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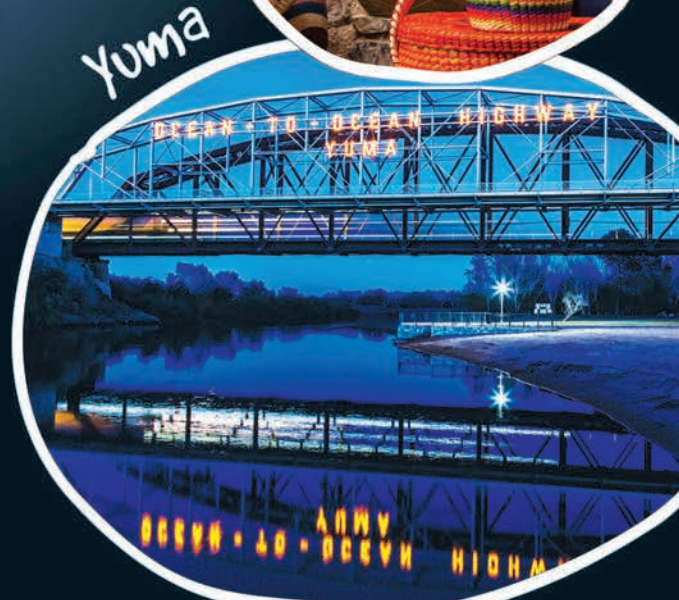
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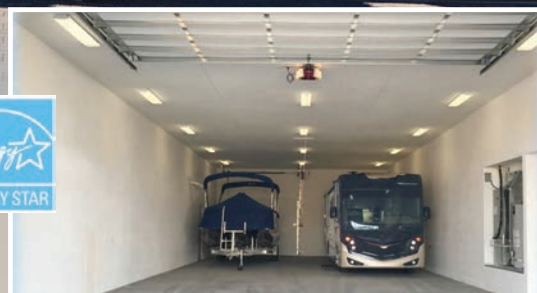
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2024 Winter Visitor Guide

LAKE HAVASU CITY pages 3-48

Lake, Desert Draw Visitors to Lake Havasu City	3
Craig Hamilton Shares Australian Cowboy Stories	5
Jan Kassies Makes Visitors Feel at Home in Havasu	9
Hiking Lake Havasu Area One Trail at a Time	12
Wildlife Refuges Offer Free Guided Walks	16
'Go Lake Havasu' a Contact for Visitors	20
2023-24 Lake Havasu City Calendar	22
Exploring the Desert	47

YUMA AND THE FOOTHILLS pages 49-63

2024 Yuma Events Calendar	49
Winter Golf in Yuma	60
Food, Fun and Vendors at Friday Night Munchies	62
Yuma Pickleball	63

PARKER, AZ, pages 64-75

Desert Draws Visitors to Parker	64
Rio Mesa Ranch Arena Celebrates 13th Winter Series	65
Camp Hosts Bring New Life to Rock House Visitor Center	66
2023-24 Parker Calendar	68
Get Ready to 'Howl at the Moon'	72

QUARTZSITE, AZ, pages 76-83

Quartzsite: A Destination for Winter Fun	76
Kofa National Wildlife Reserve	76
Having Off-Road Fun in Quartzsite	77
Quartzsite Metal Detecting Club	79
Quartzsite Roadrunners Gem and Mineral Club	79
Quartzsite Improvement Association	81
Quartzsite Camels: The Legacy of the U.S. Army and Hadji Ali	82

LOS ALGODONES, MEXICO, pages 84-89

Visit Los Algodones, Mexico	84
Molar City	89

TRI-STATE REGION pages 90-96

Kingman is Bursting with History	90
Visitor Center Exhibit Honors 'Angel of Route 66'	91
'Alpacas of the Southwest' Welcomes Visitors	93
New Landmark Celebrates 'Heart of Historic Route 66'	95
Kingman Couple Fills Niche with Meadery	96

Welcome Winter Visitors!

Welcome! You've come at a perfect time! While your friends back home are experiencing single digits, you're planning to spend your day outside in the mild temperatures; under clear skies and lots of sunshine. You traded snow boots and earmuffs for sandals and sunglasses.

You won't be disappointed. There is much to see and explore in this area along the Colorado River Lower Basin. The natural beauty alone will have you pausing to pull out your camera.

Let this Visitor Guide, and maybe a GPS, lead you on a winter adventure in the southwest. Lake Havasu City is home of the London Bridge, tempting lake for fishing, plenty of desert terrain for off-roading and hiking, and a short ferry ride across the lake to Havasu Landing Resort Hotel and Casino in Calif. Lake Havasu City also offers a calendar packed with crowd-drawing events, including Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair, Winterfest Street Fair, Delbert Days Rodeo, Rockabilly Reunion, and Lake Havasu Bluegrass on the Beach Music Festival. And that's an abbreviated list of enticing events.

Highway 95 south to Parker will take you passed turnoffs for Cattail Cove State Park, Buckskin Mountain State Park, and The Desert Bar (aka Nellie E. Saloon). Parker, which not only offers parks for overnight camping along the edge of the Colorado River, but has a vast desert for off-roading, Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge for hiking and bird watching, and the BlueWater Resort & Casino for entertainment and gaming excitement.

Point your RV toward Yuma or Quartzsite and you're bound to see familiar faces from



Lake Havasu State Park provides a beautiful view of the lake and mountains. Arizona State Parks & Trails photo.

your last winter. Quartzsite, referred to as "The Rock Capital of the World," with its International Rock, Gem and Mineral Show, is a magnet for winter visitors with its relaxed environment. It is RV-friendly, as visitors have the freedom to park in the open desert.

The historic Southwestern community of Yuma offers a friendly Main Street and variety of Mexican and other restaurants. It has an array of RV parks that cater to winter visitors with activities and get-togethers. Yuma is also close to Los Algodones, Mexico, which offers shopping and less expensive dental and medical care and prescriptions than in the States.

In the other direction, the Tri-State area - which includes Laughlin, Nev., Bullhead City, Kingman, and Oatman, and Needles, Calif., - is a diverse group of towns. There's Laughlin with its stretch of casinos and access to Colorado River recreation, but also Oatman, an old mining town that transports visitors back to the Old West with its gun fight re-enactments.

Kingman, dubbed the 'Heart of Route 66' offers a history rich in everything Route 66. Stop-by the Powerhouse Visitor Center on your way to take drive on the Mother Road.

The towns might differ in what they offer and the visitors they attract, but the allure of the Colorado River, weather, and climate binds them together and makes for memorable winter adventure and stay. ❖



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WINTER GUIDE ON THE WEB

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Havasu Offers Outdoor Activities and a Full Calendar of Events

By Laura Kassik

There are a number of reasons why Lake Havasu City is a popular winter destination - especially for those who want to be active and enjoy the outdoors. The weather is ideal this time of year and complements the area's natural amenities - a well-stocked lake for fishing, and desert and mountain trails for hiking, biking and off-roading.

Lake Havasu City also offers a busy Calendar of Events with weekly choices that include fairs and festivals, variety of concerts, rodeos, stockcar racing, swap meets and farmers markets, and much more.

"Winter visitors enjoy our sunshine, natural environmental beauty, community size and, of course, the robust event schedule. We often hear that they are thrilled that there are multiple events held every weekend, so there is always something for everyone to do, along with having a small community that still offers all of the

necessary amenities," said Jackie Leatherman, Director of Experiences for Go Lake Havasu, the City's visitor bureau.

The number of events that Havasu hosts from January to April is a big draw for winter visitors - many of whom volunteer their time to assist with events. The Annual Havasu Balloon Festival & Fair, January 18-21, for example, is "100% volunteer run and requires a crew of over 1,200 people to work different jobs and shifts over the 4-day event, not including several days of setup and tear-down," said Balloon Fest Executive Director Steve Ticknor. Winter visitors are a big part of that.

"Lake Havasu City's winter visitors are often at our events, volunteering or enjoying our local restaurants and bars; we see them being very active, including boating, kayaking, fishing, hiking, and off-roading," said Leatherman.

In addition to the Balloon Festival &

continued on next page

LAKE HAVASU CITY AZ

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The mountains and London Bridge provide a stunning backdrop for the Annual Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair, Jan. 18-21 at Lake Havasu State Park. Go Lake Havasu photo



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Fair, some of the crowd-drawing events until April include: Buses by the Bridge (Jan. 11-14) Delbert Days Rodeo (Jan. 27-28), 38th Annual Winterfest Street Festival (Feb. 3-4), 35th Annual Western Winter Blast Pyrotechnics Show (Feb. 15-18), Lake Havasu Rockabilly Reunion (Feb. 16-18), Havasu Art Trail (Feb. 24-25), 21st Annual Bluegrass on the Beach Music Festival (March 1-3), 9th Annual Deuce Show presented by Havasu Deuces (March 7-9), 3rd Annual Southwest Chowderfest (March 9), Lake Havasu Stampede Rodeo (March 15-17) and London Bridge Renaissance Faire (April 5-7).

For music lovers, two series return. The 2024 Tribute Concert Series presented by TAD Management is back at the LHC Aquatic Center with 25 shows; and the Lake Havasu Concert Association presents the final five shows of its 2023-24 Concert Season at the Lake Havasu High School Performing Arts Center.

For auto racing enthusiasts, Havasu 95 Speedway runs a November through April schedule with full-size cars running on the quarter-mile asphalt track, and karts running on the infield's dirt track. The track's wildly popular Night of Destruction that features the Waterless Boat Race is scheduled for April 27.

Find more information on those and other events in Lake Havasu City's Calendar of Events, which starts on Page 22 of this guide.

Then, each week, pick-up a White Sheet, which is



Delbert Days Rodeo, featuring Grand Canyon Professional Rodeo Association, will be Jan. 27-28 at SARA Park Rodeo Grounds.

available free at locations throughout Lake Havasu City. At the back, find the Entertainment Section that features stories of upcoming events and a thorough Calendar

packed with even more things to do. Always included in the Calendar are listings for live musical entertainment at local restaurants and bars. ❖

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Craig Hamilton spent time in Australia in 2001, and returned with a suitcase full of stories from his Australian adventures. Craig Hamilton photo.

Craig Hamilton Shares Australian Cowboy Stories

By Shila Marie

Craig Hamilton was raised on a ranch in Arizona, learning the cattle business from a young age. He grew-up around cattle, horses, and the rodeo; and followed his father's footsteps and became a cowboy. He competed in the National Finals Rodeo (NFR) and even went pro twice, once at only 16-years-old. Craig, the founder/owner of Great American Beef Company, resides in Kingman with his wife, Maria, and their sons, Chase, Boone, and Gunner, and their border collie named Bam Bam.

With his knowledge of the rodeo industry, Craig started to travel and taught other cowboys. He even went to Australia multiple times back in 2001 for a total of about four to five months.

The ranches in Australia are called stations, and the cowboys are known as ringers or stockmen. Craig said that stations would reach out and hire him to teach roping clinics and horseman clinics. The stories he shares about his time at each station in Australia makes you feel like you were there with him.

On one of his trips, he was met by a couple of bare-foot cowboys named Q'ey and Mondzi-Monzhey. He said they were feral, but good-hearted men. While there, they would start at daybreak gathering cattle and at about 10 o'clock in the morning, the rain was lightly coming down. Craig and a group of about seven cowboys came into the trees. They jumped off their horses and hobbled them to restrict their movement so they were free to roam, but could not run off.

While the horses grazed, rehydrated, and bed down to rest, the cowboys split-up to look for their favorite wood. After gathering their favorite wood, the cowboys would all pick a tree to sit under and build their own personal fires to set their billycan (stainless tea kettle) on. They did this so they could flavor their black tea by the smoke of the wood; some would add a little sugar with cane in theirs. The ringers would then sit and roll cigarettes with

continued on next page

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loose tobacco culture. They called this a "Smoko" and took this break religiously every day around 10 in the morning to ensure the horses and themselves did not get overworked. They were able to take a 45-minute recharge session to sip tea, eat bikkies (biscuits) and smoke cigarettes while they rested their bodies.

Craig painted the picture as smoke raising-up out of a misty haze and light rain coming down through the gum trees, a barefoot ringer in his slickers (oil skins like a raincoat) leaned-up against a tree as he sipped tea and smoked a cigarette. Craig said it was timeless, something cowboys have been doing forever and will keep doing long after we are gone, it is an old and logical tradition.

These cowboys became like family to Craig because they were in some honest and vulnerable situations together in such a short time. He said they were known to test your mettle as an outsider to find your weakness, but they respect honesty too. He said if you didn't know what you were doing, you didn't lie, you just told them the truth.

When Craig left the station, he wasn't sure if he had been truly accepted by this group of cowboys. But then Mondzi went to his saddle and unbuckled his teapot that was protected in a leather case and gave it to Craig. This confirmed for him that he was, as this was a huge gesture. The value and significance of a cowboy's teapot was grand. Craig remembered a conversation about how Mondzi couldn't find his size Wrangler jeans in Australia



Craig Hamilton passes his passion for riding to his middle son, Boone. Craig Hamilton photo.

and if he did they were very expensive. So as soon as Craig landed back home, he went and bought 15 pairs of jeans and mailed them to Australia for Mondzi. He said they have not spoken since, but he sometimes imagines what those guys might be up to these days.

Craig told another story of how he and some cowboys were leading a herd of about 300 cattle out to sell and replace and they had to cross a river that was about 10-feet deep. Before he went out to lead the herd, the cowboys told him to watch out for the alligators. Craig asked them to be sure they were not messing with him, and they said, "No, there are really alligators in there." They added that the alligators would not mess with him until his third pass and then they would attack.

With that in mind, Craig headed out into the river by horseback with the alligator filled water up to his ribs. The entire herd did not follow him in the first couple of passes, so he had to go back across for more. Before his last pass, he started counting how many passes he had made by then and the cowboys assured him it was enough that the next one might be the one that sets the alligators off. They decided to find a different route, and about two miles up they found a bridge to cross instead.

Craig said that he led the 300 cattle across this 100-yard-long bridge made of wood, with no side rails and just one lane. When he looked back, the cows were crossing it three wide and the bridge was full with the

continued on page 8

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continued from page 6

river about 150 feet from the top of bridge. Thankfully, they all made it safe and sound, but he had moments when he wondered if they would.

He mentioned a few fun facts about Australia and the cowboy culture. He said there are dirt roads so narrow you would be met by a bull wagon road train (picture a semi-truck pulling four to five trailers) and he would have to drive off the road to let them pass because they held their lane. He said Australia is also known for camp

drafting events, which is when they compete in herding and sorting cattle or beasts (big steers). The cowboys would go hunting wild steers and would find 1500-pound bulls and run them down on their horses, get them off balance, and then load them up and take them to sell for meat. The cowboys would also herd cattle on motorcycles, not just horses.

On another one of his trips, Craig said they were on motorcycles herding cattle and

continued on page 10



Craig Hamilton while teaching a horseman clinic in Kentucky. Craig Hamilton photo.

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Jan Kassies Makes Visitors Feel at Home in Havasu

By Shila Marie

Before Jan Kassies and his wife, Cinda, moved to Lake Havasu City in 2003, he didn't realize it was home to the London Bridge.

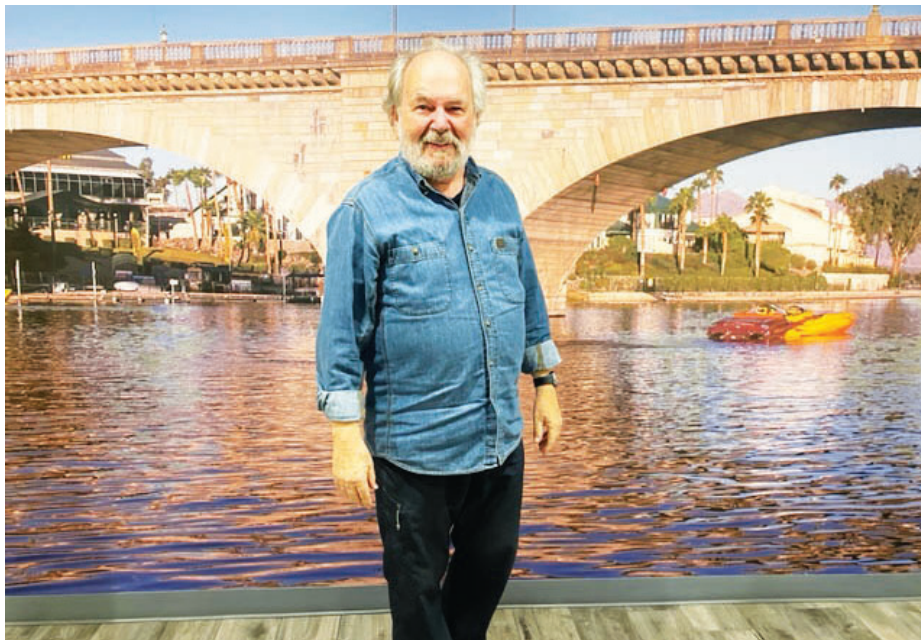
Over the years, Jan, who was born and raised in the Netherlands, has become an expert on all things Lake Havasu City, including the transplanted bridge.

So much so, that in 2007 Jan became Director of Visitor Services for Go Lake Havasu. He now runs the Visitor Center, answers questions from travelers, and gives walking tours of the London Bridge.

Before moving to the States, Jan had a career in education from elementary school teaching to school principal. Then, in 2002 when he met his wife, Cinda, he moved to Ohio where they lived for a year. The couple decided they wanted to find their forever home, and after deciding what they wanted, set out along the Colorado River.

After visiting multiple towns and discussing their options, they realized that nowhere compared to Lake Havasu City.

"It is the nicest little town in all of Ari-



Jan Kassies stands in front of a mural of the London Bridge in the Visitor Center.

zona, nice houses, by a lake, with beautiful surroundings, not too big or too small, no snow and little rain," said Jan.

In 2003, they began calling Havasu, "home". Jan spent the next year learning about their new town and his eagerness to



Visitors can have a seat and take a photo with the variety of props and photo ops in the Visitor Center.

learn was recognized by Wes, who worked at the Visitor Center at the time. When Wes

continued on page 11



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continued from page 8

they sent him back to the station to grab the truck, trailer, and horse. It started to rain, so they warned him about the road and the "black dirt," but he had no idea what they were talking about. That was, right up until he did. It had rained for a good two hours and he was riding along when all of a sudden, the ground looked dark and his bike slid out from under him. He said it was so slick he could not keep the bike up and had to push it through the dirt. He got to the station and had to go back on the same road and hoped it had cleared-up. Luckily, the truck pushed through the slime. Craig said it was the blackest and slickest substance he had ever experienced.

Craig also spent one trip at Taipan Bend where he and another cowboy were going pig hunting for dinner. The cowboy looked back at Craig and said, "Grab a stick and beat the grass mate." Craig was confused as to why, until the cowboy said, "There are taipan snakes all over here; that is how the bend got its name, mate."

The cowboy then added that they are one of the most poisonous snakes - they are big and if you get bit by one, you will not make it out alive. Craig said after 100 yards or so, he started to wonder if there were any snakes around when suddenly, one took off in front of him. He said it was so big it moved the grass as it slithered away and he could tell where it was going because it was like a plow. It was then that he truly started to beat the grass. Luckily, they got their pig, made it back through the bend, and ate it for dinner.

These were just a few of the amazing tales Craig told from his adventures with the Australian cowboys. His



Among Craig Hamilton's passions are riding and the rodeo. Craig Hamilton photo.

enthusiasm and love for their way of life and culture made this writer feel like she was there, too. ❖



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continued from page 9

asked Jan to volunteer with him, Jan had only lived in Havasu for a year and did not feel adequate for the job. However, Wes assured him that with the knowledge he had and Jan's ability to speak English, Dutch, German, French and Saxon, Wes believed this was a perfect spot for Jan, and that is where Jan's career in tourism began.

Jan believes that a visitor center should be an inviting space where people want to spend time learning about the destination, but in a quick amount of time. Jan used his background in teaching and his view from a consumer's perspective to renovate and design the interior of the building. This includes captivating murals, photo

props for guests, and multiple TV's throughout the building with short clips of what activities Havasu has to offer. Including, but not limited to, off-roading, fishing, hiking, the beach, golfing, boating, and shopping.

When travelers walk into the Visitor Center, they get a glimpse into Jan's view of the town with his mixture of Lake Havasu City and London. There is a world map on the wall full of pins that visitors have stuck on their hometown's location. At the end of the year, the pins get removed and the maps start fresh in January.

