

Oracle Towne Crier

"Almost all the news, part of the time."

Calling all nature lovers ...

Oracle State Park trails open for all, Pages 6-7

Volume 3, Number 9 January 2014 FREE

Oracle Towne Crier

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 —David Brinkley

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Neighborhood meetings set for public feedback on RVs used as visitor housing

FLORENCE — The Pinal County Planning and Development Department will be holding a series of public meetings to solicit input on Recreational Vehicles (RVs) used for visitor housing.

"The Board of Supervisors has directed us to find out how residents feel about this issue," said Planning and Development Director Jerry Stabley. "The County receives a number of calls each winter from residents concerned about visitors

staying in RVs."

RVs include all types of camping setups from a small tent trailer up to the largest motor home. The County Zoning Ordinance does not allow visitors to stay in RVs unless they are residing in an RV park. However, many residents want to allow friends and relatives to stay in RVs when they visit in the winter.

"Once we receive feedback from the public, we will relay that information to the Supervisors and they will

determine if and how they want to change the zoning regulations," Stabley said. "We look forward to meeting the residents and finding out how they feel about this issue."

- Queen Valley: Monday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Casa Grande: Wednesday, Jan. 22, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 820 East Cottonwood Lane.
- Oracle: Wednesday, Jan. 29, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Oracle Justice Court, 1470 North Justice Drive.

Letter to the Editor

Rumors about Charlotte's Way Rescue are untrue

Rumors have a way of hurting many – from the one that starts it to the one it's about and to those it affects in the long run. I will try with this letter to help ease some minds about Charlotte's Way Rescue.

First, I (Cher Heath) did not get my kids taken away. They are 25, 23 and 19. Please call me and I will give you first dibs on them.

Second, there are no sick dogs or cats here. Pinal County Animal

Control has been here twice and taken pictures of all animals on site. My animals are cared for very well. Please feel free to come by and see for yourself.

Third and foremost, we have helped a lot of people in the Tri-Community area and we will continue to do so. We have been working with Saddle-Brooke Pet Rescue Network, Ruff Rescue, Pinal County, Pima County and Hayden's town mayor, Chale

Vega. With the help of people in the Tri-Community area, our Dec. 14 fundraiser in Catalina was a huge success.

For more information, feel free to call, write, email or come on by.
 /s/ Cher Heath
 520-705-5425
 2790 Beverly Circle, Oracle, AZ 85623
 charlotteswayrescue@gmail.com
 cherhe70@yahoo.com

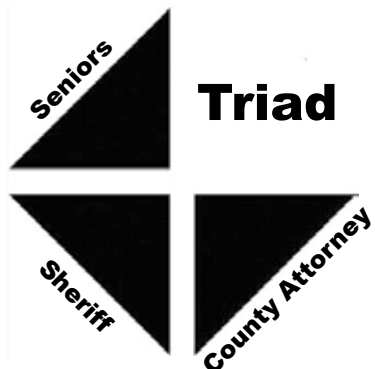
Oracle TRIAD Coalition

NEEDED: Volunteer Director of the Oracle TRIAD

A TRIAD is an organization of volunteers serving the needs of seniors in the community who are 50+. This position is also a volunteer who will be responsible for coordinating and creating committees to better serve the needs of the community. This position will be expected to participate in community events, coordinate and recruit interested volunteers, interface with community resources, and the Pinal County Attorney and Sheriff's Office. Must have good communication skills, and be computer literate. Looking for someone who is compassionate, patient, and a self starter.

If interested in serving your community in a priceless capacity, please send your resume or letter of interest to marguerite.johnson@orovalleyhospital.com. If you have questions, please call Joanie at 520-901-3631.

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.



Sheriff Babeu holds briefing in Oracle

By John Hernandez
Oracle Towne Crier

More than 70 concerned Oracle residents filled the Oracle Fire Station to hear Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu give a briefing and update on the recent rape and assault of a 34-year-old female.

According to PCSO, the victim was taken from her home on Dec. 15 at 2 a.m. by two men who placed her in the bed of a black pickup truck and held her down while a third suspect drove the vehicle to a remote area where she was brutally sexually assaulted and beaten by all three men.

Then on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 6 a.m. two men returned to the home of the victim. The victim was dragged out into the backyard where the two men began to assault her. Two aggressive dogs at the home attacked the assailants and they fled. The victim told police she had seen one of the men before. The victim was able to give a composite description to a police artist.

Sheriff Babeu was there along with members of his staff to assure the residents of Oracle that they are not in danger and that the case is important and is being thoroughly investigated.

