

Greenlee Clarion

March 2015

Vol. 2, No. 3

A short drive with a long history

by Ákos Kovach

There are many ways to describe Greenlee County; truly this is the land of opportunity. Many who look at a map before they travel to this bastion of native beauty wonder what they will see, and the best way to 'get there'. To that end we are furiously working with several entities on projects related to map and brochure creation.

One such map/brochure is our Hike-Bike-Ride Trails handout, high gloss, full color with amazing detail that brings to life places to see, where to camp, parks, riparian areas, hot springs, year around running rivers, paths and trails.

Regardless of your interest: birding, rock hounding, climbing, cross country skiing, biking, you name it — we have it.

But more than all the natural wonders the enormous economic engine known as the Morenci Mine is constantly attracting new employees, new sub-contractors and guests to the area. They need homes, apartments or places to stay for a day — a week — a month, but they also need retail outlets to furnish their shopping needs.

The 1,100 big rigs that make their way 'up the hill' each week to the mine need a truck stop, since the closest one is over 100 miles away. The 1,000+ cars that travel the same route every day are packed with passengers that crave fast food, want an ice cream cone; they are looking for home supplies, restaurants and other convenience items.

So remember, if



you are a home builder, we need you. Retailer? Don't miss this opportunity. Ready to make a difference? We need a Hotel and a Truck Stop. Just think, instead of that constant worry about finding the 'right location', our dynamic is unique — everyone travels the same routes to and from the mine.

Look at our map. You can enter Greenlee County on major highways just south of Alpine on SR 191; from New Mexico on SR 78 or SR 70 and from Graham County on SR 191. And guess what? 75, 78 and 191 intersect at the same place – a place called

"3-Way" where a drive-in theatre once entertained families for many years. Look at the map, look at Google Earth and then make a plan to take the beautiful drive to experience a long history.



Greenlee County: Target-rich environment

by Ákos Kovach

Usually the first question a developer asks us is: “if you need housing so bad why isn’t the mine building the homes?”

A great question, which has often been answered by mine officials this way: “we are in the mining business”.

So we continue our search for quality developers, home builders with great skills and a good reputation plus a hotelier with a taste for the unique as well as truck stop group ready to capture an untapped market. But there is so much more to and about Greenlee County, home to large forests, year around running rivers, great fishing, kay-

aking, canoeing, cross country skiing, hill climbs, biking, hiking and a wealth of talented people eager to showcase our rich culture, art community and entertainment options.

In just a few short weeks think of us the headquarters for lions and tigers, camels and Clydesdales, unicycles and high wire acrobats, clowns and tents. Yes the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus will be in Morenci all day April 16th.

Find out more at the [Circus’ Facebook page](#).



The Chilton Library

by Karen Soohy

Do you do your own vehicle maintenance? Do others ask you to help fix their cars? Does your vehicle need work but you hate to pay to take it to a garage? If so, there is a database just for you on the Greenlee County Library website at www.greenleelibraries.org. Click the Statewide Database link on the left and find the Chilton Library link.

The Chilton Library provides specific vehicle information including maintenance and specification tables. It provides you with step-by-step service and repair procedures as well as diagrams to help you troubleshoot problems. Illustrations, close up photographs and wiring diagrams are on this site as well. If you are planning to take certification exams, there are ASE test prep questions. And you can print out any materials you want very easily.

The site is very easy to use. Choose the year, make and model of the vehicle and the next screen will give you options of Maintenance, Repair, Bulletins and Recalls, and Labor Estimating. The ASE Test Prep is also available from any of these screens.

The Chilton Library is full of information for vehicle maintenance. The libraries encourage you to use this FREE service and share this information with others who may be interested.

Imagination Library

The Greenlee County Library System and the Safford City-Graham County Library also promote a program called the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. You can find a link to this program in the center of the Greenlee County Library page. If you have a child, birth to age 5, the program will send them a FREE book every month and all you have to do is register them.

This program was begun by Dolly Parton in 2001. This program is an amazing opportunity to get books into the hands of young children to develop the love of reading at a young age. You can apply on line or by picking up a brochure at any of your public libraries in the county.