At the help desk, visitors are offered a booklet with a 45-minute, self-guided walking tour of the London

Bridge. There's a scavenger hunt booklet for the kids. Groups of 10 or more people can schedule a guided tour in advance.

The Visitor Center also offers a Certificate of Achievement for those who have walked both - the bridge in London, and the London Bridge in Lake Havasu City. Visitors can remember their trip by taking photos with some of the props, which include a throne with a crown, a blue Dr. Who door, and a few English Yeomans.

There is an entire room dedicated to the timeline of the London Bridge's purchase and relocation, including a short movie that gives an introduction to the city and

continued on page 14

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Hiking Lake Havasu Area One Trail at a Time

By Laura Kassik

For those who enjoy hiking, Lake Havasu City's expanse of desert offers a canvas of trails and opportunities - from easy hikes for the novice, to more strenuous ones for the seasoned hiker.

Those new to hiking or to the area should start with a visit to the website, GoLakeHavasu.com, which provides a list of hiking trails that includes their difficulty level, GPS coordinates, and details about the trail. Another good way to start is to hire a guide, who can help visitors navigate the desert terrain and find the best trails to fit their ability and fitness levels.

"Winter visitors just like to get out and enjoy the desert; they are usually happy with all of the hikes, depending on their experience and ability or if they want to be on the trail for one hour up to four hours. It's also a good way to stay active and in shape," said Jackie Leatherman, hiking expert and owner of Havasu Hikes - the only commercial hiking guide company in Mohave County.

"I wanted to offer the opportunity for locals and tourists to enjoy the desert safely without worry of getting lost," she added. "I teach hikers about how to read the desert and start to make them feel comfortable to go out in the desert on their own."

HIKING SARA PARK

The 'Special Activities and Recreation Area', bet-

ter known as SARA Park, is one of the top reasons why the area is a hikers' dream. It is a 1,100-acre hiking and mountain biking park "with many beautiful trails that stretch to the shoreline," Leatherman said.

"I've been hiking out there for 12 years and I am still finding trails and areas that I have never been," she said. "It is a very giving park. We also have hikes that suit all ranges of experience from easy to difficult, such as Table Top at SARA Park or Crossman's Peak."

For the beginner or new to hiking SARA Park, Leatherman recommends her Wanderlust hike or Slot Canyon (aka SARA's Crack).

"I also recommend that new hikers stay to the right of the main trailhead at SARA Park, it is not too hard to get turned around in that part of the park," she said.

SARA Park features three of the five on Leatherman's list top hikes. Table Top, Slot Canyon and Pilot Rock are popular for different reasons, she said.

"The Slot Canyon is by far the most popular hike; we have one of the only Slot Canyons to hike through in Arizona. It's a gorgeous fun hike," said Leatherman.

"Table Top (or Lizard Peak) "has more of an ascension to the hike, but great views and people like to see the lizard made of rocks up close and sit at the picnic table on top of the mountain," according to Leatherman. Hikers also like to explore Pilot Rock because it



Slot Canyon, the only one in Arizona, makes for a popular hike. Havasu Hikes photo.

offers a view of the shoreline and lighthouse at the end of the hike.

Two other well-traveled trails are outside of SARA Park and are more arduous and geared to expert hikers.

"Crossman's Peak is very popular for more experienced hikers who like a strenuous climb," Leatherman said. "And, of course, Cupcake Mountain is a terrific, but a challenging hike that should be on all hikers' bucket lists."

COMMON HIKING MISTAKES

It doesn't matter the hiker's ability level, there are safety precautions that need to be taken before tackling the trails. Hikers should have "good sturdy shoes, sun protection, and at least 17 ounces of water per person per hour of planning to be out on the trails."

"I always tell new hikers: you don't prepare for what you know will happen, you prepare for what you don't know will happen," Leatherman said.

"I often see people heading out into the desert with only one 12-oz bottle of water. That is not enough water, even for experienced desert hikers. They also expect to be able to find their way out of the desert, but if they aren't used to reading rocks and mountains, it is easy to get turned around."

Leatherman advises to "always pay attention to your

continued on page 15

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continued from page 11

can be purchased to take home. The store sells London Bridge souvenir clothing, cups, photos, ornaments, locally-made jewelry, pottery, soap, dreamcatchers, refreshments, and an entire section of souvenirs imported from London. Visitors can even take home a piece of the London Bridge as memorabilia. The Visitor Center used profits from souvenir sales to pay for the renovations on the building's interior and did not



Jan Kassies, Director of Visitor Services for Go Lake Havasu, gives guided tours of the London Bridge to groups of 10 or more.

need any funding from the city or Go Lake Havasu. When asked what questions he gets asked most often from visitors, Jan said, "Where is the London Bridge?" and he gets to point right outside the window at it. Or, "Is the London Bridge still there at night?" and he can excite

them with the answer that it is open and available 24/7.

Jan says that the Visitor Center is not just for people from out of town and encourages residents to learn about where they live and "Be a Visitor in Your Own Town." He encourages both visitors and residents of Lake Havasu City to stop by.



There are maps full of pins that visitors have stuck on their hometown's location. At the end of the year, the pins are removed and the maps start fresh in January.



There are a variety of souvenirs that visitors can purchase. Some of the products are earrings and necklaces made with authentic pieces of the London Bridge (shown), photos of the London Bridge, T-shirts, cups, and a section of souvenirs imported from London.

The Visitor Center, located at 422 English Village, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is only closed on the major holidays. For more information, visit www.golakehavasu.com/visitor-center or Lake Havasu Visitor Center on Facebook, or call 928-855-5655. ❖

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Hiking and exploring Pilot Rock Trail. Havasu Hikes photo.

continued from page 12

surroundings, wear bright colored clothing, layer your clothes and always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be done with your hike. Food is also one of the best temperature regulators, so it is important to bring a snack.

“People may think: I don’t plan to be hiking for that long so they won’t bring a snack, sun protection or enough water, but then heaven forbid they get turned around, or twist an ankle and end up being on the trails longer than expected, that is when you are grateful for preparing properly.”

HIRING A GUIDE

Hiring a hiking guide can enhance your hiking experience by being able to relax and not worry about getting lost. Leatherman is certified in wilderness first aid and venomous snake training, so she is prepared to help in the event of an emergency.

A unique feature that Leatherman brings to her hikes is her knowledge of Lake Havasu City from her weekday job as Director of Experiences for Go Lake Havasu, the City’s

continued on page 18



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Wildlife Refuges Offer Free Guided Walks

By Laura Kassik

Take 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 free guided nature walks from now until early spring. These ongoing events are free and open to the public. Remember to wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, and take water.

The nature walks started pre-pandemic, but were postponed and reinstated during the 2022-23 season by Jessica Samuelson, Park Ranger, Bill Williams River NWR.

"Both of the walks we're offering this year are more generalized nature walks," Samuelson said. "We talk about birds we see, but also include things like other wildlife, plants, habitat types, and refuge management practices."

"Both refuges are managed for migratory birds. 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. Havasu refuge attracts marsh birds like rails, dabbling ducks, and geese."

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

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

The Havasu Refuge is more spread out, said Samuelson.

"It stretches from Mesquite Bays and Castle Rock Bay in Lake Havasu, up through the Gorge to Topock Marsh and Pintail Slough near Golden Shores," she said. "Depending on the location, visitors to the Havasu refuge may enjoy kayaking, fishing."

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

BILL WILLIAMS NWR

The Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge offers a 1.5-mile guided walk each Thursday morning from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. from now until April 11. The walks begin at the Visitor Center



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

(60911 Hwy. 95, Parker) at 9 a.m. and travel the Peninsula Trail (paved) and then the Delta Trail (unpaved).

The walks are led by a rotating group of volunteers and staff, including Samuelson. Participants will learn about

continued on page 19



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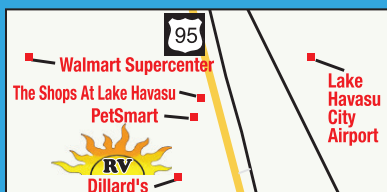
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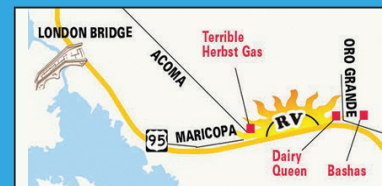
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Guide Jackie Leatherman, uses her company, Havasu Hikes, to take visitors hiking in Lake Havasu City. Havasu Hikes photo.

continued from page 15

tourism bureau.

"I am able to help them with their entire experience in Havasu, answer their questions, direct them to things to do, places to go and events to visit, as well as chat about some of the history that they may not be aware of," said Leatherman. "We all know the story of the London Bridge, but there is more to the story of Havasu's history."

BEST ADVICE FOR HIKING HAVASU

Winter is peak hiking season in Arizona, and Leatherman suggests that early-risers start at daybreak, but recommends planning on being out of the desert no later than 4 to 5 p.m. due to sun set.

And always, "stay present."

"Hiking is a great time to not think about the past or worry about the future, but rather really live in the moment, pay attention and enjoy your surroundings," Leatherman said. "Nature is really healing if you allow your mind to relax and take it all in."

SARA Park is located off Highway 95 on the south side of Lake Havasu City. For more information on hiking in the area, visit golakehavasu.com or Leatherman's company, havasuhikes.com. ❖



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

continued from page 16

the refuge as well as the different types of wildlife that call it home.

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.

Directions from Parker: Travel north 18 miles to marker 161 and turn toward the lake.

For more information, call Jessica Samuelson at 928-667-4144 ext. 112

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HAVASU NWR

At Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Joey Saccomanno will lead a one-mile walk from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month from now until April. Dates include: January 9, February 13, March 12, and April 9.

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.

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. Note: There are no facilities at North Dike.

For more information, call Joey Saccomanno at 928-667-4144 ext. 128. ❖

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'Go Lake Havasu' a Contact for Visitors

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

"We answer a range of questions from 'Is there a fee to see the London Bridge?' 'What are the hours to view the London Bridge?' 'Where are the best locations to go fishing?' 'Where can we go hiking?' 'Where are campgrounds with full hook-ups?' 'How do we get to the casino?'" said Jackie Leatherman, Director of Experiences for Go Lake Havasu.

Go Lake Havasu, formerly known as the 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 organiza-



tions worldwide with this designation.

Some of what Go Lake Havasu does is oversee the Visitor Information Center, publish an official visitors' guide, maintain an updated website that provides information regarding the community to visitors, assist with large group visits and conferences, and assist the more than 400 events that the city hosts each year.

The Go Lake Havasu office, located at 314 London Bridge Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 928-453-3444. Its website, GoLakeHavasu.com, is a convenient way to find out information on anything from recreational rentals to finding a dog park. ♦



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

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A hot air balloon kisses the water before it returns to the sky during a previous Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair. Skilled balloon pilots will dazzle onlookers with a "Splash and Dash" during the upcoming festival, Jan. 18-21. Havasu Balloon Festival & Fair photo.

2023-24 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.

Guided Refuge Walks. Every Thursday. **Time:** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (weather permitting; until April 11). **Cost:** Free and open to the public. 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). **Address:** Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Visitor Center, 60911 Hwy. 95, Parker. **Phone:** Jessica Samuelson 928-667-4144 ext. 112.

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

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Hot air balloons will dot the sky over Lake Havasu City, January 18-21 for the Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair. Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair photo.

continued from previous page

DECEMBER

28th Annual Festival of Lights. Until January 7. **Time:** Lights are lit from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. nightly. **Info:** The London Bridge Resort, English Village, and London Bridge are lit-up with over 500,000 lights for the holiday season. Plenty of parking at the English Village, London Bridge Resort and Convention Center. **Website:** LondonBridgeResort.com.

DECEMBER 29-30-31

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

DECEMBER 30

Auto racing. A full line-up of asphalt racing that includes: Pro Late Models, 602 Modifieds, Legends, Dwarf Cars, and Factory Stocks. **Time:** Gates open Noon; Racing 2 p.m. **Tickets:** Adults \$12; Seniors and Military \$10; Children(6-16) \$6; 5 & under free; Family pack \$25; VIP \$25. **Address:** Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway in SARA Park. **Website:** Havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. **Phone:** 928-716-6300.

JANUARY 1

First Day Hike. **Time:** 10 a.m.; Sunset Trail. **Address:** Lake Havasu State Park, 699 London Bridge Road. **Website:** AZ-StateParks.com/first-day-hikes. **Phone:** 928-855-2784.

JANUARY 5

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 and in YardCity and at The KAWS. **Website:** Firstfridayhavasu.com; Facebook, Instagram.

JANUARY 6

50th Annual Lake Havasu Polar Bear Day. Presented by Havasu Boat & Ski Club. **Time:** Group plunges at Noon, 12:30

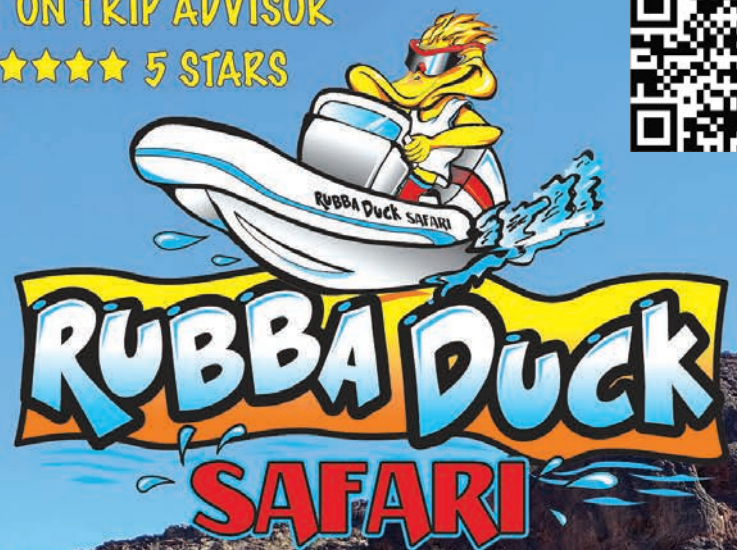
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Leslie Rosario is one of the talented artists who participates in First Friday Havasu held in Havasu's Downtown District. First Friday Havasu photo.

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p.m. and 1 p.m. or plunge on your own. **Cost:** Participants \$5; Spectators free. **Address:** London Bridge Beach, 1340 McCulloch Blvd. N. **Phone:** Bethany Hardin, 928-486-0106; jbcx4ever@yahoo.com.

JANUARY 9

Monthly Havasu National Wildlife Refuge Walk. **Time:** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (weather permitting). **Cost:** Free and open to the public. 1 mile walk; wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, take water. Upcoming dates: Feb. 13, March 12, April

9. **Address:** Parking Area at North Dike, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge (near Pintail Slough). **Phone:** Joey Saccomanno at 928-667-4144 ext. 128.

JANUARY 11

Walkin' After Midnight - A Patsy Cline Tribute Concert starring Carter Calvert. **Time:** Doors open 6 p.m.; Concert 7 p.m. **Tickets:** \$50; can be purchased online or at the Havasu Community Health Foundation office, 2126 McCulloch Blvd. **Address:** London Bridge Resort, 1477

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VW buses will converge on Lake Havasu State Park, Jan. 11-14 for Buses by the Bridge XXVII. Go Lake Havasu photo.

Queens Bay. **Website:** Havasuhealthfoundation.org. **Phone:** 928-453-8190.

JANUARY 11-12-13-14

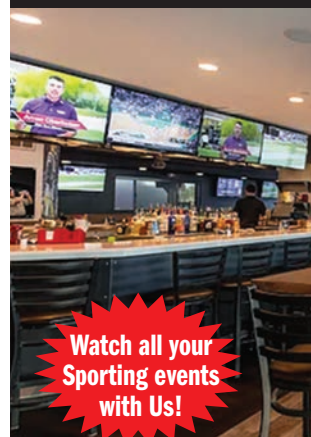
Buses by the Bridge XXVII. What started out as a campout of about a dozen Volkswagen bus owners has swelled into

what it is today - an anticipated annual event for both VW bus owners and spectators. VW bus owners from across the map will converge for this annual campout, presented by London Bridge Bullis - a

continued on page 26



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continued from page 24

handful of local VW Bus enthusiasts. 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. **Time:** See website for times. **Admission:** \$5 per person for walk-in spectators, all weekend; children 17 years and younger no charge. **Address:** Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4, 171 London Bridge

Road. **Website:** busesbythebridge.com; **Facebook:** Official Buses by the Bridge.

JANUARY 12

Buffett's Margaritaville Concert - Tribute to Jimmy Buffett. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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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The Get It In Gear Street Stocks is one of the classes that runs at Havasu 95 Speedway. The track runs a winter season. Howard Twaddell photo.

JANUARY 12-13-14

Musical - Beauty & the Beast, Jr. **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 13

7th Annual Havasu Balloon Festival Golf Tournament. **Time:** Check-in 7 a.m.; Shotgun start 8 a.m. **Entry fee:** \$100

per player; \$80 for Lake Havasu Golf Club members. **Address:** Lake Havasu Golf Club West Course, 2400 Clubhouse Drive. **Website:** havasuballoonfestival.com/golf-tournament/. **Contact:** Chairman Lisa Theophilus 928-733-0876 or Co-Chair Rich Theophilus 928-733-0918.

JANUARY 13

Lake Havasu Farmers Market. **Time:** 8 a.m. to Noon. **Cost:** Free admission.

continued on next page

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The Southwest Outfitters Striped Bass Showdown will be January 14 on Lake Havasu. Southwest Outfitters photo.

continued from previous page

Address: The KAWS, 2144 McCulloch Blvd. **Website:** lakehavasufarmersmarket.com; Lake Havasu Farmers Market on Facebook.

JANUARY 13

Auto racing. The Pro Late Models

will run their season championship. Other classes in the line-up will be: Street Stocks, Dwarf Cars, and Factory Stocks on the quarter-mile asphalt oval; and Outlaw Karts and Flat Karts on the infield's small dirt track. **Time:** Gates open Noon; Racing 2 p.m. **Tickets:** Adults \$12; Seniors and Military \$10; Children(6-16) \$6; 5 & under free; Family pack \$25; VIP \$25. **Address:** Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway in SARA Park. **Website:** Havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. **Phone:** 928-716-6300.

JANUARY 13

Toby Concert - Tribute to Toby Keith. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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

Southwest Outfitters Striped Bass Showdown. Calling all kayak anglers. This tournament isn't just for the pros; it's for everyone who loves kayak fishing.

No pre-registration; can register the day of. **Time:** Registration 7 a.m.; tournament 7:30 a.m. **Entry fee:** \$50; 100 percent goes to the winner. **Address:** Southwest Outfitters, 159 Paseo Del Sol. **Facebook:** Southwest Outfitters Striped Bass Showdown. **Contact:** Tournament Director Ben Ristie, 928-208-1032; email ristie164@yahoo.com or swkoutfitters@gmail.com.

JANUARY 14

Shine On Floyd Concert - Tribute to Pink Floyd. This show is part of the 2024

Tribute Concert Series 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 16

The Suits Concert. This show is part of the 2023-24 Concert Season, presented by Lake Havasu Concert Association. **Time:** 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Adult season subscription

continued on next page

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\$90 or \$30 single ticket; Students free with school ID.

Address: Lake Havasu High School Performing Arts Center, 2675 Palo Verde Blvd. S. **Website:** lhcca.com.

JANUARY 18-19-20-21

Annual Havasu Balloon Festival & Fair. 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. "Let's Soar in 24," is the theme for this year's popular four-day event that attracts balloon pilots from across the country. Festival attendees will be able to purchase tethered and untethered balloon rides, weather permitting.

During the morning ascensions, many of the balloon pilots dazzle spectators by performing a "splash and dash" in the Bridgewater Channel. The pilots allow the balloon basket to gently kiss the water before returning to the sky.

One of the most popular activities is "Glowin on the River", the nightly balloon glow that features a DJ with music choreographed to the balloon lights.

There will be wide variety of live entertainment on the main stage. The event also includes a Carnival, Kids Zone, Food/Art/Craft Vendors, Beer Gardens, Classic Car Displays, and more. There is the Golf Tournament (Jan.13)

and the 5K & 10K Run (Jan. 20). The festival, sponsored by Anderson Toyota, was founded by the Lions and Rotary Clubs of Lake Havasu City and now includes the Kiwanis Club as well. **Time:** Thursday Noon to 10:30 p.m.; Friday & Saturday 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Sunday 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Admission:** General admission \$20 (good for 4 days); 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.