Babeu said that evidence indicates that the victim was targeted and that this is not a random crime. He also reminded people to be aware of their surroundings and to call the Sheriff's Office if they see something suspicious. A number of residents questioned him on how they are handling the case and asked what was being done to protect the victim.



Composite of assault suspect, courtesy of PCSO.

The victim's mother told TV reporters that the residents of Oracle should be scared. She said, "You need to be in fear of these men. They're out to kill my daughter." The mother also made a plea to the assailants saying, "If you are watching, I hope that one of you has a conscience and tells somebody. Have a heart and come forward. Stop this!" She urged anyone with any kind of information to call 1-800-352-3796.

A video of the entire meeting is available for viewing at <http://youtu.be/NwCAPIEo8s4>.



Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu addresses the public at a briefing held Jan. 2 on an ongoing investigation. (John Hernandez photo)

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Wednesday, February 5—7:30pm

I Love Rock and Roll—A Salute to Women Who Rock.

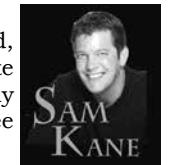
Starting in the 1950's with the likes of Connie Francis and Wanda Jackson into the 60's with the power of Janis Joplin and the soul of Aretha Franklin on through the 70's with Stevie Nicks and Debbie Harry and ending up in the 80's with Joan Jett and Pat Benatar. \$25 inclusive \$30 door



Saturday, February 8—4:00pm & 7:30pm

Sam Kane From his appearances on television to the West End, Sam has become a household name and one of Britain's favorite entertainers starring alongside Debbie Reynolds in Strictly Ballroom. Sam was voted Best Cruise Ship Entertainer, three years in a row. Produced by TAD Management.

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Thursday, February 13—4:00pm & 7:30pm

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Saturday, February 15—7:30pm

Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra. The third concert of the series has a Latin American opening with Danzon No. 2 by Marquez. Following are two big works: Ernest Bloch's Hebrew Rhapsody Schelomo, featuring principal cellist Zoran Stilin and the mighty Symphony No. 1 in C minor by Brahms. \$21 inclusive \$23 door



Wednesday, February 19—7:30pm

Soulsville USA—A Salute to Soul, Funk and R&B. Join International Touring Artist Walter Belcher and American Idol finalist Crystal Stark as they feature hits by The Temptations, the Four Tops, Otis Redding, Sam and Dave, Marvin Gaye, The Supremes, The Marvelettes, Gladys Knight and much more! \$25 inclusive \$30 door



Wednesday, February 26—7:30pm

Lincoln's Birthday Concert. The University of Arizona Wind Ensemble, Gregg Hanson, conductor and Wind Symphony Kevin Holzman, conductor, presents Lincoln's Birthday Tribute featuring a spectacular patriotic medley! All proceeds benefit the University of Arizona School of Music. \$25 inclusive \$30 door



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adj.

1 capable of being touched

2 evident; real; existing

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Health Issues

What are the causes and symptoms of food poisoning?

By Dr. Michael Miles
Special to the Crier

Food is the fuel by which we live. It provides all of the essential nutrients we need to survive. It is, however, becoming more and more of a challenge to feel confident about



Feeling sick? It could be food poisoning.

the food sources we are offered these days. Many of the commercial sources are depleted of their once abundant nutrients or have had those nutrients altered genetically. In addition, many are burdened with residual toxins left behind from their growing and processing environments.

Some of these residual toxins may be harmful enough for our bodies to react violently in an effort to expel them before more substantial damage occurs. Any excessive toxin that enters our bodies on food that we eat or in the water that we drink can be considered food poisoning.

Typically, however, the term "food poisoning" is reserved for an infection by bacteria or parasites carried into our stomachs on food or in water. These germs may irritate our stomachs

sufficiently to cause nausea and vomiting. If the germ activity continues on down the digestive tract, it may eventually cause diarrhea.

These symptoms will last as long as it takes to relieve the toxic effect. In other words, as long as it takes to expel the bacteria or parasite. If the cause of excessive vomiting or diarrhea is determined to be one of these toxic germs, it is wise to allow the body the opportunity to expel it rather than have those germs end up deep in our bodies to reek more havoc.

During the process of expelling germs many useful nutrients are also taken out. If excessive electrolytes (minerals) are taken out of our systems, we can develop tingling in our hands and feet or even severe muscle cramping. To prevent this, it is a good idea to replenish

as many electrolytes as possible in the form of broths or mineral water or specialty drinks. If the infection persists, it may be necessary to eradicate these misplaced germs with antibiotics.

