

Support for local law enforcement

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John Hernandez | Crier

Oracle Towne Crier

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Oracle Neighborhood Watch plans patriotic event

By John Hernandez
 Oracle Towne Crier

At the monthly Oracle Neighborhood Watch (ONW) meeting held Monday, Jan. 5, it was announced that ONW will be organizing a patriotic event to show support for law enforcement officers around the country. The event called Operation Silver Star at the meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. at the DesertView Performing Arts Center Theater, 39900

Clubhouse Dr. in SaddleBrooke.

The theater seats 500 and admission is free on a first come first serve basis. All 15 County Sheriffs have been invited. Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu will be the keynote speaker and County Attorney Lando Voyles is also expected to attend and speak. Bob Skiba said they expect national and statewide news media to cover the event. ONW volunteers will also be collecting donations with proceeds going to the families of fallen officers.

OBITUARY

William James Wagner Jr.



William "Skip" James Wagner Jr., 74, passed away on Sept. 23, 2014 at his home in Oracle after a valiant battle with bone cancer.

He worked at the ASARCO mine in Kearny and Winkelman from the late 1970s until his massive heart attack in April of 1997.

Camping and fishing were some of his great enjoyments in life.

William is preceded in death by his parents, William James Wagner Sr. and Mary Ellen Wagner; sister Pat; two brothers, Ron and Kenny; and two daughters, Ginger and Tammy. He is survived by his wife Pat Wagner; daughters Mary (Bob)Kimbrough, Tracy (Dwane) Burger; son Kip (Stephanie) Wagner; seven grandchildren, several great grandchildren, three brothers, two sisters and several nieces and nephews.

No services were held. His ashes are retained by his wife.

Obituaries are published free of charge in the Oracle Towne Crier. If you have an obituary you would like us to print, please email it to editor@minersunbasin.com or submit it online at www.CopperArea.com.

You can also request our newspaper through the mortuary or funeral home.

Oracle TRIAD Coalition

First Wednesday, 3 p.m. • Oracle Fire Department

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 Helping the Senior-Elder-Older Adult

TRIAD is a cooperative project composed of seniors, Pinal County Attorney's Office, Pinal County Sheriff's Department, Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens, and other community partners who are dedicated to preventing the victimization of seniors, improving their quality of life and reducing consequences associated with abuse and misuse of prescription medications and alcohol. Community members are welcome. Call to sign up for volunteer opportunities.



DIAPER BAG

Make a Difference - Volunteer!

After the old year ends and the new year begins, many people take time to think about their lives, and what they want to change. If you are feeling unsettled, wondering what your purpose in life is, and how to be more involved, you might want to consider volunteering your services at Family First Pregnancy Care Center and Family Diaper Bank in Oracle or Winkelman.

Family First is a nonprofit educational organization that provides hope, education, friendship, and material assistance to families from Catalina through Kearny. The key to our success in helping our clients is the wonderful volunteers who give their time, talent,

and energy to the women and men who take classes and earn material assistance for their families.

A good volunteer is a person who cares about helping people, who can talk and express hope and compassion to people of all ages and backgrounds. The work is simple to learn, rewarding to do, and a true blessing to the families who come and take classes. Whether working with students doing their individual lessons, caring for their young children, stocking items in the center's store, copying lessons, or answering the telephone, the volunteers model Christ's love and care for others. The rewards are many: warm hugs from the children, watching the parents grow in confidence and skills, and observing the growing closeness of each family.

January is the perfect time to think about volunteering, because a Volunteer Training Workshop will be held Saturday, Jan. 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the center's office at 1575 W. American Avenue in Oracle. We invite anyone interested in learning about our programs or possibly volunteering to attend. Lunch will be provided. Please call 896-9545 to reserve a space.

Please come and check out our center store, our educational curriculum, and the Family Diaper Bank. While taking practical and interesting lessons, the parents earn "Mommy Money" or "Daddy Dollars" to use to purchase diapers, blankets, clothes, formula, toys, and other items for their families.



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Saturday, January 31, 2015—Bella Donna - Stevie Nicks and Fleetwood Mac Tribute - 7:30 pm



Produced by TAD Management. Based in Southern California, the critically-acclaimed tribute show, Bella Donna, recreates Stevie Nicks in concert. The band portrays the singer and her music (solo and with Fleetwood Mac), in a stunningly accurate depiction. From the attention to detail given to the music and vocal impersonations to the authentic wardrobe and staging, Bella Donna will amaze with their ability to take their audience into a high-energy Stevie Nicks performance. When Bella Donna is on the stage, Stevie Nicks is in the House. \$25 inclusive \$30 door.

