



May 2017

Vol. 4, No. 5

The old-fashioned method

Personal contact

By Ákos Kovach

(In our continuing series on economic development.)

He had been in and out of numerous businesses plus local and county offices off and on for 3 months.

While he had been impressed with the friendliness of everyone he found “getting helpful answers” to be a real challenge. But he was determined, he knew what he needed and he held out hope to find what he wanted.

Economic Development 101

Then one day he pulled into the parking lot of the County Jail. Inside he inquired about reaching a county contact person. Jail Staff reached out to the Sheriff who instructed the office to contact Supervisor Gomez based on the topic of the question at hand.

Progress was finally initiated. Supervisor Gomez called the economic development office
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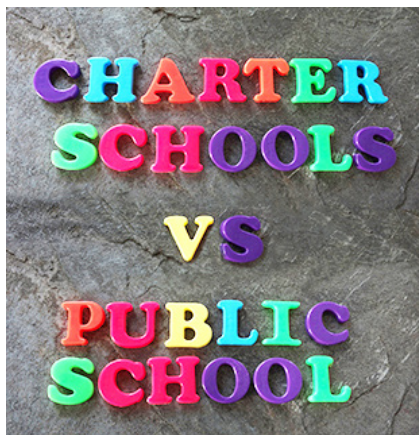
Opinion: Vouchers not good for schools

By David Woodall

The unique feature of education in the United States is a public system that opens the door to every child.

This wasn’t on the mind of the Arizona legislature recently as they successfully passed Senate Bill 1431 which will expand “empowerment scholarships” to virtually every student. This bill will create a tiered system of education that will separate based on privilege and wealth.

This separation will come in the form of vouchers or empowerment “scholarships” that can be



used for private school tuition.

Supporters of vouchers, whom I’ve yet to meet in rural Arizona, will tell you they will provide bet-

ter choices for financially disadvantaged families with children attending poor or failing schools.

It’s a scam – just the like the guy in Nigeria who will pay you to help him get money out of the country.

These “scholarships” will provide approximately \$5,000 to parents who want to send their child to a private or religious school. The average cost of for a high school student attending one of these schools is \$17,000 annually. A poor family receiving a scholarship would still have to

continued on page 12

Reading Nook News

U.S. history in context

By Karen Soohy

Do you have an avid interest in history? Does your son or daughter need a Social Studies topic for a paper or project? Do you just want to check on an historical fact? The free database called U.S. History in Context could be the resource you need.

The collection of databases on the Greenlee County Library [webpage](http://www.greenleelibraries.org) (www.greenleelibraries.org) are a wealth of searchable and well-organized information. Click on the Statewide Databases link on the page and begin your research quickly and easily.

U.S. History in Context includes the following categories: African American Perspectives, American Colonies, Biographies, Court Cases and the Supreme Court, Economics, Events-Decades-Cultural Trends, Government Documents, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Political Constructs-Movements-Organizations, and Wars-Conflicts. Just one click brings up numerous topics within those categories.

You can search within the categories or you can search by browsing a preselected topic list of over 500 items. Some of those topics include: Alamo, ACLU, Crazy Horse, D-Day, Farmers' Movements, Great Depression, National Park Movement, Miranda vs. Arizona, Vietnam War plus many more.

At the top of the page will be a Featured Topic photograph bar, as well as Featured Video and Featured News links. Click on those items to expand them to get more information. The articles will include pictures, videos, links to other resources and citations for use in bibliographies. You can also search simply by typing your idea into a search box.

There is also a link to Curriculum Standards by state for educators or home school parents to use as reference points for their classes.

Library Quote: "My mother and father were illiterate immigrants from Russia. When I was a child they were constantly amazed that I could go to a building and take a book on any subject. They couldn't believe this access to knowledge we have here in America. They couldn't believe it was free."

~~Kirk Douglas, Actor

Clifton Council Corner

Mayor Felix Callicotte

New 'distracted driving' law

Attention drivers ~ Please put down your phones and listen to this: Clifton's Town Council adopted Ordinance 02-2017 on Thursday, April 13, 2017 banning the use of handheld phones and other devices that may distract a driver while operating a motor vehicle within Clifton's town limits. The ordinance will take effect 30 days from the April 13th adoption date.

There's more reason than ever now to get used to going hands free. Even handling your phone when you drive may get you a citation in Clifton and Governor Ducey has signed a state law that applies statewide in Arizona banning teens who are newly licensed or those with a learner permit from texting behind the wheel.

"All drivers" while within the "Town Limits" may only make and receive phone calls using "Hands-Free" technology, such as Bluetooth, or systems that are integrated within the vehicle. Also permitted are single-finger touch and swipe movements to devices that are mounted to the vehicle. If those options or equipment are not available, drivers should pull over to a safe location before using their hand-held devices.

