

Seeing double at Mountain Vista School

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Oracle Towne Crier

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OBITUARIES

Marshall 'Mark' W. Baird

Long time Oracle resident, Mark Baird, passed away on Dec. 18, 2015. He was loved by many and will be dearly missed by friends and family.

Mark was born in 1923 in El Paso, Texas. He grew up in New Mexico before joining the military during World War II. After training, Mark joined the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team. The outfit embarked for Europe where they endured heavy fighting from Italy, through the invasion of Southern France (Operation Dragoon), then the bitter winter in the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge. After the war ended, Mark joined the 82nd Airborne Division where he was part of the occupation forces in Berlin, Germany for 3 years. His awards include Combat Infantry Badge, Parachute

Wings [one star], Presidential Unit Citation, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Good Conduct. In 2013, he was knighted with the National Order of the Legion of Honour from France for his exceptional military conduct during WWII.

He married Rita Romer in 1956 and they raised two children in the Oracle area. His work included ranching, truck driving, and manager of the Estate of the Countess of Suffolk, where the Biosphere II now stands. After retirement, he was a dispatcher for the Oracle Fire Department, President of the Oracle Community Center, Grand Marshal of the 2005 Oracle Oaks Festival, and Secretary/Treasurer for the Southern Arizona Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association for 18 years.

Mark is survived by his children, Margaret (Craig), and Bill (Jacque);

his loving granddaughters, Abbie, Maggie, and Stephanie; four great-grandsons; and sisters, Margaret and Charlotte.

He is preceded in death by his wife Rita, parents Mabel and Bill, and brother Joe. He is fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews that have wonderful stories of their Uncle Mark.

Memorial services will be announced shortly. Please join in remembrance at: www.Never-Gone.com/Memorials/MarkBaird



Melvin Washington Childers

Melvin Washington Childers peacefully entered into eternal life on Jan. 25, 2016.

He was born Dec. 2, 1929 to Ora and Lonny Childers in Somerset, Kentucky, where he was raised with his siblings, Reva, Wendall, Billy, Gloria, Iwana, Frances and Suzy.

Mel is survived by his lovely wife, Valjean Childers. They met at Berea College in Kentucky.

Mel was an honorary Kentucky Colonel. Mel and Val own Mel's Drive Inn and

The Chaparral convenience store and he was also the last milk delivery man in his time.

Mel leaves behind his wife, Val; children, Helen Byrd Hillman (Al), Lisa Langhammer (David) and Mark Childers (Shelly); 11 grandchildren. Elena Hausman (Jay), Paul Gough (Valerie), Carmen Quirk (Cody), Harry Hillman (Hannah), Nancy Hillman, Alyssa Goldkuhl (Travis), Kathleen Bonasera (Ernest), Melissa Harris (Jonathan), Amanda Alvarado, Susan McCloskey,

Sara Sexson (Cody); and 13 great-grandchildren.

Gage Valentine, Marissa Valentine, Talin Goldkuhl, Caleb Bonasera, Zachary Gough, Keira Goldkuhl, Mason Bonasera, Austin Gough, Elise Bonasera, Brice Diederich, Harry Hillman VI, James Quirk, Paige Sexson.

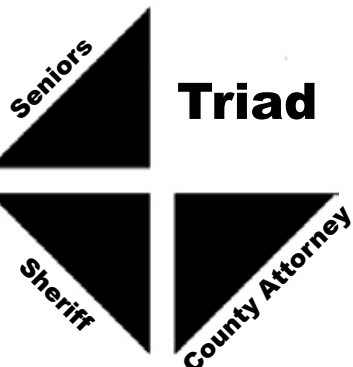


Oracle TRIAD Coalition

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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 Jim Stephens to sign up for volunteer opportunities, 520-483-8193.



DIAPER BAG

March for Life

Family First is sponsoring a one mile march celebrating life of foster, adopted, natural born and special needs children. This march will be Saturday, March 12, at 1575 W. American Ave.

You can walk as a team or an individual and get sponsors to raise money for Family First programs.

Registration is at 8 a.m. with the march to follow, then coming back to the center for refreshments; featured speakers will be parents who have foster children, adopted

children and special needs children.

A grab bag will be given out to all attendees. There will be door prizes to win. Someone lucky person will win a quilt made by the Copper Thimbles Quilt Guild in San Manuel.

So get registered by going to the website www.familyfirstpcc.org. You can also obtain a registration form at the office of Family First 1575 W. American.

If you have any questions please call us at 520-896-9545.

Buy cookies, support your troops, and your troops

The local Girl Scouts can be seen in charge of cookie laden tables, or, going door to door, working toward their individual goals, as they learn business acumen, professionalism, build their self-esteem, and, bolster the social conscience of their neighbors.

