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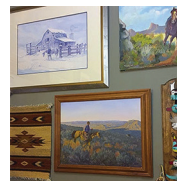
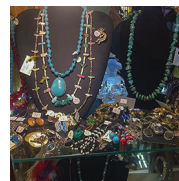
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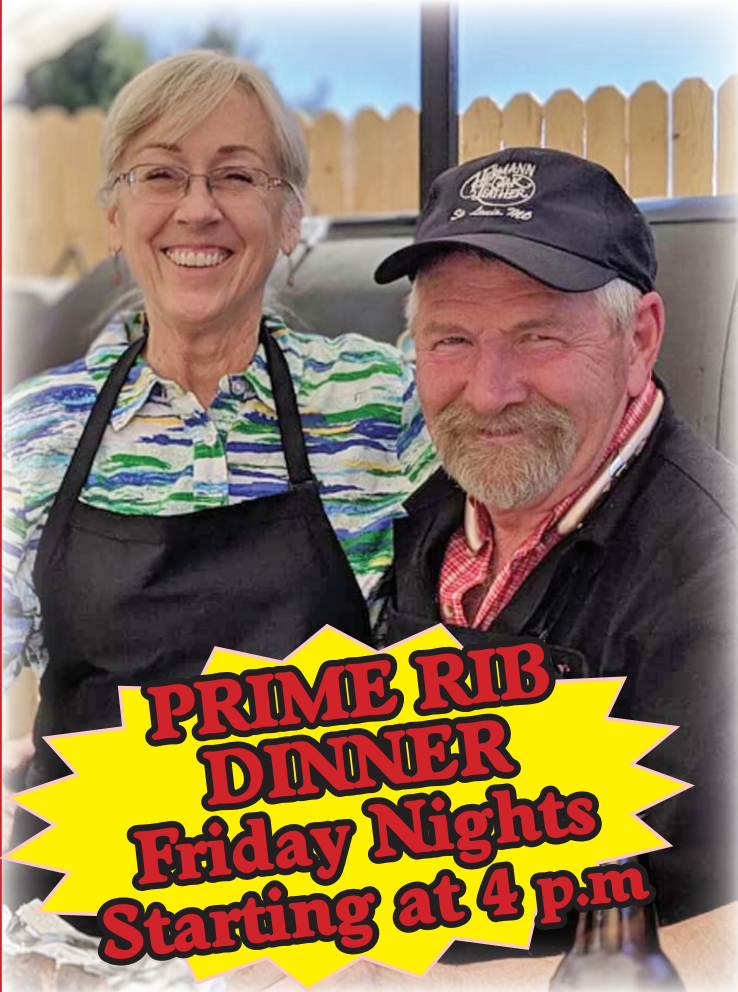


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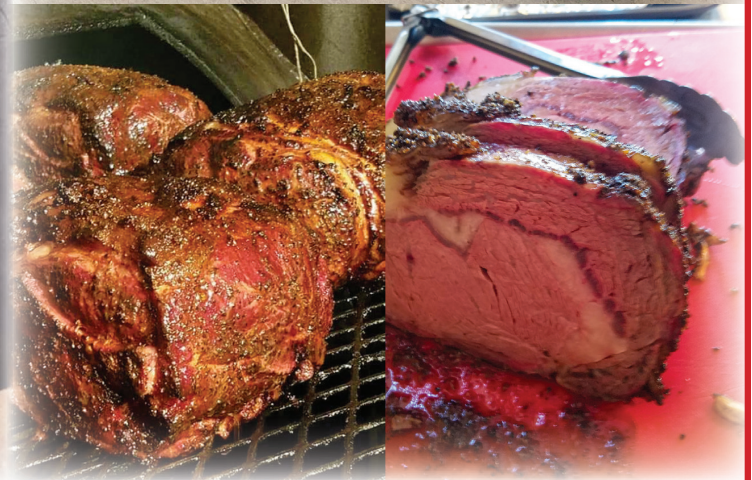


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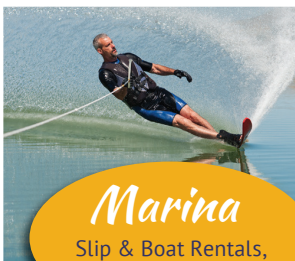


