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#### 2025 Winter Visitor Guide

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#### Bridge, Weather Helped Grow Lake Havasu City

In 1968, Robert P. McCulloch purchased the London Bridge from the City of London Corporation, and 10 years later Lake Havasu City was incorporated.

If it wasn't for that purchase, Lake Havasu City might have remained a small desert community. But adding a landmark like the London Bridge, along with the inviting lake and weather, helped catapult Lake Havasu City as a tourist destination.

The lake itself - which opens to the Colorado River - brought visitors here long before the town even existed, and is the reason the city is here today. The Army constructed an airport in 1944 on Pittsburgh Point, which is now known as the Island. The airport served as an emergency landing field for Kingman Army Air Field's gunnery training for bomber crews during World War II.

The area - now known as Site Six - was used as R&R camp for soldiers to relax and enjoy fishing and swimming. For a short time after the war, it was a fly-in fishing camp, then later a private airfield that supported the development of the new city, which was founded by McCulloch, an entrepreneur and chainsaw manufacturer.

The businessman was drawn to this stretch of desert while looking for a spot to test his outboard boat engines. He envisioned a city, for which he enlisted help from developer C.V. Wood, who designed Disneyland. Lake Havasu City was officially established in September 1963.

One of the unique things about Lake Havasu City - besides the London Bridge - is that the 'settlers' didn't come by stagecoach, but by airplane. McCulloch flew in thousands of potential landowners between 1964 and 1978 in hopes of enticing them with the weather and lake.

It was in 1968 when McCulloch's winning bid of \$2,460,000 secured the deal to purchase the London Bridge from England. After the granite blocks were shipped to California and brought by truck to Lake Havasu City, the bridge was reassembled. After three years the bridge was completed, and on Oct. 9, 1971 was dedicated by The Lord Mayor of London. An upwards of 60,000 visitors joined Havasu's 8,000 residents for the two-day celebration that included parades, costume contests and a lot of pomp and circumstance.



The London Bridge helped to make Lake Havasu City into the tourist destination it is today. It makes a stunning backdrop for colorful hot air balloons during the annual Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair. Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair photo.

By 1981, the city had swelled to 17,000 residents and now has a population that's pushing 60,000 - not including the throngs of visitors it attracts each year.

The lake and London Bridge continue to draw travelers who enjoy the scenery, weather and the many year-round outdoor activities. During the summer months, the lake and river are dedicated to boaters - many from neighboring states who arrive on weekends to enjoy the sunshine and rush of an open throttle.

Once the temperatures in other parts of the country start to drop and snow starts to fall, Lake Havasu City welcomes winter visitors in hopes of trading in their snow shovels for golf clubs. And on the lake, boat tours/charters and fishing boats replace the massive, high-powered speedboats of summer.

Since temperatures in Lake Havasu City during the winter months are more conducive to outdoor activities other than just watersports, visitors and residents alike flock to golf courses, parks, and the desert for camping, hiking, and off-roading.

Ideal temperatures also bring annual outdoor festivals and fairs. From October to April, the city's calendar is filled with weekend events and activities.

And, at the center of it all is a lake, a bridge, and expanse of desert that keeps visitors returning to Lake Havasu City. •



**TRI-STATE REGION pages 93-100** 

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## .ake Havasu City, AZ

LONDON BRIDGE HOT AIR BALLOONS BLUEGRASS WINTERFEST DELBERT DAYS FIRST FRIDAY

#### 'Go Lake Havasu' Launches New Website

By Laura Kassik

o Lake Havasu is the official tourism bureau for the City of Lake Havasu Lity and is often the first point-ofcontact for tourists who want to learn more information before visiting Havasu.

Finding information recently got easier with Go Lake Havasu's new, more userfriendly website that launched in December. The tourism bureau also uses Instagram and Facebook to keep visitors and residents in the know.

"Our new website is designed with ease of use in mind, especially for our older 'snowbird' visitors. It's simpler to navigate and provides clear information about all the events and activities they can enjoy," said Joel Kelly, Director of Marketing for Go Lake Havasu. "Combined with updates to our social media strategy, it ensures evhappening in Lake Havasu City."

With a click, find everything from boat



tours to dog parks; a Calendar of Events and even the current weather on a cleaner, more streamlined layout.

easier to navigate, and offers a much better experience for exploring events. It features a weather widget so you can always check the current temperature in Lake Havasu City," Kelly said.

Go Lake Havasu, formerly known as the eryone stays informed about everything Lake Havasu City Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), was founded as part of the Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce

in the early 1980s. It has been independent since 1995 and receives a portion of the hotel occupancy and restaurant/ bar taxes levied by the City of Lake Havasu City for its funding. The agency is an accredited member by Destinations International, making it one among only a few hundred organizations worldwide with this designation.

Go Lake Havasu named "Our new website is mobile-friendly, Shawn Buckley as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective in December 2024.

> The agency oversees the Visitor Information Center, which is located at 422

and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is closed on major holidays.

Its website is www.golakehavasu.com.



The Visitor Center, operated by Go Lake Havasu, is located in the English Village next to the fountain at 422 English Village.

The office, located at 314 London Bridge English Village near and London Bridge Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is also closed on major holidays. For more information, call 928-453-3444. ❖



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#### Annual Events Draw Crowds to Lake Havasu City

By Laura Kassik

here are not many cities that can boast the variety of annual events that Lake Havasu City hosts during the winter months. From hot air balloons to rodeos and fireworks displays to Bluegrass music - these are just a sampling of the events this desert community offers visitors.

"Lake Havasu City has a robust event calendar and welcomes thousands of visitors each year to enjoy our community, natural beauty, and amazing events. It is our pleasure to showcase our beautiful community to many visitors and residents that enjoy one of our many iconic events," said Lake Havasu City Mayor Cal Sheehy. "We invite you to enjoy one of the many events and have a safe and enjoyable time in our great community."

Below are some annual, crowd-drawing events that are on the calendar from now until April. But, there are dozens more on the Lake Havasu City Calendar in this section. Also, find a Calendar of Events in the weekly White Sheet online and in convenience stores each Tuesday.

#### HAVASU BALLOON FESTIVAL & FAIR January 9-12

During this four-day festival, dozens of hot air balloons in vibrant colors and unusual shapes will dance across the desert sky, fascinating on-lookers with their beauty and buoyancy.

Between 75 and 80 balloon pilots from across the na-



Hot air balloons will dot the sky over Lake Havasu City during the Havasu Balloon Festival & Fair, January 9-12.

tion are expected to participate in this 14th annual event, with the theme 'Fired Up Over Havasu'.

Although eyes will be directed upward, there will be a lot happening on the ground at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4. There will be bands and other entertainment, carnival, food court and beer garden, merchandise vendors, kids' activities, 5K Run, and classic cars. Each day, weather permitting, festival-goers can purchase tethered balloon rides. There is a golf tournament on January 18.

The Glowin' on the River balloon glow is one of the most popular activities, and it happens the first three nights on the Balloon Field. Balloons are lit on the ground



VW buses will converge on Lake Havasu State Park, January 16-19, for Buses by the Bridge XXVIII. Go Lake Havasu photo.

and resemble paper lanterns.

The Balloon Festival is completely run by volunteers and all proceeds go to local charities and organizations. To date, the group has given over \$1.75 million back to the community.

For more information, visit havasuballoonfestival.com.

### BUSES BY THE BRIDGE January 16-19

What started out as a campout of about a dozen Volkswagen bus owners now draws hundreds of buses from across the U.S. annually to Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4. Buses by the Bridge XXVIII, presented by London Bridge Bullis - a handful of local VW Bus enthusiasts, is the only all-VW bus campout held in the U.S.

The public is invited to walk among the buses and see the intrigue of these classic vehicles. Spectators will see different stages of VW buses dating back to 1954-55 up to the 1990s.

This is a family-friendly event and children are encouraged - especially on Saturday when children's activities are planned.

For more information, visit busesbythebridge.com.

#### DELBERT DAYS RODEO January 25-26

Pull-on your cowboy boots, grab your hat, and gallop to SARA Park Rodeo Grounds for a weekend of rodeo excitement for cowboys and cowgirls of all ages during the Delbert Days Rodeo, featuring children's activities and the Grand Canyon Professional Rodeo.

The Grand Canyon Pro Rodeo Association, Arizona's largest professional rodeo association, will feature bareback riding, bull riding, bronc riding, steer wrestling, saddle bronc calf roping, rodeo queens and more. During the rodeo, there will be the Extreme Bronc World Championship, as well as exciting halftime entertainment.

Before the Grand Canyon Professional Rodeo takes the ring each day, little cowboys and cowgirls can take their turns riding sheep or calves. In addition to the rodeo, Delbert Days features a variety of free activities and entertainment for kids. This event is hosted by Friends of the Fair.

For more information or tickets, www.havasurodeo.com.



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Delbert Days Rodeo, featuring Grand Canyon Professional Rodeo Association, will be January 25-26 at SARA Park Rodeo Grounds.



The Annual Winterfest Street Festival will turn McCulloch Boulevard into a sea of vendors and shoppers, February 1-2. Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce photo.

#### WINTERFEST STREET FESTIVAL February 1-2

It started as a small thank-you to winter visitors in 1985 and over the years has developed into one of Lake Havasu City's premier events - the 39th Annual Winterfest Street Festival.

Commerce's biggest fundraiser, and is expected to draw over 30,000 spectators to Garden. the Downtown District. McCulloch Boule-

vard from Acoma Boulevard to Smoketree Avenue will be closed to traffic as over 200 vendors will line the center of the street.

Shoppers will discover a wide variety of items including fine art, crafts, jewelry, home décor, automobile products, and more. There is always a tasty selec-It is the Lake Havasu Area Chamber of tion of food vendors. There will also be an area for entertainment and the Beer

Many of the Main Street merchants will

feature Winterfest-related specials, side- and piles of snow. But here in Lake Havasu walk displays, and sales creating an event City, Western Winter Blast means four that truly has something for everyone.

For more information, visit havasuchamber.com.

#### **WESTERN WINTER BLAST** February 13-16

In some parts of the country, 'Winter Blast' has been used to describe a huge winter storm that brings chilling temps days of fireworks shows that feature some of the latest and greatest pyrotechnics in the industry.

The fireworks are a benefit of the Western Pyrotechnic Association (WPA), which has drawn pyrotechnic enthusiasts to its annual trade show and convention at SARA Park for over 30 years.

continued on next page

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Thanks to the Western Pyrotechnic Association's annual trade show and convention, the community gets to see the latest and greatest in fireworks during nightly exhibitions, February 13-16, at SARA Park. Go Lake Havasu photo.

Over 700 WPA members attend this week-long event. Here they get to test their fireworks by shooting them off.

displays and sit in-or-out of their vehicles; or pay admission to sit in the grandstands at Havasu 95 Speedway. The speedway offers the best viewing, and the opportunity to see the ground pyrotechnics.

For more information, including schedule and entrance ees from 30 to 40 states and about eight to 10 countries. fees, visit FireworksHavasu.com or golakehavasu.com.



The Pinup Pageant is a popular feature of the Lake Havasu Rockabilly Reunion, which will be February 14-16 at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4. Rockabilly Reunion photo.

#### LAKE HAVASU ROCKABILLY REUNION February 14-16

Seventeen years ago, Kennie Cuppetelli introduced This shooting and testing is where the public exhibitions Havasu to a new music festival featuring a 1950s theme. The Lake Havasu Rockabilly Reunion was born, and that For a fee, the public can drive-in SARA Park for the first year attracted five bands and about one thousand people through the gate at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4.

> Now, this annual three-day event features 20 bands and over 600 cars to become the largest Rockabilly music festival and Car Show in Arizona. It typically draws attend-

Although it's the music that draws the crowds, there



The Havasu Deuce Show & Shine will be March 1 at Rotary Community Park. There is no charge to the public. Havasu Deuces photo.

is much more to the festival, which is endorsed by the Rockabilly Hall of Fame. Attendees will experience a bit of nostalgia with the music, cars, and fashion. There will be the popular Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show, Vendor Village and Food Court Vintage Pin-Up Pageant, and of course the awesome bands.

For more information and tickets, visit therockabillyreunion.com.

#### **HAVASU DEUCES CAR SHOW** February 27-28 & March 1

In 2015, four guys - Joe Mitchell, Don Sauberan, Don

continued on page 8

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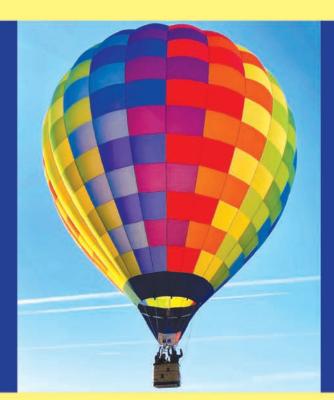


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Lake Havasu City, Arizona



Lake Havasu Bluegrass on the Beach Music Festival will draw Bluegrass enthusiasts from across the country to Lake Havasu State Park. Bluegrass on the Beach photo.

continued from page 6

Schulz, and Dick Raczuk - had their first Shine will be Saturday at Rotary Commumeeting to put on a 1932 Ford show in Lake Havasu City. What started with 200 cars has more than doubled over the years as organizers prepare for this year's 10th Annual Deuce Show presented by Havasu Deuces.

While three of the original four moved on, the three-day event is managed by Joe and Teresa Mitchell with a lot of outside help.

The Havasu Deuce Show, presented by Rodding USA, puts 1932 Fords in the spotlight, but cars that were produced in 1957 or earlier can also attend. The public will have two opportunities to see these beauties upclose - and both have free admission.

The first is Thursday during Deuces Downtown, which features cars that are registered for Saturday's Show & Shine. The public is invited to walk McCulloch Boulevard - in Havasu's Downtown District - and admire these pristine vehicles and talk to the cars' owners. The Show &

nity Park Ballfields, 1400 Smoketree Ave.

For more information, visit havasudeuces.com.

#### **BLUEGRASS ON THE BEACH** February 28 to March 2

For Bluegrass music enthusiasts, there's no better place to be during the winter than sitting in a chair in front of the music stage at Lake Havasu State Park for the 22nd Annual Lake Havasu Bluegrass on the Beach, presented by Danny Stewart's Productions.

Weekend ticket holders can set up their chairs starting on Tuesday at noon the week of the event.

The sounds of guitars, fiddles, banjos, the doghouse bass and dobros will echo off the beautiful backdrop of Lake Havasu for a fun-filled weekend of world-class bluegrass music.

In addition to the bands, which can be



found on the event's website, the festival's arts and crafts show returns with a variety of vendors, along with tasty food choices and adult beverages. There will be nightly jam sessions and workshops.

For more information and tickets, visit ets, visit southwestchowderfest.com. lakehavasubluegrass.com.

### SOUTHWEST CHOWDERFEST March 8

The chefs competing in the 4th Annual Southwest Chowderfest aren't serving the typical clam variety associated with 'chowder.' They will be putting their own spin with ingredients such as crab or chili poblano.

Both professional chefs from local restaurants, as well as talented home cooks, will be vying for the coveted Golden Ladle and the honor of being named the best chowder maker in the friendly competition at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4.

Attendees will get to sample the chowders and vote for their favorites. There will also be several breweries and distilleries providing samples for attendees who are 21+.

A variety of local vendors and food trucks will be on site as well. Live music will keep the crowds entertained as they enjoy chowder and camaraderie,

For tickets or more than the call of the crowds and camaraderie.

More information of can be found in the Call of the

Soroptimist International of Lake Havasu City and the Lake Havasu Chamber Foundation for Education and Leadership, are joining forces to present this event.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit southwestchowderfest.com.

### LAKE HAVASU STAMPEDE March 21-23

Crowd-thrilling, family entertainment of professional rodeo returns in March with the Lake Havasu Stampede. Sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA), the Lake Havasu Stampede is a nationally-recognized event that features some of rodeo's biggest names for three, action-packed performances held at SARA Park Rodeo Grounds.

All three rodeo performances are slated to bring in top Professional Rodeo athletes competing in the standard PRCA Rodeo events of Bareback Riding, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, Saddle Bronc Riding, Tie Down Roping, and Bull Riding along with Barrel Racing.

The Lake Havasu Stampede is produced by Honeycutt Rodeo and Gold Spur Productions.

For tickets or more information, visit HavasuStampede.com.

More information on each of these events can be found in the Calendar in this section.



The 4th Annual Southwest Chowderfest will be March 8 at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4. Attendees can sample chowder; and breweries and distilleries will be giving samples to those 21 and over. Southwest Chowderfest photo.

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#### 2024-25 Lake Havasu City Calendar

**Note:** Event dates and times are subject to change. For updates and more events in Lake Havasu City, pick-up The White Sheet - free of charge and on newsstands every Tuesday. Updates can also be found at golakehavasu.com.

#### **ONGOING:**

**London Bridge Swap Meet.** Every Sunday. **Time:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** 157 Paseo Del Sol - parking lot on the corner of Marlboro and London Bridge Road. **Website:** londonbridgeswapmeet.com; **Facebook:** London Bridge Swap Meet. **Phone:** 928-680-5685.

**Oatman Bus Tour.** Every Tuesday. **Time:** Bus departs 10 a.m. **Cost:** \$25 per person; reservations required with advanced payment. Hosted by London Bridge Resort, 1477 Queens Bay. **Face-book:** London Bridge Resort. **Phone:** Call 928-855-0888 to reserve a spot.

London Bridge Resort's Afternoon Tea. Every Wednesday. Time: 3 p.m. Cost: \$20 per person; advanced reservations required. Address: London Bridge Resort, 1477 Queens Bay. Facebook: London Bridge Resort. Phone: Call 928-855-0888 to reserve a spot.

**Guided Refuge Walks.** Every Thursday until April 10. 1.5-mile walk; wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, take water. **Time:** 9 a.m. (weather permitting). **Cost:** Free and open to the public. **Address:** Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Visitor Center, 60911 Hwy. 95, Parker. **Phone:** Joey Saccomanno 928-259-9632.

Lake Havasu Farmers Market. Every Saturday starting January 11. Time: 8 a.m. to Noon. Cost: Free admission. Address: The KAWS, 2144 McCulloch Blvd. Website: lakehavasufarmersmarket.com; Lake Havasu Farmers Market on Facebook.



Find a variety of vendors at the London Bridge Swap Meet, held every Sunday at 8 a.m. in Lake Havasu City.

#### **DECEMBER**

29th Annual London Bridge Resort's Festival of Lights. The London Bridge Resort, English Village, and London Bridge are lit-up with thousands of lights for the holiday season until Jan. 5. There is plenty of parking at the English Village, London Bridge Resort and Convention Center. Time: Lights are lit nightly until 10 p.m. Website: LondonBridgeResort.

#### **JANUARY 1**

First Day Hike. This guided hike of the Sunset Trail is moderate, with sand and gravel trails, about 1.5-2 miles long. The hike will feature scenic views of the lake and end in our beautiful cactus garden with water and snacks. Bring comfortable shoes and water. Time: 10 a.m. Cost: Free; but park entrance fees apply. Address: Lake Havasu State Park, 699 London Bridge Road. Website: AZStateParks.com/first-day-hikes. Phone: 928-855-2784.

continued on page 12



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#### **JANUARY 1**

**First Day Hike.** This moderate, 3-mile guided hike from the launch ramp to Whyte's Retreat provides an amazing view of the Colorado River. Bring hiking shoes, water, and snacks. Time: Meet at 8:30 a.m.; hike at 9 a.m. Cost: Free; but park entrance fees apply. Address: Cattail Cove State Park, 15 miles south of Lake Havasu City on Hwy. 95. Website: AZ-StateParks.com/first-day-hikes. **Phone:** 928-855-1223.

#### **JANUARY 3**

**Buffett's Margaritaville - tribute to Jimmy Buffett.** This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. **Time:** Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Starting at \$25. Address: LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts.com. **Email:** conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### **JANUARY 3**

First Friday Havasu. Discover pop-up boutiques and shop over 60 artists, handmade, secondhand and vintage vendors. Downtown merchants will also be open. There will be music, food and more. Find out the night's theme and more details on the website and social media. Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** Downtown McCulloch from Mulberry to Website: Firstfridayhavasu.com; Facebook, Instagram.

#### **JANUARY 3-4-5**

**The Fourmers.** Reuniting Vegas stars of the hit Broadway show Jersey Boys. Fundraiser for GraceArts Theatricals. Time: Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. **Tickets:** \$50. **Address:** GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts Theatre, 2146 Mc-Culloch Blvd N. Website: graceartslive. com. **Phone:** 928-505-2787.

#### **JANUARY 4**

Pancake Breakfast. Hosted by Desert Hills Fire District Auxiliary. **Time:** 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Cost: \$8 (cash only) for pancakes and sausage, or biscuits and gravy. Address: 3983 London Bridge Road.

#### **JANUARY 4**

Auto Racing. Lining-up on the asphalt track will be the Pro Late Models, Legends, and Factory Stocks; and running on the infield dirt oval will be the Outlaw Karts and Flat Karts. **Time:** Gates open at Noon; Racing at 2 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$14; Seniors, Military, Disabled \$12; Children (6-16) \$6; 5 & under free; Family pack \$28; VIP \$35; Pit passes \$35.



Artists sell their creations during First Friday events on McCulloch Boulevard (Main Street). First Friday Havasu photo.

Address: Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway in SARA Park. Website: Havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. Phone: 928-716-6300.

#### **JANUARY 4**

Star Party at Cattail Cove. Stargaze Smoketree, in YardCity and at The KAWS. in the boat parking lot to take in beautiful views of Lake Havasu and the sparkling night sky. Havasu Astronomy Club members will bring several telescopes. Bring your own chair and enjoy free hot chocolate. **Time:** 5:30 p.m. **Cost:** Free; but park entrance fees apply. Address: Cattail Cove State Park, 15 miles south of Lake Havasu City on Hwy. 95. **Website:** Azstateparks. com/cattail-cove/events/cattail-star-party.

Phone: 928-855-1223.

#### **JANUARY 4**

One Of These Nights Concert - tribute to The Eagles. This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. Time: Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Starting at \$25. Address: LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts.com. Email: conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### **JANUARY 5**

Car Monkeys Lake Havasu Gathering. Join other owners of super cars, exotics, muscle cars, hot rods, collectible cars, custom trucks, custom cars, and motorcycles for a meet-up. Public is welcome. **Time:** Sunrise to 9 a.m. First Sunday of each month. Cost: Free. Address:

continued on next page

Winter Visitor Guide 2025

The Boat House Grill, on the Island. 801 **Email:** conradmon@hotmail.com. Beachcomber Blvd. Facebook: Car Monkeys Lake Havasu.

#### **JANUARY 5**

Garth Live Concert - tribute to Garth **Brooks.** This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. **Time:** Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Starting at \$25. **Address:** LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. **Website:** LakeHavasuConcerts.com.

#### **JANUARY 9-10-11-12**

14th Annual Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair. In addition to dozens of balloons, there will be bands and other entertainment, carnival, food court and beer garden, merchandise vendors, kids' activities, 5K Run, and classic cars. Festival attendees will be able to purchase tethered balloon rides, weather permitting. See website for schedule of events. **Time:** continued on next page



Hot air balloons are poised for flight during morning ascension at the Havasu Balloon Festival & Fair.

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Thursday Noon to 10 p.m.; Friday & Saturday 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Admission:** General admission \$20 (good for 4 days). Free after 7 p.m. each day. Gondola VIP tickets also available; children 10 years old and younger are free. **Address:** Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4, 171 London Bridge Road. (Walk-in entrance). There is plenty of free offsite parking (information on website). **Website:** havasuballoonfestival.com; Facebook/Havasu Balloon Fest.

#### **JANUARY 10-11-12**

**Wickenburg to Parker Old West UTV Excursion.** 300 miles round trip. Overnight lodging in Parker. See website for complete details. **Website:** UTVoffroadadventures.com. **Contact:** Kyle 623-363-9665; Kyle@utvoffroadadventures.com.

#### **JANUARY 11**

The "Gathering" Car Show and Automotive Swap Meet. Presented by Havasu 95 Speedway and Christian Rods and Customs Car Club. Swap meet in the pits; Car Show on the track. Time: Car Show from 8 a.m. to Noon. Gates open to Swap Meet vendors at 6 a.m. Admission: Free to the public. Address: Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway. Website: havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. Phone: Bill Rozhon 928-716-6300.

#### **JANUARY 12**

Britain's Finest Concert - tribute to The Beatles. This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. Time: Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. Tickets: Starting at \$25. Address: LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts.com. Email: conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### **JANUARY 14**

Monthly Guided Refuge Walk. 1-mile Nature Walk. Wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, take water. Time: 9 a.m. (weather permitting). Cost: Free and open to the public. Address: Havasu National Wildlife Refuge - at North Dike, on Country Road 1 about 5 miles from Golf Shores at Pintail Slough/North Dike parking. Pass the parking area and continue to North Dike. Note: there are no facilities available. Phone: Joey Saccomanno 928-259-9632.

#### **JANUARY 14**

**Bachelors of Broadway Concert.** This show is part of the 2024-25 Concert Season presented by Lake Havasu Concert Association. **Time:** 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Adult



"The Gathering" Car Show and Automotive Swap Meet, presented by Havasu 95 Speedway and Christian Rods & Customs Car Club, will be Jan. 11, Feb. 1 and April 5. Havasu 95 Speedway photo.

single concert \$30; Season subscription \$90. Students free with school ID. **Address:** Lake Havasu High School Performing Arts Center, 2675 Palo Verde Blvd. S. **Website:** lhcca.com.

#### JANUARY 16-17-18-19

Buses by the Bridge XXVIII. VW bus owners from across the country will converge for this annual campout, presented by London Bridge Bullis. The public is invited to walk among the buses and see the intrigue of these classic vehicles. There will be kids activities. Time: The public can go in after Noon on Thursday and after 8 a.m. the other days. The Boy Scouts will host a breakfast on Sunday. Everything is done by 1 p.m. on Sunday. Admission: \$5 per person for walk-in spectators for all four days; children 17 years and younger no charge. Address: Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4. Walk-in gate is at 171 London Bridge Road near the Hampton Inn. Website: busesbythebridge.com; **Facebook:** Official Buses by the Bridge.

#### **JANUARY 17-18-19**

Musical - Once Upon A Mattress. Time: Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. Tickets: See website. Address: GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts Theatre, 2146 McCulloch Blvd N. Website: graceartslive.com. Phone: 928-505-2787.