Sounds like a tall order for a small person, but, these girls are up to the challenge. One local Cadette Girl Scout has set her goal of selling 800 boxes. This will earn her a day at Disneyland with other Girl Scouts, from all over the Southwest, who have also earned this special treat.

Tabitha Kellam is the only Girl Scout in the Tri-Community. Buy your cookies from Tabitha by calling or texting (520) 591-9596. She and her mom promise a speedy delivery.

Why do they do it? 800 boxes is a lot of work for one single day. Is there some other reward for the hours of hard work? Yes, there is.

Girl Scouts all over the nation are working together with Operation Gratitude, a program which, per its mission statement, seeks "... to lift spirits and meet the evolving needs of our Military and First Responder communities, and provide volunteer opportunities for Americans to express their appreciation to all who serve our nation." Operation Gratitude sends out more than 150,000 care packages per year to military personnel that are deployed overseas, veterans, first responders, wounded warriors and their caregivers, and to the children of soldiers who must wait at home for the return of their parents. In these



Girl Scouts®

packages, the recipient will receive personal letters, hygiene products, entertainment, food, and handmade items. This is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer-based corporation, funded by private donation. For more information on Operation Gratitude, please visit <https://www.operationgratitude.com/>

The Girl Scouts are taking part in this endeavor to show gratitude to and lift the spirits of military personnel, active or retired, and, their family, through Cookies For the Military, a program with a goal of sending 50,000 boxes to our troops. Contributions are tax deductible and can be made in \$4 increments with any local Girl Scout, whether they meet you at your door or you meet them at the door of one of your favorite local businesses. Too, a case of cookies can be ordered for \$48; this is also 100 percent tax deductible.

According to the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona, "Last year, our girls collected over 30,000 boxes for our troops deployed overseas and donated thousands of boxes to local organizations through their Gift of Caring projects."

So, if you are out and about, and see our local troops of Girl Scouts selling their edible delights, have the good taste to purchase a good tasting treat, and, help our little troopers as they work to support our troops overseas. No need to leave your home, though, when a phone call or text will bring Tabitha and the Girl Scout cookies to your door.

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Wednesday, March 2, 2016 - "Blueberry Hill" Tribute to Fats Domino - 7:30pm. Starring Mr. Boogie Woogie (aka) Eric-Jan Overbeek.

This brand new show is the logical continuation of the successful show "Fats." Not only will you hear Fats Domino's biggest hits like "Blueberry Hill," "I'm Ready" and "Blue Monday," but you will also enjoy quite a few new songs from Domino's enormous repertoire. Songs like "There Goes My Heart Again," "Domino Twist" and "Whiskey Heaven." This Fats Domino Tribute is a celebration of recognition, an explosive music spectacle, full of fire, virtuosity and humor, with an overwhelmingly charismatic horn section, a one-of-a-kind tribute to the music of the legendary Fats Domino. \$25 inclusive \$30 door.



Saturday, March 5, 2016 - Mike James Comedy Show - 7:30pm. Produced by TAD Management.

Mike James has built a reputation on giving his audiences an unforgettably funny show. From comedy clubs and casinos to cruise ships and Fortune 500 corporate events, Mike James is able to deliver a fresh and hilarious perspective on life. He has won numerous awards over the years and his background in improvisational performing ensures his audiences get a one-of-a-kind and very personal performance. Mike has also written for the Daily Show, The Colbert Report, The Tonight Show, and many others. \$30 inclusive \$35 door. Inquire about our Mix & Match Package. Discount prices **not available** on line.



Wednesday, March 9, 2016 - Ballroom Blitz - A Song & Dance Spectacular 7:30pm. Produced by Lonely Street Productions.

Celebrate movement and music with "Ballroom Blitz," a brand new song and dance spectacular. Featuring a cast of dynamite singers/dancers and backed by a red hot band, this production pays tribute to the genres and styles that define the world of movement. From salsa to swing and from tango to foxtrot, "Ballroom Blitz" will have you dancing in the aisles before the night is through. \$30 inclusive \$35 door. Inquire about our Mix & Match Package. Discount prices **not available** on line.



Saturday, March 12, 2016 - December '63 - The Original Jersey Boys Tribute - 7:30pm. Produced by TAD Management.

The music of Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons comes to life in this re-creation of a Frankie Valli concert experience. DECEMBER '63 showcases all your favorite songs from Frankie Valli including the one-of-a-kind classics that have been thrilling audiences for decades including everyone's most popular singles from the musical The Jersey Boys. \$30 inclusive \$35 door. Inquire about our Mix & Match Package. Discount prices **not available** on line.



Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, March 15, 16, 17, 2016 - SaddleBrooke Variety Show - 7:00pm. Red Hot, Green & Blue That's Entertainment!!