Sometimes a flu can be misunderstood to be food poisoning and visa versa. Flus are most often viral in nature. Viruses will not be expelled by vomiting or with diarrhea. Therefore, in the case of flus, it is acceptable to make an effort

to stop those processes.

Another unfortunate condition that might trigger vomiting is motion sickness. This has nothing to do with germs (bacterial or viral). It is brought on by disorientation. Imagine a poor soul with the flu on a rocky boat who just ate contaminated food! All three conditions converging on one sad and confusing experience.

The number one prevention of food poisoning is thorough food cleansing. It

is often best to wash foods with water AND soap. A little scrubbing wouldn't hurt either. Sometimes peeling off the outer layer is a wise thought.

The number two prevention is selection of safe foods. This offers a good case for selecting "Organic," though this by itself will not ensure that the food is germ free. Germs like real food as much as humans do. That is why real, organic oils will go rancid (infected with

Health Issues, Page 7

Family Matters:



An informative message on a sensitive subject.

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Oracle State Park trails welcome hikers,

Oracle State Park, which schedules many guided tours and walks, educational workshops, and special events on weekends, October through April, is also open to the public on weekdays for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use.

In addition, the park welcomes weekday reservations for environmental education programs along inner trails and for the group use area. The Kannally ranch house may be reserved for weddings and other group gatherings.

The park, a 4,000-

acre wildlife refuge, environmental education center, and day-use recreation park, operates seasonally due to state budget restrictions. It features picnic areas and 15 miles of interconnecting loop trails, including a four-mile section of the Arizona Trail, a national scenic trail that begins in Mexico and ends in Utah.

Reservations and information is available by calling the park office at (520)-896-2425. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Park fees are \$7 per vehicle, \$3 per adult non-motorized entry, or display your Annual park

pass.

Weekday Trail Access. Weekdays, use only the American Avenue entrance

and parking to access the Arizona Trail through the park. Keep in mind that all inner trails to the Kannally

ranch house are closed to the public during the week, except by reservation. Please use the American Avenue

entrance self-pay station and record your attendance at the Information Kiosk there.

For Hikers: The Windy Ridge Trail and Bellota Trail are interpretive trails and used for environmental education school programs during the week. On weekends, these trails have the designation of footpath only; no dogs allowed. Dogs on leash are allowed on the Nature Trail and all multi-use trails in the park.

For Mountain Bikers: The Nature Trail is the only inner loop close to the Kannally ranch house that is open to bicycles. From the Nature Trail, access the Wildlife Corridor Trail or Manzanita Trail to get to the Arizona Trail and outer multi-use trails. The Mariposa Trail is also bicycle friendly.

For Equestrians: Preferred access is via the American Avenue entrance and



Oracle State Park offers many different trails with varying distances to appeal to all hikers, bikers and horse riders. (John Hernandez photo)

Park to feature Master Gardeners in January

Oracle State Park Center for Environmental Education continues its weekend events schedule in January with a Master Gardeners "Answer Table" on Jan. 25.

The park, which is open to the public on weekends through April, offers a variety of guided nature walks as well as the popular guided tours of

historic Kannally ranch house.

A first-ever exhibit of paintings by self-taught cowboy artist Lee Kannally is displayed in the ranch house. Kannally (1888-1971) was one of five family members who established the ranch in the early 1900s. He took up painting as therapy after returning from service in WWI,

where he suffered nerve damage due to gas poisoning while stationed in Siberia.

Gardening questions about plants, bugs, pests, or local horticulture are welcome at the Master Gardeners table on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Master Gardeners from SaddleBrooke are volunteers assisting the Coop-

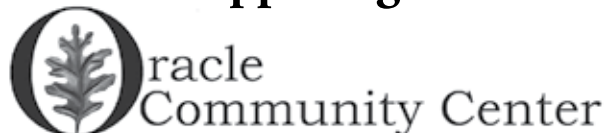
erative Extension Service by providing home horticulture information that is endorsed by The University of Arizona. Their display will include handouts of gardening tips.

Guided bird walks with M.E. Flynn are scheduled for Saturdays, Jan. 4 and 11. Meet at 8:15 a.m. at the ranch house.

Guided tours of the ranch house begin at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Visitors are welcome to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the patio (weather permitting) and to hike park trails, including a 4-mile section of the Arizona Trail.

Park hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the gate fee is \$7 per vehicle. Events are free with park admission and full information on programs is available on the internet at www.azstateparks.com/Parks/ORAC. Reservations for programs can be made at the park office 520-896-2425.

What's happening at the ...