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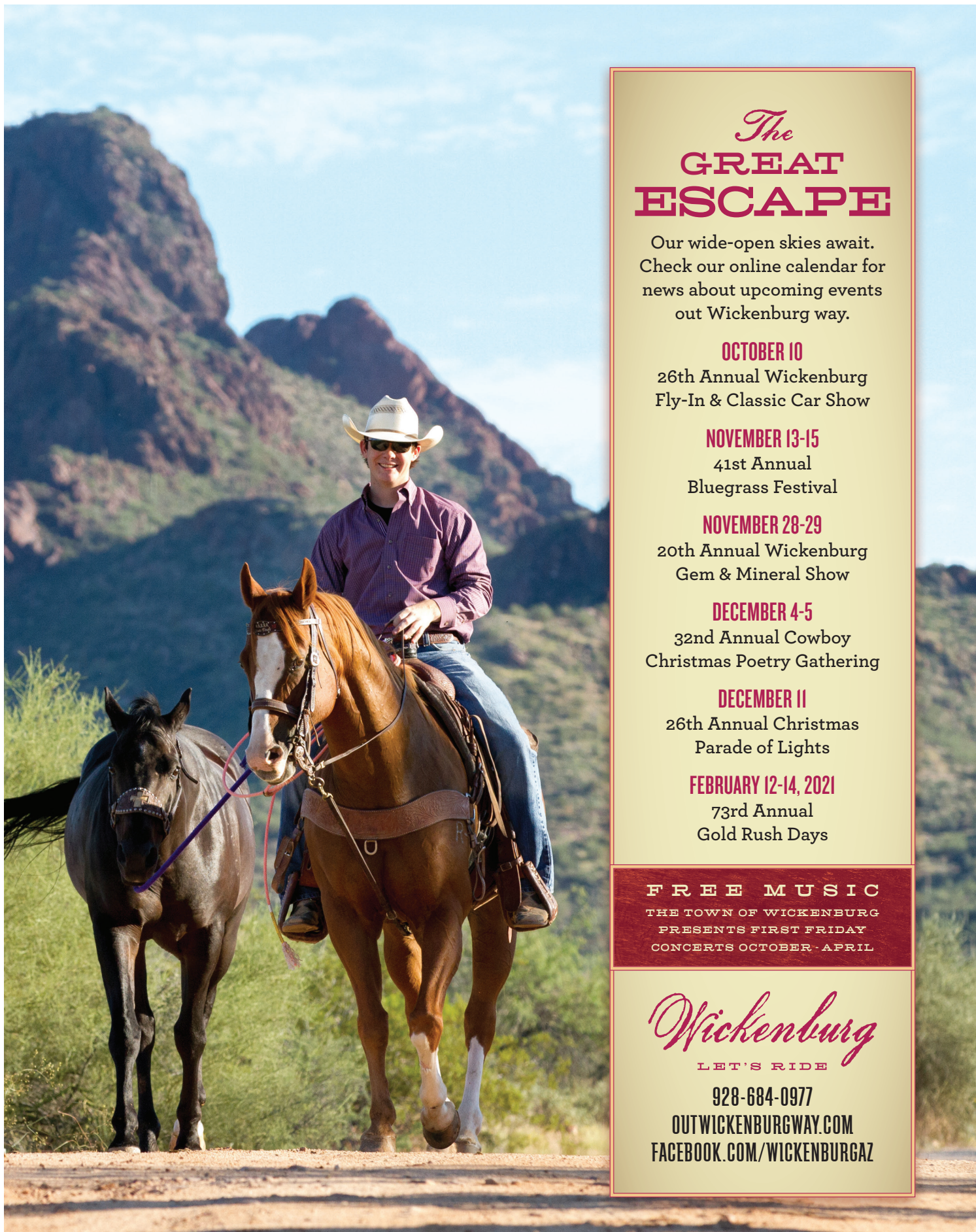
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NOVEMBER 28-29

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DECEMBER 4-5

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DECEMBER 11

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Wickenburg's Official Visitor Guide

Greetings from our Mayor

Howdy!

Welcome to Wickenburg, a town with a proud past and a bright future. From our beginnings as a ranching and gold mining area, to the vibrant community that we are today, Wickenburg is now rich in cultural diversity and steeped in history. Our Western heritage is at the heart of our town and we are proud to offer the many activities available that keep the old west alive.

The best thing about Wickenburg are its people and our Western hospitality. Here you will receive authentic personal service, and our greeting is a "Howdy." Time seems to move slower in these parts and that should give you pause to relax and leisurely enjoy our fine arts and culture institutions, unique shopping and dining experiences, catch a roping and delight in the beauty of our landscape. At the end of the day, take some breathing space to view the splendor of an Arizona sunset.

Step back in time at the Smithsonian-affiliated Desert Caballeros Western Museum, the Old Train Depot, tour the Vulture Mine and stop at the Henry Wickenburg House to hear the story of our namesake. Visit one of our many roping arenas that have made Wickenburg the "Team Roping Capital of the World." Take in an old western movie at the historic Saguaro Movie Theater or a live stage show at the state-of-the-art Del Webb Center for the Performing Arts.

Explore the high Sonoran Desert and set off on one of the



Mayor Rui Pereira

many trails open to horses, ATVs, hikers and bikers. Tee off with a round of golf at one of our top-rated golf courses, and visit the Hassayampa River Preserve for some outstanding bird watching. Enjoy a stay at one of our world-renowned dude ranches or sleep soundly at one of our innkeeper establishments.

As a longtime resident and small business owner, I invite you to experience the warm hospitality of our merchants, specialty shops and restaurants in historic downtown and throughout the community. You will be in-

spired as you witness the friendly, pioneer spirit that permeates our town, making Wickenburg a great place to visit, live, work and raise a family.

Wickenburg's unparalleled quality of life is truly a treasure of the American Southwest. I encourage you to come back, time and again, to discover all that awaits "Out Wickenburg Way."

It is my great honor to welcome you to Wickenburg!

Mayor Rui Pereira

Please note that the pandemic has affected us all, as well as many of our local business and tourist sites. While visiting our friendly western town, please take note that operation hours may have changed due to the pandemic. Check in with our Visitor Center OutWickenburgWay.com or individual websites for current information.



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Museum Admission



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DESERT CABALLEROS WESTERN MUSEUM

westernmuseum.org
21 N. Frontier St.
Wickenburg, AZ 85390
928-684-2272

Desert Caballeros Western Museum

Embark on a genuine adventure at Desert Caballeros Western Museum in historic Wickenburg where world class art collections meet interactive historical exhibitions.

At the core of the Museum's art collection are prized works by George Catlin, Albert Bierstadt, Frederic Remington, Charles Russell, the Cowboy Artists of America and the Taos Society of Artists.

Fine art by Deborah Copenhaver Fellows, Cynthia Rigden, Billy Schenck, Curt Walters and more offer a contemporary perspective.

The Museum's lower level is an immersive tour of 1912 Wickenburg, featuring life-scale scenes and detailed dioramas that depict the history of Wickenburg and the desert frontier.

DCWM's frequently rotating special exhibitions include the annual Cowgirl Up! Art from the Other Half of the West exhibition and sale, featuring more than 60 of the West's best women artists.

The Museum's Cultural Crossroads Learning Center offers dozens of lectures, workshops, and concerts throughout the year, and two Museum Stores offer a unique selection of books and gifts made in Arizona.

Desert Caballeros Western Museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

Visitor Information

The Desert Caballeros Western Museum is located in historic downtown Wickenburg at 21 North Frontier Street.

Current Hours of operation are:

Monday – Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
For more information, call 928-684-2272, email info@westernmuseum.org or visit www.westernmuseum.org.

General admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors (60+) and AAA members, and free for Museum Members, active duty military, and those age 17 and under.