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Jaguars and Star Wars

The Navajo poet guns the engine of her jaguar, engine roaring and purring. The tail of the jaguar is adorned with a Navajo nation license plate, picture depicting the stone landmarks of Monument Valley. I love that there are still jaguars which roam Arizona, even if this one is automotive.

The thought of giant cats from the tropical jungle roaming these barren high deserts of the American southwest is not as ludicrous as it seems. When the conquistadors first explored what they thought of as the Mexican northern frontier long before it became known



as the American southwest, jaguars were found as far north as Utah, as far east as Tennessee.

In this painted desert, I think the jaguars would have stayed away from the open stretches of slick sandstone but would have preferred to travel along the narrow ribbons of riparian green which adorn the slot canyons. These deep canyons are embraced by the protective arms of cliffs towering hundreds of feet above. These canyons are adorned with trickling streams, waterfalls and fruiting trees. These canyons hide eight year old abandoned pueblos. There are petroglyphs and pictographs depicting ancient stories and ceremonies. Sometimes there are even fossilized dinosaur footprints embedded in the bedrock. Dinosaurs are just one more fearsome and magnificent creature who once walked these lands but does so no longer.

I am still holding out hope for the return of the jaguars. They were listed as extinct in this country for many decades. Then in the 1990s a rancher near the triple borders of New Mexico, Mexico and Arizona, was mountain lion hunting when his dogs became unusually excited. He and his horse rounded a corner and discovered the dogs had treed a jaguar. The rancher reached into his holster... and removed his video camera. Those images of the giant jaguar in the tree became the basis for his book *Eyes of Fire* and Warner Glenn is now a leading jaguar conservationist.

Confirmed reports of jaguars in the United States have been limited to the border region, but unconfirmed eyewitness sightings place them much further north. So far cameras have only discovered male jaguars in the United States, even if some of them were recorded



EVERY MAN'S MUSINGS

By Gary Every
Special to the Crier

over periods as long as twelve years. The last confirmed female jaguar in Arizona was shot by a hunter at Big Lake in the White Mountains in the 1960's. The last wild jaguar kittens in the country were recorded when their mother was shot at the Grand Canyon in 1898. There was no mention of what happened to the orphaned kittens. I like to think the kittens escaped and that somewhere in the folds of the Grand Canyon silent shadows of giant spotted cats still roar amidst the brightly colored striations of painted rock, leaping and hopping among the waterfalls of crystal clear hidden oasis.

I imagine the Navajo poet gunning the engine of her sleek sports car, flying along the winding curving canyon roads, like a soaring raptor, living only for the thrill of being alive, in this isolated patch of earth where echoes often remain unheard. A Navajo friend posts on her Facebook page about the new movie theater on the reservation and that it will be showing the newest *Star Wars* movie. *Star Wars* has a large following on the Navajo reservation. A project was recently undertaken where the first *Star Wars* movie was translated into the Navajo language.

A large drive in movie screen was erected next to the bleachers of the rodeo grounds. The benches were filled by old men in denim and cowboy hats, grandmothers in skirts, and metal head misfits. Rowdy children chased each other, mud staining everything except their smiles.

Continued on page 10



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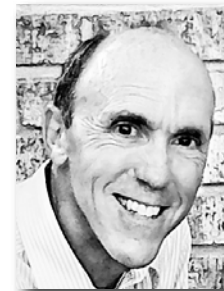
Intravenous infusions are a direct and rapid means delivering substances into the body, specifically, into the blood vessels, which are the highways of the body. This means of entry bypasses the normal gastro-intestinal (G.I.) route and therefore bypasses many of the first-line defense systems that effect potency of substances taken in. The GI tract, the tube from mouth to anus, is considered to be outside of the body. In order for substances to enter the body in this fashion their first interaction is through the mouth. Smell and bad taste themselves can cause a person to reject a harmful substance right off. The stomach provides the next safety net. Its acidic environment does a good job of not only breaking down protein, but also killing bacteria. From there substances must be digested into small enough particles to penetrate the intestinal wall and then finally enter the blood stream. Once in the blood stream via this route they are subject to a "first pass" directly through the liver which detoxifies harmful substances. This is where most drugs lose about 50% of their potency. Finally, substances are free to be trucked throughout the 60,000 miles of blood vessels to be delivered to cells as nutrients for survival.

You can see that without the natural safety checks, substances entering the body need to be seriously scrutinized in order to protect our bodies against harmful reactions. Therefore, all I.V. substances are screened to be completely sterile. All vials have expiration dates on them and seals to ensure safety. The fluids are visually checked for particles and to see if they are murky. They are further checked to ensure their compatibility with blood. The pH (acidity) of the final solution needs to be very close to 7.4. The osmolarity (concentration of substances) needs to be fairly close to 295 mOs/liter. Solutions that fall outside these ranges can damage the blood. Even warming I.V. substances with microwaves can sufficiently alter them as to cause damage to the blood.

