiting. Under the flesh of the fish-hook cacti that look so pale and innocent, invisible buds were poised, pointed like rosy arrowheads.

According to my notes, there was a new moon.

That night, the rain arrived.

DL

Diana Turner is a local landscape designer and freelance writer. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.



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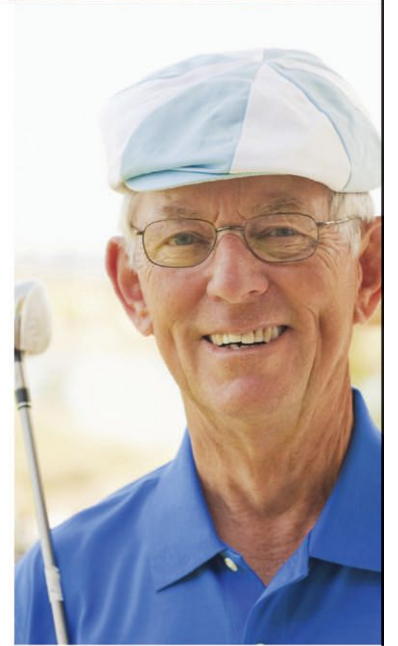
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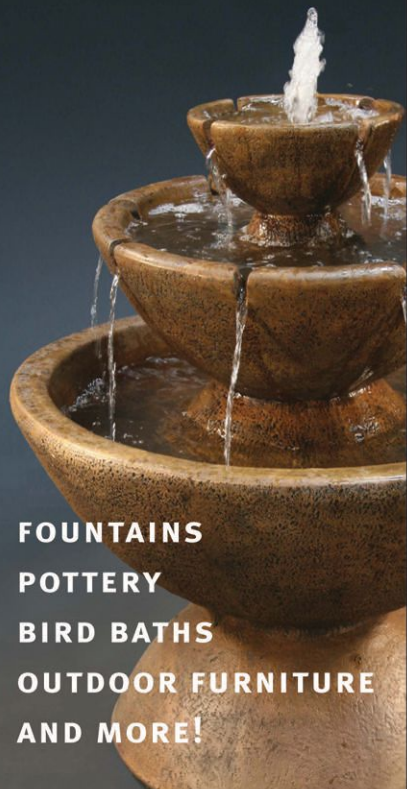


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Tucson Botanical Gardens

Haworth's Houseplants

Haworthia cooperi

by Michael Chamberland

Among the huge variety of succulent plants available to grow, few are better suited to life as a houseplant than the haworthias.

These are small plants. They'll never serve to tie a room together. But for life in small spaces on the edge of a windowsill or on a casually lit plant stand, few are better.

Haworthias were named after Adrian Hardy Haworth, a succulent plant enthusiast of the eighteenth century. In the process, haworthias were separated from the vast crowd of aloes of which they had previously been considered diminutive members.

Unlike aloes, haworthias do not possess showy flowers. Their dusty-white blooms are small and scattered on long wiry stalks so un-endearing that most haworthia growers cut them off.

Haworthias are valued for their tidy arrangements of hard plastic-like leaves. As the plant grows larger, clusters of stems begin to form at the base. Dividing these clusters is the standard means of propagation.

Most haworthias are undemanding and capable of thriving with less light than required by other succulents. At home in southern Africa, they typically reside under bushes or in rocky crevasses where they are shielded from the blazing sun.

Many haworthias are dark-complexioned. *Haworthia nigra* can be just

about as black as any living plant you are likely to encounter. Some people are put off by this, thinking a plant gone black is a dead plant. Succulent collectors however, are connoisseurs of the odd, and for them, a black plant is a novelty, the blacker the better. They have selected forms of *Haworthia nigra* for the blackest hue, and these are the most sought after.

Other haworthias punctuate their dark green or near-black leaves with pure white lines or dots, as if covered with a sort of braille. Still others are textured with bristles, some to the point of being cobwebby.

One special group of haworthias generates particular interest with their pebble or jewel-like diversity of form. These are the retuse-leaf haworthias.

They sit low on the ground, sunken and part subterranean, sometimes barely growing higher than the surface of the soil. Their leaves are thick and juicy, like a gumdrop. Each leaf is very much like a sugared gumdrop with its



Haworthia pumila

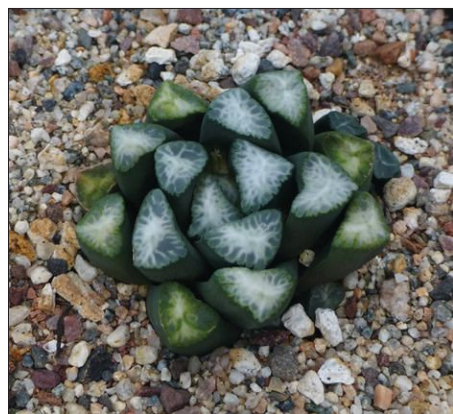


An extensive collection of *Haworthia* is on display at the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

end cut off, the cut end revealing the clear or translucent innards of the leaf.

What resembles a cut end is, for the plant, a window to allow sunlight to enter and illuminate the inner surfaces of the leaf. In this bizarre configuration, the plant absorbs sunlight not on the outward surface of its leaves, but from the inside, through its window to the sky.

As strange as this botanical stratagem may be, it has arisen in other unrelated plants such as the living stones



Haworthia maughanii

Tips for Growing Haworthias

There are perhaps 68 species of *Haworthia*, with many varieties and forms. The taxonomy of the genus is frequently described as “chaos.” Be sure to save the label that came with your plant, as it is the best clue you’ll have to what you’ve got—but also regard the name with measured skepticism.

Haworthias span the continuum from common houseplants to rare prized collector’s items. While generally easy in cultivation, expect those rare and expensive forms to be trickier, or at least slower, in cultivation.

Retuse-leaf haworthias develop long thick roots. They prefer deep pots and well-drained soil. Care must be taken to avoid overwatering, which could rot the roots.

It is not hard to grow haworthias from seed, but it is quicker to produce sizeable new plants by dividing larger clustering plants.

You don’t need to go far to build an extensive collection of haworthias. Tucson’s cactus and succulent nurseries have many kinds available.

(*Lithops*). Those who have inadvertently killed living stones in a futile attempt to grow them will find haworthias to be much less a challenge.

Like *Lithops* and *Conophytum* and other “window plants,” the windows of haworthias are variously patterned, lined and textured with jewel-like precision. And so we have species such as *Haworthia magnifica* var. *splendens* proclaiming their virtues in their name.

Being diminutive plants, haworthias are rarely considered for landscape use. A few species display some hardiness and have been successfully maintained outdoors in Tucson landscapes, especially if covered in winter. This remains experimental.

Retuse-leaf haworthias appear particularly sensitive to cold, in spite of the insulation provided by their partly subterranean lifestyle. Haworthias are best confined to pots and brought indoors for the winter, if not kept inside year-round as the perennial houseplant.

DL

Michael Chamberland is director of horticulture at Tucson Botanical Garden. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

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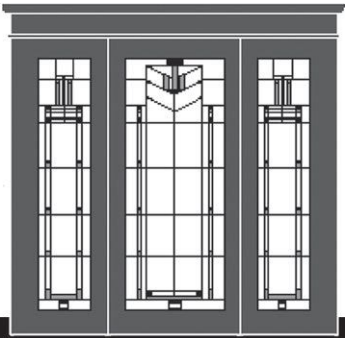
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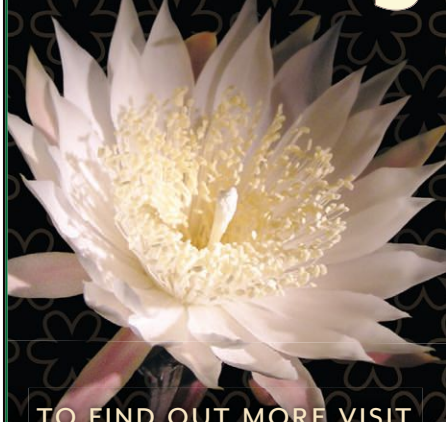
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Outdoor Styles Move Forward by Looking Back

by Elaine Markoutsas

Slipcovered looks lend a casual elegance to Lane Venture's outdoor upholstery. The WeatherMaster pieces feature several styles. The wide, deep-seated chair in the foreground is Elena. The sofa is part of the Kelsey collection.

A well-designed garden, like an interior, reflects the balancing of color, texture, scale and use of materials. And whether a garden, terrace, deck or the house itself is the backdrop for an outdoor room, keeping it simple is key to furnishing.

Which is why when the media are mixed, the message, more and more, is modern. Not modern just for the sake of being edgy or even minimal. It has more to do with clean lines—straight, curved, sometimes tailored.

Wovens, some with the desired look of something hand crafted, show an exciting range, stretching in new directions beyond wicker and rattan clones. There's also a bit of retro styling, in some instances actually revisit-

ing a previously introduced design and tweaking it for today.

Even slipcovered looks, which have really gained traction in recent years, feature updated upholstered silhouettes with squarish or curvy shapes.

Increasingly, consumers are finding that it's kind of cool to mix materials and even styles—and manufacturers are beginning to get the message. In other words, the idea of totally matched sets can be as boring outdoors as it is indoors. So even those whose vocabulary is more traditional might be attracted to something more contemporary, and a single piece can really pop if it's deftly integrated.

That commitment to being fresh and relevant and reaching out to

younger buyers while keeping its core customers happy is especially apparent when a company that's more than 100 years old is doing it.

The newest batch of furnishings introduced by Lloyd Flanders daringly teamed stainless with the woven wicker that is the company's signature, and it pushed the envelope with other designs that feature mesh looks.

Not coincidentally, some of what's driving the expression of more modern designs is advancing technology—both in terms of how indoor items have been adapted for outdoor use and how the building blocks themselves have evolved with new sophistication.

“Virtually anything that was previously used exclusively indoors has been

Mamagreen



Navajo textiles actually inspired Belgian designers with the mesh that's used as upholstery for this striped collection for Mamagreen. The scale of the skinny stripe as well as its horizontality has a cool, European sensibility.

adapted for the outside," says designer Richard Frinier, who is based in Long Beach, Calif. "Kitchens, TVs, rugs, lighting, sculpture, artwork."

Frinier is particularly excited about textiles, not only because technology now allows such innovations as stretch and tight mesh weaves, but also hybrids like a linen and burlap that he recently designed for Glen Raven. Best of all, for this designer, is a value-added sustainability.

"The Origins collection, which I did for Glen Raven, has Renaissance recycled yarns with a rich, mottled color palette," he says. "We are living in a time when people are more interested than ever in reducing our carbon footprint."

Fabrics, of course, can introduce color and texture, in solids or bold or subtle patterns. In addition, dressmaker details such as piping (especially contrast), fringe and buttons (tufted looks) add more of the touches we're accustomed to seeing indoors.

But form, like the architecture of a home or shrub, is especially compelling with some of the newest designs.

The modular collection from British manufacturer Gloster, for example, has a familiarity, yet is oh so fresh with its overscale weave. Add to that a rich

curved shape with deep seating, all on a powder-coated frame, and the seating is very cocoon-like.

Also cradling is the chair from Gloster's new Dansk collection. Designers Povl Eskildsen and Philip Behrens give a nod to 1950s Danish style for inspiration in frames that are solid teak with tapering legs and upholstered in faux leather.

Outdoor furniture designers also are taking note of interiors trends. The credenza associated with the Marin dining and lounge collection from Brown Jordan is handsome and stylish enough to be welcome inside. Designed by Los Angeles-based Michael Berman, who calls his signature style "American Trans-Modern," in natural plantation teak wood, the chairs feature striking details, such as cording through stainless steel eyelets on the sides of the chairs.

"Marin brings to mind elegant precedents like Art Deco furniture," says Stephen F. Elton, chief brand officer for Brown Jordan. "It can work in a California beach house, a garden in Connecticut or an upscale resort in the mountains."

A move to warmer metals, particularly a burnished brass that's less strident in color and finish than in the past,

continued on page 31

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Jackets Required: Beyond the Blazer

by Sharon Mosley



Think pale and pastel for spring's latest jackets—Truth and Pride's fluid silk blazer in "powder" in Individualist at Nordstrom and Nordstrom.com.

Lighten up this spring and summer with a jaunty jacket.

Whether it's an ultra-cool moto bomber, a swingy cover-up or a breezy pastel piece, it's what you wear on top that counts this year. The newest jackets add a perfect polish to everyday wardrobes whether you wear them to work, to the beach, or inside an excessively air-conditioned office.

Check out these styles that move beyond the boring blazer:

The boyfriend jacket—This jacket is an easy option for casual occasions, and in the new powdery pastel colors it's an instant update for this spring. A little looser, but still lean, this boyfriend jacket works as a great layering piece over shift dresses, cuffed shorts or pencil skirts.

The moto jacket—Tough chic is what this motorcycle-inspired jacket is all about. Many of the newest jackets also have a preppy vibe that makes them even more modern. In lightweight leather, it offers a unique way to put some edge into warmer weather wardrobes. Pair this jacket with feminine blouses or sheer tops for more contrast.

The denim jacket—This classic is a winner this year and can extend your other wardrobe basics, adding style by mixing and matching a wide variety of separates. Wear the latest denim jackets with your favorite jeans or dress them up with sparkly tops and pencil skirts.

The graphic jacket—Want to really make a statement? Try a great graphic—in a black and white print—or a colorful combination that stands out and makes any outfit pop with only one jacket. Team these bold patterned jackets with neutral bottoms and fun accessories.

The cropped jacket—These abbreviated jackets provide lots of versatility for summer. Whether they're short and shrunken or short and swingy, the latest crop of short jackets gives you plenty of options. Pay attention to proportion with these cropped tops. One rule of thumb: the fuller the bottom, the more fitted the top. Stick to swingy tops over slim-fitting dresses, skirts or pants. Long, fitted tanks or camisoles

are also good companions that will give you more coverage underneath.

The varsity jacket—Want to really cheer up your wardrobe? Play with this sporty shape that is anything but basic. The new athletic-inspired jackets are patched and printed with all kinds of new mixes that will really rev up jeans and T-shirts. This bomber is back!

The tuxedo jacket—Spring and summer's newest transformer for day (and evening) is the tuxedo jacket. The black-tie jacket has a new spin on the traditional soiree ensemble so you can easily dress it up with sleek trousers and ruffled blouses for cocktails or dress it down with jeans and a lacy tank. And there are always accessories to amp up the tux jacket—think lots of sparkle and shine!

