

ARIZONA Audio Video Club

January 2024

Club Officers

President: John Harvell

Vice President: Joe Goswami

Secretary/Treasurer: Joe Goswami

Newsletter Editor: Roy Cook

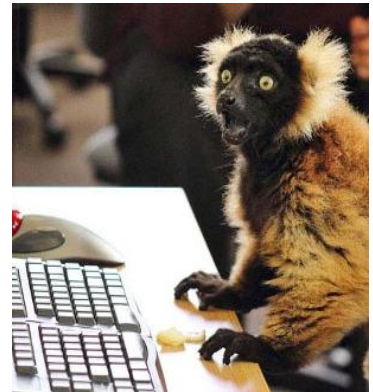
SC Members: Ben Taylor, David Prysock, Paul Johnson, David Hjortland, Joe Roberts, Paul Righello, Michael Kahut, David Snyder, Rich Rachkofski, Jim Welby



President's Message



Last Month's Meeting



Member Articles



Sundry Stuff



Dealer Area



Humor

Email Info@AZAVClub.org
Website <https://azavclub.com/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Harvell

President's Message:

As you all know, the AAVC membership runs from January to December each calendar year. So, please plan to renew your membership through the club web site during January of 2024. Additionally, the club is only as successful as the members who are actively participating, organizing, planning, and helping to put together the events and the interactions we have all grown to enjoy. So, I am reaching out in this newsletter again, requesting that you take an active role in the club.

Join the club steering committee, help us organize, plan, and put on exciting and worthwhile events that club members can and will support. We are in desperate need for someone to take over the treasurer position and I am appealing to each of you to help the club and the other club members by please stepping forward into that role. Note: This is not a tremendously taxing position and Joe and I can certainly provide guidance to a new person taking over this important role.

Over the next month and a half, the steering committee will be putting together a preliminary schedule of events for next year. We will have elections for existing and new club officers during the January meeting. In order for the club to continue to succeed, we need the current and future members to step forward and support the coordination and organization of club events. So, please search your hearts and find a way to step forward with an offer to fill one of the club positions. Those positions include: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Website Support, Newsletter Editor, and Steering Committee members. If you would like to volunteer, you can reach out to me at jharvell_1@cox.net and make your interest known. Alternatively, you can also contact any other current steering committee member and relay your interest in volunteering. The current steering committee members and officers include:

President: John Harvell

Vice President: Joe Goswami

Treasurer: Joe Goswami

Website: Joe Goswami

Newsletter: Roy Cook

Steering Committee: Dave Snyder, Ben Taylor, Dave Hjortland, Paul Johnson, and Dave Prysock ([This list is in conflict with the previous one – this needs to be addressed – Ed](#))