The most common use for intravenous therapy is for re-hydration. You may notice that one of the first things that gets done upon entering a hospital or encountering emergency personnel is to have an I.V. placed. This accomplishes two things. It ensures fluid and electrolyte replenishment and it establishes access for future quick infusions as needed.

I.V. therapies are also useful in an outpatient setting. They are quicker acting and

more powerful than other forms of intake. One of its many uses is the delivery of vitamins and minerals in order to have immediate access to these raw materials for fighting diseases. There is a "cocktail" that is used often with individuals who get the flu. It consists of Vitamin C, magnesium, B12 and a couple of other substances that stimulate the immune system. Antibiotics are sometimes infused directly into the blood stream in order to deliver concentrations necessary for serious infections. Chemotherapy is often given intravenously for a similar effect. Chelating agents are much more effective and powerful when infused directly into the blood. These agents pull out harmful heavy metals from the body. Certain amino acid combinations can be administered that will provide the necessary mix to control tremors or control Alzheimer's. An alkaline mixture can rapidly reverse the spiraling decline of someone with diabetic acidosis. DMSO infusions can relieve the constrictions of scleroderma. Intravenous infusion is a way to deliver very high doses of Vitamin C sometimes used to treat diseases like cancer.



HEALTH ISSUES

By Dr. Michael Miles
Special to the Crier

I encourage you all to keep your veins healthy and accessible. They could one day help to save your life. Dr. Michael Miles' Clinic is located at 15601 N. Oracle Rd. in Catalina behind Golf Cars of Arizona. You can learn more about the Catalina Clinic and Dr. Miles by visiting the website: www.catalinaclinic.com. To contact Dr. Miles or make an appointment at the clinic call 520-825-8100.

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Mountain Vista's twins are from left: front, Adriana and Brooklyn Machado, Alexander and Sebastian Henneman, Paetyyn and Brooklyn Griffin; middle, Giselle and Yasmine Goga, Tyson and Trevor Hogan, Britney and Christopher Johnson; and top, Samuel and Joshua Reyes, Reagan and Mikayla Martin.

Seeing double at Mountain Vista? No, it's just an abundance of twins

By John Hernandez
Oracle Towne Crier

If you spend much time at Mountain Vista School or attend their events, you may have thought you were seeing double at one time or another. Not to worry though, your eyesight is fine. You probably just noticed a set of twins, one of eight sets that attend school in the Oracle District. The twins range in age and grade from kindergarten to eighth grade. All the twins and their families were living in the Tri-Community when they were born. Two sets live in San Manuel and the others in Oracle.

In ancient times the birth of twins could be considered a bad omen or a good sign depending on the culture and superstitions of the people. In every culture there are mythological stories about twins. Some cultures have twins at the center of their creation myth. There are even stories about twins in the Old Testament. Many of the stories are about the dualistic nature of the universe. Good and evil play a part in the myths with the sibling rivalry of the good and bad twin. Now with modern medicine we have a better understanding of child birth and the conception and birth of twins.

Although multiple births are more common now than in the past due to women waiting longer to have children and the introduction of fertility drugs, twins are still somewhat of a rarity. Among general populations, the odds of having twins are around three in one hundred live births, which makes it quite remarkable, having eight sets of twins in a small community and attending the same school in a district with 467 students.

The twins at Mountain Vista School are: Paetyyn and Brooklyn Griffin (Kindergarten); Adriana and Brooklyn Machado, Alexander and Sebastian Henneman, Samuel and Joshua Reyes (3rd Grade); Giselle and Yasmine Goga (6th Grade); Tyson and Trevor Hogan, Britney and Christopher Johnson (7th Grade); and Reagan and Mikayla Martin (8th Grade).

The parents of the twins, especially the mothers, need to be praised for their patience, strength and endurance. After all they went through giving birth twice in one day, twice the feedings, twice the bottles, double the diaper changes, crying in stereo, etc. Through that all we are sure they thought they were lucky to have been blessed ... twice.

Happy Valentine's Day

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Music, wildlife, trail events highlight February weekends at Oracle State Park

Though February is the shortest month of the year, Oracle State Park Center for Environmental Education is packing the weekends with lots of informative programs and fun events. Best of all, they're free with park admission.

Brand new is "Meet the Neighbors", a presentation of special interest to newcomers who want to learn more about their desert wildlife "neighbors." The staff of Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum will cover living habits and ecological roles, dispel some myths, and offer practical guidance for how to accentuate the positive and minimize the negative encounters with creatures like tarantulas, snakes, bats, bobcats, coyotes and raptors. Some live animals will be shown. The program begins at noon on Sunday, Feb. 28 in the Kannally ranch house



The patio at Kannally House at the Oracle State Park is a wonderful place to rest and relax after hiking the beautiful trails. The Park is open weekends.

living room; reservations are required by calling the park office, 520-896-2425.