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Sharon Mosley is executive editor of the Fashion Editors and Reporters Association. Copyright 2013 creators.com. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

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Look Beyond Greenwashing

by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss

Dear EarthTalk: I hear the term “greenwashing” a lot these days but am still not sure exactly what it means. Can you enlighten?

—Ruth Markell, Indianapolis, IN

In essence, greenwashing involves falsely conveying to consumers that a given product, service, company or institution factors environmental responsibility into its offerings and/or operations.

CorpWatch, a non-profit dedicated to keeping tabs on the social responsibility (or lack thereof) of U.S.-based companies, characterizes greenwashing as “the phenomena of socially and environmentally destructive corporations, attempting to preserve and expand their markets or power by posing as friends of the environment.”

One of the groups leading the charge against greenwashing is Greenpeace. “Corporations are falling all over themselves,” reports the group, “to demonstrate that they are environmentally conscious. The average citizen is finding it more and more difficult to tell the difference between those companies genuinely dedicated to making a difference and those that are using a green curtain to conceal dark motives.”

Greenpeace launched its Stop Greenwash campaign in 2009 to call out bad actors and help consumers make better choices. The most common greenwashing strategy, the group says, is when a company touts an environmental program or product while its core business is inherently polluting or unsustainable.

Another ploy involves what Greenpeace calls “ad bluster”: using targeted advertising or public relations to exaggerate a green achievement so as to divert attention from actual environmental problems—or spending more money bragging about green behavior than on actual deeds.

In some cases, companies may boast about corporate green commitments while lobbying behind the

scenes against laws beneficial to the environment.

Greenpeace also urges vigilance about green claims that brag about something the law already requires: “For example, if an industry or company has been forced to change a product, clean up its pollution or protect an endangered species, then uses PR campaigns to make such action look proactive or voluntary.”

For consumers, the best way to avoid getting “greenwashed” is to be educated about who is truly green and who is just trying to look that way to make more money. Look beyond advertising claims, read ingredient lists or ask employees about the real skinny on their company’s environmental commitment.

Also, look for labels that show a given offering has been vetted by a reliable third-party. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Certified Organic label can go only on products that meet the federal government’s organic standard.

Just because a label says “made with organic ingredients” or “all-natural” does not mean the product qualifies as Certified Organic, so be sure to look beyond the hype.

Even some eco-labels are suspect. If you see one you don’t recognize, look it up on Ecolabel Index, a global directory tracking 400+ different eco-labels in 197 countries across 25 industry sectors. The free online resource provides information on which company or group is behind each certification and whether or not independent third-party assessments are required.

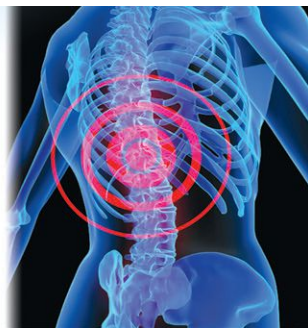
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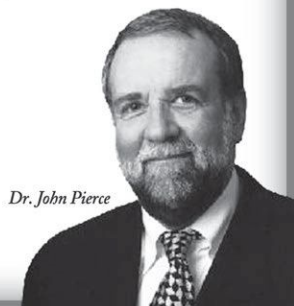
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Dr. John Pierce



Greenpeace is leading the charge against what is being called greenwashing.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL continued



Lloyd Flanders

A modern take on woven is Lloyd Flanders' Luna collection, here shown in a fashion-forward taupe shade. Its curvy shape also is intriguing because the sheer material allows you to see through to the frame.

is reflected in a collection that actually is a new iteration of the iconic Kantan, which was designed in 1956 by Tadao Inouye for Brown Jordan. Richard Frinier re-imagined the mid-century pieces in brass frames with the company's proprietary Suncloth straps.

"Mid-century designers pushed materials and form to the maximum," says Elton, "but stayed true to the practical needs of people. Kantan II is as fresh, stylish and human-friendly as ever."

Many of the modern styles are inviting, perhaps more approachable. One style that embodies the cozy factor is the Nomad seating from Gloster. The armless chairs are wide and serpentine, and they draw style points with horizontal striped fabric cladding.

Skinny horizontal stripes are garnering attention in mesh, as well. Magma, a Belgian manufacturer, introduced a striped collection whose upholstery is quick drying mesh, made from a strong polyester or hemp non-stretch yarn coated with vinyl, all mold- and UV-resistant. The design actually was inspired by Navajo textiles.

Mesh as upholstery also is part of the innovative design for the Luna group from Lloyd Flanders. Its taut form is relieved with gentle curves, but even more intriguing is the material's sheer-ness, with a peek-a-boo to the frame. Shown in a shade of taupe, the hue signals a strong color shift to grays that's also happening in kitchens and surfaces, for example.



Gloster

The other potentially seismic shift is to white. In Paris, at the twice-yearly international furniture show Maison et Objet, white was more than a blip in exterior furnishings. In the United States, it is starting to show up both in frames and in upholstery.

The teaming of marine blue and white is especially crisp. An updated classic strap design called Flex from Brown Jordan features Suncloth straps hand-woven over a sleek white powder-coated aluminum frame—a design from Richard Frinier.

At Tropitone, white faux leather is a sexy entree into the contemporary category. Even more drop-dead is a chair that combines white cushions in a supple frame of rich red faux leather on polished stainless-steel legs.

Splashes of color can lift neutral groupings.

In showing off two of its slipcover looks, Lane Venture teamed an armless chair with a wide seat in raspberry and a beige sofa, highlighted with a touch of yellow and raspberry accent pillows. It's a simple design concept borrowed from interiors that resonates equally in the al fresco landscape.

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Elaine Markoutsas' column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate. Copyright 2013. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

The Dansk chair, designed by Povl Eskildsen and Philip Behrens for Gloster, is a nod to mid-century Danish style. The tapering teak legs support a rounded seat topped with white synthetic leather.

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HAT TRI



CKS

Story by Claire Rogers and Photography by Bob Rogers

Courtesy: Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ggbain-10505



There was nary a topless head in this 1912 photo of a socialist rally in New York City.

Men's hats can speak loudly when used to make a statement, but their "voice" is susceptible to interpretation and their purpose varied.

At President Obama's second inauguration, when Justice Antonin Scalia sported a replica of a hat worn by St. Thomas More—a hat given to the justice by the St. Thomas More Society—*The Washington Post* reported there was speculation that Scalia was cleaving to his religious roots over his civic calling. (Thomas More, a devout Catholic, was beheaded for refusing to accept King Henry VIII as the supreme head of the Church of England.)

But, perhaps Scalia just pulled the hat from his closet because he wanted to wear a distinctive, cold-weather hat for a special occasion.

It is often erroneously claimed that President John F. Kennedy went hatless at his inauguration. As most, if not all, U.S. presidents had done before him, Kennedy did wear a hat—a top hat—on inauguration day, but most widely circulated photos taken at the event showed him without it. As a result, some historians contend that President Kennedy sparked a turning point in men's fashion. He made it acceptable and perhaps even fashionable for American men not to wear hats in public.

Men's hats have a long, diverse history. One of the earliest images of a man wearing a hat, in this case a conical straw hat, comes from a painting in a Theban tomb. In various cultures and across millennia, hats have held religious significance, marked social status and military affiliation/rank, reflected fashion and offered protection.

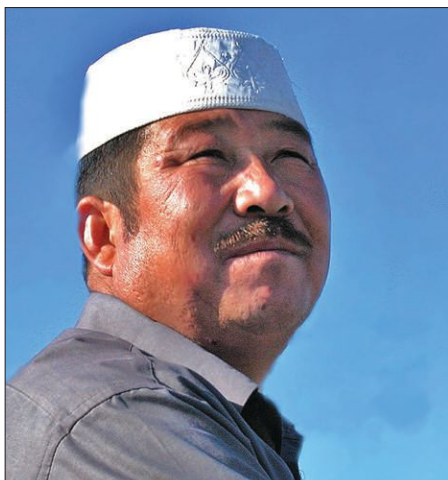
Living in Southern Arizona, we understand the importance of hats worn as protection from the summer sun. Arizona has some of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Golfers, gardeners, hikers, bikers and anyone else who spends time outdoors could benefit from sun protection. The Skin Cancer Foundation recommends wearing sun hats that include a minimum of a three-inch-wide brim.

Some historians contend that President Kennedy sparked a turning point in men's fashion.

left: A trilby hat is a narrow-brimmed fedora. During its American heyday in the 1950s and '60s, it was viewed as a rich man's hat. (Hat courtesy of Arizona Hatters, 2790 N. Campbell Ave.)



The lightweight, straw golf hat is popular with Tucson's winter visitors. (Hat courtesy of Arizona Hatters, 2790 N. Campbell Ave.)



A Uighur man wears a traditional Muslim Taqiyah.

According to Grant Sergot of Óptimo Custom Hatworks in Bisbee, brims that curve down offer additional protection, particularly when the sun is at lower angles.

Arizona Hatters, of Tucson, is seeing increasing demand for stylish, functional sun protection. The lightweight, straw golf hat—a wide-brimmed fedora that provides maximum ventilation and styling popular on golf courses—sells especially well among the city's tourists and winter visitors.

A trilby, or a trim fedora, such as those worn by Brad Pitt, Carlos

Santana and Hugh Jackman, is a style especially sought by college students, according to Laure McIntosh, manager of Arizona Hatters.

"You can often tell, when [a customer] comes in the door, what type of style [he/she] will want," says McIntosh. "If they've got jingling spurs, it's a good bet they're looking for a distinctly cowboy-style hat."

Sergot notes that style preferences moderate with age; generally, the older the customer, the more conservative the style. "Where a younger man may be looking for a hat fitting of a rodeo cowboy, years later that same man

might prefer to wear something suggestive of a gentleman rancher," he explains.

Sergot credits the mid-century black-and-white film industry with dramatizing the correlation between hat styles and personality, and cites *Casablanca* as one of his favorite "hat-intensive" movies. Later, television shows, like *Bonanza*, gave viewers more opportunities to associate a man's character with the size, shape and color of his hat.

"The black fedora that Jack Abramoff wore throughout his trial was the wrong thing to wear, it made



Hats are a common sight in China.

him look just like a gangster,” says Sergot, referring to the Washington lobbyist convicted of corruption and sentenced to prison in 2008.

Óptimo Custom Hatworks and Arizona Hatters both report that people who tend to wear hats will likely always wear hats and will become lifelong customers as they return to have hats cleaned, repaired and reblocked.

According to Stephanie Carter, president of the Headwear Association, a new trend in stylish hats is a “mannish-shaped fedora crown with a non-traditional three-inch brim.”

Carter also notices a decline, nationally, in the popularity of winter hats. The rapid turnover in seasonal wear doesn’t give buyers much time to commit to a one-season winter hat, when a summer hat can serve from spring through fall.

Carter’s company, Wallaroo Hats, is working with designers from Australia to cross function with fashion, for hats with an Ultraviolet Protection Factor of 50+, which means the hat blocks 97.5 percent of the sun’s ultraviolet rays. Carter clarifies that one common misperception is that sun protection hats are embedded with a chemical sunscreen; they are not. However, different materials do filter ultraviolet light to different degrees.

“The brim needs to be full coverage, not visors and not baseball caps,” says Carter, adding that while bucket hats have a full brim, the brim is not as wide as it should be to protect from the sun.

A “bucket hat” is what some people might know as a fishing hat. It also has several other regionally based names. Called the *ispoti* in South Africa, it is popular among urban black youth. In Tanzania, where it is called the giggle hat, it is worn by tribal elders.

The author chooses to hike in a white bucket hat.

While form follows function in hat design, hats have also always been a form of tribal identity. In her book *The Social Meaning of Hats and T-Shirts*, Diana Crane points out that although different styles of hats have historically been used to indicate social-class status and regional affiliation, today they are just as likely to be a reflection of the wearer’s lifestyle or used as a tool in making a personal statement.

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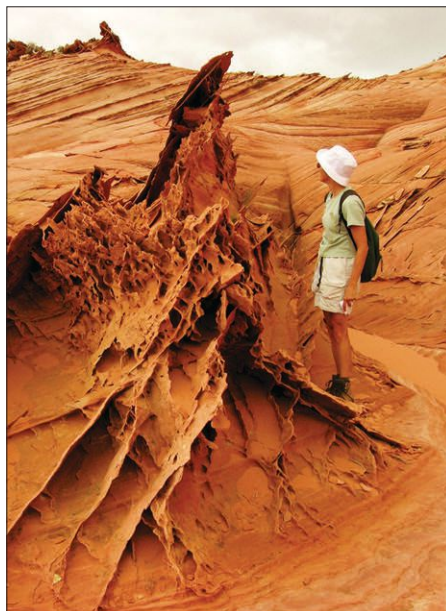
Claire Rogers is a local freelance writer. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

HATS VS. CAPS

Various distinctions between hats and caps have been made over the years. Generally speaking, hats are considered more formal than caps, rest above the ears and are matched to one’s coat or suit jacket.

Caps, on the other hand, are styled to be worn closer to the head and with casual clothing.

—www.askmen.com/fashion



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Winemakers' Secret Ingredient

Story and Photography by Bill Norman

Last August nearly 100 volunteers, mostly from Tucson, showed up on a Saturday morning to help harvest grapes.



We've heard it said that it takes a village to raise a child, but has anyone considered how many volunteers it takes to produce an award-winning wine?

Entrepreneurs in Arizona's burgeoning wine industry are getting a pretty good grip on that number.

Our state now has dozens of vineyards, and they are producing some exceptional wines—a distinct contrast to the situation just a few years back when the number of winemakers here could be counted on two hands, and the quality, except in a few notable instances, was mediocre.

Early in the 2013 growing season, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot vines sprout leaves at Callaghan Vineyards in southern Arizona.



In August 2012, volunteers harvested grapes at Charron Vineyards.



Brian Gammon, a friend and neighbor of Charron Vineyards, dumps grapes into the crusher/de-stemmer.

One factor that may not be apparent, however, is the number of people who are contributing labor to achieve the final grape-derived product.

Kent Callaghan, owner of Callaghan Vineyards in Elgin, has been making award-winning wines (three have been served at White House dinners of state) for 23 years. *Wine Spectator* magazine has consistently scored his reds, in particular, high in its rankings. Callaghan studied with the University of California Davis Department of Viticulture and Enology.

In the first three years, when the family vineyard acreage was small, he and his dad handled all of the work themselves, from tilling the soil, planting and fertilizing to stringing vine support wires, harvesting, crushing, pressing, bottling and marketing. Then for the next 14 years, he went it alone.

