

The Arizona Coach Talker

Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

Volume 22, Issue 4

March, 2009

~ SOUTHWEST ANTHROPOLOGY ~

The Arizona Museum of Natural History is the premier natural history museum in Arizona. It is dedicated to inspire wonder, respect and understanding for the natural and cultural history of the Southwest. Explore Arizona and the Southwest from the creation of the earth 4.5 billion years ago to the present. See the origins of life on earth, meteorites and minerals. In Dinosaur Hall, discover some of the biggest dinosaurs that ever lived, and on Dinosaur Mountain see how some appeared and sounded in a natural context. In a Walk Through Time, explore ancient Arizona's Paleozoic Seas, Triassic Petrified Forest, monsters of the Cretaceous Seas, and the first animals to fly.

Arizona Museum of Natural History

When: Monday, March 2, 2009

**Where: Arizona Museum of Natural History
53 N. Macdonald, Mesa, AZ ~ 480.644.2230
www.mesasouthwestmuseum.com**

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 P.M. Hospitality and museum tour.

7:00 - 8:00 P.M Program in theatrel ~ Dr. Jerry Howard, Curator of Anthropology

8:00 - Business Meeting.

Please RSVP to Sue Ellen Knorr @ 480.945.8269

AGA President Notes.....

Hello Everyone,

Right now we are in the busiest part of the season and I hope a lot of you have lucrative jobs or just jobs. Kathryn Lee has been able to secure our venue and speaker for the next meeting. It should be quite educational and enjoyable.

I would like to ask all the nominees for the May elections to try and make it to this meeting so they can give a brief verbal statement (politics, politics!) about their background and qualifications.

See you there Ruth Henry

In case you missed it...from the Arizona Republic

Tribe bids for big-league training site The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation is involved in a preliminary relationship that could bring a baseball stadium and training facility to the Northeast Valley. The site south of Arizona 87, the Beeline Highway, would serve as spring-training headquarters for two Arizona Cactus League teams. The tribe estimates the cost at \$80 million, and expects it would bring additional people to help their other enterprises: a gas station, hotel and casino. Fort McDowell, which owns 24,000 acres of the upper Sonoran Desert east of Fountain Hills, has worked for years to attract a big-league team in hopes of kick-starting its fledgling tourism industry. In the 1990s negotiations fell short for Fort McDowell to build a \$40 million training facility for the Los Angeles Dodgers, who at the time stayed in Vero Beach, Fla., and now practice in Glendale. In 2005 the tribe was a potential suitor to Florida teams after Gov. Janet Napolitano announced the formation of the Arizona Baseball and Softball Commission. If a new stadium comes through, Fort McDowell will consider building a Marriott resort and water park to accommodate the influx of visitors. The 1,000-member tribe already plans to renovate and refurbish its 15-year-old Fort McDowell Casino. The venture has been instrumental in transforming the tribe from poverty-stricken to prosperous.

About Fort McDowell:

- One of three Yavapai tribes in Arizona.
- Helped pave the way for Indian gaming in Arizona.
- Slogan is "Never give up. Always give back."
- Runs the Fort McDowell Casino, Fort McDowell Adventures, Eagle's Nest RV Park, WeKoPa Golf Club and other businesses.
- One of the newest facilities, the Radisson Fort McDowell Resort and Conference Center, opened in 2005.

Sculpture gets a name For almost a year, Sky Bloom has been the working title for a public art sculpture being created for a downtown Phoenix park. The name fit, in part, because it represents the sculpture's design: a floating saguaro cactus flower. Boston artist, Janet Echelman, unveiled the formal name she has chosen – 'Her secret is patience'. It's half of the full line - "Adopt the pace of nature; her secret is patience" - by poet and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson. The name is also fitting, as the piece has been both hailed and questioned during the past months. Now, with the last element of the piece to be added in early March, the patience of the public is soon to be rewarded, allowing them to judge the piece as a whole. The piece was approved by the City Council in 2007, and is being funded by the city's Percent for Art program. The sculpture is to be an iconic piece for the 2.77-acre Civic Space downtown park being developed between Central and First avenues, and Van Buren and Fillmore streets. Howard Hendler, president of Contemporary Forum, the Phoenix Art Museum's organization, praised Echelman's piece, and believes the completed sculpture "will be a whole new atmosphere" for downtown. He likened its impact to Phoenix as the Statue of Liberty or the Eiffel Tower to their respective sites, and perhaps be an image people think of when they think of Phoenix.