Saturday, February 7, 2015—Tumblin' Tumbleweeds 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm - Produced by Lonely Street Productions.

Relax after a long day on the trail and enjoy a show that captures the essence of Arizona and the Old West through classic Country-Western music and old-fashioned storytelling. Join our cowboy crooners as they play and sing hits from Marty Robbins, Gene Autry and the Sons of the Pioneers. Tumblin' Tumbleweeds features time-honored tunes such as "Cool Water," "El Paso," "The Last Roundup," "Don't Fence Me In," and of course, "Tumblin' Tumbleweeds." You'll feel the warmth of the campfire, smell the scent of roasted marshmallows and hear the faint howl of coyotes. \$25 inclusive \$30 door.



Sunday, February 8, 2015—Shania Twain & Tim McGraw Tribute - 7:30 pm. Produced by TAD Management.

Donna Huber and Adam D. Tucker first appeared together as separate acts in the spectacular Las Vegas Show, "American Country Superstars." TAD Management has teamed the two of them up to produce the ultimate country tribute show, paying homage to 2 true superstars, Shania Twain & Tim McGraw. This show will have you tapping your feet, dancing in the aisles and screaming at the top of your lungs for more! \$25 inclusive \$30 door.



Wednesday, February 11, 2015—Surf Rock Beach Party - 7:30 pm. Produced by Lonely Street Productions.

Join us for an indoor beach party you won't soon forget! This half concert/half party will feature your favorite summertime hits from The Beach Boys to Jimmy Buffett and everything in between. There will be surf-rock instrumentals and a steel-drum showdown between two of the nation's top steel drum artists! Put on your craziest Hawaiian shirt and join us for the Surf Rock Beach Party! \$25 inclusive \$30 door.



Monday, February 16, 2015 - University of Arizona Wind Ensemble - 7:30pm.

The University of Arizona presents Wind Ensemble, Greg Hanson Conductor and Wind Symphony. Featuring Faculty Artist **Matt Tropman**, euphonium soloist. Lincoln's Birthday Tribute will showcase a spectacular patriotic medley and a fabulous arrangement of music from Porgy and Bess with two wonderful singers! \$22 inclusive \$25 door



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Poston's Butte, the Father of Arizona Statehood

Highway historical plaques dot the Arizona landscape, paying tribute to Charles D. Poston proclaiming him "The Father of Arizona Statehood" and giving a glimpse of a colorful life. My favorite historical plaque is the one in Florence which points out Poston's Butte, the tiny hill with the pyramid on top - Arizona's only Temple of the Sun.

Poston first came to Arizona at the age of 29, as the leader of a government survey crew. He and four topographical engineers were surveying southern Arizona when they neared the confluence of the Gila and Colorado Rivers. A ferry boat operation was run there by a man named Jager. Jager realized that Poston was working at government expense and

charged the exorbitant fee of \$50 to ferry the survey crew across the flood swollen river.

Poston replied that he would remain on the Arizona side of the river, they had plenty of surveying work to do. Poston explained that just as Philadelphia was at the confluence of the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers, this site at the junction of the Gila and Colorado was expected to someday be the future capital of Arizona.

An excited Jager bought the lot at the corner of Main and Central for \$50. In the morning, Poston gave Jager back his \$50, crossed the river, and resumed his journey.

Poston returned to Arizona as part owner of a Tubac silver mine. One of those ubiquitous historical plaques stands outside St. Anne's Church and salutes Poston as the founder of modern Tubac. To make Tubac an oasis of prosperity, Poston reasoned his new community would need families to create a stable citizenry. He claimed the traditional powers of a Spanish colonial alcalde and performed marriage ceremonies between American miners and Mexican maidens.

Tubac flourished during this era, which Poston described: "The table at Tubac was generally supplied with the best the market afforded. Besides venison, antelopes, turkeys, bear, quail, wild ducks, and other



EVERY MAN'S MUSINGS

By Gary Every
Special to the Crier

game we obtained through Guaymas a reasonable supply of French wines for Sunday dinners and the celebration of feast days."