#### **JANUARY 18**

8th Annual Havasu Balloon Festival Golf Tournament. 4-person Team Scramble. Time: Check-in 7 a.m.; Shotgun start 8 a.m. Entry fee: \$125 per player; \$100 for Lake Havasu Golf Club members. Address: Lake Havasu Golf Club West Course, 2400 Clubhouse Drive. Website: havasuballoonfestival.com/golftournament/. Contact: Chairman Lisa

continued on page 16



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Lake Havasu City, Arizona



The 602 Modifieds is one of the classes that runs at Havasu 95 Speedway. The track runs a winter season. Howard Twaddell photo.

continued from page 14

Theophilus 928-733-0876 or Co-Chair **Time:** Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 Rich Theophilus 928-733-0918; Kiwanistoyslhc@gmail.com.

#### **JANUARY 18**

Havasu Art Guild Winter Expo. Art Guild Member artists will have their art pieces displayed for sale. The selection will include ceramics, jewelry, paintings, glass work, wood work, handmade beads, fiber arts, and more. **Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 2170 Havasupai Blvd.

#### **JANUARY 18**

**Volunteer Tree Planting.** 1-mile Nature Walk. Bring weather appropriate clothing, work gloves, sturdy shoes, a shovel if possible, and plenty of drinking water. **Time:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Cost:** Free and open to the public, but registration is required at number listed. Address: Havasu National Wildlife Refuge Complex at 5-Mile Landing. Contact: Joey Saccomanno 928-259-9632.

#### **JANUARY 18**

**Auto Racing.** The Street Stocks will be racing for \$1,000 with win! Other classes will be Dwarf Cars, Factory Stocks, Outlaw Karts, Flat Karts, and Mini Dwarfs. **Time:** Gates open at Noon; Racing at 2 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$14; Seniors, Military, Disabled \$12; Children (6-16) \$6; 5 & under free; Family pack \$28; VIP \$35; Pit passes \$35. Address: Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway in SARA Park. Website: Havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. **Phone:** 928-716-6300.

#### **JANUARY 21**

Voyager Concert - tribute to Jour**ney.** This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. p.m. Tickets: Starting at \$25. Address: LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts.com. Email: conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### **JANUARY 21**

Free Community Fishing Seminar offered by Anglers United, Inc. LHC Chapter. "Fishing for Large & Smallmouth Bass," by local fishing guide, Nick Young of Nick Young Outdoors. Time: 6:30 p.m. Address: Mohave County Library, LHC Branch, 1770 N. McCulloch Blvd. **Contact:** Jim Hatter 404-406-5017; hat44man@att.net.

#### **JANUARY 22**

Ultimate Chicago Concert - tribute to Chicago. This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. Time: Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Starting at \$25. Address: LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts.com. Email: conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### **JANUARY 24-25-26**

London Bridge Model Boat Club 22nd Annual RC Boat Race. Take a lawn chair and watch one of the largest gas RC boat races in the country - and with speeds from 60-90 miles per hour. Various classes will be racing an oval course in the Channel. The best viewing locations will be the Island side of the Channel along the walkway and from the London Bridge. **Time:** Friday, practice Noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday racing 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday racing 8 a.m. to dark. Admission: Free to spectators; free parking. Address: London Bridge/Bridgewater Channel in English Village. Phone: Jim Foster 928-208-5669. continued on page 18

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continued from page 16

#### **JANUARY 24-25-26**

**Musical - Once Upon** A Mattress. Time: Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. **Tickets:** See website. Address: GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts Theatre, 2146 McCulloch Blvd N. Web**site:** graceartslive.com. **Phone:** 928-505-2787.

#### **JANUARY 25**

Winter Bunco. Presented by Women With Willpower. Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Cost:** \$15 buy-in. Order your tickets online at womenwithwillpower. org. Address: Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave.

#### **JANUARY 25-26**

Delbert Days Rodeo with performances by the Grand Canyon Pro Rodeo Association. Giddy-up over to the SARA Park Rodeo Grounds for a weekend of rodeo excitement with the Grand Canyon Pro Rodeo Association, Arizona's largest professional rodeo association. In FEBRUARY 1 addition to the rodeo, Delbert Days features a variety of free activities and entertainment for kids. This event is hosted by Friends of the Fair. **Time:** Each day 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Grand Canyon Rodeo, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$15 includes Delbert Days and Rodeo; children 15 and under free. Parking is free. Address: SARA Park Rodeo Grounds, 7206 Dub Campbell Parkway. Website: havasurodeo.com.

#### **JANUARY 31, FEBRUARY 1 & 2**

**2025 Havasu Follies.** This popular fundraiser for GraceArts Youth Theatricals, is a captivating variety show that transcends generations, showcasing a diverse range of performances from comedy and music

to dance. Time: Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. **Tickets:** See website. Address: GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts Theatre, 2146 McCulloch Blvd N. Website: graceartslive. com. Phone: 928-505-2787.

#### **FEBRUARY 1**

The "Gathering" Car **Show and Automotive** Swap Meet. Presented by Havasu 95 Speed- Management.



Starting Jan.11, Lake Havasu Farmers Market will be held every Saturday at The KAWS in Downtown Havasu, Farmers Market photo.

way and Christian Rods and Customs Car Club. Swap meet in the pits; Car Show on the track. Time: Car Show from 8 a.m. to Noon. Gates open to Swap Meet vendors at 6 a.m. **Admission:** Free to the public. Address: Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway. Website: havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. **Phone:** Bill Rozhon 928-716-6300.

Pancake Breakfast. Hosted by Desert Hills Fire District Auxiliary. Time: 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Cost: \$8 (cash only) for pancakes and sausage, or biscuits and gravy. **Address:** 3983 London Bridge Road.

#### **FEBRUARY 1**

2025 Arizona Pride Tour. A magical night of entertainment, presented by Miss Nature, LLC. There will be two shows each with a different cast. Both shows are 21-and-over. Time: Two shows: 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. **Tickets:** \$25; must purchase online. Address: London Bridge Resort Convention Center, 1477 Queens Bay. Website: MissNatureLLC.com.

continued on next page



The American Highwaymen take the stage at the LHC Aquatic Center on Feb. 5 as part of the 2025 Tribute Concert Series presented by TAD

#### **FEBRUARY 1-2**

**39th Annual Winterfest Street Festival.** McCulloch Boulevard - between Acoma Boulevard and Smoketree Avenue - will be closed to traffic as thousands of area residents and winter visitors converge for this popular street fair. This event, presented by the Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce, features shopping, food, and entertainment. **Time:** Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** Havasu's Downtown District on McCulloch Boulevard from Acoma Boulevard to Smoketree Avenue. **Website:** www. havasuchamber.com. **Phone:** 928-855-4115.

#### **FEBRUARY 2**

**Car Monkeys Lake Havasu Gathering.** Join other owners of super cars, exotics, muscle cars, hot rods, collectible cars, custom trucks, custom cars, and motorcycles for a meet-up. Public is welcome. **Time:** Sunrise to 9 a.m. First Sunday of each month. **Cost:** Free. **Address:** The Boat House Grill, on the island. 801 Beachcomber Blvd. **Facebook:** Car Monkeys Lake Havasu.

#### **FEBRUARY 5**

**The American Highwaymen Concert - tribute to The Highwaymen.** This show is part of the 2025 Tribute
Concerts presented by TAD Management. **Time:** Doors

open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Starting at \$25. **Address:** LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. **Website:** LakeHavasuConcerts.com. **Email:** conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### **FEBRUARY 5**

"Decades of Love" with Ernie Haase & Signature Sound Concert. This show is part of the 2024-25 Concert Season presented by Lake Havasu Concert Association. Time: 7 p.m. Tickets: Adult single concert \$30; Season subscription \$90. Students free with school ID. Address: Lake Havasu High School Performing Arts Center, 2675

continued on next page



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#### **FEBRUARY 6**

Tennessee River Concert - tribute to Alabama. This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. **Time:** Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Starting at \$25. **Address:** LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts.com. Email: conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### **FEBRUARY 7**

First Friday Havasu. Discover pop-up boutiques and shop over 60 artists, handmade, secondhand and vintage vendors. Downtown merchants will also be open. There will be music, food and more. Find out the night's theme and more details on the website and social media. Time: cert - tribute to Neil Dia-6 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** Downtown McCulloch from Mulberry to Smoketree, in YardCity and at The KAWS. **Website:** Firstfridayhavasu.com; Facebook, Instagram.

#### FEBRUARY 7-8-9

Havasu Havoc UTV Offroad Adventure. Day rides, meals, raffles, entertainment. See website for complete details. **Website:** havasuhavoc2025.utvoffroadadventures.com. **Contact:** Kyle 623-363-9665; Kyle@utvoffroadadventures.com.

#### **FEBRUARY 8**

**Auto Racing.** CARS Tour - Pro Late Models, Modifieds, Legends, Factory Stocks, Outlaw Karts, and Flat Karts.

Time: Gates open at Noon; Racing at 2 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$14; Seniors, Military, Disabled \$12; Children (6-16) \$6; 5 & under free; Family pack \$28; VIP \$35; Pit passes \$35. Address: Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway in SARA Park. **Website:** Havasu95speedway. com; Facebook and Instagram. Phone: 928-716-6300.

#### **FEBRUARY 10**

Hot August Night Conmond. This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management.

**Time:** Doors open at 6 p.m.;

Concert at 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Starting at \$25. **Address:** LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: Lake-HavasuConcerts.com. **Email:** conradmon@hotmail.

#### **FEBRUARY 11**

Monthly Guided Refuge Walk. 1-mile Nature Walk. Wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, take water. **Time:** 9 a.m. (weather permitting). **Cost:** Free and open to the public. Address: Havasu National Wildlife Refuge - at North

Fast Fanny's is one of the charming store fronts that greet visitors to Oatman. London Bridge Resort hosts an Oatman Bus Tour every Tuesday.

Dike, on Country Road 1 about 5 miles from Golf Shores at Pintail Slough/North Dike parking. Pass the parking area and continue to North Dike. Note: there are no facilities available. Phone: Joey Saccomanno 928-259-9632.

#### **FEBRUARY 11**

The Wynonna Experience Concert - tribute to Wynonna and The Judds. This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. Time: Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. Tickets: Starting at \$25. Ad-

continued on next page





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**dress:** LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts.com. Email: conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### **FEBRUARY 12**

December '63 Concert - tribute to Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons. This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. Time: Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. Tickets: Starting at \$25. Address: LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts.com. Email: conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### **FEBRUARY 13**

One More Night Concert - tribute to Phil Collins/Genesis. This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. **Time:** Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Starting at \$25. Address: LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts. com. Email: conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### FEBRUARY 13-14-15-16

**Western Winter Blast Pyrotechnics Show.** The community reaps the benefits when the Western Pyrotechnic Association converges at SARA Park for its annual con-

vention to show-off the latest and greatest in fireworks. The public will see brilliant fireworks displays - with the largest single show on Saturday night. Spectators can sit in or by their vehicles in a parking lot at SARA Park. Check the website for places to park or sit. Check website for updates and more information, including website for times and cost. Address: SARA Park, Seating at Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway. Website: fireworkshavasu.com; golakehavasu.com.

#### **FEBRUARY 14-15-16**

The Lake Havasu Rockabilly Reunion. This annual 1950's-themed car show and music festival features a Car/ Motorcycle/Truck Show, Vendor Village and Food Court, Pin-Up Pageant, and 20 bands over three days. See bands on website. Time: Friday Noon to 10 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. **Admission:** Friday \$30 w/fee; Saturday \$40 w/fee; Sunday \$25 w/fee. 3-day weekend pass \$80 w/fee. VIP tickets available. Tickets can be purchased online or at the gate. Children 11 years old and younger are free. Address: Lake Havasu

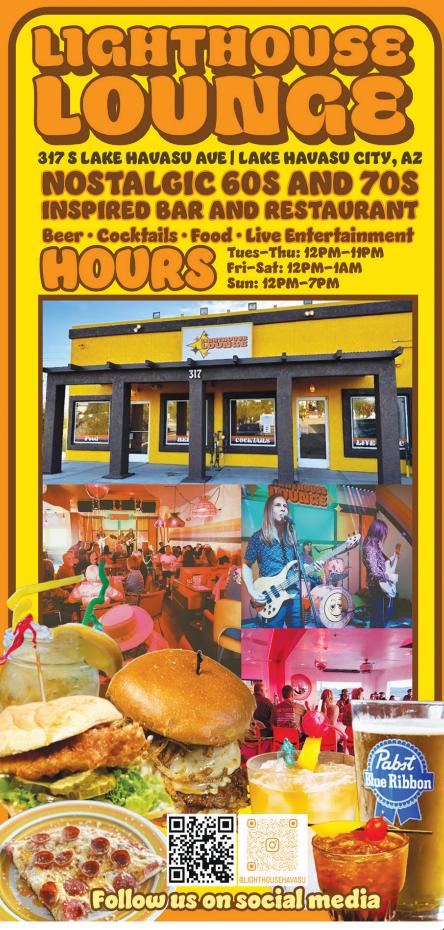
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Personal watercraft line-up for the start of the Mark Hahn Memorial 300 endurance race on Lake Havasu. This year's event will be Feb. 22. Mark Hahn 300 photo.

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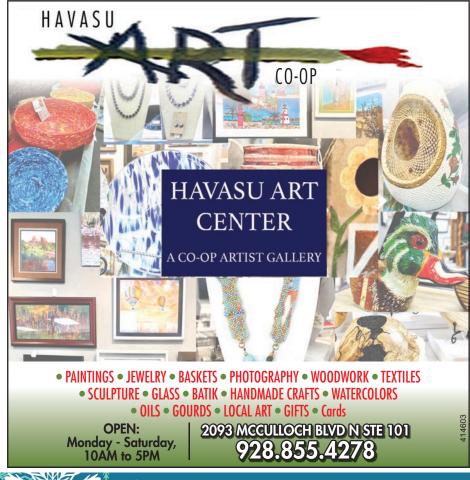
State Park, Windsor 4. Walk-in entrance, **FEBRUARY 15** 171 London Bridge Road. Website: Instagram.

#### **FEBRUARY 14-15-16**

Musical - Spamalot. Time: Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. Tickets: See website. Address: GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts Theatre, 2146 Mc-Culloch Blvd N. **Website:** graceartslive. com. **Phone:** 928-505-2787.

39TH

"Spring into Health" Health Fair. therockabillyreunion.com; Facebook and There will be mini-seminars with local doctors, health screenings, fitness demonstrations, and nutritional advice with over 50 vendors. Hosted by Havasu Community Health Foundation, in partnership with Havasu Regional Medical Center and Anderson Toyota. Time: 8 a.m. to Noon. Admission: Free. Address: Relics and Rods





**SAVE THE DATE** 

FEBRUARY 1 & 2, 2025

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Room, LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Contact: Havasu Community Health Foundation 928-453-8190.

#### FEBRUARY 15

**Spaghetti Dinner.** Hosted by Desert Hills Fire District Auxiliary. **Time:** 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. **Cost:** \$9 (cash only) for a spaghetti dinner that includes salad, bread, dessert and beverage. Address: 3983 London Bridge Road.

#### **FEBRUARY 21-22-23**

**Musical - Spamalot. Time:** Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. **Tickets:** See website. **Address:** GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts Theatre, 2146 McCulloch Blvd N. Website: graceartslive.com. Phone: 928-505-2787.

#### **FEBRUARY 22**

IJSBA Mark Hahn Memorial 300 personal watercraft endurance race. Time: 8 a.m. Admission: Free to spectators; Park day-use fee required - \$20 per vehicle (includes four adults; each additional adult is \$3). Address: Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor North, 699 London Bridge Road. Website: MarkHahn300.com.

#### FEBRUARY 22-23

**Havasu Art Trail.** The public is invited to stop by different locations, including some art studios, meet the artists, and see their creations during this fourth annual event. Find artist profiles, event details, including a map and addresses on the website. **Time:** Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Admission & Maps:** Feb. 22-23.



Local artist Lance Gibbs stands with one of his wood creations. He was a part of the Havasu Art Trail last year. This year's Art Trail is

Free. Website: havasuarttrail.com.

#### **FEBRUARY 22-23** Dirt Expo Havasu.

This second annual event will offer top offroad vendors and exhibitors, product installations, demos, industry tails on website. Time: Season.



ason Lyle Black presents "100 Hits of Stage and Screen" will take the stage experts and guided off- on Feb. 25 as part of the Lake Havasu road rides. Find ride de- Concert Association's 2024-25 Concert

Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Address: Lake Havasu State Park Windsor 4, 171 London Bridge Road. Website: arizonaexpos.com/pages/dirtexpo-havasu-home.

#### **FEBRUARY 23**

Lake Havasu Symphonic Winds Concert. Time: 3 p.m. Admission: \$10 for adults; free for students/children with school ID. Tickets can be purchased at the door; or in advance at Sound Bank Electronics, 1931 N. McCulloch Blvd. and online at EventBrite.com. Address: Lake Havasu High School Performing Arts Center, 2675 S. Palo Verde Blvd. **Phone:** Loretta, 928-680-6927.

#### **FEBRUARY 25**

Jason Lyle Black presents "100 Hits of Stage & **Screen" Concert.** This show is part of the 2024-25 Concontinued on page 28



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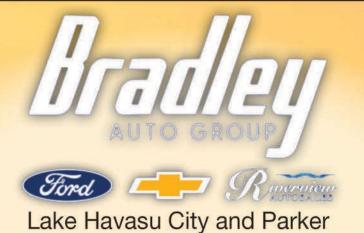
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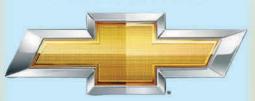
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For location details and menus visit shugrues.com

continued from page 26

ciation. **Time:** 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Adult single concert \$30; Season subscription \$90. Students free with school ID. **Address:** Lake Havasu High School Performing Arts Center, 2675 Palo Verde Blvd. S. Website Ihcca.com.

#### **FEBRUARY 27**

5th Annual Rick Seales Veteran Ride. Join the procession of Side X Sides and off-road vehicles for an offroad ride to The Bunker Bar. All veterans are welcome to participate as drivers or riders. Brought to you by The Bunker Bar and Havasu Side X Side Trail Assn. Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Meet at 10 a.m. **Address:** Meet at the dirt lot next to Anderson Toyota, 6510 Showplace Ave. Contact: David Garrity, havasusxs@gmail.com.

#### FEBRUARY 27-28 & MARCH 1

10th Annual Deuce Show presented by Havasu **Deuces.** 1932 Fords are in the spotlight, but cars that **times:** Thursday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. is Deuces Downtown. The public can walk McMulloch Boulevard in Downtown Havasu and admire the cars. Show & Shine is Saturday fom 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Rotary Community Park Ballfields, 1400 Smoketree Ave. Both events are free and open to the public. Website: havasudeuces.com; Facebook at Havasu Deuces.

#### **FEBRUARY 28**

**Prince Again Concert - tribute to Prince.** This show

cert Season presented by Lake Havasu Concert Asso- is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. **Time:** Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Starting at \$25. **Address:** LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts. com. **Email:** conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### FEBRUARY 28 & MARCH 1 & 2

22nd Annual Bluegrass on the Beach Music Festival. Bluegrass music enthusiasts can set-up their lawn chairs, sit back, and enjoy three days of music during this 22nd annual event, presented by Danny Stewart's Productions LLC. There will be food, beverage and craft vendors, workshops, and jam sessions. Check website for updates and band line-up. **Time:** Walk-in/day gate opens at 9 a.m. and closes at midnight. Music from 10 a.m. to dusk. Tickets: Adults: \$30 per day; Children (13-17) are half off; Children 12-and-under admitted free. Day tickets on sale online with credit card. Cash or check only were produced in 1957 or earlier can also attend. Public at the gate. Address: Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4, 699 London Bridge Road; Walk-in entrance just south of Hampton Inn; approximately at 171 London Bridge Road. **Website:** bluegrassonthebeach.com.

#### FEBRUARY 28 & MARCH 1 & 2

Picklefest 2025. Presented by Lake Havasu City Pickleball Association. Time: Visit website. Admission: Free for spectators. **Address:** Mike Delaney Pickleball Complex at Dick Samp Memorial Park, 1628 Avalon Ave. **Website:** lakehavasupickleball.com.

#### FEBRUARY 28 & MARCH 1 & 2

Musical - Spamalot. Time: Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. Tickets: See website. Address: GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts Theatre, 2146 McCulloch Blvd N. Website: graceartslive.com. Phone: 928-505-2787.

#### MARCH 1

Pancake Breakfast. Hosted by Desert Hills Fire District Auxiliary. **Time:** 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **Cost:** \$8 (cash only) for pancakes and sausage, or biscuits and gravy. **Address:** 3983 London Bridge Road.

Auto racing. The track will hold its 2nd Elaine Rozhon Memorial Streets Stocks Race, along with the 602 Modifieds, Legends, Factory Stocks, and Vintage Stock Cars. **Time:** Gates open at Noon; Racing at 2 p.m. **Tick**ets: Adults \$14; Seniors, Military, Disabled \$12; Children (6-16) \$6; 5 & under free; Family pack \$28; VIP \$35; Pit passes \$35. Address: Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway in SARA Park. Website: Havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. Phone: 928-716-6300.

#### **MARCH 1**

Lake Havasu Brews & Brats Festival. Hosted by Lake Havasu Sunrise Rotary. Time: Noon to 4 p.m. Admission: See website. 21 and over event. Address: City





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lot on the corner of Querio Drive and McCulloch Boulevard in Downtown Havasu. Website: Golakehavasu.com. **Email:** lhcsunriserotary@gmail.com.

#### MARCH 1

**Project Presley Concert - tribute to Elvis.** This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. **Time:** Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. Tickets: Starting at \$25. Address: LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts. com. **Email:** conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### MARCH 1

**Star Party at Cattail Cove.** Stargaze in the boat parking lot to take in beautiful views of Lake Havasu and the sparkling night sky. Havasu Astronomy Club members will bring several telescopes. Bring your own chair and enjoy free hot chocolate. **Time:** 6 p.m. **Cost:** Free; but park entrance fees apply. Address: Cattail Cove State Park, 15 miles south of Lake Havasu City on Hwy. 95. **Website:** Azstateparks.com/cattail-cove/events/cattailstar-party. **Phone:** 928-855-1223.

#### **MARCH 2**

Car Monkeys Lake Havasu Gathering. Join other owners of super cars, exotics, muscle cars, hot rods, collectible cars, custom trucks, custom cars, and motorcycles for a meet-up. Public is welcome. **Time:** Sunrise to 9 a.m. First Sunday of each month. Cost: Free. Address: The Boat House Grill, on the Island. 801 Beachcomber Blvd. Facebook: Car Monkeys Lake Havasu.

#### MARCH 2

Shine On Floyd Concert - tribute to Pink Floyd. This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. **Time:** Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. Tickets: Starting at \$25. Address: LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts.com. Email: conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### **MARCH 4**

Piano Men: Generations Concert - tribute to Billy **Joel & Elton John.** This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. **Time:** Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Starting at \$25. **Address:** LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. **Website:** LakeHavasuConcerts.com. **Email:** conradmon@hotmail. com.

#### MARCH 4-5-6-7

**The American Revolution Experience.** It is a traveling exhibit from American Battlefield Trust; and locally sponsored by Havasu Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. **Time:** Tentative viewing hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Cost:** Free. **Address:** Mohave County Library, LHC Branch, 1770 McCulloch Blvd. N. Contact: Bonnie 928-855-2098.

#### MARCH 5

Revisting The Orbison Years Concert - tribute to **Roy Orbison.** This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. Time: Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Starting at \$25. **Ad**dress: LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: Lake-HavasuConcerts.com. **Email:** conradmon@hotmail.com.

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continued from previous page

#### **MARCH 7**

First Friday Havasu. Discover pop-up boutiques and shop over 60 artists, handmade, secondhand and vintage vendors. Downtown merchants will also be open. There will be music, food and more. Find out the night's theme and more details on the website and social media. Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** Downtown McCulloch from Mulberry to Smoketree, in YardCity and at The KAWS. Website: Firstfridayhavasu.com; Facebook, Instagram.

#### **MARCH 7-8-9**

WORCS Off-Road Racing, ATV/Mo**torcycles.** This will be the Round 3 in the series. Time: Gate hours; 6 a.m. each day. **Admission:** \$15 one day; \$30 adult weekend pass; \$15 weekend pass (12 and under); free for 3 & under and veterans and active military. Parking and camping fees additional. Address: Island Race Track, Next to Crazy Horse Campgrounds at 1534 Beachcomber Blvd. Website: worcsracing.com.

#### MARCH 8

Havasu Half Marathon & 5K. Time: 7 a.m. Half Marathon: 10 a.m. 5K Run/ Walk. Cost: See website. Address: London Bridge Beach, on the Island. (McCulloch Boulevard N. and Beachcomber Boulevard. Website: Runhavasu.com.

#### MARCH 8

17th Annual Crossroads Car & Bike Show, presented by Calvary Baptist Church. Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Car registration is at 7 a.m. Admission: Free. Address: Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway in SARA Park. Website: havasu95speedway.com; www.calvarybaptistlhc.com. Phone: Kim Wierman 928-230-8371.

#### **MARCH 8**

#### 4th Annual Southwest Chowderfest. Professional chefs from local restaurants,

as well as talented home cooks, will vie for the coveted Golden Ladle and the honor of being named the best chowder maker in the friendly competition. Attendees can sample and vote on their favorite chowders. Several breweries and distilleries will provide samples for those 21 and over. This is presented by Soroptimist International of Lake Havasu City and the Lake Havasu Chamber Foundation for Education. **Time:** 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. **Tickets:** General admission \$25 in advance; \$30 at the gate. Kids under 12 are free. VIP tickets are \$75 for VIP tent access, early entry,



Good Shot Judy presents "A Century of Swing" Is the final show of the Lake Havasu Concert Association's 2024-25 Concert Season. It will be March 25 at the Performing Arts Center.

drinks and appetizers. Tickets available online or at a local business - check website for list. Address: Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4, 171 London Bridge Road (Walk-in entrance). Website: southwestchowderfest.com.

#### **MARCH 9**

Turn The Page Concert - tribute to Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band. This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. Time: Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. Tickets: Starting at \$25. Address: LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts.com. Email: conradmon@hotmail.com.

#### MARCH 11

Monthly Guided Refuge Walk. 1-mile Nature Walk. Wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, take water. Time: 9 a.m. (weather permitting). Cost: Free and open to the public. Address: Havasu National Wildlife Refuge - at North Dike, on Country Road 1 about 5 miles from Golf Shores at Pintail Slough/North Dike parking. Pass the parking area and continue to North Dike. Note: there are no facilities available. Phone: Joey Saccomanno 928-259-9632.

#### MARCH 13-14-15-16

Northern Arizona Peace Trail UTV **Off-Road Adventure.** It is 275 miles round trip; All-inclusive off-road adventure. Starts in Wikieup and stops in Kingman, Oatman, Bullhead City, and Lake Havasu City. See website for complete details. Website: UTVoffroadadventures.com. **Contact:** Kyle 623-363-9665; Kyle@utvoffroadadventures.com.