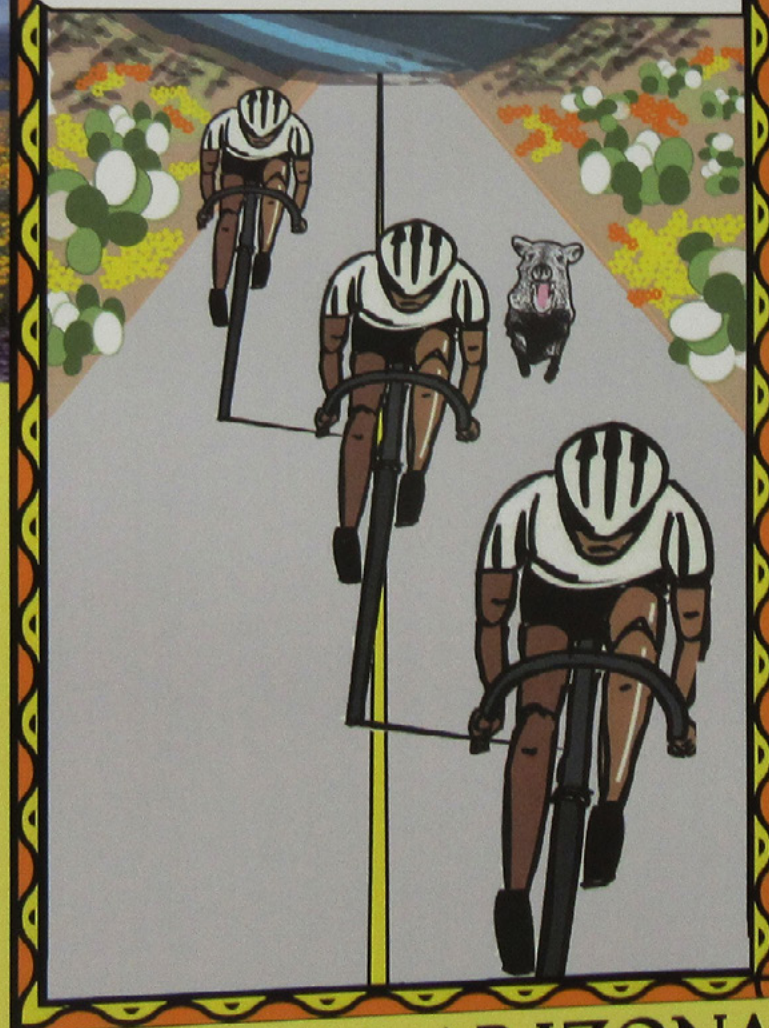
Don't forget to stop by your library to use Ancestry.com which is free on the computers in the library building.

Library Quote: “One rainy Sunday when I was in the third grade, I picked up a book to look at the pictures and discovered that even though I did not want to, I was reading. I have been a reader ever since.” ~

Beverly Cleary, children's author.

Saturday March 2015
28th

JAVELINA CHASE CYCLING EVENT



Javelina Chase Grand Fondo, a USA Cycling Sanctioned Road Race (28 March 2015) at the Greenlee County Fairgrounds in Duncan.

You've heard us brag about this event - now it is almost here! Be sure to set your Saturday, March 28, aside to cheer these winners on. See more about the Javelina Chase [here](#).

DUNCAN, ARIZONA

Western History Cultural Center

First he spoke about early settlement history, the influence of the military, how entertainment has been a mainstay, the impact of ranching and farming, mining and the history of explosives, and finally the evolution of transportation in this region.

Before he was finished the Greenlee County Tourism Council was convinced. This was an idea whose time had come and the Greenlee Tourism Council will be sending a letter of support to the Western History Cultural Center (WHCC), which is based in Benson.

The vision and passion of the WHCC organization is both contagious and important to our region.

In the coming weeks the speaker and representative, Andrew Abernathy, will be scheduling informational/motivational workshops in Greenlee County to boost support and provide more detailed information to those who have similar interests.

By telling the stories of settlement, development and modern life in our region in a way the traveling public will understand in context of time, place and world events is an achievable goal.

