

TONTO TRIBUNE

Brought to you by The Tonto Basin Chamber of Commerce

JULY 2024



Nourishing Essential Creative Social Connections

Arts n' Meals Senior Art Event Tonto Basin

Join the Arts n' Meals monthly event for a morning of socializing while creating a variety of ceramic art projects and enjoying a meal together. The event meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Tonto Basin Chamber of Commerce Building. There is no cost to attend and no previous ceramic experience is necessary. Our next meeting is July 18th at 10:00am.



Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens (PGCSC) created the Arts n' Meals program. The program came out of a need to combat social isolation, which was magnified for older adults during the pandemic. PGCSC recognized that the most vulnerable population are the rural older adults that have minimum opportunities for social engagement. Research shows that social isolation and loneliness can have a detrimental impact on your health and well-



being. In fact, studies by Julianne Holt-Lunstad at Brigham Young University found that prolonged social isolation is as harmful to health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Given this fact, they knew their older adults were

~ Continued on page 3





Tonto Basin Chamber Of Commerce

Contact Information:

Phone:

1-833-4TONTOB (833-486 6862)

Email:

Info@TontoBasinChamber.org

Website:

www.TontoBasinChamber.org

Newsletter:

Info@TontoBasinChamber.org

Building Rental Reservations:

(833) 486-6862 Option 4

Online booking form. Please visit our website.

Chamber monthly meetings every 3rd Tuesday at 5:30pm

Monthly Display Ad Rates

DUE DATE: FRI, JULY 20th

Business Card.....	\$20.00
3 in.....	\$25.00
¼ Page	\$40.00
½ Page	\$60.00
Full Page	\$100.00

Color pricing available.

Chamber Update

Well its been a slow month. Not much going on here at the Chamber, just business as usual. Painting of the building was delayed due to an injury and a planned trip. We should be starting the second week of July. **Meetings are the 3rd Tues Monthly.** Please come and see if you can help. Thank You. *Jeff D.*

WANTED

Chamber Board Applicants

Contact: Jeff D. at 1-8334TONTOB

Serving as a board member allows you to contribute to something larger than yourself. It provides a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction that comes from making a positive impact on your community. Working alongside like-minded individuals who share a common goal can be

rewarding and create a sense of camaraderie. It's important to carefully consider the time commitment and responsibilities associated with being a chamber Board Member. It's recommended to thoroughly understand the expectations and requirements before making the commitment.

JUNE CROSSWORD SOLUTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
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48	A	N	T	S	R	I	D								
50	B	I	K	I	N	I	T	O	M	O	R	R	O	W	
58	A	L	I	T	N	A	O	M	I	E	I	N	E		
62	R	A	T	E	E	L	S	I	E	S	L	A	P		
65	E	Y	E	R	L	A	S	T	S	S	E	N	T		

~ "Arts & Meals" Continued from page 1

experiencing social isolation and that they needed to bring them an activity that would be accessible, inclusive, and engaging.

PGCSC contracted ArtMobile-AZ, Inc a nonprofit arts in health organization located in Casa Grande, AZ to facilitate the Arts n' Meals program in rural communities with minimum activities for older adults.

Tonto Basin, AZ was one of the communities chosen. In June of 2023, Lisa Swanson the director of ArtMobile-AZ, facilitated the first Arts n' Meals event at the Tonto Basin Chamber of



Commerce building, however no one came to the first event. PGCSC did not give up and continued to send Lisa. One year later the number of returning participants has steadily grown to 23 Tonto Basin older adult residents who recently attended the June 20th, 2024 event.

Lisa is a ceramic artist and thrilled to discover the rich heritage of the Salado indigenous potters living in the Tonto Basin area hundreds of years ago in 1200-1400ad. She appreciates being able to bring access to learning and creating with clay to the Tonto Basin senior participants at these events.

After each art activity at the event the group enjoys a meal/lunch together. Although meals can certainly be eaten alone, and often are by our older adults, they are generally viewed as an opportunity for social interaction. Did you know that the word companion means "with bread." From the beginning of history food and eating have connected people, a mealtime with someone gives one a feeling of belonging. In all cultures, eating a meal and creating art together is seen as a relationship building event. So, for older adults PGCSC has created this mealtime event and paired it with a meaningful, fun creative arts engagement.

Thanks to PGCSC's Arts n' Meals program



many isolated older adults finally have an opportunity to participate in an activity that is meaningful to them and reaches out to them directly in their own communities.



