

Pinal NUGGET

January 2017
Volume 10 Number 3

FREE

Art Under the
Oaks,
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**LAVA
RIVER
CAVE**

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Photo by John Hernandez



Hikes and walks are the featured programs at Oracle State Park

⬆️ ARIZONA TRAIL

The Oracle State Park and the Arizona Trail offer a lot of opportunities for visitors to head outside to enjoy nature’s beauty.

Hikes and walks are featured at Oracle State Park in January 2017. Oracle State Park is a 4,000-acre wildlife refuge with over 15 miles of trails.

NUGGET

Covering the Copper Corridor Communities of Globe, Miami, Superior, Kearny, Hayden, Winkelman, Dudleyville, Aravaipa, Mammoth, San Manuel, Oracle, SaddleBrooke and Catalina.

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“We sure could use a little good news today.”

— Anne Murray

Advertising Information

Please call (520) 385-2266 for more information or email Mila Besich-Lira at mila.lira19@gmail.com

Oracle State Park is an International Dark Sky Park, designated in 2014 by the International Dark Sky Association.

The park is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Except as noted, programs are free with park admission of \$7 per vehicle at the main gate on Mt. Lemmon Rd. in Oracle. Call the park office at (520) 896-2425 to make reservations, if needed.

Saturday, January 21, 9 a.m. - noon: Arizona Trail Thru-Hike

Join a Ranger-led Guided Hike for 6-7 miles crossing the park on the National Scenic Arizona Trail. A reservation is required; free with park admission.

Saturday, January 28: Trail Running Event, The Oracle Rumble coordinated by Arizona Trail Association at Oracle State Park.

The Oracle Rumble is part of a Trail Running Series presented by ATA and Summit Hut, and includes a 50-mile, 50K,

Half-Marathon and 10K. For all the details, visit www.aztrail.org/oracle_rumble/race_info.html

All the runs finish at the Group Area at Oracle State Park. The 50-mile and 50K start remotely and enter the park on the Arizona Trail. The Half-Marathon and 10K start at or near the Group Area as well and loop within the park’s trail system. The shorter routes begin at 8:00/8:30 a.m. and runners will be coming in all day into the evening. Come out to the park, bring your own picnic, and show your support for the hard core trail runners! The Kannally Ranch House will be accessible all day.

Guided tours of the historic Kannally Ranch House are scheduled for 11 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday for 45-minutes. The multi-level Mediterranean-Revival style house, built in 1929-33 by one of the earliest cattle ranching families in Oracle, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. An

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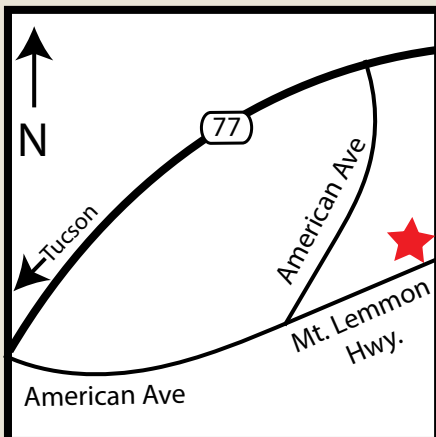


Hikes

Continued from page 2

exhibit of impressionistic-style cowboy paintings by self-taught artist Lee Kannally is on display in the living room and dining room.

The American Avenue trailhead parking lot is open every day to access the National Scenic Arizona Trail, and to accommodate use by nighttime stargazers. The park is an International Dark Sky Park, designated in 2014 by the International Dark Sky Association.



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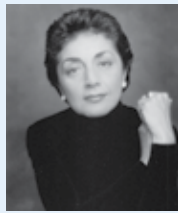
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Art Under the Oaks – Exposing Children to Art

John Hernandez
Pinal Nugget

Over the past several years school districts have been under increasing pressure to cut their annual budgets. Unfortunately, art education has been one of the casualties.

One Oracle artist and business woman has come up with an ingenious idea to give that education back to them in however small a way. She brings the kids to the art and the art to the kids.