Tohono O'odhams planning resort and casino in West Valley A southern Arizona tribe's plans for a "Las Vegas-style" resort hotel, casino and convention center near the West Valley's sports complexes could create up to 6,000 jobs and boost the area's status as an entertainment destination. The \$600 million West Valley Resort at Northern Avenue would be the Tohono O'odham Nation's fourth casino and the state's largest. It would be built on 134 acres at 91st and Northern avenues, a few miles from University of Phoenix Stadium, Jobing.com Arena and the new spring-training facility for the Los Angeles Dodgers and Chicago White Sox. It also would be close to Sun City and other retirement communities. The plan has several hurdles to clear, including approval from the federal government.

The addition of a 600-room resort hotel and casino to the Glendale/Peoria area's existing sports facilities would create an entertainment hot spot. An economic-impact study projects the resort would draw 1.2 million visitors a year and generate annual sales in the \$300 million range. Construction on what would be the state's 23rd casino is expected to begin late this year or early next. The study estimates that the project would employ 3,200 people when open, sometime in 2012.

The tribe bought the property five years ago with part of the \$30 million it received in federal compensation for 9,880 acres that was flooded with the construction of Painted Rock Dam near Gila Bend.

The land was purchased to replace property the tribe had lost and that it must, according to law, be placed in trust and become part of the reservation. Before the tribe can open the casino, the property must be designated as tribal reservation land and put into a federal trust. The Bureau of Indian Affairs holds all reservation lands in trust for the benefit of tribal members and must approve any property additions.

The tribe's announcement comes at a time when the recession is taking its toll on casinos. The state reported a 16 percent drop in the revenue-based payment it receives from the casinos each quarter. It was the largest drop since the state signed its first gaming compacts with the tribes in 1993. Arizona tribes operate casinos under compacts with the state. The compacts, among other things, regulate how many casinos each tribe can operate.

Sheila Morago, executive director of the Arizona Indian Gaming Association, said the Tohono O'odham Nation is one of two tribes that are able to open a new casino in Arizona. The Navajo Nation is allowed four but has no casinos in Arizona. It opened its first casino last year near Gallup, N.M., and plans five more in New Mexico and Arizona, including one near Flagstaff. The Tohono O'odham Nation, based in Sells, is allowed four. It now operates three in southern Arizona, including the recently opened Desert Diamond casino hotel near Tucson. With 1,089 slot machines, 26 poker tables and 25 blackjack tables, it is the state's largest. The West Valley casino would have a similar amount of tables and gaming devices but would be considerably larger, according to Scott Sirois, CEO of Tohono O'odham Gaming Enterprises. Although some tribes hire outside firms to operate their casinos, the Tohono O'odhams have always run their own operations.

Babbitt family is state's biggest landowner Pop quiz: Who are Arizona's biggest private landowners and where do they rank nationally in terms of acres owned? A recent issue of the Land Report, a specialty magazine, answers those questions and more for anyone who might want to know. It reported this month that Babbitt Ranches, the 120-year-old ranching business owned and operated by the family of former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt, owns more Arizona land than any other private-property owner in the U.S. How much land? A whopping 270,000 acres, placing them at No. 25 on the list of biggest U.S. landowners. That's enough to fit into about 205,200 football fields, including the end zones. You could also think of it as roughly 422 square miles. In all, the Babbitt ranchlands stretch 700,000 acres from the Grand Canyon to the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff, the magazine reported, but only 270,000 are owned by the family business.

Not far behind them is another Arizona ranching family, the Irwins. John Irwin III heads the family-owned JJJ Corp., which along with related businesses has properties encompassing 210,000 acres. Irwin is the grandson of IBM founder Thomas Watson and the son of O RO Ranch owner John Irwin II. The family business is the nation's 37th-largest landowner. O RO is north of Prescott. Other notable landowners on the magazine's list include Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos (300,000 acres in Texas, ranked No. 23), and Denver Nuggets owner Stan Kroenke (600,000 acres in Montana and Wyoming, ranked No. 10).