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Depot wins Governor's Award

By Anie Wayman-Trujillo

Frontier Street is a gateway to Wickenburg's historic past. Railroad enthusiasts will relish one of the main focal points of this celebrated thoroughfare, the restored Santa Fe Railroad Depot that now houses the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center.

Recently awarded the prestigious 2020 Governors Heritage Preservation Honor Award for the restoration of the building, this signature railroad depot still sits in its original location and is one of the only depots left in Arizona that remains intact with its wood siding and much of its original configuration.

Dedicated in July of 1895, the station was originally built by the Prescott & Phoenix Railroad and serviced the "Peavine" railroad line that connected Wickenburg to Phoenix in a southern direction and Prescott in a northern direction. The Railroad was sold to the Santa Fe Railroad (Santa Fe) in 1903 and Wickenburg became a financial and cultural hub with the many passenger routes and commerce goods, mining ore and livestock that were transported all over the country. In 1969 the Santa Fe discontinued its daily run between Phoenix and Williams, and like so many of the old train stations, it was left with an uncertain fate.

The Town of Wickenburg acquired the station from the Santa Fe Railroad in 1984. The depot was restored and dedicated as the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce in 1987, and the chamber maintains it as the official Wickenburg Visitor's Center.

Understanding the historical significance, The Wickenburg Chamber expressed an early interest in the building. With the help of long-time Wickenburg patrons, George and Vi Wellik, Santa Fe officials were convinced of the importance of saving the building and the Town was awarded a \$1 a year lease for the land, along with the Santa Fe agreeing to donate the building for the use of the Chamber and Visitor Center.

For over 30 years the Chamber of Commerce has called the depot home, and through multiple fund raisers and grants has been able to take the neglected building, enhance and preserve it.

Careful planning was taken to make sure that origi-



nal fixtures and old wood from the loading dock and walls were utilized in the final design.

Asbestos was removed from the attic and insulation, heating and cooling were placed in the ceiling and then covered with a wooden sub roof.

The wooden railroad tie floors that have been in the warehouse since it was built were removed cleaned varnished and returned as flooring. Even the old scale that was used to weigh luggage, packages and commercial goods, was taken out and then put back where it was originally located and in order to preserve the essence of the Warehouse, the old "graffiti" signatures that were etched into the wooden walls by years' worth of railroad workers was preserved.

The final product is something for the residents of Wickenburg to be proud of and worthy of the Governor's award.

"The 123-year old landmark is a beautiful and historic attraction for our residents and visitors to enjoy and appreciate," said Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center Executive Director Julie Brooks. "The restoration phase is long overdue and expensive. However, the final project will last for generations to come".

A wonderful complement to the depot is adjacent to the building – Engine No. 761 and Drover Caboose. Atkinson, Topeka, and Santa Fe Engine No. 761 was one of the workhorses when the main line was built in 1890. The 1900 series Southern Pacific Drover Caboose was purchased by the Wellik Foundation in 2003, and is managed by the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce.

When visiting the Santa Fe Depot and visitor's center, be sure to pick up the brochure "Walking Tour of Wickenburg, Arizona" to see the many more historic buildings and bronze sculptures around this wonderful piece of history called Wickenburg.

Celebrating 20 years of world-class performances

Country, western, bluegrass, folk and classical music as well as comedy and contemporary dance are only a few of the genres featured each year at the Del E. Webb Center for the Performing Arts in Wickenburg. This 600-seat, state-of-the-art performance venue features artists that celebrate the town's unique diversity. "We present something for everyone at the Webb Center and pride ourselves on offering access to world-class live, performing arts in our rural community," commented Stephanie Fornoff, the theater's Director of Marketing & Box Office Operations since 2002.

Presenting over 30 professional performances each season to approximately 15,000 audience members from Wickenburg and surrounding communities, the Webb Center reflects on its 20 years in operation and is grateful for the continued support it has received. The Webb Center started as a grassroots effort between a group of local arts supporters and the Wickenburg Unified School District.

A not-for-profit foundation was established and worked diligently to raise funds from local and state-

wide resources including the Del E. Webb Foundation that was headquartered in Wickenburg and led by RH Johnson at the time. A \$1.1 million matching gift from the Del E. Webb Foundation was the financial investment the group, including original board members Kevin Cloe, Royce Kardinal Ferree, Laura Bovee Lemon, Sheila Kollasch and Allen Torgerson needed to get started. "RH Johnson was a visionary and saw the potential economic and cultural impact a theatre would have on Wickenburg," stated Cathy Weiss-Pereira, Executive Director since 2003.

Combined with funds from a school bond, a professional theater was constructed in 2000 as an integral part of the Wickenburg High School campus. In recognition of the generous contribution made by the Del E. Webb Foundation, the theatre was honored to assume the name, Del E. Webb Center for the Performing Arts. The organization continues to raise funds through grants and donations enabling the venue to remain on the cutting edge of sound and lighting technology and to expand its performance capabilities.

The Webb Center opened for its inaugural season in

the fall of 2001 and has successfully developed a body of work that includes public performances, educational outreach opportunities, after school classes, a summer arts camp and an extensive artist-in-residency program.

"The Webb Center has grown and thrived over the years; taking programming risks, engaging youth and adult members of the greater community in live arts

experiences, and remaining innovative and resilient in challenging times," reflected Weiss-Pereira. "We are a nationally recognized organization because of the support of Wickenburg residents, businesses and visitors."

Tickets and information about the 2020-2021 Season are available by calling the Webb Center's Box Office at (928)684-6624 or by visiting dewpac.org.



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Cowgirl Up! Art Show & Sale

Desert Caballeros Western Museum is proud to host the 15th annual 'Cowgirl Up! Art from the Other Half of the West' Invitational Exhibition and Sale.

For 15 years, Cowgirl Up! has attracted emerging and established women artists from all over the West who depict the Western lifestyle in painting, drawing and sculpture. Each year, more than 300 applicants are reviewed; this year, 60 were selected as representative of the West's top female fine art voices today for the largest exhibition yet.