Carolyn Blair is the owner and artist of Art Under the Oaks in Oracle. Carolyn grew up in a small town

similar to Oracle. She is a self-taught artist and has been involved with art since she was a child. She created Art Under the Oaks to share her love of art and offer opportunities to learn art to the kids in Oracle and the surrounding communities.

Carolyn lives on a farm and has incorporated it into her art business. The goal

← **THE ARTIST**

Carolyn Blair with her 'Antsy Art Mobile.'



Summer is a great time for kids to enjoy the art camps.

of Art Under the Oaks is “to encourage and bring out the inner artist in children.” Carolyn believes that exposing children to art is a vital to turning them into creative, well rounded, and intelligent adults.

At the farm, Carolyn offers Art and Nature Day Camps/Classes.

“During the summer, there is not much to do for kids in Oracle. Summer is a great time for kids to enjoy the art camps,” said Carolyn.

At the art camp, kids can enjoy visiting, petting and feeding farm animals, taking a guided nature walk and completing an art project. The farm has a

horse, donkey, miniature goats, chickens and bunnies. The farm is also a place for kid’s birthday parties and special occasion parties. Kids can visit the farm, create art and play games such as horseshoes, bean bag toss, sack race, tire swing and a scavenger hunt in the cooler Catalina Mountains.

Carolyn also has a vintage, restored trailer that has been converted into the “Antsy Art Mobile” which will travel to your location for a kid’s party. The 1962 Little Dipper trailer will pull up to your party location and provide art supplies and an artist/host to help the kids create

their art project. Mobile art classes can be arranged.

Carolyn also does murals for kid’s rooms or a nursery. Any theme you can think of for your child’s room can be painted by Carolyn.

The Holiday Art Market at the new Oracle Art Station, 1395 W. American Ave., Oracle, currently has some of Carolyn’s art on display for sale. Carolyn does fine art and custom art. Some of her art for sale is at her Etsy Shop: YesterYearLane. You can find out more about Art Under the Oaks at artundertheoak.com, email: quaintcreations1@gmail.com or call Carolyn at (520) 820-3454.



⬆ **KANNALLY RANCH**

This piece by Carolyn Blair features the Kanally House at Oracle State Park



⬆ **ALL DRESSED UP**

Carolyn Blair’s painting depicts a black and white puppy wearing a bow tie.



⬆ **SHEEP**

Carolyn Blair’s inspiration comes from the animals on her farm.



INSIDE THE CAVE

It's amazing the formations that were formed so many years ago from a volcano eruption.

Hiking the Lava River Cave

Standing at the entrance to the Lava River Cave a blast of cold air blows into our face.

**Gary Every
Pinal Nugget**



We had been warned that the temperature inside the Lava River Cave stayed at 55 degrees but in the middle of an Arizona summer that sounded more like a promise than a threat. The Lava River Cave is outside Flagstaff and is a wonderful geological adventure.

The Lava River Cave is really more of a tube, a little more than a mile long, created during a volcanic eruption over 650,000 years ago. As the lava moved in a molten flow, the outermost edge cooled into solid rock but the lava in the center retained its heat and continued to flow. What was left behind resembled a vaulted hallway stretching deep inside the earth. Lava tubes appear across the earth but only in places that at one time or another have had quite

a bit of volcanic activity. In Queensland, Australia an area called Undara was host to a major volcanic event 190,000 years ago that produced over 300 lava tubes but only nine of these tubes have been explored extensively. The longest of these tubes is over 100 miles long.

The Lava River Cave outside Flagstaff is nowhere near this long, stretching under the earth for a little over one mile. We stand at the entrance for a moment enjoying the blast of cool air as it blows over us. A sign near the entrance warns that "squirrels, porcupines and bats" sometime use the cave as shelter. It would be nice to see a porcupine.