And the country's biggest individual landowner? Here's a hint: He may own 2 million acres, but he likes people just to call him Ted - media mogul Ted Turner, of course.

Arizona archives get new home No more grandma's attic for the state's important papers and keepsakes. Instead, the new Archives Building is a technological and climate-controlled wonder, especially when compared with the nearly 100-year-old space that housed everything from the original state Constitution to Wyatt Earp's extradition papers. The \$38 million Polly Rosenbaum History and Archives Building, which opened late last fall, is named after a long-serving lawmaker who was devoted to historic preservation and has already been dubbed "the Polly building." The new building, just southwest of the state Capitol, was built to protect Arizona's historical documents in a controlled climate. That's why the "people" area is the only side with windows. It is an area in which the public can do research and staffers have offices. The other three sides of the 124,000-square-foot building are blank walls to keep out damaging sunlight. The building's entrance is overhung with a large metal replica of the state flag, with sunbeams radiating from a central copper star. The glass below is tinted blue to echo the color of the lower half of the flag. Patrons enter the building through a recessed area that evokes the state's canyons.

But the real beauty of the building to historians is what's inside. The building is outfitted with equipment that will let archivists do what was impossible in their old offices, which date to 1919 and 1938. There's a triage room, located off the building's loading dock, where staffers can sort incoming records and check them for pest infestation. If there is evidence of bug or mouse contamination, the records can be stored in an isolation room equipped with a separate air-handling system. The pest droppings can be neutralized by transferring the documents to the building's "blast freezer," a walk-in storage room where the temperature can

drop to minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit in 12 hours. Before, such records had to be destroyed. Mold, heat, water and general neglect also forced archivists to destroy hundreds of boxes of documents for lack of any way to revive them. That's changed now. The freezer will help preserve water-damaged documents. As the material freezes, the water evaporates, making the document workable again. Before, archives staffers would scour yard sales for good buys on old freezers, and once had to ask a Safeway in Prescott Valley to provide space in its meat freezer to preserve documents that had been damaged by water. Next to the freezer is the humidification room, in which brittle records can be infused with moisture to make them pliable.

The two-story building also has seven storage rooms for documents, although not all of them are yet lined with shelves. Money for shelving, as well as most furniture, was cut as the building's budget was trimmed. Archives director Melanie Sturgeon said the new building has received 1,500 boxes of official records from governments statewide since it opened in late fall. Another 1,000 boxes are expected within the month. In all, the building is designed to accommodate 50 years worth of records from agencies ranging from local city halls to governors' papers.

Scottsdale CVB Tourism Updates...

The AIG effect AIG, which made headlines by accepting a \$90 billion bailout from the federal government, drew the ire of many when it hosted a \$443,000 incentive meeting shortly after receiving the cash. After the public brouhaha, companies not wanting to stir anger by appearing financially irresponsible in a down economy canceled expensive meetings. For 2009, companies across the board are trying to figure out how to balance the need for legitimate meetings with budget cutbacks and a public unsympathetic to any appearance of excess. "The AIG effect is emerging as a common theme hurting high-end destinations, as meeting planners and company executives are wary of the appearance of unnecessary spending during challenging times," said Don Wise, global hospitality managing partner of Johnson Capital Group. It isn't all AIG fallout that's causing a pullback. Companies that are still holding meetings are downsizing and holding them on off days to get better rates. Despite the flap over AIG, incentive programs haven't gone away, because companies need to reward top performers. Instead of offering short-term rate cuts, hotels are getting creative with packages and promotions. Hotel programs that donate a portion of the meeting proceeds to a charity of the group's choice help silence critics of upper-end hotels.

Scottsdale Businesses Recognized with Mobil Star Awards The 2009 Mobil Five-Star Awards were announced in January, and several Scottsdale businesses were recognized. The Phoenician and Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North both received four-star ratings for the resorts category. For restaurants, Talavera at the Four Seasons was honored with the four-star designation. Scottsdale spas also were recognized; the spas at Fairmont Scottsdale, Four Seasons, The Phoenician, Royal Palms Resort and Spa, and Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain all were honored with four-star ratings.