“Six years ago, I finally realized I just couldn’t keep up with it during growing season,” he admits. Now he uses volunteers year-round for tasks such as planting new vines; pruning back older ones; thinning the leaves; stretching bird netting over ripening grapes; harvesting; and operating the tasting room where prospective buyers can sample his vintages.

Milton and Sue Craig, co-owners of Charron Vineyards north of Sonoita, have been in the winemaking business three years. They both held management positions in information

technology, but one day decided they needed a major change.

In their vineyard’s short tenure, their wines have impressed local judges. Their White Merlot took first place in the dessert category and best of show at the 2012 Santa Cruz County Fair. In the same competition, their Santa Rita Rosé won first place in the whites category.

The Craigs have learned the value of volunteers, big time. Last August nearly 100 volunteers, mostly from Tucson, showed up on a Saturday morning to help harvest grapes. (Charron had sent out a newsletter announcing the event.) Milton had figured it would be a two-day effort, but the enthusiastic crew finished the job by 1 p.m. on day one.

“They are the friendliest, hardest working people on Earth,” he says.

When asked why he thinks such people show up on his doorstep ready to work, he muses, “Our customers enjoy having a hand in creating the wine they’ll be drinking after the new wines are released. It’s a fun day for all of us, as well.”

Volunteers Jeff and Lori Redmann of Tucson added their own perspec-



Lori Redmann, in her professional life, is an institutional researcher for the UofA.



Callaghan Vineyards owner Kent Callaghan shows Beverly Werber a section of vines that needs to be pruned.

tives. She's an institutional researcher for the University of Arizona; he's an auditor for Raytheon. "We volunteer partly to learn about the winemaking process, and partly to give back to the community, as well as just to help out the Craigs," Jeff says.

During that warm August day, the Craigs' daughter Emma drove a golf cart up and down the rows of vines, offering cold water, sodas and cookies to grateful volunteers. As noon approached, everyone took a break for complimentary hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks, water or wine in the air-conditioned Charron tasting room and its exterior mister-cooled porch.

As is the case at Charron, Callaghan offers all the tools and gloves his volunteers will need for their work. Cold water is on hand. As additional incentive, he offers them free wine tastings and discounts on the price of full bottles and cases.

Beverly Werber from Tucson has been helping out at Callaghan's and several other area wineries for about a year and a half. She's a retired communications consultant who moved here from Los Angeles, and she helps out with fundraisers and communications efforts for several Tucson non-profits.

"It's a lot of fun," she says of the work in the vineyards. "It's great being a part of Arizona's growing wine industry."

Giving her some pointers on a January morning was Wayne Tomasi, who's a Callaghan veteran volunteer of six years. He's a retired professor of electrical engineering; author of 20-some books; avid hiker; and, with his wife, substitute-teaches in grades K-12 at schools in and near Elgin/Sonoita wine country.

"I've been interested in wine for a

Callaghan Vineyards has made award-winning wines for more than 20 years. Volunteers have a role in creating the finished product.

long time. I grew up on a dairy farm, and this is a completely different crop," he says.

Callaghan figures one reason people volunteer is that it's a life experience of doing something new and learning about the basics of wine production.

One winemaker who hasn't had quite as much luck with volunteers is Sam Pillsbury, primary owner of Pillsbury Wine Company. He is also a film director from New Zealand.

He figures that the problem lies primarily with distance. Although his tasting room and main sales venue is located in Cottonwood, in the Verde Valley between Phoenix and Flagstaff, his vineyards are near Kansas Settlement in Cochise County.

"For many volunteers it would be a 200-mile drive," he acknowledges, "but we're very grateful for any assistance we can get." He says breakfast or lunch can be provided, and there's now even a house on site if workers want to overnight.

His winery is no slouch when it comes to accolades. *Phoenix* magazine named it Best Local Winemaker; *Arizona Foothills* magazine named it Best Arizona Winery. *Wine Spectator* gave Pillsbury's Petite Sirah its top ranking of 89.

For more information about these wineries and volunteer opportunities, visit www.callaghanvineyards.com/; www.charronvineyards.com/ and www.pillsburywine.com/. The three also communicate through online newsletters and social media. The Arizona Wine Growers Association website, www.arizonawine.org/, provides details about winemakers statewide.

DL

Bill Norman is a local freelance writer, photographer and DesertLeaf editor. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.



left: Charron Vineyards co-owner Milton Craig sprays crushed grapes (known as "must") into a press that will extract their juice. right: Emma Greaves, daughter of Charron Vineyards' owners, hands a welcome water bottle to volunteer David Horr. She also had soft drinks and cookies available as she cruised among the workers.



Charron Vineyards co-owner Sue Craig decants wine for volunteer workers during a free lunch provided them on harvest day.



Early in the 2013 growing season at Callaghan Vineyards.



A blue sky and a field of yellow *Bidens* frame the San Francisco Peaks in the Coconino National Forest, near Flagstaff.

Escape to Arizona's High Country

Story and Photography by John D. Smith

Does the summer heat get to you? Head for Arizona's high country.

Over the past few summers, my wife and I have sampled many of the National Forest campgrounds in Arizona, mostly along the Mogollon Rim. Our explorations stretched from Prescott to Payson, through Flagstaff and on to Greer and Springerville.

The trick is to choose the proper elevation for the time of year. Temperatures drop about four degrees for every 1,000 feet of increased elevation. We live in Oro Valley at about 3,000 feet; the highest of the campgrounds sits at just over 9,000 feet. That means that if the temperature at home is 100 degrees, it would be about 75 degrees at the Big Lake campground near Springerville.

But when planning a camping trip there are other elements to consider besides temperature. Although the oppressive heat of June would seem to make it a prime month to escape the

desert, it's also a month that can generate a lot of charreuse ponderosa pine pollen that blankets campsites at higher elevations, making a mess and slamming allergies into high gear.

July, August and early September are the monsoon months, so rain will often visit in the afternoons, but the air is crisp and clear. And, if it is too dry in June and early July, some of the National Forests may prohibit campfires, or in extreme cases—camping. It is always a good idea to call the agency (e.g., U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of



Wildflowers show off their beauty under the Ponderosa Pines at Canyon Point Campground.

Land Management) that you hope to visit before you make your plans.

National Forest campsites are generally deep in the conifers and, during the week, are pretty empty. How wonderful: very few people, the sounds of wind through the pines and the aroma of a stew cooking on the campfire. And, if the grandkids are along, we must add the fearsome s'mores for dessert. Fearsome in that you never know where the marshmallows or embers may end up. Scary!

Our summer camping style is a hybrid between traditional tent



Bears have been a problem the past few years because wildfires have driven them down from the higher elevations—and, they are hungry.



Entrance to Canyon Point Campground



Lynx Lake is adjacent to the Hilltop Campground in the Prescott National Forest.



Watson Lake is just a short drive from the campgrounds in the Prescott National Forest. Rental canoes and kayaks are available in warmer weather.

camping and RVing. Although our camper is a comfortable 26-ft travel trailer, our excursions into Arizona's mountains often require us to camp where campsite hookups for utilities (water and electricity, and maybe a toilet dumping facility) are very rare. Minus hookups, we fill up the RV's water tanks (30 gallons) at a communal campground spigot before we park at our campsite. Once parked, we must manually carry to the camper any additional water needed, as well as depend on our own electricity source. In RV jargon, this is referred to as dry camping or boondocking.

Each camping trip we take is usually five or six days. The 30 gallons of water in full camper tanks coupled with about five gallons of drinking

water that we carry from home doesn't last more than three or four days; less if we take daily showers. A few of the campgrounds in the mountains have nice showers, but others require that we use the more cramped one in the camper. Each six gallons of water weighs about 50 lbs, so we try to conserve water, as the manual filling process can be tedious and strenuous, especially in the rarefied air at high altitudes.

Electricity is another matter. Although our heavy-duty battery arrangement is generally sufficient, the lights start to dim after three nights of playing cards. The lights, heater fan and water pump are adversely affected when electricity runs low; the refrigerator and stove can run on propane. To recharge the batteries, we carry a 2,000-watt generator that we run as little as possible in order to keep the noise down so our fellow campers can enjoy the sound of the wind blowing through the pines.

Although the predominant trees in the forest campgrounds are ponderosa and pinyon pines, we see juniper as we slide down toward 5,000 feet, and spruce and Douglas fir at the 9,000-ft sites. At those higher elevations we also find aspens, which remind us of the birch trees back East.

The birds we find are montane species, often quite different from the desert varieties. We get to see pinyon jays, Clark's nutcrackers, mountain bluebirds and a mixed variety of woodpeckers and sapsuckers.

The pine forests at those altitudes are blessed with lakes and streams, as well as meadows covered with wildflowers most of the year. It is elk and bear country. Deer and beaver are happy there, too.

Bears have been a problem the past few years because wild-fires have driven them down from the higher elevations—and, they are hungry. Having a



Fishing on Willow Springs Lake, between Canyon Point and Woods Canyon campgrounds



hard-sided camper makes it much easier for us to sleep peacefully at night.

The jagged line that can be drawn from Prescott to Payson and on through Show Low, Greer and Springerville delineates an outdoor playground. In summer, the region offers camping, fishing and hiking. In winter, it's popular with hunters and snow skiers. Flagstaff is a bit north of that line, but still fits the description. Much of the area just east of Show Low is in the White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation.

The high country is honeycombed with old forest roads that sometimes require a high-clearance vehicle and occasionally four-wheel drive. Why these rugged trails were cut isn't always apparent. In some cases, there may have been small settlements that scratched out a living with a sawmill. Some roads lead to former mining operations. In other cases, the Forest Service built the roads for fire control. Sometimes, they are part of large ranches where cattle roam freely on open range.

For the hottest months, our favorite campgrounds are Canyon Point west of Heber, and Hoyer, near Greer. These are not only high and cool, but also have very nice showers.

continued on page 68



Stew cooking in a Dutch oven on an open fire

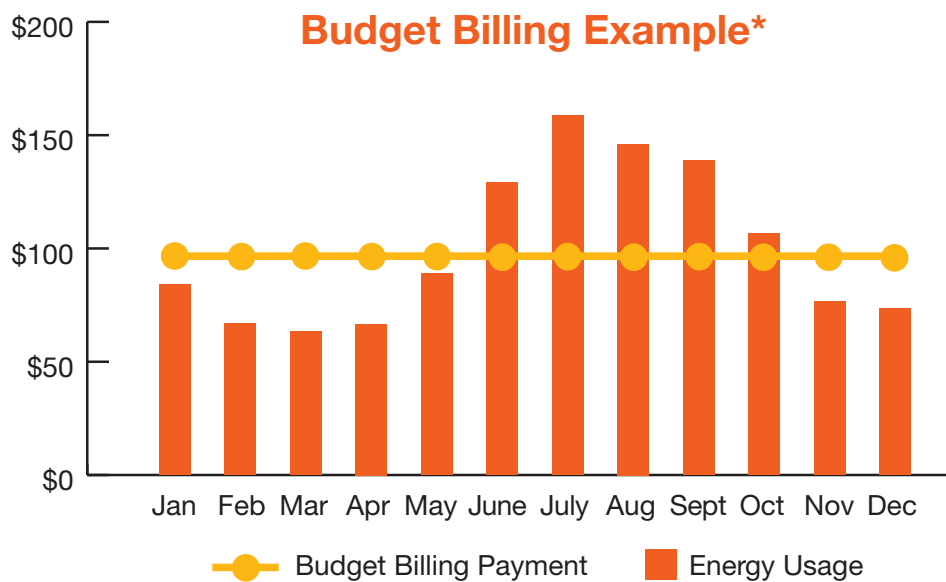
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Asked if he could be described as a “mad” scientist, Chuck Higgins, associate professor of neuroscience at the University of Arizona, responds, “Well, I’m a scientist, and in my case, ‘mad’ is always in question.”

Higgins was one of 10 not-so-bashful University of Arizona College of Science researchers who participated in a “speed dating” with journalists experiment last fall called Scitini [*DesertLeaf*, April 2013]. The event’s basic goal was to get two kinds of creative minds—those of scientists and journalists—together in the same room, let them mix and mingle over a martini, and see what story ideas ensued that would give the public a better idea of UA research projects under way.

Higgins caught my attention because not only is he a fast talker, he’s also a smooth talker when it comes to explaining his dreams about building intelligent entities.

“Given adequate time and funding,” he says, “I’d like to make a robot that could go to Mars on a spaceship, build a colony there and terraform the planet so that by the time humans arrived, everything would be ready to go—environmentally safe habitation entirely built by androids.”

But first, it’s the old crawl-before-you-walk-before-you-run sequence, and the 46-year-old scientist is preparing for his dream goal by studying brains and computer applications.

“Right now our understanding of brains is primitive, so I’m taking a living brain—from an insect—and hooking its output into my computer to drive a system. At the moment, I’m using the vision system of a dragonfly that allows a robot to ‘see’ through the fly’s eyes. It’s a way of understanding how the brain’s circuitry works, because I want to tap into those reflexes to allow my robot to perform the same response.”

Although Higgins’ interests pro-

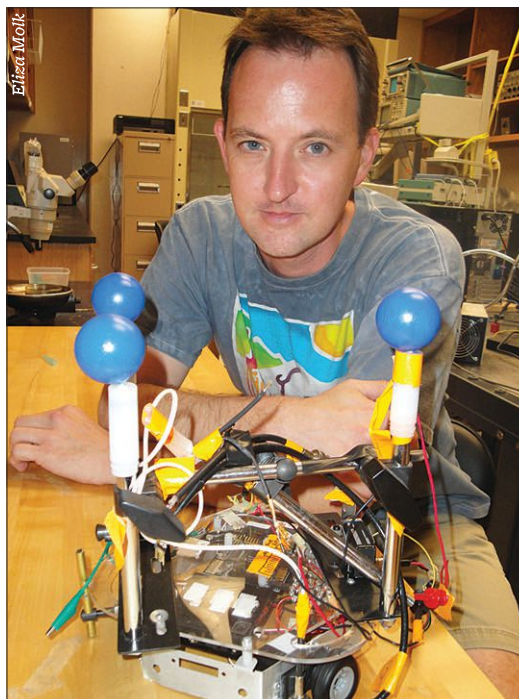
pelled him toward computers and their myriad applications, his involvement with insects was dictated more by circumstance.

“There are ethical concerns involving brain experimentation with humans and there are no extra, live human brains lying around, so that avenue leads us to learn what we can about human brains by using non-human brains, like those of flies, dragonflies, bees and hawk moths,” explains Higgins. “Flies don’t have a [political] lobby. They’re below the threshold of ethical concern, so they can be bred, raised, experimented on and disposed of.”