Cowgirl Up! is much more than a show. It's a cross-roads where artists, collectors and art enthusiasts come together to explore what it means to be a Western artist. CU! artists ride the range of techniques, styles, and mediums, from traditional to contemporary. All of the art is available for purchase, meaning that each sale supports the endeavors of women artists working today and of the Desert Caballeros Western



Laurie J. Lee, "Elk Tooth Finery."

Museum. CU! art can be bought throughout the run of the exhibition at the Museum or online at westernmuseum.org. The Exhibition and Sale has been extended through November 29, 2020.

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Wickenburg Community Hospital

Pleasant Harbor: A place to keep cool and have fun close to home

Wickenburg area residents looking for a place to cool off and have fun while still keeping a safe distance during the COVID-19 pandemic don't have to venture very far for outdoor fun.

Pleasant Harbor at Lake Pleasant is just a short drive down State Route 74 from Wickenburg and is not far from Phoenix. The one-stop lake-side destination is located in Peoria and is open to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and may be an ideal spot for people looking for a staycation.

Pleasant Harbor is a full service marina. It features Dillon's Bayou restaurant, boat and slip rentals, as well as hydro flying, Jet Ski, kayak, paddle boat, and sail boat rentals.

The marine is home to H2-Whoa! – the world's largest floating water slide and is home to The Phoenix, a 150-passenger boat cruise providing daily tours of majestic Lake Pleasant.

Pleasant Harbor also includes an RV resort with 254 full hook up sites, 60 partial hook ups and dry camping sites. It also includes a club house, pool and Jacuzzi, bocce ball, basketball, shuffleboard, horseshoes, laundry facilities, showers, convenience store and picnic grounds.

For more information about Pleasant Harbor RV Resort and Marina, visit www.pleasantharbor.com or call Pleasant Harbor RV Resort at 623-235-6140 or the Pleasant Harbor Marina at 623-235-6130.



Ben's Saddlery

A photograph of a brown leather saddle with blue stirrups, resting on a wooden stand.

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A photograph of the interior of Ruth's Bunkhouse, showing various western-themed items like horseshoes, a windmill, and a ladder.

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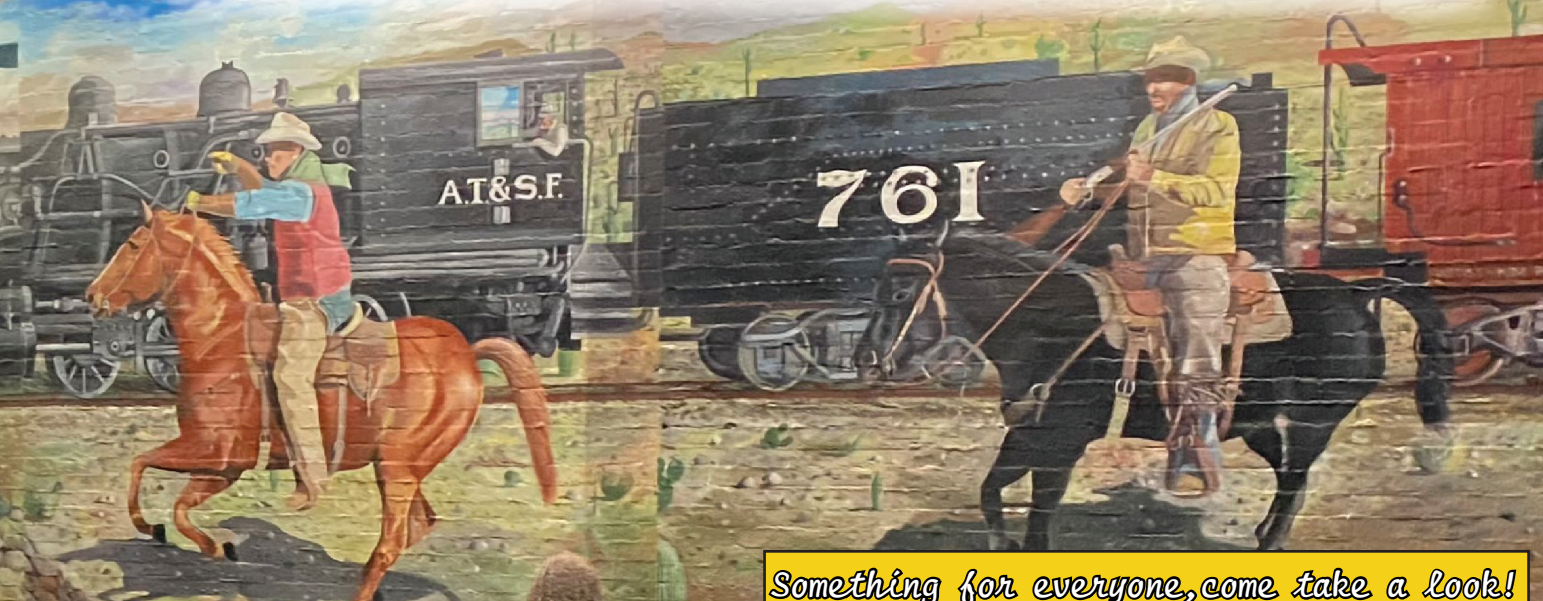
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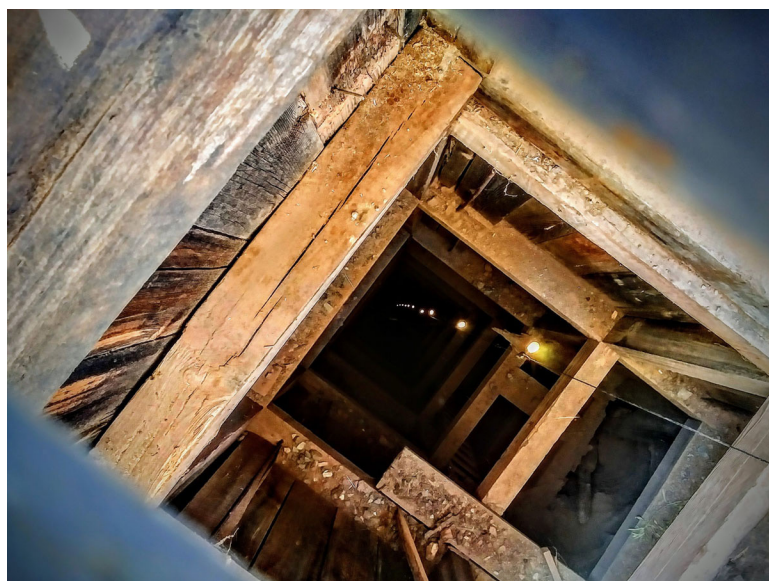
Ghosts & Gold

By Anie Wayman-Trujillo

There are ghost towns, and there are towns that have Ghosts, Vulture City Ghost Town, lying 12 miles south of Wickenburg is lucky enough to claim both.