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Circle T Honey (shown) is a regular at the Lake Havasu Farmers Market, held the second and fourth Saturday of every month at The KAWS in Downtown Havasu. Farmers Market photo.

continued from previous page

JANUARY 19

4NR - The Foreigner Concert Experience. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 19-20-21

Musical - Beauty & the Beast, Jr.

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 20

Southwest Custom Tackle (SWCT) Weekend Warrior Bass Series. **Time:** 6 a.m. **Address:** Lake Havasu State Park, 699 London Bridge Road. **Website:** swctackle.com.

JANUARY 20

Havasu Balloon Festival 5K/10K Fun Run/Walk. All participants receive a medal and a free day admission to the Havasu Balloon Festival & Fair. Register online at website. **Time:** 10K Run 8:45 a.m.; 5K Fun Run/Walk 9 a.m. **Entry fee:** Individual \$40 (day of the event, \$45); Families \$135 (2 parents, 2 children); Team of 6 \$185. **Address:** Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4, 171 London Bridge Road. **Website:** havasuballoonfestival.com;

Facebook/HavasuBalloon Fest. **Contact:** Sandy Robbins 909-226-2747; Havasu Balloon Festival Store 928-505-2440; email hbffrun@gmail.com.

JANUARY 20

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:** Mt. Olive Lu-

theran Church, 2170 Havasupai Blvd.

JANUARY 20

Randy Linder Creedence Revelation Concert - Tribute to Creedence Clearwater Revival. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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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continued from previous page

JANUARY 21

Candle in the Wind Concert - Tribute to Elton John. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 26

One of These Nights Concert - Tribute to The Eagles. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 26-27-28

London Bridge Model Boat Club 21st 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 walk-

way and from the London Bridge. **Time:** Friday, practice Noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday racing 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Admission:** Free to spectators; free parking. **Address:** London Bridge/Bridgewater Channel in English Village. **Phone:** 928-208-5669.

JANUARY 26-27-28

Lake Havasu Follies. **Time:** Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. **Tickets:** See website. Popular fundraiser that showcases the songs, humor and times of the 1920s through the 1990s featuring local performers who are at least 50 years young for one weekend only. **Address:** GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts Theatre, 2146 McCulloch Blvd N. **Website:** graceartslive.com. **Phone:** 928-505-2787.

JANUARY 27

The "Gathering" Car Show and Automotive Swap Meet. **Time:** 8 a.m. to Noon. **Admission:** Free to the public. Presented by Havasu 95 Speedway and Christian Rods and Customs Car Club. **Address:** Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway. **Website:** havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. **Phone:** 928-716-6300.



Bull riding is a popular event during the Delbert Days Rodeo, Jan. 27-28 at SARA Park Rodeo Grounds. The two-day rodeo features the Grand Canyon Professional Rodeo Association.

JANUARY 27

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

JANUARY 27

Tina Tina and The Motown Blossoms

continued on page 32

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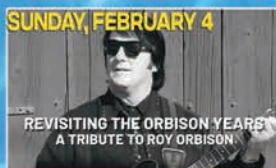


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The Havasu Wiring Outlaw Karts run on the small dirt track in the infield of Havasu 95 Speedway. Howard Twaddell photo.

continued from page 30

Concert. Time: Doors open 6 p.m.; Concert 7 p.m. **Tickets:** General admission \$50; VIP \$75; can be purchased online or at the Havasu Community Health Foundation office, 2126 McCulloch Blvd. Concert benefits the Cancer Association of Havasu. **Address:** London Bridge Resort, 1477 Queens Bay. **Website:** Havasuhealthfoundation.org. **Phone:** 928-453-8190.

JANUARY 27-28

Delbert Days Rodeo. Pull-on your cowboy boots, grab your hat, and gallop to SARA Park Rodeo Grounds for a weekend of rodeo excitement with the Grand Canyon Pro Rodeo Association, Arizona's largest professional rodeo association. The rodeo will feature bareback riding, bull riding, bronc riding, steer wrestling, saddle bronc calf roping, rodeo queens and more. 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. **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 28

Voyager Concert - Tribute to Journey. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 2

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 and in YardCity and at The KAWS. **Website:** Firstfridayhavasu.com; Facebook, Instagram.

FEBRUARY 2-3

Bridge of Friendship Quilt Show. **Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Admission:** \$10 (good for both days; cash). **Address:** LHC Community/Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. **Website:** havasustitchers.com.

continued on next page



Find a little of everything at the Winterfest Street Festival, presented by the Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce. It will be February 3-4 in Downtown Havasu.

continued from previous page

FEBRUARY 3

Lake Havasu Vintage Trailer Campout and Rally Open House. The public is invited to check out the vintage trailers at the Open House on Saturday! **Time:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Cost:** Spectators \$5 per vehicle. **Address:** Lake Havasu State Park, 699 London Bridge Road. **Phone:** Cherri and Mike Aiken, 360-708-7495; jra@cnw.com.

FEBRUARY 3

Auto racing. The Street Stocks will run a 75-lap main, which always gets the crowd on their feet. Also racing that day, will be: 602 Modifieds, Legends, Dwarf Cars, and Factory Stocks. **Time:** Gates open Noon; Racing 2 p.m. **Tickets:** Adults \$12; Seniors and Military \$10; Children(6-16) \$6; 5 & under free; Family pack \$25; VIP \$25. **Address:** Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway in SARA Park. **Website:** Havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. **Phone:** 928-716-6300.

FEBRUARY 3

2024 Arizona Pride Tour. A magical night of entertainment, presented by Miss Nature, LLC. This drag show is for those 21-and-over, so expect it to get steamy. There will be a cash bar. **Time:** Doors open 6 p.m.; show at 7 p.m. **Tickets:** \$20; must purchase online. **Address:** London Bridge Resort Convention Center, 1477 Queens Bay. **Website:** MissNatureLLC.com.

FEBRUARY 3-4

Lake Havasu City Disc Golf Open. Watch 150-plus players from all over the Southwest compete in their respective divisions. Spectators are welcome; take

a chair or blanket. **Time:** 8 a.m. All day. **Admission:** Free to spectators. **Address:** Disc Golf Course, just past the Dog Park at SARA Park, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway. **Website:** Facebook/Lake Havasu City Disc Golf Club. **Email:** lakehasucitydiscgolf@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 3-4

38th Annual Winterfest Street Festival. What started as a small thank-you to winter visitors in 1985 has developed over the years to become one of Lake Havasu City's premier events, presented by the Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce. McCulloch Boulevard - between Acoma Boulevard and Smoketree avenues - will be closed to traffic thousands of area residents and winter visitors converge for the all-encompassing event that features shopping, food and entertainment. Hundreds of craft, information, commercial, and food vendors will line the center of the street. There will also be an area for entertainment and the Beer Garden. **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:** havasuchamber.com. **Phone:** 928-855-4115.

FEBRUARY 4

Lake Havasu Symphonic Winds Concert "Let's All Go to the Movies". The 39 musicians, under the direction of Kim Lehmann, are residents and winter visitors who range in age from 16 to 89. **Time:** 3 p.m. **Admission:** \$10 for adults; free for students/children. For tickets, visit web-

continued on next page

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WHITE WINGED DOVE
A Tribute To Stevie Nicks & Fleetwood Mac
White Winged Dove, a tribute to Stevie Nicks & Fleetwood Mac will take the stage at the LHC Aquatic Center, February 9, as part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series presented by TAD Management.



Spectators will see spectacular fireworks displays during the Western Pyrotechnic Association's Winter Blast, February 15-18, at SARA Park.

continued from previous page

site, purchase at Sound Bank Electronics, 1931 N. McCulloch Blvd., or call 928-680-6927. **Address:** Lake Havasu High School Performing Arts Center, 2675 S. Palo Verde Blvd. **Website:** lhsymphonicwinds.us.

FEBRUARY 4

Revisiting the Orbison Years Concert - Tribute to Roy Orbison. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 8

Piano Men: Generations Concert - Tribute to Elton John and Billy Joel. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 9

White Winged Dove Concert - Tribute to Stevie Nicks & Fleetwood Mac. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 9-10-11

Musical - Carousel. **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 10

Lake Havasu Farmers Market. Time:

8 a.m. to Noon. **Cost:** Free admission. **Address:** The KAWS, 2144 McCulloch Blvd. **Website:** lakehavasufarmersmarket.com; Lake Havasu Farmers Market on Facebook.

FEBRUARY 10

Ridin' The Storm Out - Tribute to REO Speedwagon. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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

Monthly Havasu National Wildlife Refuge Walk. Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (weather permitting). **Cost:** Free and open to the public. 1 mile walk; wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, take water. Upcoming dates: March 12 and April 9. **Address:** Parking Area at North Dike, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge (near Pintail Slough). **Phone:** Joey Saccomanno at 928-667-4144 ext. 128.

FEBRUARY 15-16-17-18

Fireworks Havasu - 35th Annual Western Winter Blast Pyrotechnics Show. The community reaps the benefits when the Western Pyrotechnic Association converges at SARA Park for its annual convention 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. The grandstands at the Havasu 95 Speedway will provide the best viewing, and the opportunity to see the ground pyrotechnics. There is an extra charge to watch at the racetrack. Check website for updates and more information. **Time:** Parking starts at 3 p.m.; show at



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AG-270334



The Pinup Pageant is a popular feature of the Lake Havasu Rockabilly Reunion, which will be February 16-18 at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4. Rockabilly Reunion photo.

continued from page 34

7:30 p.m. each night. **Admission:** Check website for cost. **Address:** SARA Park, Seating at Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway. **Website:** firework-shavasu.com.

FEBRUARY 16

ABBAFAB Concert - Tribute to ABBA. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 16-17-18

The Lake Havasu Rockabilly Reunion. Experience a bit of nostalgia with the music, fashions, and cars during this annual 1950's-themed car show and music festival - the largest of its kind in Arizona. There will be the popular Car/Motorcycle/Truck Show, Vendor Village and Food Court, Pin-Up Pageant, and 20 bands over three days. It's not unusual for spectators, with lawn chairs in hand, to dash directly to the stage area to set-up their spots for the weekend. See bands and full schedule 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:** See website; tickets can be purchased online or at the gate. Children 11 years old and younger are free. VIP 3-day all access passes are available. **Address:** Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4. Walk-in entrance, 171 London Bridge Road. **Website:** therockabillyreunion.com; Facebook and Instagram.

FEBRUARY 17

Southwest Custom Tackle (SWCT) Weekend Warrior Bass Series. **Time:** 6 a.m. **Address:** Lake Havasu State Park, 699 London Bridge Road. **Website:** swctackle.com.

FEBRUARY 17

Desert Hills Fire District Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner. **Time:** 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dinner: \$8, cash only. **Address:** Desert Hills Fire District, Fire Station #1, 3983 London Bridge Road. **Website:** deserthillsfire.org. **Phone:** 928-764-3333.

FEBRUARY 17

The She Gees Concert - Female-Fronted Bee Gees Tribute. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 18

Garth Live Concert - Tribute to Garth Brooks. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 20

Vox Fortura Concert. This show is part of the 2023-24 Concert Season, presented by Lake Havasu Concert Association.

continued on next page



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

continued from previous page

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

FEBRUARY 23-24-25

Picklefest 2024. 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:** lakehavasu-pickleball.com.

FEBRUARY 23-24-25

Musical - Carousel. **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 24

The "Gathering" Car Show and Automotive Swap Meet. **Time:** 8 a.m. to Noon. **Admission:** Free to the public. Presented by Havasu 95 Speedway and Christian Rods and Customs Car Club.

Address: Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway. **Website:** havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. **Phone:** 928-716-6300.

FEBRUARY 24

IJSBA Mark Hahn Memorial 300 personal watercraft endurance race. **Time:** 8 a.m. **Admission:** Free to spectators; day fee required. **Address:** Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor North, 699 London Bridge Road. **Website:** MarkHahn300.com.

FEBRUARY 24

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

FEBRUARY 24-25

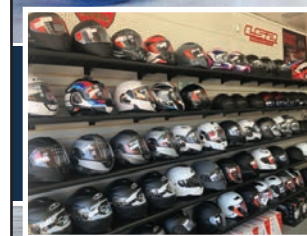
Havasu Art Trail. The public is invited to stop by different locations, including some art studios, meet the artists, and

continued on next page

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AG-278703

Lake Havasu City, Arizona



The 21th Annual Lake Havasu Bluegrass on the Beach Music Festival, March 1-3, will draw bluegrass enthusiasts from across the country to Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4. Bluegrass on the Beach photo.

continued from previous page

see their creations during this 3rd Annual event. The goal is to create a connection between the artists and the public. 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:** Free. **Website:** havasuairtrail.com.

FEBRUARY 25

December '63 Concert - Tribute to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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

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 and in YardCity and at The KAWS. **Website:** Firstfridayhavasu.com; Facebook, Instagram.

MARCH 1-2-3

21st Annual Bluegrass on the Beach Music Festival. The sounds of guitars, fiddles, banjos, the doghouse bass and dobros will echo off the beautiful backdrop of Lake Havasu, drawing fans from through-

out the country for a fun-filled weekend of world-class bluegrass music, presented by Danny Stewart's Productions LLC. Take chairs or blankets as audience seating is on a very large grassy area. There will be food, beverage and craft vendors, workshops, and jam sessions. Check website for updates and band line-up. **Time:** Ticket gates open at 8:30 a.m. each day; Music from 10 a.m. to dusk. **Tickets:** Adults: Friday & Sunday \$25, Saturday \$30; Children (13-17) are half off; Children 12-and-under admitted free. Day tickets on sale online with credit card. Cash or check only 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.

MARCH 2

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 2

Lake Havasu Brews & Brats Festival. **Time:** Noon to 4 p.m. **Admission:** See website. 21 and over event. **Address:** City lot on the corner of Querio Drive and McCulloch Boulevard in Downtown Havasu. **Website:** Golakehavasu.com.

MARCH 2

Auto racing. Both the 602 Modifieds and Legends will run their championship

continued on page 40

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AG-276349



The Havasu Deuce Show & Shine will be March 9 at Rotary Community Park. There is no charge to the public. Havasu Deuces photo.

continued from page 38

races during this night date. Also racing on the quarter-mile asphalt oval will be the Street Stocks and Factory Stocks. The Outlaw Karts and Flat Karts will race on the infield's small dirt track. **Time:** Gates open 4 p.m.; Racing 6 p.m. **Tickets:** Adults \$12; Seniors and Military \$10; Children(6-16) \$6; 5 & under free; Family pack \$25; VIP \$25. **Address:** Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway in SARA Park. **Website:** Havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. **Phone:** 928-716-6300.

MARCH 2

Led Zepagain Concert - The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Tribute. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 3

Listen To The Music Concert - Tribute to The Doobie Brothers. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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

Turn The Page Concert - Tribute to Bob Seger and The Silver Bullet Band. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute

Concert Series 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 7-8-9

9th Annual Deuce Show presented by Havasu Deuces. 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 up-close - and both have free admission. The first is Thursday, March 7 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 from Noon to 7 p.m. The Show & Shine will be Saturday, March 9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Rotary Community Park Ballfields, 1400 Smoketree Ave. **Website:** havasudeuces.com; Facebook at Havasu Deuces.

MARCH 8

Key of G Live! Garth Brooks Tribute Concert. This show is part of the 2023-24 Concert Season, presented by Lake Havasu Concert Association. **Time:** 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Adult season subscription \$90 or \$30 single ticket; Students free with school ID. **Address:** Lake Havasu High School Performing Arts Center, 2675 Palo Verde Blvd. S. **Website:** lhcca.com.

continued on next page



Lin's Little China serves chowder during a previous Southwest Chowderfest. The third annual event will be March 9 at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4. Southwest Chowderfest photo.

continued from previous page

MARCH 8-9-10

Musical - Jesus Christ Superstar. 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 9

Southwest Custom Tackle (SWCT) Weekend Warrior Bass Series. Time: 6 a.m. **Address:** Lake Havasu State Park, 699 London Bridge Road. **Website:** swctackle.com.

MARCH 9

Lake Havasu Farmers Market. Time: 8 a.m. to Noon. **Cost:** Free admission. **Address:** The KAWS, 2144 McCulloch Blvd. **Website:** lakehasufarmersmarket.com; Lake Havasu Farmers Market on Facebook.

MARCH 9

3rd Annual Southwest Chowderfest. Lake Havasu City restaurants and home chefs will serve their own unique versions of chowder for a friendly competition to win the Golden Ladle. There will also be a variety of breweries, wineries and distilleries sampling and marketing their craft. There will be live music, vendors and exhibits. Presented by Soroptimist International of Lake Havasu City; 100 percent of proceeds stay in Lake Havasu City to fund grants to help further women's education. **Time:** 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. **Tickets:** General admission \$25; VIP \$85; Children under 12 are free. Tickets available at the gate; on the event website, or at Desert Rose and both Michael Alan Furnishings stores. **Address:** Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4, 171 London Bridge Road (Walk-in entrance). **Website:** southwestchowderfest.com. **Email:** Tina Stocking at tina@azmarketingsolutions.info.

MARCH 9-10

Havasu Art Guild's "Art at the Lake" Juried Art Show. This will be the 45th anniversary show. There will be a marketplace area with artwork and crafts that are available for purchase. Raffles and food sales will benefit the scholarship fund. **Time:** Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

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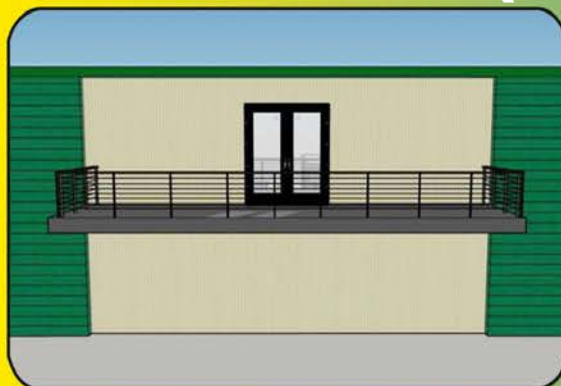


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Lake Havasu City, Arizona



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 15-17. Avid Visual Imagery photo.

continued from previous page

Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Admission:** Free and open to the public. **Address:** LHC Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave.

MARCH 12

Monthly Havasu National Wildlife Refuge Walk. **Time:** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (weather permitting). **Cost:** Free and open to the public. 1 mile walk; wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, take water. Next is April 9. **Address:** Parking Area at North Dike, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge (near Pintail Slough). **Phone:** Joey Saccomanno at 928-667-4144 ext. 128.

MARCH 12

George Michael Reborn Concert - Tribute to George Michael. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 15-16-17

Lake Havasu Stampede Rodeo. 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 at SARA Park Rodeo Grounds. The Stampede will feature the standard PRCA Rodeo events of Bareback Riding,

Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, Saddle Bronc Riding, Tie Down Roping, and Bull Riding along with Women's Pro Rodeo events of Breakaway Roping and Barrel Racing. The Lake Havasu Stampede 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. **Address:** SARA Park Rodeo Grounds, 7206 Dub Campbell Parkway. **Website:** HavasuStampede.com. **Facebook:** Lake Havasu Stampede.

MARCH 15-16-17

WORCS Off-Road Racing, ATV/Motorcycles. This will be the Round 4 in the series. There will not be SxS competition in LHC in 2024. Check the website for changes. **Time:** See schedule on website. **Admission:** \$10 one day adult/youth (12 and under); \$20 adult weekend pass; \$15 youth (12 and under) weekend pass; free for 3 & under, 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 16

Auto racing. The popular CANAM Vintage Sprints & Midgets are back, along with Vintage Stock Cars, Factory Stocks,

continued on next page

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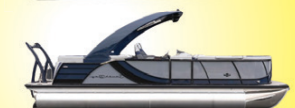
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The Starlets Concert, part of the 2023-24 Concert Season presented by Lake Havasu Concert Association, will be March 25.

continued from page 42

Outlaw Karts, and Flat Karts. Time: Gates open 4 p.m.; Racing 6 p.m. **Tickets:** Adults \$12; Seniors and Military \$10; Children(6-16) \$6; 5 & under free; Family pack \$25; VIP \$25. **Address:** Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway in SARA Park. **Website:** Havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. **Phone:** 928-716-6300.

MARCH 16-17

McCulloch Cup - Hobie Cat Regatta. 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

Vegas McGraw Concert - Tribute to Tim McGraw. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 22-23-24

Musical - Jesus Christ Superstar. 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 23

Lake Havasu Farmers Market. Time: 8 a.m. to Noon. **Cost:** Free admission.