There will be an Oaks Festival volunteers meeting on Jan. 13 at 4:30 p.m. at the Oracle Community Center. All interested persons are welcome.

There will be an Oracle Community Center Board Meeting on Monday, Jan. 27, at 4:30 p.m. at the Oracle Community Center. You are encouraged to come and learn what the community center has to offer in 2014.

The Oracle Community Center will have a membership pancake breakfast on Feb. 1 from 7-11 a.m. at the Oracle Community Center. Come enjoy some great food and join a great organization.

Every Monday 9 a.m., Canasta is played at the Oracle Community Center.

Every Monday lunch is served at the Oracle Community Center at noon. Each Monday a volunteer brings the main dish and others bring side dishes. Fee is \$4 for members and \$5 for guests. Membership cards are available during this time.

Every Tuesday 12:30-4 p.m. bridge is played at the Oracle Community Center. Call Ethel Amator at 896-2197 or Mary McClure at 896-2604 for more information.

Every Wednesday Oracle Community Center sewing and knitting classes are held at from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Call Susie Cochran for more information at 896-2935.

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Trail, and Power-line Trail. Equestrians entering through the park main gate on Mt. Lemmon Rd. should immediately cut down to the

Cherry Valley Wash Trail to access other horse-friendly paths. Please avoid the main park road and inner trail loops.

For a current list of upcoming weekend events, please visit www.AZStateParks.com/Parks/ORAC.



Stunning views are complementary for enthusiasts using the trails at the Oracle State Park. (John Hernandez photo)



Like peering through a window, this view allows nature lovers to observe without being observed at the Oracle State Park. (John Hernandez photo)

Health Issues

Continued from Page 5
bacteria) like most foods, whereas the normal “off-the-

shelf” oils can last forever without a concern that living organisms (germs) will find any nutritive value in their consumption.

The number three preventive measure against food poisoning is to stay

healthy overall. A healthy person will have good stomach acid that might be enough to kill off the few bacteria that find their way in. Also, a healthy person may have been exposed to enough small doses of

bacteria to have sufficient antibodies to fight off an infection. Bottom line - one day of vomiting after getting food poisoning is acceptable. Two days and it’s time to intervene.

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<p>Oracle <i>Psalm 1:2</i></p> <h2>Church Directory</h2>	
<p>Assembly of God 1145 Robles Rd., ORACLE 520-896-2408</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Evening Service 6 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday night services postponed through the summer months. <i>Pastor Nathan Hogan</i></p>	<p>Oracle Church of Christ 2425 El Paseo 896-2452 • 896-2067</p> <p>Sunday Bible Study • 10 am Worship • 11 am</p>
<p>Living Word Chapel 3941 W. Hwy. 77, Oracle 896-2771 • 896-9020</p> <p>Saturday Service: 6:00 p.m. (except 5th Saturday of the month)</p> <p>Sunday: First Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30-11:00a.m. Second Service 11 a.m.</p> <p><small>Children & Youth classes available for both services</small> <i>Pastor James Ruiz</i></p>	<p>Oracle Seventh-Day Adventist Church 2150 Hwy. 77, Oracle</p> <p>Saturday: Sabbath School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m.</p> <p><i>Pastor John Roybal</i></p>
<p>Oracle Union Church 705 E. American Ave., Oracle • 520-784-1868 Near Mt. Lemmon Turnoff</p> <p>Sunday Bible Study 9 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study noon Thursday Prayer Time 11-noon</p> <p><i>Pastor: Dr. Ed Nelson</i></p>	<p>First Baptist Church American Way, Oracle 520-808-3171 Pastor Ray Lott</p> <p>Sunday: School 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m.</p> <p>Free food distribution 2nd Tuesday, 1 p.m.</p>

To be included in the monthly church listing, call the Oracle Towne Crier 385-2266.