Those most interested should contact Abernathy at 520-477-6210 or email Andrew (andrew@westernheritageculturalcenter.org).



Knowledge Bowl ‘like Jeopardy on steroids’

by Ákos Kovach

Knowledge Bowl “is like Jeopardy on steroids” according to Locate TV.com. From the Morenci Wildcats website we learned: ‘Knowledge Bowl involves teams of four to six students who attempt to answer a series of questions first in a written round followed by two oral rounds. No team is eliminated in this event, and every team participates in every

round. Knowledge Bowl is usually a power competition in which teams are ranked after each round on the basis of their total points accumulated.’

‘The written round is a 60 question multiple-choice exam taken by each team as a whole. Results of this round are used for seeding teams in the oral rounds. Oral rounds involve two rounds of 30 questions. A reader presents the questions, and a team members write their answers and the team’s judge will determine if they have the correct answer. The winner is the team with the greatest number of points at the end of the meet.’

As a judge at one stop of this ongoing event, I found the Morenci facility to be ideal, the personnel helpful and friendly with the overall environment one of ‘education at its best’. There was challenge, there were demands, but there was also a healthy dose of fun, food and camaraderie. There were 22 teams representing 11 schools such as Duncan, Morenci, Bisbee, Elfrida, Thatcher, Pima, and Safford. Support your local team, the next Knowledge Bowl event is coming up April 1st in Thatcher.

Greenlee County Calendar of Events

March 21, 8:30-12:30, Simpson Hotel, Duncan, 1st session on tourism. (See page 11.)

March 25, Greenlee County Chamber Business Mixer, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Arizona Workforce Connection-Greenlee One Stop, 300 N. Coronado Blvd., Clifton. (Next to Circle K, in DES Building.)

March 28, Javelina Chase Cycling Event, Duncan. (See page 3 for details.)

Traffic Calming on SR 191

What on earth is “traffic calming?”

It is a technique that the Arizona Department of Transportation will be implementing along SR 191 in the Clifton area to better accommodate pedestrians and to better manage vehicular speed.

ADOT Safford District Engineer Bill Harmon recently made a presentation on the subject and each issue, the Clarion will be pulling slides from his presentation and discussing the matter.

This month’s slides discuss the issues that face the Clifton area, such as mine shift changes and the many oversized loads that are on the roads around here.

The road itself also causes some of the issues, such as compromised views and narrow shoulders.

The second slide gives graphic illustrations of some of the issues that are mentioned in the first.

In subsequent issues of the Clarion, we will continue Harmon’s presentation so readers will understand what will be done to make SR 191 and the Greenlee County community safer.

Issues

▶ Traffic

- Volume averages 9,000 vehicles per day
- Trucks represent 15% of traffic, many oversized loads
- Mine shift changes cause congestion with long lines
- Drivers are in a hurry to and from Morenci

▶ Roadway

- Adjacent buildings and canyon walls compromise drivers’ view; drivers feel boxed in
- Open, narrow shoulders allow unrestricted access
- Pedestrians face heavy peak hour traffic with limited facilities available
- Roadway is only illuminated at San Francisco River Bridge

ADOT

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Examples of Traffic Issues



ADOT

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The Greenlee Clarion

Published monthly by

Greenlee County Economic Development

253 Fifth Street | Clifton, Arizona 85533 | (928) 865-2072 ext. 202

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The Nugget Trail



2015 Greenlee County Mud Drag Series

by Ron Pearson

The Greenlee County Mud Drag series kicked off the 2015 season on Saturday February 21, 2015 at the Greenlee County Fairgrounds. We had 69 entrants for six classes of vehicles. We run the stock, modified, super modified, open tractor, extreme and ATV/dirtbike classes. We had a very good turnout for this stand-alone race.

We had our local competitors going against vehicles from Lordsburg NM, Nogales, Tucson, Bisbee, Willcox, Benson and our neighbors from Safford as well as Clifton, Morenci, Duncan and in-between. We run dual 180 feet pits and the competitors run side by side for best times per lane. Our fastest run was from Hayden Hardy from Wilcox in Pit Boss with a time of 3.07 seconds in 180 feet.