Address: The KAWS, 2144 McCulloch Blvd. **Website:** lakehavasufarmersmarket.com; Lake Havasu Farmers Market on Facebook.

MARCH 23

The Who Generation Concert - Tribute to The Who. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 23-24

Woodystock Blues Festival. Take your blanket, chair and pack your own cooler and enjoy a weekend of music. **Time:** Gates open 10 a.m.; See website for band schedule. **Tickets:** \$40 day pass; \$40 weekend pass. Children under 12 years old are admitted free. **Address:** Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4, 699 London Bridge Road. **Website:** woodystock.info.

MARCH 24

Ultimate Chicago Concert - Tribute to Chicago. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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 25

The Starlets Concert. This show is part of the 2023-24 Concert Season, presented

continued on next page



Personal watercraft line-up for the start of the Mark Hahn Memorial 300 endurance race on Lake Havasu. This year's event will be held at Lake Havasu State Park on Feb. 24. Mark Hahn 300 photo.

continued from previous page

by Lake Havasu Concert Association. **Time:** 7 p.m. **Tickets:** Adult season subscription \$90 or \$30 single ticket; Students free with school ID. **Address:** Lake Havasu High School Performing Arts Center, 2675 Palo Verde Blvd. S. **Website:** lhcca.com.

MARCH 29
Mick Adams & The Stones Concert - Tribute to The Rolling Stones. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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.



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

Website: LakeHavasuConcerts.com. **Email:** conradmon@hotmail.com.

MARCH 30

Auto racing. Enjoy a full night of racing under the lights with the Street Stocks, Dwarf Cars, Factory Stocks, Outlaw Karts, and Flat Karts. **Time:** Gates open 4 p.m.; Racing 6 p.m. **Tickets:** Adults \$12; Seniors and Military \$10; (6-16) \$6; 5 & under free; Family pack \$25; VIP \$25. **Address:** Havasu 95 Speedway, 7260 Dub Campbell Parkway in SARA Park. **Website:** Havasu95speedway.com; Facebook and Instagram. **Phone:** 928-716-6300.

MARCH 30

American Highwaymen Concert - Tribute to the Highwaymen, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard and Kris Kristofferson. This show is part of the 2024 Tribute Concert Series 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.

APRIL 5

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 and in YardCity and at The KAWS. **Website:** Firstfridayhavasu.com; Facebook, Instagram. ❖

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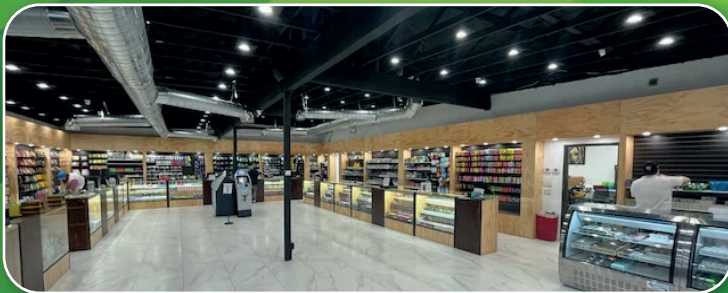


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Members of the Havasu 4 Wheelers are ready to go off-roading. Havasu 4 Wheelers photo.

Exploring the Desert

By Shila Marie

The Havasu 4 Wheelers is an off-road club, formed in 1975 by a passionate group of off-road enthusiasts and based in Lake Havasu City.

This non-profit club currently supports about 250 members to provide educational and recreational activities. The club was created for full-size 4x4 vehicles, which are predominately jeeps, but it welcomes all full size 4x4 vehicles.

Those interested in becoming a member need to be sponsored by a current member. If you don't know a current member, the club welcomes you to show-up to one of its monthly meetings. There, you can introduce yourself and be linked with a current member.

Meetings are held at the LHC Aquatic Center once a month; updated times can be found on the club's website. Membership dues are minimal and are usually around \$55 annually. Per club by-laws, there are no annual dues after the age of 80, and fun fact, the club has about 25 members who are 80+ years-old and are still active in the club.

With the membership, off-roaders have access to the social club, club-sponsored routes (BLM approved), as well as the club's trail system and trail guides. The club hosts different annual trips each year, including to Tombstone, Sedona, and Death Valley, but the staple trip is to Moab,

Utah. Havasu 4 Wheelers uses email and a godaddy system with a forum to keep in-touch with members.

Club by-laws state that members practice donation and charity work. The club sponsors a highway cleanup on Highway 95 for a one-to-two-mile stretch on the south end of town as its "adopt-a-highway" project. Members also work with other local non-profits to donate toys, food, and money for search and rescue. Havasu 4 Wheelers works with the Bureau of Land Management on safety of exposed mines, and working to keep trails open for these larger vehicles.

The club's president, Mark Adler, has been a member for five years. Past president, Chris Storm, is now the club's treasurer.

Storm has been a member of Havasu 4 Wheelers since 1995 and was involved in a lot of off-roading when he lived in California. When he visited Havasu for different events, he noticed all the RV garages and realized it was where he wanted to retire. Storm retired eight years ago and moved to Havasu full-time.

When asked when the best times of



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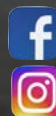
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Havasu 4 Wheelers prepare to head out for a ride. Havasu 4 Wheelers photo.

Exploring - continued from previous page

year to go off-roading in Havasu are, he said, "November to February, as once it gets over 95 degrees out we do not go out and lead trails for the safety of everyone involved."

To learn more about Havasu 4 Wheelers, visit www.havasu4wheelers.org and follow Havasu4Wheelers on Facebook. For more information, email Mark at president@havasu4wheelers.org. ❖

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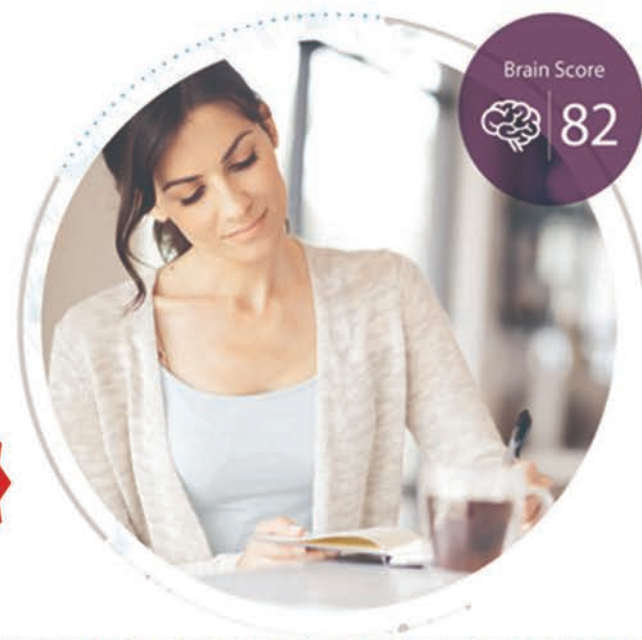
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Downtown Yuma has an active night life for after shows at the theater, theatre and community center. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

2024 Yuma Events Calendar

Richard Fontanes contributed to this listing

DECEMBER 2023

DECEMBER 31

Yuma Jazz Company. Performance on New Year's Eve at Julieanna's Steak & Seafood. 1951 W. 25th Street. Chef Eddie Guzman. Call the restaurant at 928-317-1961

RECURRING ACTIVITIES

JANUARY-MARCH

Arts, Crafting, Bottomless Coffee and New Friends. North End Community Center, 160 E 1st Street. No supplies provided and no instructor on site. Scrapbooking, coloring, quilting, beading, knitting, crocheting and even painting. 928-373-5200 Free. January thru March, 8am-11am

3D Art. Make 3-dimensional art pieces. Volunteer Instructors on-site. Yuma Readiness and Community Center, 6550 E 24th Street. \$66 or \$44 with City Resident Credit. 928-373-5200. January thru March, 9am-1pm

Golf. Desert Hills: Par 72 Championship. Call the Pro Shop 928-373-5220 or book online at <https://www.cityofyuma-golf.com/> For comprehensive list of golfing activities, refer to 'Winter Golf in Yuma' story in this edition.

Indoor Pickleball. Yuma Readiness and Community Center, 6550 E 24th Street. \$36 per month. January-March (see "Yuma Pickleball" story in this edition)

Senior Pool Shooting. North End Community Center, 160 E 1st Street. Free. Call 928-373-5200. January thru March,

8am-11am

Senior Activities. Woodcarving & Wood Burning, Painting (all mediums). Volunteer instructors and seasoned participants on site. Senior Registration: \$25 or \$17 per month with City Resident Credit. North End Community Center, 160 E 1st Street. January thru March, 8am-11am. Season pass available: \$66 or \$44 with City Resident Credit. 928-373-5200

Swim for Fitness. Valley Aquatic Center, 4381 W 18th Street. Weekdays 5:30am-1pm. Limited passes available. Register online at <https://www.yumaaz.gov/visitors/parks-recreation> under Aquatics Activities. Daily pass for \$5, or \$4 with City Resident Credit. Monthly pass available January thru May for \$53, or \$35 with City Resident Credit.

Water Aerobics. Valley Aquatic Center, 4381 W 18th Street. Weekdays 8am-9am. January thru May. Register online at <https://www.yumaaz.gov/visitors/parks-recreation> under community Aquatics Activities. Daily and monthly passes available, discount for City Resident Credit.

JAM OUT IN JANUARY

The desert comes alive in the winter. Sunny skies and cool temperatures make Yuma an oasis from the frigid, ice-encrusted and wind-swept frozen north. Starting in November, every weekend there is something entertaining and exciting to do in Yuma County. January 2024 features a host of concerts, classes and outdoor fun for all!

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JANUARY 4

Concert: Kenny Hess, Country Music Hall of Fame member. CStone Show Productions. Historic Yuma Theater. For tickets call

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JANUARY 5

Concert: Thane Dunn's Elvis Birth-

continued on next page

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Valley Aquatic Center offers a heated pool for its classes over the winter. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

continued from previous page

day Tour. CStone Show Productions. Historic Yuma Theater. For tickets call Yuma Art Center Box Office: 928-373-5202

JANUARY 5

First Friday - Downtown Yuma. Held on the first friday of each month in Historic Downtown Yuma. Local business and food vendors, arts and crafts, jewelry, desserts, treats, and more. 6pm-9pm

JANUARY 6

Concert: Melly Dunn's Lady Legends. CStone Show Productions. Historic Yuma Theater. For tickets call Yuma Art Center Box Office: 928-373-5202

JANUARY 6

Yuma Medjool Date Festival. Live music, food samples, celebrity chef demonstrations, community performances, and date fruit novelty eats and treats grown in Yuma County. Main Street in downtown Yuma, Madison Ave and Main Street. Festival is free for all ages. 10am-9pm

JANUARY 6-7

Murphy's Yuma Gun & Knife Show. Exhibitor's booths, collections and more at Yuma County Fairgrounds, 2520 E. 32nd Street. Collectors welcome. Admission is free.

JANUARY 7

Concert: Sunday Funday with Steve Fleming. Naked Dates Farm, 13589 S. Avenue, 25 E, Wellton. 1pm-4pm. Event is free. Tips to musicians encouraged.

JANUARY 9

Resume Writing Classes. AWC Downtown Center, Room 115. \$80. 9am-1pm.

JANUARY 12

Concert: Stevie Nicks Illusion: Tribute to Fleetwood Mac. Cocopah Casino River Room. 15318 S. Ave B, Somerton.

\$80 per person. 8pm. Tickets available on www.Etix.com

JANUARY 12-13

Desert Lily Quilters Annual Quilt Show. Yuma Civic Center, 1440 W. Desert Hills Drive. Drawing for Quilt of Many Colors will be Jan 13 at 3:30pm. Event open daily from 9am-4pm. \$7 admission - proceeds go to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. For more info: desertlily-quilters.org

JANUARY 12-13

Yuma Art in the Park. Event will be held at Gateway Park. Modeled after Georges Seurat's painting "Sunday on La Grande Jatte". Features local and regional artists along the Colorado River. Live music, lawn games, libations and art displays. Only \$1 per person. 10am-5pm

continued on page 52



Date festival January 6. Yuma Visitors Bureau photo.

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North End Community Center is home to countless activities and fun provided by the city. Photo by Emely Moreno.

continued from previous page

JANUARY 13

Bicycle Ride: Tour de Fields. Butterfield Park, Well-ton. Vendors, food and a ride through the fields. The Yuma

Show. Fisher's Landing Resort, 10882 Fishers Landing Road, Martinez Lake. All proceeds benefit Amberly's

Region Bicycle Coalitions will host the bicycle ride. Lunch will be provided by Crossroads Mission for all registered riders. 7am-2pm

JANUARY (TBA)

Yuma Wood-Carving Expo. Appreciate the art of wood carving through exhibits, demonstrations and vendors. To be held at Yuma Readiness & Community Center, 24th Street and Araby Road. Check City of Yuma Parks and Rec Activities Guide online, or call for dates and times at 928-373-5200

JANUARY 13

Hot Rides on the River Car Show. Enjoy this 6th Annual Car

Place. Free admission. Email: fisherslandingevents@email.com for more information. 11am-3pm

JANUARY 13

Concert: Private Eyes - The Premier Hall & Oates Tribute. The Yuma Palms RV Resort, 3400 S Ave 7th E., 7pm-8:30pm For more info: www.yumapalmsrvresort.com

JANUARY 13

Garden Talk: Schools in Yuma's History. Lecture by Linda Elliott-Nelson. Free for Historical Society members. \$10 for non-members. Sanguinetti House Museum. 240 S Madison Ave. Call 928-782-1841

JANUARY 13

Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest. Colorado River State Historic Park, 201 N. 4th Ave. Enjoy and even participate in this free Sidewalk Chalk Art contest. Open to all ages. Call 928-329-0471

JANUARY 13-14

16" Big Ball Softball Tournament. Yuma Territorial 16" Big Ball Softball Tournament. Great for softball enthusiasts. Winner gets automatic pass to 16" Dennis Donnelly Memorial Tournament. January 13 at 6pm and January 14 at 10pm. Sanguinetti Softball Fields.

JANUARY 14

Fellowship: Yuma Cars and Coffee. Coffee Bean Espresso Bar, 2450 S. 4th Ave, #106. Car and truck enthusiasts meet up every Sunday at 8:30am

JANUARY 18 - APRIL 4

Village Jazz Series: Free Concerts. Enjoy music from Yuma area musicians, as well as from Phoenix, San Diego and Los Angeles. Presented by Yuma Palms Regional Center. Organized by Steve Henning of Yuma Jazz Company. Held at the Village Area in Yuma Palm Regional Center. Thursday evenings. 6pm-8pm. More info at www.YumaJazz.com

JANUARY 19-21

Yuma Home & Garden Show. Yuma Civic Center, 1440 W. Desert Hills Drive. Gather ideas for home design and improvement. Enjoy displays on home decorating and landscaping. Call 760-831-6059

JANUARY 20

Car Show: Cibola High School Car Club. 2nd Annual Car Show to benefit Right Turn for Yuma Veterans. Held at Cibola High School

JANUARY 18-21

Musical: Barefoot in the Park. Yuma Community Theater Performance at the Historic Yuma Theater, 254 S. Main Street. 7pm. Story plot: Paul and Corie are newlyweds. He's a straight arrow, she's a free spirit. Door opens at 6:30pm. Tickets can be found on www.Etix.com

JANUARY 20

Fun Run & Walk. January Jamz 5K & 10K Fun Run & Walk Session. West Wetlands Park/Centennial Beach, 282 N. 12th Ave. Free for runners K-12 Grade. Registration deadline January 18. Check-in starts at 7am. Run starts at 8am. Call office: 928-373-5200 for more info

continued on next page

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continued from previous page



Fine art is on constant display with many award winning artists displaying and selling their work including world class ceramics artist Holly Hendrick. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

JANUARY 20

Tractor Rodeo in Wellton. BBQ, entertainment, antique tractor display. Benefits the Town of Wellton Parks and Recreation. Held at Avenue 28 1/2 E and County 12th Street, Wellton. 8am-5pm. Call 928-785-3348

JANUARY 21

Memorial Art Show for Joe Reyes. Local artists exhibit their crafts. 6th Annual Art Show by former students of famed local artist Joe Reyes. Held at 11902 William Street in Wellton. Free admission.

JANUARY 22

Concert: 4NR The Foreigner Concert Experience. Country Roads RV Village, 5707 E. 32nd Street. 7pm. Tickets available through www.bandsintown.com

JANUARY 23

Concert: Candle in the Wind: The Elton John Experience. Presented by TAD Management at the Historic Yuma Theater. 7pm-9pm. Individual tickets \$25-\$30, depending on stage, floor or balcony. Jeff Burkett presents a realistic and heartfelt portrayal of the great singer. Doors open 6:30pm. Concert 7pm-9pm. Tickets can be purchased at www.Etix.com

JANUARY 23

Garden Talk: Yuma Flood of 1916

Lecture by Laurie Boone. Free for Historical Society members. \$10 for non-members. Sanguinetti House Museum, 240 S Madison Ave. Call 928-782-1841

JANUARY 24

Garden Talk: The Impact and History of the 1916 Flood. Sanguinetti House Museum, 240 S Madison Avenue. 10am. Free to members of Arizona Historical Society, others \$10 per person. Only 75 tickets available.

JANUARY 24

Concert: Music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Yuma Theatre, 254 S Main Street. 'Big Girls don't Cry', 'Sherry', 'Walk Like a Man', 'Candy Girl' and other hits. Concert at 7pm. Tickets \$25.

JANUARY 25-26

Concert: Tailgate Party/Concert: Howling at the Moon. Yuma Foothills Co. 15 E, across from 46th Loop. East end of 48th Street. Bring your own chair and friends. Activities start at Noon, and ends one hour after moonrise. Music starts at 3pm.

JANUARY 25-28

Musical: Barefoot in the Park. Yuma Community Theater Performance at the Historic Yuma Theater, 254 S. Main Street. Comedy about newlyweds Paul and Corie.

He's a straight arrow, she's a free spirit. Door opens at 6:30pm. Play at 7pm. Tickets can be found on www.Etix.com

JANUARY 26-27

Mountain Shadows Artist Association Art Show. Enjoy the artwork exhibits submitted to be judged. See a variety of mediums. Artwork can be purchased. Yuma County Fairgrounds, Fine Arts Building, 2520 E 32nd Street. 4pm each day for this 3-day event. More

info at 928-210-4170

JANUARY 26-27

Yuma Artisan and Crafters Show. Support young artists by purchasing their creative art pieces. Yuma County Fairgrounds, 2520 E. 32nd Street. 3-day event, 9am-3pm. Get more info at yumaartistsandcrafters46@gmail.com

JANUARY 26-28

Americana Indian Shows. Art, jew-

continued on next page

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Yuma, Arizona

continued from previous page

elery, rugs, and pottery. Yuma Civic Center, 1440 W. Desert Hills Drive. Popular turquoise and more. Fri, Jan 26, 11am-7pm; Sat, Jan 27 10am-7pm; Sun, Jan 28, 10am-5pm

JANUARY 27

Yuma Wellness & Care Fair. Exhibits, vendors, speakers, free workshops, and even cooking classes all geared toward improving your health. Sponsored by the Yuma Sun and Health Connections Magazine at the Yuma Civic Center, 1440 W. Desert Hills Drive. 9am-1pm

JANUARY 27

Marathon: Yuma Territorial Marathon and Half Marathon. Noon. Somerton. 220 Prison Hill Road. \$105 for Full Marathon (\$75 for active military and family members). \$65 for Half Marathon (\$35 for active military and family members). \$45 for 10K run (\$25 for active military family members). For more information contact Bob Brown at info@caballeros.org, or go to <http://yumamarathon.com> for info, and register in advance through www.active.com

JANUARY 27

New Class Car Club Car Show. Benefits the Cancer Center and Right Turn for Veterans. Held at Pacific Athletic Complex parking lot. 11am-5pm

JANUARY 27

Date Night: Farm to Table, Dinner Under the Stars. Naked Dates Farm, 13589 S. Ave 25 E, Wellton. \$95 per person. 5:30pm-8pm. Tickets available on www.eventbrite.com

JANUARY 28

Fellowship: Yuma Cars and Coffee. Coffee Bean Espresso Bar, 2450 S. 4th Ave, #106. Car and truck enthusiasts meet up every Sunday at 8:30am

JANUARY 28

Concert: Sunday Funday with Steve Fleming. Naked Dates Farm, 13589 S. Avenue, 25 E., Wellton. 1pm-4pm. Event is Free. Tips to musicians encouraged.