Everybody checks their lights and backup lights before we crawl inside the hellmouth,

entering the cave. The entrance is the toughest part, descending steeply beneath the surface, crawling over a series of broken rocks and boulders. Footing is steep and uncertain and we are forced to use our hands to steady ourselves. Then the lava tube levels out. The walls are 30 feet apart and the ceiling mostly maintains a height of about 20 feet, although there are a few places with low ceiling where we are forced to crouch. I am used to narrow, wet caves where one is forced to slither on their belly through the mud between narrow crevices, so this is a nice change. Exploring a cave by walking upright two or three abreast is a new experience. Our headlamps swing about surveying our surroundings. We mostly

keep our headlamps aimed at our feet as we walk across the uneven terrain. Lava River Cave is about as user friendly and easy as a cave gets without a guided tour and many families have brought children to experience the cave.

There is another lava tube in Show Low known as the Ice Cave which also blasts cool air out the entrance but Ice Cave goes back nowhere near as far. Among my favorite Arizona caves is Peppersauce Cave outside Oracle. Peppersauce Cave earned its name from a hungry miner working nearby Nugget Canyon who every day sprinkled a little hot sauce on his sandwich. He lost so many Peppersauce bottles that eventually the canyon was littered with them and both the canyon and the cave were

named after the bottles. Early pioneers in Oracle, Arizona reported that the local Apache were keeping a twelve foot long rattlesnake alive deep inside the cave by feeding it live chickens. The Apache claimed the snake was the guardian water spirit or corua for the entire mountain range.

Other caves in the area include Colossal Cave outside Tucson where bandits are rumored to have stashed ill gotten gold.

Nearby Arkenstone Cave is one of only two places in Arizona where the fossilized bones of prehistoric vampire bats have been discovered.

Crystal Cave outside Mammoth was a tourist attraction in the 1920s, featured in movie newsreels of the time and included an

underground boat ride. The Great Depression put Crystal Cave out of business and during World War II the cave was turned into a gypsum mine.

Kartchner Caverns is now a state park and like Colossal Cave features guided tours and lit pathways. My next door neighbor growing up, Barry Wright still has a letter written by Randy Tufts, one of the discoverers of Kartchner Caverns, thanking Barry's father for suggesting that the Whetstone Mountains might be a good place to look for caves.

The Santa Rita Mountains feature both Cave of the Bells and Onyx Cave. While I have never been inside either, my brother in law Robert Orr assures me that Onyx Cave is spectacularly beautiful.

I have been inside Dead Man's Cave outside Sonoita. Dead Man's Cave is an unimpressive dirt mound with an entrance. Although not a very big or deep cave what makes Dead Man's Cave cool is that the cave walls are speckled with white. These white

speckles are bone fragments from the Pleistocene. The Ice Age beasts discovered here include saber toothed cats and prehistoric owls. Dead Man's Cave was something like the La Brea Tar Pits outside Los Angeles, where animals would get stuck in the muck and mire and sink beneath the earth until their bones were preserved.

Another favorite is Ventana Cave on the O'odham Reservation. This cave is really more of a big overhang and is more famous for its archaeology than its geology. Ventana Cave was inhabited for thousands of years, from big game hunters who used atlatls to hunt long horned bison at the wane of the Ice Age and remained inhabited until just after the collapse of the Hohokam. The walls of Ventana Cave are still adorned with ancient pictographs going back thousands of years.

My friends and I walk the length of the Lava River Cave enjoying the cool air and happy to have a reason to hike in long sleeves in the middle of an Arizona summer. There are clouds of mist and vapor hovering in the air. Little water droplets glisten on the ceiling, shining like crystals caught in the illumination of our headlights. In the colder months these water droplets become icicles. My three friends have never been inside a cave before and are excited. One of them is so excited that he practically skips up and down the stone corridor. This is how he finds the end of the cave, moving far too fast and stopping way too suddenly. His headlamp smashes into the wall and a small trickle of blood, flows down his forehead. Remember to always be careful inside a cave and to always bring extra lights.