A person violating the ordinance and is not involved in a motor vehicle accident is subject to a civil penalty of \$50 for the first violation, \$100 for the second and \$200 for the third. A person who violates the ordinance and is involved in a vehicle accident is subject to a civil penalty of a minimum amount of \$250.

There will be a public relations pamphlet available to educate motorists about the new ordinance. In addition, the Clifton Police Department will soon be offering assistance in to help motorists learn how to use their hands-free equipment.

Distracted Driving ~ Part 2:

You do not have to travel far in Clifton to see people driving with risky driving practices. One or more of the below dangerous driving habits can be seen on a daily basis on Coronado Blvd (US191),

[click here to read more](#)



“El Grupo” (Tucson) cyclists riding in the 2015 Javelina Chase road race, by Damion Alexander

New excitement for Javelina Chase

The Javelina Chase celebrates its fourth year with multiple events in the scenic Gila River Valley around Duncan, Arizona.

As in prior years, “The Chase” will feature road races, “gran fondo” fun rides, a closed-course, timed “criterium,” a bike rodeo for kids 3 to 13, and a 5K walk/run for all ages.

This year the Javelina Chase expands in two major new directions, and adds a festive holiday celebration as well.

The 2017 Arizona State Championship Races in the Masters and Juniors categories will be held in the Javelina Chase road races. This means that many of

Arizona’s most elite cyclists will take off from the starting line with category 1- 5 racers and other entrants.

Ghost Mine Rumble

Adding to the excitement is the new “Ghost Mine Rumble” – mountain bike races on 60- and 20-mile courses on spectacular back roads in the mountains north of Duncan. This is the first time the Javelina Chase has offered an event for mountain biking enthusiasts.

Finally, in observance of the Cinco de Mayo weekend, the Town of Duncan will host a family fiesta in Centennial Park on

Saturday afternoon. There will be food, music, games for children, and two javelina piñatas for kids to swing at.

The Javelina Chase Omnium kicks off at the Duncan High School cafeteria from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 5, with a pasta dinner prepared by the Duncan Little League. All are welcome, for a charge of \$7 a plate.

On Saturday, May 6, all the racers depart from the Greenlee County Fairgrounds following safety meetings and the national anthem. Ghost Mine Rumble mountain bike racers, depart at 7:15 a.m. Road racers (including the Masters and Juniors), with

Javelina Chase . . .

courses of 72, 50 and 25 miles, depart at 7:30 a.m., followed by the Gran Fondo fun riders, with 72-, 50- and 25-mile courses.

The 5K runners and walkers will depart at 8:00 a.m. Registration for the bike rodeo, a free activity for children 3 to 13, begins at 9:30.

Awards for the Saturday races will take place at the fairgrounds, beginning at 11 a.m.

The kids' bike rodeo, organized by the Duncan PTA, offers a safe, fun course on the fairgrounds for

[click here to read more](#)

*There will be two assemblies on Friday with Capt. David Berling (USAF retired), in photo at right, and Para-Olympian in training. First one is at 10:30 at Duncan High School and second is at Morenci High School at 2:45. David's wife will have his book, **Just Living the Dream**, available for purchase on Saturday at the Fairgrounds.*



Friday- May 5

10:30A.M. David Berling assembly at DHS

4:00 Packet pick-up for the riders at the DHS cafeteria

4:00 – 8:00 P.M.
Registration for late entries at the DHS Cafeteria

5:00-8:00 P.M. Pasta dinner open to the public sponsored by Duncan Little League \$7/plate



Saturday-May 6

6:00 Breakfast at the fairgrounds

6:30 Safety meetings

7:00 National anthem

7:15 Mountain bike racers depart

7:30 Road racers depart

8:00 5k runners depart

9:30 Kids' Bike Rodeo registration opens

11:00 Awards ceremonies begin

3:00 Cinco de Mayo celebration begins at Centennial Park

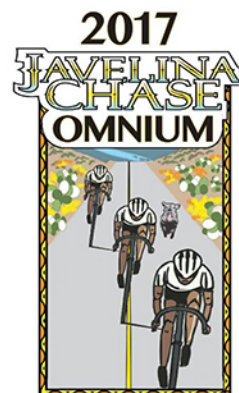
Sunday-May 7

7:30 First round of the Criterium races begin

11:15 Mid-event break and Awards ceremony

12:15 Second round of the Criterium races begin

3:30 Awards ceremony for Criterium & Omnium Classifications



Duncan, Arizona

Lending fair set

The Cochise College Small Business Development Center will be holding its 2017 Lending Fair on Thursday, May 4, from 9-noon at the Student Union of its Sierra Vista campus.