Take a moment to consider how the mind of this Louisiana native works. “My earliest memories are those of taking things apart to figure out what was inside them...how the internal, working mechanisms operated in order to do what they did,” he recalls.

Now, decades later and armed with a Ph.D in electrical engineering, Higgins gets to take a dragonfly, open up its spinal cord and use that to control a robot.

“I probe living insect brains to



University of Arizona Associate Professor Charles “Chuck” Higgins studies insect brains to help him build a better robot.

understand their stimulation signals so I can reverse-engineer an artificial system that will do the same thing [as the insect brains]. We’ve got some awesome ideas about how brains work and those ideas came from studying insect brains. I want to build a robotic brain that will eventually be as good as a human one.”

Quickly warming to the subject possibilities, Higgins expounds: “There are situations in which a robot could save lives—like repairing a malfunctioning nuclear power plant. An intelligent android could repair the problems, just like a human would, but then when the robot became radioactive, it could be scrapped. Or what about a robot driven by a human with joysticks, to help defuse bombs? Or a robot that can withstand a bullet blast?”

continued on page 68

Dragonfly brains in this research lab may be a link to intelligent robots that can provide better living through technology.



Neuroscience From Bugs & Bots

by Lee Allen

NORTH

Italian Farmhouse (Fattoria Italiana)

by Linda Brewer



(This is another in a series of articles profiling the DesertLeaf's restaurant- and food-related advertisers. This is not a review.)

North Executive Chef Carlos Calderon started working at a young age as a dishwasher at El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort in Tucson.

"I learned from Chef Emiliano Sotelo, who was really good to me," Calderon recalls. "He convinced me I should go on to culinary school so I went to the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park [New York]. I wasn't sure how well I would like it, but it turned out to be a great experience."

Calderon worked as an intern in New York and then returned to Tucson, where he worked for acclaimed chef and restaurateur Janos Wilder, working his way up to chef de cuisine. "Janos became my inspiration, both for cooking and for learning the business side of restaurants," he acknowledges. "Not every chef understands both aspects of the industry like he does."

Calderon then worked for a year at Miraval Resort & Spa. "Working for Janos and then at Miraval was going from one extreme to the other in terms of cooking styles. I think it rounded me as a chef," says Calderon.

About five years ago a friend called Calderon and asked him if he would like to come to work at North. "North was the surprise of my life. Sam Fox's philosophy of providing hospitality every moment for the guests stood out for me right away. I love working here," he beams. "I like it that we make great food and we care about the guests' experience. It's a happy place."

Along with recent structural renovations, North's menu has also been modified. "I would say our menu is more grown-up and thoughtful," says Calderon. "There's a point where you can fuss with food too much. We get the freshest ingredients. We're creative, but we've kept the simplicity. We've found what we want."

He points out the work station near the open kitchen. It's divided into an area for pasta and one for charcuterie. Diners can watch staff slice meat on a traditional slicer and watch homemade pasta being prepared.

Making pasta right here takes a little more time, but the freshness is worth it, Calderon maintains. He uses Grana Padano rather than Parmesan cheese on his pasta, and Castelvetrano olives. Grana is the "farmer's Parmesan,"

continued on page 49

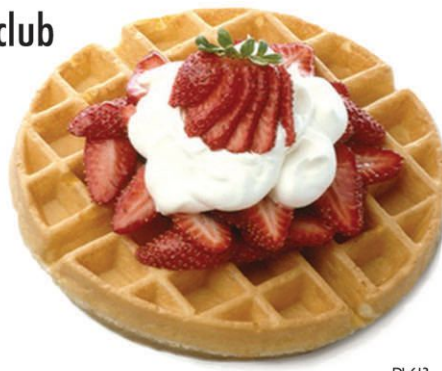
Executive Chef Carlos Calderon rolls pasta at the work station near North's open kitchen.

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Season **To Taste**

Ooodles of Noodles

by Judith Baigent King

Few foods are as widely enjoyed around the globe as the multitude of noodle varieties, differing in shapes, flavors and texture as a result of different starch bases.

They're available fresh, which cook in seconds (rising to the top of a large pot of boiling water), or dried, which need a longer cooking time to rehydrate.

Noodles can replace rice or potatoes or be interchanged with other noodle varieties. Be brave, creative and ingenious with your cooking: One of your inventive dishes may become a family favorite.

The crinkly, dried, wheat-based ramen noodle has come far from its peasant origins to become one of the world's most popular ingredients in soups at Japanese fast-food ramen bars, portable food stalls in China and in the inexpensive, precooked, easy to use (just add hot water) packages of instant flavored ramen soups.

More than 95 billion packages of these instant noodles are consumed worldwide each year.

For a Western twist, boil this dried, unflavored, porous noodle in red beet juice, drain, top with a can of drained cannellini beans stir-fried with garlic, chopped water chestnuts, lemon zest and juice, olive oil, balsamic vinegar and a garnish of chopped chives.

No one will believe the dish is made with the humble ramen noodle.

Delicate, nutty-flavored soba noodles are a Japanese specialty made from newly harvested buckwheat. Served hot or cold they have a shape similar to that of fettucini.

Cook the dried soba noodles in boiling water until they have just softened. Make a sauce of peanut butter, soy sauce, honey, crushed garlic, sesame oil and thin with a little water. Toss the cooked noodles with julienned fresh vegetables, add the sauce, and garnish with raw or roasted peanuts. It can be a meal on its own or a great side dish for grilled salmon.

Add cooked soba noodles to a miso-based soup broth for a warming soup, or top with cooked shrimp for a seafood salad.

Thin, eggless somen and udon noodles are made from wheat. Light green cha somen is flavored with green tea. Almost always served cold, these noodles absorb a lot of liquid, so they add heartiness to dishes. Do not overcook as they will become soggy and stick together. Top with a quickly stir-fried mixture of sliced onion, thinly sliced beef filet, garlic, ginger, teriyaki sauce, slivered water chestnuts and a chopped green onion garnish.

Cellophane noodles, also called mung bean noodles, bean thread or glass noodles are clear noodles typically made from mung bean, cassava or potato starch, mixed with water.

They have a glassy, transpar-



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ent appearance that absorbs flavors, making them a favorite for soups, spicy salads or as part of spring-roll fillings.

Soak them in boiling water to soften, drain and use. Toss with sautéed shrimp, garlic, cilantro, mint, green onions, fresh ginger, chopped green chile, lime juice and soy sauce. Garnish with unsalted, roasted peanuts. This is a quick dish to serve hot or cold.

Rice stick noodles come fresh and dried, flat and wide or thread thin. The ribbon-like fresh rice noodles come cooked and need only to be warmed a few seconds in hot water. When fried in hot oil, the dried rice stick noodles puff up to make a mass of delicate crisp noodles that add crunch to salads, a crispy base to a stir-fry, or an eye appealing garnish. Make sure the oil

is quite hot, as uncooked rice noodles are inedible.

In Vietnam, rice noodles are used for their staple dish—pho—a soup made from a fragrant stock base garnished with meat or chicken, cilantro, bean sprouts, green onions, chopped chilies and fresh herbs.

Experiment adding these noodles to a clear, chicken noodle soup along with some fresh ginger, fresh corn kernels and chopped cilantro. It's an oriental twist to a Western favorite.

Chinese egg (or yellow) noodles should not be confused with Italian pasta. The flavors are different. Once made, and often coiled to save space, they make a great “nest” for food.

Available fresh or dried and in a number of shapes, these chewy

noodles pair well with vegetables tossed quickly in a hot wok, then flavored with oyster sauce and toasted sesame oil, thickened with cornstarch dissolved in a little water.

Crispy fried chow mein noodles are easily found ready-prepared in markets. These can be topped with a variety of wok-cooked vegetables, seafood or poultry, Chinese cabbage, fresh bean sprouts and a seasoning sauce.

DL

Judith Baigent King owned Culinary Concepts in Tucson for 16 years. She is also the author of the cookbook Culinary Concepts. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

DESERT COURMET continued

Calderon says. “It’s a little softer than regular Parmesan.”

Castelvetrano olives are a vivid olive green. They are minimally processed and have a sweet, nutty flavor unmarred by the taste of brine.

Fennel pollen is one of this chef’s favorite ingredients for finishing dishes.

Calderon is assisted in his work by Kenny Woods, executive sous chef. Woods has been working with Fox restaurants for about a third of his life. At only 22, Woods has quickly worked his way up the ladder in the restaurant business. At age 18 he was named Tucson’s Best Teen Chef. Rather than going to a culinary school, he chose to attend Pima Community College, where he studied nutrition, a particular area of interest for him.

At North he has worked as many as 90 hours a week. “I love what I do and I’m so busy, the time flies by,” he says.

Chef Carlos Calderon, not exactly ancient himself, says he considers Woods a great friend. “He already knows so much about cooking. He makes me proud.”

Calderon is from Tucson, where he grew up in a large extended family. At holidays, like Thanksgiving, he is expected to bring a dish to family gatherings. What does he like to bring? “I have a crush on Asian food,” he admits. “You can be creative with it but you can also go with simplicity. It has a purity I like. I also like Latin American food for some of the same reasons.”

Whatever dish he brings to family gatherings, he says with some pride that it’s the one that gets eaten first: “My family has always been very supportive of me.”

North has wooden floors, white-washed brick walls and checked napkins. A new, bright red hood hangs over the kitchen, the high ceiling is all ductwork, and the south and east-facing walls are mostly glass.

The wraparound patio has a fireplace on either side of the building and diners enjoy views all the way south to the Santa Rita Mountains. The bar offers drinks with names like Ducati and Midnight Shandy. “I like to say the atmosphere is warm and traditional but also cool and contemporary,” says Calderon.

He enjoys teaching younger cooks to do more than put ingredients together. “I like to help them understand what they’re eating,” says Calderon.

A friend recently sent Chef Calderon an e-mail, something along the lines of “50 things you will do as a chef.”

Calderon found at least two items on that list that he could identify with: “You will go home and eat frozen food,” which is what happens when you go home after a long day and you’re too tired to cook for yourself, he explains.

The other item? “You will never regret the decision you made to become a chef.”

North Italian Farmhouse: 2995 E. Skyline Dr. Phone: 299-1600.

Chef Carlos Calderon provides this recipe for *DesertLeaf* readers:

Mafaldine

Ingredients

5 oz. (1 serving) mafaldine pasta
1 Tbsp. garlic (sliced thin in garlic oil)
1 fl. oz. burro fuso

1/2 tsp. Calabrian chili (blended)
1 oz. fennel, shaved
3.5 oz. (1 serving) shrimp
6 fl. oz. acqua pazza
1 pinch Kosher salt
1 Tbsp. basil and mint blend, chopped
1 tsp. basil leaves (chiffonade)
1 pinch fennel pollen
2 tsp. lemon oil

Drop pasta into boiling water and cook until tender (approximately five minutes).

Using a small sauce pot, combine garlic, oil, butter, chili, shaved fennel and shrimp. Sauté together over high heat until fennel begins to get tender and shrimp starts to curl. Add the acqua pazza and simmer together for two minutes.

Season with salt and basil-mint mixture. Add the cooked pasta to the sauce and sauté together. Simmer for an additional one minute. Taste for seasoning. Place pasta in the center of pasta bowl. Finish pasta with basil, fennel pollen and lemon oil.

DL

Linda Brewer is a local freelance writer. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.



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OL	Open Late
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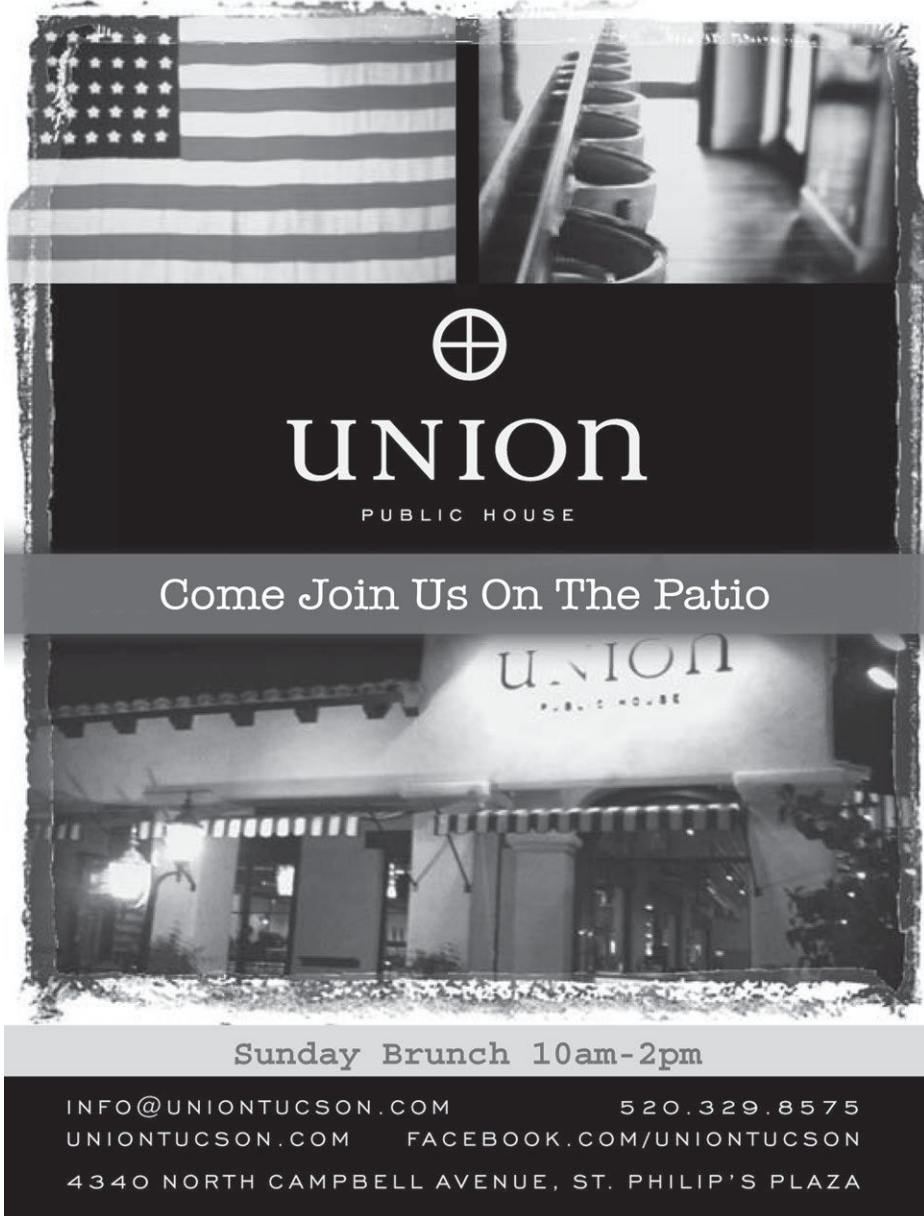


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Wine Wise

Sublimely Ridiculous or Ridiculously Sublime

by Dale Stephen Sparks



Wood wine barrels in La Rioja, Spain

I can't believe I hadn't thought of it before.