FUN IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 2

First Friday - Downtown Yuma. Held on the first friday of each month in Historic Downtown Yuma. Local business and



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

food vendors, arts and crafts, jewelry, desserts, treats, and more. 6pm-9pm

FEBRUARY 2-4

Two Rivers Renaissance Faire. Yuma County Fairgrounds. 2520 E 32nd Street. Purchase a weekend pass: Adults \$15; military/first responders \$10; children \$5. Info at <https://www.tworiversfaire.com> Events, shows, food and more. See the article in this edition: 'Time Travel with the Renaissance Faire' for more information

FEBRUARY 2-4

Elvis Presley Expo: Tribute Concerts and Competitions. Country Roads RV Village, 5707 E 32nd Street. For info on this 3-day event, go to elvis.expo.com

FEBRUARY 3

Somerton Petpalooza. Pet contests, races and activities that involve all kinds of pets. Held on Main Street in Somerton. Call 928-722-7394

FEBRUARY 4

GeoCache Event. Enjoy this global treasure hunt! Largest geo-caching event in southwest Arizona. Remember to follow the 3 simple rules: Take something, Leave something, and Write about it in a Log. Meet at West Wetlands Park on N. 12th Ave. from 9am-2pm For more information, visit [Facebook.com/YumaEvent](https://www.facebook.com/YumaEvent).

FEBRUARY 8-11 AND 15-17

Dinner Theater. Yuma Art Center. Play details not available at time of publication. Dinner at 6pm. Play starts at 7pm. Tickets are \$40. Contact 928-373-5202 for more information

FEBRUARY 9-11

79th Annual Yuma Silver Spur Rodeo. Yuma County Fairgrounds. 2520 E. 32nd Street. Merchandise, food, rodeo, and Mutton Busting. (Date of Parade to be announced.) For rodeo ticket information, call 928-344-5451 or email:

continued on next page



Silver Spur Rodeo February 9-11.

continued from previous page

yumasilverspurrodeo@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 10

Orchestra - "Romantic Classics". Yuma Orchestra Association celebrates Valentines Day. Snider Auditorium, 400 S. 6th Ave. at 2pm and 6:30pm. Call 928-246-6715

FEBRUARY 13

History Under The Stars Dinner. Learn more about the Yuma-area history while you enjoy a great dinner. Sanguinetti House Museum, 240 S. Madison Ave. More info at 928-782-1841

FEBRUARY 14

An Evening of Romance, Dinner Under the Stars. Naked Dates Farm, 13589 S Ave 25 E. Wellton. \$95 for an

amazing 4-course farm-to-table dinner experience under the stars among the date palms. Live music, a glass of craft beer or wine provided. \$95 plus gratuity. For adults 21 and older. Tickets available on www.Eventbrite.com

FEBRUARY 14

Yuma Jazz Company. Performance on Valentine's Day at Julieanna's Steak & Seafood. 1951 W. 25th Street. Chef Eddie Guzman. Call the restaurant at 928-317-1961

FEBRUARY 17

Race: Fun Run/Walk & Fiesta. February Fiesta 10K Fun Run/Walk & the Fiesta 5K Fun Run/Walk \$25 (limited runners). Deadline for registration February 15th at 1pm. Event is 8am-11am. Arrive early. No vehicles allowed after 8:10 am. Register online on City of Yuma website.

FEBRUARY 17

Women's Expo. Funds will be used for scholarships. Celebrate women's achievements. New products and services. Yuma Civic Center, 1440 W. Desert Hills Drive. Call 928-261-6505

FEBRUARY 17

Hank Days Celebration. Annual tribute to Hank Schechert, founder of Foothills. Cars, floats and marching groups travel north on Foothills Blvd to Interstate 8 Frontage Road. Starts at 10am. For more info: 928-446-1668

FEBRUARY 17

Dinner Theater. Yuma Art Center. Play details not

available at time of publication. Dinner at 6pm. Play starts at 7pm. Tickets are \$40. Contact 928-373-5202 for more information

FEBRUARY 17

Kids at Hope Concert: Sawyer Brown. Also performing: The Gwynn Sisters, The Big Boss Band, and DJ Bobby Mac. Benefits Yuma's Kids at Hope program. Held at Colorado River State Historic Park, 201 N. 4th Ave. Gate opens at 4:30pm. Concert starts at 6:30pm. More info at 928-210-4000 Tickets can be purchased at www.Universe.com and www.Stubhub.com for \$15

FEBRUARY 17

Bull of the Desert. Desert Sun Stadium, 1280 W. Desert Sun Drive. Fun strength competitions: truck pull, keg press, car deadlift, tire flip. For men and women. Call 928-343-1715

FEBRUARY 21

Garden Talk: History of U.S. Army in Yuma. Sanguinetti House Museum, 240 S Madison Ave. Lecture by Mark Schauer will be at 10am. Event is free for members of Arizona Historical Society. \$10 for non-members. More info at 928-782-1841

FEBRUARY 22-24

Conference: Yuma Art Symposium. Lutes Casino, 221 S Main Street. 9am-6pm. Enjoy demonstrations, lectures and presentations by renowned artists. Includes

continued on next page

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FEBRUARY 23-24

BBQ and Brew Festival. Sponsored by Kansas City BBQ Society, Free 2-day event. Bring your appetite! Main Street in

Yuma. Call 928-373-5208 for more info.

FEBRUARY 24

Mascota Mania. Celebrate your furry friends. Bring your pet and get pet-friendly services. Hosted by the City of San Luis at Joe Orduño Park. Fun pet contests, low-cost vaccinations, and micro-chipping. Call 928-341-8535 for more info.

FEBRUARY 24

Wellton Pioneer Art Show. Competition where art work is submitted for judg-

ing. Held at 10402 Fresno Street, Wellton from 10am to 3pm. Contact William Parson at williamparson933@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 24

Wellton Pioneer Day Parade & Fiesta. Celebrates Wellton's founding and history. Butterfield Park in Wellton. 10am-3pm. Call Wellton Town Hall for info: 928-785-3348

FEBRUARY 24-25

Tailgate Party/Concert: Howling at the Moon. Yuma Foothills Co 15 E across from 46th Loop. East end of 48th Street. Bring your own chair and friends. Activities start at noon and end one hour after moonrise. Music starts at 3pm

MEDLEY OF MARCH FUN

March closes with the Yuma County Fair visiting the first week in April, but is filled with some of the biggest events of the year. The Yuma County Air Show, the incredible Midnight at the Oasis (one of Arizona's biggest car shows), musicals, concerts, races, as well as performances dot the calendar. March comes in like a lion, and also finishes like one - from start to finish!

MARCH 1

First Friday - Downtown Yuma. Held on the first Friday of each month in Historic Downtown Yuma. Local businesses and food vendors, arts and crafts, jewelry, desserts, treats, and more. 6pm-9pm

MARCH 1-2

Artrail: Art Studio Tour. Tours organized by the Mountain Shadows Artist Association. Self-guided tour maps will



Numerous displays showcase amazing talent like these student photographs. Photo by Richard Fontanes.



Midnight at the Oasis Parade. Classic cars invade Yuma in this three day event. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

be available at several locations, including Yuma Art Center, 254 S. Main Street. Call 208-880-6609 for more info.

MARCH 1-3

Midnight at the Oasis Festival. One of the premier events of the year. Over 900 cars, concerts, vendors and food. Three days of fun-filled activities. Enjoy the Parade of Cars, and fields of cars on display at the Ray Croc Stadium. Event takes place on Main Street

MARCH 1-3

Yuma Gem & Mineral Show. Held at Yuma Park 'N' Swap, 4000 S 4th Ave. Free admission. The Park 'N' Swap boasts 10,000 shoppers a week. Over 200 outdoor vendors will display merchandise for the Gem & Mineral Show. Interested in being a vendor? \$115 for a space. For more information call: 928-726-4655 or email GemandMineralShow@YumaSwapMeet.com

MARCH TBA

Dining With The Dead. Dinner shows presented by the Yuma County Historical Society. Enjoy the colorful characters of Yuma's history while enjoying a catered dinner. Date not available at time of publication. To be held at Yuma Pioneer Cemetery, 1415 S. 1st Ave. Call for more info 928-446-2892

MARCH 2-3

Murphy's Yuma & Knives Gun Show. Yuma Fairgrounds, 2520 E 32nd Street. Adults \$7. Free under 14 years old. Hosted by Collectors West/Murphy Gun Shows.

MARCH 4

Race: March On City Finals. West Wetlands Park/Centennial Beach and Gateway Park. 282

continued on page 58

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

continued from page 56

N. 12th Avenue. \$25 to enter. You must pre-register. Medals and pins are awarded. Youth run free. Raising money for good causes. 8:15am-2pm. Contact Parks and Rec for more information

MARCH 6

Safety Event in San Luis. Be safe! Learn to avoid danger. Learn procedures for accidents and hazards. Public Safety and other organizations will provide information and demonstrations. Held at Joe

Orduño Park, 965 N. Park Ave, San Luis. Call 928-341-8574 for more info

MARCH 6

Concert: Ultimate Chicago. Historic Yuma Theatre, 242 S Main Street. Tickets \$30/\$25. The assembled musicians re-create the sounds that stretched 40 hits over six consecutive decades. Concert starts 7pm

MARCH 7

Concert: Tribute to Neil Diamond. Historic Yuma Theatre, 242 S Main Street.



Blue Angels are a crowd favorite with incredible stunts at the Yuma Air Show at MCAS, the second largest runway in the United States Phot by Kassidy Rabe.

\$25. Hot August Nights led by Dean Colley will re-create renditions ranging from 'Sweet Caroline' to 'Love on the Rocks' and many more. Concert starts 7pm

MARCH 9

Yuma Air Show. Enjoy the most popular event in Yuma area. Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) of Yuma has the second largest runway in the U.S. It has landed space shuttles, and has been home to world's record re-fueling flights. Host to numerous planes from all over the world (including those from WWII). Bring your chair, find a spot and enjoy the food vendors, panels, and planes.

MARCH 9

Garden Talk: Colorado River. Sanguinetti House Museum, 240 S Madison Ave. Lecture by Tammy Snook will be on the past, present and future of the Colorado River. To be held at 10am. Event is free for members of Arizona Historical Society. \$10 for non-members. More info at 928-782-1841

MARCH 12

History Under the Stars Dinner. Dinner and program about Yuma-area history.

Sanguinetti House Museum, 240 S. Madison Ave. Call 928-782-1841 for more information

MARCH 14-17

Performance: In the Heights. Yuma Community Theater Performance at the Historic Yuma Theatre, 254 S Main Street. Musical story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights. Doors open at 6:30pm, performance at 7pm. Tickets can be found on www.Etix.com

MARCH 16

4K Run, Walk & Zumba. Riverside Park, 50 Prison Hill Road. \$25 per person, and participants get a t-shirt. 8am-10am. Call for more info 928-750-5187 or email patricia.miranda@cpic.org

MARCH 16

Relay for Life: American Cancer Society. Celebrate cancer survivors while learning more about battling this disease. Held at Desert Sun Stadium, 1280 Desert Sun Drive. More info at www.relayforlife.org/yumaaaz

MARCH 16

Somerton Greater Days. Come and celebrate Somerton's history with live entertainment, food vendors, and even a food festival that features the area's cuisine. Held on Main Street in Somerton. More info at 928-722-7394

MARCH 19

Garden Talk: Details TBA. Sanguinetti House Museum, 240 S Madison Ave. Lecture subject TBA. To be held at 10am. Event is free for members of Arizona Historical Society. \$10 for non-members. More info at 928-782-1841

MARCH 21-24

Performance: In the Heights. Yuma Community Theater Performance at the Historic Yuma Theatre, 254 S Main Street. Musical story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights. Doors open at 6:30pm, performance at 7pm. Tickets can be found on www.Etix.com

MARCH 22-24

Yuma TattooFest & Car Show. Yuma Civic Center, 1440 W Desert Hills Drive. Enjoy food



Color in Motion racer splashed with powder. Photo provided by National Guard.

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WEEKLY SPECIALS

LUNCH/DINNER

AG-279471



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.

continued from previous page

vendors and vehicles (vintage, muscle and low-riders). Features the best talent from the Southwest - tattoo shops, as well as independent artists. For more info email: info@rollinolschool.com. See some artist's work on the event on Instagram: Rollin_Ol_School

MARCH 23

Blue and Gold Gala. Enjoy live music and dancing under the stars. Hosted by Yuma Catholic High School. Dinner and auction. Held on Campus Quad at Yuma Catholic High School, 2100 W. 28th Street. More info at 928-317-7924

MARCH 24

1st Concert: Liberty Quartet. Country Roads RV Village, 5707 E 32nd Street at 10am

2nd Concert: Liberty Quartet. First Christian Church, 3261 S Ave 6 E. at 6pm

MARCH 25

Race: Color in Motion 5K Race. Runners splashed with colored powder similar to Holi Festival from India. Attendees receive a color bag of chalk to



Ferris wheel towers over fairgrounds providing incredible views. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

splash others with. Laughter, smiles and fun make this a fun event to watch, photograph, as well as participate in. Starts at Noon.

MARCH 25-26

Tailgate Party/Concert: Howling at the Moon. Yuma Foothills Co 15 E across from 46th Loop. East end of 48th Street. Bring your own chair and friends. Activities will start at Noon, and end one hour after moonrise. Music starts at 3pm

MARCH 27-28

Concert: Randy Linder's Tribute to CCR (Creedence Clearwater Revival). Yuma Theatre, 254 S Main Street. Tickets

are \$25. 'Proud Mary,' 'Born on the Bayou,' 'Who'll stop the Rain,' 'Susie Q' and many more songs. 7pm

MARCH 29

Live Music: The Teccas. Naked Dates Farm, 13589 S Ave 25 E, Wellton. Free Admission, but tipping talent is appreciated. A Father-daughter duo treat guests to a wide range of music (www.theteccas.com). From classic country, rock and original compositions. 4pm-7pm. For more information call: 928-388-8724

APRIL 2024

APRIL 2-7

Yuma County Fair. Yuma County Fairgrounds, 2520 E. 32nd Street. Enjoy rides, games, beer garden, displays, entertainment and animal exhibits. The Premium Book with contest specifics and registrations info is available at www.Yumafair.com. For many, the fair is a great send-off and goodbye for many winter visitors, just before the temperatures rise. ❖

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Winter Golf in Yuma

By Richard Fontanes

Yuma boasts seven full 18 hole golf courses as well as five 9 hole courses. With sunny and clear skies almost every day of the year, the 45-70 degree average temperatures make golf one of the most popular outdoor activities. The crisp morning air, brilliant blue sky, friendly community and great quantity of quality courses make Yuma an ideal golfing destination.

Arroyo Dunes Golf Course/Desert Hills Par 3: 1301 W 32nd St, 928-726-8350 The 18 hole par 3 is an easy course to walk and friendly to beginners. Most use only irons while playing, especially the 14th hole where the green sits far below the tee. Fairways could be better, but greens and tee boxes are properly maintained. There isn't a clubbox or accessible restrooms, so go before you golf.

Butterfield Golf Course: 10231 Dome

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Wide open fairways at Cocopah Golf Course. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

St, Welton, AZ 85356 928-785-4030 Located in Welton, the wide picturesque landscapes give panoramic views of sunrises and sunsets. This eighteen hole Par 3 golf course has a Pro Shop (open 7 AM to 5 PM) that rents hand carts, bags, clubs and golf carts. A driving range, putting green and a variety of membership passes, make this a great golfing destination.

Cocopah Bend RV & Golf Course: 6800 Strand Ave Tee times can be scheduled online www.cocopahrv.com or call 928-343-9300 The par seventy-three, 18 hole course is 5731 yards, easily walked

and features three holes near lakes. Amenities include large heated pool & spa with grassy sunning area, ballroom with hardwood dance floor, ceramics with kiln, crafts rooms, card rooms, billiard tables & library, shuffleboard, tennis & pickleball courts, fitness center, convenience store, woodshop, park and of course golf.

Cocopah Rio Colorado Golf Course: CLOSED August 1, 2023 220 N Marshall Loop Rd, Somerton, AZ 928-627-0057

Coyote Wash Golf Course: 11902 William Street, Wellton, AZ 85356 928-785-4653 Coyote Wash has two 9 hole golf courses. These 18 holes are championship level and stretch 6089 yards. This tough course has fast greens and will provide a challenge to all golfers. The Pro Shop has apparel, equipment, rentals and offers private lessons. A driving range and putting green are on site and new golf carts are available for rental. The Coyote Den is a seasonal restaurant open from October through April. Beverage and snack carts patrol the course as well.

Desert Hills: Par 72 Championship. Book a tee by calling Pro shop 928-373-5220 or book for as low as \$10 online at <https://www.cityofyumagolf.com/> The course includes two holes with water hazards and the longest uphill par 4 in the south west. The 19th hole is the clubhouse and many enjoy an in between round of beverages or after game libations. Food and drinks are provided by The Hills Gastropub and a fully stocked pro shop make Desert Hills an ideal meet-up. Throughout the course, a cart with



Sunset at Desert Hills boasts one of the best courses in Arizona. Photo by Aiden Diaz.

continued on next page

beverages and snacks makes appearances. The course is long and a golf cart is recommended. The men's city championship is scheduled here for this year.

Foothills Golf Course/ Foothills Executive Golf Course:

14200 E County 14th St. Yuma, AZ 928-305-6252 Is a sister course to Las Barrancas and Foothills Par 3. The course has challenging parts and sweeping views of the Gila mountains. Greens are medium speed and fairways are well groomed. The 9 hole course opened in 2000 and stretches 2610 yards. Costs range \$16 during week days and \$20 on weekends.

Fortuna Del Ray Golf Course & RV Park:

13650 N Frontage Rd, Yuma, AZ 928-342-4766 This 9 hole course opened in 1992, is mostly flat and wide open. Amenities include a bar, restaurant, driving range, putting green, banquet facilities, golf carts and club rentals. The RV park also has 8 designated tennis courts, 8 pickleball courts, shuffleboard courts, bocce ball and 2 pools as well as classes and even a band daily for happy hour. Weekday golf prices are \$11 and weekend rates are \$18.

Ironwood Golf Course: 2945 W 8th St. Yuma, AZ. Built in 1988 by the Curtis family, the golf course has been a labor of love and maintained by the son and now even grandchildren. If you are lucky, you



Country Club has challenging sand traps, water and trees everywhere. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

can catch one of the grandchildren's puppy doing tricks for the golf pro ladies. This nine hole golf course was just reseeded at the end of October and is a challenging course has speedy greens and is friendly to new golfers. The mayor is often spotted on the course as well as many well known local golfers. Golf is \$16 for 9 holes, \$2 for a pull cart and if you wish to ride a golf cart, you must be a senior and the cost is \$6 per person.

Las Barrancas Golf Course & Foothills Par 3: 14476 E 48th Street, Located past Foothills Blvd the narrow greens cutting between rocks and desert life make it easy to find your ball out of bounds. The picturesque and towering Gila Mountains make this course as beautiful as it is challenging with elevation changes surrounded by a desert landscape. Foothills Par 3 is in close proximity and operated by Las Barrancas. Both courses are open from 6:00 AM to sunset with a pro shop close by. There are different passes and play punch cards that are available for purchase. Las

Barrancas is closed on Mondays and on Tuesdays. The Par 3 operates with an honor box. 928-342-7130

Mesa Del Sol Golf Course:

12213 Calle Del Cid, Yuma, AZ 85367 928-342-1283. During the winter, this is possibly the best maintained course and makes for great golf. Challenging holes that offer a variety of traps and obstacles to navigate around are arrayed in an interesting layout. The 18 hole course

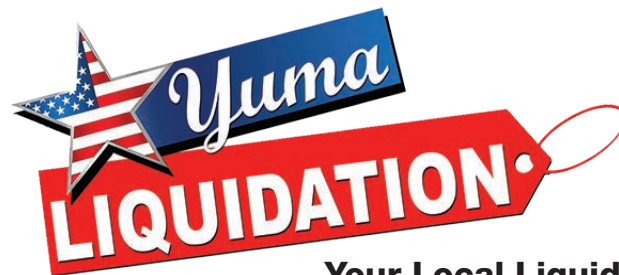


Hot air balloons over Ironwood Golf Course. Photo by Kelly Curtis.

has been home to numerous tournaments and events. Driving range, putting greens, full bar, snack bar, rentals and a first rate Pro Shop (closes at 6:30 PM) make golfing here a delight. Lessons can also be booked here from pros including one from a LPGA teaching pro. A ladies putting league also operated during the winter. On Thursday Happy Hours start at 4 PM with \$1 off drink specials.