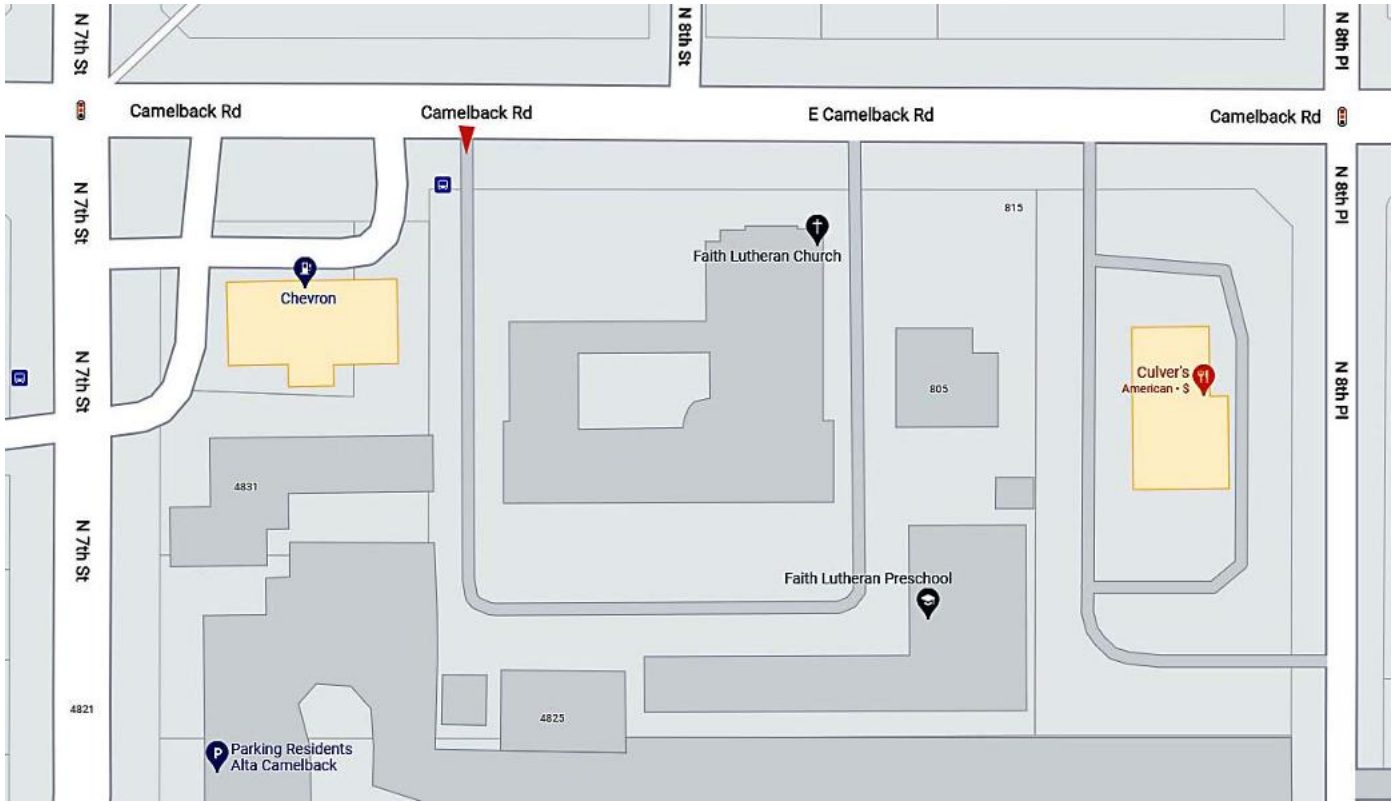
So, please reach out to one of them with your interest to become a more active member of the club and help us organize and present the best program we can for the coming year.

Best Regards,

John Harvell, AAVC President

November Meeting

Best Regards,
John Harvell



LAST MONTH'S MEETING RECAP

Streaming – with David Snyder

When: Wednesday 29 November 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Where: Faith Lutheran Church – Faith Center ([Next to Office - Instead of Parish Hall – look for us to have more meetings here](#))

801 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85014, United States

The November 2023 event was all about Audiophile Streaming.

Our own David Snyder hosted a very informative and somewhat technical meeting all about the ins and outs of digital audio.

System Information

Source Info: iFi Audio Zen Stream, (\$399), WiiM Pro (\$149)

DACs: SMSL D-6S DAC (\$199) Schiit Yggdrasil (\$2299)

Preamp: Benchmark LA-4 (\$3050)

Crossover: dBx DriveRack Venu360 Loudspeaker Management System (\$695)

Amplifiers: Two Benchmark AHB2 (\$3499)

Speakers: Swan IV (Bi-Amped DIY Speakers Circa 1988 Speaker Builder Magazine \cong \$750)



MEMBER ARTICLES

[Audiophiles are going extinct!](#)

By Jim Welby and David Snyder

In November, I (Jim) attended my first AAVC meeting and I was not surprised to see the demographic was similar to the demo of the Minnesota club I was involved with: old guys. I am 65 and so I put myself in the old guy category. I met a "young guy" at the meeting, David Snyder (in his 50s) and we hit it off. He invited me over to audition his 2-channel system (which was delightful) and we got to talking about how we could get a new generation (including women) interested in becoming audiophiles.