J. Ross Browne also described Tubac. "The gardens afforded a pleasant place of retreat in the summer, with their shady groves of acacias and peach trees; and deep pools in the river, overhung by willows, were cleared out and made into bathing places, in which all who pleased might refresh themselves with a luxurious bath. Poston used to sit in the water like the Englishman in Hyperion, and read

Continued on Page 10



Poston's grave sits atop Poston's Butte near Florence.

Gary Every | Crier



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Understanding the Benefits of Therapeutic Massage

Massage is defined by Wikipedia and other sources as the manipulation of superficial and deeper layers of muscle and connective tissue using various techniques, to enhance function, aid in the healing process, decrease muscle reflex activity, inhibit motor-neuron excitability, and promote relaxation and well-being. Target tissues may include muscles, tendons, ligaments, fascia, skin, joints, or other connective tissue, as well as lymphatic vessels, or organs of the gastrointestinal system. Massage can be applied with the hands, fingers, elbows, knees, forearm, feet, or a massage

device.

With today's tensions massage has gained great popularity as a stress management tool. The tensions that are held in the muscles and soft tissues are directly linked to the autonomic nervous system (our "fight or flight" system). It is true that one can have tight muscles because they are tense and they can be tense because they have tight muscles. This makes the release of this physical tension an excellent strategy for reaching the more fundamental emotional tensions that we all feel.

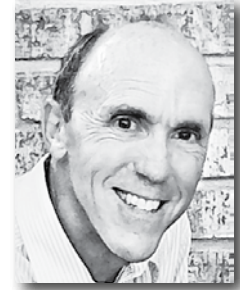
Therapeutic massage is concentrated on muscles and related tissues for the release of tensions (both physical and emotional) and the invigoration of the targeted areas with the added benefit of engendering a general sense of well being for the person being treated. Most qualified massage therapists have extensive training in various techniques and many hours of study regarding anatomy and physiology.

A typical massage therapy session is provided in a warm, comfortable, safe environment accompanied by soothing music or sounds to enhance the relaxation qualities provided. On occasion a massage therapist might find it useful to use heating lamps, warming stones or vibrating instruments to help radiate deeper into the tissues. Essential oils may be employed to further penetrate into stressed areas. Often particular points of tension can be found that require special attention. These are sometimes called trigger points. There are various specialized techniques for releasing these points.

Some techniques incorporated into a massage session involve extremely light touch, as is used with Reiki methods. Some techniques can be more aggressive, as might be found with trigger point release methods. Any method may have profound emotional releases due to the link with the autonomic nervous system.

On a more physical plane, deep tissue manipulation can facilitate the flow of blocked lymph systems. The lymph system is an auxiliary venous system that sometimes gets overloaded during illness. It's like frontage roads trafficking all the heavy trucks, to be unloaded before they re-enter the main highways (veins and arteries).

Athletes are finding massage an essential part of their regime. It can release spasmed muscles and facilitate full range of motion quickly. This strategy applies to all of us that get muscle cramps from time to time (especially in



HEALTH ISSUES

By Dr. Michael Miles
Special to the Crier



warmer weather if we're not drinking enough water or intaking enough minerals).

Some forms of massage focus on particular areas of the body. Foot massages can be very helpful for people with headaches. It pulls the attention and the blood away from the head. Some individuals hold the bulk of their stress in the shoulder area (upper back, neck, skull) and get great results with concentrated efforts there.

Start out the new year with the promise to yourself and your loved ones for a healthy, relaxing year with the unencumbered ability to enjoy all your favorite activities.

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Law Enforcement Appreciation Day event held in Oracle

By John Hernandez
Oracle Towne Crier

On Friday, Jan. 9, the Oracle Neighborhood Watch (ONW) sponsored a Support Law Enforcement Program as part of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. ONW encouraged participants to wear blue, wave blue flags and stop and thank your local police officer. ONW also sponsored Take a Cop to Lunch where they bought lunch at the Oracle Inn for our local law enforcement officers that stopped by.

The Neighborhood Watch members set up across the street from the Oracle Inn. They had a large American Flag and blue flags waving in the wind along with a sign that said Honk if you support law enforcement. Many honked as they drove by and some stopped and said thanks to the officers. One lady donated \$100 and some candy.