Yuma Golf & Country Club: 3150 S

Fortuna Ave. 928-726-4210 Possibly the golf course with the most trees and shade, this challenging course is the area's only private 18 hole golf course. Additionally, members have access to a bevy of amenities including tennis courts, pool, and banquet hall. There are many in the golf community willing to bring a guest so you can golf. Expect long delays in the winter-time. Membership has its benefits so you can avoid the waits. ❖



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B&B Banana Bread Co. serving patrons. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

Food, Fun and Vendors at Friday Night Munchies

By Richard Fontanes

It began with searching for a place for vendors to supply their wares and foods... which was not easy. Sound Depot and other businesses on Fourth Avenue were approached but the mall site of the former Big Curve Mall and the Sears parking lot enabled almost 100 vendors and food stalls to set up shop.

Initially Friday Night Munchies was meant to be a winter night and once a month Saturday night event, but now the event is year round and comes every Friday starting at 7pm.

Stalls include barbecue, tacos, popcorn, elotes, lemonades, banana and pumpkin breads, hot wheels and toys, fruit, wood works, homemade soaps and lotions, teriyaki bowls, loaded baked potatoes, hotdogs, paletas, Mexican food, burgers, wontons, and even a booth offering prayers to name a small portion of what is offered.

One vendor traveled two hours after spending the day cooking fresh chocolate chip pumpkin bread to sell their wares at the event. The icing on the loaf, and soft thick slices almost melted in the mouth. Another vendor shared about the reason he started making homemade soaps. His skin was sensitive and he watched others make soaps and lotions that were allergen free and all natural. Honey and oatmeal soap and exfoliants like charcoal are some of the gems that customers raved that rejuvenated and refreshed their skin.

With so many foods, vendors and even classic cars to look at, Friday Night Munchies is an event worth checking out and experiencing. ❖

Yuma Pickleball

By Richard Fontanes

“I gave up tennis and learned to be a pickleball instructor and got into it fully... One thing I love about the game is how exciting this game could be. They say it's a cross between tennis and ping pong.” Darrell (DJ) Jurig offers instruction and assistance three times a week to Yuma residents at the tennis courts under the Yuma water tower off of Avenue A next to the Civic and Convention Center & Ray Croc Baseball Stadium. He went on to say that the game is addictive because not only is the game fun, but the people who play are friendly and there is amazing local community.

“It is a fast game for the mind so it will get you all energetic but I love how friendly the people are to the point where it makes you want to come back and play again.” Frank Escobedo has been playing since March of 2023 and he loves that new people are made to feel welcome even if it is your first time. People loan paddles, pair up with you and even show you how to play. “People walk you through every step and make it easier for you overall.” Frank went on to say.

All ages come out to play with people showing up to the courts as early as 3pm. By 6-7 p.m. a big group is there and some socialize, chat, get to know one another and invite singletons or pairs to a game.

“What got me into pickleball is that my dad got me into it while he lived in Chicago and found out that they have

a pickleball court here, so I have been coming here ever since. One thing that I like about pickleball is the environment and I love the people and especially the competitiveness of players. It's overall fun.” Lauren Lerbransky.

“Me and my wife play almost every night and what made me fall in love is the exercise and the community and how friendly everyone is. I first saw it on TV and my sister in law usually plays and they invited us out and we got hooked on the game.” Jared King.

The local community is inviting and welcoming to all levels of play. To check it out for the first time, we recommend visiting the Ray Croc Baseball Complex, but there are many resorts and other locations that offer courts throughout the valley.

Locations you can find a game are:

Ray Croc Baseball Complex: 1280 W Desert Hills Dr
Carefree Village Resort: 3900 Ave 81/2 E
Cocopah Bend RV & Golf Resort: 6800 Strand Ave



Pickleball Instructor DJ on the court. Photo by Richard Fontanes.

Country Roads RV Village: 5707 E 32nd St

Del Pueblo 55+ RV Resort: 14794 S Avenue 3 E

Palms RV Resort: 3400 S Ave 7th E #85

Sun Vista RV Resort: 7201 E 32nd St

Windsor Rotary Park: 20th Street and 34th Drive

Yuma Readiness & Community Center: 6550 E 24th St

Yuma Valley Park: 3162 W 24th St ❖

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Desert Draws Visitors to Parker

By Laura Kassik

Visitors 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 off-road vehicles.

There is plenty of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land to tackle. The area is surrounded by the Sonoran Desert, which provides excellent off-roading for novice riders



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

as well as professional off-roading competitions.

This year, Parker will host two new off-road racing events - the Unlimited Off-Road Racing Parker 400, January 10-14, and the Parker Dam 500 presented by Legacy Racing Association, February 21-25.

UNLTD Off-Road Racing partnered with the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) to return the Start/Finish Line, main pits, and spectating and camping areas to the CRIT Gauntlet, which is located just east of the Avi Suquilla Airport. Best in the Desert Off-Road races used to run on CRIT land, but in 2020, CRIT halted races on tribal land due to the COVID pandemic.

"Parker and the surrounding areas rely upon the off-road races, and it is a huge part of tourism to our

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Unlimited Off-Road Racing will present the Parker 400 January 10-14. UNLTD Off-Road Racing photo.

county. The races bring in racers, spectators, and visitors to Parker from all over California, Nevada, across the country and internationally," said Melissa Newton, Director for the Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

During each of the races, the Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce & Tourism will host a Downtown Experience. It will be January 11 for the Parker 400; and February 23 for the Parker Dam 500. Each of these Downtown Experiences will be held at in downtown at Arizona and Joshua avenues. There is no admission fee to attend.

"This event allows you to get up-close to the race vehicles, see the race teams and vendors along with local vendors, food, bar, music and lots of fun," Newton said. "There are thousands of people that attend the Downtown

continued on page 67



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The Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce & Tourism will host a Downtown Experience January 11 for the Parker 400 and February 23 for the Parker Dam 500. The public is welcome. There is no cost to attend. Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce & Tourism photo.

Rio Mesa Ranch Arena Celebrates 13th Winter Series

By Vivian Szama

If you're looking for something to do straight from the Wild West, put on your cowboy boots and head to Rio Mesa Ranch, which sits east of Parker. This winter marks its 13th Winter Series of Ranch Sorting and Mini-Penning, and touts 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 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 sportsmanship, 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 step up 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. This 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



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

was born in Germany where my dad was stationed, then we moved to California and I came to Parker in 1993."

Pauline fell in love with the horse business when her daughter took-up horses in 4-H, so it was a natural fit when she met Roy. Together, Pauline and Roy have built-up 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!"

Over the years, there have been some 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!"

"We are really beginner-friendly here. In addition to a chance to win one of the top three spots with the 50% payout, they also have a chance to earn a buckle as the First Place Winner."

The Sorting Event on Saturdays consists of two riders and 10 head of cattle, numbered 1-10. The announcer determines which number the riders start with and their task is to try to get as many cattle in numerical order into a pen in sixty seconds.

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 event from friends and sponsors. Several of the sponsors include BlueWa-

continued on page 67

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Camp Hosts Bring New Life to Rock House Visitor Center

By Vivian Szama

For Maureen and Glen Shafer of north Idaho, volunteering as Camp Hosts at various Bureau of Land Management (BLM) campgrounds and recreation areas has become somewhat of a passion.

"We were about to head back to Idaho in 2019 but learned there was still a lot of snow there. A friend told us about applying to become Camp Hosts so we applied and were at the BLM's Bullfrog Day Use Area for three years. In April, 2022 we came to Rock House Visitor Center and here we are!" said Maureen. "We really love it here. We work with the best crew!"

As you walk into the Visitor Center, you will be greeted by a warm and friendly Volunteer, and will notice tables of a multitude of items and displays.

"It was really slow here until about September the first year, so I busied myself by creating hands-on displays for children," she said. "I also wanted to have something for the adults so I have collected items of interest for them as well. I try to think of what interests people."

Glen tends to the garbage detail and parking lot cleanup (wild burros like to frequent the area and leave evi-



From left: BLM Maintenance Worker Colyn Moore, Camp Hosts Glen and Maureen Shafer, and BLM Park Ranger Heather Casares keep Rock House Visitor Center open to travelers.

dence of having visited) and helps with Maureen's larger projects and they both clean the restrooms. Maureen has created multiple wildlife displays including recording various bird and animal sounds for young hands to press and listen to. The couple constructed a replica of a copper mine entrance, complete with a light in the back to give an idea of what it may have been like for the many mine workers that used to occupy the area.

The Rock House Visitor Center is on the California side of the Colorado River and is part of the 1.3 million acres

of land that the Lake Havasu BLM Field Office manages.

"It starts at #40 to the north and extends down to the Salome/Windom area," said BLM Park Ranger Heather Casares. "The Rock House Visitor Center was pretty much dormant for a year until Maureen and Glen came."

The Visitor Center boasts a large parking lot and a beautiful boat ramp.

"It can now accommodate four watercraft launching at the same time," said BLM Maintenance Worker Colyn Moore, formerly from Washington State. "The summer brings a lot of boaters here, partly due to it's the only free boat ramp in the area. There is also boat cleaning equipment here to vacuum and clean out your boats."

"Since Maureen and Glen have been here there has been a significant increase in traffic and visitors."

Maureen has displays of maps of the area and a map of the old Swansea copper mine on the Arizona side of the Colorado River, which is northeast of Parker off the Shear Road about 25 miles.

"A lot of people come in wanting to know more about the history of this area," said Maureen. "They will ask, 'Why is it called Rock House?' and things like that."

Both Moore and Casares agreed, "We would like to have more information available on the history of this area. If anyone has old photographs or information on the communities and the copper mines that used to be here, we would love to have that included here at the Visitor Center."

Maureen also writes a weekly newsletter on the happenings at the Visitor Center, as well as cartoons. You can get on her list to receive these when visiting.

Rock House Visitor Center is open: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is closed Tuesday and Saturday and all major holidays.

From Parker: Drive north across the bridge over the Colorado River and turn right. The Visitor Center will be 14 miles ahead on your right.

From Lake Havasu City: Cross the river on the Parker Dam. The Visitor Center is a little more than eight miles south on the left side. ❖



Camp Host Maureen Shafer fills her time at Rock House Visitor Center by creating displays for young and old.



Several new additions include these mosaic desert scenes created by Maureen.



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Rio Mesa Ranch hosts Ranch Sorting and Penning events during the winter.

Rio Mesa - continued from page 65

ter Resort and Casino, River Island Market, Big Sky RV, and Pro Therapy in Lake Havasu City.

The dates for the Ranch's 2024 Winter Series are: January 5-7, January 26-28, February 16-18, and March 1-3. The morning Open Class events start at 9 a.m.; and the Amateur Novice Class starts at 1 p.m.

Parker Visitors - continued from page 64

Experience and the off road races each year."

Newton greets winter visitors, who stop by the Chamber and Tourism office at 1217 S. California Ave., when they arrive in town.

"They ask about the Winter Visitor guide, where to stay, things to do and what are the events that are happening while they are here," Newton said, adding that winter visitors are drawn to Parker for the "Desert Bar, off-road races, The Big Tent in Quartzsite, and our amazing weather and outdoor spaces."

The Desert Bar, aka "Nellie E. Sa-

loon," a popular winter attraction, is nestled in the Buckskin Mountains on an old 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.

For more information, visit its Facebook page at Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting, website at www.riomesaranch.com, or contact Pauline at 928-916-9239 or by email at RioMesaRanch@yahoo.com. ❖

For more information on events, check out the Calendar in this Parker section and on the Chamber's website, parkeraz.org for updates. For the off-road races, visit Unlimitedoffroadracing.com or Legacyracing.net. Find the Desert Bar on Facebook. ❖



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"An Enterprise of The Colorado River Indian Tribes"

2023-24 Parker Calendar

Note: Event dates and times are subject to change. Visit the Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism website at www.parkeraz.org; and BlueWater Resort & Casino website at www.bluewaterfun.com for updates and additional events. The Parker Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is located at 1217 S. California Ave. 928-669-2174.

ONGOING

Guided Refuge Walks. Every Thursday until April 11. **Time:** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

(weather permitting). **Cost:** Free and open to the public. 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). **Address:** Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Visitor Center, 60911 Hwy. 95. **Phone:** Jessica Samuelson 928-667-4144 ext. 112.

JANUARY 1

First Day Hike. Time: 9 a.m. at Ranger

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AG-277022



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

Station. **Address:** Buckskin Mountain State Park, 5476 N. Highway 95. **Website:** AZStateParks.com/first-day-hikes. **Phone:** 928-667-3231.

JANUARY 5-6-7

Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting 2024 Series.

For times and more information, visit the

website, Facebook page, or contact promoters. **Address:** Rio Mesa Ranch Arena, 27637 E. Burns Road, Parker. **Website:** RioMesaRanch.com; **Facebook:** Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting. **Contact:** Pauline Leivas 928-916-9239 or Roy Leivas 928-916-3069 or email RioMesaRanch@yahoo.com.

continued on next page

S.O.S. MENU

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Lunch Specials

No substitutions - Available from 11am - 3pm

Momma's Meatloaf - with mashed potatoes, gravy and biscuit
1/4 lb Bacon Cheeseburger - with fries and coleslaw
Grilled Ham & Cheese - with a cup of soup
Prime Rib Caesar Salad - 5oz seasoned prime rib
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
Buffalo Wing Basket (4) - with french fries and coleslaw

Breakfast Specials

No substitutions - Available during breakfast hours only

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

AG-278824



Unlimited Off-Road Racing will present the Parker 400 January 10-14. UNLTD Off-Road Racing photo.

continued from previous page

JANUARY 10-11-12-13-14

Unlimited Racing Parker 400 Off-Road Race. UNLTD Off-Road Racing have partnered with Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), which will return the Start/Finish Line, main pits, spectating and camping to the CRIT Gauntlet, located just east of the Avi Suquilla Airport near downtown Parker. Check website for schedule and more information. **Admission:** Free. **Website:** unlimitedoffroadracing.com.

JANUARY 11

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:** 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** Downtown Parker on Arizona and Joshua avenues. **Website:** parkeraz.org.

JANUARY 20

Parker Color Run. Find more information on website. Presented by Town of Parker Parks & Recreation Committee. **Website:** parkeraz.org.

JANUARY 20

Blues & Brews Festival, presented by Soroptimist International of Parker. Enjoy music, beer, wine & whiskey tasting, car show, swap meet, food vendors, and inflatables for kids. **Time:** Noon to 4 p.m. **Admission:** \$20 in advance (Eventbrite.com or Parker Area Chamber of

Commerce); \$25 at the gate. Ticket information for children on Facebook. **Address:** La Paz County Park, 7350 Riverside Drive. **Facebook:** Soroptimist Blues and Brews Fest.

JANUARY 25

Arizona Moon Party with Kelly Hughes Band. Find more information on Facebook at Kelly Hughes Band. **Address:** 7½ miles northeast of Parker on Shea Road.

JANUARY 26-27-28

Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting 2024 Series. For times and more information, visit the website, Facebook page, or contact promoters. **Address:** Rio Mesa Ranch Arena, 27637 E. Burns Road, Parker. **Website:** RioMesaRanch.com; **Facebook:** Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting. **Contact:** Pauline Leivas 928-916-9239 or Roy Leivas 928-916-3069 or email RioMesaRanch@yahoo.com.

JANUARY 27

Parker Moto Meet Up. 2-Wheels Only. **Time:** 8 a.m. Meet at Terrible's Gas Station, 921 S. California Ave.; Noon Happy Hour Specials and Bench Racing at Pirate's Den Resort. **Contact:** Mike Ahumada 949-525-2927 or John Burns 602-513-3067.

FEBRUARY 2-3-4

Arizona Drag Boat Association (ADBA) Races. Visit website for times and more information. **Address:** BlueWater Resort & Casino, 11300 Resort Drive. **Website:** adbaracing.com; **Facebook:** Arizona Drag Boat Association.

continued on page 71

Sunset Menu

Early Bird Dinners Mon - Fri from 3:30pm - 6:30pm (Excluding Holidays)

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 potatoes.

FISH N' CHIPS \$15.99

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

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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MONDAY MADNESS

Available All Day on Mondays, in the Lounge Only

Prime Rib Sliders \$6
Pork Potstickers \$6
Springs Wings \$1 each
1/4 lb. Cheeseburger \$5
Pitcher of Beer \$8.00

TUESDAY Prime Rib Dinner \$15.95

Traditional slow roasted, Cajun blackened or roasted garlic grilled. Served with soup or salad, baked potato and sautéed vegetables.

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Hornitos \$5.00
Modelo \$3.50
Margaritas \$4.50

THURSDAYS

BBQ Ribs \$15.95

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

\$11.99 Fish Fry FRIDAYS

The Best Fish Fry Dinner on the lake! Beer battered, lemon butter grilled or Cajun blackened. Served with french fries, coleslaw and potato salad.



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FALL/WINTER EVENT CALENDAR

MONDAY	NFL TICKET FOOTBALL 5PM Mini Pot Pies \$5, Mini Meatloafs \$5, Burgers \$5 \$2 Domestic Drafts During Gametime
TUESDAY	TACOS & TUNES  3 FOR \$6 GROUND BEEF, ASADA, CHICKEN, CARNITAS LIVE MUSIC OR KARAOKE 7PM
WEDNESDAY	\$12 ITALIAN WEDNESDAY 4PM - 8PM LASAGNA, SPAGHETTI, ALFREDO, PORK CHOPS & MORE! LADIES BUNCO LUNCHEON 12-3PM 1/2 PRICE WINES
THURSDAY	COUNTRY THURSDAY NFL TICKET FOOTBALL 5PM . COUNTRY KARAOKE 8PM Mini Pot Pies \$5, Chicken Fried Chicken \$10, Burgers \$5
FRIDAY & SATURDAY	SMOKED BBQ BEER CAN CHICKEN, RIBS, TURKEY, & BEEF  CHEF SPECIALS! DRINK SPECIALS! LIVE BANDS NIGHTLY 7:30pm 
SUNDAY \$5 BREAKFAST 9AM - NOON	NFL SUNDAY TICKET! ALL THE GAMES! ALL DAY! Mini Pot Pies \$5, Mini Meatloafs \$5, Burgers \$5 \$2 Domestic Drafts During Gametime



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MENU
3PM - 6PM

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continued from page 69

FEBRUARY 10

44th Annual Take a Kid Fishing. Time: Registration 9 a.m.; Fishing 10 a.m. **Cost:** Free family event. **Address:** La Paz County Park, 7350 Riverside Drive.

Contact: Heather Wilson 928-916-7939 or takeakidfishing@yahoo.com. **Facebook:** Take A Kid Fishing Parker AZ.

FEBRUARY 16-17-18**Rio Mesa Ranch**

Sorting 2024 Series. For times and more information, visit the website, Facebook page, or contact promoters. **Address:** Rio Mesa Ranch Arena, 27637 E. Burns Road, Parker. **Website:** RioMesaRanch.com; **Facebook:** Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting. **Contact:** Pauline Leivas 928-916-9239 or Roy Leivas 928-916-3069 or email RioMesaRanch@yahoo.com.

FEBRUARY 17

33rd Annual Buckskin Mountain Desert Dash. This long-running event is presented by Parker Rotary Club. Partici-



The carnival is always a popular spot during the La Paz County Fair. The 2024 Fair is set for March 7-9. La Paz County Fair photo.

pants can choose from a 5K (3.2 miles) Mountain Bike Ride, Run or Fitness Walk. **Times:** Registration 7 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.; Race: 9 a.m. **Entry fee:** \$25 until Feb. 1 (postmark); \$30 after & on race day; \$15 children 12 and under. **Address:** The course starts at Cienega Springs Road - 5 miles north of Parker off Hwy. 95. It is a graded road, but not an easy course. It runs through Buckskin Mountain and concludes at the Nellie E. Saloon (Desert Bar). **Website:** parkeraz.org and parkeraz-rotary.org. **Contact:** mjb901@yahoo.com.

continued on page 74

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Get Ready to 'Howl at the Moon'

By Vivian Szama

A beautiful desert, warm temperatures, good friends and a full moon - sounds like an ideal setting for an outdoor concert. Get ready for Howl at the Moon, a country/patriotic/gospel music concert by the Kelly Hughes Band from Idaho, located 7½ miles north-east of Parker on Shea Road.