I believe that audiophiles are going extinct. My belief is anecdotal: I rarely meet anyone in my everyday life who cares about great sound. I have adult children, with whom I have shared great music and quality audio. The music appreciation stuck, they both have great taste, but the audiophile piece didn't. I have to believe the audiophile industry must be concerned as their core customers are aging out (polite way to say going extinct). Even people in my age group who once had great stereos have lost interest.

When I entered college in the fall of 1977, guys in the dorm flexed their coolness with stereos. There was an audiophile arms race. When I got my first significant bonus from work in 1984, I bought the best speakers I could afford. In the Twin Cities market that I lived in back in the day, dozens of stereo stores catered to people like me (one of those stores, Sound Of Music, eventually grew into Best Buy). Today there are significantly fewer audiophile stores, and the few that still exist tend to survive on home theater and home automation. Being an audiophile in the late 70s was about as rare as being an NFL fan; in 2024, audiophiles are an endangered species.

David and I talked about why audiophiles are going extinct and here is what we came up with:

Fierce competition for time and attention - as big as music is today, it does not command the cultural significance that it did 50 years ago. So if music is less important, being an audiophile is even less important than the music. For potential audiophiles, there's no critical mass of peers with whom they could share an interest in this hobby.

Convenience - most music fans are more than happy streaming their music on their phones. They listen over low-quality earbuds/headphones or via Bluetooth to small powered speakers. Although this solution is less than CD quality and worse than a typical home stereo from the 1970s, most consumers are satisfied. Consumers prefer audio convenience over audio quality.

Ironically accessing music in better than CD quality has never been easier and less expensive. Streaming services work great, have deep libraries, and are inexpensive. The monthly cost of a high-resolution streaming service is a fraction of the cost of a new vinyl record. The contemporary audiophile industry has entry-level solutions that sound better and are significantly less expensive than back in the 70s (e.g. today a good quality entry-level stereo can be assembled for under \$1000 - that is the equivalent of \$200 in 1977). The vinyl renaissance is a feel-good story, but half the people who buy vinyl records don't own a turntable.

David and I started brainstorming on how to get more people interested in becoming audiophiles:

Mentorship - first and foremost, audiophiles should try to mentor potential audiophiles. Mentorship is not only being an equipment guide but also a music guide. Certain music begs to be heard on quality equipment. A great reference recording on a great stereo will be persuasive.



Headphones - since headphones are the go-to choice for most people's listening, audiophiles should introduce potential audiophiles to true audiophile quality headphones vs. lo-fi earbuds and mass-market over-the-ear headphones (e.g., Bose and Beats). Entry-level audiophile headphones are no more expensive than AirPods or Beats - so cost is not a barrier. Even if headphones are not your preferred way to enjoy music, consider building a quality headphones rig for yourself that you can share with others who have not yet experienced high-performance audio playback.

Digital - Digital audio streaming is the most common way to listen to music today. Mentors should introduce potential audiophiles to high-resolution streaming and digital hardware (DACs, streaming devices, etc.).

audiophiles to high-resolution streaming and digital hardware (DACs, streaming devices, etc.).

Vinyl - Young people are attracted to vinyl as much as a "souvenir" as a sonic medium. Listening to a vinyl record on a "suitcase" record player is not an audiophile experience. Audiophile-quality entry-level turntables are relatively inexpensive. Invite a potential audiophile to hear your system.

Sample Systems - Most people wouldn't have a clue where to start to assemble a stereo. I don't believe that cost is a big barrier as people are willing to spend on soundbars and wireless-powered speakers. Mentors should advise young people on how to curate an entry-level system. As audiophiles we have a bias toward complexity (separates vs integration) - so keep it simple!