Crossword: The Grammys

ACROSS

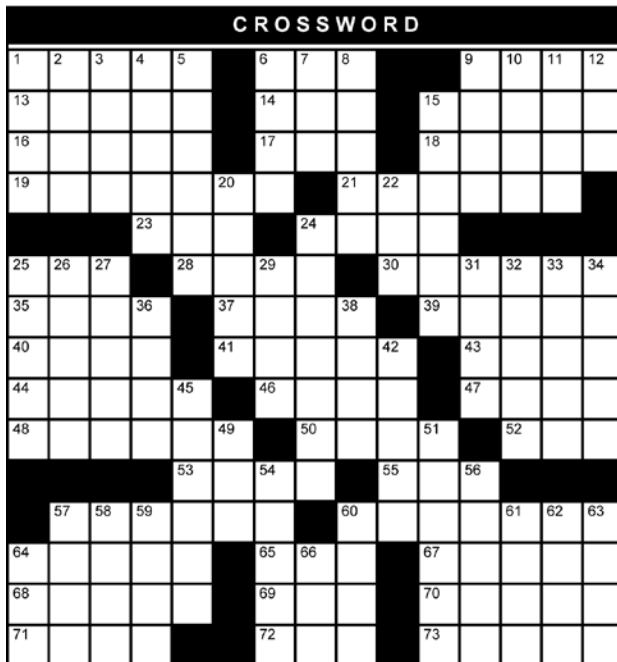
1. Leigh is to Scarlett as _____ is to Rhett
6. _____ de deux
9. "Through" in text message
13. "_____ fair in love and war"
14. Under the weather
15. Sand bar
16. Disturb
17. "New" prefix
18. Equestrian's attire
19. *Eminem's 2013 hit
21. *Rogers' duet partner
23. Driver's aid
24. Sub station
25. Acid
28. Often held on sandwich
30. *Girl on Fire
35. Creole vegetable
37. Poverty-stricken
39. Bank ware, pl.
40. Bit attachment

41. Israel's neighbor
43. Catch-22
44. Weight watcher's choice, pl.
46. Black cat, e.g.
47. First rate
48. Take to one's heart
50. Aquarium dweller
52. *" at Work," Best New Artist of '83
53. Conceited
55. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
57. *Macklemore's kind of shop
60. *This year's Grammy host
64. Song of praise
65. Shed tears
67. The _____, Netherlands
68. Take down masts
69. Clod chopper
70. Blatant

71. Gardener's storage
72. *" Owner of a Lonely Heart" band won one Grammy
73. Offends with odor

DOWN

1. Clothing of distinctive style
2. Medicinal house plant
3. Something that happens so fast
4. Famous Hungarian composer
5. High regard
6. *" Just Give Me a Reason" nominee
7. Barley brew
8. North face, e.g.
9. " does it!"
10. Tramp
11. *In '85 Prince won two for " Purple _____"
12. Final, abbr.
15. High-pitched
20. Gathers harvest
22. Chicken _____ king
24. Kind of security guard
25. *" Royals" nominee
26. Knitter's quantity
27. Often done to fruit
29. It goes up and down
31. Bit
32. Billiards bounce
33. Cuckoo
34. Ski destination
36. A chip, maybe
38. Cambodian money
42. Clarence in "It's a Wonderful Life", e.g.
45. Pinching pennies
49. Churchill's "so few"
51. Boat load
54. Nervous and ansty
56. Dry white Italian wine
57. Hyperbolic tangent
58. At this point
59. Police action
60. Potassium hydroxide solution, pl.
61. Curved molding
62. Lie in wait
63. *Multi-Grammy winner Elton's, "Bennie and the _____"
64. From a wound
66. Poor man's caviar



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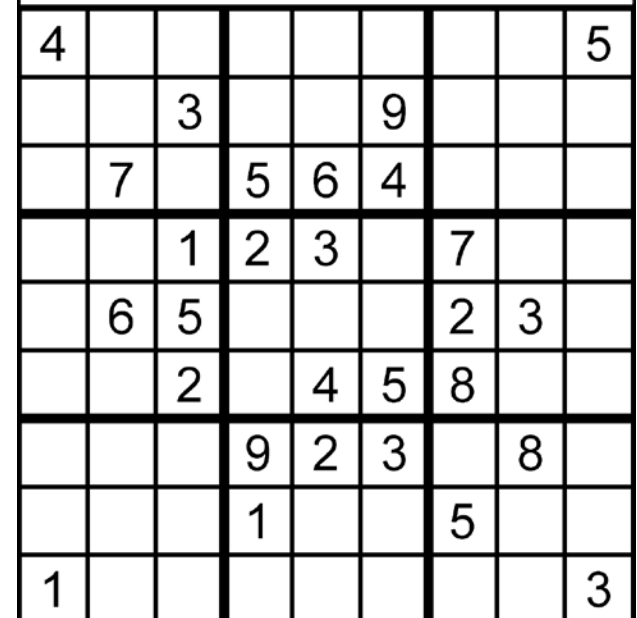
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Oracle School District makes changes and long-term plans

By Linda Thomas
Oracle School Board
Special to the Crier

It's been a busy year for the Oracle School District. Our governing board made a great decision to hire Dennis Blausler and Nanette Soule as our new superintendent and principal. We also developed an annual strategic plan for the district centered on quality education, finances, and public relations and revised the superintendent evaluation instrument to ensure alignment with that plan. Our district implemented the Common Core reading standards and conducted a complete review of our district policies with the Arizona School Board Association

(ASBA). Blausler also restructured administration to save 30 percent in administrative costs and strengthened the district's long-term strategic and capital plans.