Senior Art Event: Tonto Basin

THURSDAY, JULY 18TH @ 10:00AM

Join the ARTS n' Meals for a morning of socializing while creating a variety of Creative Arts Projects and enjoying a meal together.

There is no cost to attend, however **you must register**

Location: Chamber of Commerce

Address: 45675 N. Hwy 188 Tonto Basin, AZ 85553

Date and Time: Thursday, July 18th @ 10:00 am



FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER, CALL OR EMAIL LISA:

520-858-5136 or 520-836-2758

Lisaswanson@artmobilevan.org or info@pgcsc.org



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Arizona Vinyl Signs & Graphics
Andy & Cindy Kofile
(928) 474-4121
www.PaysonSignsShop.com

Arizona Vinyl got involved with the Tonto Basin Chamber of Commerce over a year ago when we answered a call on Facebook for help with the Chamber website because their current website designer was moving out of state. We have been volunteering our time to the Chamber now, not only



for the Chamber's website, but for this monthly publication, with the help of Jeff Daniels, President of the Chamber.

AZ Vinyl has been serving the Rim Country community for over 5 years, building a reputation for quality craftsmanship, exceptional



customer service, and innovative design. Owners, Andy and Cindy Kofile have been self-employed entrepreneurs since they got married over 37 years ago. Cindy received her Bachelor's degree in Fine Art & Graphic Design from the University of Arizona before computers were in every home. Cindy is an experienced designer who is dedicated to bringing her clients' visions to life.

"Our goal is to be a true partner to our clients, helping them develop signage that not only looks great but also



effectively communicates their brand message," says graphic designer, Cindy Kofile. "We take the time to understand each business's unique needs and work closely with them to create custom sign solutions that exceed their



expectations."

AZ Vinyl offers a wide range of signage services, including:

- Custom-designed indoor and outdoor signs
- Vehicle wraps and graphics
- Banners, Real Estate signs and other large-format displays
- LED and illuminated signs
- ADA-compliant and way-finding signage
- Logo Design
- Website Design

One of the hallmarks of Arizona Vinyl is their commitment to using only the highest-quality materials and following strict quality control measures. Each sign is thoroughly inspected and tested to ensure it meets the company's standards for durability, UV resistance, and overall performance

"We take great pride in the work we do and the positive impact our signs have on our clients' businesses," says Kofile. "When a customer comes to us with a challenge, we relish the opportunity to create a unique solution that helps them stand out and succeed."



Whether you're a small local business or a large national corporation, AZ Vinyl is the trusted partner you can count on to deliver exceptional custom signage that drives results. Contact them today to learn more about their services and how they can help take your business to new heights. Arizona Vinyl: (928) 474-4121



45239 HIGHWAY 188

P.O. Box 84 • (928) 479-2299
 Pastor Robert Melotti

www.TontoBasinBibleChurch.org

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday School (Nursery to Adult)...9:30 a.m.
 Worship (with Nursery + Kids Church)...10:45 a.m.
 Call for Mid-Week Small Group Schedule



Your Local
 Tonto Basin
 Real Estate Expert



Romaine Heap
 REALTOR®
 Coldwell Banker Bishop Realty
928-978-9117

romaine@bishopenalty.com
www.bishopenalty.com
 45596 Hwy 188, Suite A, Tonto Basin, AZ 85553

FISHING



~ Tracey Purtee
 Roosevelt Lake is 90% full, 5% less than last month. The Monsoon Season is here at least in the mountains north of Roosevelt/Tonto Basin. Rain might bring the lake level up a little bit, but the main concern is being careful

around normally dry creek beds/washes, because the rain does run downhill. Thankfully the new bridge is open over Tonto Creek so no more driving through the creek during high water run off times.

All the Boat ramps are open Bobcat @ Windyhill is the lowest and it has 21 feet of water at the end of the ramp. Indian Point is @ 37 feet.

This nice 12.19 lb Large Mouth Bass was caught by Jimmy Johns from Tonto Basin. The picture has the background whited out to protect the location on Roosevelt Lake. Jimmy said that he caught it on a swimbait and then returned her to the water. Great job in both catching & releasing the fish, Jimmy.

The 1st of June was the Let's Talk Fishin (LTF) Championship for Bass & Crappie. Robert Geist, Josh McKnight & Ben Bilotti took 1st Place on the Crappie side. On the Bass side Ryan Higgins & Steve Warren from Safford took 1st place with 34.81 lbs and their big fish was 5.38 lbs. Big fish of the tournament went to Nathan & Arnold Tsosie with a nice 7.95 lbs.