Take a chair and a cooler, and sit back and enjoy some real entertainment.

It was in 2013 when Kelly Hughes started 'snowbirding' to Yuma and began performing in and around the Yuma area, at rodeos, private parties and the old Lutes Casino,

which is no longer a casino but is touted as being Arizona's oldest pool hall, when someone suggested that he set up "at the tree" out in the desert near Yuma during a full moon.

"I finally rode out with him to see what this tree was all about," said Kelly. "There it was. A tree, a firepit and nothing else! I decided I could bring my amp and my guitar out there. I didn't think there'd be many that would show up."

"That first month, there were 54 people. The next month, there were 175. By the fourth month, there were over 400 people! That time, the cops showed-up to see what was going on. When I saw them coming I started the "Jailhouse Rock" song by Elvis.

"They didn't think that was funny. They asked me what I thought I was doing, so I told them, 'Well sir, I'm running a Senior Day Care and we're on a field trip.' They didn't think that was funny either."

Out of those initial Howl at the Moon events was born Hughes' hit song, "AZ Moon". Hughes writes many of his own songs, including one moving song that he wrote for his daughter, Cheyenne, with the line, "I didn't care about Wyoming until I met Cheyenne." He wrote his hit song, "Idaho Born, Idaho Bred" when he was just 17.

The Howl at the Moon events near Yuma have grown to

continued on next page

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several thousand people, according to Skip Allert, a long time friend of Kelly Hughes, who serves as an unofficial local promoter for the band for the Parker-area event.

Skip, who lives at Verde West along the Parker Strip, arranged for Kelly to perform in its Community Center one year and helps where he can when the band performs near Parker.

"I've known Kelly since he was knee high," Skip said. "My kids and Kelly, along with his three older brothers, all grew up together."

He went on to share more.

"Kelly Hughes was born in Sand Point, Idaho, the youngest of four boys. The older three boys all played sports, wrestling, football. When Kelly came along he was asked, 'What position do you play?' Kelly replied, 'Pep Band!'"

"Music has been Kelly's passion since he was a boy," added Skip. "He started playing in bars before he was old enough to get into them!"

Over the years, Kelly and his band played at rodeos, bars and venues throughout the Pacific Northwest including in Idaho, Montana and Washington state.



From left, Steve Fleming, Kelly Hughes, and Skip Allert before Howl at the Moon.

For 15 years, Kelly had a bar, appropriately named, "Kelly's", in Stateline, Idaho, complete with a mechanical bull and beer keg races.

Several concert attendees, Bob and Etta Mae Schnuerle of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, were at the February, 2023, Howl at the Moon near Parker and are also Kelly's longtime friends.

"We've known Kelly for over 30 years," said Bob. "His mom was married to a good friend of ours. His parents had a workshop at their place in Eastport, Idaho, near the Canadian border where Kelly's band would play. The whole neighborhood came over for his stepdad Ken's birthday one time."

The Schnuerle's winter at Wenden,

Ariz., and try to attend wherever Kelly is playing while in Arizona.

"We enjoy going to Kelly's concerts," said Etta Mae. "We've been to Wickenburg, here by Parker and around Yuma." The Schnuerle's can be seen among those dancing at Kelly's concerts.

Kelly's lead guitarist, Steve Fleming, also lends his voice and performs several solos as well, including "House of the Rising Sun", "Pretty Woman" and "Take It Easy".

The concert ends before dark.

"When the moon comes up, we quit playing!" Kelly said.

There is no admission, but there is a one-time hat passed around for donations. T-shirts and CD's, including Kelly's newest hit "Let Freedom Ring" will be available for purchase.

The Arizona Moon Party is Thursday, January 25 and the Parker Desert Dance will be Thursday, March 14. Follow "Kelly Hughes Band" on Facebook for times and updates. ❖

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AG-253416

continued from page 71

FEBRUARY 21-22-23-24-25

Parker Dam 500 presented by Legacy Racing Association. Check website for times and more information. Race day is Feb. 24. Cars, Trucks and UTVs. Race is approximately 350 miles on a long race loop course. **Website:** Legacyracing.net.

FEBRUARY 23

Downtown Experience for Legacy Racing Parker 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 same time in the same location. Enjoy vendors, food, drinks, music and see the race vehicles. Time: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** Downtown Parker on Arizona and Joshua avenues. **Website:** parkeraz.org.

MARCH 1-2-3**Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting 2024 Series.**

For times and more information, visit the website, Facebook page, or contact promoters. **Address:** Rio Mesa Ranch Arena,

27637 E. Burns Road, Parker. **Website:** RioMesaRanch.com; **Facebook:** Rio Mesa Ranch Sorting. **Contact:** Pauline Leivas 928-916-9239 or Roy Leivas 928-916-3069 or email RioMesaRanch@yahoo.com.

MARCH 7-8-9**La Paz County Fair.**

Fair Hours: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Carnival: Thursday 1 p.m. to midnight; Friday-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 children \$17. **Address:** La Paz County Fairgrounds, 21600 Hillside Drive. **Website:** lapazcounty-fair.org; **Facebook:** La Paz County Fair. **Phone:** 928-669-8100.

MARCH 8-9-10

Arizona Drag Boat Association (ADBA) Races. Visit website for times and more information. **Address:** La Paz County Park, 7350 Riverside Drive. **Website:** adbaracing.com; **Facebook:** Arizona Drag Boat Association.

MARCH 14

Parker Desert Dance with Kelly Hughes Band. Find more information on Facebook at Kelly Hughes Band. **Address:** 7½ miles northeast of Parker on Shea Road.

MARCH 14-15-16-17

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

MARCH 16

St. Patrick's Poker Run. This is a 66-75 mile marked off-road course. Must



A rider navigates a buoy during a Best of the West Series personal water race. The BlueWater Resort & Casino will host PWC races March 16-17. Rain Porter@121photo.

have four wheels, no motorcycles. See website or Facebook for more information. **Website:** parkeraz.org. **Facebook:** St. Patrick's Day Annual Poker Run.

MARCH 16-17

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

APRIL 6

Jerry Chrismer Memorial Golf Tournament, hosted by Poston Rotary Club. Find times and event information on website or Facebook. **Address:** Emerald Canyon Golf Course, 7351 Riverside Drive. **Phone:** Chamber of Commerce 928-669-2174. **Website:** parkeraz.org; **Facebook:** Poston Rotary Club.

APRIL 13-14

Southern California Speedboat Club (SCSC) Spring Classic 2024 Season Opener. Find more information on website. **Address:** BlueWater Resort & Casino, 11300 Resort Drive. **Website:** scs-racing.com. **Phone:** Ross Wallach 310-318-4012; rpmracingent@yahoo.com. ♦

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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.



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Quartzsite: A Destination for Winter Fun

By Mark Goldberg

Quartzsite 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

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! ❖

QUARTZSITE AZ

QIA POW WOW GEM & MINERAL SHOW KOFA
QUARTZSITE CAMELS OFF-ROADING MORE



Jeremy Kleman photo.

Kofa National Wildlife Reserve

The United States Congress designated the KOFA Wilderness in 1990 and it now has a total of 665,400 acres.

The KOFA Mountains are named for the King of Arizona (KofA) Mine which was established to search for and extract pre-

cious mineral deposits in the early 1900's. The Refuge was established in 1990 by the United States Congress primarily for conservation of desert bighorn sheep and their habitat, which still remains a primary management objective today. The herds are monitored periodically. The Reserve is

WILDLIFE REFUGES IN THE REGION

Kofa.....665,400	Cibola18,444	Imperial....26,000	Harquahala.....22,880
Bill Williams.....6,105	Akakhav.....1,253	Alamo Lake.....17,000	

In Acres



The trail to Kofa Queen Canyon. Mark Goldberg photo.

located south of Quartzsite, east of Route 95, and goes to within 40 miles north of Yuma. Maps are available on-line.

The Kofa Refuge and Wilderness is open to visitation year-round, 24 hours a day (mostly hiking and off-road activity). There are no entrance fees and visitors are free to camp wherever they choose. All roads in the reserve are “Federal Highways” which means all vehicles, including OHV, must be street-legal [One hand or foot-operated brake, Rear brake light or red reflector, One, but no more than two front-facing headlights, At least one tail-light, Seat and footrests for driver and each passenger, rear-view mirror, a USDA-approved spark arrestor, a muffler to reduce engine noise to below 96 decibels, License plate and License lights, a horn that can be heard at least 200 feet away, A fuel tank cap, A 6” x 12 safety flag at least 8 feet above the ground, An Off-Highway Vehicle Decal as proof of registration, A valid driver's license, A valid Certificate of Title, DOT-approved helmets for any driver or passenger under the age of 18]. Vehicles must stay on established trails, and limit speed to minimize dust) Off-road groups

of 3+ vehicles, require prior approval. The Reserve is a popular off-roading and hiking area with many interesting trails to old ranches, cabins, unique physical features, Sonoran Desert flora and fauna, and more. Wilderness visitors are apt to encounter man-made structures such as concrete dams, windmills, and other modified or enhanced water sources. Many of these structures, built in the 1940s and '50s, have been allowed to slowly deteriorate, while others are maintained by Refuge staff to provide essential water needs for desert wildlife. Palm Canyon is home to a small grove of California Fan Palms, found in very few other areas.

When visiting wilderness areas, always tell someone your travel plan and time-frame; assure that your transportation is mechanically sound, with an inflated spare tire, charge your cell phone (do not count on cell service); respect the heat; stay on trails and do not venture beyond your expertise and local conditions; create no dust; carry adequate water and emergency provisions; take your refuse with you.

Take only photographs; leave only footprints. ❖

Having Off-Road Fun in Quartzsite

By Mark Goldberg, Quartzsite Off-Road

Quartzsite 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. The area is rife with historic resources,

There are four groups of mountains surrounding the core of Quartzsite. In these areas, 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, a 675-mile loop trail through Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma Counties. It is the Premier off-road adventure, with enthusiasts coming from all over the world to ride the trail.

"Quartzsite Off-Road," was founded by Mark Goldberg, under the Quartzsite Improvement Association – Quartzsite's oldest non-profit Association, to promote off-road fun and safety. 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 equipment and technical skills; but it is also available on Avenza Maps for download to your cellphone or GPS device for full navigational capability. The atlas is available at locations in Quartzsite and on-line (www.quartzsiteoffroad.com); and



Exploring the Arizona Peace Trail. Bruce Fuller photo.

there is an Off-Road Information center at The Quartzsite Improvement Association, 235 Ironwood Street. 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 off-road trails (Maps @ Chamber of Commerce). Quartzsite Off-Road holds free "Meet and Greet" meetings for any and all interested off-road enthusiasts, monthly at QIA 235 Ironwood Street, 1st Wednesday at 10 am.

In addition to off-road activities, Quartzsite is known as "The Gathering Place" for winter visitors looking for reasonable accommodations, scenic beauty, fantastic weather, and other fun activities. Arts, crafts, live entertainment and music "Jams" are frequent winter activities. Other activities include The QIA Pow Wow - Gem and Mineral Show (now in its 56th year); The Gold Show; and, perusing the many swap meets with acres and acres of gems and minerals brought here for sale by the people who mined them world-wide, along

with diverse treasures brought by a myriad of vendors offering "Everything Under The Sun!" Make Quartzsite your home base for winter fun! ❖



A group meeting for a trail ride in Quartzsite. David Woods photo.

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Jan 17-21 58th Annual PowWow Gem & Mineral Show

Jan 27 Fleetwood Mac Tribute "Gypsy Dreams"

Feb 3 Mariachi Festival & Dinner

Feb 6 Roger Naylor
Travel writer

Feb 9-11 Gold Show

Feb 17 Sam Rotman - QRGMC Scholarship
Fundraiser

Feb 19 Right Path Health
Screening

Feb 24 Elvis Tribute

Feb 28 Ladie's "High Tea"

Mar 1 Johnny Cash Tribute - James Garner

(1st Tues) Ladie's Lunch: Nov 7, Dec 5, Jan 2, Feb 6, Mar 5, Apr 2

(1st Wed) QZ Off-road, Metal detect.: Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 6

(1st Sat) Craft/Yard Sale: - Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 2

Fridays - Bingo ALSO: Line Dance; Zumba; Wood Carving; Exercise; +MORE

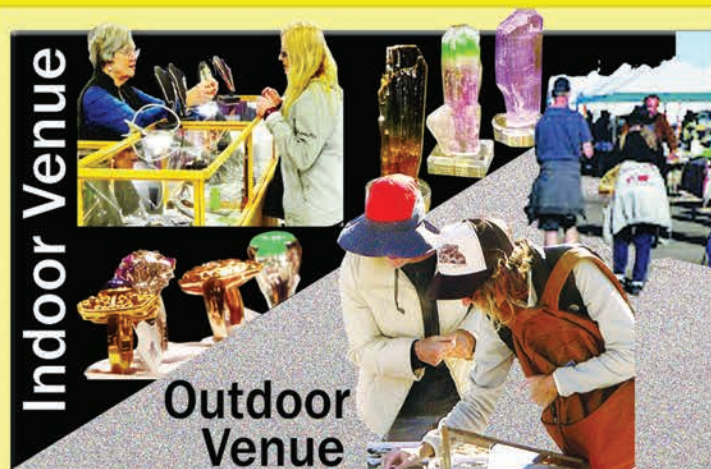


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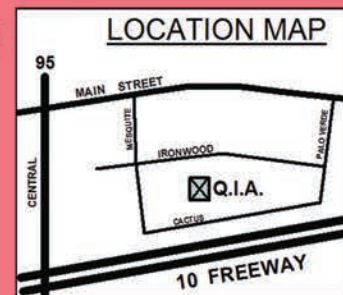
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- (Note: Time/Date Subject to Change, check on-line Calendar.)
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 - CRAFT SHOW 9AM/YARD SALE 8AM, 1ST SATURDAY
 - BINGO, EVERY FRIDAY EVENING 5PM
 - OFF-ROAD MEET/GREET, 1ST WEDNESDAY, 10AM
 - QZ ROADRUNNERS GEM & MINERAL CLUB, THUR 2PM
 - CLASSES

- LINE DANCE TUES, THUR 10AM
- SQUARE DANCE LESSONS
- ZUMBA
- PAINTING PARTY
- CRAFTS
- EXERCISE, 8:30AM, M-F
- WOOD CARVING, WED 12PM

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A group of members of the Quartzsite Metal Detecting Club. Mark Goldberg photo.

Quartzsite Metal Detecting Club

By Mark Goldberg

The Quartzsite Metal Detecting Club [QMDC] is one of the largest local metal detecting and prospecting 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 offer 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. ❖

Quartzsite Roadrunners Gem and Mineral Club

Lots more than rocks....

The Quartzsite Gem and Mineral Club is a unique and robust volunteer club. Most local rock clubs are a small group of like-minded enthusiasts who gather together to share their love of gems and minerals. Often, one of the members has a rock saw, or grinding equipment at their home where the members gather once

continued on page 81

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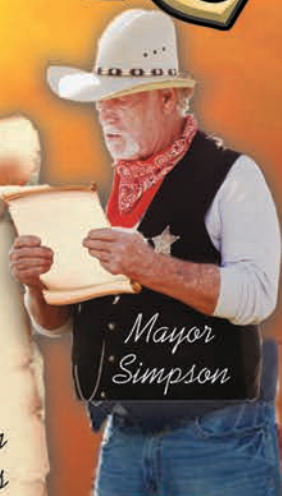
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- Local Businesses, Vendors, Crafters
- Quartzsite Pioneer History Tour (Fri.)
- Kid's Activities

www.QuartzsiteAz.Org

Quartzsite Improvement Association

By Mark Goldberg

In the early days, Quartzsite was a destination for rockhounds to come in the winter and tailgate their finds to other enthusiasts out in the desert. QIA grew out of a small, 40-member community-minded group of rockhounds, residents and visitors who met in a two-room schoolhouse on March 23, 1965, to structure the incorporation of The Quartzsite Improvement Association on April 27, 1965. The QIA constructed a large Community 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 Quartzsite's oldest non-profit, all-volunteer organization.

QIA's flagship event is the Pow Wow Gem and Mineral Show, which grew out of the tailgating experience. Held January 17-21, 2024, Pow Wow is now in its 58th year; and, features hundreds of vendors of



Mark Goldberg photo.

gems, minerals, fossils, and jewelry from all over the world. Free admission, free parking.

QIA is also home to the Desert Sky Theater with capacity to seat over 500 people and hold large 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 events and other special occasions.

The Off-Road Information Center at QIA features monthly "Meet/Greet" meetings (1st Wed, Nov-March, 10am), maps, club information, ride information, regional events and a comprehensive Off-road Atlas.

Looking for fun things to do during your winter visit? QIA Membership is only \$10



QIA's flagship event is the Pow Wow Gem and Mineral Show. Mark Goldberg photo.

continued from page 79

a month.

Through volunteer efforts, and excellent leadership, this club has grown from a few pieces of equipment to a major fun-house of mineral and craft ecstasy. The club has about 700 members; many of whom are winter visitors.

For only \$20 per year, members enjoy the availability of a wide range of classes with talented instructors to teach techniques and equipment use on projects including: lapidary, silversmithing, basket making, beading and bead-making, casting class, dichroic glass fusing, flint knapping, rock carving, leather working, opal cutting, stained glass, steel knife-making, wire-wrapping, cold forging and more!

In addition to craft activities, the club has guided trips for rockhounding, OHV exploration trips, Black light rock hunt-

ing, participation in the Pow Wow Gem and Mineral Show this January 17-21, Social events including a monthly pancake breakfast, hobo stew, holiday dinners, silent auctions, tailgate events, highway clean-up, participation in community parades, and a youth scholarship fundraising campaign.

Looking for something to do? Learn a new craft with a great group of people. Look no further! For more information, visit www.qrgmc.org. ❖



Rockhounding.

per person for the *entire season*. Join our volunteers, and participate in the diverse activities at QIA which include: Pow Wow Gem and Mineral Show, January 17-21; Fleetwood Mac Tribute, January 27; Mariachi Festival and Dinner, February 3; Roger Naylor Travel, February 6; Gold Show, February 9-11; Sam Rotman Piano Concert, scholarship fund-raiser, February 17; Ladie's High Tea, February 28; Johnny Cash Tribute, March 1. Country and Gos-

pel Jam Sessions; Dances, Monthly craft fair (1st Sat); Exercise classes; Line dancing; Art & Craft classes; Bingo; Spanish class; Acupuncture; and, Club meetings: Rock Club, Geocaching club, OHV club, Radio Club, Metal Detector Club, Singles Club, and more. Pick up a monthly schedule of activities at the QIA office and QIA information kiosks around town.

Join us for winter fun at QIA! www.QIAarizona.org. ❖



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Quartzsite, Arizona

Quartzsite Camels: The Legacy of the U.S. Army and Hadji Ali

By Mark Goldberg

Dromedary, Arabian camels, (one-hump) are seen on the Town Seal for Quartzsite; on Town entry signs; and at various locations part of the Arizona Centennial Project. The camels are the legacy of the United States Army.

In 1856, at the direction of Lieutenant Edward Beale, camels were for the first transcontinental camel train as an experiment to replace mule trains used as the supply method to the Pacific Coast. Phillip Tedro, aka Hadji Ali, a Syrian-born camel driver, was brought to the U.S. to manage the camels. He was locally known as "Hi Jolly," the American interpretation of his name. Camels could carry a thousand pounds of freight, sixty-five miles a day; and, could survive three days without water or food. The camel's odors, unusual habits, and generally foreign look were not well-received by competing mule packers, Army drivers, and the general public. There was only one recorded transcontinental camel train trip.

The impending Civil War and the development of the "iron horse," resulted in the cancellation of Beale's camel train budget. Some camels were sold, others were taken to Yuma where they were released into the desert. Hi Jolly purchased several of the camels. He became a U.S. Citizen in 1880, and ran a freight service between mining towns in eastern Arizona and the Colorado



In 2012, a community committee representing the Arizona Centennial project, established camel silhouette displays at several locations in Quartzsite as a lasting legacy of the 100th Anniversary of Arizona. Mark Goldberg photo.

River. He went by his given name, Philip Tedro.