Mountain bikers of all expertise levels are invited to a guided bike ride over six miles of park trails, covering varied terrain and section of the Arizona Trail. It begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21; call for reservation.

Another popular Music in the Park is set for Saturday, Feb. 20, from 2-4 p.m. A local band will play a lively Americana mix for dancing and toe-tapping; visitors can bring their own lunch and beverages to enjoy on the upper patio.

Other February activities include:

- "Bear Necessities" inter-active program with AZ State Parks volunteer Richard Boyer at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 14. Learn about the black bear of Arizona, bear encounter safety, and enjoy an appearance from the "Everywhere Bear." Reservation suggested.
- Mineralogy program with local mineralogist Wolfgang Mueller at 11 a.m. on Feb. 27 will include information on rocks associated with regional mining operations and lapidary uses. Reservation suggested.

Guided tours of the historic Kannally ranch house are scheduled for 11 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday. The 45-minute tour visits rooms and patios extending down the hillside. 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 exhibit of impressionistic-style cowboy paintings by self-taught artist Lee Kannally is on display in the living room and dining room.

The park is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays; park admission is \$7 per car at the main gate on Mt. Lemmon Rd. in Oracle. Full Oracle State Park event information is always posted on the state parks website: www.azStateParks.com/Parks/ORAC.

For information about all 28 Arizona State Parks, the Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Programs, and the State Historic Preservation Office, call 800-285-3703. Campsite reservations can be made online at AZStateParks.com or by calling the reservation call center at 520-586-2283. Follow AZStateParks on Twitter and Facebook.

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- Baby grand, e.g.
- _____ mode
- Baggins of the Shire
- DNA and RNA
- Any high mountain
- Daisylike bloom
- *Hailed as the "Father of the Constitution"
- *First Republican President
- Lungful
- Darn a sock, e.g.
- Bldg unit
- *John Adams to John Quincy Adams
- Soldier's knapsack
- Inside scoop
- 16 of these in Tennessee

Ernie Ford song

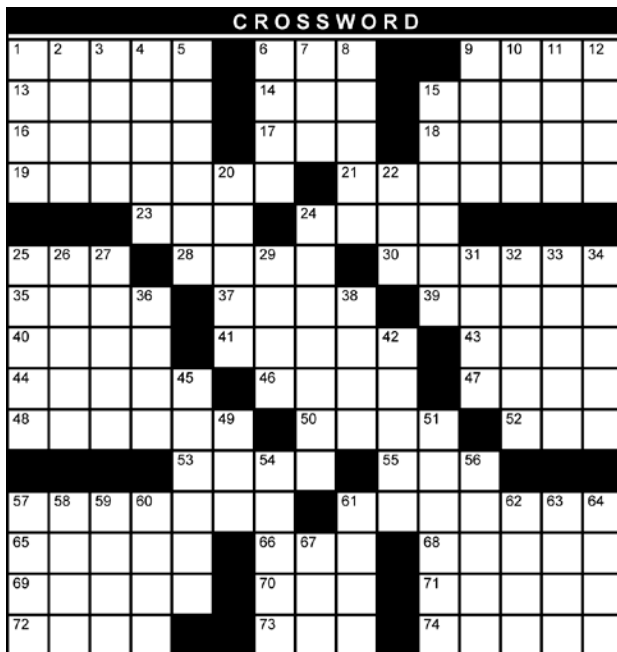
- Masonic doorkeeper
- Smoothie berry
- *George to George W.
- Hindu serpent deity
- Most are now wireless
- Glacier's deposit
- Smiley face
- Chole_____
- Windshield option
- "C" _____ la vie!"
- Number of judges on Supreme Court
- Leave speechless
- "On guard" to a fencer
- *Under him, the White House debuted its website
- "Will comply" in radio communication
- One of five W's
- Smooth
- Fill with high spirits
- Tan maker

- October 31 option
- Scarlet and crimson
- Indeed
- Hollers

DOWN

- Unwanted correspondence
- Type of type
- Policemen's surprise
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- Blake Lively's "_____ Girl"
- Indian flatbread
- "_____ at ease"
- Breakfast syrup
- Catchall abbr.
- _____phobia, fear of heights
- Cain's unfortunate brother
- Between dawn and noon
- Movie "Smokey and the _____"
- Talk like Demosthenes
- Cartridge contents
- Official command
- *First to live in Executive Mansion
- Lace loop