Hotels Dropping Amenities As vacationers and business travelers reduce the time they spend on the road, hotels are quietly trimming amenities and services to save money, *The Wall Street Journal* reports. The Courtyard and other Marriott chains recently stopped putting hand lotion in their rooms, leaving guests to ask for it at the front desk. Wyndham Hotels and Resorts are putting fewer towels in rooms. Ritz-Carlton hotels are shaving opening hours at restaurants, spas and retail shops. The cutbacks can mean fewer toiletries in rooms, longer check-in lines and fewer freebies, like cookies or 24-hour-a-day coffee in lobbies for guests. The cutbacks come as the weak economy pushes down occupancy levels and forces hotels to drop their overnight rates to attract lodgers. But some frequent travelers gripe that the small cuts can add up to a big annoyance.

A word from Arizona Tourism Alliance lobbyist Barry Aarons The 1st regular session of the 49th Arizona Legislature completed its work to reduce a \$1.6 billion deficit in the current 2009 state budget on Jan. 31. The tourism industry fared well as Arizona Legislative leaders recognized the contribution that statewide tourism promotion makes to state general fund revenues. The grassroots efforts of the tourism industry that generated literally thousands of letters in support of the Arizona Office of Tourism made a significant contribution to that recognition. Originally proposing a \$2.0 million sweep from the state tourism fund and a \$1.8 million transfer of hotel and restaurant taxes from city and county revenue sharing, which could have been passed on in reductions to local convention and visitors bureaus, the legislature wound up sweeping

\$100,600 from AOT's tourism fund for personnel savings and an unallocated \$200,000 from the tourism fund. Much of the credit goes to House Appropriations Chairman, Fountain Hills Representative John Kavanagh who argued for tourism in the budget negotiations and his Senate Appropriations counterpart Russell Pearce of Mesa.

News from the Arizona Office of Tourism **(AZOT)**

Grand Canyon's Geology Museum's new exhibits at Yavapai Point have won a prestigious award. The exhibits were awarded top honors in the interior exhibit category of the National Association for Interpretation's (NAI's) Interpretive Media Awards Competition. Each year, public and private organizations engaged in resource interpretation submit recently completed publications, books, movies, pamphlets, and exhibits for review and competition in NAI's various media award categories. This year's winners included submissions from private individuals and companies, county and state agencies, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and from as far away as Canada and Australia. So, when the exhibition designed for the Geology Museum at Yavapai Point won first place in the interior exhibit category. The new exhibits, officially opened to the public in May 2007, were designed to provide one location in the park where visitors could gain a comprehensive understanding of Grand Canyon's geologic history. The exhibition's design team also wanted the exhibits to fit in with the building's original design and purpose. For general information on the Yavapai Observation Station or how to get there, or to see pictures of some of the new exhibits, visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/visitorcenters.htm, and click on the appropriate links.

Grand Canyon National Park Celebrates 90th Anniversary Grand Canyon National Park will be celebrating its 90th Anniversary Thursday, February 26 at 1:30 p.m. along with a celebratory opening of the Verkamp's Visitor Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The event is open to the public and will take place at the Verkamp's Visitor Center located near the historic El Tovar in Grand Canyon Village on the South Rim. Special programs will be offered by the Grand Canyon National Park interpretive staff to commemorate this historic day and visitors will be invited to join park staff for cake and punch following the event. For more information about visiting Grand Canyon National Park, go to the park's Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grca> or call (928) 638-7888.

Tombstone, Arizona a Preserve America Community Tombstone, Arizona was recently honored when First Lady Laura Bush, Honorary Chair of the Preserve America initiative, designated it as one of the nation's newest Preserve America Communities. "Preserve America Communities demonstrate that they are committed to preserving America's heritage while ensuring a future filled with opportunities for learning and enjoyment," Mrs. Bush said. "This community designation program, combined with the Preserve America Grant Program, Preserve America Presidential Awards, and other federal support, provides strong incentives for continued preservation of our cultural and natural heritage resources. I commend you for your commitment to preserving an important part of our nation's historic past for visitors, neighbors, and, most importantly, for children."

Communities designated through the program receive national recognition for their efforts. Benefits include the right to use the Preserve America logo on signs and promotional materials; eligibility for Preserve America Grants; notification to state tourism offices; and listing in a Web-based directory that showcases Tombstone's preservation efforts and heritage tourism destinations. Preserve America Communities are also featured in National Register Travel Itineraries and in "Teaching With Historic Places" curricular materials created by the National Park Service.