IN THE CAVE

Headlamps and flashlights are needed in the Lava River Cave near Flagstaff. It is undeveloped.



AT THE ENTRANCE

The entrance to the Lava River Cave near Flagstaff is a little hard to spot.

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Abolition of cats, as a sanitary and health protecting measure is now imperative. Cats have no more place in this world than cockroaches, mosquitoes or flies.

Kill All Cats!

**John Hernandez
Pinal Nugget**

Before all you cat lovers start sending in letters and emails, condemning me and the title above, please be advised that this is not a commentary piece. It is a story of an actual person who believed in getting rid of the cats so much, he started a movement to kill all cats. One newspaper even called Rockwell Sayre “the world’s most assiduous cat hater.”

Although I do not profess to be a cat lover, I do not hate them. I even allowed two cats to live in my home. I would say I owned two cats but no one really ever owns a cat. The cats choose to stay with you as long as you fulfill their needs and they can tolerate their human companions. Having lived with cats, I can understand why a black cat crossing your path is considered bad luck and why cats are associated with witches.

Rockwell Sayre was a

millionaire investment broker, real estate seller and banker in Chicago, Illinois.

He was also a cat hater.

In 1921, he attempted to revise a movement to rid the world of cats by 1925. Articles in newspapers soon appeared about Sayre and his hatred of cats and a war of words he was having with Mrs. George Kessler, National Secretary of the American Cat Association based in Chicago.

Sayre wrote a commentary piece which showed up in newspapers around the country. On Nov. 27, 1921 it appeared in the *Bisbee Review*. Part of the commentary follows:

Abolition of cats, as a sanitary and health protecting measure is now imperative. Cats have no more place in this world than cockroaches, mosquitoes or flies.

The present movement to be done with cats is gaining popularity all over the world. Cats are now being exterminated every where rapidly. Why?

No other animal has as many diseases as the cat.

A cat will push its nose far down into the throat of an infant and suck its breath

until the baby dies.

A cat will jump upon a corpse and tear the face of the dead!

Mrs. George Kessler countered by disputing the claims of Sayre. She called cats the most gentle of creatures. “They are embellishments to a household and the most model of pets,” she said.

“They are comforts to the spinster. They are untiring friends to those who love and care for them. There is something about a cat that arouses instincts of gentleness and kindness in those who are fond of them. The person who dislikes cats has something harsh in his nature. For cats are the essence of refinement. Instead of killing cats, let us bring laws into being that will make responsible persons care for them.”

Soon, Sayre was being attacked by humane societies and animal protection associations. Animal lovers especially cat owners began writing letters to newspapers denouncing Sayre. One woman wrote that Sayre was teaching our children to be cruel to animals by rewarding them to do cruel things to cats.

Sayre also received letters of support.



Sayre's campaign to rid the world of the feline species began in the late 1890s. He sent out printed flyers calling for the elimination of cats. In 1907 some newspapers reported that he had offered bounties for dead cats. He would pay 10 cents per cat for the first 100 killed. He also offered a five dollar bonus for the hunter killing the most. A \$1 bonus was also paid to the top three hunters. He also offered \$3 to any woman willing to give up her cat or cats and have her house fumigated. It doesn't sound like much but in the 1920s the average daily wage was around \$1.50. During the depression there was also many unemployed. Each Christmas he would pay out the awards.

Newspapers reported that "contestants" (hunters) first began delivering and mailing in the heads of cats to Sayre. It was such an untidy practice that Sayre asked them to stop, and said they could send him sworn affidavits as evidence of the cat killings.

In 1924 Sayre's admitted to the newspapers that his

time estimate for meeting the goal of ridding the world of cats would not be met. He announced that he would "spend more money to make the world catless." He set another goal to rid the world of cats within 10 years. He said that many "cat killing clubs" had been formed around the country. He praised one hunter, a Mr. Thorne K. Sheal of Kingston New York for having killed 22 cats in one week. Sayre claimed that his campaign had rid the world of seven million cats. The newspapers reported that the world's cat population was estimated at 900 million.