System Setup - we should never stop learning about tools and techniques for setting up a system in a room for the best possible sound. It's a life-long journey; one great way to deepen your expertise in any topic is to teach it to someone curious and willing to learn. Helping newcomers dial in their systems to consistently deliver great listening experiences is one of the most rewarding things we can do.

David and I would love to hear your thoughts on all of this. How can we get more people interested in being audiophiles? Do you agree we are going extinct? Do you have ideas on how to get potential audiophiles into our hobby? Have you had any successful audiophile conversions? Reach out to us at an AAVC meeting or email us at:

Jim Welby catchgroove@gmail.com

David Snyder dsnyder0cnn@gmail.com

Some thoughts from the Editor:

I have two kids. My son has a monophonic Bluetooth boombox at home, these seem to be popular. He also owns a Jiu-Jitsu Studio (the nicest facility in the state) He put in a decent sound system (Sonos) in his business. There is no hope for my daughter.

Given the state of music since the 1990's why would any young person pay a lot of money for a system to listen to crap. Classical and Opera are also heading for the exit.

This topic has been covered occasionally by the main audio magazines for decades – unfortunately they came up with very little. IMHO we're doomed – enjoy what you can, while you can.

SUNDRY STUFF

Dave's Record Reviews

For the AZ Audio Club ~ December 2023

#17

Roseanne Cash – **King's Record Shop**
(1987)

(LP & CD, Columbia,



Roseanne Cash has had a long and mostly successful career in country/pop/rock music since her first album was released in 1979. **King's Record Shop** was her 7th album (she is currently up to a total of 14) and the last produced by her then-husband Rodney Crowell. Some critics regard her next album, 1990's **Interiors**, as her best work, though I have to go with **King's** as a superior record overall. It went gold, and was, I believe, her best-selling. Here Cash (a daughter of Johnny Cash, if you didn't know) had fully developed her style and musical sensibilities and was at the peak of her vocal prowess.

Rodney Crowell was (and is) a highly talented musician in his own right, and as well as producing Roseanne's first few albums he plays backup on this one. Among *many* other backup folks assembled for this disc are the likes of Steve Winwood, Vince Gill, Patty Smyth, and multi-Grammy winner Mark O'Connor. The result is music with a lot to like.

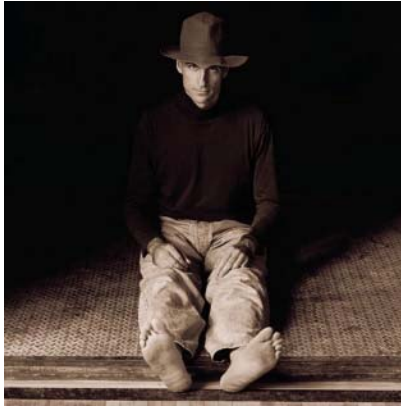
The songs are varied in content and style, which is all to the good, and no less than four of them hit #1 on the charts. Her Dad's "Tennessee Flat Top Box" is one of those, as is my favorite cut on the album, John Stewart's "Runaway Train." But there are other certainly other fine things on the disc as well. The album leads off with "Rosie Strike Back," in which the singer admonishes 'Rosie' to not take it anymore and leave a bad relationship. "Green, Yellow and Red" is a good rockin', driving down the highway song. And of course there are more.

The long and short of it is that this is a great album, an enjoyable listen for anyone with any sensibility for country/pop/rock/Americana music whatsoever. The LP is well-produced and clean, though nitpickers may think there is a slight 80's sheen to the sound. I have not heard the CD, but it apparently has bonus tracks that may make it more attractive to some.

Cash still tours with her current husband, musician, producer & multi-Grammy winner John Leventhal, and her shows are well worth taking in. I heard them in Wickenburg last March. The pair are scheduled for a concert at the Musical Instrument Museum February 16 & 17, and I can certainly recommend it. I'm guessing that the shows will probably sell out...