The Mud drag series consists of 4 races starting with the February race and then the April 11, race at the Greenlee County Spring Rampage then to the July 25, night race then the finale at the Greenlee County Fair on September 19.

We will collect sponsorship money from businesses, private parties to pay the series winners at the fair. 100% of the sponsorship monies goes to the competitors. Last year we gave out \$20,000 to the winners of the classes. We are always looking for sponsors to help with event. Please contact the Greenlee County Public Works Office for more information. (928) 687-2001, or email rpearson@co.greenlee.az.us. Come support our local drivers as they compete with racers from throughout South East Arizona and the State.



The Eighth Wonder

by **Berta Manuz**

Have you ever heard of the 7 wonders of the world? Well I happen to have found the 8th wonder – the staff in the Greenlee County Records Office. They are like jewels and without them this office function would not function in the superior manner it serves you today.

Praise of this team is worth sharing, these professional ladies give new meaning to working with a small sized staff. As work, requests and new projects come in the door, our goal is to complete every pending item in our office each day. This is a tall task, but this staff is simply hard working and very dedicated.

Why wait until tomorrow to do something that comes in to our office today? We do not work that way.

Please know that my staff and I love serving the public. When we share that message we always get positive feedback from the community that ‘we are all so friendly and courteous to the public’. Whether we see you at our office or you are on the telephone, we want to provide you with excellent customer service. As the saying goes ‘treat people like you want to be treated’ and that is the motto of this office.

You should know that Cheryl Wiltbank – is our highly regarded Chief Deputy and has been since July 2002 and Suzanne Cuthbertson – has been an exemplary Administrative Assistant since 2004.

The Recorder’s office would like to let you know what we have to offer if you have not been in to our office in a while:

We have a website on the Greenlee County official webpage and you can actually see recorded images dating back from 1975 to the present. We continue to back scan images and index our recordings. It is time consuming but so well worth going into seeing the recording and being able to see who the grantee and grantors are that provided the information on the deed or map, etc.

Our office does about 95% of our voter registration through MVD <http://www.dmv.org/az-arizona/voter-registration.php>. People who go to the Motor Vehicle Division can register to vote at their office. If you wish you can also pick up voter registration forms at your nearest Bank, Post Office, Public Libraries or call us and have a form mailed to you. You can also go online and register through Service Arizona - <http://servicearizona.com/> . We aim to accommodate everyone.

Making your Home Defensible from Wildfire

Springerville, AZ — March 4, 2015 – The White Mountains may have received moisture recently, but we still need to be careful with fire. Warm daytime temperatures and high winds will dry out light fuels quickly, making it easy for fires to spread.

Every spring homeowners should take a proactive approach to protecting their home and property from wildfire. By working with your neighbors, individual residents can make their own property – and their neighborhood – much safer from the flames and embers of a wildfire.

There are multiple ways to make your home more defensible from a wildfire; some of them are very simple. Mow your lawn, keep weeds short and remove ground litter and dead vegetation to slow the advance of a wildfire. Remove all burnable material from rain gutters where embers can get trapped.

Trim tree limbs at least 10 feet from the ground to make it harder for ground fire to reach higher limbs and become a crown fire. Create a “fire-free” area within five feet of the house.

Make sure that firewood stacks and propane tanks are outside of the “fire-free” area. For more information and helpful tips visit www.firewise.org.

In the process of making your home and property more defensible from wildfire, you will have produced debris such as lawn and tree trimmings, yard waste, stumps, branches, and leaves. This material is known as green waste.

There are multiple locations throughout the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests that accept green waste, to find a location near you, contact your local ranger district.

Some homeowners may choose to burn their yard debris, which can cause a wildfire if not done correctly. Always use caution and common sense before lighting any fire and follow these tips for safe debris burning:

Comply with local county laws; they may require a burn permit.