- *Clinton signed North American Free _____ Agreement
- *First "Dark Horse" presidential candidate
- Sound of a small bell
- Emanation from a loudspeaker
- Knight's breastplate
- *First to run against a woman
- Wedding cake layer
- 18-wheeler
- Of the kidneys
- *Liberia's capital named after him
- Jar cover
- "American Horror Story" disgraced clown
- Full of news
- Water carrier
- World's longest river
- Alternative to Saran
- Parts of play
- Flipside of pros
- Asian weight unit
- *Like President's office
- Brooklyn players
- Tint



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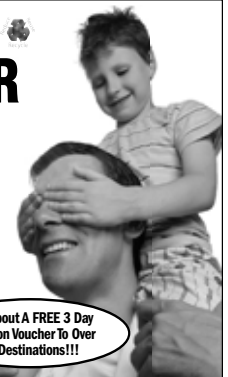


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UFOs: Best Kept Secret?

There are no secrets that time does not reveal." Jean Racine

Longtime resident Sigrid A. Settle was originally drawn to Oracle by unexplained sources. All she could see was beauty around her. Since moving here in 1991, she has become a valued member of the community.

During our conversation about UFOs, Settle stated that some things are true whether you believe them or not.

Following is one of these stories, as told by Settle:

It started off one day in Daniels Park on a beautiful sunny summer afternoon. My boyfriend Larry and I had brought a picnic to the site as it was close to my home in Littleton, Colorado.

We were looking forward to a scenic afternoon together.

From the park you can see Pikes Peak in the South, Mt. Evans in the West, and Longs Peak in the North, but we had no idea what sight we were about to see and it wasn't listed in any brochure that might have been available.

We had just finished the food we had brought with us, shared on a picnic table situated close to the edge of a small cliff that overlooked the Rocky Mountains. We took the remnants of our food to Larry's car, placed what remained in the trunk and meandered over to a tree that stood in front of the cliff. There was a valley beyond the tree and beyond that valley were the Rocky Mountains.

Larry stood on one side of the tree and I on the other side in awe of the sights before us. We didn't say a word, just looked at the view enjoying the pristine air, the trees below in the valley and the Rocky Mountains range, so close we could see the green of the pine trees.

We must have been standing there for several minutes not saying a word when something came into view that startled both of us. As we watched, three objects came flying over the trees at great speed and so close they could have touched them. They quickly dipped down into the valley and hovered over the ground. I wasn't sure if I should say something because once those words left my lips I was sure Larry would think I'd gone mad, but discretion was not something that was needed at that moment.

And so the words came out of my mouth, "Larry do you see what I see?" Larry being as stunned as I was said, "What is it you're seeing?" Now the cat was out of the bag and it was time to say what I was seeing.

"That looks like flying saucers to me. What do you see?" At this point I felt a sense of relief flowing over Larry although neither of us moved an inch from our positions. "That's what it looks like to me," Larry stated still in awe at what was transpiring before us. I could hear it in his voice.

And so we stood there watching three flying saucers as they flew halfway between us and the Rocky Mountains and then stopped in midair. A rational moment was somehow needed, so I asked Larry if he thought they might be government vehicles, did he see any numbers on them. Of course no was the answer that came back from Larry which agreed with what I could see from my location.

What followed was a four minute conversation between Larry and I trying to make sense of what was happening.



By now one of the flying saucers had gone down to the ground and the other two hovered over it. As we were trying to figure out what they were doing one of us moved but I'm not sure which one. I was too absorbed watching those saucers. The one on the ground had about a three second delay and then flew up to the other two saucers. By now my mouth was hanging open as one of the saucers started flying toward us. My mouth flew shut after yelling to Larry that we had to get out of there.

We ran to his car as fast as our legs could carry us, arriving at the car as Larry dropped the car keys in his haste to open the door. "Hurry Larry, it's almost here!" Panic took over and all rational thoughts flew out of my head. Larry backed up the car and started moving forward toward the road that had brought us to this spot just as the saucer started hovering over our car.

Just as a child is convinced sheets can protect them at night from scary sounds in the middle of the night, I calmed down surrounded by the safety of our car and looked up at the saucer hovering over us. I looked at the size of the saucer, it was about 15 or 20 feet across, as far as I could tell from that location, and the bottom of it was a smooth looking type of metal without any rivets or seams of any kind. There was no propeller and no dust flying around us. It seemed as if the saucer was flying by some unseen force as my eyes gradually went up to the top of the saucer base.

There were clear looking windows in a circle above the base and I held my breath as I looked up in hopes of seeing what was driving this vehicle. When I looked into the windows, all I could see was the top of the ceiling.

It was bright and sunny when I looked up and just as suddenly it was almost dark outside with me not wondering why there had been such a sudden change in the light. Larry and I drove off into the now dimming light as the flying saucer returned to the two saucers and



HANDWRITING ROCKS!