Rioja is one of the most neglected regions of the wine world, at least on Arizona retail shelves, and especially on wine lists.

At a very basic level, Rioja offers some of the most balanced, enjoyable and best value wines in the world. At the top end, they rank with the greatest wines from anywhere.

The first wine I ever purchased as a consumer was 1985 Marques de Caceras, from a fine winery in Cenicero, Rioja Alta, Spain, and it was the first wine I had that made me think wine should be my career. It was an epiphany.

In my job at Anthony's in the foothills, Rioja was the very first section of the list I worked on.

At the Phoenician, the very first wine I purchased was a legendary Rioja from Marques de Murrieta called "Ygay."

At my first job for a distributor, Bo-

degas Muga was our first flagship European wine.

At Quench Fine Wines, the very first line of wines we sold was from the Palacios family, which included three different Riojas.

So my new tasting group (composed of friends with serious interest in wine, and several of the younger sales reps at the wholesaler I once owned) started off with an inaugural tasting, and as their supreme leader, I chose Rioja. We lined up 18 entry-level Riojas, tasted them, scored them and ate some killer cheese and meat that Liz, Steve and Kelly brought.

We tasted young wines, older wines, classic style, "modern" style, Reservas, Gran Reservas, wines from each of the three sub-zones. Not a single wine was a dog or even bad, and that's an extreme rarity in any tasting.

Despite the amazing overall quality of Rioja, I don't often see it on restaurant wine lists. Of course, I can only speak to the wine lists I do see, so perhaps I just happened to choose restaurants that don't have Rioja on their lists, which would be a crime.

So there I was the next morning with an aftermath of about 60 well-used wine glasses, some amazing cheese and bread and 12 bottles from the night before, each with about an inch of wine in it.

I poured wine from the different bottles into a decanter. That evening I poured a glass of the by-now-24-hours-

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opened “cuvée” and, WHOA, it was terrific! It was a perfect example of what Rioja is. It is sublimely ridiculous that it tasted so good and that I had never even considered blending dregs before!

Buy 10-12 bottles all from the same region and blend them to get the prototypical wine of the region! It was exactly what Rioja tastes like, the very essence of Rioja.

Some people would protest that the nuance and idiosyncrasies of each vineyard are lost, but that’s exactly the point. It’s tough to learn about a region by mentally cataloging the nuances and idiosyncrasies of a myriad of different vineyards, vintages in multiple different experiences—that takes a super brain, and, just in case it is not obvious, I ain’t got one.

So by sheer stupid luck, I found out how to present an entire region and teach/learn its exact characteristics, and I simply can’t believe that I had never thought of that before.

So here is Rioja in a nutshell. The primary grape is Tempranillo, and it yields a full flavored, medium- to full-bodied red wine.

The wines spend an extensive amount of time in oak and, as a result, are released when softer, more supple and silky in texture, but are in no way wimpy. They have strong vanilla and dill influences from the oak but are not harsh or tannic, like heavily oaked wines from elsewhere.

To me, the best Riojas exhibit deep red fruit (like black cherries) and black stone fruits (like black plums), with vanilla and generally some spice character, like nutmeg or cinnamon. The wines are classically structured, have less alcohol and ripeness, but more acid, all of which allow them to age exceptionally well.

Riojas also translate the earth well—they convey a lot of mushroom and truffle flavors driven by the soil—they are extremely complex wines and work amazingly well with all sorts of food.

Of all the truly great, well regarded, classic red wine regions in the world, Rioja is the undisputed #1 in value in my opinion, and I don’t think I can do any greater service to my readers than suggest they explore Rioja a bit at their favorite local wine shop.

DL

Dale Stephen Sparks has worked both as a sommelier and wholesale distributor in the Arizona market for more than a decade. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.



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At a PAWSitively Cats fundraiser at Creative Juice, attendees chose to paint the “Cat Lovers in Blue” image.

Creative Juice: *Art for All*

by Lorraine A. DarConte

Thanks to the folks at Creative Juice, you can create a “masterpiece” whether you know how to paint or not.

The “art bar” is a place where you can paint, enjoy a glass of wine and go home with a great painting, according to co-founder Chellie Krajnak.

“It’s not your typical art-class where you have to sign up for eight weeks and show up every Thursday night,” explains Krajnak. “The object is to complete the entire painting in a 2.5-hour time frame.”

An elementary-education teacher, she and business partner Kristina Valencia, an elementary-education art teacher who’s been teaching for 18 years, have created a successful formula that allows complete novices, as well as those with some experience and/or artistic talent, to paint like pros (well, almost).

“In order to really learn technique, you have to invest a lot of time and effort,” advises Valencia. “This is more of a social thing where people can come in and enjoy themselves without knowing anything about painting or having an artistic bone in their body. However, they still walk out with something they’re proud of because we’ve shown them step-by-step how to do it.”

Those who are more comfortable with the medium, or who possess some actual talent, can add their own flair to the process.

Each class features a different subject that will be painted such as an angel, a desert scene, Chinese lanterns, a Tuscan landscape, a peacock, light houses, bicycles, skulls (Día de los Muertos—Day of the Dead), a trio of owls, a Vincent Van Gogh-style “starry night” and even a zombie apocalypse. Participants

can register online for the subject and/or class that interests them.

“We add new paintings every month,” says Valencia, who notes that some subjects, like the funky tree and starry night, repeat each month because they’re really popular. “We sell out on those once or twice a month.”

She says some subjects are based on holidays and seasonal themes, and sometimes people make requests. Some holiday themes, like Day of the



Sold On Art

Dead, are repeated year-round: “Because we live near Mexico, people love it, so we use it more often. We even have a date night where couples each paint half of a painting (on separate canvases that ‘fit’ together when complete).”

The finished paintings have a folk art/naivety feel about them. Yet, at the same time, they seem to mimic a trendy style of work (bright, bold colors, simple lines and shapes) that can be found in many galleries throughout the country.

Paint, Drink, Be Merry

Originally, the goal for Creative Juice was to offer a nice, though unique, night out for adults. It has since expanded to include pretty much anyone from young children to seniors. Kids’ birthday parties and workshops are popular, and birthday-party time slots in the studio are completely booked for the next two months.

It also offers summer camp and family classes. “We’re trying to reach everybody. We have kids and family classes and summer camp, as well,” says Valencia.

People typically arrive 10 minutes before a session begins to check in, get their seats, aprons, paints (acrylics that dry quickly) and brushes and a drink (first one included in the cost of the class). There’s a short talk to explain the process, and then everyone dives in and paints for about an hour.

“We have a great play list for people to listen to while they’re painting and chatting,” says Valencia. “They get to escape for a while.”

The class dynamics also vary. Some nights it’s quiet and everyone is focused on the work. Other nights, people are singing along to the play list, talking and moving about.

“Toward the end,” smiles Krajnak, “as people finish their paintings, we take pictures and add the photos to our Facebook page.”

Another painting option offered at Creative Juice allows participants to work on their own, if they choose. “On Glassware Night,” explains Valencia, “we have several different choices of glassware to paint, including wine glasses, beer pints, martini glasses, vases and plates. This event is more free form. There isn’t any direct instruction, but teachers are on hand to help and advise.”

The owner duo also do good by hosting several fundraisers such as In the Arms of Angels, an all-breed dog

continued on page 59

Anna Valencia creates an image of Santa at a Creative Juice children’s workshop.

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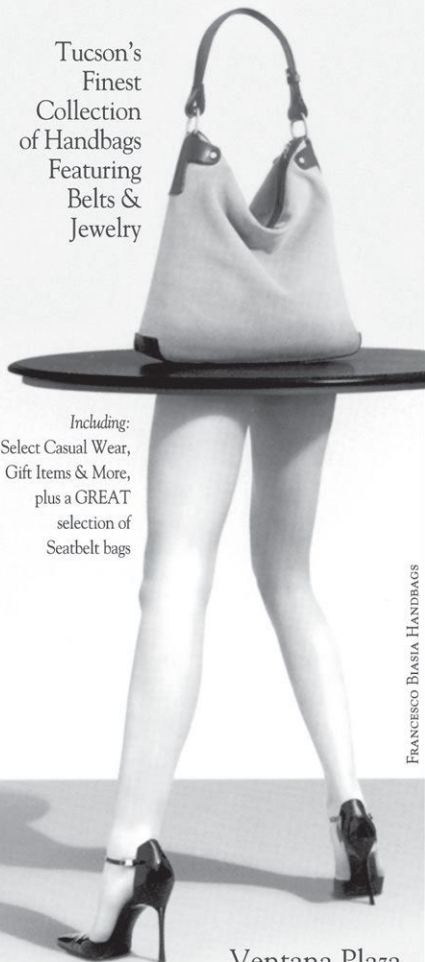
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Vanitas, by Robyn Duenow, 20 x 16 in.

Robyn Duenow: Horsing Around

L'Art Pour L'Art

by Lorraine A. DarConte

“I have always equated my father with horses,” says artist Robyn Duenow. “They have the same character traits and qualities—loyalty, strength and a giving nature.”

Duenow's father died when Robyn was only 16, but her memories of him—and his trusty horse—are firmly etched in her memory.

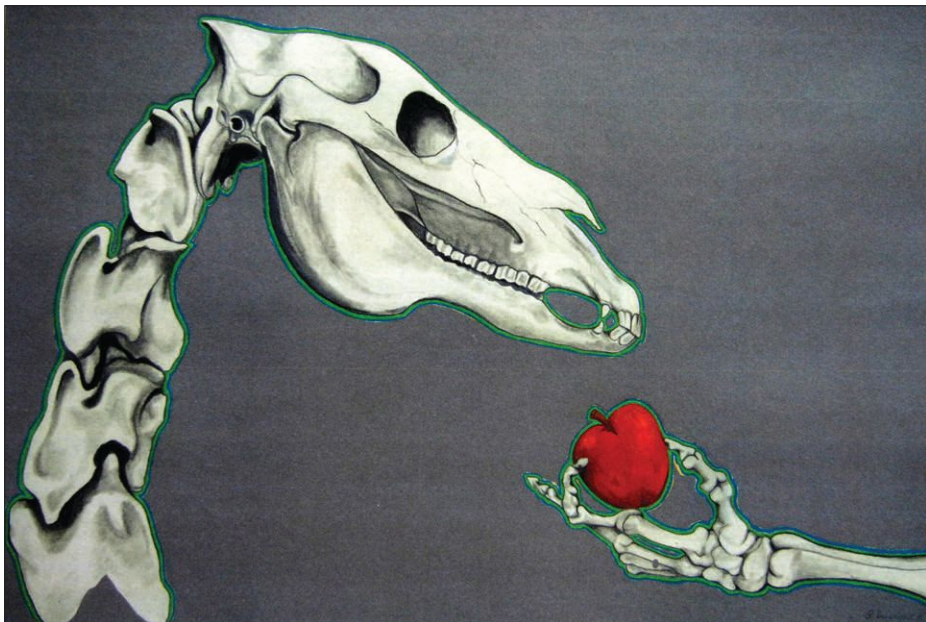
“He was always working,” she remembers. “He was a Polish immigrant living in Chicago who sold fruits and

vegetables from a horse-drawn cart.” He went on to become a successful pharmacist with his own store, and credited his horse, who “put him through school,” for much of his success.

“The downside was I didn't see him very often as he was always working,” says Duenow, who enjoyed horseback riding lessons and watching TV Westerns such as *Bonanza* when she was young. “I used to pretend I was the fifth

wheel on the program—the daughter Lorne Greene's character, Ben Cartwright, never had.”

That love of horses remains with her today where it now manifests itself in Duenow's artwork. She says she's been drawing as long as she can remember. “When I was bored, I would draw,” she recalls. “It's all I ever did in school, and horses were and are my favorite subject to depict. I'm fascinated by the relationships between horses



Apple a Day, by Robyn Duenow, 21 x 24 in.

and people. It always intrigues me how they work together.”

Duenow continues to be captivated by the spirit, grace and generosity of horses. While an undergraduate at Southern Illinois University she studied art education and became interested in photography. She also earned a master’s degree in art history from St. Louis University. In the next few decades she went on to teach art, photography and art history in an Illinois high school.

Now, since retiring, she has more time to draw. Her preferred media are graphite and watercolors.

Skeletons and Other Inspiration

Typically, Duenow takes photographs of her subjects and then works from the photos, often zeroing in on a small section of the image—such as the silver spurs on a cowboy’s boots, the tight weave of a saddle blanket, or the

intricate design on a belt buckle—to transform it into a more abstract drawing or painting.

“I love graphite. I love the immediacy of drawing a line, shading and highlighting, and seeing the contrast and elements of the image come to life. The watercolors are more involved and work intensive,” she explains, “but I love the color. I go back and forth between grayscale black-and-white to the more colorful, more challenging watercolors.”

Duenow says her work teeters on the line where realism and abstractionism meet. Her style has evolved slowly over the years. “Initially, everything was super-realistic because I loved reality, and so I shunned the abstract. However, I evolved from photographing/drawing really realistic images by taking an image apart—not to the point of total abstraction, but just to the brink of it,” she says. “If you look very carefully, you can tell what the image is—be it a close-up of a worn saddle horn or the leather fringe on a pair of old chaps.”

Though she devotes most of her art to horses, Duenow does tackle other subject matter, including faces and figures (in particular, cowboys and cowgirls), regularly.

Lately, partly inspired by her husband Lynn’s work, partly by the local culture and partly by what she grudgingly refers to as the inevitable aging process, Duenow has been including horse skeletons in her images.

continued on page 59



Cowgirl, by Robyn Duenow, 18 x 12 in.

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Art Soup

The Eyes Have It:

A Listing Of Some Of Southern Arizona's Dynamic Art Galleries

Arizona State Museum: 1013 E. University Blvd., 621-6302, www.statemuseum.arizona.edu, Mon. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun., 12 - 5 p.m. - The oldest and largest anthropological museum in the Southwest. Promotes public understanding and appreciation of the indigenous cultural histories of the American Southwest and northern Mexico. Exhibits include the award-winning *Paths of Life: American Indians of the Southwest*, which combines historic and prehistoric artifacts with high-tech displays. ASM is located in two historic buildings on the University of Arizona campus, immediately north and south of the main gate at Park Avenue and University Boulevard.