This will be an opportunity for businesses to meet with local traditional lenders, and a few non-traditional lenders, that are dealing with small businesses.

The event is free.

If you have a business plan completed, please feel free to bring it with you so that you can share it with the lenders.

Here is a list of lenders or service providers that are planning to attend:

Accion, American Southwest Credit Union, Bank of America, BBVA Compass Bank, CAFI, National Bank of Arizona, Navy Federal Credit Union, Radius Bank, Small Business Development Center, Veterans Business Outreach Center, Western Bank.

For information, contact Rachel Norton at 520-515-5478 or at nortonr@cochise.edu.

Health fair coming

The 2017 Health and Science Festival will be held June 2 at the Morenci Community Center & Club from 10-3

It is provided as a service to the community with no cost to attendees or vendors.

A limited number of vendor tables will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Spaces are 10x10 with a table and chairs provided. Registration deadline for this is May 5.

For information, contact Laura Dorrell at Gila Health at (928) 865-7534 or at dorrell@gila-health.com.

Letter to the Editor

Thanks from Arizona@Work

Thank you to the community for attending and supporting ARIZONA@WORK's recent ribbon cutting/open house at our new location (558 N Coronado Blvd in Clifton-next to the Kempton Chevrolet Service Center, phone 928-439-4632)!

We appreciate your continued referrals to our no-cost job seeker and business services as we are always happy to assist-check out the overview of our services online at <https://www.arizonaatwork.com/job-seekers-overview> & <https://www.arizonaatwork.com/employers-overview>.

Helping MHS students

ARIZONA@WORK Outreach Coordinator, Kimberly Termain, is pleased to continue assisting

Morenci High School students with resume creation (5/3, 5/8, & 5/9 2017 for Freshman, Sophomore & Juniors; Seniors previously received this assistance in October 2016).

This helps the students develop their ECAP (Education and Career Action Plan <http://www.azed.gov/ecap/>).

Kimberly also provides resources for career exploration (<https://www.careeronestop.org/getmyfuture>) and tips for job readiness.

Thank you to Veronica Morales/MHS Counselor & CTE Director and the teachers who allow our organization to partner each year and collaboratively develop the leaders of tomorrow!

Kimberly Termain

Cochise rights restoration project

Tom Reardon is the Chairman of the Cochise County Reentry Coalition (CCRC). A group dedicated to restoring civil rights for eligible felons. Reardon recently met with Cochise County Court Administrator Eric Silverberg to gain perspective on how best to approach the Superior Court and to enlist broad based support.

The Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice, the Arizona Black Bar, and the American Friends Service Committee have been leading the charge in Maricopa and Pima via their members who serve in the Pima and Maricopa court systems. Such an initiative would likely

be supported and possibly run by the local defense bar in cooperation with the County Attorney.

It cannot be a court program per se.

For such an ambitious project to succeed will require a "it takes a village" approach. You can reach Tom Reardon here: reardon35@aol.com

Attorney seeks staffer

The Greenlee County Attorney is seeking to hire a full-time legal secretary and victim advocate.

Salary is \$13.33 hourly.

Under the supervision of the County Attorney, Deputy County Attorneys, and Senior Paralegal, the legal secretary/victim advocate is responsible for general office work, legal support, and victim advocacy.

For details of the job, [click here](#).

Remote restroom vandalized, twice

Last October there was some minor damage done in the restroom at the end of San Francisco River Road.

The wall baskets were bent, the sanitizers were torn down and the toilet paper was unwound and left all over the floor.

Now, in April, it has escalated, according to Tony Hines, public works manager for Greenlee County.

The baskets were bent, the sanitizers were broken, the toilets were pulled from the floor, one seat was broken, and the Handicap sign was pulled from the ground and placed in the toilet hole.



Letter to the Editor (coming June 14)

Preparing for conference on aging

He we are again preparing for our 3rd annual Conference on Aging and Caregiver training. For those of you who have been participating either as a participant or as an exhibitor we would like to welcome you back to another year of valuable information. For those who have not yet had the opportunity to take advantage of this conference, we invite you as we are sure you will want to come back. We have a wonderful line of speakers with interesting topics for this all day conference which takes place in Bisbee, AZ and it is a free event offered to Southeastern Arizona region which includes Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz counties. We partner with South East Arizona Health Education Center

(SEAHEC) and training units will be offered to those professionals who are required to meet a certain amount of units each year as well as a training certificate at the end of the conference.