The practice of rewarding the hunters continued until Sayre's death in 1930 at the hands of his "shell shocked" son, Sidney. Sidney was a veteran of World War I. He had been an officer, a fighter pilot who had his plane shot down twice during the war. He shot his father twice and admitted to the murder. Sidney believed that his 86 year old father was having an affair with the nurse caring for his mother who was an

invalid. He planned on killing the nurse but was caught right after shooting his father. Sidney was found guilty of murder but ruled insane and was sent to an asylum.

Even in death Sayre continued his hate campaign against cats. He left a will ranting about war, the death penalty and expressing his hatred for cats in crude poetry. He left \$1,000 to purchase boxes of candy to send to 109 people he identified as cat haters as a token of his esteem. Included on the list was the former First Lady Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, who Sayre said once ordered all

White House felines executed to protect the song birds. Queen Marie of Rumania, a county judge the University of Chicago and the Anti-Cigarette League were also on the gift list. Sayre's called those on the list "fellow warriors in the world war against cats."

I wonder if upon the hearing of Sayre's death, that cat lovers rejoiced. Did cats show up at his grave site and scratch the earth to use for their litter box. Maybe they showed up at night to howl and keep Sayre from resting in peace. I doubt it, cats don't hate, this is a human trait. At least the war was over! Long live the cats!



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Celebrate the Greats with **James Tormé**

James Tormé, the son of 3-time Grammy Award Winning jazz legend Mel Tormé, grew up in the presence of Bing Crosby, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Buddy Rich, and other great vocal artists. What an amazing childhood he must have had!

The Gold Canyon Arts Council wants to share that with its supporters.

On Friday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m., the Gold Canyon Arts Council will present *James Tormé: Celebrate The Greats!*

Please join us for an unforgettable evening as he celebrates music's greatest legends.

Tormé calls his music the "New American Songbook",

which explores all corners of popular music, infusing older classics with contemporary influences, and haunting newer songs with timeless throwback renditions. On stage, Tormé mixes the showmanship of his father's generation with the youthful charisma of a contemporary Hollywood star.

Verve Recording's President said "Tormé' is the best male jazz singer to come along in 20 years." *The London Jazz News* praised Tormé as "an extraordinary singer with immense resources and phrasing that is audacious and brilliant."

Purchase advance adult tickets for \$25, and students for \$5 at Canyon Rose Storage, 6405 S.

Kings Ranch Rd., Gold Canyon, and at the Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce office on the Apache Trail. Also, order via PayPal on our website www.gcac1.com. Adult tickets at the door are \$30.

Gold Canyon United Methodist Church is located at 6640 S. Kings Ranch Rd., Gold Canyon.

The Gold Canyon Arts Council is a non-profit organization which promotes the performing and visual arts through its Canyon Sounds Artist Series. The Council is supported in part by grants from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, WESTAF, the National Endowment for the Arts, local corporations, and businesses.



FAMOUS DAD

James Tormé has taken his father's place as one of the great jazz singers of our time. His father is Mel Tormé.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

VOTED TUCSON'S BEST THRIFT SHOP 2016.
Thank you Tucson!
 We would also like to give special thanks to our donors, customers, volunteers & staff for making this honor possible!
 Sincerely,
 Charity, the Goose.



Golden Goose



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OPEN:
 Tues-Fri 10AM to 2PM & Sat 9AM to 2PM
 Donations Accepted: Mon-Sat 8AM to 3PM
 520-825-9101

THE GOLDEN GOOSE THRIFT SHOP IS A 501(C)3 NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.

calendar of events

Winter - Spring 2017

We wanted to share a few of the local events with our Pinal Nugget readers.