Our board attended numerous training opportunities to stay informed of opportunities, trends and legal issues and participated in each ASBA Lobby Day at the state capitol, attending education committee meetings and speaking to each of our LD8 legislators. One of our board members, Linda Thomas, was even awarded the 2013 ASBA Advocate of the Year.

Reduced funding forced us to make some tough decisions such as restructuring our preschool



Linda Thomas

operation, suspending the art and music programs, conducting a reduction-in-force and stopping the high school activity bus runs. The most painful loss though, was that of the override renewal. The

60-vote loss will result in \$140K less for next year. Unless we can pass the override in 2014, we'll lose another \$140K by 2016 and the entire \$430K by 2017.

Nothing can take the place of adequate resources for a quality instructional program, but the community continues to step up in a variety of ways. SaddleBrooke (SB) Community Outreach provided tutors and enrichment program funding, SaddleBag Notes gave a grant, and the Rotary Club (and many others) provided support and volunteers for the "Stuff the Bus" drive. The Teens Sew Cool club started a sewing class, Oracle staff, and volunteers

are running an Equine Program, volunteers are offering guitar and singing lessons, and a SB Ranch resident will be working with teachers on a grant-funded "how to better communicate" curriculum called Cosmo Kidz. Other SB Clubs such as the Knit Wits, Greenware Club, Teens Sew Cool, Fine Arts Guild and numerous community residents also volunteered for, or donated generously to the student holiday store, rodeo art contest, science fair and the tax credit program.

District staff and volunteers also saw the near completion of the new concession stand/restrooms at the ball fields; funded through monies raised by the PTO, donated

labor and materials from local businesses, and the purchase of bricks by community residents.

Next year is sure to bring many new opportunities and challenges. We are currently discussing a possible consolidation of campuses so as to become more effective and efficient, we want to renovate the district's website to make it more effective and user friendly, and we'll be implementing the Common Core math standards. Of course, we'll continue to focus on our mission: to provide an educational setting that ensures every child/student will become a responsible, conscientious, well-educated, productive citizen.



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Tom Wills: The Man from San Pedro

By John Hernandez

Oracle Towne Crier

Tom Wills was born on Jan. 17, 1866 in Mariposa County, Calif. At a young age his family moved to Bakersfield, Calif. where his father Harrison Roland Wills was successful in the stock business. In 1883, he moved to Arizona and settled in Agua Caliente, now a ghost town near Gila Bend, and a year later moved to the

San Pedro Valley. He began working as a cowboy there. It has been said that he worked nearly every ranch along the lower San Pedro Valley. He gained a reputation for being a hard worker and highly skilled with a rope and horse. Before long he had his own ranch near Mammoth.

Around 1893 Tom joined the Charlie Meadows Wild America show. This was a wild west show and would

later be called Arizona Charlie's Wild West Show. They participated in the Chicago World's Fair and traveled around the country. Abraham Henson, "Arizona Charlie" Meadows, is credited with organizing the first Payson Rodeo along with John Collins Chilson in 1884. The Payson rodeo is the oldest continuous rodeo in the world. Part of Tom's job was driving the original

Concord stagecoach that traveled regularly between Benson and Tombstone and was robbed a number of times. They would reenact stage robberies with Tom fighting off the bandits.

Tom Wills is the man, of San Pedro, and well known in Tucson especially after yesterday. He is about 27, brown and sinewy, and more graceful on a horse than off one.

full grown steers and the steers would get a 75 foot head start. In 1901 at a rodeo in Tucson, his record was broken by a cowboy from Texas named McGonnigle. Tom was also competing that day in Tucson.

At a wild west show in Tucson in December of 1894, Tom Wills put on an exhibition of riding that was the highlight of the show. He rode a horse known for killing two men that had never been successfully ridden. A reporter from the *Arizona Weekly Citizen* described the ride of a genuine Arizona cowboy.