The White House is working with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, and Transportation, the General Services Administration, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities to implement Preserve America. For more information about the initiative and its programs, visit www.preserveamerica.gov.

Poston Memorial Monument Serving as a silent reminder to the events that once occurred on the land on which it stands, the Poston Memorial Monument offers visitors a glimpse into United States history. Located in Arizona's western region on the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Reservation, the

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Poston Memorial Monument marks the site of the Poston War Relocation Center where more than 18,000 people of Japanese ancestry, most of whom were U. S. citizens, were interned during World War II. The monument also emphasizes the significant links and relationships between the Japanese American detainees and the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

During May 1942 to November 1945, all persons of Japanese descent living on west coast farms, businesses, towns, cities, and states were forcibly evacuated by the United States military on the grounds that they posed a threat to national security. This massive relocation was authorized by Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942. Three camps were developed at Poston and served not only as a place to house these detainees, but the infrastructure created by and for them also served Native Americans from surrounding smaller reservations to the much larger and sparsely populated Colorado River Indian Tribes reservation after the war.

The Japanese detainees held at the three Poston Camps were used as laborers to build adobe schools, do experimental farming, and to construct an irrigation system that could later be used by the Native Americans thus aiding the settlement of the area as planned by the Office of Indian Affairs (known today as the Bureau of Indian Affairs).

When the Japanese detainees were released in 1945, attention turned to settling the camps with Native Americans. Hopi and Navajo tribes as well as other tribes living along the Colorado River tributaries moved into the barracks built for the Japanese detainees. They joined the Mohave who had lived on the reservation since its creation in 1865, and the Chemehuevi who arrived shortly after 1865. The tribes found a working canal system to irrigate farmland, school buildings, and many other necessities for their relocation. For some from the less developed areas of other reservations, it was a step up with running water and a chance to have a farm. For others who had lived in developed areas in their own homes it was a challenge.

Today, the Colorado River Indian Tribes is comprised of four tribes — the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi, and Navajo. The once desolate Parker Valley, in which Poston is located, is a fertile expanse of thriving farmland. Some buildings and artifacts of the Poston camps still remain. Some buildings are still in use. CRIT and former Poston detainees are working together to preserve the remaining historical buildings and important artifacts of Poston. (From the AOT website at www.azot.com).

For more information about the Poston Memorial, visit <http://www.postonalliance.org/default.htm>. For more information about the Colorado River Indian Tribes, <http://www.crit-nsn.gov/>.

Airport News.....

Sky Harbor to trim millions in expenses Passengers may wait a bit longer for the Sky Harbor shuttle bus, sit in line to pay for parking or wait longer to catch a taxi or limo at the airport. Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport plans to slash \$15.8 million in expenses and shed 47 positions during the 2009-2010 fiscal year, which begins July 1, to cope with fewer flights and an ongoing slide in passengers. The proposed cuts include:

- \$744,000 in airport-museum and administrative expenses.
- Reducing the frequency of a bus that takes passengers between terminals and to the airport parking lots. Wait times could increase from five to 15 minutes, city documents say.
- Reducing the number of cashiers at parking facilities.
- Scaling back the dispatching service that finds taxis and limos for passengers.

The news caps a turbulent period for Sky Harbor. Consumers have cut their travel budgets, and airlines cut Sky Harbor flights in response to last summer's surge in fuel prices.

The proposed cuts come on top of \$8 million in reductions that Sky Harbor made in 2008. The airport has also made plans to delay \$200 million to \$300 million in building projects over the next five years, including a \$15 million taxiway-repaving project and terminal upgrades.

Although some airport projects have been delayed, the city still plans to move forward with a \$1.1 billion automated train. The 12-year project, which began in 2008, will furnish badly needed construction jobs and prepare the airport for growth, city officials have said. When it's completed, the airport's 4.8-mile train system will transport passengers to the Sky Harbor's terminals and parking areas. The first phase is scheduled to open in 2013.

