

Pinal NUGGET

July 2017
Volume 10 Number 9

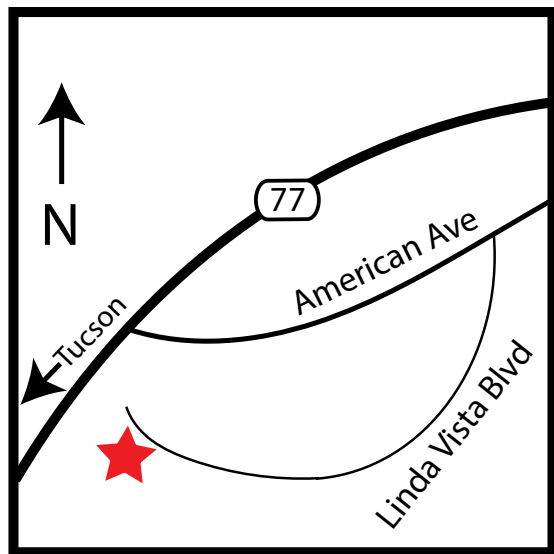
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Photo by Cat Brown

From Blight
to Beauty,
pages 4-7

A community publication of Copperarea.com



AWARD WINNING POET

Adrian Matejka will lead a week-long writer's workshop at Rancho Linda Vista in Oracle Nov. 4-11.

Writer's Workshop at Rancho Linda Vista

A writer's workshop is being offered at Rancho Linda Vista in Oracle. The week-long workshop is being led by award winning poet, Adrian Matejka.

Adrian is the author of *The Devil's Garden* which won the New York/ New England Award and *Mixology*, a winner of the 2008 National Poetry Series. *Mixology* was also a finalist for the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literature. His latest collection of poems, *The Big Smoke*, was awarded the 2014 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award. It was also a finalist for the 2013 National Book Award, 2014 Hurston-Wright Legacy Award and 2014 Pulitzer Prize in poetry. *The Big Smoke* was a poetic treatise of the life of Jack Johnson, the first black Heavy Weight Champion of the World. He has won other awards and he currently teaches in the MFA program at Indiana University.

Adrian is working on a new collection of poems, *Hearing Damage*, and a graphic novel. The Rancho Linda Vista artist's community will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. The community has been a pioneer in Arizona's vibrant art scene and has influenced artists around the country. They have hosted many artists and writers/poets and as a salute to their 50 year Anniversary and creative collaboration with poets, they have launched their first writers workshop. The workshop will be Nov. 4 - 11, 2017. The fee is \$850 and includes a room and meals for the week-long event. Activities at the Rancho Linda Vista guest house include workshopping in

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NUGGET

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

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Published the fourth week of each month. Business office is located at 139 8th Ave, P.O. Box 60, San Manuel, AZ 85631. Subscription rates paid in advance: \$9.00 per year or \$5.00 for 6 months U.S. Change of address should be sent to the publishers at P.O. Box 60, San Manuel, AZ 85631.

Member: Arizona Newspaper Association.

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Workshop

Continued from page 2

the morning with approximately 10 fellow participants; afternoon free time for writing, revision or outside activities. In the evenings, guests can participate in readings, conversation and/or music. On the final day, a presentation will be given for Rancho Linda Vista residents and invited public.

Applications for the workshop include sending the following information in PDF, Word or Rich Text format to rlvworkshop@gmail.com:

- Name and home address, email and phone number.
- In 300 words or less, describe yourself, your current project and what you hope to accomplish during the workshop.
- Include no less than three and no more than eight pages of poetry.

Applications must be received before midnight Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017. For more information about the workshop, Adrian Matjeka or Rancho Linda Vista, visit website at <http://bit.ly/2t8oOWX>.



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PAYER MOTORS

Payer Motors, a business which closed many years ago, has become a canvas for mural artists.

Turning blight into beauty – Superior's Main St. mural project

There's something awesome happening on Main Street in Superior and the Chamber of Commerce is to blame. "Blame" may be harsh, but we mean it in the absolutely best way possible.

A little history: the Town of Superior has historically been a mining town, first with Magma Copper, later BHP Copper and now Resolution Copper. The town prospered when the mine prospered and declined when the mine did. Businesses were not immune to this boom and bust cycle, but for the most part, Main Street thrived in Superior.

In the 1990s, the mine was closed down, seemingly for good. Businesses shut their

doors and buildings were boarded up, leaving behind a feeling of desolation.

Something happened then in Superior. It was discovered by Hollywood (with a little help from the Arizona Office of Tourism). Noted director Oliver Stone chose Superior as the location for his movie, *U-turn*.