James Taylor – **Hourglass**

(LP & CD, Columbia, 1987)



I attended a concert a while ago where the group performed some James Taylor songs, including the lead cut of this album, “Line ‘Em Up.” They gave some back-story to the album that I found interesting, and I thought I’d check it out further. I popped for the 2-disc Analog Spark, 2017 release.

James Taylor is one of those iconic figures of American popular music that everybody has at least some passing familiarity with. (“Fire and Rain” anyone?) His career has spanned 55 years, 29-some albums, and awards too numerous to mention here. Most (all?) of Taylor’s albums have excellent side people supporting him. On this album he is joined by – among others – Mark O’Connor, Yo-Yo Ma, Stevie Wonder, Branford Marsalis, Sting, and Shawn Colvin.

So, what is my take on this album? Well, there are some good, enjoyable things here. That lead cut, “Line ‘Em Up” is of particular note, commemorating – believe it or not – Richard Nixon’s farewell to his staff as he departed the White House. “Little More Time with You” is a gently rocking song about leaving drugs behind. “Gaia” is a nice tune about the beauties of nature. Other songs relate to Taylor’s family and past. This was quite a successful album for him, charting well and even winning a Grammy award for the Best Pop Vocal Album in 1998. It also has some audio cred, in that it won its producer/engineer a Grammy for Best Engineered Album.

However, on the whole this album is... well, frankly something of a yawn. After a while the songs start to blend together and sound similar. The sound is so archetypically Taylor that unless you are a fan, particularly receptive to his vocals and style, you are probably not going to find a lot to love here. My call: If you do streaming, check it out. Maybe you’ll enjoy it for background music. But if you are into primarily physical media (as am I), take a pass.

CLASSICS CORNER

Rosemary Clooney & Perez Prado – **A Touch of Tabasco** (LP & CD, RCA, 1960)



The concept is almost mystifying. One is tempted to scratch your head and say, “How did they think of this?” And then, after listening, to ask, “How did they make this work so well?” This was a not a natural pairing; Arguably one of the best and certainly one of the most popular female vocalists of the 1950’s with a

bandleader known for his decidedly Cuban music. However, the result is very much a successful blending of two major talents and two styles of music.

That sheer talent of the two major players is one reason it works. Clooney's skill is in evidence here, as she brings her smooth and engaging vocal style to the material. Prado was lesser known, but a masterful band leader and a major name in Latin-American music, known as "King of the Mambo." Also important factors to be credited are some of the best session players of the day, and an excellent RCA production.

And there is of course the carefully chosen material. The songs vary between Latin, swing-type numbers with an American slant, to traditional "songbook" pieces with a Latin flavor. As an example of the former, the album leads off with a song called "Corazon de Melon," which was apparently a major hit for them in South America. The traditional songs range from "I Only Have Eyes for You" to "I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'". All are lively, interesting, and fun to listen to, with Clooney's vocals and Perez's band with arrangements complimenting each other.

Sixty-four years after its release this music still sounds fresh and energetic. I **do** recommend it. That said, it is almost an artifact of its time, and frankly may not be to everyone's taste. No one will mistake it for an album of this century. But it is good enough that it has been released in different formats and in different countries. Perhaps most notable is a 2010 audiophile re-release by ORG (Original Recordings Group), produced as a 2-disc, 180 g, 45 RPM album, still available through Acoustic Sounds. I have not heard that, but have no doubt that it is worthwhile. My own copy is an original mono I picked up at a record show a couple years ago. (It was also released in stereo by RCA, apparently the same year, under their Living Stereo imprint.) The clarity and dynamics of the RCA production of my copy make me think that I cannot be missing much of what other or later versions may offer.



For Sale

My transition from Chicago to Chandler AZ meant that my home theater days needed to end.

As Follows: Receiver, Yamaha HTR 5960, 7.1, with book, remote and room acoustic analyzer. Clean, works, caps are good. It is a beast.

Side Speakers, Bose 201, left and right. Screw mounting holes on the top of the cabinet. Clean and functional.