Bear's Path Gallery and *You CAN Paint:* 8806 E. Tanque Verde Road., 760-1416, www.azyoucanpaint.com - An innovative gallery specializing in oil paintings from new, emerging artists and invited guests. This is a teaching studio as well as a gallery. We have designed it to be a friendly, open and colorful space that invites creativity and exploration of artistic goals. Look for that next "undiscovered genius" here. Call the gallery for hours:

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Obsidian Gallery: 410 N. Toole Ave., Suite 120, 577-3598, Tues. - Sat., 11 a.m. - 6p.m. www.obsidian-gallery.com - The finest contemporary crafts can be found at Obsidian Gallery, with emphasis on the traditional craft media of clay, fiber, metal, glass and wood. Artists from all over the U.S. are represented, including well-known, established artists and emerging artists. Exhibitions change frequently and feature both solo artists' work and group shows. Obsidian Gallery also offers continuous showings of handmade art jewelry.

Silver City Gallery Association: Silver City, New Mexico, 575-313-9631 - Silver City has been named as one of the "100 Best Art towns in America". The rapidly growing art community represents over 100 artists and dozens of galleries. The galleries in Silver City/Grant County offer many forms and genres of art. Local, regional and national artists are presented in unique and interesting venues. Art lovers can find wonderful additions for their collections at affordable prices.

Tohono Chul Park Exhibit Hall and Gallery: 7366 N. Paseo del Norte, 742-6455, www.tohonochulpark.org, Mon. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Featuring works of regional artists and craftspersons in 14 - 16 changing exhibits each year. Some of the upcoming exhibits will feature Native American art, photography, and Mexican textile art. Please call for detailed information on current exhibits.

Tucson Museum of Art & Historic Block: 140 N. Main Ave., 624-2333, www.tucsonmuseumofart.org, Weds., Fri., Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thurs., 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. & Sun., noon - 5 p.m. Closed Mondays, Tuesdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. - Take a journey through art, history and culture at the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block. Located in historic downtown, the Museum features western, Latin American, modern, and contemporary art exhibitions, as well as five historic houses that provide visitors with a unique look into Tucson's past.

University of Arizona Museum of Art: UA Campus Fine Arts District, corner Speedway & Park; 621-7567; www.artmuseum.arizona.edu. Hours: Tues - Fri, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., noon - 4 p.m.; closed Mondays & UA holidays. UAMA presents changing and traveling exhibitions of world class art throughout the year featuring masterworks from antiquity through the present day.

L'ART continued



Eyestrapp, by Robyn Duenow, graphite, 50 x 35 in.

“My husband, who is a sculptor, is very much into skeletons,” explains Duenow, who admits Tucson’s colorful Mexican culture and Day of the Dead festivities provide lots of inspiration for them both: “Although I can modify, there’s an incredible amount of bones in a horse’s skeleton. I’m at the point with this new work where I think I have the skeleton down, but now I’m going to play with that and see where it goes

in terms of abstraction.”

Duenow says she’s come to love drawing bones, and not just those of horses. She’s inspired by the whole idea of remembering our life here and the qualities of life that are important to us.

“We all have so much in common when you boil it down to what’s left,” muses the artist. “When everything is stripped away, the only thing that remains is a skull and a skeleton.”

For more information about Robyn Duenow or to view more images of her work, visit <http://horsedraw.com>.

DL

Lorraine A. DarConte is a local freelance writer. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

SOLD ON ART continued



Creative Juice “artists” hold their Live, Laugh, Love paintings.

rescue effort that works to save the lives of dogs in overcrowded shelters, that would otherwise be euthanized. On those nights, \$10 from every painter goes to the organization. Participants don’t pay any more money than normal, and they have fun while raising money for a good cause.

Creative Juice also supports PAWSitively Cats No-Kill Shelter and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

In the future, the entrepreneurial team plans to expand its business reach to include corporate events, Tucson resorts, restaurants and retirement homes.

“One of our mottos is, ‘Creative juice can come from within or from the bar,’ and it’s all very therapeutic, we

think,” beams Krajnak. “So come out and paint with us. It’s fun!”

Creative Juice, which also has a gift shop, is located at La Plaza Shoppes (behind Sakura); 6530 E. Tanque Verde Rd., Suite 160. Phone: 520-271-5023. Most evening adult classes cost \$35 each, which includes a drink, 16”x20” canvas, painting supplies, and instruction. Prices vary for workshops, birthday parties, summer camp, etc. For more information, visit www.creativejuiceartbar.com.

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Lorraine A. DarConte is a local freelance writer. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

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Curtain Going Up

High Quality Artifact, Macbeth in The Red Barn, and the Dour Princess!

by Jesse Greenberg

The purpose of this column is to alert readers to upcoming events on stage. Our focus is almost always on what Tucson's abundant theatrical community has in store for us.

But today, we're so awed and excited about our experience with one company's work, that we want to share news of this rapidly rising creative force in our midst. **Artifact Dance Project** is, in fact, a dance company—and a whole lot more.

It is the home of an imaginative, highly creative and breathtakingly talented group of performers. And we're not exaggerating anything. This two-year-old endeavor was dreamt up by two refreshingly creative visionaries named Ashley Bowman and Claire Hancock, who often include non-traditional elements (such as film) in their presentations.

We saw *I Wonder if My Name is Alice* at the Stevie Eller Dance Theatre on March 31, which included superb dancing to live music provided by Artifact's music director Ben Nisbet and The Kingfisher String Quartet, plus guest pianist Alexander Tentser. This remarkably clever and surprising work was conceived, choreographed and directed by co-artistic director Ashley Bowman.

And what made it special (aside from the excellent dancers) was the amazing, colorful costumes, the artistically flexible sets and the involvement of a striking presence who is not a dancer. Joe Pagac is a painter and muralist. And this big, handsome guy would walk on stage at times during the show and paint splendid images right in front of the audience—some that would actually become functional! He'd paint an exotic door on a flat wall and—lo and behold!—the door would open to allow cast-members to enter or exit.

The lead role of Alice was danced/acted by Claire Hancock, who—as I told her—is that rare, very special dancer who is both physically strong and hypnotically graceful. She absolutely dazzled the audience.

This company spent a while in China last year performing in cities and venues. And they've been invited back this summer.

Please take my suggestion and watch for an opportunity to catch a performance of the **Artifact Dance Project**. It'll be unlike anything you've seen before, I promise. For more information, visit artifactdanceproject.com or call 780-6879.

Only till June 2, our **Red Barn Theater Company** is presenting *Taking on Macbeth*. Vince Flynn wrote and directs the comedy-drama. A young actor is trying to get the lead role in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* for a local theater group. His family, girlfriend and others complicate his quest in laughable ways. Flynn is a seasoned theater veteran both here and abroad. Find info about this production at theredbarntheater.com or call 887-6239.

A "wacky sex farce" is at **Live Theatre Workshop** until June 9. Called *Two Into One*, it's by Ray Cooney and follows the misadventures of a member of (the British) Parliament who plans an adulterous adventure in the same hotel where he's staying with his wife. So, what could go wrong, right?

Until June 23, on Sunday afternoons at 12:30, the **LTW** family series, **All Together Theatre**, stages Jeffrey Hatcher's adaptation of *Miss Nelson is Missing!* An over-indulgent teacher can't control her classroom and disappears. Her substitute has a miserable attitude so the students launch an elaborate search to find Miss Nelson and bring her back.

And then, from June 30 to Aug. 25, **All Together Theatre** wants to recruit your family in an effort to put a "happy face" on *The Princess Who Couldn't Smile*. See if you can help get her to grin, smile or laugh at this funny musical. Leslie J. Miller wrote the book and Michael Martinez did the music and lyrics.

For any of these Live Theatre Workshop projects, get info and tix at 327-0160, or livetheatreworkshop.org.

ESTATE PLANNING TIP

BY SUSAN VILLARREAL

DO YOU HAVE A TRUST?

Are your assets titled in the name of the trust? Often people create a trust and then fail to do the important step of "funding" the trust by re-titling their assets to the trust. This is especially true if you have an established trust but have purchased new property or opened new bank accounts. *Call us today to discuss the details of your trust.*



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Hilarity reigns at **The Comedy Playhouse** on First Avenue at Prince Plaza. Until June 23, catch *Here Comes Giles*, a play about an over-zealous butler, written by local theater buff James Mitchell Gooden. Contact Bruce Bieszki for the details: 260-6442 or thecomedyplayhouse.com.

Action hero/archeologist AZ Smith searches for the "Relic of Doom" at **The Gaslight Theatre** through June 2, while dealing with secrets, foreign agents and the fate of the world. *AZ Smith and the Relic of Doom* is "tongue-in-cheek" silly stuff, complete with giggly songs, dances and dialogue, all put together by Peter Van Slyke (writer/director), Linda Ackerman (music) and Sarah Vanek (choreography). Goofy fun. Want info? Visit thegaslighttheatre.com or call 886-9428.

Nicky Silver's fast-paced black comedy *The Altruists* introduces us to a group of social activists who can't seem to do anything constructive—or right. Christopher Johnson, the new artistic director for **Winding Road Theater Ensemble**, directs this spoof of extreme liberalism, as written by an extreme liberal. Friday and Saturday evenings and Sundays at 2 p.m., Cabaret Theatre at the Temple of Music and Art. Info at windingroadtheater.org and 401-3626.

ZUZI! Dance Co., School and Theater offers *High Flyin' Arts Camp*, in two-week sessions in June and July,

for students (ages 7-15) who are curious about all theatrical disciplines, including aerial dance, theater writing, costume creation, set design, making works of art and exploring music. Visit zuzimoveit.org or call 629-0237.

Just a reminder about Tucson's outstanding, entertaining Victorian-style parlour show of magic, **Carnival of Illusion**, at the Doubletree on Alvernon. Wanna find out more? Visit carnivalofillusion.com or call 615-5299.

Don't forget to investigate the new season for our **Arizona Theatre Company**. Starting Sept. 14, **ATC** will stage classics, hit plays, comedies and musicals. Great stuff to look forward to! More details upcoming in future issues of "Curtain Going Up." Meanwhile, info and season tix at arizonatheatre.org or call 622-2823.

DL

Jesse Greenberg is a freelance writer, playwright and speech coach who lives in Tucson. E-mail your theater news to him at bylinewjg@cox.net. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.



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Heart of the Matter

Helping Those Who Protect You

by Jan Henrikson



Officers and dogs from the Tucson Police Service Dog Unit led the 2013 Canine Walk for K-9 Cops.

Courtesy Tucson Police Foundation

You never know when you're going to be sliding under somebody's car," says Ellen Yacovone, referring to a day in the life of Tucson police officers—and their uniforms. Yacovone is chair of the board of directors for the Tucson Police Foundation (TPF).

TPF assists the Tucson Police Department in meeting needs that aren't covered by its budget—replacing uniforms, buying motion sensor-activated cameras for the Graffiti Unit, and providing ballistic or bullet-resistant vests.

Officers receive a \$500/year allowance for uniforms, but wear and tear on pants and shoes is extensive. And ballistic vests are expensive: \$800 apiece even in the large quantity that TPF buys them. TPF's Adopt a Cop program gives community members a chance "to protect those protecting you," by donating money for a vest.

"An officer's vest is only good for five years," says Yacovone. "It's a piece of equipment they wear every single day. When they started this program we had officers wearing vests literally held together with duct tape. It blew my mind."

While Yacovone is not

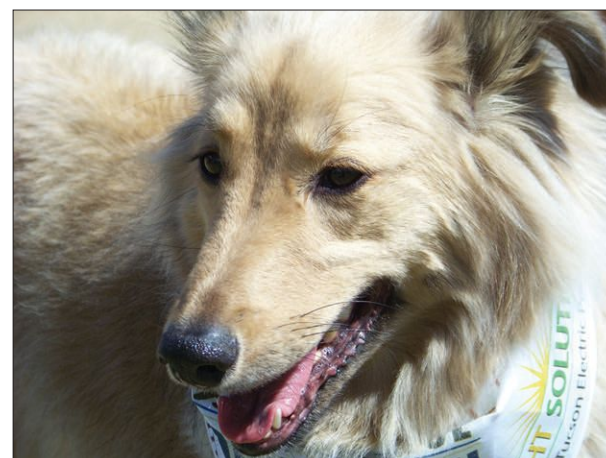
a police officer, she has a special affinity for them. She was training to become one on the East Coast in the mid-'70s, when few women belonged to police forces. At the time, the police force she wanted to join had a minimum height requirement, which she did not meet. Then, a skiing accident left her in a cast for 14 months. Her doctor told her she'd never be able to run again.

"I can [run]," she explains. "It just looks a little weird."

She gave her dream a second look: "I said, 'You know what? I think God is trying to tell me something'"

Add to that five brothers—four in the military and one a retired police officer who was hurt on the job—and it's no wonder Yacovone has an acute understanding of the importance of life-saving, up-to-date equipment.

TPF spent more than \$7,000 providing every officer on the street



Canines came out to benefit the Tucson Police Foundation and the Tucson Police Department K-9 Unit.

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About 200 people and their canine companions attended the 2013 Canine Walk for K-9 Cops at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park.

were met and the foundation didn't have to exist," says Yacovone. As it is, "I hope and plan that we will be here in the future for whatever needs to be done."

To contact the Tucson Police Foundation, email info@tucsonpolicefoundation.org or call 520-207-2878.

DL

Jan Henrikson is a local freelance writer. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

with QuikClot 1st Response, a powder that promotes rapid clotting of blood. TPD officers can use QuikClot before medical help arrives to treat a colleague or civilian suffering life-threatening blood loss.

"Our real mission is to help [the police department] get the things it needs to do a better job," she says. With budget cuts, TPD's needs are greater than when TPF formed 10 years ago.

Four-legged cops have needs, too. Last April, an estimated 200 people and an assortment of labradors, dachshunds, and other furry friends attended the Canine Walk for K-9 Cops at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park.

The Service Dog Unit is made up of German shepherd males, nine police officers (dog handlers) and one supervisor. German shepherds are trained in narcotic detection and handler protection, but it was the criminal apprehension demonstration that got the crowd going at the annual fundraiser.

"It was so cool to watch the dogs in the audience watching the K-9 cops," says Yacovone, who kept an eye out for her own dogs' reactions, too.

