

The Arizona Coach Talker

Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

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"Houser's Artistry in the Garden"

The collaborative exhibition *Allan Houser: Tradition to Abstraction* features 18 large sculptures from the Houser Foundation on the Desert Botanical Garden's grounds and an extended variety of paintings, drawings, sketches and smaller sculptures by this master artist at the Heard Museum. Born on June 30, 1914, Allan Capron Haozous become known to the world as Allan Houser. Houser was a descendant from the Fort Sill survivors of the Warm Springs Chiricahua Apache Tribe. Allan's parents, Sam and Blossom Haozous were members of the Chiricahua Apache tribe who were held as prisoner's of war for 27 years. Allan's father was with the small band of Warm Springs Chiricahuas when their leader, Geronimo, surrendered to the U.S. Army in 1886 in the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua. In retribution for the Warm Springs Bands' refusal to leave their lands in New Mexico and relocate to a reservation in Arizona, 1200 Chiricahuas were sent by cattle-car train to prisons in Florida.

Allan's father was among the women and children jailed at the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, Florida, and Allan's mother was born in the prison camp at the Mount Vernon Barracks, Alabama where surviving members of the tribe were sent in 1887. As a final solution, the last of the Chiricahuas were sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma where they remained captives for 23 years. Freed at last in 1914, a majority of the tribe returned to New Mexico to join with the Mescalero Apaches for whom a reservation had been created. Allan's parents, however, were with a small group of families who chose to stay in Oklahoma and create farms in the Apache and Lawton communities. Allan was born just months after their release, the first child born out of captivity.

Houser was immersed in the history and community of Indian people. Although he was inspired by modern sculptors such as Henry Moore, Isamu Noguchi, Jean Arp and Francisco Zu, Houser is considered one of the best-known and celebrated American artists of the 20th century and is often referred to as the "father" of American Indian sculpture. Houser, who died in 1994, became famous for his bold statements in stone and bronze. He was also an illustrator and painter. Over the course of his artistic career, Houser never failed to create innovative new works of art.

"Houser's Artistry in the Garden"

When: Monday, January 11, 2010

Where: Webster Auditorium, Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix.

Time: 6:00 P.M. Hospitality

6:30 P.M. Emily Koeckhoven from the DBG will talk about the new Allan Houser exhibition. This will be followed by a General Meeting, and then a board meeting.

Please RSVP to Diane @ 480.699.0119 or Dianne_wilhoit@q.com

AGA President Notes.....

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and are now looking forward to 2010, which promises to be economically better for our industry than 2009.

Allan Houser was one of the best-known and most respected Native American artists. His talent and charisma were credited for moving Native American art from the "craft" level to acceptance as fine art. While you may recognize some of Houser's work when you are at the Heard Museum or the Phoenician Resort, you may not immediately recognize some of these abstract sculptures to be Houser's. There are eighteen significant sculptures in bronze which have been placed along the Garden trails.

The Education Committee will be asking for your input during the general meeting so they may begin planning the spring trip. We usually plan an overnight trip and a day trip. While we would like to do an overnight trip, we realize that financially it may not be available for many guides this year. Please bring your suggestions to Larry, Lisa, and Patty at the meeting. See you on January 10!

Dottie Helgeson, President, AGA

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

New Downtown hotel a possibility A Westin hotel with up to 278 rooms could open in downtown Phoenix as early as 2011. The hotel is expected to occupy eight stories of One Central Park East, a recently completed 26-story high-rise near Central Avenue and Van Buren Street, according to the National Electrical Benefit Fund, the building's owner. The fund plans to invest an additional \$30 million to \$40 million into the \$175 million office building to build hotel rooms, to construct a hotel entrance and to create a pool deck, said an equity investment officer for the fund.

The hotel entrance will face Central Avenue, across the street from the Van Buren/Central light rail stop and Central Station. All of the hotel rooms will be suites, and the hotel operator plans to target business travelers. Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc. has signed a letter of intent to operate the Westin hotel for the fund. The rest of the building - the top six floors and possibly a seventh floor - will be the new home of Freeport McMoRan-Copper & Gold. The international mining company's headquarters is currently located at One North Central Ave. Freeport plans to move to One Central Park East by the second quarter of 2010.

Freeport has agreed to lease 185,000 square feet, and its name will appear at the top of the building. The complex will be called Freeport-McMoRan Center, according to a company spokesman. The Thursday announcement means that the 26-story building will be almost completely occupied. The first floor of the complex is the lobby level and the second through first 10th floors are parking levels. Construction began in 2007 and One Central Park East was completed in November.