By Skylar Khan
Special to the Crier

flew back over the Rocky Mountains. I was so excited on the drive home telling Larry we needed to report this incident. We had seen this in broad daylight, we hadn't been drinking anything alcoholic and both of us witnessed this event together. He turned, looked at me with his face skewed up a bit and said he'd lose his job with the Air Force if he reported what we had seen as he was in training at Lowry Air Force Base. He made me promise I wouldn't tell anyone, not even my parents, as he dropped me off at my home that evening.

I would have thought that would have been the end of our adventure, but I was surprised it wasn't over yet. A week went by and I was sitting in the shade of my home in the cool grass when a black car came driving up and parked in front of my house. No one was home at that

Continued on page 10

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HANDWRITING

Continued from page 9

time; as a matter of fact no one was on the street at that time other than me and this black car. I was startled to see two men come out of the vehicle. I was even more startled because they both had black suits on despite the fact that it was so hot that morning. Who'd wear black suits in this weather was my only thought as one of them approached me and the other one stayed by the car.

It is difficult remembering that entire conversation other than a few significant items that have stayed in my head and will forever remain there. He talked about

what I had seen that day at Daniels Park, said that if I ever told anyone about what I'd seen my father would lose his job at Martin Marietta and they would make sure he'd not be employed again. He was working on the Titan Missile among other things at the time. Who were these people, how did they know my father worked for Martin Marietta, and how did they know I was there that day? I was in Larry's car, not mine. I thought it was silly threatening me when I had told Larry I wouldn't say anything, but I guess they hadn't talked to Larry. I got a hold of Larry on the phone

later in the day and was met with yet another surprise.

Larry told me they had been to see him and now he could never see me again. I asked him over and over what they had said to him but he refused to tell me. He just kept saying he'd lose his job with the Air Force if he ever saw me again. I hung up the telephone, puzzled and sad. I had lost someone who I found to be very special to me and all because I'd seen some flying

saucers in the summer of 1965.

I didn't tell anyone what I had seen that day so long ago in Daniels Park for concern my father would lose his job with Martin Marietta, but I would have been released from that when he died. I still kept this story quiet because of other factors that had come into play, including my own job with the government at that time.

To add to the silence that has persisted

Continued on page 11

JAGUARS

Continued from page 4

Giggles and gossip filled the air. Tiny bits of breeze rustled the American flag. As twilight faded it became storytelling time and a flickering light suddenly illuminated the large blank screen. The rodeo bleacher audience gasped as the words scrolled across the screen in that familiar way, "In a galaxy, far far away..." except this time the words were written in Navajo. They call the movie *So' Tahdi Nidaabaa* which doesn't translate directly as Star Wars but more like "A Battle in the Land of Stars."

The movie creates a bond between grandmothers and grandchildren and great grandchildren. Being in Navajo, the movie creates a reversal of roles. It is the children who have difficulty with the language and are forced to ask the elders for a translation. These new stories can be a tool to keep an ancient language alive. Is there really such a difference between the adventures of Luke Skywalker and those of Slayer of Enemies?

I imagine the Navajo poet driving her jaguar under the moonlight, headlights refracting off the eroded sandstone spires, engine growling as it rides the winding

ribbon of asphalt. She tells ancient stories in modern settings. Stories shift and move, revolve and evolve, and yet somehow stay the same, like ripples in a pond spreading outwards, reoccurring echoes of a concentric pattern.

What is important is that fierce feline ghosts of spot and shadow still roam this southwestern high desert. What is important is that when these jaguars scream, roars echoing up and down these slot canyons, everything alive is terrified for miles around. It is important that there is still wildness in our wilderness. That wildness is the spring which feeds our genetic mythology.

Shooting stars streak across the night sky. I watch one meteor race across the horizon, fireball burning brightly for the briefest of moments. The word for meteor in Navajo translates as "stars raining down in fragments," as bits of history, mythology, geology, language and landscape rain down inside my skull, echoing inside the big cavernous spaces and searching for bits of spiritual resonance.

Biziilgo ni tsinkees

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HANDWRITING

Continued from page 10

about this episode for so long beyond my own retirement goes the saying “Repeat something often enough and it becomes the truth. If everyone is saying the same thing, it must be true. No need to look into it and think for yourself.” By the time I was released from my protective silence for my father, Larry and myself, there are others who might be harmed. That is how the silence persists about this subject.

I think it is time for us “old” folks to step forward and start sharing our stories. There are many of you out there who stay silent for fear of being labeled crazy, odd or just seeking publicity. Or perhaps you are concerned about the welfare of a loved one. But when we step forward and share our stories the truth will eventually come out as to what is really happening. I’m just one of many who is now stepping forward and letting you know what happened to me one summer day in 1965 in Colorado.

After telling the story of this extraordinary experience, Sigrid Settle was also kind enough to share her thoughts about Oracle with us in her own handwriting, to be

analyzed for this article.