#### **MARCH 14-15-16**

Musical - Unsinkable Molly Brown. Time: Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. Tickets: See website. Address: GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts continued on page 32

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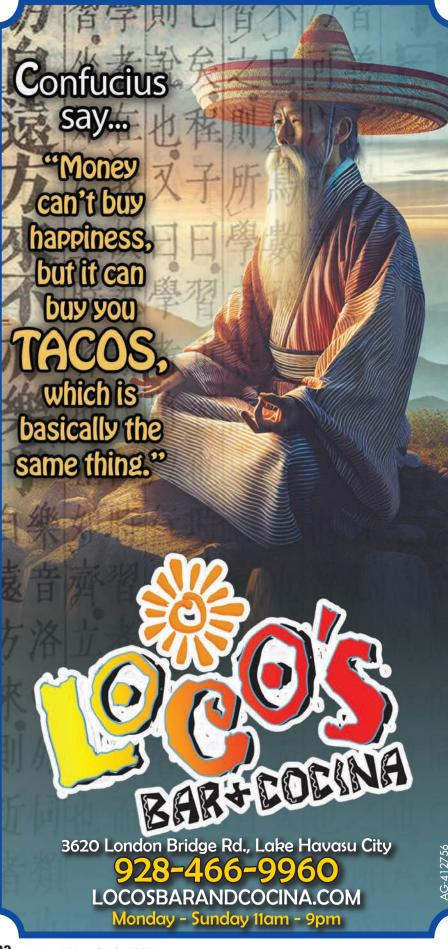




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The Lake Havasu Stampede, sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, will bring thrilling action with some of rodeo's biggest names to SARA Park, March 21-23. Avid Visual Imagery photo.

site: graceartslive.com. Phone: 928-505- Time: Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 2787.

#### MARCH 15

**Mountain Bike Association of Arizona Havasu Havoc.** Riders will be tackling a 10-mile loop of the Watershed Trail. See website for entry fees and starting time of the race. Address: SARA Park 7200 Dub Campbell Parkway. Website: mbaa.net/ racing/havasu-havoc/

#### MARCH 15

Auto racing. Enjoy a full night of racing under the lights with the CANAM Sprint Cars (Friday & Saturday), AVRA Vintage Sprints & Midgets, Late Model Trucks, Dwarf Cars, Factory Stocks, and Mini Dwarfs. **Time:** Gates open at 4 p.m.; Racing at 6 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$14; Seniors, Military, Disabled \$12; Children (6-16) \$6; 5 & under free; Family pack \$28; VIP \$35; Pit passes \$35. Address: Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway in SARA Park. Website: Havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. Phone: 928-716-6300.

#### **MARCH 15-16**

Havasu Art Guild's "Art at the Lake" **Juried Art Show.** This will be the 46th anniversary show. There will be a marketplace area with artwork and crafts that are available for purchase. Raffles and food

Theatre, 2146 McCulloch Blvd N. Web- sales will benefit the scholarship fund. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Admission:** Free and open to the public. Address: LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave.

#### **MARCH 21-22-23**

Lake Havasu Stampede Rodeo. Sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA), the Stampede will feature the standard PRCA Rodeo events along with Women's Pro Rodeo events. The rodeo is produced by Honeycutt Rodeo and Gold Spur Productions. Time: Friday and Saturday 7 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. Gates open two hours prior to event time. Admission: See website. Tickets can be purchased online or at the gate. Free parking. Address: SARA Park Rodeo Grounds, 7206 Dub Campbell Parkway. **Website:** HavasuStampede. com; Facebook Lake Havasu Stampede.

#### **MARCH 21-22-23**

Musical - Unsinkable Molly Brown. Time: Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. Tickets: See website. Address: GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts Theatre, 2146 McCulloch Blvd N. Website: graceartslive.com. Phone: 928-505-2787.

#### **MARCH 22-23**

McCulloch Cup - Hobie Cat Regatta.

continued on next page

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**Time:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Admission:** \$3 for spectators. Sponsored by Lake Havasu Yacht Club and Hobie Fleet 88. **Address:** Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4, 171 London Bridge Road. **Website:** lhyc.net.

#### **MARCH 22-23**

Woodystock Blues & Brews Festival and Extreme Machines. Take your blanket or chair and enjoy a weekend of music. The show will also feature Extreme Machines Motorsports & Recreation Show with Extreme Cars, Trucks, Boats, UTV's, Off Road Vehicles, Motorcycles, Rat Rods & Race Cars and Amazing Boats. There will food and beer garden on site. Time: 10 a.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. Sunday. See website for band schedule. Tickets: \$45 for a weekend pass. Can be purchased on website; cash only at gate. Address: Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4, 699 London Bridge Road. Website: woodystock-bluesfestival.com.

#### MARCH 25

Good Shot Judy presents "A Century of Swing" Concert. This show is part of the 2024-25 Concert Season presented by Lake Havasu Concert Association. Time: 7 p.m. Tickets: Adult single concert \$30; Season subscription \$90. Students free with school ID. Address: Lake Havasu High School Performing Arts Center, 2675 Palo Verde Blvd. S. Website: lhcca.com.

#### **MARCH 28-29-30**

Musical - Unsinkable Molly Brown. Time: Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. Tickets: See website. Address: GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts Theatre, 2146 McCulloch Blvd N. Website: graceartslive.com. Phone: 928-505-2787.

#### MARCH 29

**Q's & Brews Bighorn BBQ Competition.** BBQ Pit Masters from across the country, bands, food trucks. Benefits MCC Foundation Scholarship Fund. **Time:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Admission:** Free; limited parking. **Address:** Building 600, Mohave Community College, 1977 Acoma Blvd. W. **Email:** qsbrews25@gmail.com.

#### **MARCH 29**

**Auto Racing.** The Legends will run their season championship race. Also racing that night will be the Street Stocks, 602 Modifieds, Factory Stocks, Outlaw Karts, and Flat Karts. **Time:** Gates open at 4 p.m.; Racing at 6 p.m. **Tickets:** Adults \$14; Seniors, Military, Disabled \$12; Children (6-16) \$6; 5 & under free; Family pack \$28; VIP \$35; Pit passes \$35. **Address:** Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway in SARA Park. **Website:** Havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. **Phone:** 928-716-6300.

#### MARCH 30

Queen Nation Concert - tribute to Queen. This show is part of the 2025 Tribute Concerts presented by TAD Management. Time: Doors open at 6 p.m.; Concert at 7 p.m. Tickets: Starting at \$25. Address: LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Website: LakeHavasuConcerts. com. Email: conradmon@hotmail.com. ❖

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## Striper Fishing on Lake Havasu: A January & February Playbook

By Justin Butel

If you're a striper fishing enthusiast, January and February on Lake Havasu are prime time. These cooler months push the baitfish - mainly shad - into the deeper waters of the lower basin near the dam, and the stripers follow in droves. This makes it one of the best times to grab a rod (or two, or three) and get after them. Let's dive into some of the top baits,



or three) and get after Justin Butel is the store manager of Southwest Outfitters and an expert them. Let's dive into kayak fisherman. Justin Butel photo.

techniques, and a few tricks I've picked up over the years.

#### **BAIT & TACKLE: KEEP IT SIMPLE**

First up, you don't need a tackle box the size of your boat. Lucky Craft Pointers and jerk baits are always a hit, and smaller spoons can work wonders. Lately, though, the hot ticket has been Tail Spins. These lead-head baits with a blade on the back are deadly when fished right. A quick upgrade tip: swap out the stock treble hook on the belly for a sharper, stronger one. It'll save you a lot of heartache when that monster striper decides to bite. And don't forget the blade—trading the stock Colorado blade for a willow blade can make a surprising difference.

Now, if you're old school (or just want to try a classic), the white Rattletrap still gets the job done. Look for one with a baby rattle-type sound—glass beads, not a single knocker. Trust me on this one; the stripers seem to have a preference, and they're not shy about it.

#### **HIDDEN GEMS & NEW TRENDS**

For trolling, the Mr. Twister Sassy Shad has been a go-to for years. But lately, some anglers have been switching to UV plastic versions. These baits glow when they get deeper, making them irresistible to fish. Bass Pro has a version that's been catching a lot of attention (and fish). Keep your trolling speeds between 3-5 mph, and remember: locate the bait, and you'll locate the fish.

#### **FINDING THE FISH**

Think of striper fishing as hunting. First, find the shad. A good place to start is watching for diving birds—they're the

ultimate fish finders. If you see birds working the water, there's a good chance stripers are beneath them, taking advantage of the buffet.

Surface boils are another dead giveaway. When stripers start busting the surface, grab a white walking bait like a Zara Spook. Work it with a steady cadence, and you'll be rewarded. Pro tip: swap the feathered treble hook from the tail to the belly. It shifts the shimmer to the middle of the bait, tricking those fish into striking closer to the hooks. Little tweaks like this can mean the difference between a miss and a catch.

#### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

Striper fishing on Lake Havasu in January and February is as much about the hunt as it is the catch. Whether you're trolling deep with UV plastics, casting Tail Spins into the depths, or chasing boils with a walking bait, it's all about finding what works for you. Keep your hooks sharp, your bait selection tight, and your sense of humor sharper.

If you've got questions or just want to swap striper stories, I'm all ears. Until then, tight lines, and I hope to see you out there.

About the Author:

Justin Butel is the store manager of Southwest Outfitters, located at 159 Paseo del Sol Ave. in Lake Havasu City. With years of experience in the outdoor and fishing industry, Justin's passionate about promoting kayak bass fishing and helping others discover the joys of the sport. For gear, advice, or to join a local tournament, contact Justin at justin@swkoutfitters.com or call the store at 928-680-9257.



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The Special Activities and Recreation Area, commonly known as S.A.R.A. Park, sits on the southern edge of Lake Havasu City and is home to a variety of recreational activities. Go Lake Havasu photo.

## S.A.R.A. Park in a Class by Itself

and Recreation Area, commonly known as S.A.R.A. Park.

The 1,100-acre recreational area, which sits off Highway 95 on the far southern edge of town, is a canvas for a variety of activities and is an outdoor enthusiast's dream space.

There is no charge to use the park, which is open daily from dawn to 11 p.m.

"SARA Park is so unique in housing a dog park, disc golf course, hiking and mountain biking trails, rodeo grounds, remote control air field, a BMX track, an off-road track, a skating rink, ball fields, a speedway and a firing range," said local hiking expert, Jackie Leatherman, who owns Havasu Hikes, the only commercial hiking guide company in Mohave County (havasuhikes.com).

"You could easily spend days doing all of the SARA Park activities. I do think the diversity of interests displayed at SARA Park makes it one of the most unique parks in Arizona."

#### **HIKING TRAILS**

The hiking trails at SARA Park are not only some of the most scenic, but offer opportunities from easy hikes for the novice, to more strenuous for the seasoned hiker.

Leatherman has been

There's no place near Lake Havasu over 12 years and still finds new trails to ex-City quite like the Special Activities plore, but cautions that it is easy to get turned around in the park, and recommends new hikers stay to the right of the main trailhead.

> The hike through Slot Canyon (aka SARA's Crack) is a popular trail as are Table Top and Pilot Rock.

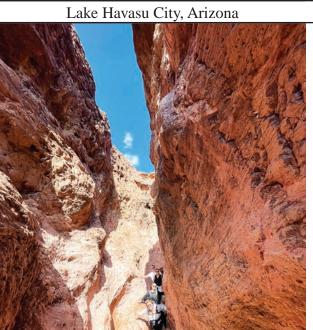
> "The city, volunteers, and the BLM have done an excellent job adding signage and QR codes for trails at SARA Park," said Leatherman. "The most popular trails have improved signage making it perfect for novice hikers, but there are also miles and miles of trails in a largely unpopulated area of SARA Park near the Pilot Rock trail that are ideal for experienced hikers."

> She suggests that people download the Avenza maps and download the Lake Havasu City Map 5 for SARA Park, which are free.

continued on next page



hiking at SARA Park for An aerial shot of the SARA Park Rodeo Grounds. Gary Van Straten photo.



One of the popular hikes at SARA Park takes hikers through Slot Canyon, aka SARA's Crack. Havasu Hikes photo.

"This map shows the designated trails, which are important to stay on, and the map is also available if you don't have strong cell service," she added.

The hiking and mountain biking trails overlap, however, it's uncommon to see mountain bikers in trails that are located in washes.

"It's important to be aware of your surroundings when hiking, including listening for mountain bikers, and I always suggest that hikers give way to allow mountain bikers to pass," Leatherman said.

#### MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

Mountain biking in Lake Havasu City is great for those who like to hike, but also enjoy cycling, according to Go Lake Havasu. Take-in the stunning desert terrains head to a mountaintop where breathtaking views of the lake and city are abundant. All ages are welcome to hit the trails, making this a fantastic family outing full of adventure and exercise.

For those who don't have a mountain bike, Lake Havasu City has many bike rental facilities to fit any need. Arizona mountain biking weather in this desert climate is ideal from October to April. Be sure to take water and wear a helmet for safety.

The Mountain Bike Association of Arizona hosts several events at SARA Park throughout the year. In March, it will host Havasu Havoc - a 10-mile loop of the Watershed Trail. For more information about this race, visit mbaa.net.

#### RODEO GROUNDS

The Dub Campbell family and Friends of the Fair de-



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continued from previous page

veloped an open space into a top-notch mation, visit havasurodeo.com. Rodeo Arena and Grounds. Dub and the FOF committee worked with the BLM to "secure some acreage at SARA Park for a permanent location for the rodeo/fairgrounds," according to the Delbert Days Rodeo Program.

In 2009, thanks to many business owners and citizens, the rodeo grounds was secured and ready to be the permanent home of the Friends of the Fair and rodeo fairgrounds. The first rodeo was held there in 2010.

Considerable upgrades were made in 2019 and again in 2020 to improve the facility including additional seating, box seats, new chutes, contestant lounge, new bathroom, handicap parking, and lights for evening events.

Two rodeos - Lake Havasu Stampede Rodeo and Delbert Days Rodeo with appearances by Grand Canyon Rodeo Association - have made this facility their annual home, but other rodeos have booked the arena as well.

The rodeo grounds hosts many local nonprofit groups and organizations as well as campouts and concerts. For more infor-

#### **HAVASU 95 SPEEDWAY**

As the majority of race tracks across the country shut down during the winter months, Havasu 95 Speedway heats-up. Nineteen years ago, track promoter Bill Rozhon and his family resurrected the former race track with extensive work.

They transformed this quarter-mile asphalt oval into one of the top auto racing facilities in the Southwest, and one of three asphalt tracks in Arizona. The track runs an October through April racing schedule and continues to thrive in part because of the attendance of winter visitors who have become regulars when they're in town.

The track features regular classes and traveling series. Classes running for track championships on the asphalt include: Pro Late Models, Street Stocks, 602 Modifieds, Factory Stocks, Dwarf Cars, and Legends. About 10 years ago, a small dirt track was built in the speedway's infield to accommodate youth Outlaw Karts; and three years ago the track added Flat Karts, which are for both youth and adults.

The speedway hosts car shows and

continued on page 40









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Havasu 95 Speedway is a quarter-mile asphalt oval that runs a winter schedule and draws racers and spectators from across the map. Howard Twaddell photo.

automotive swap meets along with other on those days. After that, the gates close to events, including Monster Truck shows members only. Membership dues are \$75 and the Western Pyrotechnics Association's Winter Blast fireworks displays in February. For more information, visit havasu95speedway.com.

#### **LAKE HAVASU MOTOCROSS PARK**

Sitting near the speedway is the motocross facility, which accommodates novice riders to professionals. The track recently opened its winter schedule.

For more information on the track, follow Lake Havasu Motocross Park on Facebook.

#### **LAKE HAVASU SPORTSMAN CLUB**

The club, which offers a rifle range, pistol range, shotgun range and two archery ranges, welcomes visitors and has many winter travelers who use the facility.

The club has over 2,000 members, most of whom are Lake Havasu City citizens or weekenders. The club regularly holds matches including: Winter Highpower Rifle matches, Small bore Rifle matches and Pistol matches.

"We like to have people come out and shoot in our matches or just bring a cup of coffee and watch," said Tom Hafner, Secretary of Lake Havasu City Sportsman Club Inc. "Once they see it, I am sure they will join in the fun."

Trap, Skeet and 5 Stand are open only on the days the club is open to the public. Cost is \$5 for members and \$9 for nonmembers. For that, shooters get 25 clay

Non-Members can enjoy the facility Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday for a charge of \$10 per shooter. Guests with members in attendance are not charged. The gates are open from 8 a.m. to Noon

annually. Members with a key card have access from sun-up to sunset seven days a week.

For complete information on the club, visit havasusportsman.com.

#### **STERLING FIELD**

Sterling Field is the home of Desert Hawks RC Club, which is a private membership club. The club welcomes visitors to come out and watch whenever the gates are open. Members hold several special events for club members and flyers who attend from other communities.

The complex includes a 750 feet long x 60 feet wide runway, short course and oval dirt race tracks, and a helicopter/drone field. There are restrooms and a shaded pit

The cost of membership is \$100 per year for an individual membership and \$120 per year for a family membership (two or more adults residing in the same household). Membership is free to Juniors (under 19).

In addition to being a member of the club, they are chartered and insured by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and all members, adults and juniors, must also belong to the AMA to use a model on the facility.

For more information about the club, membership, and upcoming events, visit deserthawksrc.club.

#### **BMX TRACK**

The Lake Havasu BMX track welcomes riders of all ages and abilities and occasionally gets some from out of town while they're visiting Havasu. The track, which

continued on next page

www.WhiteSheetOnline.com

#### Lake Havasu City, Arizona

continued from previous page

races on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter, has loaner bikes and helmets that visitors can use to try out

Riders are required to wear a helmet, long sleeves, and long pants (or elbow and knee pads if wearing short sleeves or shorts).

The track offers a one-day free trial membership; and then after that, riders are required to get a USABMX membership in order to ride on the track. The membership for balance bikes is \$40 annually and for pedal bikes \$80 annually.

The track fees are \$5 for balance bikes and practice or \$10 to race pedal bikes.

Winter hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sign-ups are from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., followed by racing. Every other Wednesday is coaching. The schedule is added to the Lake Havasu City BMX Facebook page every week.

#### **DISC GOLF**

The SARA Park Disc Golf Course sits between the Rodeo Grounds and the dog park. It has 18 'holes' and is 6,533 feet long, according to Go Lake Havasu.

According to its website, the course layout is available on the UDisc app, and is easy to follow with arrows pointing from each basket location to the following teepad. Additionally basket colors alternate from Red to White to Black throughout the course to add to the ease of following the proper layout.

"The local disc golf club designed a disc golf course at SARA Park, and they have done a great job with the course," Leatherman said. "You can purchase discs (like frisbees) at a sporting goods store and it is a great way to spend some time outdoors and get some exercise without it being too strenuous."

#### DYLAN'S DOG PARK

This two-acre, off-leash dog park sits right inside the north end of SARA Park and accommodates dogs of all sizes with separate fenced-in areas - one for small dogs under 25 pounds, and another for larger dogs. Each area features a grassy area, pooch wading pool, walking paths (one approximately 1/10 mile and the other approximately 1/5 mile), and covered benches. Although the small dog section is reserved for the little guys, smaller dogs with attitudes can run with the big dogs if they want.

#### INLINE SKATING RINK

The Inline Skating Rink, which is located near the baseball fields, can be used by the public. It is used by both roller skaters and roller hockey players. For more information, follow Havasu Skates and/or Havasu Sk8 Club (Havasu Roller Skate Club).

SARA Park is located on Hwy. 95 in the south end of Lake Havasu City. There are two ways to enter by turning onto Dub Campbell Parkway, which winds around from one edge to the other. Either turn off Hwy. 95 at the stoplight at South McCulloch Boulevard, or directly off the highway to the parkway.

GoLakeHavasu.com contributed to this article. For more information on everything SARA Park offers, visit golakehavasu.com/parks. 💠



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## A Gem of an Organization: Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society

By Vivian (Makela) Sazama

If you like rocks and you're looking for something to do, go check out Havasu Rocks Lapidary and Gift Shop and talk to one of their volunteers. You might get hooked, like Director and Vice President Steve Prather did several years ago.

"My kids and grandkids came down and wanted to go rock hounding," said Steve. "I didn't know anything about it so I took them down by the lake. Realizing that wasn't going to cut it, I then took them to behind Oatman, and that's when I got hooked!"

The Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society (LHGMS) has a long history, becoming established in 1969, shortly after Lake Havasu City came to be. The Society has the claim of being the longest continually active rock and mineral club in the area.

"Originally it was located on McCulloch Avenue, but after Covid it moved to the (Lake Havasu Museum of History)," said Steve. "The lapidary shop moved temporarily to another location, but in April I was able to bring it here to this location. We added the gift shop in front and spaces are leased to various members who showcase their works for sale."

The LHGMS is non-profit and run entirely by volun-

"We're all mostly retirees," said Steve.

The volunteers put on workshops, which include Wire



Lake Havasu Gems and Minerals Director and Vice President Steve Prather shows the various equipment available for turning your rock into a 2em.

Wrapping, Metal Working (mainly silver, said Steve), and How to Cut Stones and Make Jewelry.

"Anyone can come in and use the equipment," said Steve. "We have a computer and internet they can use for research, and a rocks library."

For a small fee and after a short orientation on shop safety, members and non-members can use the saws to cut stones and use the various other equipment to bring their rocks alive.



The center stone is a fire agate from Oatman that started Steve Prather on his love of gems and minerals.

The LHGMS also gives out a scholarship every year to a high school student, using funds it raises from its annual November Gem and Mineral Show.

"We started our first Kids Geology Day, a free Summer Camp program, with 27 kids coming out for it," said Steve. "One of our Directors was asked to give a presentation at the Prestige Assisted Living Facility, which she was happy to do. New Horizons bring out a van full of residents to come look at all that's here. Also people from

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\*Email subscribers will receive a link to the latest edition on Monday afternoon for Tuesday's White Sheet,

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The Views (a Premier All-Inclusive Senior our group. She has YouTube videos, 'El- geologic consultant and has tak-Living facility) will come out," he said. "We really want to become more involved in the community and let people know what we're all about!"

As well as workshops, the volunteers will lead Rock Hounding Adventures.

"We'll go out to old mines and other locations in the area," said Steve. "One of our directors is Elley Ringo, who we've

ley Knows Rocks' that people can watch en her knowledge and passion on our TV here."

Elley is a geologist, scientist and rock teaching people about geology hound according to her website elleyknowsrocks.com. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economic Geology about 300 members, mostly winfrom the University of Nevada, Reno, and worked as a professional economic geologist for 12 years at a major minbeen lucky enough to have be a part of ing company. She is now an independent

for minerals and put them into and mining.

At present, the LHGMS has ter visitors who come from all over the country, according to

"They bring the rocks from their states, and sometime other countries, with them," said Steve. "That makes for an interesting variety."

Steve has his own personal collection on display, with gems

from all over the world. A fire agate that he found while at Oatman is one of his favorites, maybe because it is what started him on what has become a passionate hobby. He has also purchased rocks, such as an Andamooka opal from Australia. "I'll go to garage and estate sales, and as soon as I see a certain bunch of rocks, I can tell that these people might have been members (of LHGMS) at one time!" he said.

Memberships are \$20/year and a nam-



One of the rocks Steve Prather purchased is this Andamooka opal from Australia.

etag is available for an additional \$12. To sign-up, stop by the Havasu Rocks shop at 790 N. Lake Havasu Ave.

The shop is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Lake Havasu City History Museum at 320 London Bridge Road where the LHGMS also has a shop with gems for sale is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information and current events go to lakehavasugms.com. �



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# London Bridge Bullis keeps Buses by the Bridge Running

nce John Howard bought his first Volkswagen bus about 60 years ago, he was hooked.

"I got my first bus in 1965 when I was in junior in high school," John recalls, who over the years has restored never not had one since."

His passion for VW buses led him to attend a few VW events and in 1991, he hosted the first VW bus campout in Lake Havasu City. That event drew 18 VW buses to Crazy Horse Campgrounds on the Island. He collected \$100, which he donated to Arizona Children's Association.

Buses by the Bridge was born, but it took another five years to have a second one. But once John and fellow VW bus enthusiast, Ronnie Feitelson, resurrected the event in 1996, it has been going strong ever since.



hundreds of buses. "I've Event founder John Howard (far left) is joined on the Showmobile stage by his fellow London Bridge Bullis, who present the annual Buses by the Bridge VW campout.

There was no way John could have predicted that it would turn into an international event - drawing campers, visitors, and media attention from across the globe. It is the only bus-only campout and largest VW event in the U.S. From attracting less than 20 buses that inaugural year, the fourday campout now averages 600 to 700 buses - the largest draw was 853 buses.

"We get people from every state," said John. "Every other year a lady flies in from Germany; and another comes every year from England."

A handful of friends, also VW bus owners, joined John and Ronnie in organizing the annual campout. They named themselves, London Bridge Bullis, because that's what Germans called VW buses, according to John.

The group started with 10 members and has been putting on this event every year. It is now in its 28th year - and has been at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4 for about the past 20 years.

This annual VW bus campout draws bus owners to the desert to share stories and good times. In November, bus owners were already on social media talking about this year's event, which is Thursday through Sunday, January 16-19. Buses owners will start arriving as early as Monday and line-up by the Hampton Inn ready to move-in and get a great spot when gates open that Thursday. continued on next page

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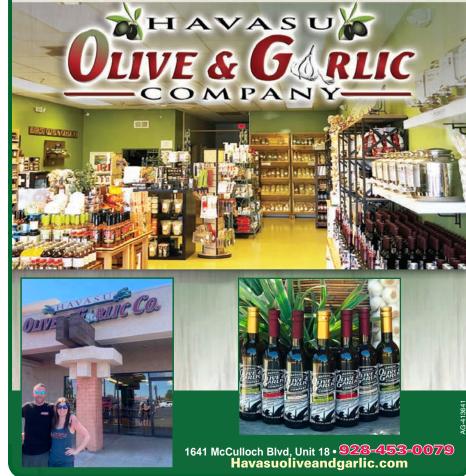




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Hundreds of VW buses cover the area of Windsor 4 at Lake Havasu State Park.

The public enjoys attending the event and can relate, because "everyone has a it going," he said. "We will have a lot of Volkswagen story," said John. The public can drop by anytime - starting after Noon on Thursday, or after 8 a.m. the other three days. The event will be accessible through the gate by the Hampton Inn all weekend. Admission is \$5 for all four days; there is no charge for kids 17 and under.

The public is invited to walk among the buses and see the intrigue of these classic vehicles. Spectators will see different stages of VW buses dating back to 1954-55 up to the 1990s. Bus owners might even share a story or two of their VW's travel history. Some will tell stories of attending this event with their parents when they were younger.