Sky Harbor Drops to 9th Busiest Airport in U.S. As millions of passengers cut their travel budgets, Sky Harbor slipped down the FAA's ranking of busy U.S. airports. Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport was the

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ninth busiest airport in 2008. In 2007, it was the eighth busiest. Charlotte Douglas Airport, in Charlotte, N.C. is now No. 8. The Federal Aviation Administration ranking measures the number of takeoffs and landings by commercial airlines, air taxis, private planes and the military.

"This is a direct reflection of the economy and is unfortunately the way things are at airports across the country," said Deputy Aviation Director Deborah Ostreicher. "One difference in Phoenix, however, is that we are in such a fast growing region, we are expecting a recovery sooner than other parts of the U.S. We need to be ready for this and continue planning accordingly," she said.

The most recent figures available show that passenger traffic at Sky Harbor International Airport dropped nearly 13 percent in November, due to the weak economy and dramatic flight cutbacks by airlines. Phoenix wasn't the only airport to fall in the ranking. LAX in Los Angeles, which has long been the fourth busiest airport, is now the fifth busiest. There was little movement in the top slots of the FAA list. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Chicago O'Hare Airport and Dallas Fort Worth Airport, remained first, second and third respectively.

Education

Winfield Scott birthday celebration is February 26 Residents are invited to commemorate the birthday of Scottsdale founder Army Chaplain Winfield Scott. The celebration begins at noon Feb. 26, in the courtyard adjacent to the Scottsdale Historical Museum on Civic Center Mall. The free program features talks from local historians and refreshments. Call Roberta Pilcher at (480) 990-1690 for details.

Memory Loss? Relive the Parada of 1982 or see what the Jaycees were up to in 1940. Check out the Scottsdale Remembers exhibition at the gallery at the Civic Center library beginning March 1. The exhibition features some of the photos from the Scottsdale Historical Society, the Charros and the Jaycees. All photos are now in part of the Scottsdale Public Library's digital collection. Scottsdale Remembers: Recollections of our Past; Daily, March 1-30; Gallery at the Civic Center Library; Opening Reception March 4 at 5:30 p.m

Here's a sample Certification Test Question: What year was the Gadsden Purchase?

Items of interest.....

Spring Training Schedule now available online It won't be long before pitchers and catchers report. The spring training schedule for Cactus League teams is now available. Below is a list of all the Cactus League Spring Training teams and the stadiums in which they play:

Arizona Diamondbacks: Tucson Electric Park, Tucson
Chicago Cubs: HoHoKam Park, Mesa
Chicago White Sox: Camelback Ranch, Glendale
Cleveland Indians: Goodyear Ballpark, Goodyear
Colorado Rockies: Hi Corbett Field, Tucson
Kansas City Royals: Surprise Stadium, Surprise
Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim: Tempe Diablo Stadium, Tempe
Los Angeles Dodgers: Camelback Ranch, Glendale
Milwaukee Brewers: Maryvale Baseball Park, Phoenix
Oakland Athletics: Phoenix Municipal Stadium, Phoenix
San Diego Padres: Peoria Sports Complex, Peoria
San Francisco Giants: Scottsdale Stadium, Scottsdale
Seattle Mariners: Peoria Sports Complex, Peoria

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Starting in 2010

Cincinnati Reds: Goodyear Ballpark, Goodyear

For more detailed information on Cactus League Baseball, please visit www.cactusleague.com. For history buffs, be sure to check out the Play Ball: the Cactus League Experience exhibit at the Mesa Historical Museum. Visit www.playballexperience.com for details.

Jerome First Saturday Art Walks Jerome continues its love affair with art. Make a night of it with dinner at one of the town's delicious restaurants. Maybe even spend the night at one of the delightful B&B's or hotels. There is plenty of parking and a shuttle is available to transport visitors to galleries and studios. The Jerome Art Walk is an event that has become a great Northern Arizona tradition on the First Saturday of each month. www.jeromeartwalk.com

Free "101 Things To Do" Now Available If you're looking for an extensive list of activities and attractions in the Phoenix-metropolitan area, Mesa's 101 Things to Do booklet is now available online. The brochure is a condensed guide featuring six pages of listings broken out in several categories. The booklet is meant to serve as a quick reference guide when you're ready to experience Mesa's top attractions. You can request their complimentary 101 Things to Do booklet at VisitMesa.com or by calling 800-283-6372 or 480-827-4700.