First impressions gained from looking at this handwritten script are rhythm and fluidity. There is marked absence of confusion and presence of mental organization and appreciation for spatial concepts.

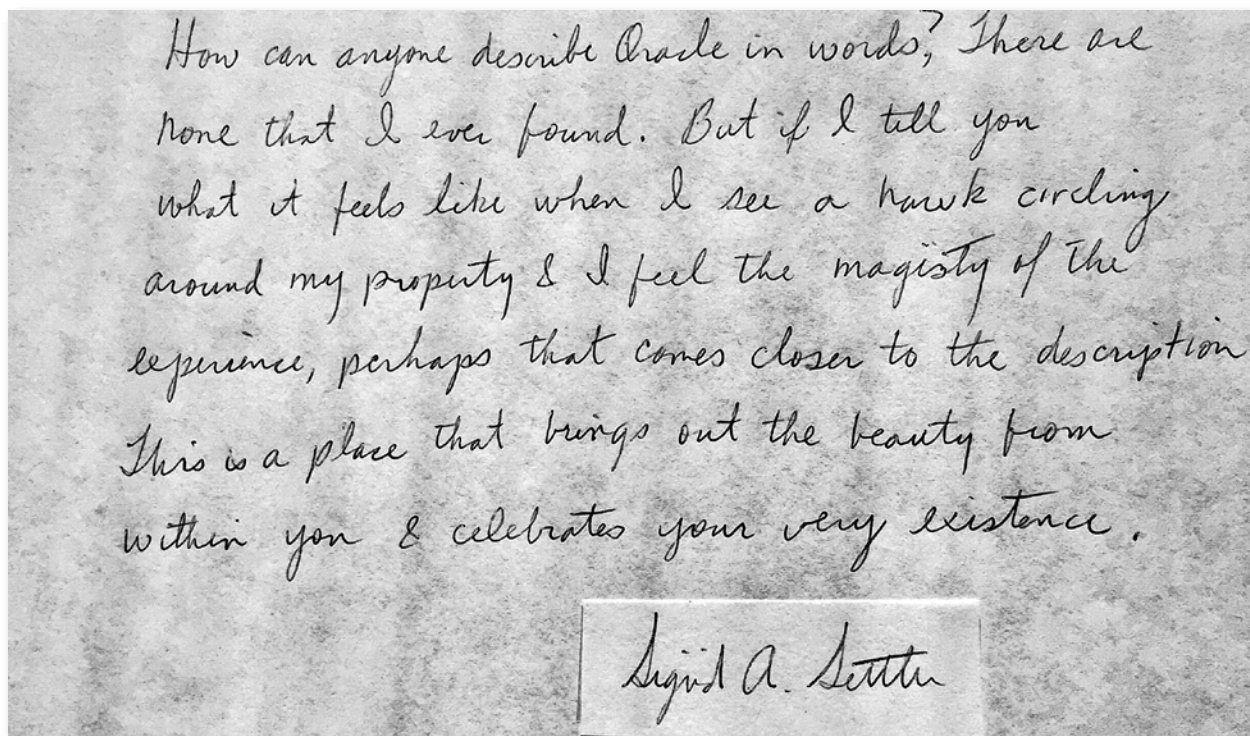
The light pressure is indicative of an individual who glides almost unscarred through life. Traumatic experiences are dealt with and she is able to move forward.

The writer views others with kindness, rather than criticism. She has the ability to stay objective and mindful.

The signature is congruent with text which is supportive of integrity and modesty. There are no unnecessary embellishments – what you see is what you get.

In telling her story, Sigrid Settle hopes to inspire anyone who harbors UFO (unidentified flying object) related secrets to come forward and share them with her or the world at large.

Comments or questions may be sent to Skylar Khan at sky@theriver.com



Sigrid A. Settle

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Mountain Vista has spelling bee; James Colwell is top speller

By Elizabeth H. Tilley
Oracle Towne Crier

Mountain Vista had its annual spelling bee on Friday, Jan. 29. The bee was intensely competitive, with the battle for first and second place going for 16 rounds!

The winners of the bee are:
6th place: Angelina Stanford
5th place: Shania Shepherd
4th place: Jimmie Madrid, Jr.
3rd place: Veronica Gomez

2nd place: Azul Candelaria

1st place: James Colwell

First, second, and third place will compete at the Pinal County bee, held in Casa Grande in February – fourth, fifth, and sixth place will go to Casa Grande as alternates.

This year's judges were: Verdean Smith, Darlene Cavanaugh, and Joanna Soulé, who was also the pronouncer. The Coordinator of the bee was Monika Bond, 5th grade teacher.



Mountain Vista Spelling Bee winners and the sponsor Monika Bond.



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