John said that many of the kids who came with their parents years ago, are now parents themselves and have continued the faces, its all worth it," John said. family VW bus tradition with their own children.

"It being family-friendly is what keeps first timers this year."

John usually chooses people and to be 'judges' to choose their favorite 20 buses. He compiles the list and announces the "Favorite 20" during the weekend. The 'favorites' might not always be the shiniest or those in pristine condition, but they did catch the eye of the 'judges'.

The public can go out any day, but Saturday is when the children's activities are planned. There will be a free kids raffle at noon, during which each child receives a free raffle ticket and prize. Mat Olson donates his time to put on a Freestyle BMX show in the afternoon, but in the morning will take kids on a bike ride through the English Village and under the London

"When you see the smile on the kids

Bus owners will be packing-up and leaving on Sunday, but before they do, the

Boy Scouts will be serving a pancake breakfast at 7 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

There is a large raffle of all Volkwagen-related items at 11 a.m.

All of the money raised from the event stays in Lake Havasu City. Over the years, the Bullis has distributed around \$750,000 to local youth programs and organizations, including to schools and LHC Parks and Recreation.

For more information, visit busesbythebridge.com or follow Official Buses by the Bridge on Facebook. ❖









Buses start lining up at the Hampton Inn parking lot as early as Monday to secure a good spot when the gates open Thursday for the Buses by the Bridge campout.

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## Behind the Scenes With Havasu BLM Staff

By Vivian (Makela) Sazama

any people don't realize all that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employees do behind the scenes. The public might encounter the workers at entrance fee stations at local, state or national parks, but that's just a small part of what they do.

The Havasu BLM Field Office oversees 1.3 million acres, with the boundaries including portions of La Paz and Mohave Counties in Arizona, and San Bernadino

County in California. One hundred forty miles of the lower Colorado River are also within the District with the portion from Lake Havasu City to the Parker Dam, 25 miles downriver, having 72 water-accessonly campsites. Each campsite has bathroom facilities and picnic tables and are spaced in such a way that provides a feeling of privacy at each site. One camper commented that the site they have come to for years is "the best family site on the whole lake".

For Park Rangers Jessica Smith and Steve Joor of the Lake Havasu Field Office, the tasks covering this stretch of the river are wide and varied, including visiting each of the 72 river campsites to collect fees and pick up garbage.

"Since 2020 when covid began, we have been short of staff," said Public Relations Specialist Jason VanBuskirk. As of December, there were several maintenance and park ranger positions open in the Lake Havasu Field Office.

Because of the personnel shortage, both park rangers will jump in and do whatever needs to be done, which may include picking-up trash, helping with the Brush Maintenance Program, and overall clean-up of the Day Use sites.

"Everyone pitches in to get needed things done," said Jessica. "I really enjoy my job and like to know that what I do makes a difference. I see my job as being a service not only to the public, but also to the land."

Jessica has been a park ranger for only four months, but she and her husband served as volunteers for the Mohave County Sheriff's Search and Rescue for two years since moving to Arizona from Idaho



acres, with the boundaries The Bureau of Land Management staff in the Lake Havasu Field including portions of La Paz Office includes, from left, Public Relations Specialist Jason VanBusand Mohave Counties in kirk, Park Ranger Steve Joor, and Park Ranger Jessica Smith.

three years ago.

"I have always been community service minded," she said. "I was in Girl Scouts while growing-up, and in some ways this job is an extension of that."

She also volunteers as a Boat and Safety Officer for the Mohave County Sheriff's Office

"A lot of what I do is educating the public and just being a presence," she said.

For Park Ranger Steve Joor, what began as a volunteer position with the BLM evolved into a regular job.

"I had my NAPA parts store business in Parker from 1998 to 2010. After I sold it, I started volunteering for the BLM here in Havasu for their Brush Maintenance Program in 2012," said Steve. 'I got certified in many of the needed areas, so when they asked me in 2016 to become a full-time park ranger, it was an easy transition."

In the eight years since Steve became a park ranger, he has trained eight new park rangers.

"They come here from elsewhere and find out how hot the summers are and leave," he laughed.

Jason VanBuskirk has been employed at the BLM for two years with six months in his current position as Public Relations Specialist.

"My wife and I moved here from Burley, Idaho where we had lived for 25 years," he said. "Burley is a small town, founded in the early 1900's as a halfway point between Boise and Idaho Falls. I was pastoring a small church there and also worked as a librarian at the Junior High School.

"We moved to Arizona nine years ago when my wife got a job as an Administrative Assistant for Arizona State Offices.

continued on next page

Later, she transferred over as an Administrative Officer to the Colorado River District here in Lake Havasu City. I had worked for the National Park Service in administration at one time, so when this one and a half years, I decided to apply."

One of the concerns that has plagued the campsites is vandalism.

"With the shortage of maintenance help nually. We've been operating in deficit for and materials, it makes it difficult to bring these into repair. There also have been signs that have been vandalized."

Another concern is that many campers position opened-up and wasn't filled for or day users disregard the Day Use and/or source Advisory Council actively looking Camp Fees sign that is at each site.

with operations," said Steve. "It costs "Several years ago vandals burned out \$984,000 annually for our Shoreland bathroom vaults at two Lake Havasu sites Project here on Lake Havasu each year. Steve started volunteering with is one that

10 years. The \$10 per day fee is low, com-fish," he said. "The lake bottom was forpared to a \$20 per day fee or more at many state parks."

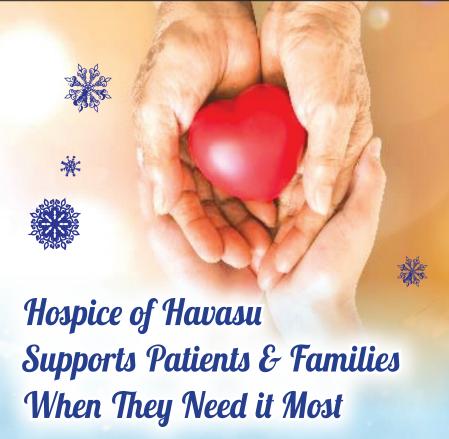
Added Jason: "Currently, there is a Reto upgrade and repair the sites and facili-"We depend on these fees to continue ties. There is some thought in increasing the rates to help fund this effort."

The Brush Maintenance Program that

"In the 1990's Lake Havasu had no mer farmland and there was no fish habitat for them to thrive in. Now, since the Brush Maintenance Program has been implemented, Lake Havasu is among the top 25 best bass fishing lakes in the country."

The Brush Maintenance Program is quite intensive and offers free disposal of shrubbery and brush for landscaping businesses or individuals. Individuals can also dispose of their live Christmas trees





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Lake Havasu City, Arizona



Learn more about Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge during a weekly guided nature walk.

### Wildlife Refuges Offer Free Guided Walks

By Laura Kassik

ake a walk and soak-in the beauty and serenity of a National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors to this area have two to choose from - Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge near Parker and Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.

Both refuges will offer guided walks from now until April. These ongoing events are free and open to the public. Remember to wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, and take water.

Both refuges are managed for migratory birds, and this year, Bill Williams is offering a Birding Walk in addition to its Nature Walk. Bill Williams River is a great place to spot water birds such as grebes, diving ducks, and great as well as desert birds like roadrunners, quail, phainopepla, or loggerhead shrike. It has been recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society for its bird conservation.

Bill Williams River has more established visitor facilities including a Visitor Center, hiking trails, fishing docks, and a

kayak launch all in one place. The Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Havasu Refuge is more spread out as it stretches from Mesquite Bay and Castle Rock Bay in Lake Havasu, up through the Gorge to Topock Marsh and Pintail Slough near Golden Shores. It attracts marsh birds like rails, dabbling ducks, and geese. There is a fishing pier at Mesquite Bay and areas to launch a kayak, or other non-motorized watercraft.

Both refuges are open from sunrise to sunset. Camping is not permitted. They are both free to visitors.

#### **BILL WILLIAMS NWR**

Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge will offer two 1.5-mile walks - a Birding Walk and a Refuge Walk. Both walks start at 9 a.m. at the Visitor Center and travel the Peninsula Trail (paved) and then the Delta Trail (unpaved).

The Birding Walk, led by local birding expert Michelle Brock, will be on the first

continued on page 52

continued from previous page

through the program.

"The Christmas trees are really beneficial for the small fish to eat," said Steve.

The guidelines for the program are specific and a packet of information can be found at the Lake Havasu Field Office at 1785 Kiowa Ave., or by calling 928-505-1200. The packet includes volunteer information for those who are interested in making a difference to help preserve the beautiful Lake Havasu and its fisheries.



One of the 72 beautiful water-access-only BLM campsites on Lake Havasu.

**50** 



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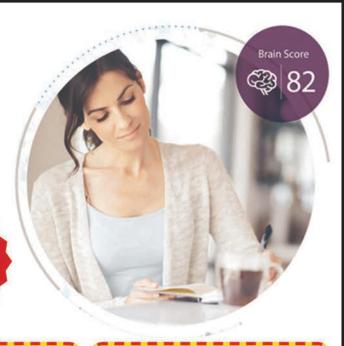
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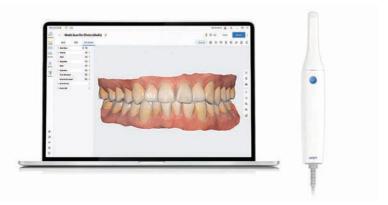
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Lake Havasu City, Arizona



Joey Saccomanno, Visitor Services Specialist, will give free guided nature walks at both Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge and Havasu National Wildlife Refuge through April.

Tuesday of the month until April 1 (January 7, February 4, March 4, and April 1). The walk is free, but reservations are required by calling Saccomanno at 928-259-9632.

Saccomanno or a Refuge volunteer will lead the Nature Walk every Thursday morning until April 10. Participants will learn about the Refuge as well as the different types of wildlife that call it home.

The Visitor Center is located at 60911 Hwy 95 (Milepost 161) in Parker.

Directions from Lake Havasu City: Travel approximately 17 miles south on Hwy 95 until you cross the Bill Williams River Bridge. Continue for ½ mile and turn right into the Visitor Center parking area near Mile Marker 161.

From Parker: Travel north 18 miles to Mile Marker 161 and turn toward the lake.

#### **HAVASU NWR**

At Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Saccomanno or a Refuge volunteer will lead a one-mile Nature Walk at 9 a.m. on

the second Tuesday of each month from now until April 8. Reservations are not required. Dates include: January 14, February 11, March 11, and April 8.

The walks start at the Parking Area at North Dike (Near Pintail Slough and Golden Shores). Participants will learn about the refuge's habitat types and the communities that rely on them. There are no facilities at North Dike.

Directions from Lake Havasu City: From Hwy I-40, take Exit 1 toward Golden Shores/Oatman. Turn right onto Oatman-Topock Hwy. Follow 5 miles to the town of Golden Shores. Turn left onto County Road 1. Follow about another 5 miles and take a left at the sign for Pintail Slough/North Dike parking. Pass parking area for Pintail Slough and continue a short distance to North Dike.

For more information on any of the walks, contact Joey Saccomanno at 928-259-9632. ❖



Learn more about Havasu National Wildlife Refuge during a monthly guided nature walk.

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### **2025 Yuma Events Calendar**

Richard Fontanes contributed to this listing

#### DECEMBER 2024

#### **DECEMBER 21**

Spirit Of Christmas: The Yuma Orchestra Association's Civic Orchestra and String Ambassadors will present holiday classics in this popular concert. 2pm and 6:30 pm, Snider Auditorium, 400 S. 6th Ave. www.yumaorchestra.org.

#### **DECEMBER 21**

**Somerton Tamale Festival:** Tamales with a variety of meat, fruit and vegetable fillings are served up by dozens of vendors in this celebration that includes live music over the course of the day. Hosted by the city and Arizona State University's El Diablito alumni chapter, this event has been one of Yuma County's most popular for more than a decade. Main Street in Somerton. (928) 722-7394 or (928) 655-0247.

#### **DECEMBER 31**

Yuma Jazz Company. Performance on New Year's Eve at Julieanna's Steak & Seafood. 1951 W. 25th Street. Vocalist Eloisa Arviso. Exceptional, award-winning cuisine. Special New Year's Eve dining hours 4pm-11pm. Live music 6pm-10pm. Call 928-317-1961 for reservations and menu prices.

#### JANUARY 2025

Yuma is a vibrant community with activities filling the calendar to meet friends, find something to do, enjoy entertainment, get in shape, or simply appreciate the lovely weather. January is filled with

Juggling school at the Renaissance fair is but one of dozens of activities to do. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

to get you moving and socialize!

#### **JANUARY ADULT CLASSES**

City of Yuma Adult Classes: There are numerous activities ranging from archery, to art classes, to basketball. Here are some examples. Jan 8 is Cardio Kickboxing, Joe Henry Optimist Center 4pm-5pm; Jan 16-17 is Quilting at North End Community Center 5:45pm-7:30pm; Jan 17-Feb 14 is Archery Session 5pm-7pm; and Jan 18 is 3-on-3 Basketball tournament, Joe Henry Optimist Center, 1793 South 1st Avenue 10am-3pm. Visit https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/city ofyumaaz/activity/

#### **JANUARY 1**

New Years Day: At Cocopah, Desert Sun Stadium & Fairgrounds. Enjoy fireworks.

#### **JANUARY 1**

**Open Mic at Coffee Bean:** Every first and third Saturday at 5:30pm-8:00pm.

#### **JANUARY 3**

Friday Night Munchies: Yuma County Fairgrounds, 2520 E. 32nd Street, on the main parking lot. Enjoy local vendors' savory burgers and tacos, then top it off with refreshing beverages and sweet treats. Live entertainment, DJ and great vibes. Family friendly fun for all ages. Outdoor seating. 6pm-10pm. Free admission.

#### **JANUARY 4**

Yuma Agfest Festival (replacing the Medjool Date Festival): Local growers to be showcased. Downtown Yuma, Main Street. 10am-9pm. Free admission.

#### **JANUARY 4-17**

Concert: Heaven & Hell: AZ/DZ and festivals, concerts, and physical options Led Zepplified at Historic Yuma Theater.

Doors open 6:30pm. Concerts at 7pm.

JANUARY 7 - Feb 14

**Winter Senior Sports Tournaments:** Three sports - archery, pool shooting and pickleball. A vibrant celebration of skill, camaraderie and competition. Tournaments each week, with registration ending the week before. Archery events take place at PAAC Archery Range: 1700 E. 8th St; Pool shooting at Country Roads RV Village: 5707 East 32nd Street: Pick-

leball at Fortuna de Oro RV Resort: 13650 N. Frontage Road. For more info, call 928-373-5200.

#### **JANUARY 7**

Blood Drive: Scheduled be held at Country Roads RV Village, 5707 E. 32nd Street. 7:30am-12:30pm.

#### **JANUARY 7**

#### **Horror Event Concert & Performanc-**

es: Featuring Peeling Flesh, APEX, Predator, Inside You, Before For Life and more. Tarros Chicali Sports Bar & Grill, 2526 East 16th Street, 6pm-11pm. Tickets are \$20 and available on Eventbrite.com.

#### **JANUARY 8**

**Blood Drive:** Scheduled to be held at Bonita Mesa RV Resort. 9400 N. Frontage Rd. 10am-3pm.

#### **JANUARY 9**

**Good Morning Yuma!** Network with our business community at the Cocopah

continued on next page



Fireworks at Cocopah as seen from a popular parking spot where people ride ATVs. Photo by Ayden Bazua.



# **BREAKFAST**

#### **WEEKLY SPECIALS**



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Casino, 15318 S. Avenue B. 7am-9am. Sponsored by Onvida Health. Program: AZ Community Foundation. Early Bird pricing for Chamber of Commerce members, \$35, and \$55 for non-members (before January 3rd). After that date, tickets are \$45 for members and \$65 for non-members. Doors open 7am. Breakfast at 7:30am.



Ballet performances occur in December, April and May and give numerous artistic opportunities to local artists and youth. Photo provided by Ericka Bowen.

#### **JANUARY 10-11**

**Desert Lily Quilt Show:** Members of Desert Lily Quilters will exhibit their quilts in the annual show that brings together vendors from around the state who offer fabrics and other quilting and sewing related items. 9am-4pm. Yuma Civic Center, 1440 W. Desert Hills Drive. (928) 341-1588.

#### **JANUARY 11**

7th Annual Hot Rides On The River Car Show: Featuring the hottest rides in Yuma. Free to the public. Raffles, a DJ, vendors, food and a 50/50 drawing. Proceeds to benefit Amberly's Place. 11am-3pm. Fisher's Landing Resort, 10882 N. Fishers Landing Rd. facebook.com/Yuma-CarsandCoffee.

#### **JANUARY 11**

Scandinavian Club of Yuma, Lute-fisk And Meatball Dinner: Featuring a traditional Scandinavian meal of homemade lutefisk and meatballs, plus side dishes. Noon to 2:30pm. \$25 per ticket. Christ Lutheran Activity Center, 2555 S. Engler Ave. Laurie Rye (206) 499-5256. email lorye4@gmail.com.

#### **JANUARY 11**

Jukebox January 5K/10K: Fun Run for the experienced runner or walkers! Welcome to all levels! 8am-11am. West Wetlands Park/Centennial Beach. www. yumaaz.gov/government/information-technology/search/Jukebox.

#### **JANUARY 11**

**Fun Run & Walk:** This is a 5K & a 10K event. West Wetland Park.

#### **JANUARY 11-12**

Yuma Art in the Park: Event will be held at scenic Gateway Park, modeled after Georges Seurat's painting "Sunday on La Grande Jatte". Enjoy local and regional artist displays along the Colorado River. Lawn games and food vendors. Family fun

at only \$1 per person, children under six are free. Leashed dogs welcome.

#### **JANUARY 11-12**

Musical/Play: Sunday in the Park with George. Gateway Park, 250 Prison Hill Rd. Yuma Community Theater presents Stephen Sondheim in collaboration with Yuma Art Center & City of Yuma.

#### **JANUARY 11-12**

**Soft-Paws Softball Tournament:** All proceeds from registration costs will go directly to Humane Society of Yuma for rescue efforts to reduce animal homeless population. Pre-registration Fee is \$550. 9am-5pm. Call 928-919-3026.

#### **JANUARY 13-14**

Howling at the Moon Festival: Some call it the Big Tailgate Party, others The Senior Kegger. Music, food trucks, vendors, dancing and fun. From 12noon until one hour after moonrise. Music starts at 3pm. Bring your own chairs. Located at the base of Telegraph Pass on East end of N. Frontage Rd.

#### **JANUARY 17**

Jazz at Julieanna's: Steak and seafood restaurant located at 1951 W. 25th Street. Yuma's sophisticated jazz scene. Elegant and inviting patio. 6pm-9pm.

#### **JANUARY 17**

History Under The Stars Dinner: A program about Yuma-area history will be served up with a delicious meal. Sanguinetti House Museum, 240 S. Madison Ave. (928) 782-1841.

#### **JANUARY 17-19**

Yuma Home & Garden Show: Yuma Civic Center, 1440 W. Desert Hills Dr. Event Times: Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm. Talk to vendors, compare prices. Learn about green building and re-modeling, finance, and even

continued on next page

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cooking. Attend the numerous "How To" demonstrations JANUARY 24-25 and seminars.

#### JANUARY 17-26

Play/Drama Performance: Steel Magnolias. Presented at 270 Black Box Theatre, 270 S. Main Street. Go to website: http://www.yctaz org/sm.

#### **JANUARY 18 - APRIL 25**

Village Jazz Series: Musicians from the Yuma area, Phoenix, San Diego and Los Angeles perform in this series of free concerts presented by Yuma Palms Regional Center and organized by Yuma Jazz Company's Steven Hennig. Thursday evenings 6pm-8pm. Village Area in the Yuma Palms Regional Center. www.Yuma-Jazz.com.

#### **JANUARY 19**

The Traveling Talleys Concert: Enjoy their performance at Shangri-La RV Resort, 10498 N. Frontage Rd, starting at 4pm.

#### **JANUARY 20**

to support the Town of Wellton Parks and Recreation. Breakfast, barbecue beef lunch, entertainment, antique tractor display, food and demonstration booths, and fun. 8am-5pm. Avenue 28 1/2 E and County 12th Street, Wellton. www.welltonaz.gov/community/pages/annualevents. (928) 785-3348.

**Young Artisans and Crafters Show:** Features handmade items, such as jewelry, paintings, winter decor and more. Yuma County Fairground, Theatre Building. 2520 E. 32nd Street. 9am-3pm. Free to the public.

#### **JANUARY 24-25**

**Mountain Shadows Artist Association Art Show:** Members of the association will exhibit their works in a variety of mediums in this judged show. Artwork will be available for purchase. Yuma County Fairgrounds, Fine Arts Building, 2520 E. 32nd St. (928) 210-4170.

#### **JANUARY 25**

Wild West Days: Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park. Experience the thrill of the wild west. Live music and dancing. Entertainment includes carnival games, black smithing, pie eating contest, gunfight reenactments, whiskey tasting, wood whittling, and much more! Family fun festival. 10am-6pm.

#### **JANUARY 25**

Yuma Territorial Marathon, Half Marathon, 10K, Wellton Tractor Rodeo: Annual community benefit and Team Relay: At the Cocopah Casino & Resort, 15318 S. Ave B., Somerton. The race registrations end January 23 at 11:59pm. Full Marathon time is 7am-1pm, and Registration Fee is \$105. Half Marathon time is 7:20am-1pm, and Registration Fee is \$65. 10K time is 7:40am-1pm, and Registration Fee is \$45. Team Relay time is 7am-1pm, Registration Fee is \$250. More information at their



Silver Spur Rodeo February 7-9.

website: http://www.caballeros.org/yuma-marathon.

#### **JANUARY 31 - FEB 2**

Two Rivers Renaissance Faire: Yuma County Fairgrounds. Food, fun, shows, vendors and more! Hours are 10am-5pm. Saturday extended hours 10am-10pm for adult beverages and entertainment.

#### FEBRUARY 2025

Fill your calendar with classes offered by City of Yuma. Sign up for Recreation and Senior Sports. Visit their website: http://www.yumaaz.gov/residents/parks-recreation/ programs-activities.

continued on next page

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#### **FEBRUARY 1**

Welding Classes: Presented by Weld Like a Girl. "Help! I have Welding Equipment & Don't Know How to Use It". This class is offered by a local female expert, who is a former student of Mark Hendrickson. He states: "She runs circles around the guys. She takes the time to really teach. It's easy to learn from her." 1350 S. 3rd Ave, Yuma. Call 928-482-2288. Class is 1pm-5pm. The Fee is \$70. Visit the website http://www.weldlikeagirl.us/

#### **FEBRUARY 1**

Live Music: Kat & Martin at the Naked Dates Farm, 135689 S. Ave 25 E., Wellton, AZ. 3pm-6pm.

#### **FEBRUARY 1**

Yuma Wellness & Care Fair: The Yuma Sun, City of Yuma & Onvida Health will present the Yuma Wellness & Care Fair to provide families with a range of resources

to improve and maintain their overall health and well-being. The event features exhibitors, vendors, speakers, and free workshops and cooking classes 9am-1pm. Yuma Civic center, 1440 W. Desert Hills Drive.

#### **FEBRUARY 1-2**

Two Rivers Renaissance Festival: Continues from January 31. Yuma County Fairgrounds, 2520 E. 32nd Street. Purchase a weekend pass. Visit their website: http://www. tworiversfaire.com.

#### **FEBRUARY 6**

Dinner Theatre: Yuma Art Center & Historic Yuma Theatre. More info to be released at a later date.

#### **FEBRUARY 7-9**

**Silver Spur Rodeo:** Enjoy three days of the 80th Annual Yuma Silver Spur Rodeo. Performance 1: Gates open at 2pm and performances start at 4pm. Yuma County Fairgrounds: 2520 E. 32nd Street. Entertainment and fun events, including comedic announcer and rodeo clown. Live Historic Yuma Theatre. performances, vendors, horses, bulls, and great food all make this one of the highlights of the winter season.

#### **FEBRUARY 8**

Orchestra Music: Romantic Classics are presented by Yuma Orchestra. Performances at 2pm and again at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$20. Visit their website at https:// yumaorchestra.org/index.php.

#### **FEBRUARY 8**

Somerton Petpalooza: Chihuahua races, pet contests and other fun activities highlight this event at which dogs, cats and other furry and feathery friends are the center of attention. Main Street in Somerton. (928) 722-7394 or (928) 655-0247.

#### **FEBRUARY 8**

Yuma Silver Spur Rodeo Parade:

Floats, car clubs, school bands, organizations, businesses & equestrian groups all take part in this community event as part of the Silver Spur Rodeo. 9:30am. Watch for Parade route. www.yumarodeo.com.

#### **FEBRUARY 9**

**Dinner Theatre:** Yuma Art Center & Historic Yuma Theatre.

#### **FEBRUARY 9**

**Live Music:** Steve Fleming

Midnight at the Oasis Parade. Classic cars invade Yuma in this three day event, March 7-9.

#### **FEBRUARY 11-12**

Howling at the Moon Festival: Located at the base of Telegraph Pass on east end of N. Frontage Road. Enjoy live music, food, dancing and fun. Tailgate party, senior kegger. Start time is noon and continues until one hour after moonrise. Live music starts at 3pm. Bring your own

at Naked Dates Farm, 13589 S. Ave 25E.,

#### **FEBRUARY 13**

Dinner Theatre: Yuma Art Center &

#### **FEBRUARY 13**

Brushes & Brews: Held at Naked Dates Farm, 13589 S. Ave E., Wellton. 3pm-6pm.

#### **FEBRUARY 14**

Date Night - Valentine's Date Night Dinner: At the Naked Dates Farm, 13589 S. Ave 25 E., Wellton. Enjoy a 5-course meal with someone special. Limited seating.

#### **FEBRUARY 15**

Dinner Theatre: Yuma Art Center & Historic Yuma Theatre.

#### **FEBRUARY 15**

Fun Run & Walk: Sweethearts & Buddies, 8am-11am, West Wetlands/Centennial Beach, 282 N. 12th Avenue. \$25 for 18 and older. Free for 0-17. February 13 deadline, by 5pm.



Remember to bring carrying chairs and enjoy the aerial shows and check out numerous planes on display at the Yuma Air Show on March 15. Photo by Kassidy Rabe.



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#### **FEBRUARY 15**

Fighter Practice: Meet at Sanguinetti Memorial Park, South 8th Ave and 23rd Street, 2011 South 6th Avenue. 8am-10am.

#### **FEBRUARY 16**

Yuma Cars and Coffee: Coffee Bean FEBRUARY 22 Expresso Bar, 2450 S. 4th Ave #106, 6:30am-12:30pm.