"Tom Wills is the man, of San Pedro, and well known in Tucson especially after yesterday. He is about 27, brown and sinewy, and more graceful on a horse than off one. He has been in the saddle for many years, and saying he is an expert with a riata and handling horses and cattle is putting it mildly. On the Juan Elias ranch belongs a man killer. This man killer is a horse, a vicious big strong sorrel, of fine blood, whose proportions of viciousness and devilry are 100 per cent each. As a horse he has taken pride that no man had conquered him. Talk of buckers! He could

curve his back till the center of his vertebrae was two feet higher than the rest of him. If that would not suffice, wild plunging and falling over backwards could unhorse his rider. The horse has killed two men, the second of whom believed that not withstanding one man had died under him he could stay with him and bring him to subjection," described the reporter.

"Tom Wills has signified a willingness to ride any horse on earth, and this man killer in particular. He declared he could conquer the brute and he did. Yesterday the horse was brought out, holding back and acting ugly from the first. A blind was put on him and he was saddled. Then Wills lightly mounted and removed the blind. All the savage bucking by the other broncos was child's play to what followed. He made his back into a short and very high bow and jumped all four feet off the ground. His head went low. Then he reared. He plunged and snorted all the while Wills clung like glue. The horse then tried to kill Wills as he had his other victims, by rearing and falling backwards on him, but the rider got out of the way, and as the horse got up he was in the saddle again. The brute was brought to subjection after more fighting, and was finally ridden about, tame as any horse on the grounds. The man had conquered."

Tom left the wild west show and began building up his ranch near Mammoth. In 1895 he married Elizabeth Chamberlin, daughter of Joseph Chamberlin founder of Willow Springs Ranch near Oracle. The Chamberlins also had a stage stop there and founded the town of Manleyville, named for one of Joseph's sons Manley. Wills also became partners with Frank Daily and



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- Beautiful views from this lot in Oracle, utilities at lot line. Perc test done. \$69,995
- 2.5 ac horse property with great views, site - built or MH. \$45,000.
- Choose your own parcel from 1.25 to 3.75 ac., flat, easy to build on, utilities at street. \$79,900 to \$199,000.
- 1 ac. in homes only area with fantastic views & natural features. \$49,900
- Hard to find, 13 acre parcel with amazing views bordering National Forest, water and electric at the property line with several great home sites to choose from. Owner will finance with 25% down.
- 4 lots, custom home area, submit offers. 2 at \$32,000, \$45,000 or \$75,000.
- 49 ac commercial lot on American Ave. in Oracle, excellent location with good traffic for a business. \$92,000.
- Horse Property! Build your home or put a manufactured home on this great 3.34 ac parcel. \$105,000.
- Rare 40 ac parcel, elevation at 4800 ft offers cool summers, own private well and electric at property line, borders State land, owner carry considered, \$289,000 or 20 ac with well for \$170,000.
- 1.04 ac premium lot, custom home area, views, views views! \$65,000.
- 1.25 to 10 ac., buy part or whole, has excellent well, borders State land, no financing necessary, owner will carry. \$32,000 - \$125,000.
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- 3bd, 2ba Oak wood kitchen cabinets, dual pane windows, m etal roof, well insulated, covered porch, private well, barn/storage, 40 plus trees, horse property, 2 ac, fenced. \$109,500.
- 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
- PRICED REDUCED! Hilltop views, open floor plan, custom kitchen cabinets, wood floors, fireplace, bay windows, 5 bdrm, 2ba, fenced yard, 2 car carport, covered porch. \$119,900.
- 3 bdrm home with updated kitchen, laundry room, covered porches, fenced yard, new electric June 2012. \$58,500.
- 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 Galurios Mountains, lots of vegetation & large Saguaros. \$10,000.
- Great mountain views from this 3.75 ac. south of Mammoth. \$47,000.
- 4 ac in the Redington area, Mesquite trees, views, private well & septic. \$59,000.



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Wills

Continued from Page 10

purchased the Inter-Ocean Ranch from E.O. Stratton. The ranch was located on the northeast slopes of the Catalina Mountains. He became one of the prominent ranchers in the area.

Tom was coerced by friends to enter politics in 1900. He was elected as a Pinal County Supervisor. The same year at the Tom Wills' ranch in Mammoth, a noted gunman, Tom Burns was shot and killed by Willis Miller, one of Wills' cowboys. Miller shot Burns after Burns attacked him with a shovel. The shooting was called justified as it was self defense. Tom Wills had witnessed the incident and testified on Miller's behalf.

Wills was known to be a little wild in his younger days. His western style humor included his willingness on a whim to shoot the glasses off of a bar or the lights out in the tavern where he was drinking, leaving the saloon in darkness. His friends never let him forget those days. He was reputed to have been involved in a couple of fatal gunfights but I could find no documentation to support this.