Bob Skiba from Oracle, who was once a Highway Patrol officer in the Miami area, said that people should support our law enforcement personnel and, "this is good for the community". Law Enforcement Appreciation Day was created in response to recent protests and negativity toward law enforcement after the killings of unarmed men by police officers in New York and Missouri and the brutal senseless killing of two New York City police officers. The national office of Concerns of Police Survivors an advocacy and support group created the event and hopes it will be an annual event nationwide.



DPS Officer Sam Madrid and former Highway Patrolman Bob Skiba.



ONW members take three local Pinal County Officers to lunch.

tan • gi • ble

adj.

1 capable of being touched

2 evident; real; existing

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1. Supporting workers
6. Military activities
9. Self-satisfaction
13. *Mike Ditka has his own brand of this smoke
14. One who is not Jewish, Yiddish
15. Done for dramatic affect?
16. Often done for one's sins
17. Unagi
18. Garment enlarger
19. *The _____
21. *Winners of first two Super Bowls
23. Après-_____
24. Keep it up?
25. State V.I.P.
28. Starch used in Asian food
30. Extremely tiny
34. Top of Kilimanjaro, e.g.

36. Texting button
38. Result of too much pressure
40. Pharrell Williams' 2014 album
41. Last European colony in China
43. Muslim honorific
44. Tax evader's fear
46. *Something to play for
47. Track _____
48. Confusion
50. Feudal laborer
52. Like humor or martini
53. Charades action
55. 401(k) alternative
57. *Super Bowl host state
61. Fracas
65. Precedes birth
66. Former measure of U.S. economy
68. Made cow noise
69. Mixtures
70. Earned at Wharton or

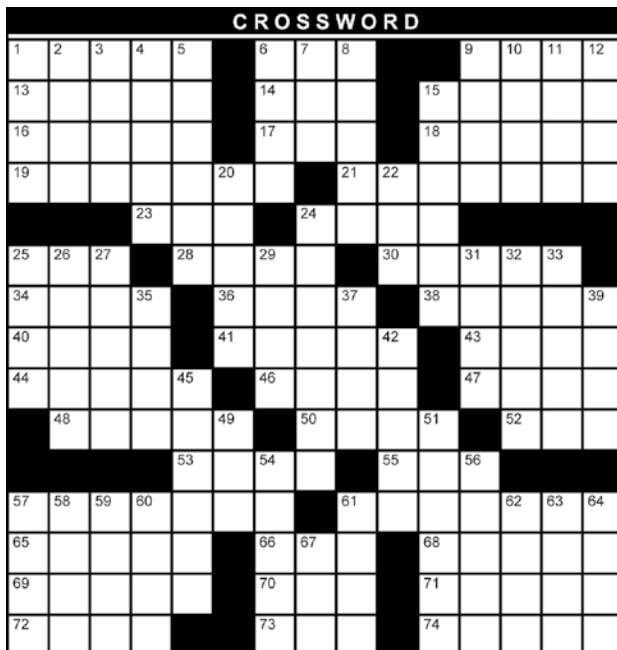
Kellogg

71. "_____ it!" said the accused
72. *Hendricks and Ginn Jr.
73. Make a scene
74. Type of car

DOWN

1. Wound, eventually
2. South American monkey
3. All excited
4. Vampire's feature, pl.
5. One who _____ out at the site of a snake
6. Curved molding
7. "The Raven" writer
8. Airy spirit
9. Dropped or fell
10. Source of artist's inspiration
11. _____-friendly
12. Understands
15. Alfresco meal
20. Unhealthy vapors
22. *Teams rely on this kicker sense
24. To the point
25. Lady of "Applause"
26. Poppy product

27. Opera composer Giuseppe _____
29. *Cleats, helmet, pads
31. Pack like sardines
32. Was violently angry
33. Shade of yellow
35. *49
37. Copenhagen native
39. *Super Bowl halftime performer
42. Finno-_____ language
45. Malignant or benign ones
49. Bowling target
51. Drab and unattractive people
54. Molten rock
56. Before, in the olden days
57. Sir Mix-_-_-
58. Rapid series of short loud sounds
59. Footnote acronym
60. Menageries
61. A quarrel
62. *Not a Super Bowl party without it?
63. Bulgarian money
64. Place of forbidden fruit
67. *Where to watch



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Stargazing event set at Oracle State Park with music, astronomy program, telescopes

As part of the community celebration for Oracle State Park's designation as an International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) Park, a "Star Party" is set for

Saturday, Jan. 24, at the park starting at 3 p.m. with live music and continuing into the evening with sky viewing through telescopes. All activities are free with

park admission. The park was recently granted the designation and is only the twentieth park in the entire world so named. IDA's dark

skies program aims to designate and "protect locations of exceptional nighttime visages for future generations."