We were able to get the secret from the winning team. They caught all their fish on a Texas Rig Senko in the bushes. Other baits that were used were Spinnerbaits, Frogs, Topwater Baits & Chatterbaits. Sorry no colors were given.

If you're interested LTF offers Night & Day Tournaments. Please check it out at www.letstalkfishin.com.

Jimmy Johns 12.19 lbs Large Mouth Bass



BRIDGE OPENING

The days events started about 10am with a gathering of our 3 County Supervisors and other Officials, some ADOT folks, the Fire Dept, Police, Forest Service, Senator Wendy Rogers and a bunch of us locals, old timers and new.

The County hosted the event and provided tables with canopies and fans for sitting to eat from the 5 different food trucks serving quite a variety of tastes. They gave out doughnuts, water and commemorative coins to everyone that attended. They even provided shuttles allowing people to park conveniently in Punkin Center without having to walk to the Bridge.

There were speeches by many of the important folks involved on navigating the course to completion after all these years and tears. Supervisor Humphrey used the majority of his time to tell the heartfelt and clearly emotional journey, history and milestones along the way to this Ribbon cutting ceremony. We heard about many of the hurdles including protecting endangered species (including several venomous ones) and uncountable trips to various agencies dealing with all the regulations, including several trips to Washington DC.

We cannot forget to mention and mourn the lives lost and be thankful that it should never happen again here.

Finally, Thanks went out to the many folks that have



been vital in maintaining this community for all these years running tractors and military vehicles to shuttle folks across, including getting the kids to school on time when the creek was "impassible". Plus all the folks running boats, drones and whatever to get medicines and supplies across to those stranded.

Thanks to you All, From us All!

~ Eva Warren/Jeff Daniels





AZGFD urges off-highway vehicle enthusiasts to put safety first

Report: Most fatalities occur in June, July

If operating an off-highway vehicle (OHV) is part of your Fourth of July holiday celebration plans, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) urges enthusiasts to put safety first and avoid unnecessary risks.

According to a report from the **Consumer Federation of America**, there were 291 fatalities nationwide in 2023. Most of those — 75, or more than one out of every four — occurred in June and July.

“We see many people out enjoying Arizona’s roads and trails around the holidays, especially over the Fourth of July weekend,” said Kim Jackson, AZGFD’s boating and OHV safety education program manager. “We want everyone who spends time on their OHV to have a fun outing and, more importantly, return home safely.”

There are many actions that operators of OHVs — including all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes and side-by-sides — can take to ride safely and help ensure the safety of their passengers:

- Wear a helmet. This is a requirement for all operators and passengers under 18 — but strongly recommended for everyone. Wearing a helmet can reduce the chances of a traumatic brain injury by as much as 50 percent.

- Buckle up. Wearing a seatbelt is critical because it will help keep the operator and any passengers inside the side-by-side in the event of an accident.
- Don’t speed. Reasonable and prudent is always the law.
 - Only carry the number of passengers recommended by the vehicle’s manufacturer. Many accidents are the result of too many people riding a machine that was designed for fewer passengers.
 - Wear riding goggles, a long-sleeved shirt, pants, riding gloves, and over-the-ankle boots.
 - Never ride alone.
 - Be prepared and equipped with a map, first-aid kit and whistle, and have basic tools on hand.
- Leave details about the trip, including destination and expected time of return, with a friend or family member who can follow up to ensure everyone made it home safely.
- Stay on designated trails.

Whether new to the hobby or veteran riders, AZGFD advises all enthusiasts to take a **safety education course**. As an added bonus, insurance companies may offer discounted rates for people who have completed one of two online courses offered by AZGFD.

For more information about rules and regulations as well as places to ride, visit azgfd.gov/OHV.

SOURCE: Arizona Game & Fish Dept. • 5000 W. Carefree Hwy, Phoenix, AZ 85086 • (602) 942-3000 • www.azgfd.gov



July Brings Saguaro Blossoms at Tonto National Monument

~ Author, K. Bennett, Tonto National Monument Volunteer

The Saguaro cactus stands proudly as the emblem of the Sonoran Desert in Southwest Arizona. They grow on average to a height of 40-60 feet and when fully hydrated weigh between 3,200-4,800 pounds. These majestic cacti grow throughout Tonto National Monument and are always of fascination to visitors.