Everything was relatively quiet until two K-9 cops reenacted catching a bad guy. As soon as he ran, "the dogs were all over him, keeping him down on the ground," recalls Yacovone.

When barking arose from some of the audience dogs, Yacovone had a split-second fear that they wouldn't stop there. But all was well.

TPF enthusiastically welcomes the public's participation in its programs. In START, TPF's Safe Teen Accident Reduction Training program, licensed drivers between the ages of 16 and 19 spend a day with the experts who teach police officers driving techniques.

Cops and Rodders, TPF's yearly car, truck and motorcycle show and fundraiser, offers family entertainment and is scheduled for November 2013.

To find out more about all the programs and events sponsored by TPF, visit tucsonpolicefoundation.org.

"It would be ideal if all the needs

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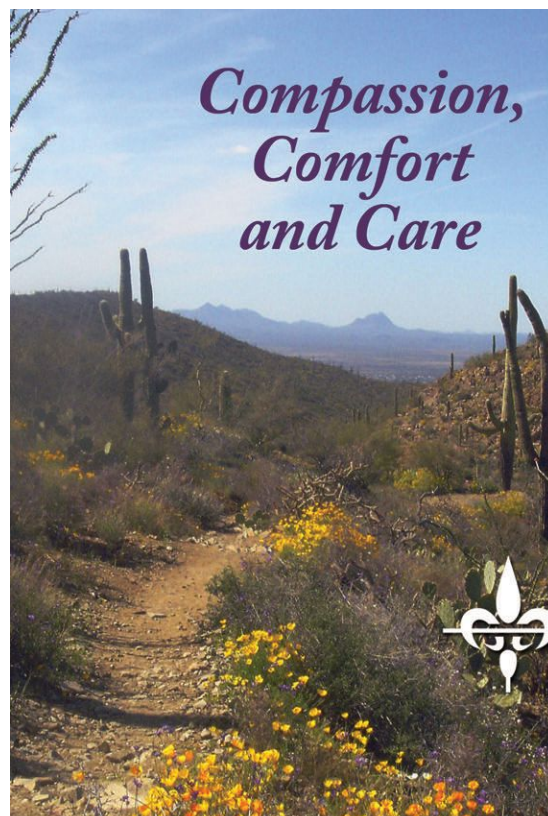
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Camp Invention Returns to TVUSD

by Claire Rogers



Photos: Bob Rogers

Campers at the 2012 Camp Invention, held at Tanque Verde Elementary School, share a wet victory after successfully building a water-balloon popping device from recycled materials. Their device was on display at the Inventors' Showcase at the end of the week.

Even though school is out for the summer, the young minds of Tanque Verde Unified School District are mulling over the principles of elementary science.

Camp Invention, hosted at Tanque Verde Elementary School (TVES) during the week of June 3 through 7 and at Agua Caliente School (ACES) from June 17 to 21, is open to all students entering first through sixth grades.

Based in Ohio, the developers of Camp Invention offer weeklong summer enrichment programs with different modules, each emphasizing skills in STEM disciplines: science, technology, engineering and math.

Lasting interscholastic friendships developed at the inaugural camps hosted by TVUSD in 2012; students from eight different schools bonded over their scientific successes. Attendees worked together in grade-separated, color-coded teams, to be creative while solving problems.

In Camp Invention's Create Program, the separate modules last year were Problem Solving on Planet ZAK, Saving Sludge City, I Can Invent: Launchitude, and Action Adventure Games.

Some teachers spent their summer working at the camp. Camp Invention hires four local teachers for each camp session. Last year, Tanque Verde Elementary School third-grade teacher Kim Hubbard facilitated the Planet ZAK Problem Solvers, where campers found their broken spaceship crash-landed on a strange planet.

Teams worked against the clock to reassemble their spacecraft, assess the weather and design appropriate shelter, identify potential foods and devise ways to reach the food sources, and figure out how to launch their rebuilt spacecraft.

Students who helped save Sludge City first identified how the city had been ruined by pollution in the first place, then redesigned it using green building design, safe waste-disposal techniques and renewable energy sources.

To get children moving, the Action Adventure Games module had teams create new twists on old games. The popular I Can Invent: Launchitude module is in use at most of the camps, and with good reason: Who wouldn't want to help develop the ultimate Duck-Chucking Device? Materials for the

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Two friends, wearing Camp Invention T-shirts, share their excitement during the 2012 Tanque Verde Elementary School Camp Invention Awards Ceremony.

physics experiments come from broken appliances and up-cycled cast-offs

This year the camp theme at TVES is Geo-Quest, and modules are EcoVerse, Cache Dash, I Can Invent: Launchitude, and Amazing Atlas Games. At ACES, the camp will feature the Spark Program with the modules WILD: Wondrous Innovations and Living Designs, Bounce! An Atomic Journey, I Can Invent: Launchitude, and Geo-Games.

Staff at the camp include instructors, leadership interns and counselors-in-training. Leadership Interns are high-school or college students volunteering for community service credit or for a stipend of \$150. Counselors-in-Training are seventh- through ninth-grade students who pay an enrollment fee of \$120 to assist and gain experience.

The staff-to-child ratio is one-to-eight and the maximum enrollment is 110 campers per week. "Last year, we had about 80 students," says Paula Nasiatka, TVES science lab coordinator and TVES camp director. "This year, I expect we'll have between 90 and 100."

In a recent phone interview, Nasiatka was especially enthusiastic about the opportunities available to older students to gain experience through becoming a counselor-in-training or leadership intern. "It's a wonderful opportunity for them to be in a leadership position," observes Nasiatka of the older students. "It's especially great for anyone who can really think outside the box."

Last year, one leadership intern was a former TVUSD student who became a student at the University of Arizona. Others were from Tanque Verde High School or were former TVUSD students who went on to attend Sonoran Science Academy.

Last summer's week-long camp ended with awards and an inventor's

showcase, where student teams demonstrated to family members the unlimited potential of different ways to pop a water balloon, a popular skill in last year's 103-degree heat.

Katie Nayak, a camper last year, says she liked building things from recycled materials. "Going to Planet ZAK the first time was fun!" she adds.

Judging from the enthusiastic responses gathered from parents who participated in a follow-up survey, campers particularly enjoyed using creativity in problem solving.

Cost for the camp is \$220, and several sponsorships have made the camp more affordable to low-income families. Last year, even TVUSD teachers made anonymous donations to ensure partial scholarships were available. Other sponsors included Lucien Biotech, Rincon Research Corp., James and Jane Maxwell and Cell Trees Inc.

In Other News

In April, TVUSD Governing Board members studied options and the best timing for developing a charter school, revised the superintendent's performance objectives, discussed board self-evaluations, reviewed policies regarding public participation at governing board meetings and planned a final Community Linkage Meeting for late April.

Regular meetings of the TVUSD Governing Board are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, beginning at 7 p.m. at Lew Sorensen Community Center, 2300 N. Tanque Verde Loop Rd. Summer schedules, meeting times and locations may vary. Call 749-5751 or visit <http://tanq.org/> for more information.

DL

Claire Rogers is an Eastside writer covering TVUSD school news. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

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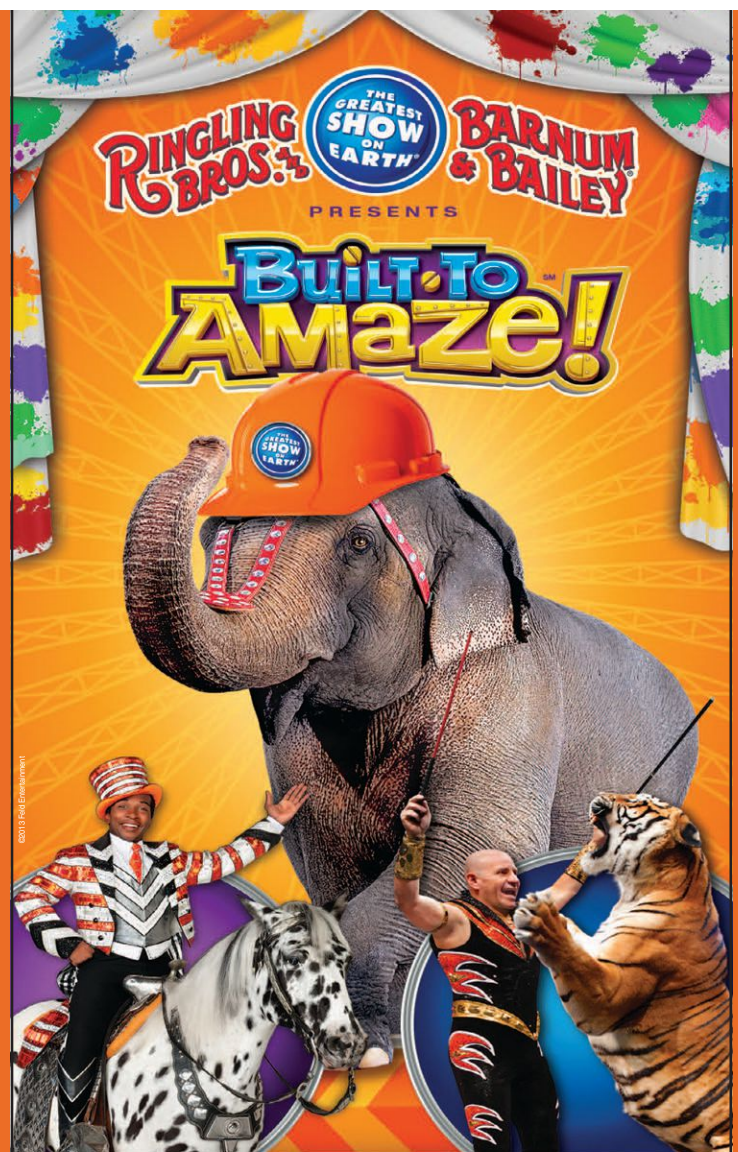
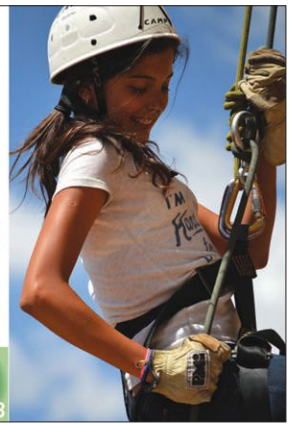


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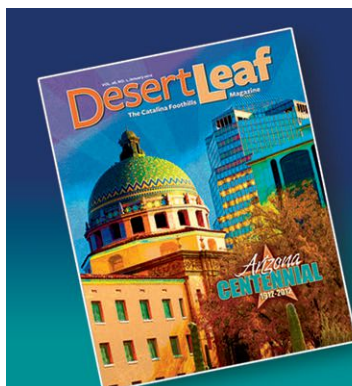
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Retirees Boost Teacher Turnover at Sunrise Drive

by David Hatfield



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As the 2012-2013 school year came to a close there were rumblings—as can occur this time of year—that Catalina Foothills School District No. 16 was seeing a year of high teacher-turnover.

Sunrise Drive Elementary School, in particular, seemed to be losing an unusually high number of teachers.

“I understand the angst among staff and families at Sunrise,” says Superintendent Mary Kamerzell, noting the elementary school was particularly hard hit by five teachers’ retirements and a handful of other departures, all for a variety of individual reasons, such as moving with a significant other or wanting to be closer to home.

Kamerzell says she is not aware of any indication that the departures had anything to do with Principal Julie Sherrill leaving to accept the position as head of school for the private St. Gregory College Preparatory School.

Retirees from Sunrise Drive School this year were John Williams, a fifth-grade teacher who started in 1977 and was the district’s longest tenured employee; Margaret Scofield, another fifth-grade teacher, who has been with the district 21 years; Lori Patton, a reading specialist and 21-year veteran of CFSD; Susie Speelman, a special-education teacher and 21-year Sunrise Drive veteran; and Judy Morrissey, an educational assistant with 19 years of service to Sunrise Drive.

Combined, all staff departures at Sunrise Drive represented more than 125 years of service to CFSD, according to Principal Sherrill in her farewell message to families.

Despite the departures, “If we’re not fully staffed for next year, we’re

very close,” says Kamerzell.

Adding to the worries may also be the plans for Sunrise Drive to launch an immersion Chinese program this fall for kindergarten and first-grade students and growing it through all the elementary-school grades at Sunrise in subsequent years.

Kamerzell says those plans, which are progressing, were driven by the district’s goals for 21st century learning to develop curricula for students to be “multi-lingual, globally aware and culturally competent” and that short of actually going and living in another country, immersion offers some of the best opportunities for reaching those goals.

While the buzz this year was focused on the turnover of teachers at Sunrise Drive, Kamerzell says Catalina Foothills High School this year is looking at possibly having the lowest teacher-turnover rate in its 21-year history. She said high schools typically have a higher turnover rate than schools at other grade levels.

Principal Search Redux

The search to find a new principal for Sunrise Drive Elementary School was re-started in May after campus visits from two candidates showed “we had not yet found our next principal,” as Superintendent Kamerzell put it.

Although she says it was a first in her tenure with CFSD that a site visit didn’t result in a candidate being hired, Kamerzell says she felt it validated the screening process for finding a principal, allowing both the school to evaluate the candidates and the candidates to see the school environment from the inside.

The two finalists who visited the campus on May 1 were Deanna Smith-Stout, who since 2007 has been principal at Cactus Middle School in the Casa Grande Unified School District, where she has been since 2000, and John Bellisario, who has been a principal in the Tucson Unified School District since 2004 and is currently at Townsend Fort Lowell K-8 school (which is among those slated to close at the end of this school year).

On the positive side, Kamerzell says at least one strong candidate emerged early in the second try to find a principal.

Summer Projects

Summer is work time when it comes to getting ready for the next school year. These are some of the major expenses the CFSD school board has approved recently:

- \$1,225,615 to Apple Financial Services, Cupertino, Calif., to extend a master lease purchase agreement started in 2009 for another three years. The new agreement provides for replacement of technology equipment that includes a discount and trade-in credit totaling \$297,696.
- \$1,174,680 to Building Excellence LLC, 1860 W. Price Rd., for a major restoration project, mostly to the exterior portions of the buildings at Canyon View Elementary School.
- \$261,014 to 4-L Construction, Inc., 585 S. Cherry Ave., for security modifications for the Murphey Administration Center.
- \$9,589 to Logical RAM Solutions, Westminster, Colo., for random-access memory modules.

CFHS Ranks

Various rankings of “best high schools” are being issued once again. And they are quickly being followed by discussions of what is being measured.