Oracle's own "Drumension" band will provide music in the Kannally Ranch House living room, introducing their electronic drums from 3-5 p.m. Full information about the work of the Oracle Dark Skies Committee, headed by Michael Weasner, will be available.

A presentation on "Ancient Native American Astronomical Practices" will begin at 5PM with Ken Zoll of the Arizona Humanities Council. It is widely known that seasonal calendars became the foundation of early cultures for hunting and gathering, planting and harvesting, worshipping and

celebrating. This cultural astronomy program will describe the diverse ways in which prehistoric native American cultures perceived and integrated objects in the sky into their world view.

After dark, outdoor heaters and the patio fire pit will be lit and telescopes will be set up for public viewing by local astronomy buffs including the

SaddleBrooke Stargazing Club. All are invited to sip hot apple cider and hot chocolate, compliments of Friends of Oracle State Park.

The park entrance is on Mt. Lemmon Rd; admission is \$7 per car. More information at 520-896-2425 or visit www.azstateparks.com/Parks/ORAC for details of many upcoming events.



The patio at Kannally Ranch House, Oracle State Park, will be the site of a stargazing event Jan. 24 to celebrate the park's new International Dark-Sky designation. John Hernandez | Crier

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POSTON BUTTE

Continued from Page 4

the various newspapers, by which means he kept his temper cool amid the various disturbing influences which surrounded him.”

The bishop of Santa Fe declared all of Poston's marriages, divorces, and baptisms to be null and void. Hysterical weeping among the Tubac locals soon followed. Many of the couples whose wedding ceremonies had been performed by Poston had already produced several children. After Poston made a sizable donation to a local monastery the bishop changed his mind.

Poston is associated with the most famous practical joke in the history of Tucson. When the first locomotive came through town on March 20, 1880, the occasion was marked by a celebration. Telegrams were sent to the President of the United States as well as other dignitaries. The mayor of Tucson sent the following telegram to Pope Leo XIII:

“To His Holiness the Pope of Rome, Italy; The mayor of Tucson begs the honor of reminding your Holiness that this ancient and honorable pueblo was founded by

the Spaniards under the sanction of the Church more than three centuries ago, and to inform your Holiness that a railroad from San Francisco, California now connects us with the entire Christian world. Asking your benediction.

R. N. Leatherwood, Mayor”

Poston bribed a Western Union messenger to deliver a bogus telegram during the festivities. Leatherwood saw the bogus message and an excited glow crossed his face. He halted the party to read the telegram aloud.

“His Holiness the Pope acknowledges with appreciation receipt of your telegram informing him that the ancient city of Tucson at last has been connected by

rail with the outside world and sends his benediction, but for his own satisfaction would ask, where in the hell is Tucson anyways.”

It was several days before Leatherwood realized that he had been the victim of a practical joke, that perhaps the pope would not use the word “hell” so casually.

Poston lobbied the federal government for years to have Arizona declared a separate territory from New Mexico and in 1863 the Arizona Territory was created. Poston proudly journeyed to Washington DC as Arizona's first elected representative.

Poston described his congressional

Continued on Page 11



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 Unobstructed views. Wood block island, copper lights, Kitchen Aid 6 burners professional gas range with electric oven and a vent-a-hood, Kitchen Aid refrigerator is counter depth with a bottom freezer, built in microwave, open floor plan with lots of natural light; a cook and entertainers dream. Enclosed AZ room, stained concrete/ brick floors, ceiling fans, upgraded throughout. Turnkey! Free standing workshop/ storage room with electric built with permits, custom patio Ramada 14x14, rain catching system. **\$297,500**



1950 E MT LEMMON HWY MLS#: 21408191
 Oracle charmer on 1.78ac of solitude at 4500 ft. Covered in Oaks with views of boulders and the distant mountain ranges. Yard offers several different areas to relax and enjoy Oracle's afternoons and stary nights. Rock work flows throughout the landscaping offering you rocked flower beds, covered porch, lounging area with covered Ramada, fire pit for the perfect cookout. Storage bldg, green house w/ solar power system. Self contained water harvesting system with three 1200 gal storage tanks. Many more attributes add to this energy efficient home. Need to see so your own creative vision can take over. **\$195,000**