Saguaro enthusiasts wait and watch each year for them to blossom. The buds for these annual blooms start appearing atop the arms in mid-May or early June brought on by longer days, warmer temperatures, and winter rains. These buds occur in clusters, often, exceeding 100 per branch. It takes several weeks for the first bud to produce its iconic white flowers that bloom at night.

This year, Tonto National Monument saw its first buds appear the second week in May, and the first blossom the last week of the month. The blossoms will continue to bloom until early July. The park values the saguaro both as a natural and cultural resource.

As a natural resource, the saguaro represents the heart of the Sonoran Desert. Tonto National Monument is located at the farthest latitude and highest elevation for saguaros. According to the park biotech, unlike the valley where saguaros grow on north-facing hills, the park’s saguaros are on south-facing hillsides due to temperature differences between the valley and the park.

The Saguaro plays a vital role in the Sonoran Desert ecosystem providing both food and shelter for many animals. Birds like the gilded flickers and the Gila woodpecker excavate nests in the saguaro, doves eat the fruits and seeds, and hawks use them for hunting platforms. Animals like the coyote and javelina eat the fruit.

Culturally the saguaro was an important resource for the people who lived at Tonto National Monument.



Picture, M. McFarland, NPS Tonto National Monument

Archeological evidence indicates that they used the saguaro in their daily lives. The strong, woody ribs were gathered and used in roof construction in the Upper and Lower Cliff Dwellings.

Saguaro ribs were used to collect saguaro fruits that grow high up on the plant. Several ribs were tied together with a cross piece at the end. These long poles were used to knock ripe fruit down from the top of the plant. It would then be gathered to eat.

The present-day Tohono O’odham continues the traditional cultural practice of harvesting the saguaro fruit in the same manner as their ancestors. This connection to the past reinforced through traditional knowledge highlights the saguaro as a sacred plant, to be given the utmost respect. Their calendar is based on the cycles of the saguaro and includes ceremonies such as one that involves the making of ceremonial wine from saguaro fruits.

Visitors coming to Tonto National Monument in July can experience the last of the saguaro fruiting season. As you hike the Lower Cliff Dwelling trail and see these towering cacti, it is the perfect time to reflect on the connection between the cliff-dwelling people, the Sonoran Desert, and the saguaro.

Tonto National Monument is open 7 days a week from 8 am to 5 pm. Over the summer months of June through August, the Lower Cliff Dwelling trail is open from 8 am to 12 noon daily. The visitor center, the museum, and the gift shop are open from 8 am to 5 pm. If planning a visit, it is recommended to check the weather. The park adheres to all NOAA heat warnings and the trail to the Lower Cliff Dwelling closes for the duration of the warning. And remember to bring plenty of water and be sun safety smart!



See last month's crossword puzzle solution on page 2

Across

- 1. Bundle
- 5. Aromatic herb
- 10. Riyadh resident
- 14. Catchall abbr.
- 15. Run away with a lover
- 16. Dirty
- 17. Look ____, I'm Sandra Dee
- 18. Later, dude!
- 19. Feeling achy
- 20. Sweet wine
- 22. Elevated
- 24. Quattro minus uno
- 25. You're making ____ mistake!
- 26. Circuitous way
- 29. Violent whirlwind
- 33. On one's toes
- 34. Go it alone
- 36. Checkers side
- 37. Apt. divisions
- 38. Move stealthily
- 39. Funnyman Philips
- 40. Snaky swimmer
- 41. "...countrymen, lend me your ____"
- 42. Teacher
- 44. Pencil sketch
- 47. "Gunsmoke" star
- 48. Aardvark's meal
- 49. Disencumber

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58						59	60					61			
62						63						64			
65						66						67			

- 5. SAT giver
- 6. "Hard ____!" (sailor's yell)
- 7. Yuletide
- 8. Engage in espionage
- 9. High school memento
- 10. Give, as homework
- 11. Outback hoppers
- 12. Suf x with concession
- 13. Ran, as colors
- 21. Stuck, after "in"
- 23. Intangible mixture of gases used for breathing
- 25. Collection of maps
- 26. Challenged
- 27. Bugs bugs him
- 28. Physicist Nikola
- 30. Aggregate of qualities that make good character
- 31. Audition tapes
- 32. Smells

Down

- 1. Ray of light
- 2. Westernmost of the Aleutians
- 3. Hightails it
- 4. Voter



Our Blooming Summer Desert

Did you know that some biologists think the Sonoran desert has the highest native bee population in the world? Perhaps if not the highest then second highest to Israel's deserts. For diversity and beauty, bees are the main ingredient.