For sale: A fixer-up castle on Camelback Perched on Camelback Mountain above Phoenix is a 7,800-square-foot castle, complete with stone walls and towering turrets. It boasts a drawbridge, a dungeon and secret passageways. All that's missing is a fire-breathing dragon. And for \$3.5 million, Copenhaver Castle could be yours. In October, the local landmark made Forbes list of "America's Strange Homes for Sale." It was one of 10 "bizarre properties" with the most unusual features on Realtor.com. Others included a Maine lighthouse and a California hilltop dome that looks extraterrestrial.

The castle was built in the 1970s by Mort Copenhaver, a local orthodontist. Today, it's owned by an insurance company that's ready to bid it adieu. Scottsdale Realtor Steve Siverson of ReMax Excalibur has the overwhelming task of finding it a lord or lady. Even luxury properties appealing to mainstream buyers are a tough sell right now, he said - much less one with Moorish arches, 20-inch rock walls and astonishingly few amenities. The realtor has been looking for an interested party for more than a year. He says the buyer would have to have a passion for castles, and will also need a chunk of spare cash aside from the towering mortgage. This castle is a fixer-upper.

The \$3.5 million price tag does not include a kitchen for royal feasts. That room has been stripped bare. The bathrooms need updating, there's no pool and the retractable roof in the living room has been sealed shut. "The entire inside would need to be gutted," said Siverson. "If you put \$3 million (into renovating) the property, it becomes an \$8 (million) to \$10 million property again." Realtor Connie White, the co-listing agent on the property, estimates a \$750,000 to \$1 million renovation would transform the home. Many of the interior walls are not structural, she said, and could be removed for a modern floor plan.

Siverson could market it to an international castle owners group, if only he could find such a thing. And because it's zoned for residential use, he's not necessarily pitching it to entrepreneurs. Anyone wanting to turn the castle into a bed-and-breakfast, medieval wedding chapel or museum would need rezoning approval. Still, he says the landmark castle has gotten tons of interest, and a few offers the seller has declined. He's fielded calls from people wanting to shoot a reality show and conduct photo shoots, but those requests were turned down.

Every castle has its lore. Despite a steep driveway and limited parking, this one had a reputation for raucous parties over the years. The living room still boasts a 20-person spa. Its two previous owners each eventually filed for bankruptcy. In 1985, Copenhaver put his castle on the market for \$7 million. When it hadn't yet sold in 1987, the price dropped to \$2.5 million. The orthodontist finally lost it in bankruptcy proceedings and in 1989, rancher-businessman Jerry Mitchell's Camelback Castle Corp. bought the bank-owned home for \$985,000. Mitchell, known as the creator of the Western theme park Rawhide, changed the Moorish castle's decor from medieval to Western. Five years ago, he listed the property for \$10 million. In September of 2004, Camelback Castle Corp. filed for bankruptcy. The castle currently is owned by Old Standard Life Insurance Co., which bought the home for \$2.625 million in 2005, according to tax records.

The home's best amenity remains - the view. It sits on the highest southern perch on Camelback

Mountain. Yet, despite the buzz and the views, handing over the iron gate keys to the 5-bedroom, 7.5-bath castle may take time. "There's a big difference between curiosity and a real buyer," Siverson said.

Our Water Resource and Cleaning Our Dirty Air The Navajo Generating Station, the huge coal-fired power plant outside Page, supplies a fraction of Arizona's electricity demand, but its role in moving water to the state's largest cities has thrust it into a growing battle over the cost of cleaning up air pollution. In the two months since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed rules that would require costly new air-scrubbing equipment at the plant, the debate has escalated into a war of increasingly dire predictions: Tribal economies could collapse. The plant itself could close. The price of water sold to Phoenix and Tucson could quadruple. Environmental groups have targeted Navajo and the nearby Four Corners Power Plant for years because of the emissions-related haze that builds up over the Grand Canyon and other fragile landscapes. The EPA ranks Navajo as the nation's third-largest emitter of nitrogen oxides, pollutants created when coal is burned. Four Corners is the second-largest. The new EPA rules, if adopted by the agency, would force owners of the two plants to install complex new air scrubbers that use ammonia to break down the pollutants. Navajo's owners say the systems cost too much money and could push power rates out of reach for the plant's users. They also argue that the added scrubbers would produce visibility improvements imperceptible to human eyes.

One reason tempers have flared is the unusual role the generating station plays, both in its own backyard and in the state's population centers. The coal burned to produce electricity is mined on the nearby Hopi and Navajo Indian reservations, and tribal members supply much of the labor needed to keep the plant running. If the plant closed, the tribes would lose the jobs and millions of dollars in revenue from the coal. Although the tribes have long sided with environmentalists on resource issues, leaders condemned the Sierra Club and other groups for supporting the EPA plan, creating schisms within the tribes.