#### **FEBRUARY 17**

**Bull Of The Desert:** Men and women can test their mettle in this unconventional strength competition presented by the Caballeros de Yuma. Events include the truck pull, keg press, car deadlift and tire flip. 9am. Marine Corp Air Station Yuma. (928) 343-1715, www.caballeros.org or info@caballeros.org.

#### **FEBRUARY 17**

Hank Days Celebration: Cars, floats and marching groups travel north on Foothills Blvd to the Interstate 8 South Frontage Road in this annual event staged by the Foothills Rotary Club to pay tribute to Hank Schechert, the founder of the Foothills. 10am. Foothills Blvd. Doreen Caldwell at (928) 446-1668.

#### FEBRUARY 21-22

**BBQ & Brew Festival:** Two-day festival

in downtown Yuma. Sample mouth-watering BBQ's from the best pit masters, listen to great country music, and enjoy ice cold beer. Friday, February 21 hours: 3pm-9pm. Saturday, February 22 hours: 10am-7pm.

Pioneer Day Parade & Fiesta: Butterfield Park, 10am-3pm. Located at 10234 Dome Street, Wellton. Bring a chair and sit along the parade route on Las Angeles Avenue in Wellton (exit 30 off I-8 and head FEBRUARY 28 north) Fiesta to follow parade. For more info, visit their website https://www.welltonaz.gov/home/events/2991.

#### **FEBRUARY 22**

Benefit Concert: Kids at Hope-Neal McCoy Benefit Concert at the Desert Sun Stadium. Musical event that features Folk/ Country style like Tim McGraw. Portion of proceeds go to help children. Tickets are \$50. Available at www.etix.com. Event begins at 5pm.

#### **FEBRUARY 22**

Mascot Mania: Partnership with the Humane Society of Yuma to provide lowcost vaccinations and other services. Entertainment and contests for the whole

family. 9am-12pm. Joe Orduño Prk, 965 Park Ave in San Louis, AZ. (928) 341-8538.

#### **FEBRUARY 22**

**Live Music:** Bon Jovi Tribute Band. WANT-ED. Held at Westwind RV & Golf Resort, 9797 E. 32nd Street. 6pm.

## MARCH 2

**E.P. Expo:** This threeday event features tribute concerts and tribute artists competitions dedicat-

ed to Elvis Presley. Feb 28 & Mar 1 at 7pm, Mar 2 at 2pm. Country Roads RV Village, 5707 E. 32nd Street. elvis.expo.com.

#### **MARCH 2025**

#### MARCH 1

Magic Show: Enjoy the Magic and Illusions of Eric Giliam at the Historic Yuma Theatre. 7pm-9pm. Ticket prices range from \$24 to \$42. For more info, visit the website: https://www.yumaaz.gov/Home/ Components/Calendar/Event/1122/590.

#### MARCH 3

**Concert:** The Needhams performing at Foothills Assemblies of God. This family band has been performing for seven decades. Program begins at 6:30pm.

#### MARCH 7-9

Car Show: Midnight at the Oasis - the largest car show in the Southwest! This three-day event is filled with entertainment. Lots of things to do, see and explore. Bring your own chair for the concerts. Bring an appetite for the pulled pork, briskets, popcorn and more. Visit their website: https:// www.caballeros.org/midnight-at-the-oasis/.

#### **MARCH 9**

**Concert:** The Needhams performing at Sundance RV Park & Resort, 23502 N. Frontage Road. Family band that has been performing for seven decades. Programs 9am-3pm.

#### MARCH 13

**Concert:** Shantell Ogden and the Hired. Concert at 4:30pm.

#### **MARCH 13-14**

Howling at the Moon Festival: Festival will be at Telegraph Pass on east end of N. Frontage Road. Live music, food, dancing and fun. Begins at noon, ends one hour after moonrise. Live music starts at 3pm. Bring your own chairs.



Yuma County Fair offers final fun for many visitors before departing Yuma, as seen from this view of the ferris wheel. Photo by Hannah Lee.

#### MARCH 15

Yuma Airshow 2025: MCAS Flight Line. A safe, entertaining air show that showcases military aviation capabilities. Seeks to inspire aviation interests. Gates open at 9am and close at 12pm. No in-bound traffic permitted after gates close. Bring valid ID to enter. Clear bags only, ladies may bring small clutch purse no larger than 5"x7". Program is Free. 9am-2:30pm. More info at website: https://yumaairshow.com/.

#### MARCH 16

Concert: Teada! Just in time for St. Patrick's Day. Yuma Art Center, 254 Main Street. Enjoy Irish traditional music. 2pm-6pm.

#### **MARCH 16**

American Cancer Society Relay For

Life: Thousands of residents from around the Yuma area gather in this event that celebrates cancer survivors and honors those battling the disease. Desert Sun Stadium, 1280 Desert Sun Dr. www.relayforlife. org/yumaaz or email relayforlifeofyuma@ gmail.com.

#### **MARCH 21-30**

Cabaret: Historic Yuma Theatre. Viewer discretion is advised, as this production contains sexual references, adult content, alcohol use, drug use, strong language and mild violence. Visit website for more information, http://www.yctaz.org/cabaret.

#### **MARCH 22**

**Concert:** Liberty Quartet performs at Mountain View Bible Church, 12803 E. 40th Street. This Gospel music group was founded in 1995. Acapella singers. 4pm-10pm.

#### MARCH 22

Somerton Greater Days: Somerton's history is celebrated in this event that features live entertainment and food vendors.

continued on page 60





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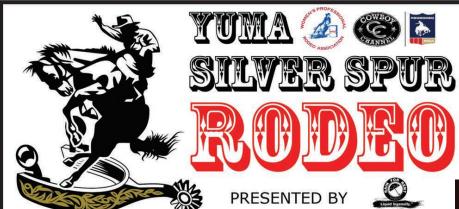


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### February 7, 2025 • 2pm - 7pm

80th Annual Yuma Silver Spur Rodeo

Presented by Rain for Rent, Performance 1.

Yuma County Fairgrounds • 2520 E. 32nd St., Yuma, AZ

\*Gates open at 2pm and rodeo starts at 4pm

Man-up Crusade Day for Domestic Violence Awareness

#### Wear Purple!

2025 Yuma Silver Spur Rodeo Official Rodeo after Party/Dance (8pm-2am)

Hosted By Whiskey Road Saloon

Whiskey Road Saloon • 3780 S. 4th Avenue, Yuma, AZ

### 2025 Rodeo Parade Saturday, February 8, 2025 • 9:30am

Starts on 4th Avenue at NAPA Store.

to Giss Parkway, then ends on Main Street

# February 8, 2025 • 2pm - 7pm 80th Annual Yuma Silver Spur Rodeo

Presented by Rain for Rent, Performance 2.

Yuma County Fairgrounds • 2520 E. 32nd St., Yuma, AZ

\*Gates open at 2pm and rodeo starts at 4pm

Tough Enough to Wear Pink Day for Breast Cancer **Awareness** 

#### Wear Pink!

2025 Yuma Silver Spur Rodeo Official Rodeo after Party/Dance (8pm-2am)

Hosted By Whiskey Road Saloon

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### February 9, 2025 • 2pm - 7pm

80th Annual Yuma Silver Spur Rodeo

Presented by Rain for Rent, Performance 3.

Yuma County Fairgrounds • 2520 E. 32nd St., Yuma, AZ

\*Gates open at 12pm and rodeo starts at 2pm

RAM Rodeo Day and Military Appreciation Day

Wear Red, White & Blue!



Yuma, Arizona

continued from page 58

This year the celebration is paired with the Somerton Food Festival, a food festival featuring the area's cuisine. Main Street in Somerton. (928) 722-7394 or (928) 655-0247.

#### MARCH 23

2 Concerts: Liberty Quartet performs at Country Roads RV Park at 10am. The second concert will be at First Christian Church, 32nd St & 6½ E. Street at 6pm. Enjoy acapella singing from this gospel music group, founded in 1995.

#### **APRIL 2025**

#### APRIL 1-6

Yuma County Fair. Yuma County Fairgrounds, 2520 E. 32nd Street. Enjoy rides, games, food, entertainment and animal exhibits. Showcasing the best of agriculture, and art photography. Explore displays, watch shows, and savor the popular beer garden. The Fair is a fun event to explore as the winter season approaches its conclusion.

#### **APRIL 11-12**

**Howling at the Moon Festival:** This April version of Tailgate Party, Senior Kegger boasts music, food, dancing and fun. Festival starts at 12 noon, and continues until one hour after moonrise. Live music starts at 3pm. Bring your own chairs. Located at the base of Telegraph Pass on east end of N. Frontage Road

#### **APRIL 12**

**Ballet Performance: "**Snow White - The Ballet". Snider Auditorium, 400 South 6th Avenue. This is fun, family entertainment. The children's performance will be at 2pm. Full performance in the evening at 7pm.

#### **APRIL 12**

Music Performance: Ultimate Carrie. Tribute to Carrie Underwood. Yuma Art Center & Historic Yuma Theatre. Tickets are \$15-\$30. Concert 6pm-8pm.

**Support Group:** Amputee's helping Amputee's. Yuma Rehabilitation Hospital, West 24th Street. This is a social support group for amputees, families and friends to allow people to meet, ask questions, and offer helpful tips. This will be the first meeting of this recurring activity, meeting the third Thursday of each month. Call 928-726-1204. Meeting time: 5:30pm-6:30pm.

#### APRIL 19

Children's Festival of The Arts: Children can dabble in the arts at any of nearly 50 booths set up by area businesses and organizations in this event organized by the City of Yuma. Main Street in downtown Yuma. (928) 373-5200 or (928) 373-5202.

#### **APRIL 19**

**Día Del Niño in Somerton:** Features the Mexican tradition of "Día del Niño" (Children's Day) and incorporates Día del Libro (Day of the Book). Promotes literacy, celebrates children, and sharing of cultural traditions. Somerton, AZ.

#### **APRIL 19**

Día Del Niño in San Luis: Celebrating Día del Niño with sweepstakes, food and music to celebrate Childrens Day in our community. Joe Orduño Park, 965 N. Park Ave., San Luis, AZ. (928) 341-8574. �

All dates & times are subject to change, for details visit: YumaRodeo.com

### Yuma's Top Ten Things to Do

By Richard Fontanes

If this is your first time in Yuma, or if you have not toured the many things to do in Yuma, this Top Ten List recounts some of the tasty, historical, interactive, engaging and perhaps adventurous things to do.

10. Date Farms. The sweet date shakes and date treats will make you want to visit and revisit this stop. With towering date trees filled with white bags of the precious

fruit, Yuma is one of a handful of places in the world to create the numerous and specialized varieties of dates. Visitors from the Middle East have come to Yuma to see how we grow our dates, in an attempt to replicate this vibrant local industry. At Martha's Gardens, found at 9747 S. Avenue 9-3/4 East, offers Medjool dates, as well as other confectionaries to purchase. Visit website https:// marthasgardens.com/. Imperial Date Gardens is located at 1517 York Road, in Winterhaven. It is open until 10pm, and offers tours as well as delicious treats for purchase. Visit https://www. imperialdategardens.com.



Muggins Wilderness Trail is an easy one-anda-half mile hike with many interesting shots of nature to capture Photo by Richard Fontanes.



Sunrise over West Gateway Park and Colorado River. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

**9. Downtown Yuma.** With numerous eateries, the Art Center, North End Recreation Center, Main Street Cinemas, Children's Museum, bars and the Historic Theatre, Main Street has both daytime and night time festivities that are fun the whole year round. The art show is one of the Midnight at the Oasis events, as well as numerous festivals that make this a place noteworthy.

8. Colorado State Historic Park. Yuma was made famous as one of the safest places to cross the river for settlers venturing west. The river spanned miles at its widest point, but the Yuma Crossing made the local town a destination, as well as the route to take heading to California. Steam Boats traveled up the river from the Gulf of California for passengers to arrive and travel west. The Yuma Crossing is a museum that lets you re-live this history. With numerous displays, one can get lost in Yuma's history. The cost for a ticket is \$10. There are events at the site that offer food booths, music and great ambiance. Visit https://www.yuma-heri-



Cactus in front of Imperial Date Gardens located off of 1517 York Rd Winterhaven Calif. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

tage.com/colorado-river-state.html

**7. Telegraph Pass.** This hike is not for the faint of heart. The hike starts mild enough, but when you reach the mountain, some parts of the hike involve a 45 degree angle. I ventured out for one of the Super Moons carrying 45 pounds of camera equipment and regretted carrying so much baggage. Although I captured a great photo, I was passed by numerous fit octogenarian couples making the hike. They cheered me on as I reached the summit and

collapsed on the ground. The hike will take you up 1500 feet, and takes almost an hour to hour-and-a-half round trip. The Howling at the Moon Festival takes place on each full moon over the winter. Plant their flag and festivities at the base of the mountain, the festival has a facebook group that can be accessed at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/256153318091080/

**6. River Activities.** The local river has numerous holes, canals, eddies, pagodas,

continued on next page

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An ATV allows for easy exploration of desert trails and dunes, and provides a unique and fun way to explore the desert. Photo by Santiago Camarena.

docks, and vistas to partake of, as well as enjoying river Hwy 8, you can hike the dunes without purchasing a recwalks, bird watching, simply splashing around, and fishing. Obtaining a fishing license will give you a chance at striped bass, largemouth bass, catfish, carp, bluegill, rainbow trout, black crappie and walleye. Gateway Park has a beach where you can step into the shallow river for a swim. River access is also available from West Wetlands park. You can also take a river tour through Lower Colorado River Excursions. Visit https://www.lowercoloradoriverexcursions.com/. Also available is a 90-minute paddle wheel adventure \$40, a two-and-a-half hour sunset dinner cruise \$80-85, or a two-and-a-half hour brunch cruise \$75-\$80 on the paddle-wheeler. Views are stunning as the warm sunsets reflect off the water. There is also a more fast-paced Liberty Jet tour, which offers an upper river tour, as well as a tour of Imperial Dam.

5. Imperial Sand Dunes. George Lucas brought the dunes to life with Star Wars, along with other movies like 'StarGate,' 'Spaceballs' and 'Jarhead' to name a few. Permits can be purchased to camp at the site for \$35 a week, if purchased in advance, or for \$50 a week if purchased on-site. Passes can be purchased ahead of time by calling (800) 832-7664. You can park and visit the site for free for up to two hours. There are multiple access points. Traveling down Old Wells Road, you can stop to visit the remains of the historic wooden road, where settlers traveled from Arizona to California. If you are traveling along

reation pass. Take exit 156, a frontage road called Grays Well Road, which is parallel to Hwy 8 (to the south). The road is a dead end, but you can park next to the park host's RV and hike on foot in the dunes. Even short hikes will need plenty of water. Be sure to test the firmness of the ground off the road before parking, so you don't get stuck. The Rest Stop lies between the two lanes of the Highway, and does not provide dune access. You must exit Grays Well Road to hike. If you travel to the end of Grays Well Road, you'll discover the old floating, wooden plank road. It was built in 1916 to help navigate through the dunes, and was replaced in 1926 by the highway.

- 4. Camino del Diablo Trail. With over sixty miles of trails, you will encounter bighorn sheep sightings, rugged off-roading, historic sites and adventures that make this a favorite activity for visitors. One needs a 4-Wheel Drive, Jeep, ATV, Razor, or other off-road friendly vehicle when seeking adventure on these amazing trails. All visitors will need a permit since you will be traveling into the Barry Goldwater Range. Permits are free, and last 365 days from the date of issue. They can be acquired and renewed at https://bmgr.recaccess.com. There is a spot in the South Gila Mountains where bighorn sheep drink water from seven waterfalls that appear for several days after it rains.
  - 3. Castle Dome Mines Museum. The original Castle continued on next page

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### Yuma, Arizona



Fun photo ops at the Yuma Territorial Prison provide memorable photo keepsakes. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

continued from previous page

Dome town was once bigger than Yuma is today. It was a vibrant community that has turned into a ghost town. Today you will see buildings that have been lovingly preserved, rescued and assembled at the foothills of Castle Dome. There is a mine tour available for purchase that showcases the world's largest deposit of inset gems and crystals. It is an hour's drive on Highway 95. If coming from Yuma, it will be a turn on the right hand side. It is not too far away from the Yuma Proving Grounds (YPG). Packing a cold drink and snack is advised. The town is open 10am-5pm.

- 2. Hiking in Dateland. Majestic Muggins Peak, Eagle Pass and Hummingbird Pass offer amazing hikes that are easier on the knees and body, but offer unique and amazing things to see. If you travel to Dateland and get off at the exit and head north, you will come to a parking area where you can approach Muggins Peak. To find the trails, get off at Dateland/Old US HWY 80/Ligurta Station and head down E Los Angeles Ave. Make a left on South Ave 20 East. Make the first right at South Ave 20 East, and head to East County Seventh Street, then take a right. At the end of the road, you will find a spot to park, so you can make your approach.
- 1. Territorial Prison. Many Westerns regale tales of the gruesome and feared prison. Yuma Territorial Prison is a unique and interesting spot with things to see and experience. It is located at 220 N Prison Hill Road. Tickets are \$10, and \$9 for seniors. This prison is beset with sweltering heat, a terrifying dark hole, cells, sweeping vistas of the Colorado River and the Yuma and Quechan river valley, a guard house, picture opportunities and a history of past inmates. Open seven days a week from 9am-4:30pm. Visit https://www.yumaprison.org. ❖

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### Three Days of Midnight at the Oasis

By Richard Fontanes

on the second day of the festival. Music played in the background. With the concert starting, climbers rose above the horizon on one of the many activities. Father and son shared stories and memories they had. They paused at a red 1971 two-door Bronco, and talked with the state of Washington, and lived in a

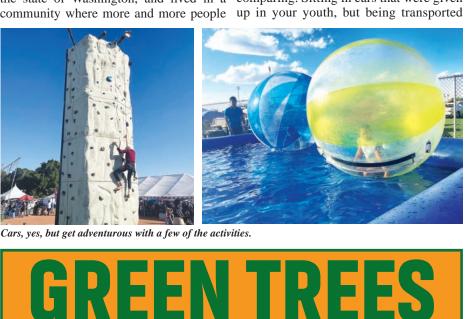
wanted to move - driving prices and taxes ill and his son walked the grounds higher. Bill owns a 1969 Bronco, having purchased it from his father-in law for \$2,000. Bill is the second owner and shared his story with Ruben, the owner of the 1971 Bronco. They bought a lot in 2007 and Yuma has become their second

The car show is filled with thousands the owner. They shared they were from of such stories - reminiscing, sharing, and comparing. Sitting in cars that were given





ars, yes, but get adventurous with a few of the activities.





to yesteryear. Midnight at the Oasis 2025 enue A. It is the the premiere car show will be hosted by the Cabelleros of Yuma of the Southwest, with attendance in ex-

at the Ray Croc Complex at 3500 S Av- cess of 45,000. It will take place March

7-9 and accepts guests and visitors to not only view the classic cars, but to participate in performances on two stages. There will be delicious food, fun activities, and connecting with one another, sharing stories and memories. This fun, social event brings the entire community together. The hours are Friday from 12pm-11pm, Saturday from 9am-11:30pm, and Sunday from 9am-12pm. Cars will be on display in downtown Yuma, in a parade, and also on display at the Ray Croc Complex. ❖



This event is a car lover's paradise.





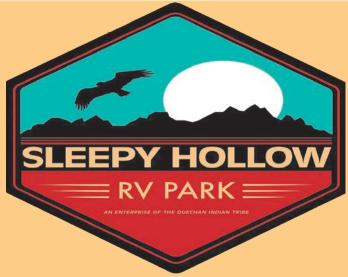
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### The 2025 Yuma County Fair

By Richard Fontanes

or six days, Yuma savors the sweeping heights and spinning thrills of the Fair. If rides are not your preference, there is something for everyone. The fair gives opportunities to compete in numerous areas: gardening, baking, quilts, leatherworking, photography and more. If you would rather volunteer to judge and help out, there are numerous organizations that bring support, host contests and offer scholarships.



The Yuma Camera Club organizes the photography competition. "I love seeing all the kids come out and compete." Linda Willets, president of the camera club stated. She and other club members display, judge and fundraise to provide students and adults with prize money for the photo contest.

The fair hosts mornings for those with special needs to come and ride the rides before the crowds pour in. There are auctions for livestock, and meat for FFA students that help raise money for their future. There are numerous ways to get involved and assist.

Should you fancy simply attending and savoring the sweet Indian fried bread or the cornucopia of delicious delights, there are numerous organizations who sell foods for local organizations, such as the Kiwanis, Masons and Rotarians. The Beer

Garden draws in a crowd with music and drinks for a good time. Shows from hypnotists, comedians, country and rock artists fill the stages and provide a nice spot to sit for a respite.

Displays and vendors are on hand to offer everything from continued on next page



Agriculture is at the heart of the fair's culture.



Press your luck at the full complement of carnival games in the midway.

### Almost 50 years of Yuma Orchestra's Music

By Richard Fontanes

025 will be the 50th year local ✓ luminary and director Janet Jones has brought music to the southwest. Her passion for funding scholarships and creating opportunities for the arts in the young generation has changed generations of lives. The orchestra has been active since 1976. It seeks to promote education and outreach through its community performances. There are three groups involved: The

Civic Orchestra, Civic Light, and a group for youth called the String Ambassadors.

Each season the Yuma Orchestra Association performs four shows. Tickets are \$20 each. The first concert takes place in October at the AWC Amphitheater under the moon and stars. The second concert on December 21st, consists of two shows at Snider Auditorium - a matinee at 2pm and an evening show at 6:30pm. The third concert in February showcases romantic classics. It has two shows at Snider Auditorium: one at 2pm, and the other at 6:30pm. The fourth concert is May 17th at 6:30pm. It will consist of Orchestral Classics.

"I try to choose music that is relevant to a wide group of people," says Jones. Their past October concert featured recognizable music such as: 'Top Gun,' 'Pirates of the Caribbean,' 'Lord of the Rings,' and 'Swinging on a Star'. Hearing music you have seen in films come to life through concerts, reverberates through you and makes one experience the music, rather than just listen to it. The community not only gets to enjoy amazing performances, but also lends their support to making a difference in the lives of the next generation. This keeps our music traditions and fine arts alive.



Janet Jones directs Top Gun music with the Civic Orchestra. Photo by Richard Fontanes.



The Civic Orchestra has a full complement of musicians including harps, brass, percussion and woodwinds. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

"Next season will be our 50th season, and I am trying to pass something on. I won't be here forever, but the music will still have reached the kids and made a difference," says Jones. I am reminded of the movie 'Music of the Heart', starring Meryl Streep in the title role, when talking with Jones. She and her husband have devoted their lives to the community and seek to make a difference in the lives of children. Our support and attendance not only lets us enjoy a great experience, but our dollars sow seeds in the lives of the next generation of musicians. For tickets visit the website: www.YumaOrchestra.org. �

continued from previous page

a \$10 photo booth picture to caricatures. al prize to be awarded. Take in beauty product demonstrations, for public review. Ribbons adorn the works of local and visiting artists. In the Fine Arts building, the People's Choice Award allows for a vote for an addition-

There is something for everyone at the as well as judged art and competitions Yuma County Fair! Come to volunteer, view, or snack. Then watch a beautiful sunset from the ferris wheel. For many winter visitors, it is the last big event they attend before heading north. ❖

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- Arizona has 3,928 mountain peaks and summits, more mountains than any one of the other Mountain States (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming).
- All New England, plus the state of Pennsylvania would fit inside Arizona.
- Arizona became the 48th state and last of the contiguous states on February 14, 1912.
- Arizona's disparate climate can yield both the highest temperature across the nation and the lowest temperature across the nation in the same day.
- Arizona has 26 peaks that are more than 10,000 feet in elevation.
- Arizona has the largest contiguous stand of Ponderosa pines in the world stretching from near Flagstaff along the Mogollon Rim to the White Mountains region.
- Yuma, Arizona is the country's highest producer of winter vegetables, especially lettuce.
- Arizona is the 6th largest state in the nation, covering 113,909 square miles.
- Out of all the states in the U.S., Arizona has the largest percentage of its land designated as Indian lands.
  - More copper is mined in Arizona than all the other states combined, and the Morenci Mine is the largest copper producer in all of North America.
    - Clark Gable and Carole Lombard, two of the most prominent movie stars of Hollywood's Golden Age, were married on March 18, 1939, in Kinaman, Arizona.
- Covering 18,608 sq. miles, Coconino County is the second largest county by land area in the 48 contiguous United States. (San Bernardino County in California is the largest)
- The world's largest solar telescope is located at Kitt Peak National Observatory in Sells, Arizona..
- Bisbee, Arizona is known as the Queen of the Copper Mines because during its mining heyday it produced nearly 25 percent of the world's copper and was the largest city in the Southwest between Saint Louis and San Francisco.
  - Billy the Kid killed his first man, Windy Cahill, in Bonita, Arizona.
  - Arizona grows enough cotton each year to make more than one pair of jeans for every person in the United States.
  - Famous labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez was born in Yuma.
    - In 1912, President William Howard Taft was ready to make Arizona

facts you might not have known

state on February 12, but it was Lincoln's birthday. The next day, the 13th, was considered bad luck so they waited until the following day. That' how Arizona became known as the Valentine State.

- When England's famous London Bridge was replaced in the 1960s, the original was purchased, dismantled, shipped stone by stone and reconstructed in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, where it still stands today.
- Mount Lemmon, Tucson, in the Santa Catalina Mountains, is the southernmost ski resort in the United States.
- Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Ranch in Picacho, Arizona is the largest privately-owned ostrich ranch in the world outside South Africa.
- If you cut down a protected species of cactus in Arizona, you could spend more than a year in prison.
- The world's largest to-scale collection of miniature airplane models is housed at the library at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona.
- Located on Arizona's western border, Parker Dam is the deepest dam in the world at 320 feet.
- South Mountain Park/Preserve in Phoenix is the largest municipal park in the country.
- Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, located about 55 miles west of Phoenix, generates more electricity than any other U.S. power plant.
- Oraibi, a Hopi village located in Navajo County, Arizona, dates back to before A.D. 1200 and is reputed to be the oldest continuously inhabited community in America.
- Built by Del Webb in 1960, Sun City, Arizona was the first 55-plus active adult retirement community in the country.
- Petrified wood is the official state fossil. The Petrified Forest in northeastern Arizona contains America's largest deposits of petrified wood.
- Many of the founders of San Francisco in 1776 were Spanish colonists from Tubac, Arizona.
- Phoenix originated in 1866 as a hay camp to supply military post Camp McDowell.
- Rainfall averages for Arizona range from less than three inches in the deserts to more than 30 inches per year in the mountains.
- Rising to a height of 12,643 feet, Mount Humphreys north of Flagstaff is the state's highest mountain.
- Roadrunners are not just in cartoons! In Arizona, you'll see them running up to 17-mph away from their enemies.
- The Saguaro cactus is the largest cactus found in the U.S. It can grow as high as a five-story building and is native to the Sonoran Desert, which stretches across southern Arizona.
- Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, grew up on a large family ranch near Duncan, Arizona.
- The best-preserved meteor crater in the world is located near Winslow, Arizona.
  - The average state elevation is 4,000 feet.