We bring this conference closer to you so that you don't have to spend hundreds of dollars in attending trainings out of state. This conference is geared to case workers, caregivers, professionals and general public, however; registration is required in order to reserve your seat as well as to give us a good head count as a free lunch will be provided by AARP. For those who which to register as an exhibitor (aging network providers) we ask for a door prize in lieu of a reg-


istration fee, this will enable out attendees to participate in a raffle during the event and serves as a way to know who their service providers in the four-county region are.

I encourage you to sign up by [clicking on this link](#) as the event fills up fast. If you have further questions do not hesitate to let us know by calling 520-432-2528 X220.

Hope to see you all there and please feel free to share the information to those who would benefit from it including family, friends or clients.

Laura Villa
Program Manager
SEAGO/Area Agency on
Aging Southeastern Arizona
Region VI

Growing Greenlee, one new business at a time



Life's A Stitch
Upholstery
Home And Automotive
Pattie Weiss
928-358-6034
P.O.Box 453 Morenci AZ 85540

Greenlee County's and Clifton's newest business, Life's a Stitch, is ready to serve the public. They are going to operate out of 234 Chase Creek, the property owned by the Town of Clifton. Next door to Studio Twenty-two Six and across the street from The Apothecary.

Services include restoration and repair of upholstery in cars and trucks as well as residential furniture, chairs, sofas, etc.

Give them a call ! Pattie Weiss 928-358-6034.



The Greenlee Clarion

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(928) 865-2072 ext. 202

Ákos Kovach, Editor

Gary Dillard, Graphics Editor

economicdevelopment@co.greenlee.az.us

www.growinggreenlee.org

www.co.greenlee.az.us

Governor's Youth Commission

The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) is searching for inspiring teens from all 15 counties to join the Governor's Youth Commission (GYC).

Eligible students must be a high school sophomore, junior or senior for the school year 2017–2018 and have displayed exceptional leadership. Applications are being accepted through May 26, on our website at BeSeenBeHeard.az.gov. GYC members will be announced in late June 2017.

The GYC provides Arizona teens from diverse backgrounds an opportunity to serve as ambassadors and as leaders in their communities.

Rank	County	Income Tax	Sales Tax	Property Tax	Fuel Tax	Tax Burden Index
1	Greenlee, AZ	\$9,498	\$929	\$335	\$267	82.25
2	Apache, AZ	\$9,498	\$929	\$571	\$169	81.08
3	Graham, AZ	\$9,498	\$929	\$759	\$210	79.15
4	Mohave, AZ	\$9,498	\$891	\$868	\$231	78.37
5	La Paz, AZ	\$9,498	\$1,157	\$726	\$205	77.53
6	Yuma, AZ	\$9,498	\$1,022	\$973	\$250	76.22
7	Navajo, AZ	\$9,498	\$1,233	\$835	\$192	76.08
8	Santa Cruz, AZ	\$9,498	\$1,005	\$1,217	\$264	74.18
9	Yavapai, AZ	\$9,498	\$967	\$1,302	\$250	73.90
10	Cochise, AZ	\$9,498	\$1,309	\$1,104	\$256	72.63
	AZ	\$9,498	\$1,097	\$1,032	\$242	

Study shows Greenlee taxes lowest

The chart above shows that Greenlee County has the lowest tax rate of any of the rural counties of Arizona.

The [website for SmartAsset](#) says that where you live can have a big impact on both which types of taxes you have to pay each year and how much

money you spend on them.

SmartAsset calculated the amount of money a specific person would pay in income, sales, property and fuel taxes in each county in the country and ranked the lowest to highest tax burden. (The website provides details on the methodology it used.)

AAED luncheon May 24

What are Gov. Doug Ducey and his team doing to foster economic development in Arizona?

What are the economic vision, strategiest and tactics for attracting new jobs and capital investment to Arizona?

Learn more about this at the southern Arizona luncheon of the Arizona Association for Economic Development on May 24, from 11:30 to 1:15, at the Arizona Inn in Tucson.

Speaker will be Juan Ciscomani, senior advisor for regional and international affairs at the southern Arizona and Sonora office of the the governor.

For more information visit the [website at www.aaed.com/event/may24](http://www.aaed.com/event/may24). Registration deadline is May 18.

Personal contact . . .

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and in less than an hour the new guest to the county was on a tour of potential staging sites, provided with a list of available resources, given phone numbers of helpful people to speak with, and finally he received contact information for two solution-oriented officials in the private sector and introduced to an official who could solve at least two of his

Congratulations to all the office workers, clerks and front line personnel who were all classified as “friendly” by this guest in our community.

challenges.

Why share this story? Because no matter how much advertising is purchased, regardless of the number of websites or social media pages an entity offers – nothing is better than one-on-one personal communication.