Established around 1863 after gold was discovered at the Vulture Mine, the town at its prime boasted around 5,000 residents. The mine itself was one of the highest producing gold strikes in Arizona, but finally closed its doors in 1942 after the War Production Board ordered the closing of all non-essential mines. Shortly after that Vulture City was abandoned and the town was left to decay in the desert sun. Although the mine did reopen on different occasions, Vulture City sat mostly vacant until 2017 when owners Rod Prat and Robin Moriarty imagined a new beginning for this city lost to time.

Working almost nonstop, Prat, Moriarty and their



crew have spent the last three years cleaning up the area, restoring the rundown buildings and creating a unique setting for meetings, weddings, photoshoots, as well as providing an educational site and museum where visitors can glimpse into a time capsule of days gone by.

Wanting to provide a further educational component and museum atmosphere to the abandoned town, Prat and Moriarty have recently teamed up with historian Gary Carter to



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more accurately catalog, code and place the many different artifacts that have been found on the property.

Newer displays such as the Nicols Raise Exhibit are now open to provide a unique look into a mining operation. Much like a shaft, a raise begins underground and is pushed up through the surface. This raise was put in at around 135 feet and provided connections to other underground shafts and doubled as an air shaft. The raise has now been secured and a metal grate and awning has been added so visitors can stand above the raise and look downward 170 feet into history.

Always interested in artifacts that may have come from the mine, Prat and Moriarty were recently contacted by an individual who indicated they had two gold bars that had been in their family for about 70 years that were stamped “Vulture Mine.” Wanting to better understand whether or not the bars could actually be from the Mine, testing was done to determine the mineral compound of the bars as well as research into the possibility of gold bars being produced by the mine. Recent information provided by that testing indicates the bars do contain the a similar mineral compound attributed to gold that had been extracted from the mine and that these bars could very possibly have come from the Vulture Mine and be well over 150 years old. Moriarty says they are going to work with the individual on how to proceed, but will be working to obtain more information and pictures that can exhibited in future displays.

Along with creating a more educational side of Vulture City, the ghosts that reside there are fast becoming a major nationwide attraction. Being billed as a “ghost town so haunted it has its own paranormal team,” Jay and Marie Yates, from the Travel Channel’s “Haunted Case Files” will be hosting several different events throughout the fall and spring starting with Ghosts Legends and Tours on September 25th and an Overnight Ghost Hunt Lockdown scheduled for October 9th.

Other tours in the works will be a meteor and star gazing event in December and photography workshops. Moriarty also points out that although most happenings are being held outside, protocols for Covid-19 are being met and they have requested that even the Ghosts wear masks when necessary.

For more information on the many different events being held at Vulture City Ghost Town check out their website www.vultureminetours.com



Visit the Henry Wickenburg House

A wonderful piece of Wickenburg history beckons visitors just a few steps from downtown. The former home of the town's founder stands intact, and lovingly restored by the Wickenburg Historical Preservation Society.

Located at 225 S. Washington St., the home was built by Henry Wickenburg in 1903. A single man, he lived there, near the railroad tracks, until his death in 1905. As the story goes, some neighborhood children discovered him dead from a gunshot wound to the head, under a mesquite tree west of the house. He was buried nearby. Folklore still argues whether it was murder or suicide.

John and Mary Boetto bought the three-room house in 1913, enclosed the front porch, and added a kitchen and bathroom. The house remained in the Boetto family for 86 years.

Having fallen into disrepair, the home was purchased in 2000 by the Town of Wickenburg. Around that time, former mayor Larry "Roach" Roberts and Cindy Thrasher became the original incorporators of the Wickenburg Historical Preservation Society, which took an interest in preserving this piece

of Wickenburg's history. In 2006, the Society purchased the Boetto house, as well as the nearby historic cemetery, where Henry Wickenburg is buried.

Since then, the Society has restored the home, creating a beautiful showcase of yesteryear, along with many artifacts from the period when the house was a home. The Henry Wickenburg Historic Home and cemetery are each listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The project itself, and Thrasher as an individual, each earned the Arizona Governor's Heritage Honor Award and the restoration was named Project of the Year.

A walk through the old home carries on the memories of the Boetto family and Henry Wickenburg, and reminds visitors of a simpler time. Located on the edge of a mesquite thicket, the property is now landscaped with native cactus, wildflowers and a manicured yard. The Henry Wickenburg Historic House is open for tours during Gold Rush Days (second full weekend in February) 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Saturday after the parade. To arrange a tour any other time, call (928) 684-5603. Visit www.wickenburghistory.com for more information.

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- 10** Color Me Wickenburg 5k Color Event
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- 23** Fall Movie in Stone Park
www.wickenburgaz.org

NOV

- 6** First Fridays on Frontier Street Free Concert Series
www.wickenburgaz.org/firstfridays
- 7** Tour de Ranch Mountain Bike Race
www.wickenburgaz.org/tourderanch
www.flyingranch.com
- 28** Christmas Tree Lighting
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DEC

- 4** First Fridays Holiday Music Walk Free Concert Series
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FEB

- 5** First Fridays Love Birdies at the Country Club Free Concert Series
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MARCH

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Frontier Street in downtown Wickenburg is graced by Engine 761 and a Drover Caboose.