For lovers of a bouquet of beauty from a bounty of native plants, bees are a main ingredient.

Unlike honey and bumble bees that live in social hives these desert pollinators live a solitary life.

According to an Arizona Highways article, specific Arizona bees are important for specific Arizona plants.

The Palo Verde needs the Centris pallida bee (Digger or Pallide Bee), Prickly pear needs the Diadasia rinconis, (Cactus Bee) and the Globe mallow needs Diadasia diminuta, the Globe Mallow Bee. And those great late season sunflowers, well they need a bee called Dieonomia triangulifer.

You alone can keep our desert bloom in beauty. You see, weed killers and bulldozers(scraping off native soll) kill off both our native bees and the desert ground they need to reproduce on.

You can keep the colorful diversity of our desert blooming by providing habitat for native plants (planting natives and weeding out non native species) along with having non toxic dirt for the bees.

ReadyGila.com

Gila County provides immediate alerts of hazards and emergencies in your specific area. Be informed of all late-breaking events with voice, email, or text messages.

READYGILA ALERTS

SIGN-UP WITH READYGILA ALERTS TODAY!

While you are thinking of our unique home, remember the Sagurao Cactus and fragrant Datura plants... they need those night pollinators so keep your night lights pointed down or off.

Enjoy the special beauty that makes our Basin our home.

DESERT COMMUNITY

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Hwy 188 & Stephens Way
Tonto Basin, AZ (928) 479-2216

(Livestreaming Sunday Morning Service on Facebook)

Sunday School 9:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45 AM
We have Children's Church & Nursery for little ones
Sunday Evening Bible Study: 6:00 PM
Thursday Evening Bible Study: 6:00 PM
B.L.A.S.T. every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 5:30 PM
www.dccchurch.com

All Are Welcome!

RENT THE CHAMBER

Building Reservations

Our Chamber building is available for event rentals. Included in your rental are 8ft tables and padded chairs.

If you have any questions, please contact the Chamber at 1-833-4TONTOB, then select no 4 for building rental information.

TO RESERVE YOUR EVENT - Visit
tontobasinchamber.org/rent-the-chamber-building

7 Steps to Start Growing Produce at Home

Growing your own produce is an all-around smart practice, from the money you'll save at the grocery store to the contributions you can make toward a cleaner planet.

Maintaining a garden takes some effort, but it's a project even a beginner can tackle with ease. Consider these tips to start growing your at-home garden:

Select a perfect spot. You'll want to place your garden in an area where you see it often so you're reminded to weed and care for it regularly. Find a flat area you can access easily, where erosion and other pitfalls (including hungry wildlife) won't be a problem.

Choose between ground and containers. There are pros and cons to gardening in containers vs. the ground, and there's no universal right choice. Rather, the best garden depends on your goals and preferences. A ground garden usually offers more space and may provide a better growth environment for roots. However, a container garden is often easier to maintain and may be all you need if you wish to grow just a few plants.

Understand the importance of quality soil. You may think any dirt will do, but keep in mind the soil you plant in will be the primary source of nutrients for your produce. Not only that, but quality soil provides stability so plants can root firmly and grow healthy and sturdy to support their bounty. Quality soil also allows for ample drainage. Organic matter like compost, leaf mold or aged manure all help improve soil quality.

Keep water close. Lugging water

can quickly eliminate the pleasure of tending your garden, so be sure you're situated near a hose. You'll know it's time to water when the soil is dry about an inch below the surface.

Plan for plenty of sun. A bright, sunny spot is a must, since most vegetables, herbs and fruits depend on six or more hours of sun every day. Remember the sun's path changes throughout the year,

indoors before moving them outside when the temperatures allow.

Plant according to a calendar. Knowing how long it takes different foods to mature will help you create a planting calendar. You don't want to harvest everything at once, and if you stagger planting and replant what you can, you'll have a garden that produces food for your family for a longer period



and as trees and foliage grow, they may produce more shade with each growing season.

Consider what you'll grow. Starting with veggies you know you like is a smart starting point since you'll be pouring sweat equity into making them grow. Over time, you might add new varieties, but early on, keep your focus on foods you know you like so you can see a meaningful return and avoid waste. You'll also need to consider what you can grow to maturity within your area's growing season. If necessary, you might want to start transplants you can nurture

of time.

Find more helpful tips for managing your home and garden at www.elivngtoday.com.

Photo courtesy of Unsplash

SOURCE: www.FamilyFeatures.com



DAD JOKE:
My dream job is to clean mirrors, because I can really see myself doing that.