Native Trails Cultural Program a free festival celebrating Native American traditions, has returned to the Scottsdale Mall. Performances take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. most Thursdays and Saturdays through April 11 at the mall, located at 7380 E. Second St. in downtown Scottsdale. Performers present their tribal history, pottery, textiles and more to introduce attendees to the diverse lifestyles of the native people. Musical performances incorporate traditional instruments such as flutes, gourds and drums. Dances range from Navajo dancing to the new three-artist hoop dance, a high-energy performance with synchronized movements and cameo routines. Tribes represented include Salt River Pima-Maricopa, Hopi, Yavapai, Apache and Dine (Navajo). Call (480) 312-7750 for more information.



- Pinnacle Peak is 2,889 ft above sea level. The Valley floor is about 1,100 ft. above sea level.
- In the 1920's, Cave Creek became home to a number of tubercular camps where people with this lung illness came for the curative properties of dry air and sunshine.
- Historic Route 66, a 2,448 mile-long highway from Chicago to Los Angeles, was begun in 1926 and crosses eight states and three time zones. Arizona has the longest stretch of Route 66 still in use today, most notably in Flagstaff.

GET OUTSIDE ~ It's almost Spring!!

Catch a glimpse of ancient history during guided hikes scheduled in the Cave Creek area by the Desert Foothills Land Trust. Reservations are required. Call 480-488-6131.

February 28

The Preserve at the Cave

Rating: Easy.

Details: Follows Cave Creek, one of the last free-flowing streams in Maricopa County. Cave is a 100-foot rock shelter carved into the bank.

March 14

Jewel of the Creek Preserve
Rating: Easy.

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Details: Property has Sonoran Desert upland, mesquite bosque and riparian desert.

*Hikers are asked to meet at the Jewel of the Creek parking lot.

March 21

H.B. Wallace on Lone Mountain

Rating: Moderate.

Details: Trek to the top of Lone Mountain in Scottsdale. The 78-acre property is protected through a conservation easement, a gift from H.B. and Jocelyn Wallace.

March 28

P.A. Seitts at Go John Canyon

Rating: Moderate.

Details: Starts at the end of Surrey Road in Cave Creek. Follows Legacy Trail through the mountains and into P.A. Seitts Preserve. Continues up the Louis Menk Nature Trail to a vista in Cave Creek.

March 7

Caroline Bartol Preserve on Saguaro Hill

Rating: Easy.

Details: Overlooks downtown Cave Creek. Also includes an interpretive nature trail and memorial garden.

*Hikers should meet at the Desert Foothills Library parking lot, 38443 N. Schoolhouse Road.

April 4

Spur Cross: A joint hike with Spur Cross Conservation Ranch.

Rating: Easy.

Details: Land trust conservation director Stacy Fischer and Spur Cross interpretive ranger Kevin Smith guide hikers to rock art dating to the ancient Hohokam. Later, they travel to the Preserve at the Cave for rock art chipped and painted on cave walls.

*Hikers should meet at 8 a.m. at the Spur Cross entrance, 44000 N. Spur Cross Road.

***Sedona News***

- Laura Vandegrift reports that there will be only one circulator (free bus) running in Sedona every 20 minutes instead of 2 every 10 minutes this season.
- Check out the new Visitor's Center just south of the Village of Oak Creek. It has many exhibits and displays about the geology and history of the Sedona area.

AGA Slate of Nominees for 2009 Elections (in May)

Vice President: Jeanne Parrish

Treasurer: Martin Griffith
Kathryn Lee

Recording Secretary: Rebecca Ellison
Joanne Ingles

Nominating Committee: Randy Gogolin
(vote for 3) Gabriele Laudenschlager
Margaret DeMente

The Arizona Coach Talker

AGA Newsletter

P.O. Box 45302

Phoenix, AZ 85064-5302

**Southwestern
Anthropology**

www.arizonaguides.org (Please note this is.org, not .net)

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Websites to visit

www.visitmesa.com Check out the East Valley!

www.phoenix.gov/TRESRIOS/index.html Where the Salt, Gila, and Agua Fria Rivers unite to provide a home for our native species.

Certification Test Sample Question Answer: 1854

Enjoy this great winter weather ~ summer's on the way !!