A must-see for train lovers

In the late 1800s, Wickenburg waited about 30 years, to get its railroad through town. That railroad is still active in 2020, and its history is lovingly preserved right downtown.

A railroad became a necessity after the discovery of gold by Henry Wickenburg in 1863, giving rise to the lucrative Vulture Mine. In the early days, gold ore from the mine had to be transported 700 miles by wagons to San Francisco. Eventually, that journey was reduced to 70 miles when the Southern Pacific Railroad entered Arizona from California in Yuma. Wagons carried gold from the Vulture Mine to a new line in Maricopa, Arizona.

It wasn't until January 16, 1895, that a branch line connected Wickenburg with Phoenix, Prescott and other parts of the country. That line was called the "Peavine Line." The railroad soon became the center of life in Wickenburg.

By July of that year, a depot was constructed to shelter passengers, house a telegraph office, Wells Fargo office and freight on Railroad Avenue, now Frontier Street. It soon became the heart of social life and spawned businesses and homes in what is now downtown. A symbol of the importance of the railroad can now be found with the display of the retired Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe steam locomotive No. 761 and 1900 Series Southern Pacific Drover Caboose next to the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce in the old depot building.

No. 761 was built in April 1900 by Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia, Pa., as part of a group of 10 locomotives. It was a large mainline freight locomotive, used all over the AT&SF system. It ended its career with AT&SF as a switch engine in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

No. 761 was donated to the Town of Wickenburg on May 24, 1955. It was moved to its current location next to the historic train depot in 2003. That was also the year the caboose was purchased by the Wellik Foundation from the State of Nevada Railroad Museum in Boulder, Nevada. The caboose was at one time painted yellow. Its interior paint is original. Historically, the "Drover Car" was behind the cattle car. Cowboys stayed in the caboose and managed the herd.

Wickenburg's caboose ran the route between Montana and California. Near No. 761 and the caboose is a lifesize sculpture of a teacher arriving in Wickenburg by train. Visitors can read about the history of the railroad in Wickenburg and information about the train and caboose from panels next to the displays.

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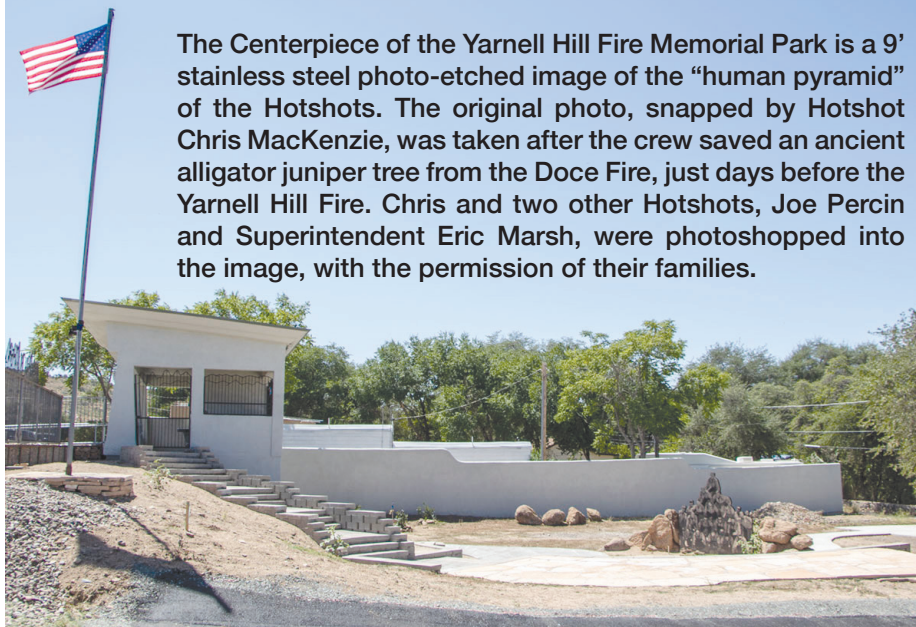
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The Centerpiece of the Yarnell Hill Fire Memorial Park is a 9' stainless steel photo-etched image of the "human pyramid" of the Hotshots. The original photo, snapped by Hotshot Chris MacKenzie, was taken after the crew saved an ancient alligator juniper tree from the Doce Fire, just days before the Yarnell Hill Fire. Chris and two other Hotshots, Joe Percin and Superintendent Eric Marsh, were photoshopped into the image, with the permission of their families.



Yarnell Hill Fire Memorial Park

By Anie Wayman-Trujillo

In the community of Yarnell, Arizona, the Yarnell Hill Fire Memorial Park (YH-FMP) sits as a tribute to the brave 19 wild-land firefighters who on June 30th, 2013, lost their lives fighting to save the Yarnell community from a devastating wild fire, and as tribute to a community that rose above the ashes while facing insurmountable odds of rebuilding to become an inspiration to other communities facing the same adversity.

Ignited by a dry lightning strike on June 28, 2013, the Yarnell Hill Fire turned deadly on June 30, 2018 when wind-fueled flames overtook the town, destroying 127 homes and taking the lives of 19 of the 20 Granite Mountain Hot Shot crew. Since that time, the restorative process within the community has been challenging. Loss of homes, businesses and incomes for those who live in this small community of just over 600 residents and how to rebuild, was overwhelming. Knowing they needed to take matters into their own hands, the Yarnell Community Recovery Group was formed just days after the fire. As part of the recovery process, the group went to work immediately forming relationships with governmental and private entities and coordinating **recovery efforts** to raise funds and, as their web site reads, "identify the unmet needs of the residents and business and to identify ways to meet those needs".

Five years later after most of the recovery funds had been distributed and rebuilding efforts were well under way, the remaining

funds were designated to build a Memorial Park in Yarnell. As a volunteer and donation driven project, the purpose of the Park was not only to honor the 19 Firefighters who perished, but also acknowledge the many other fire departments and agencies that were instrumental in fighting the fire and to honor those who had lost their homes, belongings and memories.