Center speaker, Klipsch, Synergy Q1, Clean and functional.

DVD Player, Sony Blu-Ray with remote. Upscale version with a nifty strip of chrome plastic on the front. Clean and functional.

All of this majestic sound equipment can be yours for \$200.00 cash money. Prefer US Dollars.

Contact Dan Murphy –312-927-1009

Dealers Corner

[As always we want to recognize and thank all the local retailers who support our club so graciously](#)

DEALERS:

Acoustic Designs Group -- <https://www.adgroupaz.com/>

Arizona HiFi -- <http://tubeaudio.com/>

Audio Video Excellence -- <https://www.audiovideoexcellence.com/index.html>

Dedicated Audio -- <https://www.dedicatedaudio.com/>

LMC Entertainment -- <https://www.lmche.com/>

Woolson Audio -- <https://www.woolsonaudio.com/> (may be closed, more later)

USA Tube Audio -- <https://www.usatubeaudio.com/>

Mythic Home Theater – <https://mythicsls.com/>

VINYL:

Record High in Phoenix -- <https://www.facebook.com/Record-High-in-Phoenix-225931417539924/>

In-Groove Records -- <https://www.theingroove.com/>

REPAIR WORK:

James Koch
james@highendrepair.com

Audio Doctor
<http://www.audiodoctor.biz/>
602-741-0730

Jeff's Professional Audio Repair, Also Car Stereo work
602-274-0794
jparepair@yahoo.com

Refoaming Speaker Surround Service:
Michael Mitchell 480-749-7003
mmiller43228@yahoo.com

Turntable Set-up and record cleaning:
Richard Jensen
ANALOG resource
602 717 2399 | worksbau@gmail.com

HUMOR

Headlines of Worth and Mirth

Army vehicle disappears

AN Australian Army vehicle worth \$74,000 has gone missing after being painted with camouflage. Police are seeking public help to find the four-wheel drive, which was

Caskets found as workers demolish mausoleum

We had no idea anyone was buried there.

By William R. Wilson
Houston Post Journal

When a major grade demolition job on a prominent site in Houston's Riverchase Country, a monthly noted item piece of dirt remained in place.

Over a month later, the owner of the mausoleum built by the cemetery's founder, Harry Lantry, said he found more than 100 caskets.

Discovery of the caskets was work was just one more chapter of a bizarre story.

"We had no idea anyone was buried there," explained Thomas Rabin, director of operations for the Houston Catholic Cemetery.

"We had four men on site in the mausoleum. All we had opened all up and they were gone," he said. "But when we started to dig for the caskets, we found another six caskets buried under 3 inches of concrete."



The Lantry mausoleum stands as a mystery. It had a cryptic history.

The caskets — in one set buried under 30 inches — were covered with concrete walls, concrete and then covered with earth, Rabin said. Aside from the one casket, the graves were left in place.

"It had an intricate cryptic design and double walls and, because of freezing and thawing, they had taken water into them — but there was still debris hanging from the ceiling. The building was being apart and it was dangerous."

Harry Lantry, although he sincerely was a man of means, left no money for maintenance, he said. Instead, he left no record that anyone was buried in his mausoleum.

One of Lantry's relatives, Lois Lantry Smith, said Harry Lantry was a close relative who was born in New York and later moved to Houston.

He was a successful realtor for several years on the Houston Bayou but began work as a realtor construction in the 1930s.

In 1977 he moved to Kansas, bought a television station and left his real estate work for a realtor. Rabin said Lantry was the richest man in Kansas at the time of his death.

According to Smith, "Harry died at Spring City, Kansas, but he was buried in Houston. After the death of his father, his mother settled in Houston along with her children. Because she had such a hard life, Harry vowed when he was young that he would take good care of her for life."

Now his mausoleum is gone and his grave, for the moment, unmarked. Rabin said he has not decided what to do to mark the grave.

The mausoleum had the name "Lantry" carved over its door and, Rabin said, he was most likely to have that stone also placed in a concrete base at the site.