The plant, owned by five utilities and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, powers the state's largest conveyor of water, the Central Arizona Project Canal, supplying electricity cheaply enough to pump water 3,000 feet uphill, from the Colorado River to Phoenix and Tucson. That link between water and energy has raised anew doubts about subsidizing cheap water with cheap electricity, but CAP officials say there's little question that the EPA plan would result in higher prices for water users. "What we do can't be done without water or power," said David Modeer, general manager of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District. "Power is the biggest expense related to the price of our water. I can't think of any bigger threat to us other than the Colorado going dry."

The EPA outlined its proposal to require the tighter pollution controls at Navajo in a densely worded document published in the Federal Register in August. The power plant's partners knew something was coming but expected federal regulators to consider a less-expensive option discussed late in 2008. SRP had submitted an alternate proposal late last year, one aimed at trying to reduce pollution from the plant in what the utility believed was a more cost-effective way. That plan included ongoing work to install more-efficient burners that would reduce the emission of nitrogen oxides, one of the chief sources of pollution from coal burning. The low-NO_x burners, as they're called, would cost about \$43 million to install and would not raise operating costs significantly. The EPA proposed a more advanced air-scrubbing system that uses ammonia to reduce pollutants. The system, known as Selective Catalytic Reduction, could cost \$600 million to \$1 billion to install, according to SRP estimates, and would add about \$13 million a year to the plant's operating budget, expenses that would be passed on to users. The ammonia must be injected into the system after the coal is burned. The chemical would be delivered to Flagstaff by railroad and then trucked to Page, where the only rail service is a direct line from the Kayenta coal mine that feeds the plant. The process could require additional measures to get rid of sulfuric acid mist produced with the system. "It would be a very significant capital investment and challenging to do the work," said Glenn Reeves, SRP's manager of power generation. "We would have issues just getting approval from all the owners. There are a lot of uncertainties around coal plants right now."

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which holds a 21 percent interest in Navajo, faces strict rules under California law about investing money in coal-fired plants and could decide to walk away from Navajo if the expenses rise too high. Partners in the Mohave Generating Station near Bullhead City did just that at the end of 2005 amid issues with air-quality rules and the supply of coal. That closure eliminated about 300 jobs at the plant site and 240 jobs filled mostly by coal miners from the Navajo Reservation.

What makes this case more than another fight over utility regulations is Navajo's unusually close ties to the CAP Canal. A spike in power prices at the plant would result in significantly higher water rates for CAP users and could affect the state's ability to store water for future use. The Navajo Generating Station was built to provide a power supply for the canal, which snakes 336 miles from the Colorado River near Lake Havasu

City to Phoenix and Tucson. The power feeds a series of pumps that move 1.5 million acre-feet of water a year - almost 500 billion gallons - as much as half the water used by cities and farms in Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties. The canal must lift the water a total of almost 3,000 feet in elevation, a task that consumes 2.8 million megawatt-hours of electricity, enough to supply about 200,000 homes. That makes the CAP the largest single electricity user in Arizona, and it raises the stakes if Navajo's operations are put at risk.

CAP officials are suggesting two possible outcomes if the EPA adopts its proposed rules: One, the power plant stays open, but the price of electricity spikes by 50 to 100 percent, depending on how many years the cost of the upgrades are amortized. The higher prices would hit all the plant's users, which include utilities in Arizona, Nevada and California. Two, the partners decide to abandon the plant, and CAP is forced to buy electricity off the grid. In the worst-case scenario, officials believe costs to move water could quadruple. In either case, CAP would have few options except to pass along the higher costs to its customers - the cities and water companies that buy water from the canal wholesale - and to property-tax payers in the three counties.

Phoenix and other cities have written letters urging the EPA to consider the effects of its proposal beyond air quality, to look at the potential for higher water costs. The CAP Canal accounts for 43 percent of Phoenix's water supply, so the city probably couldn't absorb the higher charges, meaning at least some of the cost would be passed down to ratepayers. The long-term effects could grow worse. Phoenix and other cities rely on the state Water Banking Authority to help store water as a hedge against future droughts. The Legislature already has slashed the bank's budget, and if the bank can't buy water, the cities would lose that backup supply. Higher costs also would affect agricultural users, who now pay below-market prices for CAP water as part of a deal that will make their supplies available to cities by 2030. And the loss of the plant would deprive the CAP of a critical source of revenue used to help repay the federal government the state's share of the canal's construction costs. Under an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation and the plant's partners, CAP is allotted a certain amount of power and can sell whatever it doesn't need. If the power isn't there or if it's so expensive no one will buy it, CAP officials would have to raise the needed revenue elsewhere, and their only options are water rates and property taxes.