The Park was fashioned to allow for commemorative bricks to be purchased which would help raise additional funds needed to complete the Park. Those bricks would then be incorporated into a landscape design developed by the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. Along with the landscaping a two story building that houses an ADA compliant public restroom was constructed and a large photo-etched metal image of the "Human Pyramid" of the Hotshots was placed as a focal point, along with an Amphitheater, several benches and metal educational signage. With many of the features for the Park almost complete, in May of 2020, the Arizona State Parks and Trails awarded the Yarnell Hill Recovery Group, (now doing business as a 501C3 organization known as the Yarnell Area Resource Group (YARG)), funding that will enable the Park to be completed by the fall of 2020 and then overseen by the citizens of Yarnell through YARG.

"We are so proud to receive this contract from the State" says Florence Lechner YARG Board President. "It will help us finish the Park, maintain the restroom, and help facilitate the Yarnell Fire Department to continue to provide the Shuttle Service

to and from the Granite Mountain Hot Shot Memorial Park, which is located just southwest of the community.

Along with the original design features, the Park in Yarnell will now have an enclosed monitor that will display a video of the actual trail that comprises the Granite Mountain Hot Shot Memorial Park. "We are a partnership with the Granite Mountain Hot Shot Memorial Park and Trail and wanted to allow people, who for one reason or another are not able to hike that somewhat difficult trail, to experience that trail and the tribute it brings to the Fallen 19" states Lechner. The YHFMP is located at the corner of Highway 89 and Shrine drive, directly across the street from the Yarnell Fire Department. For those who are wanting to visit the Granite Mountain Hot Shot Memorial State Park and Trail, the shuttle service to and from that Park is located at the Fire Department. As parking is limited at the Granite Mountain Hot Shot Trail, visitors are encouraged to park at the Fire Department or YHFMP, visit the park in town and shop the local stores and restaurants before or after riding the shuttle. Lechner also points out that once the improvements are complete, funds will still be needed to upkeep the YHFMP and commemorative bricks are still available for purchase. For more information on the Yarnell Hill Fire Memorial Park or to donate visit their website at www.yarnellarearesourcegroup.org for more information on the shuttle service to and from the Granite Mountain Hot Shot Memorial Park visit www.azstateparks.com/hotshots/explore/shuttle

Go on the Walking Tour of Wickenburg.. Grab a bite to eat and shop along the way!

Starting out at the corner of Yavapai and Frontier street. Here, you'll find the beautifully restored 1895 Santa Fe Railroad Depot, alongside a steam engine from 1890 and an intriguing red caboose from yesteryear. Step inside the depot for a look around and pick up a Walking Tour Guide. This helpful little pamphlet includes a map of historic downtown Wickenburg and 31 points of interest, all within easy walking distance of the depot. (Of course you can drive it as well.)

Along the way, you'll find

attractions such as the old brick post office where settlers arrived on horseback to pick up mail. The building houses a dry cleaner and laundry service now, but it's easy to see the original bricks and imagine the hitching rail out front. The old livery stable around the other side of the block was built in 1890 and today houses several businesses along Tegner Street. With the help of the guide, the discerning eye can still make out the angle of the building's corners, which was transformed from livery stable to car dealership and gas station as times changed.

You're sure to meet lots of friendly faces inside the shops full of items and furniture made by local artisans. Restaurants can be found all along the way as you enjoy your walking tour. Some other friendly faces are those of the painted bronzes along the sidewalks. These folks represent actual people in early Wickenburg. Start out with the school teacher near the depot. Having just stepped off the train in Wick-



enburg, she is looking down the street hoping to find her way to the school and the family she will be staying with as she takes on her new job. This is one of nine bronzes listed on the walking tour. The walking tour brochure is available in printed form at various businesses around town, as well as at the depot, which houses Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center.




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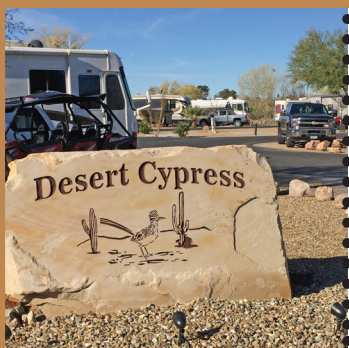
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Garcia Little Red Schoolhouse

The sounds of school children playing and working on lessons have long since faded from inside the four walls of the little red schoolhouse in downtown Wickenburg, but the building has been reinvented many times over the years, and remains a lively community focal point.

“Our goal is to make this building available for community use,” said Charilyn Keintz, who leads the Wickenburg Children’s Cultural Organization’s board of directors.

The WCO owns the building that was constructed on land owned by Don Ygnacio Garcia. Garcia donated the land to the Wickenburg School District. The building was constructed at a cost of \$1,600 and opened in January 1906 with an enrollment of 58 students. A section of the building depicts a classroom setting with desks and other items on loan from the Desert Caballe-

ros Western Museum. The Garcia Little Red Schoolhouse was used by the school district for more than 75 years until it was sold to a local bank in 1984. It operated as a branch of the bank until 2003. The bank then turned over ownership to the WCO, which has worked to restore the interior building to its original roots. Although the building currently depicts a one-room schoolhouse, school board minutes indicated it operated as a two-room structure at one point in its history. Technology upgrades include an audio/video system with a television and larger screen for groups to use the building for seminars and other community events.

The schoolhouse has been home to music lessons. After the light parade annually at Christmastime, Santa Claus makes an appearance there, and the community is invited in for cookies and hot chocolate.



The building has also been open for tours during the week, although that was temporarily halted because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upgrades are underway in the old schoolyard. A new basketball court has been built – the only one in downtown Wickenburg. An Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant bathroom and storage room are being constructed. Lights are being installed, picnic tables are planned and an ADA-com-

pliant ramp from the patio to the side of the steps is being built. The project is being funded by a grant through the Wellik Foundation and donations from the WCO board of directors.

The school house, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is operated entirely on donations.