Federal Agents Raid Gun Shop, Find Weapons

Store Owner Arrested Previously

By Brian Barber
World Staff Writer

Federal agents on Monday searched a south Tulsa gun shop owned by the man who officials allege had kept in his

On July 2, undercover narcotics agents served a warrant at Tula's home, to search for drugs. They found a stockpile of land mines, hand grenades, dynamite and other explosives.

ON TEENAGERS, ADULT:

Statistics show that teen pregnancy drops off significantly after age 25.

Mary Anne Tebride, Republican state senator from Colorado Springs
(contributed by Harry F. Pancec)

MONDAY DECEMBER 1999

Meat head resigns

WASHINGTON — The head of the federal agency overseeing meat and poultry inspections is resigning, after repeated attacks by consumer groups.

H. Russell Cross, administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service, ran the agency during a time when there was a deadly outbreak of food poisoning caused by E. coli bacteria in undercooked hamburgers.

Barbershop singers bring joy to school for deaf

By James Stewart

A little barbershop quartet sang through the walls of a school for the deaf in a way that brought joy to all who heard it.

The quartet was heard singing in a room at the school for the deaf in a way that brought joy to all who heard it.

The quartet was heard singing in a room at the school for the deaf in a way that brought joy to all who heard it.



Hospitals resort to hiring doctors

PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE PROMPTING MOVE, ADMINISTRATORS SAY

Homicide victims rarely talk to police

Most homicide victims and their families rarely talk to police, according to a study by researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The study, which surveyed 100 homicide victims and their families, found that only 10 percent of victims and their families talked to police within 24 hours of the crime. The researchers said that this is because many victims and their families are afraid to talk to police, or they are too traumatized to do so. The study also found that many victims and their families do not understand the police process, or they are not given enough information about what to expect. The researchers said that police should be more sensitive to the needs of victims and their families, and that they should provide more information and support.

Meeting on open meetings is closed

Worker suffers leg pain after crane drops 800-pound ball on his head

CHARLESTON (AP) — The state Division of Highways granted contracts to a contractor to build a new bridge over the Cooper River. He said he has trouble walking and suffers leg pains.

Man with 8 DUIs blames drinking problem

A man with eight DUI convictions is blaming his drinking problem for his legal troubles. The man, who is 45 years old, has been arrested multiple times for driving under the influence. He said that he has a long history of drinking alcohol, and that this has led to his current problems. He said that he wants to get help for his drinking problem, but he is not sure where to go. He said that he has tried to quit drinking on his own, but he has not been successful. He said that he needs professional help, but he is not sure how to get it. He said that he is tired of going to court and paying fines, and that he wants to get his life back on track.

Bridges help people cross rivers

By MICHELLE DuRAVEN
Have you ever considered what Rockford would be like without bridges across the Rock River? How would we get from east to west? Ferriss might be an answer, but not a very practical one. Bridges have helped mankind traverse waterways, crevasses and the like for hundreds and even thousands of years. And, throughout that time, bridges have evolved from a simple fallen log across a narrow creek to highly complex roadways spanning miles of shallow waterways, such as the 24-mile-long Lake Pontchartrain Causeway near New Orleans, La.

To Do:
The next time your family visits Discovery Center Museum, try to find the two different arch bridges and one suspension bridge in Rock River Discovery Park. If you want to learn how engineers build bridges and buildings, you might want to participate in our upcoming Exploring Architecture Camp, from 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, July 29, through Friday, July 31. Open to children ages 8 to 11, the camp will explore engineering and architecture with blocks, earthquake tables. Call Discovery Center Museum at 963-6700 for admission fees and registration information.
To build your own bridge or building at home, you will need:
■ Pretzel sticks
■ Gum drops
By poking the pretzel sticks into the gum drops, you can connect them together to create your own structure. How high can you make a tower reach? How long of a span can you give to a bridge?