In preparation for the filming, set designers and movie artists descended on the town and began transforming Main

Street. It went from boarded up to vintage. Buildings were restored to former glory, then weathered.

Even the street itself was transformed from asphalt to (faux) dirt road when the producers had trucks of dirt dumped and smoothed over the pavement. At the time, the Mayor of Superior was Manny Ruiz, who is known to be soft spoken and ever calm. After several months of

filming and dealing with the blowing dust on Main Street, several residents approached the Superior Town Council to complain. Mr. Ruiz looked out over the audience and gently said, "Maybe we should all pray for rain."

Bill Holmquist, who originally came to Superior as part of the movie crew, decided to stay and relocated his business to Superior. He and his wife Jenny are still residents of

Superior and are the owners of businesses on Main Street, Random Boutique and, more recently, Porter's Cafe.

Also in the 1990s, even more new residents began moving to Superior. Artists discovered the little town. It had so much going for it – proximity to Phoenix, AMAZING views, affordable housing, historic buildings. It

was a blank canvas, primed and ready to bloom into something beautiful.

The local high school contributed to this pool of talent. Teacher Gloria Arvizu-Thompson and her art students created and painted a mural on the side of a building on Lobb Ave. Recently, restoration work began on that same mural on

Lobb Ave. Time and weather has taken its toll on the mural. Local artist Marilee Lasch started a project to repair the mural. She got in contact with one of the original artists on the mural, former Superior Student Javier Gomez. Javier is now a tattoo artist at Inkbomb Tattoos, but he also teaches art classes at the local

school. Javier carried on in the tradition of his mentor and brought a group of Superior students to help work repairing the mural.

Other artists, too, created beautiful murals on the sides of buildings. Charles Davison, one such artist, has contributed much to projects

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THE CREW

Javier Gomez, a tattoo artist at Inkbomb Tattoos, brought a group of Superior students to help work repairing the mural. Javier, the students, artist Marilee Lasch and a handful of volunteers work on the mural.



RENOVATION

Volunteers work to renovate a mural on Lobb Ave.

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↑ BRIGHT FLOWERS

Artist Juliana Brutsche, painting a mural on the old flower shop on Main Street.

Murals

Continued from page 5

on Main St. In 2012, he created one commemorating the community's annual Prickly Pear Festival.

In recent years, the Superior Chamber of Commerce began discussions with residents of the town and members of the business community on ways to promote new business and retention of local businesses on Main Street. What emerged from those conversations was a committee dedicated to Business Attraction and Retention and a plan which included ideas on expanding the mural program to beautify Main Street. Chamber and BAR members envisioned the boarded up windows, backs and sides of buildings on Main Street as canvases for murals, turning the entire length of the business district in Superior into an art project.

Random Boutique was one of the first businesses to undertake a mural, with a colorful family of pachyderms marching in a line down the side of the building. The old flower shop received a treatment of the brightest prettiest flowers from artist Juliana Brutsche.

All the businesses and building owners were given the option of turning their buildings into canvases. Even the building which houses the *Pinal Nugget's* sister publication, *The Superior Sun*, received the mural treatment.

If you haven't been to Superior recently, you might want to make the trek. Take a tour of the Main Street mural gallery (which is the entire street). Stop in at Random Boutique or the Mercantile for a spot of shopping and have lunch at Porter's Cafe or the Sunflower Bakery.

Want more activities? Save your visit for the Second Friday of every month when the businesses stay open late and live music and vendors line Main Street during the evening hours. Or plan to visit the town during the annual Prickly Pear Festival on Aug. 19 when the whole town turns pink in celebration of the humble desert fruit.

For more information about the BAR committee or events in the Superior area, go online to superiorarizonachamber.org.



SUPERIOR SUN (↑)

The mural on the front of the Superior Sun building was recently completed. The artists were Deb Sears and Jimmy Alvarado. Many thanks to all the artists brightening up our town!



(↑) ANOTHER MURAL

Volunteers work on the mural on the side of Random Boutique in Main St.

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Seasons. Also featured are Harberg's Solis and Dvořák's Slavonic Dances Nos. 5-8. The program opens with Enescu's Romanian Rhapsody No 1.

• Nov. 18-19 – Paraguay's globe-trotting Diego Sánchez Haase guests conducts Beethoven's evocative Pastoral Symphony and Rachmaninov's third piano concerto featuring Tbilisi-born Yelena Beriyeve in her second appearance with SASO. The program opens with Rossini's Overture to William Tell.

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Season tickets for the SaddleBrooke series are \$92,

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SASO's music acquisition is sponsored by the Arizona Lottery. Individual concert sponsors include Tom and Carolyn Cochran, Jerry Levine in memory of Carole Levine, and Beatrice Simpson. Additional sponsorships are available.

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