Remember, a stranger from out of state will not necessarily know how to find Town Hall, or County Offices, or people who know anything about land or space to rent.

So follow these simple tips: Any and all questions about the availability of anything, buildings, land, manpower, property ownership, etc. should be directed to the local Town Manager (Clifton, Duncan or Morenci Town site manager), another good reference would be to call the Greenlee County Manager.

In conclusion, congratulations to all the office workers, clerks and front line personnel who were all classified as “friendly” by this guest in our community.

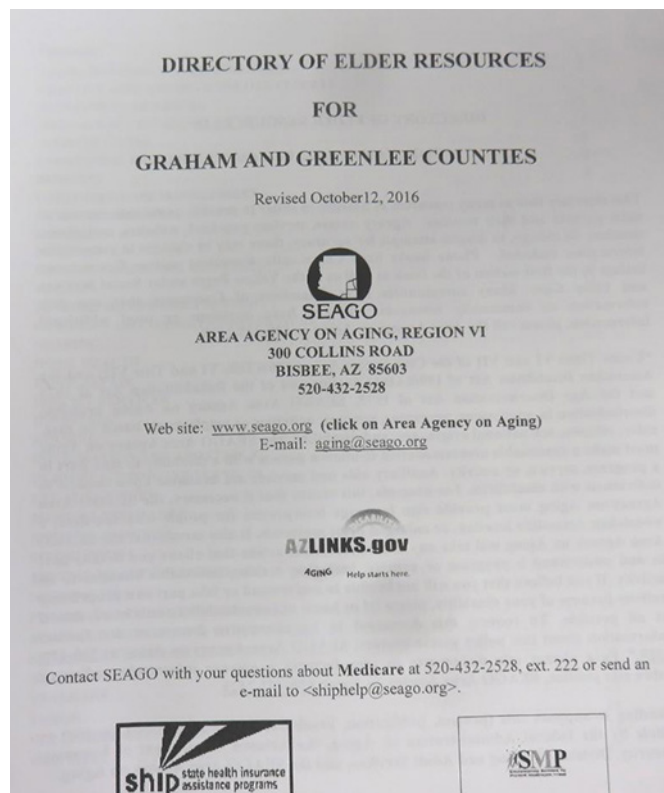
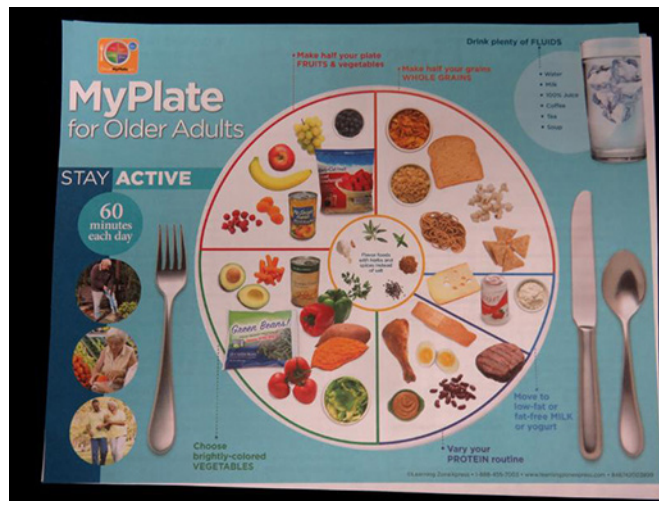
Each of you help make our County a wonderful place to live, work or visit.

Takeaways from caregiver workshop

On April 28, the Greenlee County Health Dept. along with SEAGO, the Legacy Foundation, Gila Health Resources, The Alzheimer's Association, SEAHEC and AARP provided an important caregiver workshop. The conference offered attendees plenty of take home items, resource guides and contact information for specific services as needed.

Greenlee county is fortunate to have such a strong medical services support system to offer not only senior citizens but people of all ages.

Shown on this page are some of the many "take-aways" from the program.



Greenlee ranks high on health

Greenlee County is ranked second (only Maricopa County is rated ahead of Greenlee County) in all of Arizona in terms of health outcomes.

And yet many services go unnoticed, and worse underused. So let's review some of the services provided through the Greenlee County Health Dept:

Immunizations:

(Call to make an appointment)

The Greenlee County Health Department contracts with the Arizona Department of Health Services to provide a full range of childhood (6 months -18 years) and adult (19 years and older) immunizations for residents of the county. (Must meet financial eligibility). This program is funded by the Federal Government.

Family Planning Services:

(Call to make an appointment)

Services are primarily by appointment and include: information and counseling about contraceptive methods, physical examinations and follow-up, contraceptive supplies, diagnosis and treatment of minor gynecological problems, pregnancy testing and referrals to providers for OB/GYN services. Males/Females over the age of 14 years old are provided service on their own consent. Parental consent not needed. Services are confidential.