- The Navajo Nation spans 27,000 square miles across the states of Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, but its capital is seated in Window Rock, Arizona.
- The amount of copper utilized to make the copper dome atop Arizona's Capitol building is equivalent to the amount used in 4.8 million pennies.
- Near Yuma, the Colorado River's elevation dips to 70 feet above sea level, making it the lowest point in the state.
- The geographic center of Arizona is 55 miles southeast of Prescott near the community of Mayer.
- You could pile four 1,300-foot skyscrapers on top of each other and they still would not reach the rim of the Grand Canyon.
- The hottest temperature recorded in Arizona was 128 degrees at Lake Havasu City on June 29, 1994
- The coldest temperature recorded in Arizona was 40 degrees below zero at Hawley Lake on January 7, 1971.
- A saguaro cactus can store up to nine tons of water.
- The westernmost battle of the Civil War was fought at Picacho Pass on April 15, 1862 near Picacho Peak in Pinal County
- There are 11.2 million acres of National Forest in Arizona, and one-fourth of the state forested.
- Wyatt Earp was neither the town marshal nor the sheriff in Tombstone at the time of the shoot-out at the O..K. Corral. His brother Virgil was the town marshal.
- On June 6, 1936, the first barrel of tequila produced in the United States rolled off the production line in Nogales, Arizona.
- The Sonoran Desert is the most biologically diverse desert in North America.
- Bisbee is the Nation's Southernmost mile-high city.
- The two largest man-made lakes in the U.S. are Lake Mead and Lake Powell, both located in Arizona.
- The longest remaining intact section of Route 66 can be found in Arizona and runs from Seligman to Topock, a total of 157 unbroken miles.
- The 13 stripes on the Arizona flag represent the 13 original colonies of the United States.
- The negotiations for Geronimo's final surrender took place in Skeleton Canyon, near present day Douglas, Arizona, in 1886.
- Kartchner Caverns, near Benson, Arizona, is a massive limestone cave with 13,000 feet of passages, two rooms as long as football fields, and one of the world's longest soda straw stalactites: measuring 21 feet 3 inches.
- You can carry a loaded firearm on your person, no permit required.
- Arizona does not observe Daylight Savings Time

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68

Some

Interesting

### Parker, AZ

### BREWS & GROOVES PARKER 400 OFF-ROAD RACE RIO MESA RANCH SORTING LA PAZ CO FAIR

### Plenty to Explore in Parker

By Laura Kassik

isitors usually have a few activities in mind when they arrive in Parker during the winter months. They look forward pulling their RVs to the edge of the Colorado River or in a tucked-away cove, and exploring the desert terrain on their offroad vehicles.

People visit during the winter for Parker's wide open spaces, off-roading and exploring the desert

terrain, the small town environment, and of course, the weather.

There is plenty of BLM-managed land to tackle and explore. The area is surrounded by the Sonoran Desert, which provides excellent off-roading for novice riders as well as professional off-road competitions. There are two on the Parker Calendar - Unlimited Racing Parker 400 Off-Road Race (Jan. 15-19) and Desert Off Road Adven-



Buckskin Mountain State Park offers great hiking opportunities with spectacular views. Enjoy scenic views of the Colorado River from Lightning Bolt Trail. Buckskin Mountain State Park photo.



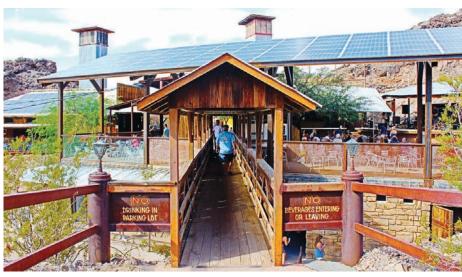
winter for Parker's wide One of the unique features of Emerald Canyon Golf Course is that it open spaces, off-roading was carved out of canyons and mountains. Emerald Canyon G.C. photo.

tures Parker Dam 500 presented by Legacy Racing Association (Feb. 19-23). Each will have a free Downtown Experience for spectators, presented by Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

During the winter months, the Colorado River might not draw as many water enthusiasts as in the summer, but it's still tempting to visitors. The shoreline of the river from Parker Dam south to Headgate Dam - on the Arizona side and the California side - is simply gorgeous. And in many RV resorts and parks, you can pull your rig right up to the edge of the river.

Besides the water and desert terrain, two factors that have developed Parker and the Parker Strip as a winter destination are the Emerald Canyon Golf Course and the Blue-Water Resort & Casino, which is operated by Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT).

Another popular winter attraction is off the beaten path, but worth the trip. The Desert Bar, aka "Nellie E. Saloon" is nestled in the Buckskin Mountains on an old



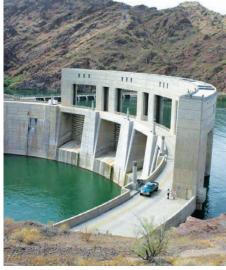
The Nellie E. Saloon, more commonly known as the Desert Bar, welcomes visitors on the weekends through April. Desert Bar photo.

mining camp. This family-friendly spot, which is powered by solar energy, is only open and can be visited on weekends during the winter months. It offers live music, food, beverages and a relaxed, fun atmosphere. It's cash only, as there is no ATM.

New this year is the 2025 Tourism Expo on January 8 at the BlueWater Resort & Casino. Attendees can discover what La Paz County has to offer both visitors and resident.

There are a number of other events from now until April, including Birding and Nature Walks at Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge, UTV Excursions, Holocaust Memorial Exhibit at the public library, Ranch Sorting at Rio Mesa Ranch, and much more. Find more information about all the events listed in the Parker Calendar in this section.

And most of all, while here, enjoy exploring Parker! ❖



Parker Dam is the world's deepest dam and can be viewed from a scenic point on either the Arizona or California side of the beautiful Colorado River. Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism photo.

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### Parker Historian Shares the Area's Rich History

By Vivian (Makela) Sazama eanna Beaver of Parker is a wealth of information on the small desert town of Parker when the beginning of the 1900's first became established, to the pres-

Deanna was born in Arizona to Jesse "Bob" and Ila Mae Dockery.

ent day.

"Mom was born in Sunshine, Arizona, which was a water stop for the trains located in the vicinity of Meteor Crater in Coconino County. My grandfa- Photography. ther worked as a fore-



Dan and Deanna Beaver of Parker celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2024. Haylee Mae

man for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, and when it was time for my grandmother to give birth, he took a handcar (pump car) into Flagstaff to summon a doctor for my mom's birth. However, a Navajo midwife delivered my mom before grandfather could return with the doctor!

"When Mom was young, she attended the Lamson Business College in Phoenix where she took a Civil Service test as a stenographer and was hired by the government to do the court recording during the trials of 25 German prisoners who had escaped from the Papago Park Internment Camp near Phoenix in December, 1944," she said. "They had made their escape on Christmas Eve when they knew the security would be the least, but they didn't make it out on their own for very long out in the desert, and were captured soon after."

According to the Warfare History Network, the Papago Park Camp covered 3,000 acres and held 2,000 German, a few Italian and even a few Japanese prisoners of war.

While living in Phoenix, Deanna's mother became friends with a woman whose brother was serving in the South Pacific during WWII. The friend thought he would be a good match for Ila Mae and made sure to have Bob's photo in high visibility areas whenever Ila Mae would visit her, and often spoke high accolades of

"When Dad returned from his service in 1946 the pair were quickly introduced, and they were married in 1947, said Deanna.

In 1952, Bob learned of job openings for the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) near the Parker Dam from his brother who had moved to Parker to become the first



Deanna and Dan Beaver are joined by their family. Haylee Mae Photography.

branch manager of the newly opened First National Bank of Arizona branch office in Parker.

"The MWD where we lived, or Gene Headquarters as it was sometimes called, was up the hill and three miles away from the Parker Dam Village, which was right on the river," said Deanna. "I attended the small four room school there, which was established in 1952 and went through eighth grade. There used to also be a high school, but it was short lived, so then the Needles, California, school district began sending the students to the high school in Parker."

continued on next page





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In high school, Deanna was active as a Café in Parker. Floy Beaver was a strong cheerleader for the Parker football team, which won the State Championship two years in a row in 1970 and 1971.

"That's when Dan Beaver, who played on the football team, and I began dating," she said. "We just celebrated our 50th anniversary in June! Our kids were going to give us a party but we decided to take a trip with them instead to where we spent our honeymoon. It was a great time sharing with them everywhere we went including the Four Corners, which has changed a lot since we were there 50 years ago!"

Deanna's father, Bob Dockery, has since passed away, but her mother, Ila Mae, just celebrated her 104th birthday in July.

Over the years, Deanna developed a love for genealogy and traced her ancestors back to the Revolutionary War, and became a member of the Lake Havasu City Daughters of the American Revolution.

"My sister and three sisters-in-law are also members," she said.

Dan Beaver's family also has strong Parker ties. In 1916, his grandfather Dan II from Missouri worked for the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, and was relocated to Prescott. While temporarily in Parker, the railroad workers went on strike and Dan II was stranded. After seeing the town had numerous opportunities and was a good place to raise their family, Dan decided to stay and sent for his wife, Floy, to join him. Dan II worked for the Empire Mine north of Parker as a night watchman and also ran errands. It was during these errands that he met J.D. Mathews, the owner of the Parker Motor for him.

In the meantime, Floy used their \$500 life savings and bought the Thompson's have copies available for purchase. �

business-minded woman and helped with the Motor Company and also ran the restaurant which was on the same block, but faced California Avenue (SR 95), in what is now the museum.

"Dan II's mother, Cora Beaver, would come from Missouri for extended visits, usually during the winter, and would help in the restaurant, doing the baking. She became famous locally for her rhubarb pies," said Deanna. "There would be long lines waiting for her rhubarb

Another local celebrity, famous Wild West lawman, Wyatt Earp, who lived across the river on the California side, also loved Cora's rhubarb pies.

"He would come into the restaurant for her pie, and always sat with his back to the wall, and where he could see everyone who came in," said Deanna. "When Dan's dad, Marion Beaver, was a young boy, he used to run errands for Wyatt."

In 1926, J.D. moved to San Diego and put Dan II in charge of the Parker Motor Company. By then, Floy had sold the restaurant and the couple used the \$2,500 from the sale to buy half interest in the Company.

In 2008, Deanna was approached by Arcadia Publishing Company in partnership with the Arizona Historical Foundation, to write a history of Parker for their Images of America series.

"I had a short timeframe in which to write the history and locate pictures from various families and obtain permissions, but we got it done!" she said.

The book, titled, 'Parker', is available at Company and eventually began to work www.arcadiapublishing.com and also on Amazon. The Parker CVS and the Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce also may



### 2024-25 Parker Calendar

ject to change. Visit the Parker Regional on Highway 95 to Burns Avenue, then Chamber of Commerce and Tourism website at parkeraz.org; and BlueWater Resort & Casino website at Bluewater-Casino-Resort.com for updates and additional events. The Parker Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is temporarily located at 1317 S. Joshua Ave, Suite K. Phone number is 928-669-2174.

#### **ONGOING**

Guided Refuge Walks. Every Thursday until April 10. 1.5-mile walk; wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, take water. Start at Visitor Center, walk the Peninsula Trail (paved) and then the Delta Trail (unpaved). Time: 9 a.m. (weather permitting). Cost: Free and open to the public. No reservations required. Address: Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Visitor Center, 60911 Hwy. 95. Phone: Joey Saccomanno 928-259-9632.

#### **DECEMBER 27-28-29**

Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting 2025 Series. Time: Open Class events start at 9 a.m.; Amateur Novice Class at 1 p.m. Ad-

**Note:** Event dates and times are sub- dress: Rio Mesa Ranch is east of Parker one mile south. Website: RioMesaRanch. com; Facebook: Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting. Contact: Pauline Leivas at 928-916-9239 or email RioMesaRanch@yahoo.com.

#### **JANUARY 6**

Parker Friends of the Library Book Sales. Time: 9 a.m. to Noon. Address: Parker Public Library, 1001 S. Navajo Ave. Phone: 928-669-2622.

#### **JANUARY 7**

Refuge Birding Walks. 1.5-mile walk with local birding expert Michelle Brock; wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, take water. **Time:** 9 a.m. (weather permitting). Cost: Free and open to the public; but reservations are required by calling number listed. Address: Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Visitor Center, 60911 Hwy. 95. Phone: Joey Saccomanno 928-259-9632.

#### **JANUARY 8**

**2025 Tourism Expo.** Discover the best of La Paz County at the Tourism Expo!

continued on next page





Unlimited Off-Road Racing will present the Parker 400 January 15-19. UNLTD Off-Road Racing photo.

Join others for a day of exploration, where attendees can dive into the rich culture, vibrant history, and natural beauty that make this region unique. Whether you're a local resident or a visitor, the Expo offers something for everyone. Meet with representatives from local attractions, hotels, restaurants, and outdoor adventure companies to learn more about what our county has to offer. Enjoy live demonstrations, sample local cuisine, and get insider tips on the hidden gems of La Paz County. **Time:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** BlueWater Resort & Casino, 11300 Resort Drive.

### **JANUARY 10-11-12**

Wickenburg to Parker Old West UTV Excursion. 300 miles round trip. Overnight lodging in Parker. See website for complete details. Website: UTVoffroadadventures.com. Contact: Kyle 623-363-9665; Kyle@utvoffroadadventures.com..

### JANUARY 15-16-17-18-19

Unlimited Racing Parker 400 Off-Road Race. The Parker 400 is a celebrated titan in off-road racing known for its demanding Arizona landscape and storied tradition. Hosting over 40,000 fans and more than 300 competing teams from around the globe each January, it's a highlight of the off-road racing calendar. Check website for schedule, where to watch, and more information. Website: unlimitedoffroadracing.com.

### **JANUARY 16**

**Downtown Experience for Unlimited Off-Road Racing Parker 400.** This event is hosted by the Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Unlimited Racing Parker 400 Tech and Contingency Rows happening at the same time in the same location. Enjoy vendors, food, drinks, music and see the race vehicles. **Time:** Noon to 8 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** Downtown Parker off Joshua and Arizona avenues. **Website:** parkeraz.org.

928-669-8040



The Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce & Tourism will host a Downtown Experience January 16 for the Parker 400 and February 20 for the Parker Dam 500. The public is welcome. There is no cost to attend. Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce & Tourism photo.

#### **JANUARY 17-18**

Parker Friends of the Library Book Sales. Time: 9 a.m. to Noon. Address: Parker Public Library, 1001 S. Navajo Ave. Phone: 928-669-2622.

#### **JANUARY 17-18-19**

Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting 2025 Series. Time: Open Class events start at 9 a.m.; Amateur Novice Class at 1 p.m. Address: Rio Mesa Ranch is east of Parker on Highway 95 to Burns Avenue, then one mile south. Website: RioMesaRanch.com; Facebook: Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting. Contact: Pauline Leivas at 928-916-9239 or email RioMesaRanch@yahoo.com.

### **JANUARY 27**

Parker Friends of the Library Book Sales. Time: 9 a.m. to Noon. Address: Parker Public Library, 1001 S. Navajo Ave. Phone: 928-669-2622.

#### **JANUARY 27-28-29-30**

Holocaust Memorial Exhibit. In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, this exhibit is made to walk through at your own pace. Time: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Cost: Free and open to the public. Address: 1001 S. Navajo Ave. Website: townofparkeraz.com/page/library-draft. Phone: 928-669-2622.

#### **FEBRUARY 3**

Parker Friends of the Library Book Sales. Time: 9 a.m. to Noon. Address: Parker Public Library, 1001 S. Navajo Ave. Phone: 928-669-2622.

#### **FEBRUARY 4**

**Refuge Birding Walks.** 1.5-mile walk with local birding expert Michelle Brock; wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, take water. **Time:** 9 a.m. (weather permitting). **Cost:** Free and open to the public; but reservations are required by calling number listed. **Address:** Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Visitor Center, 60911 Hwy. 95. **Phone:** Joey Saccomanno 928-259-9632.

### FEBRUARY 7-8-9

Havasu Havoc UTV Offroad Adventure. Day rides, meals, raffles, entertainment. See website for complete details. Website: havasuhavoc2025.utvoffroadadven-



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froadadventures.com.

#### FEBRUARY 8

Brews & Grooves, presented by Soroptimist Intering Beer, Wine & Whiskey Tasting, Show and Shine Car Show, Cornhole Tournament and Imusic by the Cassandra Long Band. Benefits Soroptimist International of Parker's "Dream" projects for Women and girls. **Time:** Noon to 4 p.m. **Admission:** \$20 in advance (Eventbrite.com or Parker Area Chamber of Commerce and local Soroptimist membes); \$25 at the gate. Address: La Paz County Park,

tures.com. **Contact:** Kyle 623-363-9665; Kyle@utvof- 7350 Riverside Drive. **Facebook:** Soroptimist Brews & ing. **Contact:** Pauline Leivas at 928-916-9239 or email Grooves.

#### **FEBRUARY 14-15**

Parker Friends of the Library Book Sales. Time: 9 Navajo Ave. **Phone:** 928-669-2622.

#### **FEBRUARY 14-15-16**

Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting 2025 Series. Time: Open Class events start at 9 a.m.; Amateur Novice Class at 1 p.m. Address: Rio Mesa Ranch is east of Parker on Highway 95 to Burns Avenue, then one mile south. **Website:** RioMesaRanch.com; Facebook: Rio Mesa Ranch Sort-

RioMesaRanch@yahoo.com.

#### **FEBRUARY 15**

34th Annual Buckskin Mountain Desert Dash. national of Parker. New name, same great event. Featur- a.m. to Noon. Address: Parker Public Library, 1001 S. This long-running event is presented by Parker Rotary Club. Participants can choose from a 5K (3.2 miles) Bike Ride, and Run or Walk. Times are kept, but this is not a competition and no awards are given for finishing positions. Participants will receive a Desert Dash T-shirt and finishers are eligible for the drawings that are held at the finish line. Times: Registration 7 a.m.; Race 9 a.m. Entry

continued on next page

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fee: \$25 until Feb. 1 (postmark); \$30 after & on race day; p.m. Admission: Free. Address: Downtown \$15 children 12 and under. **Address:** The course starts at Cienega Springs Road - 5 miles north of Parker off Hwy. 95. It runs through Buckskin Mountain and concludes at the Nellie E. Saloon (Desert Bar). Website: parkerazrotary.org. **Contact:** Mike Burke at mjb901@yahoo.com.

#### **FEBRUARY 15**

45th Annual Take a Kid Fishing. Time: See Facebook page for information. Cost: Free family event. Address: La Paz County Park, 7350 Riverside Drive.

**Contact:** takeakidfishing@yahoo.com. **Facebook:** Take A Kid Fishing Parker AZ.

#### FEBRUARY 19-20-21-22-23

Desert Off Road Adventures Parker Dam 500 presented by Legacy Racing Association. Cars, Trucks and UTVs. Race day is Feb. 22. Race is approximately 350 miles on a long race loop course. Spectating areas will be located on Shea Road, Upper Bouse & Bouse Y. Check website for schedule and more information **Spec**tator admission: Free. Website: legacyracing.net.

### **FEBRUARY 20**

**Dam 500.** This event is hosted by the Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Legacy Racing Tech and Contingency Rows happening at the dren \$17. Address: La Paz County Fairgrounds, 21600 same time in the same location. Enjoy vendors, food, Hillside Drive. Website: lapazcountyfair.org; Facebook: drinks, music and see the race vehicles. **Time:** Noon to 8 La Paz County Fair. **Phone:** 928-669-8100.

Parker off Joshua and Arizona avenues. Web**site:** parkeraz.org.

#### MARCH 3

Parker Friends of the Library Book Sales. Time: 9 a.m. to Noon. Address: Parker Public Library, 1001 S. Navajo Ave. Phone: 928-669-2622.

#### MARCH 4

**Refuge Birding Walks.** 1.5-mile walk with local birding expert Michelle Brock; wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, take water. **Time:** 9 a.m. (weather permitting). **Cost:** Free and open to the public; but reservations are required by calling number listed. Ad**dress:** Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Visitor Center, 60911 Hwy. Porter@121photo. 95. **Phone:** Joey Saccomanno 928-259-9632.

#### **MARCH 6-7-8**

La Paz County Fair. Fair hours: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; **Carnival:** Thursday 2:30 p.m. to midnight; Friday 1 p.m. **Downtown Experience for Legacy Racing Parker** to Midnight; Saturday Noon to Midnight. **Tickets:** Adults \$9; Seniors (65 & older) \$7; Children 6-12 \$7; Children 5 and under free. Season pass Adult \$25; Seniors and chil-



A rider navigates a buoy during a Best of the West Series personal watercraft race. The BlueWater Resort & Casino will host PWC races March 22-23. Rain

### **MARCH 7-8-9**

Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting 2025 Series. Time: Open Class events start at 9 a.m.; Amateur Novice Class at 1 p.m. Address: Rio Mesa Ranch is east of Parker on Highway 95 to Burns Avenue, then one mile south. Website: RioMesaRanch. com; Facebook: Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting. Contact: Pauline Leivas at 928-916-9239 or email RioMesaRanch@yahoo.com.

#### MARCH 13-14-15-16

Northern Arizona Peace Trail UTV Off-Road Ad-

continued on page 76



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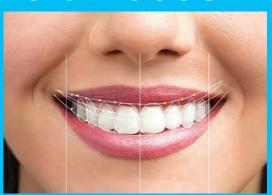
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14 Gauge galvanized steel frame. 1 - 10' x 8' Roll-Up Door 1 - 36" x 80" Walk in Door

\$<del>12,558</del> \$**9.418** 

**INSTALLED PRICE** 



### REGULAR STYLE GARAGE 18'x30'x8'

14 Gauge galvanized steel frame, 1-10' x 8' Roll-Up Door, 1-36" x 80" Walk-In Door

\$8,355 \$6,266

**INSTALLED PRICE** 



### RV GARAGE, A-FRAME VERTICAL ROOF STYLE 40'x50'x16' \$52,232 \$39,174

Two 14'x14' Roll-Up Doors, One Walk-In Door, Four 36"x36" Dual Pane Windows, 14-Gauge Galvanized Steel Frame, Certified Blue Prints and Calcs included Fork Lift Fee included.

**INSTALLED PRICE** 



A-Frame Vertical Roof Style 15' x 30' Side Storage, 2 - 10' x 8' Roll Up Door on end wall and side wall. 1 - 36" x 80" Walk-In Door and 15' x 30' x 10' Carport with Gable ends

\$19,563 \$14,673

**INSTALLED PRICE** 



### **REGULAR-STYLE** CARPORT 18'x21'x6'

14 Gauge galvanized steel frame

\$2,470 \$1,853

**INSTALLED PRICE** 



### A-FRAME VERTICAL ROOF-STYLE GARAGE 22' x 35' x 11'

14 Gauge Galvanized Steel Frame. 2 - 10' X 10' Roll-Up Doors. 1 - 36" X 80" Walk in Door.

\$15,286 \$11,464

**INSTALLED PRICE** 



### **REGULAR STYLE** RV PORT 18'x40'x12'

14-Gauge Galvanized Steel Frame, 2 Panels or 1 Side 6' Down

\$6,768\$5,076

Includes Delivery & Installation



### **REGULAR STYLE** GARAGE 12'x21'x7'

14-Gauge Frame, One 8' x 7' Roll-Up Door, One Man Door

Includes Delivery

\$5,566 \$4,175 & Installation



### A-Frame Vertical Roof Barn Style Garage 36' x 25' x 12'

14 Gauge Galvanized Steel Frame. 1 - 10' x 10' & 1 - 8' x 7' Roll Up Door. 1 - 36" x 80" Walk In Door. 3 - 36" x 36" Double Pane Windows.

\$17,831 \$13,373

Includes Delivery & Installation



### A-Frame Vertical Roof-Style Garage 30' x 50' x 12'

14 Gauge Galvanized Steel Frame. 2 - 10' x 10' Roll Up Doors. 1 - 36" x 80" Walk In Door.

\$28,800 \$21,600

Includes Delivery & Installation



### A-Frame Vertical Roof-Style RV Garage 14' x 40' x 13'

14 Gauge Galvanized Steel Frame. 1 - 12' x 12' Roll Up Door. 1 - 36" x 80" Walk In Door.

\$16,991 \$12,743

Includes Delivery & Installation



### A-FRAME STYLE **GARAGE 24'x 25'x 9'**

14-Gauge Galvanized Steel **Double Frame Construction** Two 10' x 8' Roll- Up Doors, One 36" x 80" Walk-In Door \$11,774 \$8,83

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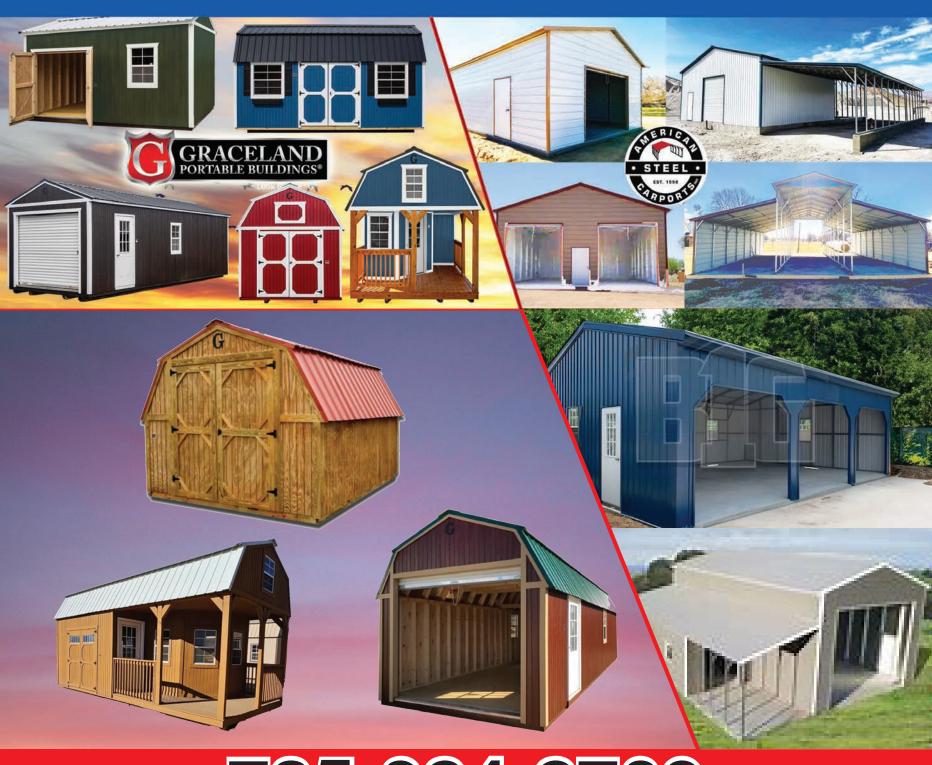
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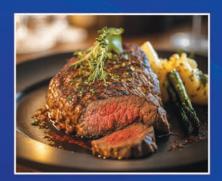
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continued from page 74

**venture.** It is 275 miles round trip; Allinclusive off-road adventure. Starts in Wikieup and stops in Kingman, Oatman, Bullhead City, and Lake Havasu City. See UTVoffroadadventures.com. **Contact:** Kyle 623-363-9665; Kyle@utvoffroadadventures.com.