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Spring Rampage

April 10 & 11, 2015

Greenlee County Fairgrounds
Duncan, Arizona
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 10th

- 1:00pm - Cole Webb Memorial Horse Competition
- 3:00pm - Vendors (Close at 8:00pm)
- 3:00pm - Non-Profit Booth Viewing
- 6:00pm - 8th Annual Jr. Rodeo Series #1

SATURDAY, APRIL 11th

- 8:00am - Team Roping (Enter at 7:00am)
- 9:00am - Vendors (Close at 8:00pm)
- 9:00am - Non-Profit Booth Viewing & Judging
- 10:00am - Horseshoe Tournament
- 10:00am - Mud Drags Series #2
- 10:00am - 5th Rock n Roll Car Show (till 3:00pm)
- 10:00am - Cole Webb Memorial Ranch Rodeo
- 6:30pm - Pride Society's Pioneer Award
- 7:00pm - Bulls & Broncs
- 7:30pm - Cowhide Race (during Bull Bash)
- 9:00pm - Live Dance by Crossroads

THANK YOU 2014 SPONSORS!

OVER ALL SPONSOR

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Stage Stop Mini Mart
Linda Durr, Greenlee Co. Assessor
Berta Manuz, Greenlee Co. Recorder
Freedom Ford

Duncan Valley Electric Co-op
Chaparral Mini Mart & Motel
Smith Ford, Lordsburg
Town of Duncan
Tumbleweed Cafe

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Greenlee County Elected Officials

8TH ANNUAL JUNIOR RODEO SERIES

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Shay Trucking LLC
John & Barbara Blackburn
Town & Country Supply, Duncan
Haralson Tire Co.
Tim & Amber Sumner
Stans Backhoe
Berta Manuz, Greenlee County Recorder

Greenlee Co. Mud Drag Series
Sponsorship as of 4-01-14

ENTRY TIMES FOR EVENTS

- Non Profit Booths - Call for entry form or pick up at fair office.
- Cole Webb Memorial Horse Competition - Call Lonnie at (928) 231-3696
- Junior Rodeo - Sign up between 5:00pm & 5:30pm (no entries after 5:30pm)
- Horseshoe Tournament - Sign up at the pits at 9:00am
- Mud Drags - Sign up at the back registration table 8:00am-9:15am
- Car Show - Pre-register or sign up from 8:00-9:00am front entrance
- Cole Webb Memorial Ranch Rodeo - Call Lonnie at (928) 231-3696
- Bulls & Broncs - Call fair office (928) 359-2032 before spots are filled
- Cowhide Race - Call fair office (928) 359-2032

Friday is Free Gate

Admission

Friday - Free

Saturday

12 to Adult - \$5.00

Child 5 to 11 - \$3.00

Senior Citizen - Free

For more information and times
(928) 359-2032

www.co.greenlee.az.us/fair

Find us on Facebook!
Greenlee County Fair & Racing



Greenlee County's 'landing page'

Go to the Tucson News Now (Channel 13) website and you'll find this "[landing page](#)" for Greenlee County. This is part of a significant campaign that Greenlee County has undertaken to raise awareness of the area's attractions, including outdoor activities.

This work includes a variety of commercials (listed at the end of this article) that are promoting the county as a whole and the communities of Clifton and Duncan. These commercials run on Channel 13 and direct viewers to county-maintained websites.

This promotional effort will continue throughout 2015 and will be only a part of the work that is being done to encourage the development that will enhance investment and will make Greenlee County an even better place to live and work.

Videos created so far:

[Greenlee County video](#)

[Clifton video](#)

[Duncan video](#)

Making your Home Defensible from Wildfire

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Notify your local fire department and sheriff's department.

Check the weather forecast for changing weather conditions or high winds.

Never burn on a windy day or red flag day, or leave your fire unattended.

Always keep water and hand tools available.

Choose a site far from power lines, overhanging limbs, buildings, automobiles and equipment.

If using a burn barrel, make sure it:

Is metal and in good condition with a top screen on mesh that is one-fourth inch or finer.

Has vents with metal screen coverings and is stirred often and never left unattended.

Attract more visitors and more shoppers

by Deborah Mendelsohn

There are four important workshops coming to southern Greenlee County, in collaboration with Local First Arizona. These workshops are being offered at no cost to help all businesses in the area that currently welcome visitors, or who would like to attract more visitors and shoppers.