(Must meet financial eligibility.) This pro-

[click here to read more](#)

Upcoming activities

5/3 (and every following Wednesday) 2-6 p.m., Clifton Farmers Market, Clifton Train Depot.

5/4 3:30-5:30 p.m., Morenci Library, May the 4th be with you.

5/5 6-8 p.m., deGrazia Park, Morenci, Cinco de Mayo.

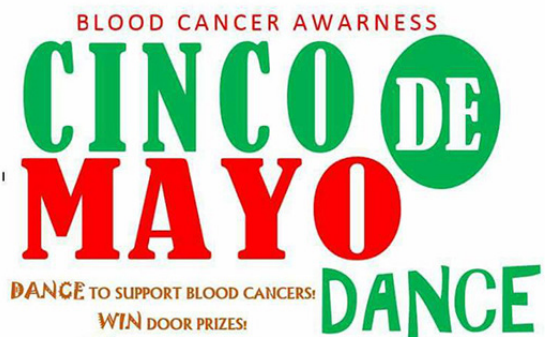
5/5-6 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Clifton Social Club on Chase Creek, Cinco de Mayo

5/5-7 Javelina Chase, 4 p.m. Friday start, packet pick-up for the riders at the DHS cafeteria. See pages 3 and 4 for more details, schedule.

5/6, 3-8 p.m., Centennial Park, Duncan, Cinco de Mayo

5/8 & 22, 8-11 a.m. BOS meeting room, Clifton, Greenlee County Board of Supervisors.

See Morenci School District calendar at [its website](http://morenci.k12.az.us/2016-2017%20Calendar.pdf).
<http://morenci.k12.az.us/2016-2017%20Calendar.pdf>



ENTRY FEES
\$10.00 PER PERSON OR \$15.00 PER COUPLE
-ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY-

FRIDAY, MAY 5TH AT 9PM
Clifton Social Club
310 Chase Creek Street
Clifton, AZ 85533

MARGARITAS
DOS EQUIS
BUD LIGHT
BUDWEIZER
COORS

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY
MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR

A bank for Duncan

By Ákos Kovach

As the Economic Development Coordinator for Greenlee County please know a lot of effort has gone into approaching and attracting a banking or credit union institution to open their doors for the Duncan Valley area.

In our research we found that many rural communities are suffering similar challenges (loss of local banking services). This is what you as a resident or business owner need to know:

1. With the help of Supervisor Richard Lunt Greenlee County has successfully identified 2 potential bank service operators licensed in the state of Arizona to come to Duncan.

2. We need your help in 3 ways. 1. First be willing to open a savings and or checking account with the new institution. 2. If you have loans in other banks or credit unions be willing to consider moving those loans to the new banking services provider.

3. Put your support in writing. Write a letter on your business letterhead, personal letterhead or on a sheet of paper. Let the banking services community know you will support them once they open their doors in Duncan.

We have the support and backing from the Arizona Dept. of Financial Institutions (AZDFI). They know how difficult it has been for Duncan to be without a local banking services entity.

Our contact there is Tamilee Smull, the Division Manager for AZDFI. If our effort to gain a commitment from either of the current banking services providers that have expressed interest we have been sent a list of all licensed credit unions and banks in Arizona which could/would qualify to open a branch in Duncan.

Please support this effort.

[Click here](#) to see a list of banks operating throughout Arizona.

[Click here](#) to see a list of credit unions operating in Arizona.

Duncan Fire District

Thanks in large part to Kevin Boling, land is being cleared in York Valley to expand the Duncan Valley Rural Fire District.

This expansion will benefit not only the York valley but also the Duncan area as well.

More news about this important expansion is forthcoming. In the meantime the group is seeking volunteers

– please contact Kevin Boling at 520-282-2545. Contributions, donations, etc. should be made out to Duncan Valley Rural Fire District – York Valley station.



Town of Duncan's
CINCO DE MAYO
2017
Saturday, May 6th
Events starting at 3pm

Free Family Kid Zone with games and prizes
Salsa Contest

CALLING ALL Amateur & Professional Salsa Chefs to compete for Prizes & Glory in our Tantalizing Salsa Competition. Register before or by 4pm on event day. \$5 entry fee step by Town of Duncan for a registration form. Limit of two entrees per household. You *don't* miss this event Bring your blankets and chairs.