Donations can be made to the WCO at 245 N. Tegner St., Wickenburg, AZ 85390.

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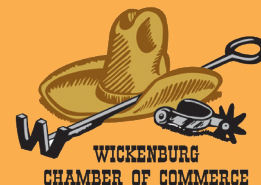
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The Hassayampa River Preserve

One thing that makes a town unique is the natural open space that surrounds and winds through it. Wickenburg has no shortage of that. Visitors are drawn to the brilliance of the daytime desert and the majestic and tranquil atmosphere at night. The Sonoran Desert boasts a delightful array of plants and animals; in fact, it is considered to have the highest plant biodiversity of deserts worldwide. From scrub terrain to riparian corridors to parks graced by towering trees, Wickenburg offers the best of the desert, including nearly year-round recreation-worthy weather.

Wickenburg is lucky to have a river and thriving riparian corridor, with a visitor center, just four miles southeast of town on Highway 60. Managed by the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, the Hassayampa River Preserve is a hotspot for naturalists, hikers, birders, curious kids, artists, photographers, and anyone looking for some peaceful shade. Here, the rarity of running water in the desert pairs nicely with the mesmerizing surprise that much of the river flows underground as it courses beyond Wickenburg. The granite bedrock domes up for the five miles along the preserve, forcing the river to the surface and allowing a cottonwood-willow forest that supports a unique collection of wildlife including nearly 300 bird species.

Rivers have shaped the history of the west. Prehistoric Hohokam tribes and Yavapai tribes have both called the banks of this river home; Hassayampa is an anglicized version of the Yavapai name for the river, which loosely means “river that runs upside down”. Artifacts from these cultures, as well as from European and American peoples, can be viewed at the preserve visitor center along with information about the ecology of the area. The property became Brill Ranch in the late 1800s - a cattle ranch and farm that supplied food products to Vulture Mine and nearby settlements.

Wickenburg is downright western in many ways, and one of its biggest claims to fame is that it has been and still is a highly popular dude ranch destination. The 1900s inspired a series of dude ranches at the preserve property and

an adjacent railroad station called Allah Depot. In 1913, the Garden of Allah, located at the property where the preserve now stands, became the first dude ranch of Wickenburg and was owned by John and Frances Sanger. The owners cleverly named it after a popular novel of the time, and although the novel was not set in Arizona, it did describe a natural oasis complete with palm trees – just like the palms at the dude ranch that provided shade for wrangler and horse alike. The palms are still there and can be seen from the visitor’s center and picnic area. It has recently been determined that these California Fan Palms on the preserve property are likely transplants from the Castle Hot Springs area and there is evidence that this population is native, like those in the Kofa Mountains of southwest Arizona.

Most recently, the Lykes family owned the property and maintained it as Shady River Palm Lake RV Park until The Nature Conservancy stepped in to preserve the unique habitat and river in 1986. The attractions include a native plants garden, regular classes and guided walks, seven trails of varying difficulty, and Palm Lake, a manmade lake that hosts aquatic wildlife. In 2017, The Nature Conservancy donated the Preserve to become part of the Maricopa County Parks system.

Nestled amongst its surrounding desert hills, it is certainly a not-to-be-missed natural wonder and has helped make Wickenburg what it is today.

The preserve is open Wednesday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (trails close at 4:30 p.m.) from mid-October through mid-May. Summer hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (trails close at 3:30 p.m.) from mid-May through mid-October. The restrooms adjacent to the main parking lot are wheelchair accessible and Palm Lake Loop trail is barrier-free, accommodating wheelchairs and strollers. Dogs, horses, swimming/wading, hunting, off-road vehicles, and boating are not allowed. Two shaded picnic areas are available. Smoking is allowed only in the parking lot. There is a \$5 entrance fee, paid at the Visitor Center; children 12 and under are free. Maricopa County Parks annual passes are available and cover everyone in your vehicle. For further information call

928.684.2772; calendar of events at www.maricopacountyparks.net/park-locator/hassayampa-river-preserve/.



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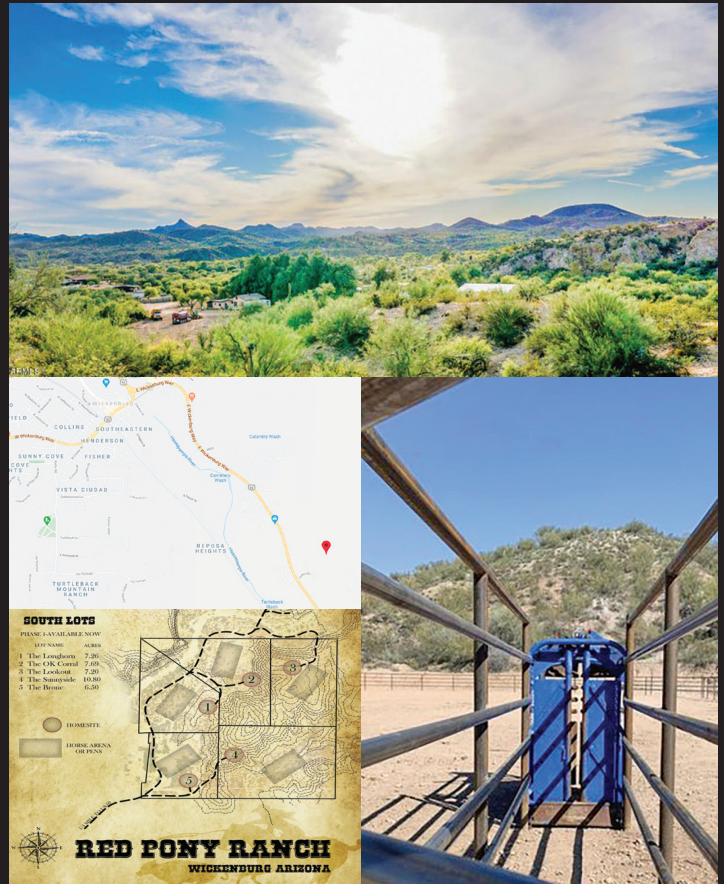
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