Oracle Listings - Homes

- **Custom Home** with great views, custom features throughout the home, high end stainless steel Jenn-Air 6 burner stove in gourmet kitchen. \$408,000
- **Immaculate 3 bedroom, 2 bath** on 1.05 acres with A/C and a beautiful oak covered private yard. \$214,999
- **Great views, 2832 sqft, 3 bedroom, 4 bath,** open kitchen with storage island, pantry, 3 stall horse barn with concrete floors with electric and hay storage, tack room, 3.32 ac. \$375,000
- **Charming 3 bed, 2 bath home** with 2 car garage on large private lot, new ceramic tile, new stove, microwave & dishwasher. \$145,000
- **3 bedroom, 2 bath** spacious living area, tile floor & fenced backyard. \$132,000
- **Oracle Charmer** on 1.78 acres, 3 bed, 1 bath covered in oaks. \$195,000

Oracle-Land

- **Best priced 5 AC in Oracle,** beautiful views, electric and water at the lot line, home or mobile, horse property, can be split. \$42,500
- **49 ac commercial lot on American Ave.** in Oracle, excellent location with good traffic for a business. \$92,000.
- **Choose your own parcel** from 1.25 to 3.75 ac., flat, easy to build on, utilities at street. \$79,900 to \$199,000.
- **7.71 ac horse property,** can be split. Great hilltop views. \$89,000
- **Best views in Oracle!** Come check out this 2.5 ac parcel nestled in very desirable custom home area. \$55,000.
- **4 lots,** custom home area, submit offers. 2 at \$32,000, \$45,000 or \$75,000.
- **Beautiful views from this lot** in Oracle, utilities at lot line, Perc test done. \$69,995.

San Manuel

- **Energy efficient home** with solar panels. Sellers' highest electric bill was \$13.00. Electric company buys back unused electricity. Remodeled kitchen, marble countertops, interior block walls have been insulated. 3 bed, 2 bath. All new doublepane low-E windows & much more. \$89,000.
- **Lovely 3 bdrm,** 1 bath with like new cabinets, carpet & upgraded appliances. Must see! \$71,900.
- **DRASTICALLY REDUCED - Charming home on 40 AC home** and well is solar powered, beautiful views, horse property, can be split. \$249,900.

Surrounding Area

- **Great Investment Opportunity!** 212 - 228 S. Main St. Mammoth. Includes 11 rental spaces, 5 spaces are currently rented. Seller may carry. \$150,000.
- **4 ac in the Redington area,** Mesquite trees, views, private well & septic. \$54,000.
- **Great lot for MH or site built homes,** located 10 mi. from Oracle Jct, 3.34 acres, very affordable with electric at lot line. horses allowed. \$29,900
- **3 bedroom, 2 bath on corner lot,** fenced \$16,900.
- **2 view lots,** city water, sewer, paved roads, make an offer on both lots, and owner will make you a deal. \$7,000 each.
- **Beautiful views of the Galiuro Mountains,** lots of vegetation & large Saguaros. \$10,000
- **4 lots with great mountain views,** lots range from .34 to .60 ac. Lot 2 is \$12,500, other lots are \$14,500.
- **8.84 ac, can be split,** has two building sites, saguaro and view. \$99,000
- **Secluded area with great views,** being sold as is for value of 1.3 acres. \$39,000.



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Take a Hike: Enjoying the Great Outdoors Year-Round

(StatePoint) Just because the weather is cooler, doesn't mean it's time to hibernate. With the proper equipment, preparation and motivation, any time of year is the perfect time to get outdoors for an adventure. And you don't have to look far for a great hike. Across the country, there are 59 gorgeous National Parks and thousands of state parks to choose from, comprising tens of thousands of miles of trails.

Hitting the trail this season? Make sure you're well-equipped to handle whatever comes your way.

- **Footwear:** Your regular running shoes may serve you well on a gentle slope in the warmer months, but in cool weather at high altitudes, different precipitation and terrain may require something sturdier, more insulated and definitely waterproof. Check the weather report and conditions of the trail before you go and outfit your feet accordingly.