Piñata Schedule and Age Group:
Pre-K to 2nd grade @ 3:15
3rd to 4th grade @ 3:55
5th to 6th grade @ 4:35
7th to 8th grade @ 5:15

Get ready to dance the night away with Cumbias, Duranguense, Ranchera, Norteno, Conjunto and so much more Spanish style music starting at 6:30 pm.

Cochise County ponders 'commercial only' port of entry

From the Sierra Vista Herald

DOUGLAS — Cochise County is working with a private investment company on development of a commercial port of entry west of the existing facility in downtown Douglas.

Property owned by Ardent Investments is being proposed for construction of a “commercial-only” port, handling freight and cargo containers crossing the international border. The property

[click here to read more](#)

Vouchers . . .

continued from page 1

cough up \$12,000 to attend one of these schools – if they had \$12,000 for private school tuition they wouldn't be . . . poor.

However, if you're already planning to pay \$17,000 to send your child to a private school – the state general fund is now going to assist you to the tune of \$5,000.

That is \$5,000 in public tax dollars that will not be in the state general fund to restore public school funding, improve teacher salaries, buy computers or fix roofs. The legislation phases in scholarships at 5,000 students annually which mean 25 million dollars could be directed towards private schools in the first year.

Tax dollars

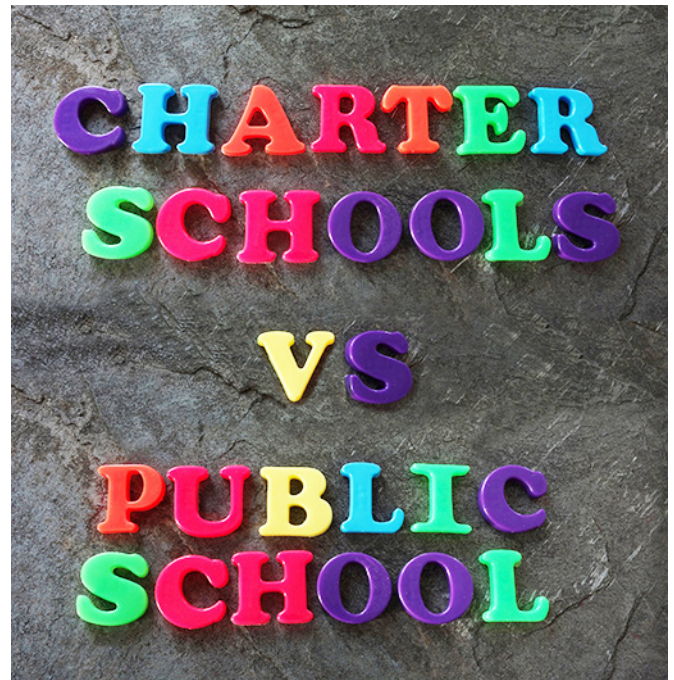
Parents have every right to send their child to a private school; however your tax dollars should not be funding that private education. The doors of private schools are not open to all students. Students apply – not all are chosen - for a variety of reasons that are often not public. Public tax dollars should support schools that are open to the public . . . every single child.

A pilot of this bill was already in place. A recent study published in the *Arizona Republic*, "Arizona taxpayer-funded vouchers benefiting students in more affluent areas" found the vast majority of families using this scholarship were from the communities of Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, Cave Creek, and Peoria. It would be nice to know how many poor students from those areas are being served.

Dark money

The path to success of this legislation was paved early in the election cycle when the American Federation for Children pumped \$213,000 in dark money into key legislative races across Arizona. Don't be fooled by the name - The American Federation for Children seeks to divert public money to pay for private education – a key to dismantling public education.

Some of this dark money reached our local legislators. Representative Becky Nutt and Senator Gail Griffin who each received over \$9,000 in campaign funding from American Federation of Children both voted for this bill. Representative Drew Johns also voted for "yes" on this bill. It is difficult to



imagine that this legislation reflects the values or was a priority of parents in rural schools across our legislative district. I'm guessing they would rather have had their local school capital budgets, which have been slashed 85%, restored.

This is not the school system most of us attended. It is not the school system called for in the Arizona Constitution – uniform and equal. Nor is it the school system that made American unique to the world in almost every way.



David Tracy was a trusted and much-loved team member of Greenlee County's talent pool. Quick with a smile, sharp dressed and always a professional. He will forever be fondly remembered as a kind and gentle soul. He left us too soon.

Funding for economic development looking hopeful

This information comes from NADO, the National Association of Development Organizations.

Early Monday morning (May 1), congressional appropriators released an omnibus spending bill for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2017. The bill, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017, funds federal programs through September 30, 2017.

The House and Senate are expected to pass the package this week before the current short-term continuing resolution (CR) keeping programs operating expires May 5.