The Ashes of Hi Jolly, and his favorite camel, are interred in a special monument erected in his honor by the Arizona Highway Department; dedicated by the Governor in 1935. The Hi Jolly Cemetery in downtown Quartzsite is one of the most-visited National Historic Landmarks in Arizona. The plaque on the monument reads,

*The last camp of Hi Jolly.
Born somewhere in Syria about 1828.
Died at Quartzsite, December 16, 1902.
Came to this country February 10, 1856.
Camel driver - packer, scout—
over 30 years a faithful aid to the
U.S. Government.*

Arizona Highway Department 1935

Camels are commemorated throughout town. In 2012 a community committee representing the Arizona Centennial project, established camel silhouette displays at several locations in Quartzsite as a lasting legacy of the 100th Anniversary of

Arizona. Through a State grant, the Town established entry monuments at four locations, with three silhouette camels and a pyramid backdrop. In 2020, local businessman, Larry Lord placed a camel sculpture in front of his business to promote Quartzsite's camels (there is also a Facebook site, "Quartzsite Camels." There is a downloadable narrated tour of the camel sculptures now located at businesses in town at, www.voicemap.me. ❖



Members of the Quartzsite Camel Corps. Mark Goldberg photo.



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Visit Los Algodones, Mexico

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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.

- Do not bring a firearm or ammunition with you to Mexico. If caught, you will go to jail and your vehicle will be seized.
- When returning from visits to Mexico, U.S. citizens must present a U.S. Passport book, passport card, enhanced driver's license or Trusted Traveler Program card to officers at U.S. ports of entry.
- A U.S. passport book is used for travel by air, land or by sea. A passport card can be presented when returning to the United States through a land or sea port, 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

continued on page 81

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continued from previous page

- 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 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.

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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 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 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.

continued on page 81

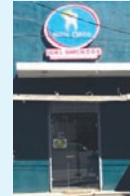
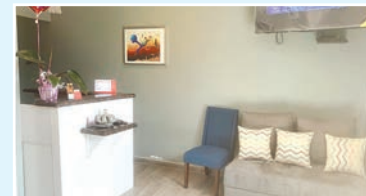


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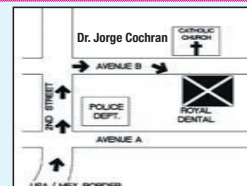
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continued from previous page

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 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 than Spanish.

Since the border 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.



EAT

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 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.

continued on page 81



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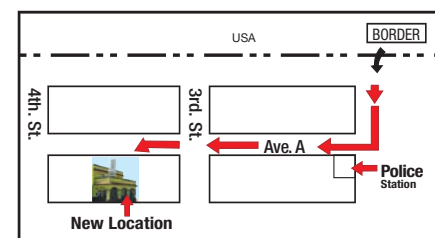
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continued from previous page

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 various 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:

continued on page 81



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Los Algodones, Mexico



continued from previous page

• Only medications that are legally prescribed in the U.S. can be imported from Mexico for personal use.

purchasing medicine in Mexico, visit the FDA website at <http://www.fda.gov/drugs>. ❖

• 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.
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Molar City

Los 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 of-



fices remain open for services throughout the Summer months.

Los Algodones lies just over the border from Yuma, so close you can actually walk to it. The small town got its popular nickname, Molar City, long before the internet was a thing, and it stuck. Nowadays, there is even a Molar 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 Molar City constantly upgrade their equipment, so many of them are using cutting-edge solutions and techniques that aren't used anywhere else. That's why it's not uncommon for foreign dentists to come to Los Algodones to learn new techniques and practice with the most modern equipment.

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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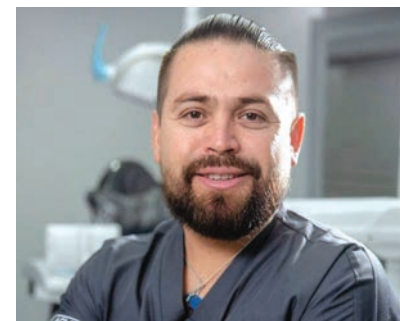
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Endotech Los Algodones

Kingman is Bursting with History

By Laura Kassik

The classic cars that once filled the roadway are scarce, and the famous Burma Shave signs no longer vie for attention from passersby, but even decades after its heyday, Route 66 continues to lure travelers with its history and mystique.

Many visitors who come to Arizona

have driven stretches of this famous highway, dubbed the Mother Road, which extends from Chicago, Ill., to Los Angeles, Calif., either by necessity, or simply for nostalgia's sake.

Kingman, which adopted the motto, "The Heart of Route 66," in 1993, is steeped in the highway's history with its museums, landmarks, and historic buildings.

Travelers' first stop in Kingman is usually to the Kingman Visitor Center, located in Kingman's Historic Powerhouse. They ask about things to do, purchase souvenirs, or check-out the Route 66 Museum or Route 66 Electric Vehicle Museum that are housed there.

"(During the winter) most travelers are looking for inside ac-



One of the Kingman landmarks is the Steam Engine that sits in Locomotive Park, across from the Kingman Visitor Center. Santa Fe Railway Company presented Steam Engine #3759 to the City of Kingman in 1957.

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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.

tivities, such as visiting the museums and shopping Downtown antiques and boutiques," said Josh Noble, Kingman Tour-

ism Services Manager. "On the days that the weather is nicer, many will hit the trailheads near Downtown."



The snow-covered Jim Hinckley statue, created by sculptor J. Anne Butler, sits near the Kingman Train Depot at 4th Street and Andy Devine Avenue. Kingman Office of Tourism photo.

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 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. (Read the story in this section to find about more about Angel and the exhibit.)

"We have had visitors from all over the world leave messages in the exhibit exclaiming how much they enjoyed it," said Nikki Terlesky, with the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona.

Outside the Visitor Center sits the "Route 66 Drive-Thru Shield". In 2021, the Kingman Office of Tourism and Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona commissioned the permanent sign, which

continued on next page

Visitor Center Exhibit Honors 'Angel of Route 66'

By Shila Marie

On the second floor of the Kingman Visitor Center, the Angel Delgadillo exhibit tells the beautiful story of one man's desire and determination to save his town and its residents.

Recognized as the "Guardian Angel of Route 66" for his impact on Seligman and other Route 66 communities after Interstate 40 was built, the story of Angel Delgadillo is one of passion, commitment, and a vision far beyond most imaginations.

To honor Angel and educate others about his life, the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona commissioned StoryFile, an interactive AI platform, to create a virtual Angel Delgadillo experience inside the Visitor Center. Visitors can ask questions and have them answered by 'Angel' in real time. The exhibit was designed by graphic designer, Wayne Bray.

"Angel speaks back to you when you ask him a question. So, all day long Angel can be heard throughout the building chatting with guests. It doesn't get much better



Angel and Vilma Delgadillo, center, are surrounded by family and friends during the ribbon cutting and opening of the Guardian Angel of Route 66 exhibit at the Kingman Visitor Center. Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona photo.

than that," said Nikki Terlesky with the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona.

The exhibit opened in July 2023 with 96-year-old Angel and his wife, Vilma, "cutting the ribbon". They were joined by family and members of the community.

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has become a popular spot for travelers to pull their cars under and snap photos.

By February 2024, another sign is expected to become Kingman's newest landmark near the 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 will be renovated into a sign declaring "Kingman, Heart of Historic Route 66". (Read the separate story about the sign).

The Visitor Center can point travelers to must-see museums and landmarks, including taking "A Walkabout Kingman with Jim Hinckley". Developed by Kingman Main Street in 2022, it is an interactive, self-guided, audio-narrated tour of significant sites around Kingman and Route 66.

Use your mobile device to scan the QR code on the plaque in front of the site to listen to Hinckley, an acclaimed author and historian, talk about each stop. Visit www.Kingman.tours to find the list of points of interest and tour map.

The tour starts at the Kingman Train Depot 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 Center is located at 120 W. Andy Devine Ave. It is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed most major holidays. For more information, visit www.ExploreKingman.com; and follow its Facebook (Kingman Visitor Center) and Instagram (ExploreKingman) pages. ❖

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"Angel was over the moon walking into the exhibit. Angel has this special 'Wow'. He does a slow and kind of quiet wow. He walked around the exhibit with his hand behind his back just taking it all in," Terlesky said. "It was an honor to be able to honor such a special person in such a unique way."

The exhibit includes snapshots into Angel's life story, from infancy to current, as well as highlighting his lifelong accomplishments. It shows details on how he helped the small town of Seligman, as well as photography from the family and current professional shots. The exhibit even includes a mock-up of his barbershop, musical instruments, pool balls and gratitude from those Angel has helped.

"We really wanted the exhibit to be the next best thing to visiting Angel's Barber-shop and Gift Shop in Seligman and meeting Angel in person. We hope the exhibit helps more visitors get the 'Angel Experience' where visitors leave touched and inspired by this unique experience highlighting a one-of-a-kind individual," Terlesky said.

In the back of the exhibit, there is a large screen with a virtual Angel where visitors

can ask him a series of series of questions and hear pre-recorded wisdom from the legend himself on life lessons around marriage, family, and business to encourage you to go for your dreams.

Angel was one of eight children born in Seligman in 1927 in the home his family built. He spent a great amount of time in his father's pool hall and barbershop as a child. In 1933, the family was forced to close their business. His brothers' musical talents were the only thing able to keep them in Seligman during the Great Depression. Angel joined the band as a drummer when he was 12 and went on to play the saxophone when his brothers got drafted, to keep The Delgadillo Family Orchestra going. The family and its original band continued to play together for 80 years.

Angel left to attend barber school in 1947 in Pasadena, California, but returned to Seligman after graduating and finishing his apprenticeship in Williams, Arizona. In 1950, he was able to re-open the family's pool hall and barber shop. He met his wife, Vilma, in 1958, got married a year later, and they went on to have four children together.

In 1978, Seligman, was bypassed by the Interstate 40 and business started to plummet. After sending letters and fighting on



Angel and Vilma Delgadillo cut the ribbon at the opening of Angel of Route 66 exhibit in July 2023. Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona photo.

the towns behalf, in 1982 they finally added Seligman to the interstate signs. In 1987, Angel and other local business owners started the first association like it called "The Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona".

Angel is known for helping others, and his love for his town and his family is prevalent throughout his works. At 96 years young, Angel loves to share his story with others to inspire them to fight for what they believe in.

In November 2023, Angel received the 2023 President's Award of National Leadership in Historic Preservation in Washington D.C. Angel, Vilma and their children traveled to Washington D.C., thanks to the generosity of Krystal Burge, president of the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona.

Kingman Visitor Center is located at 120 W. Andy Devine Ave. The "Angel

Delgadillo: The Guardian Angel of Route 66" is a permanent exhibit that sits outside the entrance to the Route 66 Museum. It is free to the public and is open the same hours as the building, daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the last entry at 3:30 p.m. to allow time for viewing. The Visitor Center is closed on holidays. For more information, visit www.explorekingman.com or call 928-753-6106. ❖



Angel Delgadillo, back center, looks at the exhibit that honors his life and work as the Guardian Angel of Route 66. Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona photo.



Through Storyfile, an interactive AI platform, visitors can ask questions and have them answered by 'Angel' in real time. Shila Marie photo.

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'Alpacas of the Southwest' Welcomes Visitors

By Shila Marie

In 2003, Ron and Anna Nyberg relocated from Las Vegas to a six-acre ranch right off the I-40 between Kingman and Seligman. Once they moved to the ranch, they spent a couple of years learning all they could about alpacas and their fiber.

The interest in these animals started when Ron was young. He got an alpaca sweater as a kid and remembered how warm and comfortable it was. When he met his first alpaca in person, he found out how sweet and gentle of an animal they are.

In 2005, after months of research, the couple started Mohave County's only full-service alpaca ranch named 'Alpacas of the Southwest'. They currently house 28 alpacas, and although they have no employees, they have a pot belly pig that helps with clean-up and a few livestock dogs that guard the ranch and the alpacas.

Ron and Anna's first group of alpacas came from Oregon and one of them named Dezzy is still with them. They name all of their alpacas in relation to the members and songs from the 1960's band "The Beatles". Some of the names they chose are: Hershey, Teddy, Belle, Kosmo, and McCartney. McCartney was the first alpaca baby born on the ranch and still lives there today. All of their alpacas are DNA-registered and microchipped, so Ron and Anna can keep track of their family tree for breeding.

There are some fun facts about alpacas and their



Kosmo, who lives at 'Alpacas of the Southwest'. Alpacas of the Southwest photo.



Some of the alpacas that live at 'Alpacas of the Southwest' in Kingman. Visitors can take a tour and not only learn about these beautiful animals, but feed, pet, and take selfies with them. Alpacas of the Southwest photo.

fiber. Alpacas are a luxurious fleece animal and are docile, quiet, intelligent, and friendly. They are a spiritual animal, they run and play, and each have a personality all their own.

Alpacas are also still somewhat rare, as there are only about 280,000 in the United States. They are in the camel family and a cousin of the llama. Their fleece is

continued on next page

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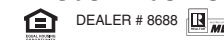
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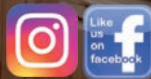
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'Alpacas of the Southwest' owners, Ron and Anna Nyberg, often set up a booth at fairs to promote and sell their products made from alpaca fibers from their ranch. Some of the products are: stuffed toys, socks, blankets, gloves, sweaters, hats, and scarves. Alpacas of the Southwest photo.

continued from previous page

like cashmere and is Lanolin-free, which makes it hypo-allergenic and wearable by anyone. The alpacas' fiber stays dry, odor-free and clean during the summertime; and in the winter, it stays nice and warm. Each alpaca produces anywhere from five to ten pounds of fleece.

'Alpacas of the Southwest' is open to the public for tours, shopping, and learning about these gorgeous animals. The ranch hosts about 1,100 guided tours per year from locals, out of state visitors, and even international travelers. During the tour, visitors come to understand why Ron and Anna love alpacas so much.

The tour takes just over an hour to

complete. During the tour, visitors can feed, pet, and take selfies with the alpacas, and should be prepared to fall in love with these beautiful creatures. The Nyberg's have a large, enclosed barn and are able to give tours during inclement weather.

This is a tour the whole family can enjoy. It's a great stop for people to include on their vacation from Las Vegas to the Grand Canyon, and back. The tour costs \$20 per vehicle, for up to five people. Buses are welcome, with prior arrangement.

Don't pass-up checking-out the on-site store in-person or online – packages ship anywhere in the United States. The store offers multiple products made from the fibers from the ranch's own alpacas. Products include, but are not limited to: rugs, gloves, hats, sweaters, scarves, and the ranch's famous alpaca socks. These socks are the store's most popular item and come in 12 different types.

The ranch is open to visitors all season on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 10:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; but call ahead to confirm, as the schedule can change.

The ranch is located right off Interstate 40, where the big alpaca billboard stands, at 1108 McCarrel Road in Kingman. For questions or specific tour information, call Anna or Ron at 928-225-1450 or 702-338-7806, or visit their website at www.southwestalpaca-tours.com. ❖



These popular socks, like many of the products that 'Alpacas of the Southwest' sells in its store and online, are made from fibers from the ranch's own alpacas. Alpacas of the Southwest photo.



An original gutted Las Vegas wedding chapel sign cabinet (above) will be renovated into a sign with neon lettering and marquee lights. It will resemble the conceptual image (below) and become Kingman's newest landmark. It is expected to be unveiled by Valentine's Day 2024. Kingman Office of Tourism photos.

New Landmark Celebrates 'Heart of Historic Route 66'

By Laura Kassik

Kingman is getting a neon sign that celebrates its motto as the 'Heart of Historic Route 66', thanks to a generous donation from a long-time local resident and business man.

According to Josh Noble, Kingman Tourism Services Manager, the vintage Las Vegas Boulevard Cupid's Wedding Chapel neon sign cabinet came into the possession of the late Scott Dunton, whose last name is behind the 'D' in Mr. D's Route 66 Diner. The Kingman businessman, who passed away in March 2023, was an advocate for Route 66 and Downtown Kingman.

"Mr. Dunton donated it to the City of Kingman before he passed in order to be renovated into Kingman's newest landmark. The new sign will sport neon lettering with marquee lights that will read 'Kingman, Heart of Historic Route 66', a motto Kingman has boasted for

three decades (since 1993)," Noble said.

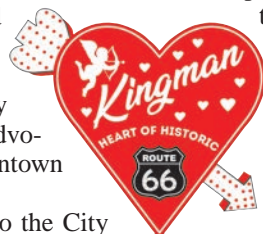
The project was awarded to Legacy Signs & Iron of Kingman. Sign restoration got underway and the infrastructure and sign footer were installed in November 2023.

The sign will be located 200 feet west of the famous Route 66 Drive Thru Shield (120 W. Andy Devine Ave.), directly across Route 66 from Dunton Motors Dream Machines in Downtown Kingman.

A special Valentine's-themed dedication event and inaugural lighting ceremony is being planned for around Valentine's Day 2024.

The Dunton family still owns Mr. D's, 105 E. Andy Devine Ave., but it's been operated by another couple for many years. The family also owns Dunton Motors in Bullhead City and Dream Machines in Kingman.

For more information on Kingman, visit explorekingman.com; and for updates, follow its Instagram and Facebook pages. ❖



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Tri-State Region



(Top left) Bottles are filled with Mead at Hive Five Meadery in Kingman. (Top right) A filled and labeled bottle of Mead is ready to be sold. Shawndy Young photos.

Kingman Couple Fills Niche with Meadery

By Shila Marie

What started as a fun hobby home brewing Mead back in 2017 has turned into a successful, growing business for Kingman couple Matt and Shawndy Young. They saw a need, as well as the potential, and now operate Mohave County's first and only local Meadery.

The name, "Hive Five Meadery" comes from the Young's having three children and being a family of five in the honey hive.

If you are unfamiliar with Mead, to put it simply, Mead is an alcoholic honey wine. Shawndy shared that it is the same process and concept as grape wine, but instead of fermented grape juice, they use fermented, watered down honey. They create many staple flavors including Black Cherry Vanilla, Mango, and Vanilla, but have amazing seasonal flavors as well.

Hive Five Meadery opened in November of 2022 in its current location at 6927 E Brooks Blvd. in Kingman, out in Valle Vista. There, you can enjoy Mead on tap in the tasting room, purchase bottles to take home, as well as leave with some H5M merchandise. Hive Five Mead can also be purchased in Kingman at Kwik Stop, The Cellar Door Beer Wine Bar, Cella Winery, and in Lake Havasu City at SummeRay Wine Bar.

Shawndy and Matt see the need for their product to be closer to their consumer and said they are looking for a change of pace. They plan to move their business to one of the oldest building basements downtown, speakeasy style.

The Meadery is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., or by appointment for private tastings. You can visit their website to order Mead, at hive-fivemeadery.com as well as find them on social media. This is also a good place to stay up to date on any holiday and seasonal events they have to come.

For more information, email Matt or Shawndy at Hive-fivemead@gmail.com or call 928-450-8999. ♦



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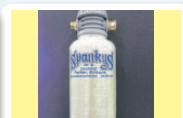
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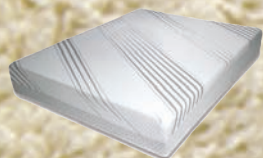


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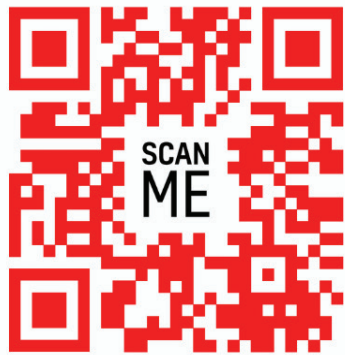


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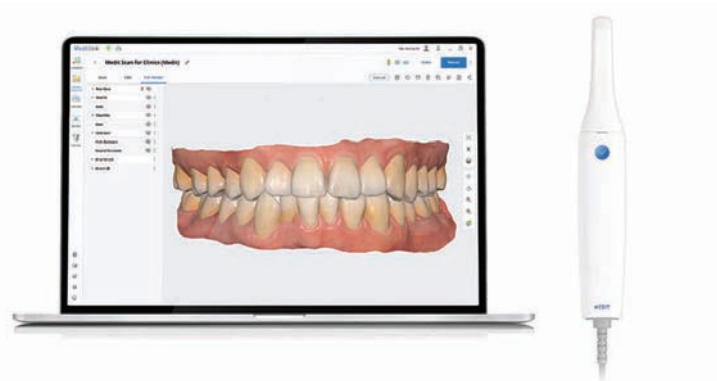
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