SOUTH HAVEN City unsure why the sewer smells

By KRISTIN HAY
H-P Correspondent
SOUTH HAVEN — The tests Stickland said he will discuss the strategy of putting a non-toxic smoke into the sewer to detect the path of the offensive gas emanat-

The Winchester Star

BRIEFS

Study Shows Frequent Sex Enhances Pregnancy Chances

By The Associated Press
BOSTON — A study that researchers say gives the best estimate ever of nature's window if plus don't want to use other forms of birth control. Researchers say there are six days in every menstrual month when a woman can get pregnant.

Man Accused of Killing Lawyer Receives a New Attorney

By Scott Slavovic
SUN Staff Writer

Charged in the murder of his former attorney, Miguel Trujillo has been appointed another attorney from the public defender's office.

Judy Reed, from the Public Defender's Department in Albuquerque, had no comment, saying that she had just been given the case with no time to review it.

Trujillo had recently rejected his previous court-appointed attorney of six months, Marc Roben.

An attorney from out of dis-

trict was hired because most of the attorneys working for the Public Defender's Department out of Santa Fe knew Carlos Vil, the man Trujillo is accused of murdering in a drive-by shooting.

Vil was murdered Aug. 13, 1999 a few blocks from his Stubb Street office while walking to District Court for a hearing.

A lime-green, early model Ford pickup was spotted in the area linking Trujillo to the scene.

Assistant District Attorney Richard Slazsar said the court was waiting for an attorney to represent Trujillo to be found to

schedule the next hearing. All First District Court judges were disqualified from the hearings, with Judge Stephen Pfeffer excused. The Supreme Court appointed Second District Court Judge Neil Candelaria from Albuquerque to oversee the hearings.

Trujillo is accused of an open charge of murder, two counts of extorting a witness or witnesses, one charge of tampering with evidence, and one charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Trujillo pled not guilty. He faces up to 90 years in prison.

Puerto Rican teen named mistress of the universe

The Associated Press



Los Angeles - An 18-year-old aspiring actress from Puerto Rico, who hopes to someday star in U.S. and Latin American films, was crowned last night as Miss Universe 2000.

Zuleyka Rivera Menéndez of Puerto Rico shared a nervous emotional hug with first runner-up Karara Chikusa of Japan moments before the winner was announced. She clasped her hands to her mouth in amazement as she heard her name called.

She beamed as the crown was placed on her head. Miss USA Tara Covar was the contest's fourth

runner-up of Switzerland and third runner-up Lourdes Arevalo of Paraguay.

Covar was vying to become the first U.S. winner since Erskine Lee in 1977. The feisty native wore a red, white and blue jockey suit and cracked a whip during the opening parade of contestants.

Several of the contestants sported costumes including colorful native dress, fur, massive headpieces and, in the case of Miss Japan, a floral sword.

"They were probably afraid not to pick Miss Japan or she would use that sword," quipped Carlos Kresley of TV's "Queer Eye," who provided commentary along with

Vitoria Grigolo and Latin singer Ciclo provided musical performances.

The top 20 finalists' names were announced early in the show. Then their scores were disclosed and competition began again, with the field gradually narrowed throughout the night.

After being narrowed to the final 10, the competition moved to evening gown, with the modeling contestants walking across the stage to music provided by Grigolo.

The winner travels the world for a year on behalf of charities and personal sponsors. Natalie Glebova of Canada crowned Mendoza at the end of the two-hour telecast with a diamond

County to pay \$250,000 to advertise lack of funds

By MATT COOPER
The Register-Guard

Lane County will spend up to \$250,000 this year publicizing its tight financial picture, in hopes that voters in November will approve higher taxes for public-safety services.

It's an amount for county spending on publicity that has been unparalleled in at least the past 10 years. And it illustrates the seriousness of the effort to persuade voters

New sick policy requires 2-day notice

By Mark J. Armstrong

Employees of the City of Vicksburg will be expected to give 48-hour notice before