#### MARCH 14-15

Parker Friends of the Library Book Sales. Time: 9 a.m. to Noon. Address:

Parker Public Library, 1001 S. Navajo Ave. **Sales. Time:** 9 a.m. to Phone: 928-669-2622.

#### MARCH 15

St. Patrick's Poker Run. This is a 70website for complete details. **Website:** 75 mile marked off-road course. Must have four wheels, no motorcycles. See MARCH 22-23 website or Facebook for more information. Website: parkeraz.org. Facebook: IJSBA Personal Water-St. Patrick's Day Annual Poker Run.

### **MARCH 17**

Parker Friends of the Library Book

Noon. Address: Parker Public Library, 1001 S. Navajo Ave. **Phone:** 928-669-

**Best of the West Series** craft races. Find more information on website. Address: BlueWater Resort & Casino, 11300 Resort Drive. Website: scscracing.com. Phone: Ross Wallach 310-318-4012; rpmracingent@yahoo.com.



The carnival is always a popular spot during the La Paz County Fair. The 2025 Fair is set for March 6-8. La Paz County Fair photo.

### **MARCH 28-29**

Military Vehicle Show & Swapmeet. See website for times and more information. Address: La Paz County Park, 7350 Riverside Drive. Website: parkeraz.org.

#### APRIL 1

with local birding expert Michelle Brock; wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, take Casino, 11300 Resort Drive. Website: scwater. **Time:** 9 a.m. (weather permitting). **Cost:** Free and open to the public; but res- 318-4012; rpmracingent@yahoo.com. ❖

ervations are required by calling number listed. Address: Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Visitor Center, 60911 Hwy. 95. Phone: Joey Saccomanno 928-259-9632.

### **APRIL 12-13**

Southern California Speedboat Club (SCSC) Spring Classic 2025 Sea-**Refuge Birding Walks.** 1.5-mile walk son Opener. Find more information on website. Address: BlueWater Resort & scracing.com. Phone: Ross Wallach 310-

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Momma's Meatloaf - with mashed potatoes, gravy and biscuit 1/4 lb Bacon Cheeseburger - with fries and coleslaw Prime Rib Caesar Salad - 5oz seasoned prime rib Tuna Stuffed Tomato - served on a bed of greens 1/4 Rack of BBQ St. Louis Ribs - with french fries and coleslaw Chicken Fried Steak - with mashed potatoes, gravy and biscuit 1/2 Reuben Sandwich - with a cup of soup Springs "Noodle" - deep fried pasta alfredo with marinara and

a side salad

Breakfast Specials

Breakfast Combo - Two scrambled eggs and french toast with a sausage patty or two bacon slices.

Hammy Egg Breakfast - Two scrambled eggs, diced ham, country potatoes and a slice of toast.

S.O.S. Menu items cannot be combined with other discounts or coupons. Excludes Holidays. Located inside Havasu Springs Resort 2581 Hwy 95, Parker, AZ 85344 | 928-667-4593 | www.HavasuSprings.com



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### Rio Mesa Ranch Arena Celebrates 15th Winter Series

By Vivian (Makela) Sazama

f you're looking for something to do straight from the Wild West, put on your cowboy boots and go out to the Rio Mesa Ranch, which sits east of Parker. This winter marks the ranch's 15th Winter Series of Ranch Sorting and Mini-Penning, and touts as being the home of the largest Round Robin in Arizona.

Rio Mesa Ranch began in 2010 and has been finding and featuring some of the best riders in Arizona, according to its website. From coaching riders on the ins-and-outs of the sport to honing their riding skills,

owners Pauline and Roy Leivas are proud to teach not only the love of the game, but to also impart the ideals of good sports-



Roy and Pauline Leivas are the owners of Rio Mesa Ranch.



Roy Leivas competes atop his horse "Mesa".

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manship, teamwork and loyalty. They also offer clinics from some of the best clinicians in the sport for Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced riders to help them stepup their game or just to learn the sport of Ranch Sorting and Team Penning.

Contestants travel from Texas, Montana, Canada, Las Vegas, Wyoming and California. For the second year, buckles will be awarded to winners in every class, in addition to the 50% payback in both the Open Class and the Amateur Novice Class.

Pauline and Roy met over 20 years ago in Parker where Roy grew-up. He spent 25 years with the Navy before returning to his hometown of Parker where he bought the ranch.

"He was born and raised just down the driveway, first house on the right," said Pauline. "I was an Army brat. I was born in Germany where my dad was stationed, then we moved to California and I came to Parker in 1993."

PARKER, AZ

MON - SAT: 7:30 AM TO 5:00 PM • SUN: CLOSED

continued on next page



#### **GARLIC GRILLED PRIME RIB \$15.99**

Juicy 8 oz grilled, garlic-marinated slice of Prime Rib served with sautéed veggies and a baked potato or rice pilaf. \*Not available rare

#### **COUNTRY FRIED STEAK \$15.99**

Golden fried flank steak smothered with country gravy and served with sautéed veggies and garlic mashed

#### FISH N'CHIPS \$15.99

Beer battered, lemon butter garlic or Cajun blackened. Served with french fries, creamy coleslaw and potato

#### MAMMA'S MEATLOAF \$15.99

Hearty meatloaf made with ground sirloin, Italian bread crumbs, garlic and spices. Topped with rich brown gravy and served with sautéed veggies and garlic mashed with gravy.

#### PAN-SEARED SALMON \$15.99

Delicious pan-seared salmon filet with a side of sweet n'spicy mango-pineapple salsa. Served with rice pilaf and sautéed veggies.

#### **LIVER AND ONIONS \$15.99**

Lightly floured tender beef liver sautéed with bacon and onions with a side of gravy. Served with sautéed veggies and baked potato or rice pilaf.

#### **CAPTAIN'S PLATTER \$15.99**

Two beer battered cod filets, 4 oz of fried calamari and two coconut shrimp. Served with baked potato and sautéed veggies.

#### **PRIME RIB SLIDERS \$15.99**

Two prime ribs sliders with lettuce, tomato, sautéed onions and Swiss cheese. Served with baked potato, sautéed veggies and a side of creamy horseradish.





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St. Louis style BBQ pork ribs. Served with soup or salad. french fries, coleslaw and baked beans.



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### Fish at a Pier in the Lake Havasu City or Parker Areas

By Vivian (Makela) Sazama

For fishing enthusiasts who may not have a boat, or access to one, there are several options available in the Lake Havasu City and Parker Dam areas. Several are ADA accessible with paved walkways.

Mesquite Bay North is within the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge and is located off the London Bridge Road with ample parking and an ADA accessible paved walkway to a large pier on a small cove of Lake

Havasu. The fairly level walkway has several shaded benches along the way where one may view birds that nest in the surrounding reeds. No motorized watercraft allowed, which allows for a more peaceful fishing experience. There are no restrooms or water available, so come prepared.

Mesquite Bay South has several small non-motorized launching sites located adjacent to the parking lot, however the fishing pier is quite a distance on a gravel





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The Mesquite North fishing pier, within the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, stretches out into the bay.

walkway. Both Mesquite Bay sites are free motorized boat launch in Lake Havasu to use during daylight hours only.

Site Six fishing pier is located across the London Bridge and on the far end of the Island at 591 Beachcomber Blvd. It has a large paved parking lot with the only free

City. There is a pit toilet and a fish cleaning station available and the pier is ADA accessible. The lighted pier and parking lot make for prime fishing for use day and night.

A little-known fishing pier sits to the

continued on page 80

continued from previous page

ness when her daughter took-up horses in in 60 seconds. 4-H, so it was a natural fit when she met Roy. Together, Pauline and Roy have builtup Rio Mesa Ranch and host weekend events four times every winter.

"We have five acres of dry camping and 80 horse stalls," said Pauline. "We give the youth, ages 16 and under, an opportunity to practice at the ranch. It's really cool to see the progress they make every year, along with the adult Amateur Novice riders!"

improvements to the facilities, including a gateless entry.

"There's no need to have someone opening and closing the gate all the time," said Pauline. "That makes the process a lot smoother. We're able to run 50 teams an hour now."

The weekends start on Fridays with Open Class Shotgun Penning with Double times in the top three. The Sorting Event mile south. on Saturdays consists of two riders and 10 head of cattle, numbered 1-10. The announcer determines which number the riders start with. Their task is to try to get as

Pauline fell in love with the horse busi- many cattle in numerical order into a pen

On Sundays, the event is 2-Man Mini-Penning where two riders must sort two specifically numbered cattle from a herd of 20 head and pen them at the other end of the arena in 60 seconds. The rider must pen their two head without any trash cows in the pen before time is called.

The Leivas have help in running the events from friends and sponsors. Several of the sponsors include BlueWater Resort & Casino, River Island Market, Big Sky Over the years, there have been some RV, Crossroads Café, and Pro Therapy in Lake Havasu City.

> They encourage spectators to come on out, bring a chair and cooler, and cheer on the contestants. This year's events are December 27-29, January 17-19, February 14-16 and March 7-9. The morning Open Class events start at 9 a.m. and the Amateur Novice Class starts at 1 p.m.

Rio Mesa Ranch is east of Parker on Elimination and winners going to the best Highway 95 to Burns Avenue, then one

> For more information visit the website at www.riomesaranch.com or contact Pauline at 928-916-9239 or by email at RioMesaRanch@yahoo.com. ❖

## Come See The Big Kids Store In Parker, Arizona

### **Kawasaki** New Models in Stock!



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Always inspect your Yamaha before riding. Read the Owner's Manual and the product warning labels before operation. Yamaha and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation encourage you to ride safely and respect the environment. For safety and training information see your dealer or call the MSF at 1-800-446-9227.



ATVs can be hazardous to operate. For your safety, always wear a helmet, eye protection, and protective clothing and never carry passengers unless the adult ATV has been designed by the manufacturer specifically for that purpose. Polaris adult models are for riders aged 16 and older. Polaris youth models of 90cc are for riders aged 12 and older. Polaris youth models of 50cc are for riders aged 12 and olde 324-3764. For safety and training information in Canada contact your Polaris dealer. Polaris RANGER RZR. The RANGER RZR is not intended for on-road use. Driver must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license to operate. Passenger must be at least 12 years old and tall enough to grasp handholds and plant feet fi rmly on the fl oor. Never ride on public roads. Always avoid powed surfaces. Never carry more than one passenger. Riding and alcohol/drugs don't mix. Avoid excessive speeds and sharp turns. Be particularly careful on diffi cult terrain. Follow all warning and instructions in the owner's manual and the on-product warning labels. All RANGER RZR utility vehicles shown in action photography were ridden by professional riders in designated off-road areas.

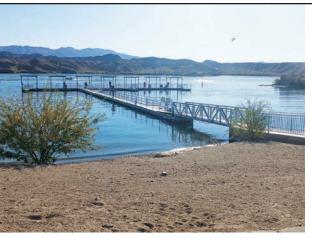


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Site Six, on the Island, is a popular spot for anglers.

continued from page 78

right of the Lake Havasu Water Safety Center at 1801 Hwy. 95 South. The gravel walkway is lengthy, about 350 yards, but there are two shaded shelters that provide beautiful views of Lake Havasu. There are no bathrooms or water available, and no lighting, so it is daylight use only

Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge, located 17 miles south of Lake Havasu City, has three lighted fishing piers along a half-mile stretch of a one-mile long peninsula, and is open and free to use day and night. There is a pit toilet available at the end of the paved portion of the



Take Off Point near the Parker Dam provides easy access to fishing.

peninsula. Shaded benches and beautiful views of south Lake Havasu await you along the way. A non-motorized boat launch is also available. The entrance to the Refuge is at Mile Marker 161 on Highway 95.

According to Visitor Services Specialist Joey Saccomanno, there is a large variety of fish in this section of Lake Havasu, including striped, largemouth and small-mouth bass, bluegill and redear sunfish, black crappie, channel catfish and flathead catfish.

"In the past year, the quality of fishing has improved," said Saccomanno. "The BLM Brush Maintenance Program brought bundles of Christmas trees here last year



A great blue heron stands watch over one of the three fishing piers at Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge.

which has created more habitat for the small fry to hide out in until they mature."

Take Off Point is also located on south Lake Havasu, just to the right of the Parker Dam. A paved parking lot and walkway is ADA accessible to several fishing piers with shaded picnic tables, a pit toilet and a fish cleaning station. There is a slope from the parking lot to the piers and pit toilet, so care must be taken for those with mobility issues. The piers and parking lot are lighted and fishing is available both day and night. A separate motorized and lighted boat launch is available farther down the road with ample parking. •



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**QIA POW WOW GEM & MINERAL SHOW OFF-ROADING** 

### **Quartzsite: A Destination for Winter Fun**

By Mark Goldberg

uartzsite is known as, "The Rock Capital of the World" and is a popular, friendly destination and gathering place for winter visitors looking for reasonable accommodations, scenic beauty, fantastic weather, and fun activities.

Quartzsite is 879-feet above sea level in the heart of the Sonoran Desert. Mountain backdrops frame your view in all directions with beautiful sunsets and easy-going lifestyle.

Acres and acres of swap meets with hundreds of vendors offer everything under the sun, including gems, minerals, and other diverse treasures. Live entertainment, music jams and all types of craft and other classes are common winter activities.

Over 11,000 acres of public lands are available for camping and easy off-road



Quartzsite offers many activities for winter visitors. Jeremy Kleman photo.

access. Reasonably-priced accommodations are available in-town including over 60 R.V. Parks and several motels.

Quartzsite is the Off-Road Capital of La Paz County and portal to the Arizona Peace Trail. Quartzsite is one of the few towns with a no-fee, dedicated OHV Staging area for safe storage of tow vehicles while owners are riding trails. There are thousands of miles of trails linking three counties and leading to ancient intaglios, petroglyphs, mines, stone cabins, George Patton tank training sites, and more. A comprehensive Off-Road Atlas is available with digital GPS.

Many Quartzsite residents came here as winter visitors, and enjoyed the area enough to purchase a home, or land after visiting for several seasons.

Make Quartzsite your home base for winter fun. \*

### QIA brings events, activities to Quartzsite

By Mark Goldberg

In the early days, Quartzsite was a destination for rockhounds to come in the enthusiasts out in the desert. Quartzsite Improvement Association (QIA) grew out of a small, 40-member community-minded group of rockhounds, residents and vison March 23, 1965, to structure the incorteer, organization.

poration of The Quartzsite Improvement Association on April 27, 1965.

The QIA constructed a large Commuwinter and tailgate their finds to other nity Building in the late 1960's. For the last 50+ years, QIA has raised funds to support local organizations and the town by providing equipment and donations towards community needs. The QIA is itors who met in a two-room schoolhouse Quartzsites oldest non-profit, all-volun-

> QIAs flagship event is the Pow Wow Gem and Mineral Show, which grew out of the tailgating experience. Held January 15-20, the Quartzsite Pow Wow is now in its 59th year, and features hundreds of vendors of gems, minerals, fossils, and jewelry from all over the world. There is free admission and free parking.

> QIA is also home to the Desert Sky Theater with capacity to seat over 500



Volunteers keep QIA going. Mark Goldberg photo.

community events. A schedule of live entertainment with reasonable ticket prices, runs from November to late March. A full catering kitchen is also part of QIA, preparing fresh, reasonably-priced meals for formation, ride information, regional people and hold large events and other special occasions.

The Off-Road Information Center at QIA features monthly Meet/Greet meetings on the first Wednesday at 10 a.m. (from now until March), maps, club in-

continued on next page

QIAs flagship event is the Pow Wow Gem and Mineral Show. Mark Goldberg photo.

www.WhiteSheetOnline.com Winter Visitor Guide **2025** 

### Having Off-Road Fun in Quartzsite

By Mark Goldberg

uartzsite is the confluence of major off-road trails, with thousands of miles of trails. Locally, the Bureau of Land Management La Posa Travel Management Trail system has thousands of miles of marked trails.

There are four groups of mountains surareas, there is a wealth off-road trails and

sights including: old mine sites, active mines, stone cabins, petroglyphs, geoglyphs, grinding mortars, natural springs, wildlife, unique rock formations, and more. Most areas are accessible by dirt roads that are easily traversed with today's off-road vehicles.

The Arizona Peace Trail is a 675-mile rounding the core of Quartzsite. In these loop trail through Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma counties. It is the premier off-road



Exploring the Arizona Peace Trail. Bruce Fuller photo.

adventure, with enthusiasts coming from equipment and technical skills; but it is all over the world to ride the trail.

'Quartzsite Off-Road' was founded by Mark Goldberg to promote off-road fun and safety, under the Quartzsite Improvement Association - Quartzsite's oldest non-profit association.

A comprehensive Off-Road Atlas of the Quartzsite area was created and published in 2016; with a 2024 update. The atlas covers 325 square miles in Quartzsite, and contains 33 topographic maps, information on 100 off-road points of interest in Quartzsite and nearby towns, GPS information, emergency checklist, relevant laws, off-road clubs and organizations, lodging, restaurants, and more.

The atlas is designed for use by the average person who may not have GPS

also available on Avenza Maps for download to your cell phone or GPS device for full navigational capability. The atlas is available at locations in Quartzsite and on-line (www.quartzsiteoffroad.com); and there is an Off-Road Information center at The Quartzsite Improvement Association.

Lodging is available at three motels and 56+ local RV Parks. There are 11,000 acres of camping on public lands in and around Quartzsite in the midst of the offroad trails (Maps @ Chamber of Commerce).

Quartzsite Off-Road holds free "Meet and Greet" meetings for all off-road enthusiasts on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at QIA, 235 Ironwood Street. \*



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The Pow Wow Gem and Mineral Show is Jan. 15-20. Mark Goldberg photo.

continued from previous page

events and a comprehensive Off-road

Looking for FUN things to do during your winter visit? QIA Membership is only \$10 per person for the entire season. Join other volunteers, and participate in the diverse activities at QIA which include: Pow Wow Gem and Mineral Show, January 15-20; Ukalele Concerts on January 23, February 23, and March 14; Cabaret Dinner & Show with David Tipton, February 14; Pancake Supper the second Wednesday of each month; Gold Treasure & Craft Show, February 7-9; and Johnny Cash Tribute, March 28.

Pick up a monthly schedule of activities at the QIA office, 235 E. Ironwood Street and at QIA information kiosks around town. For more information, visit QIAarizona.org �

### **Arizona Peace Trail Enjoyed by Off-Roaders**

By Mark Goldberg

he Arizona Peace Trail was created to connect the north and south portions of western Arizona with an off-road trail system. It was also intended to enhance tourism by providing a unique destination and experience. Both goals have been met over the last 8 years.

Circumnavigating the 675-mile trail takes about six days at a reasonable pace, with over 100 miles to travel on some days - sometimes on difficult terrain. For those looking for a less grueling trip, we suggest going to a larger town, stay in motels, and ride the trail in both directions from the town for a few days; as well as exploring some of the peripheral trails also noted in The Peace Trail Atlas. After several trips like this, to different areas of the trail, the whole trail can be completed at a comfortable pace, with urban conveniences.

### HISTORY

Arizona Sunriders ATV Club in Quartzsite, had been working with La Paz County since 2011 to create a loop OHV trail system in the Quartzsite area. The Bouse Ghost Riders ATV Club was also working with La Paz County to develop OHV rec-



Royal Arch on the Arizona Peace Trail.

reational opportunities in Bouse. In 2013, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), conceived a plan to create connector trail between Bullhead City in the North, and Yuma in the south.

In early fall of 2013, The Bouse Ghost Riders ATV Club saw the opportunity to combine the trail efforts by The Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Game and Fish Department, La Paz County and local OHV clubs, into a single-trail focused effort. By 2014, a team of 14 OHV clubs, under the leadership of J.C. Sanders, along with support from BLM, AZGFD, Yuma County, La Paz County, and Mojave County, formed the Arizona Peace Trail,

Inc. which gained non-profit status in July 2015

### TRAIL FORMULATION AND EXPERIENCE

The AZPT member clubs worked diligently, spending many hours of field research and coordination with numerous federal, state and local jurisdictions, and private property owners, to ultimately define a 675-mile loop trail linking Mojave County, La Paz County, and Yuma County.

The trail has loops and segments of varying length and degrees of difficulty for multiple types of OHVs, including: 4x4's; side-by-side utility vehicles; all-terrain vehicles; and motorcycles. The trail is open to motorized and non-motorized users. Trail identification signs are being installed along the entire trail.

Trail users will experience dramatic landscape and ecosystem changes (eleva-

continued on page 85



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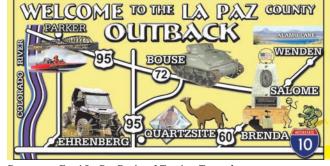
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### Passport to Adventure: A Visitor's Guide to All

### A Visitor's Guide to All of La Paz County

Passport to Adventure is a pocket-size brochure that is produced by the La Paz Regional Tourism Team. The team is composed of representatives from all jurisdictions in the county; and their goal is to encourage tourism, and reasons to stay in La Paz County I longer to enjoy recreation and leisure activities.



Passport to Fun! La Paz Regional Tourism Team photo.

The Passport has a vignette of each jurisdiction: Bouse, Colorado Indian Tribes, Cibola/Ehrenberg, McMullen Valley, Alamo Lake, Parker, and Quartzsite. There is a list of points-of-interest, a regional map, and links to information. The most significant feature of the Passport, is an Events Calendar with listings, by month, of all activities in the region.

The Tourism Team's program, now in its 10th year, is totally supported by partnerships with local governmental agen-

cies, local businesses, and individuals. The team is all-volunteer, and brochures are produced and distributed annually at local businesses, Chambers of Commerce, Arizona Visitor Centers, Certified Folder, online, and other locations patronized by visitors. Since its inception, close to 200,000 brochures have been distributed.

Looking for something to do? Get a copy of the "Passport to Adventure" at a local chamber of commerce, Town Hall, local business, or view it on-line at: www. LaPazCountyPassport.com. ❖

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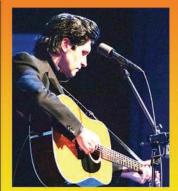
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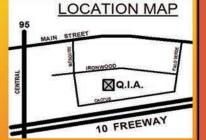
Gold

- Quartzsite Off-Road - First Wed. 10am

reasure &

- QZ Roadrunners Gem & Mineral Club Thurs. 2pm
- Ukulele Concerts: 7pm Jan 23, Feb 21, Mar 14
- Metal Detector's Club 1st Wed, 7pm
- Pancake Supper 2nd Wed. 5pm
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### **Quartzsite Metal Detecting Club**

By Mark Goldberg

The Quartzsite Metal Detecting Club [QMDC] is one of the largest local metal detecting and prospecting L clubs in the nation, with almost 1,000 members.

The first official meeting was held in January, 1992; and, the first by-laws were adopted in 1994. Activities include: gold prospecting, coin hunting, raffles, field trips, Gold Show participation and Annual "Superhunt," with many sponsored prizes and field finds.

The club offers membership to anyone 18 years or older. Anyone under the age of 18 may be granted an associate membership, if sponsored by an adult member. All associates must be accompanied by an adult at all club functions.

The Quartzsite Metal Detecting Club owns and maintains approximately 360 acres of mining claims exclusively for member use. They are located in four different areas just west of Quartzsite and the majority of them are accessible by most vehicles.

Today, the QMDC is a very active club with a great Board of Directors and an awesome group of faithful volunteers. The goal is to continually improve and increase the activities and provide a fun atmosphere for anyone interested in metal detecting in the Quartzsite area!

Membership dues are \$20/year. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from November to March at Quartzsite Improvement Association at 7 p.m. �

#### continued from page 83

tion 170'-7070'); many varieties of cacti; red rock landscapes; winding sand washes and river bottoms; narrow canyons, ridgeline trails; historic sites, and fantastic scenic beauty. Expect to see Big Horn Sheep, coyote, raptors, owls, deer, desert tortoise, and other wildlife.

### **FOR MORE** INFORMATION

Many details about the Arizona Peace Trail are available on its official website at www.arizonapeacetrail.org or on Facebook at Arizona Peace Trail User Forum. There are links to detailed maps of the route, along with GPX and KML



Mark Goldberg photo.

downloads for Global Positioning System devices (GPS navigation is highly recommended). A trail itinerary is also provided as an example of a five-day trip to circumnavigate the Peace Trail. Locations of services including: lodging, fuel, repairs, restaurants, and more are also available. The Facebook page, Arizona Peace Trail User Forum, is a great resource for current trail information, questions, and ride-sharing.