- **Hydration:** Don't be fooled into thinking that staying hydrated is not important in cooler weather. As always, carry more water than you think you may need in case of emergency.

- If you're hiking in more extreme weather conditions, you may need an insulated water bottle to handle the temperature. Look for options that are easy to carry and open so you don't need to remove your gloves to quench your thirst.

- **Fuel:** Whether you're hitting the trail for a leisurely afternoon jaunt or you're powering through a challenging climb, hiking burns calories, especially in colder weather, when your body expends energy trying to restore its natural body temperature. Staying fueled is important.

Pack snacks that are high in energy, easy to eat and won't

weigh you down, such as trail mix or granola bars.

- **Useful tools:** Whether you're an experienced adventurer or a weekend warrior, the tools you choose should be well-designed to handle your pursuits and enhance your experience.

- Check out Casio's PRO TREK line of rugged, stylish Triple Sensor watches which are engineered for the outdoors. Features include Tough Solar Power, altimeter/barometer, digital compass and thermometer (Triple Sensor Technology), water resistance, low temperature resistance, daily alarms, a stopwatch and more, making them well-suited for climbs, hikes, kayaking and camping. The latest PRO TREK timepiece, the PRW6000, keeps track of sudden swings in atmospheric pressure, which can help alert users to the possibility of changing weather conditions. More information can be found at www.PROTREK.Casio.com.

- **First Aid:** Even quick hikes require a basic first aid kit. Be prepared with bandages, antibiotic ointment, antiseptic, splinter removal tools and basic medication.

There's nothing like exploring the beauty of nature year-round. Just be sure to do so safely and wisely. By getting prepped with innovative tools and basic equipment, you can relax and enjoy the hike.

POSTON BUTTE

Continued from Page 10

experience: "A delegate from a territory is like a tadpole among frogs. His name is not on the roll call and he has no vote. Nothing is expected of him but silence and not much of that."

The end of Poston's life was summarized by the "Arizona State Guide" published by the Arizona State Teachers College in Flagstaff in 1940; "After completing his term in Congress he traveled extensively in Europe and Asia and returned to Florence, Ariz. in 1878. While in India he became a sun worshiper and upon his return built a road costing several thousand dollars to the top of a butte which he called 'Parsee Hill' and where he erected a pyre of continuous fire as a temple to the sun. After burning for several months the fire died and the project became known as Poston's Folly."

The pyramid which now stands atop the peak is not the temple he started but never finished. This is a later monument erected in Poston's honor. I have stood atop Poston's Butte for sunsets when the sky is alight with streaks of crimson, yellow, red, gold, and purple, more splendid than the fire of any pyre. Any time you are near Florence it is worth climbing Poston's Butte to do a little sun worshipping of your own.

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Sirena Dufault to present photo tour of 800-mile hike along Arizona Trail

A “virtual tour” of the 800-mile National Scenic Arizona Trail will be presented in the comfort of the Oracle State Park ranch house living room on Saturday, January 31, by Sirena Dufault, who has personally hiked the continuous Mexico-to-Utah distance. The slide-photo presentation begins at noon and is free with park admission.

Oracle is a “gateway community” for hikers, with three miles of the trail passing through Oracle State Park and the official trailhead adjacent to the historic American Flag Ranch just off Mt. Lemmon Rd. The Ranch is owned and maintained by Oracle

Historical Society.

Ms. Dufault, Gateway Community Liaison for the non-profit Arizona Trail Assn., will also speak about opportunities for the Oracle community to expand its local support to hikers, day-hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and their teams. A detailed printed map of the trail, along with information about the association, will be provided. Their website is www.AzTrail.org

“Our” trail only recently earned the “National Scenic Trail” designation, thus becoming one of only 11 in the US. The Pacific Crest NS Trail is the longest (2,600

miles) and is featured in the best-selling book and current movie “Wild” by Cheryl Strayed. Second longest is the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (2,100 miles). Both were founded in 1968.

The park entrance is on Mt. Lemmon Rd; admission is \$7 per car. More information at 520-896-2425 or visit www.azstateparks.com/Parks/ORAC for details of many upcoming events.



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Sirena Dufault speaks to the Oracle Women's Network about her experiences on the Arizona Trail. She will speak Jan. 31 at the Oracle State Park.

Jennifer Carnes | Crier