Freeport McMoRan Foundation is funding the program under a grant to the Duncan Pride Society, with participation by the Greenlee County Tourism Council. The grant will also cover most of the costs of a high-quality brochure for Duncan and Clifton that will be displayed in all AOT certified visitor centers and other key locations throughout and beyond Arizona.

Jeanette West of the Clifton Visitor Center and the Business Association of Chase Creek Arizona (BACCA) is heading up the brochure project. The grant also funds a website for visitors, which will be a unique resource for residents too. All these elements will be coordinated with each other, and will link to a great deal more that is also going on in our area.

We use the terms “visitors” and “travelers” rather than “tourism” for a reason. In 2013, in a roomful of local people in a workshop at the Greenlee County Cooperative Extension, we helped format priorities for the coming years. During a session on tourism, Eric Schwennesen said: “in welcoming people to their Cold Creek Ranch, he and Jean aren’t in the business of tourism. What they are doing is allowing visitors a kind of immersion experience in their cattle operation.” Schwennesen said he hoped the experience would expand the way his guests thought about what they were taking in, in addition to having a great time.

What we have in Greenlee County is unusual and in many ways beyond value. It’s great to be able to share it with visitors, and to help support ourselves through that sharing.

Many of us feel strongly about protecting the rural-life attributes we cherish — the quiet, the privacy, the simplicity. Those attributes are a big part of the draw for others as well as ourselves. These workshops we’re talking about hold these factors up as fundamental values.

Our partner in these workshops is Local First Arizona (LFA), a statewide economic development organization focused on growing and celebrating Arizona talent. Take a few minutes to explore their website at www.localfirstaz.com. It is a membership



organization with affordable rates and a complex menu of offerings.

LFA won a Governor’s Award for Creative Collaborative Marketing in 2013, for work it did with the City of Cottonwood. This is one instance of one part of LFA’s range of programs – it included organizing weekend trips by Arizonans to other parts of Arizona. There is much, much more to LFA, including very creative programs on the arts, and locally grown and produced food.

LFA’s founder and executive director Kimber Lanning has had Clifton and Duncan on her radar for a few years. She came to a small gathering at the Union Hall in Clifton in early 2011 and has thought about Greenlee County ever since.

In 2014, LFA merged with the Arizona Rural Development Council (AZRDC) and assumed that group’s programs. Just before the AZRDC/LFA “Rural Policy Forum” in August 2014, Kimber came

continued on next page

More visitors . . .

continued from previous page

back to Greenlee County at Freeport McMoRan's request — Freeport is a major supporter of the AZ-RDC—and made a presentation on LFA's work and the upcoming Rural Policy Forum.

We are planning four Saturday morning meetings, from 8:30 to 12:30, with the option of continuing our conversations during lunch in one of our local restaurants. The dates are March 21, April 25, August 29 and October 24. Although many business owners have difficulty getting free on Saturdays, we made this plan in order to be able to include younger people, i.e. outside of school hours.

The objectives of the workshops are to some degree fluid, because they will respond to whatever it is participants bring to them. The first workshop on March 21 is titled "A Big, Wide Welcome: Increasing your Capacity to Draw Visitors to Our Region and Your Business." It will be held at The Simpson Hotel, unless enrollment is so large that we must move it to a bigger space. Expect to learn something about Local First Arizona and about the programs Karalea is part of, and then about the businesses and services and ideas of those attending.

To make the most of this first workshop, spend a little time beforehand thinking and making notes about your business or service or idea so that your thinking is organized. And then prepare to have your thinking stretched and stimulated and possibly expanded in ways you would not have dreamed of. And expect to see that you're in this with others, in mutually beneficial ways.

In the April issue of *The Clarion* we will discuss the second workshop, at Tyler's Taste of Texas on April 25, titled "Local Genius: Launching or Expanding Your Business Serving Visitors."

The last two workshops, in August and October, will be similar to the first two but increasingly focused on specifics. They will continue to support the creativity of local entrepreneurs, including those in the not-for-profit world.

We encourage wide participation and are prepared for any sized audience, invite others, bring guests and other business owners and entrepreneurs.

Please RSVP at 928-359-3590, or write innkeeper@simpsonhotel.com.