Plan your trip today to ride and enjoy all or part of the Arizona Peace Trail, Arizona's Ultimate Off-Road

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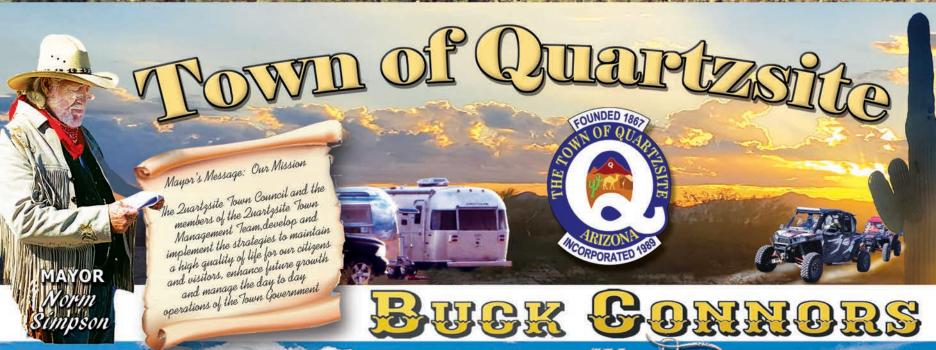
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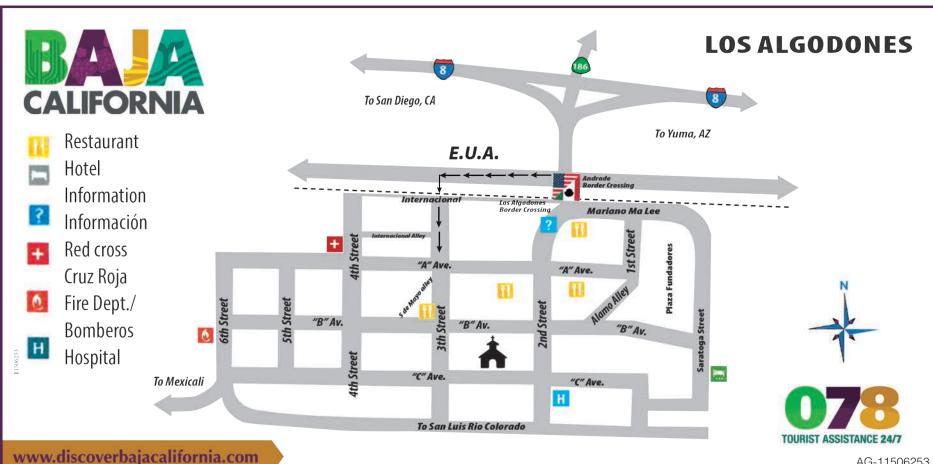
re you planning to make a visit to Algodones, Baja California?

Here are some tips to make your visit easier and more satisfying:

- If you only want to shop for souvenirs or purchase medication in Los Algodones, you may find it easier to park on the U.S. side of the border and walk across the border. Pharmacies, medical offices, curios shops, liquor stores and other businesses popular with tourists typically are located along the streets near the border.
- When shopping for items sold by street vendors, don't hesitate to negotiate prices. But be realistic in your counter offer.
- If a merchant won't give you the price you want, see if you can get a better deal from another vendor, who, chances are, will be offering the same or similar merchandise.
- The legal drinking age in Mexico is 18 years.
- Travelers who are not California residents, but who live in the U.S., can bring more than one 1-liter bottle every 30 days through the U.S. Port of Entry at Andrade, Calif., although they will be charged duty. They must be at least 21 years of age.



continued on next page A modern, re-imagined border crossing awaits your visit.



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Los Algodones, Mexico. Photo by Jessica Rhodes.

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but not at an airport.

- Canadian citizens returning from visits to Mexico can present a valid Canadian passport, enhanced driver's license or Trusted Traveler Program card.
- For Mexico travel advisories, visit the U.S. State Department website at https://travel. state.gov/content/travel/en.html
- If you're planning to go south of the border with \$10,000 or more in currency or checks, you will need to declare it by completing a form FinCEN 105. Failure to do so could result in the currency's seizure, according to

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

• When planning your visits across the border, you can go to a CBP website to find

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Los Algodones, Mexico. Photo by Jessica Rhodes.

out the average wait times to return to the U.S. through any of the ports of entry on the Mexican border. The site is http:// bwt.cbp.gov/index.html.

CBP also has a border wait time app that you can download for free from Apple's App Store and Google Play.

#### LOS ALGODONES

www.losalgodones.com/ Hours for U.S. Port of Entry: Mon-Sun: 6am-10pm (Pacific Time) 760-572-0089

Los Algodones, located just seven miles west of Yuma on Interstate 8, is a community of 15,000. From Yuma, take Interstate 8 west to the Andradade exit (Route 186). Turn left and proceed south approximately two miles. In the past, a limited amount of roadside parking was available, but the California Highway Patrol no longer allows parking there. The Quechan Indian



Los Algodones, Mexico. Photo by Jessica Rhodes.

Tribe operates a paved and lighted pay parking lot on the U.S. side. It's just a short walk across the border and directly in the tourist area.

For more information, visit www.losalgodones.com

#### **SHOP**

With plenty of open-air markets and street vendors peddling everything from jewelry and sunglasses to painted rocks and wood-carved figures, Mexican border cities near Yuma have incredibly colorful, diverse shopping experiences.

Los Algodones has these experiences within walking distance from the U.S.-Mexico border.

And unlike in the U.S., just about everything is negotiable.

Haggling is not only common, but expected. Virtually no one seems to have a

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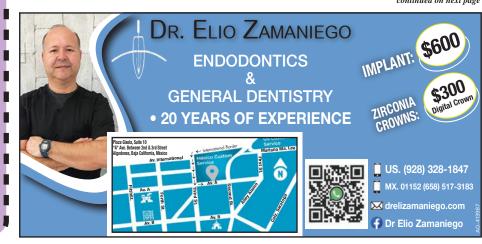
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he Quechan Indian Tribe, of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, provides parking on the U.S. side of the border. The lot is right next to Los Algodones, a short walk to the Mexico border entry. The parking lot opens at 6:00am and closes at 10:00pm (Arizona time).



For day parking, these vehicles are permitted: cars, pickup trucks, ATVs, motorcycles, motorhomes, semis with or without a trailer, vehicles with a tow.

For overnight parking (priced per day), these vehicles are permitted: cars, pickup trucks, motorcycles, semis with or without a trailer, motorhomes, heavy equipment. An overnight vehicle with an expired permit will be towed at the vehicle owner's

3 day maximum. If you need additional parking to avoid towing. Call (760) 572nights vehicle owners need to pay addi-



Overnight vehicles are allowed only a tional fees on the last day of the permitted **2959** for information. **♦** 



Los Algodones, Mexico. Photo by Jessica Rhodes.

continued from previous page

concrete price for anything in most shops, which makes for real deals where the U.S. dollar is the primary currency.

Many of the products for sale come from different parts of Mexico, like the famous hand-carved Oaxacan figure, which are from the southern state of Oaxaca.

Some of the figures are signed by artists with their location. But visitors should always keep in mind that authenticity of items especially jewelry and hand-made items - can often be unverifiable.

However, if you're thinking about parting with a good chunk of change for a silver

continued on next page

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POLICE AVENUE A Across the street from church next door to Algodones Pharmacy Los Algodones, B.C., Mexico
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Dr. Jorge Cochran

AVENUE B

Los Algodones, Mexico



Los Algodones, Mexico. Photo by Jessica Rhodes.





#### continued from previous page

necklace, take a magnet with you and remember that gold and silver are non-magnetic (though that's also not always a guaranteed way to ensure authenticity either).

Some vendors are a bit more vocal than we're used to in tourist areas in the States, which can be a tad overwhelming depending on your capacity for being called "friend" and "buddy" hundreds of times within a few hours. Since the communities cater to the English-speaking, it's actually



more common to hear English that Spanish.

Since the order cities are tourist-driven especially Los Algodones - expect to be sold everything. That includes dental work and eyeglasses. Many dentists and optometrists have people in front of their business or roaming the streets offering free estimates and free eye exams to entice would-be patients.

Los Algodones is actually known as the dental capital of Mexico, with more than 350 dentists working in the town.

No matter what you decide to buy - or not buy - in the border cities, it is sure to be an interesting, enjoyable experience.

Restaurants and food trucks are plentiful in Algodones. The food isn't wildly differently from the Mexican food you can get in Yuma County, but the prices can be a bit cheaper depending on where you go, and there are often more options for sweets and candies.

Traditional Mexican fare like tacos, flautas, sopes and chiles rellenos (stuffed chiles) are available at most restaurants and many food trucks as well.

Like in the U.S., it is not unusual for

continued on next page

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restaurants to offer complimentary tortilla chips that are often served with multiple salsas, pico de gallo, cucumber, cabbage and limes.

And because the area is about 60 miles from the Gulf of California, fish and other seafood is on the menu in many restaurants.

Panaderías in Mexico have all the most unique selection of Mexican foods - mostly dulces (sweets).

Chili-covered lollipops, candied nuts and fresh honey are just a few of the sugary foods that are plentiful in many shops and along many streets.

Snow cones, fruit smoothies and vari-



ous ice creams are also abundant with many different flavors to choose from. And, of course, there's usually the option to add chili powder.

#### **MEDICAL**

Every year, thousands travel to Los Algodones, Baja Calif., to seek out medical or dental care or to purchase medicine.

If you shop for medication in Mexico, you will be subject to regulations of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is charged with enforcing those rule at the ports of entry at Andrade, Calif., across from Los Algodones, and at San Luis, Ariz., across from Sa Louis Rio Colorado.

Some rules to keep in mind when going to Mexico to buy medicine:

- · Only medications that are legally prescribed in the U.S. can be imported from Mexico for personal use.
- Travelers are required to have a valid prescription from a U.S. doctor to purchase in Mexico any medicine that appears on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administrations' drug Schedules II through V. For

more information visit http://www.dea. gov/druginfo/ds.html

• Medication purchased in Mexico must be brought to the U.S. in the original container.

For more information about purchasing medicine in Mexico, visit the FDA website at http://www.fda.gov/drugs. �







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### **Molar City**

os Algodones is also known as Molar City ✓ The Mexican Town with the Most Dentists per Square Mile in the World.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans visit Los Algodones every year, but they don't come in search of sandy beaches. They come for veneers, root canals, and dental implants. Of the



roughly 10,000 inhabitants of Los Algodones, about 600 are dentists and the four main streets of the town are full of dental clinics offering a variety of services at a fraction of the cost in the United States. Between November and April, the population of Los Algodones almost doubles, as the tiny town is overrun by US tourists, but also some from Canada and even as far as the UK. Despite the stiff competition between dental clinics in the small Mexican town, demand often exceeds supply when it comes to dental services. The dental offices remain open for services throughout the Summer months.

close you can actually walk to it. The small town got its popular nickname, Molar City, long before the internet that aren't used anywhere else. That's why it's not unwas a thing, and it stuck. Nowadays, there is even a Molar common for foreign dentists to come to Los Algodones to

City official website that tries to pair local dental businesses with clients, and the town is widely regarded as the dental tourism capital of the world.

The main marketing pitch for Molar City is that you get dental services for a fraction of the cost in the US. But don't let the low prices fool you, the quality of the services is reportedly top-notch. The best dentists in Mexico can be found in Los Algodones and because of the sheer number of dental

clinics in town, there is a healthy competition to offer only the best treatments.

To get a leg up over the competition, dental clinics in Los Algodones lies just over the border from Yuma, so Molar City constantly upgrade their equipment, so many of them are using cutting-edge solutions and techniques

learn new techniques and practice with the most modern

The affordable cost and high quality of dental procedures are two of the main reasons why Molar City has become a sort of Mecca of dental services, with procedures like implants and root canals around 50 to 70 percent less than what they cost in the US or Canada. ❖





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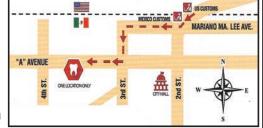
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### **Cri-State Region**

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#### Kingman Bursting with Route 66 Pride

By Laura Kassik

ringman has a new landmark to show its pride for its roots on Route 66 and offers visitors another hoto opportunity to document their stop along the historic highway.

The city unveiled the Leaning Route 66 Shield at Lewis Kingman Park in October 2024 during the 'I Love 66 Fest'.

"This new photo-op landmark ... is a testament to the city's commitment to preserving and promoting its unique cultural heritage," according to a press release by the City of Kingman at the time of the unveiling.

The sign joined two other photo-op landmarks - a vintage heart sign and a drive-thru shield. The late Scott Dunton, of Kingman, gifted the city a vintage Las Vegas Boulevard Cupid's Wedding Chapel neon sign cabinet that was renovated into a sign will the city's motto "Kingman, Heart of Historic Route 66" and unveiled in February 2024. It sits near the "Route 66 Drive-Thru Shield" that's in the parking lot of Kingman's Historic Powerhouse, home of the Kingman Visitor Center.



The Kingman Office of Tourism team with the Leaning Route 66 Shield, city's newest photo-op landmark at Lewis Kingman Park. Kingman Office of Tourism photo.



This vintage sign declares the city's motto, "Kingman, Heart of Historic Route 66." Kingman Office of Tourism photo.

Route 66 Association of Arizona commissioned the per- spot for travelers to pull their cars under and snap photos. In 2021, the Kingman Office of Tourism and Historic manent drive-thru shield, which has become a popular

"I drive by the (Leaning Route 66) sign nearly every

continued on page 95

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#### New Bridge connects Bullhead City to Laughlin

City, Arizona to Laughlin, Nevada.

In June 2024, a grand opening was held for the long-awaited second bridge connecting the two sides of the Colorado River. The Clark County (Nevada) Commission named the bridge "Silver Copper Crossing" in recognition of the monikers for Nevada and Arizona, the Silver State and Copper State, respectively.

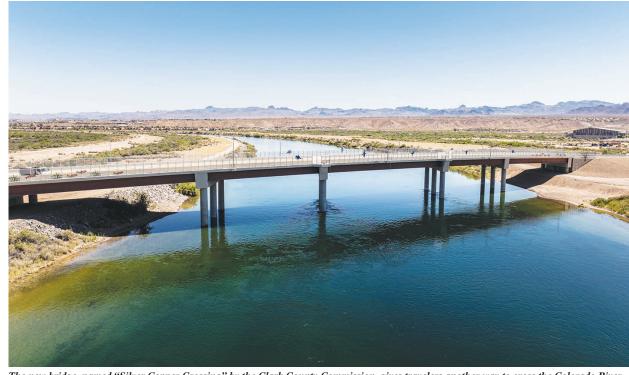
There is now another way to travel from Bullhead

"This second bridge spanning the Colorado River has been decades in the making," said Clark County Commissioner Michael Naft. "Its completion will facilitate the flow of traffic and commerce across the river, and I'm looking forward to celebrating this historic milestone with our residents."

At that time, Bullhead City Mayor Steve D'Amico added that he looks forward to "years of improved transportation between Laughlin and Bullhead City."

Clark County administered the bridge's construction. The 724-foot-long bridge rests 35-feet above the river and carries one lane of traffic in each direction along with a multi-use trail on the south side for bicyclists, runners and pedestrians. There are two overlooks on the bridge for users of the multi-use trail. If needed, the bridge can be restriped to accommodate four lanes of traffic and the multi-use trail.

The project also features a 2.5-acre nature center pond



The new bridge, named "Silver Copper Crossing" by the Clark County Commission, gives travelers another way to cross the Colorado River from Bullhead City, Arizona to Laughlin, Nevada. City of Bullhead City photo.



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on the Arizona side for waterfowl that can use it as refuge from the river's boats and personal watercraft.

A 3.5-mile road called Laughlin Parkway was constructed on the Nevada side that connects with Needles Highway just north of the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation. On the Arizona side, Bullhead Parkway was extended from Highway 95 to the bridge. More than 1,400 bushes were planted along the bridge roadways.

The bridge structure consists of precast concrete girders on drilled shaft foundations. It is located eight miles south of Laughlin's only other bridge, which has been in operation since 1987 and was paid for by Laughlin founder Don Laughlin. There is a third, privately maintained bridge six miles south of the new structure that connects Fort Mojave to Laughlin near the Avi Resort & Casino via Aztec Road on the Nevada side. \*



Classic cars cross the new "Silver Copper Crossing" bridge on June 7, 2024, the day of its grand opening celebration. City of Bullhead City photo.

continued from page 93

day, to and from work. Often there are people getting Main Street in 2022, it is their pictures at the sign, but it's no where near as popular as the Route 66 Drive-Thru Shield, which is almost in continuous use throughout the day," said Josh Noble, significant sites around Kingman Tourism Services Manager.

The Kingman Visitor Center is often the first stop for travelers when they're in Kingman. They ask about things to scan the QR code on to do, purchase souvenirs, or check-out the Route 66 Museum or Route 66 Electric Vehicle Museum that are housed there.

Kingman, which adopted the motto, "The Heart of historian, talk about each Route 66," in 1993, is steeped in the highway's history with its museums, landmarks, and historic buildings.

Since July 2023, visitors have had another reason to spend time in the Visitor Center. Upstairs, located right outside the Route 66 Museum, is the "Guardian Angel of Route 66 Experience", which is an interactive exhibit that Kingman Train Depot chronicles the life of Angel Delgadillo, who grew-up and still lives in Seligman. Angel founded the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona to help preserve the historic highway after Interstate 40 was built and bypassed the Mother Road and its communities. Since opening, this free exhibit has been very popular, especially with international travelers.

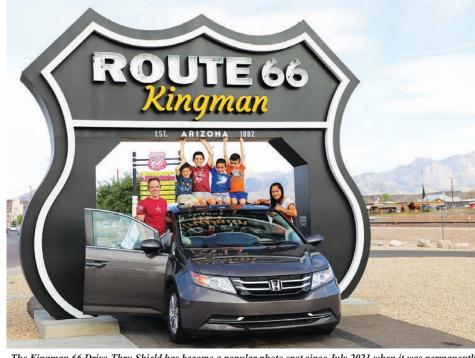
The Visitor Center can point travelers to must-see mu-

an interactive, self-guided, audio-narrated tour of Kingman and Route 66.

Use your mobile device the plaque in front of the site to listen to Hinckley, an acclaimed author and stop. Visit www.Kingman.tours to find the list of points of interest and tour map.

The tour starts at the at 4th Street and Andy Devine Avenue where a statue of Hinckley stands. It was commissioned by Kingman Main Street and created by sculptor J. Anne Butler

The Kingman Visitor Kingman with Jim Hinckley". Developed by Kingman daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed most major holi- and Instagram (ExploreKingman) pages. 💠



The Kingman 66 Drive-Thru Shield has become a popular photo spot since July 2021 when it was permanently installed near the Kingman Visitor Center, at 120 W. Andy Devine Ave. Kingman Office of Tourism photo

days. For more information, visit www.ExploreKingman. seums and landmarks, including taking "A Walkabout Center is located at 120 W. Andy Devine Ave. It is open com; and follow its Facebook (Kingman Visitor Center)



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#### **Havasu Side by Side Trail Association Maintains Off-Roading Trails**

By Vivian (Makela) Sazama ff-roading with Jeeps or side by side vehicles is a popular year-round sport for off-road enthusiasts, as evidenced by the creation of the Peace Trail - a 675mile long off-road trail that runs from Yuma to Kingman.

It was initiated in 2013 and later granted official non-profit status in 2015. Off-shoots of the Peace Trail include smaller trails throughout Yuma, Mohave and La Paz counties. The Havasu Side by Side Trail Associawas created in 2014 after the Peace Trail became a reality.



tion in Mohave County John Geyer and Chuck Owen designed a drag to maintain OHV trails.

The Trail Association is the only state and federally recognized 501c3 non-profit off-road trail association in the country, according to John Geyer, founding president of the Havasu Side by Side Trail Association (HSXSTA).

"We are getting people from all over the country, and even from other countries who come and rent a vehicle and traverse a design for a trail drag with bulldozer steel the Peace Trail and the great trails in and around Lake Havasu City," Geyer said.

"Many people have moved to Lake Havasu City after they have enjoyed the great desert off-roading here.

He continued: "Arizona and specifically Western Arizona has an amazing abundance of off-road trails. Because of the explosion in usage, we began to notice a few years ago that the trails were getting really beat-up, to the point where parallel trails began showing-up because the original trails were getting too rutted.

parallel trails were creating a greater impact on the desert landscape, so a fellow off-roader and HSXSTA member, Chuck Owen, who was in the first Baja Race in 1967, and myself sat down to think of how we might think of a solution. We did some research and found out that no one does trail maintenance of this type, so we drew up some plans."

The two men were able to come-up with and steel blades to be pulled behind a Jeep.

continued on next page



"We noticed these The drag is pulled behind a Jeep and smooths out the trails.



One of trail maintenance crews, from left: Chris Loomis, Butch Wilhelms, Chuck Owen, Jeff Moore, Dennis Geroutte, Jim Killingsworth, John Channel, Buddy Dionne, Nic Litras, Ray St. Pierre (Lefty), Mike Vineyard, Gary Hunt, Gary Hoxie, Dave Garrity, and Brian Tominege.

"We made the drag and groomed some drag worked great, however, we also found out that the blades wore out before long and had to be replaced," Geyer said. "We began using heavier 1/4-inch steel for the blades and I found I was spending between prove. five and six thousand dollars a year of my own money for the blades and gas. I would stop other off-roaders going by as we were dragging the trails and beg them for money after explaining the situation."

Geyer said that the first drag worked so well that they used what they learned to design a second trail drag to improve the trails that the first one did not do. Nick Lyon, another association member and fellow off-road racer, helped build the second trail drag.

"Finally, the Side by Side Association of the trails for a year and found that the began chipping-in with the costs until one day I was talking to Jackie Leatherman (with Go Lake Havasu tourism bureau) about how we needed more money to do all the trails that the BLM allows us to im-

> "Jackie set up a meeting with the Arizona State Parks to come from Phoenix to Lake Havasu City to see what we've been doing. From that meeting, we were able to apply for a grant, which now pays for our fuel, which runs us \$300 per day and the steel that wears out, which runs us \$100 per day. The Arizona State Parks then decided to use this effort as a test project and furnished us with \$13,000 a year for two years towards our trail maintenance."

Geyer said the BLM, Mohave Coun-

ty Sheriff's Search and Rescue and the are pulled behind Jeeps. The trail mainte-Havasu four-wheelers are "loving what nance team maintains an average of 15-20 we're doing."

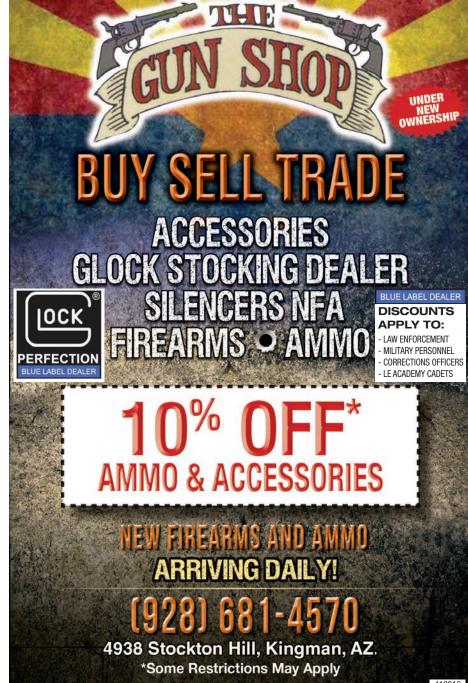
"Not only are we dragging the trails, but we also have a crew of about 15 people coming behind with clippers and chainsaws to cut brush and limbs and move rocks out of the way along the trails," he added. "The passengers in the vehicles are now not getting cut and hit with branches!

Geyer said that the grant money has allowed them to now have three drags that

miles of trail on each mission - two missions a month for six months of the cooler

"We usually will maintain the trails starting in October and run to the end of March," said Geyer. "This year because October was still so warm, we didn't get to it until November, and we will have to see how long in the spring we can go out.

continued on page 99



#### Edward Jones

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#### London Bridge Resort Offers Tours to the 'Old West' of Oatman

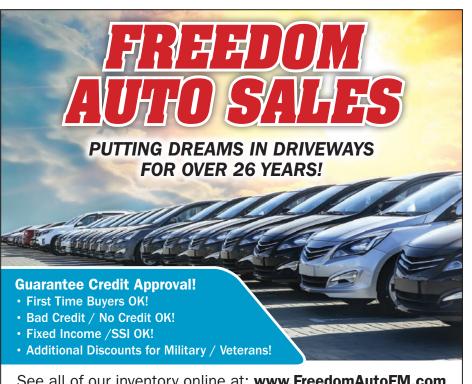
Take a road trip to Oatman, but leave the driving to tour bus driver, Doug. L Sit back and relax and enjoy the ride in a comfortable, air-conditioned bus.

London Bridge Resort is again offering its weekly Old Route 66 Oatman Bus Tour, which continues until May. These tours are open to the public with reservations and advanced payment.

Be transported back to the Old West in this former mining town turned tourist attraction with its gunfight re-enactments, dirt roads, roaming burros, and old-fashioned storefronts that resemble those in Western films. There are restaurants and an assortment of shops - carrying everything from antiques to T-shirts.

"They really enjoy the scenery, the history of Oatman, and the atmosphere. It's such a cool town...brings you right back to the Western Days of Old. Let's not forget about the donkeys. They tend to greet the bus prior to arrival," said Kristina Gallo, Assistant General Manager & Director of Guest Experience for London Bridge





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A maintenance crew repaired the Founder's Cabin on the Peace Trail.

continued from page 97

"We do the trails based on complaints or suggestions. We average around 200 miles of trails groomed each year. The Standard events havass the Craggy Wash Trail that is the back way to the Bunker Bar, we also do twice a year because they're so heavily used. We also see that those portions of the Peace Trail that come in and out of Havasu are maintained once a year."

The Trail Maintenance program can always use volunteers.

"They will go out once or twice and find out how much work it is!" Geyer said. "I designed a safety T-shirt for the Maintenance program now, and offer it for free as long as they go out two times and work for it!"

There are YouTube videos available showing the trail grooming process. Go

to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMw5a1akueQIMR\_1FK5YGVw/featured.

For more information and upcoming events, go to its website: https://www. havasusxs.com. According to Geyer, the best digital maps of the trails are available on the free Polaris Ride Command map app, or the best physical map is available from the Mohave County Search and Rescue. The Polaris map is updated daily.

To volunteer, call John Geyer at 503-705-4277 or email him at Trailmaint.hsx-sta@gmail.com.

Beginning January 1, 2025, Arizona will require all off-highway vehicle (OHV) operators to complete a certified safety course and provide proof of completion to the Arizona Department of Transportation in order to purchase an OHV decal. The Arizona Game and Fish Department will offer these courses, which are free. \*



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continued from page 98

The Resort started offering these fullynarrated bus tours in September of 2022. The 24-passenger bus leaves the Resort promptly at 10 a.m. each Tuesday.

"We drive straight to Oatman, just in time for the high Noon shoot-out and an un-hosted lunch. We arrive back to the Resort just before 4 p.m. with a pit stop at Topock 66 Restaurant on the way home... everyone loves to take pictures there," Gallo said.

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Don't be surprised to be greeted by free-roaming burros on the streets of Oatman.

by the Ghost Rider Gun Fighters group on sell hay cubes to feed the donkeys, which Main Street. Spectators line the road and should not be fed any other food by visisidewalk for this popular attraction and to tors. catch a glimpse of a bit of history.

road. Many of Oatman's businesses will payment. •

To reserve a spot on the Bus Tour, call The main road through Oatman is also London Bridge Resort at 928-855-0888 or shared with donkeys that roam freely. Ve- stop by at 1477 Queens Bay, Lake Havasu hicles are often detained by these wild ani- City. Cost is \$25 per person round trip; and mals that tend to pause in the middle of the reservations are required with advanced



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