It is important to note that most funding to be formally appropriated has already spent since federal programs have been operating under a CR since the beginning of the current fiscal year on October 1, 2016.

There are five months remaining in FY2016, so programmatic increases over FY2016 levels will apply to remainder of the current fiscal year.

FY2017 Funding for Key NADO Federal Agencies and Programs

Economic Development Administration

\$237 million for Economic Development Assistance Programs, \$15 million above the FY2016 level (specific programmatic funding is not yet available)

USDA-Rural Development

\$2.94 billion for Rural Development Program, \$166 million above the FY2016 enacted level

\$920 million for Business and Industry loans, level funding from last year

\$1.25 billion for rural water and waste program loans, level funding from last year

\$527 million for rural water and waste program grants, \$49 million above the FY2016 enacted level

[click here to read more](#)

Arizona unemployment rate drops to 5%

Arizona's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 5.1% in February to 5.0% in March.

The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 4.7% in February to 4.5% in March. A year ago, the Arizona seasonally adjusted rate was 5.4% and the U.S. rate was 5.0%

Over the Month

Arizona gained 8,800 Nonfarm jobs (0.3%) in March. This was less than the post-recessionary ('10-'16) average gain of 11,300 jobs. The Private Sector gained 11,200 jobs (0.5%).

Historically, ('10-'16) the Private Sector averages employment gains of 11,900 jobs in March.

Five of the eleven sectors posted gains. Gains were recorded in Leisure and Hospitality (9,400 jobs); Construction (3,500 jobs); Financial Activities (1,000 jobs); Information (200 jobs); and Other Services (100 jobs).

Over the month losses were seen in Education and Health Services (-100 jobs); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-500 jobs); Professional and Business Services (-1,100 jobs); Manufacturing (-1,300 jobs); and Government

(-2,400 jobs).

Over the Year

Arizona Nonfarm employment grew by 2.1% (56,000 jobs) over the year in March. The Private Sector accounted for 57,400 jobs (2.5%). Government employment decreased by 1,400 jobs in March.

Seven of the eleven sectors reported job gains and four had losses. The sectors with the largest gains included Leisure and Hospitality (19,500 jobs); Financial Activities (10,900 jobs); Education and Health Services (10,700 jobs); and Professional and Business Services (9,800 jobs).

Gains were also recorded for Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (4,700 jobs); Construction (3,700 jobs); and Manufacturing (1,600 jobs).

Job losses were reported in Natural Resources and Mining (-100 jobs); Information (-100 jobs); Government (-1,400 jobs); and Other Services (-3,300 jobs).

The full report and PPT slides can be found at laborstats.az.gov.

Planning under way for next Hill Climb

Things are rolling on the next Clifton Hill Climb planning. Here's the big picture of dates and events.

This year's event will be Sept. 29 – Oct. 1.
Friday Sept 29

- SCCA - Registration & Tech
- Need a new location!
- Clifton – Hill Climb Queen event

Saturday Sept 30

- SCCA - Practice Runs
- Clifton – Parade/Car Show
- Clifton – American Legion Dinner

Sunday Oct 1

- SCCA - Official Timed Runs
- Clifton/SCCA – Awards Banquet
- Need a new location!



STAR WARS
MAY THE 4TH
BE WITH YOU

The 4th is strong with fun activities at the Morenci Library

Join us for activities of games, crafts, costume contest, and prizes
May 4th starting at 3:30 p.m.

All ages are invited!

For more information, call the Morenci Library at 928-865-7042

BLOOD CANCER AWARENESS

CINCO DE MAYO

DANCE

DANCE TO SUPPORT BLOOD CANCERS:
WIN DOOR PRIZES:
DJ POINT BLANK BASS

ENTRY FEES
\$10.00 PER PERSON OR \$15.00 PER COUPLE
-ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY-

FRIDAY, MAY 5TH AT 9PM
Clifton Social Club
310 Chase Creek Street
Clifton, AZ 85533

MARGARITAS
DOS EQUIS
BUD LIGHT
BUDWEIZER
COORS

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY* | **MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

Take the health survey!

The Greenlee County Health Department is conducting a Community Health Survey to compile opinions and feedback from the entire community on strengths and issues, health-related issues, and quality of life in Greenlee County.

Help us encourage everyone to participate and share their thoughts. Please take the survey by 5/5/2017 and be entered to win a \$25 Wal-Mart gift card!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Greenlee-Health>



morenci recreation presents

MORENCI, ARIZONA

CINCO de MAYO

MAY FIFTH
6-8pm

FOOD AND DESSERT VENDORS, BEER GARDEN, PINATAS, MUSIC, AND MORE!

degrazia park morenci. az

For more information Please call the Community Center at (928) 865-6598.