In the national rankings from *U.S. News & World Report*, Catalina Foothills High School moved up from No. 378, a year ago, to No. 354. CFHS was

also named a gold medal school. The title is determined by a College Readiness Index devised for the *U.S. News* rankings. The index score is based on student participation in and passing rates of AP and IB exams.

The one area where CFHS fell below national averages was in student-teacher ratio. The CFHS ratio was 20:1, whereas the national average was 15:1.

CFHS was ranked No. 8 out of the 514 high schools in Arizona, down from No. 7 last year. A college preparatory high school, University High, in the Tolleson Unified School District moved into the No. 7 spot this year.

All of the other Arizona high schools ahead of CFHS in the rankings this year were either charter schools or schools with specific college-preparatory curricula; among them were Basis Tucson, Tucson Unified School District’s University High and Sonoran Science Academy, all in Tucson.

Mea Culpa

It’s embarrassing to make a mistake, especially when you know better and realize the consequences. Such was the case in *Report Card* in the May issue of *DesertLeaf* when I wrote CFSD teachers’ salaries start at \$30,000 per year. CFSD’s starting salary for a new school-teacher is now, in fact, \$35,000 and has been for a few years.

Although the *DesertLeaf* acknowledged the mistake at its earliest opportunity, there is the possibility—no matter how remote—the mistake could have affected teacher hiring in CFSD for next year.

Superintendent Kamerzell was gracious in accepting my apology and with a smile on her face noted, “I just hope a possible teacher candidate didn’t see that.”

June Meetings

Regular meetings of the Catalina Foothills School District Governing Board are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. June 12 and 26 in Room 712 of House 4 at Catalina Foothills High School, 4300 E. Sunrise Dr. Directional signs point the way from the school’s main entrance.

Agendas and information regarding the meetings are posted online at www.cfsd16.org under “District Information,” then “Governing Board” (scroll down to the bottom of the page). To reach the school district’s administrative offices regarding school board meetings, call 209-7537.

DL

David Hatfield is a local freelance writer. His three children graduated from CFSD and he has served on the Catalina Foothills School Board. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

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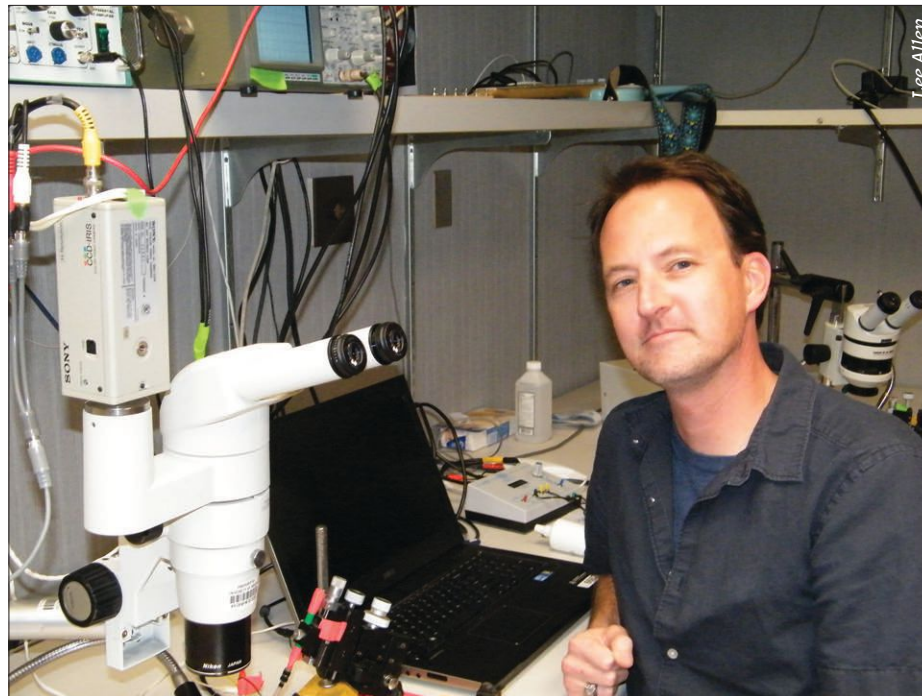
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BUGS & BOTS continued



Charles Higgins, Ph.D., in his laboratory, where researchers incorporate living insects into robots.

You could send it into hostage situations and even if the bad guys shot at it, they couldn't stop it. An intelligent robot would just take their guns and walk away letting the police take over at that point. It would be really nice if we had robots that could be put into situations where humans would be endangered."

Artificial intelligence already abounds. Witness the biggest-selling robot on the planet, in terms of numbers—the Roomba vacuum cleaner. "This isn't futuristic technology; it's already here and we've got a lot of robots in the house already in the form of appliances," says Higgins.

For the more adventurous, there are many places where you can just pull off the forest roads and camp. There are no amenities, but it is free. If you do that, I suspect you might not see another vehicle or person for an entire day.

As the weather mellows in the spring and fall, we like the Hilltop Campground near Prescott and the Ponderosa Campground just east of Payson. Neither have showers, but are close to towns with lots of things to see and do that are not normally part of our camping itinerary.

Getting back to nature soothes the mind and spirit. Whatever problems at home that may cause restless sleep, camping puts things into better perspective.

DL

John D. Smith is a local freelance writer. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

tools a surgeon might have. Most exciting to Higgins is the fact the process can be used at a distance.

"It seems silly that patients have to travel to a surgeon who possesses a unique capability," says Higgins. "With robotics, if you're in Tucson and need an operation but are too sick to travel, a surgeon in Phoenix or Atlanta could do the surgery with a machine. Why not allow this particular surgeon to sit in a clinic somewhere and do lots of operations around the world, without any travel?"

Dragonfly brains in this professor's research lab may be a link to intelligent robots that can provide better living through technology, and Higgins is hopeful his studies will uncover that relationship. A lot of his work is funded by government grants, and he's hopeful his discoveries will have significant ramifications.

"What taxpayers should want is for research to turn into a product where someone makes money and then pays taxes to the government," says Higgins. "Taxpayers ought to want me to create a profit-making entity that repays funds used to do the research that made it possible. You get back your investment with dividend and a new product.

"It's all good," he says, heading back to his laboratory, with hopes of making that scenario come true.

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Lee Allen is a local freelance writer. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.

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His, Mine and Ours

by Alison Rosen

I recently did something very loving, tender, romantic and kind-hearted. I walked from room to room in the apartment I share with my fiancé, trying to figure out who's ruined more of whose stuff.

It started innocently enough. One afternoon he announced it was time to purchase new blue jeans.

Like so many of us, he'd been wearing the same few pairs for long enough that they'd become comfortable, which is nature's way of telling you they're no longer in fashion.

The following morning he waltzed out the door in soft faded Levi's and returned, struggling to move, in super-saturated dark blue skinny jeans.

"I'm a Skinny Jeans Guy now!" he declared, teetering.

He hobbled to the couch and then fell on it.

This is how he sits now.

I didn't think much of it—if he wants to muffin-top his ankles, that's his business— but then I started noticing something strange. Half of our—and by "our" I mean "my"—beige couch was turning grey.

At first I assumed it was some weird butt-shaped shadow but the more I inspected the more I realized the dark cloud was on the fabric itself.

I struggled to identify the culprit. Newsprint? Cigar smoke? Soot?

Had someone been entertaining an erudite cigar-smoking chimney sweep behind my back? It seemed unlikely.

But then I heard my beloved gasping for breath from the other room.

Of course! His jeans were leaking!

I informed Skinny Jeans that his new personality was leaving a mark all over my (I mean "our") furniture and that he might want to consider dropping the new duds into the wash.

A look of panic flashed across his face.

I felt bad because I knew I was asking him to risk shrinkage, which would mean having to wake up a good 60 minutes earlier to get dressed. But, as far as I could tell, we had only two options: Shrink the skinny jeans or invite the California Raisins over to rub themselves on the couch to even out the tone.

Then I began to wonder if he was wiping his blue butt all over my couch in retaliation for crimes I committed early in our relationship against his

pillowcases.

Allow me to explain.

I am a grown woman in many ways—age being the main one—but I still have the skin of a teenager. (Her name was Cheryl; I keep it in the freezer.) Because I still break out, I often slather on acne cream before bed which works to cure and control break-outs, repel the opposite sex and bleach the bejesus out of any fabric it comes in contact with.

I learned this the hard way when Daniel asked why his eyes burned when he hugged me and also why his blue pillowcases were streaked with orange.

I went on to destroy his blue face towels and white bath sheets with mascara and lipstick.

I also damaged his vacuum because I went around a corner, which accidentally yanked the cord from the wall, bending the prongs. And also the plastic. But who's keeping track, really? I mean, aside from me.

But the vacuum had it coming because it beguiled me with its "handy" wand attachment, which is stuffed and coiled into the back of the vacuum, ready to strike.

I had no idea that if I released the wand from its holster I would not only suddenly feel as if I was doing battle with an angry robot, but I would also never be able to stuff it back into the machine without learning origami.

It's right up there with cheap horizontal blinds in terms of flimsy pieces of plastic with a deeply ingrained sense of individualism.

So one could say we're even, and yet I still think the couch offense is a bigger one simply because the couch is larger. Also because it's mine.

I'm left with two questions: (1) At what point will I stop thinking of our belongings as his or mine and just think of them as ours? (2) If I rub my face on his skinny jeans will I bleach his jeans or turn my face blue?

I'm going to find out. Worst case scenario: I'll become a chimney sweep.

DL

Alison Rosen is a nationally syndicated humorist. Copyright 2013 Creators Syndicate, Inc. Comments for publication should be addressed to letters@desertleaf.com.



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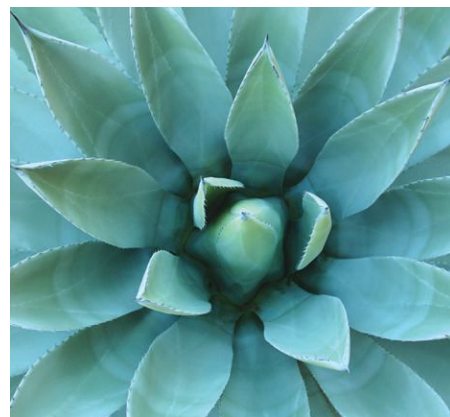
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DEADLINE:
For July/Aug. 2013 issue is June 10

JUNE

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE AT GERONIMO PLAZA June 7: Domingo DeGrazia Band, June 21: Real Tears It's a great way to begin the weekend and relax for free this summer. Alternating Fridays at 7p.m., through August 16, experience the evolution of jazz, from classic standards to Latin, in a beautiful outdoor setting surrounded by delicious food from local restaurants at Main Gate Square (between Park & Euclid Ave. on University Blvd). Whether seeking a night with the family, a romantic date or happy hour with friends, the concerts create the atmosphere to make it an entertaining evening. Free parking in Tyndall Ave. Garage with merchant validation. **797-3959**; www.saaca.org

The SOUTHERN ARIZONA WATERCOLOR GUILD will present their WOW Summer Show featuring artwork from local artists including paintings, glasswork, scarves, jewelry and sculptures at the SAWG Gallery, 5605 E. River Rd, Ste. 131 (NE corner of River & Craycroft). Tues, June 4 - Sunday, June 30. An artists' reception takes place from 5-7p.m. on Friday, June 7. "Watch Our Walls" Shows will continue through the summer and change every month. Hours are 11a.m.- 4p.m., Tues.-Sunday. FREE. Visit southernazwatercolorguild.com or call **299-7294**.

20-22: SUMMER SOLSTICE IN NORTHERN ARIZONA NATIONAL MONUMENTS WNPA Insider Field Trip to Casa Grande Ruins, Montezuma Castle, Walnut Canyon, Wupatki and Tuzigoot National Monuments. Details: Susan at **622-1999, x243** or www.wnpa.org

25: FREE DINNER! No catch, just information. Natural Healthcare Dinner Workshop, Zin Burger East. Only 20 spots open. Bring up to 3 guests. Learn about our natural and effective healthcare techniques. June 25, 6:15p.m. sharp. An RSVP is necessary to attend, **818-8857**. www.naturalhealth-tucson.com

30: TEN OUTFITS FASHION WORKSHOP: Lingerie Empowers Every Woman There is a perfect piece of lingerie for everyone! Location: Bravo Lingerie, Plaza Colonial (2840 E. Skyline Dr. #140). Learn about what to wear under what, and proper foundations. Cost/\$15. Register at **615-6020**, monica@tenoutfits.com, www.tenoutfits.com

JULY

16-18: THE SPIRIT OF THE VOLCANIC LANDSCAPE: Stories of Living Cultures in the Rio Grande Valley WNPA Insider Field Trip to Petroglyph National Monument, Indian Pueblo Center Museum, Acoma Sky City Cultural Center, El Malpais National Monument. Details: Susan at **622-1999, x243** or www.wnpa.org.

ONGOING

YOGA CLASSES, WORKSHOPS, RETREATS & VACATIONS visit www.yogasjoyful-journey.com for more information on weekly classes and upcoming trips. Upcoming in August: Yoga, Qigong & Wellness Weekend in Sedona.

NEW TO TUCSON? Join Newcomers Club to build friendships, enjoy activities, have fun and learn about Southern Arizona. www.newcomerscluboftucson.com **343-5049**

CHACO CANYON ARCHAEOLOGY TOUR: Unique small group learning adventure with Native Seeds/SEARCH, October 10-15, 2013. Also, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum's small group tours: DEATH VALLEY GEOLOGY TOUR, November 17-23, 2013 or THE BEST OF BAJA; Friendly Whales & Natural History, March 7-15, 2014. Call Piet or Mary, **887-2340**.

SILVER JEWELRY CLASSES at River & Campbell Rd. Metalsmithing and Precious Metal Clay. We welcome all skill levels and provide an opportunity for creative growth and community. 6 week sessions, \$150/plus supplies. Learn more at www.dorisking.com

FARM FRESH LOCAL FOOD Heirloom Farmers Markets: Fridays-Eastside at Jesse Owens Park (400 S. Sarnoff); Saturdays-NW Oro Valley Town Hall (11000 N. La Canada Blvd.); Saturdays & Sundays at St. Philip's Plaza (SE corner of River & Campbell). Market Hours: 8a.m.-12p.m. www.heirloomfm.com

MARKET ON YOUR CALENDAR. We invite you to Earth Made Farmers Markets! Ventana Plaza (Kolb & Sunrise), Sat., 9a.m.-1p.m. • Friday's Farmers Market at Broadway Village (Broadway & CClub), 10a.m.-2p.m. • Green Valley: La Posada, Mon., 9a.m.-1p.m. **603-8116**, earthmadefarmersmarkets.com or emdubis@aol.com.

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