In 1902, Wills was at the center of a political controversy when he ran for Sheriff of Pinal County. A number of Democrats did not want to support the incumbent candidate, also a Democrat, W.C. Truman. The party split into two different factions and each had their own candidates for the available county positions. Wills' campaign manager and a big supporter was Tom Weedon, owner and editor of the *Florence Blade-Tribune* newspaper. He would help Tom get elected.

Some of his exploits while Sheriff included bringing back to Florence from Globe, W.T. Armstrong, the former Sheriff of Gila County, who had been arrested for cattle rustling. Armstrong was out



Photo of Tom N. Wills from a postcard postmarked in 1907. Courtesy of the Oracle Historical Society. Notice the spelling of roper?

of prison and on parole for a previous conviction for cattle rustling in Pinal County. Wills would arrest Juan Alvarez, a Yaqui Indian, for killing two men with a mesquite branch used as a club in a fight at the town of Maricopa. He tracked and captured seven cattle rustlers about seven miles northwest of Tucson. Wills would investigate the double slaying committed by Robert "Texas Bob" DeVance in Gamble's Saloon in Kelvin. During his last year of office in 1906, he took a leave of absence to travel to Colorado, Yellowstone National Park and Wyoming to hunt elk and bear. He made it a point to visit Wyoming during the big Cheyenne Rodeo which he entered. He was heralded there as the champion roper of New Mexico and Arizona. He would win second money in the steer roping contest.

Wills chose to run for the board of supervisors instead of a third term for sheriff. This probably allowed James McGee to be elected as the first Republican sheriff of Pinal County. Wills was elected and would go on to become chairman of the board. While a supervisor, he was arrested in 1907 by the Arizona Rangers on a warrant from Texas for a forgery charge that happened 15 years

prior. It turned out that while traveling in the wild west shows, he had written a bad check thinking he had funds in the bank to cover it. He traveled to Texas and cleared up the charge. He was active in the Arizona Cattle Growers Association and served as their vice president for a while. In 1909, he supported keeping the Arizona Rangers when the territorial legislature was attempting to disband them. He said he believed in their ability to run down horse thieves and cattle rustlers. In 1910 he was elected as a Pinal County representative to the Arizona Constitutional Convention which would help set the stage for Arizona becoming a state.

Wills became involved with organizing the rodeo contests for the annual territorial fair. In 1912, he was named supervisor of cowboy sports and events for the first Arizona State Fair. He also helped organize and judge rodeo contests in Prescott and Payson. At the Payson rodeo he helped his old friend Charlie Meadows "Arizona Charlie". One of the cowboys Tom helped bring to the rodeos he organized was the silent western movie star Tom Mix.

Besides his cattle business,

Tom was involved in mining. Newspaper articles show he partnered in a claim with one of his deputies, William Kellogg. He was also partners with Pasqual Figueroa. They were said to have discovered a promising gold vein located in the mountains about 15 miles west of Mammoth. In 1904 while Wills was helping drill a well on the John Brown ranch, it was reported that a strong flow of gas had been encountered. The water in Mammoth was also known to have colored spots which looked like oil. It set off a frenzy of people drilling for oil along the San Pedro near Mammoth. Oil speculators leased land from the local ranchers and drilled for oil. No oil would be found but it would lead to some nice artesian wells being discovered.

Tom Wills would live in Mammoth, Oracle, Florence and in his final years in Tucson where he died in 1940. He is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery. He was a cattleman, Pinal County Sheriff, county supervisor, member of the Constitutional Convention and a real cowboy. He is one of Arizona's and the Copper Corridor's pioneers and will always be known as the "Man of San Pedro".

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What does the Bible say about baptism?

By Pastor Fred Patterson
Oracle Church of Christ
Special to the Crier

The Bible identifies two kinds of baptism. The first, as practiced by John the Baptist, was for the Jews as a sign of repentance. See Matthew 3:1-6 and Mark 1, 1-8. The second, as commanded by Jesus in Matthew 28:16 and in Mark 16:16, was a step towards salvation for both the Jews and Gentiles (foreigners, non Jews).

Preaching before a large crowd on the Day of Pentecost, the apostle Paul was asked what the people needed to do to be saved. (Acts 2:37, 38) Peter said to them "repent and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Writing to the believers in Corinth, Paul said anyone in Christ is a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17). To those in Galatia he said "For all of you who were baptized into Christ

have clothed yourselves with Christ." (Galatians 3:27)

Both baptisms recounted in the Bible were by immersion, not by sprinkling or pouring. All baptized had reached the age of accountability; there

are no examples of infant baptism.

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