GEM & MINERAL SHOW

20

Friday, Jan. 20, through Sunday, Jan. 22, beginning at 9 a.m. The 60th annual Gila County Gem and Mineral Show at the Gila County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 60 towards Show Low, 10 minutes from Globe. Gather the whole family and visit the Gem and Mineral Show. Enjoy demonstrations of lapidary arts, metal work and more, vendors with jewelry, loose gems and plenty to keep the children occupied. 623-810-9780. gilagem.org



SUPERIOR HOME TOUR

28

On Jan. 28 and 29, the Superior Chamber of Commerce will be holding its annual Home and Building Tour at 165 W. Main St. in Superior, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday. Come see an eclectic assortment of renovated homes, an antique show, and watch the famous Mata Ortiz potters from Mexico. Guided hikes. Live music. Ticket costs are \$14, presale tickets are \$12. superiorarizonachamber.org or 520-689-0200



LOST FESTIVAL

11

On Feb. 11, beginning at 10 a.m. Annual LOST Festival in front of the Superior Chamber of Commerce building at 165 Main St. The morning starts out with a series of informative talks. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be an outdoor expo. In the afternoon a series of guided hikes and walks will depart from Main St. to the trail heads. Pre-registration for the hikes, walks and bike rides are requested. lostinsuperioraz.org or 520-827-0676



COPPER DUST STAMPEDE

11

Friday, March 10, through Sunday, March 12, beginning at 9 a.m. Copper Dust Stampede Rodeo at the Gila County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 60 towards Show Low, 10 minutes from Globe. Enjoy professional rodeo action with bucking bulls, saddle bronc riding, barrel racing and more. The weekend action starts Friday night at the Gila County fairgrounds...and don't forget the rodeo dance Saturday night. globemiamichamber.org



PIONEER DAYS

16

March 16-19, annual Pioneer Days in Kearny. This year's theme is Heroes and Villains. Parade on Saturday at 10 a.m. Carnival. Fantastic food. Entertainment throughout the weekend. There will be the usual merchandise vendors with handbags, t-shirts and toys the children love and on Saturday there will be information booths lined up along the Little League area of Pioneer Park. facebook.com/copperbasin.chamber



APACHE LEAP MINING FEST

17

March 17-19, Main St., Superior, Annual Apache Leap Mining Festival. Entertainment throughout the event, Chihuahua races, roping competition, food and retail vendors, crafts market, art walk, beer garden, Saturday night street dance and concert, speakers, lots of "hands on" things to do for all ages. Mining competition with a \$2,000 purse! Family oriented and ALL FREE except carnival and vendors. superiorarizonachamber.org



ORACLE OAKS FEST

22

On Saturday, April 22, Oracle Oaks Festival and Oracle Spring Run Car Show. The Oracle Community Center, once again, hosts the Oaks Festival. Start the day with breakfast at the Oracle Community Center, then cheer along at the festival parade and Oracle Spring Run Car Show (sponsored by the Oracle Historical Society). oraclecommunitycenter.org or oraclehistoricalsociety.org





ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

January 24th, 2017

Kearny Elks Lodge 6:00 PM

Please join us for Board of Directors Elections, credit union news, raffles and a good time!

Must be a member to attend.

Ray Federal Credit Union is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative, democratically controlled by its members. Our rates and fee structure are determined by our local board of directors with our member's best interests in mind. Please contact us if you would like to know more about joining our credit union or would like your business added to our field of membership so that your employees may join.



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- In Person Bill Pay through Check Free
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- Auto Loan Pre-Approvals
- Personal and Auto Loans
- Checking Accounts
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Now with ATMs in Superior, Kearny and Hayden.

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Kearny Branch Hours of Operation
Monday, Thursday, Friday 9am-5pm
Tuesday, Wednesday 10am-4pm
Saturday, Sunday Closed

Superior Branch Hours of Operation
Monday & Friday 9am-5pm
Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday 10am-4pm
Saturday, Sunday Closed



Ray Federal Credit Union
Kearny Branch

112 Williams Lane, Kearny, AZ 85137
Superior Branch

161 W. Main St., Superior, AZ 85173

Phone: (520) 363-5681 Fax: (520) 363-5688
Mailing: PO Box 1089, Kearny, AZ 85137