One of the arguments SRP, CAP and others have made in recent weeks is that the expensive controls proposed by the EPA wouldn't improve air quality enough to justify the huge price tag. SRP suggests that the change in visibility might not even be noticeable to the human eye. Environmental groups don't buy that argument. They say any improvement will move the plant closer to visibility rules that allow no haze over national parks and other protected lands. "The standard is no impairment," said Roger Clark, who follows the issue for the Flagstaff-based Grand Canyon Trust. "Every increment along the way improves visibility, and that's what the law requires." The EPA disagreed with SRP's analysis and argued that the utility and its partners overestimated the cost and underestimated the benefit. Environmental groups also say the EPA plan is just the first of a one-two punch the power plant will likely face in the coming years. If Congress passes a climate-change bill that includes a cap-and-trade plan to reduce pollutants, Navajo will get hit with the equivalent of a carbon tax.

Clark and others say CAP should invest in alternative energy. Cover the canal with solar panels, for example, and connect them to the transmission lines that already supply the pumping stations along the route. Covering the canal also would help reduce evaporation from the channel. CAP estimates that it loses about 16,000 acre-feet, or about 5 billion gallons, a year to canal evaporation. CAP's Modeer acknowledges that renewable energy will play a role in the canal's future, but "the power that can be generated out of solar under the most advanced technology today still could not provide our base load of power." Clark and others say one of the most important questions bubbling up from the dispute is the cost of water in the West.

Water providers and customers don't really pay for the water; they pay for its delivery and treatment. The largest component of CAP's wholesale rate is the cost of energy. That water-energy link is as old as the West's oldest water projects, but it's likely to surface more often as energy prices rise and water resources tighten. "People say water will get more expensive in the future, but what they mean is it's going to get more expensive to provide it, to move it, to treat it," said Sharon Megdal, director of the University of Arizona's Water Resources Research Center. "Energy costs are going to be huge, and I don't think people understand it."

Talking Stick destined to be Valley's largest casino hotel The Valley's largest casino hotel is scheduled to open by early April, said Ramon Martinez, Talking Stick Resort public relations director. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is building a \$400 million hotel and casino northeast of Loop 101 and Indian Bend Road. It will include 497 rooms, a spa, 50,000 square feet of conference space, restaurants, lounges and a 750-seat entertainment showroom. Talking Stick's casino will feature 800 slot machines, 50

poker tables, keno and off-track betting in 240,000 square feet of space. Chanen Construction Co. started building the casino hotel in January 2008. The tribe held a topping-off ceremony for the 15-story structure in October 2008. The hotel is already booking business meetings.

The resort offers 5 restaurants: Orange Sky Restaurant, a fine-dining room on the 15th floor with fresh seafood, aged beef and an extensive wine list; Blue Coyote Café will be a 24-hour restaurant serving sandwiches, soups and salads; The Wandering Horse Buffet will be an indoor-outdoor eatery with seating for 350 and offering Mexican, Asian and Mediterranean food prepared at live cooking stations; Black Fig Bistro will offer casual dining and express takeout service on sandwiches, pizzas, salads and soups; Ocean Trail will serve raw oysters, steamers, Cajun-style boils and Louisiana jambalaya. Tom Freimuth is the executive chef. He has 30 years of experience including stints at Robert Redford's Sundance Resort in Utah, the Boulders Resort in Carefree and Tarbell's in Phoenix.

Jon Jenkins, president of Casino Arizona, the tribe's gaming enterprise, said the goal is to provide "the optimal dining experience for everyone no matter what their tastes."

Sea Life Aquarium will bring 5,000 Sea Creatures to Tempe Only a handful of the 32 Sea Life Aquariums worldwide feature a 360-degree view of marine life where sightseers are encircled by swimming fish as they walk into a tunnel that cuts through a 165,000 gallon tank. The Valley will welcome such a spectacle as well more than 5,000 sea creatures by June when the doors are scheduled to open at the 33rd Sea Life Aquarium at Arizona Mills Mall in Tempe. In addition to out-of-state marine life, the Valley's Sea Life will display animals unique to Arizona's water ecosystems. Visitors can talk to biologists, touch tide-pool creatures and watch octopuses, sharks, rays and seahorses feed, said Chris Spaulding, Sea Life's North American curator.

The people behind the world's second largest and fastest growing operator of tourism attractions were in the Valley last month to explain why, after a year-and-a-half long search, they chose Arizona to open the nation's first stand-alone Sea Life. "We're bringing the ocean to the desert. I like that we can say that. Sea Life in Arizona will be a \$15 million investment," said Glenn Earlam, the director of Merlin Entertainments Group's midway attractions. Sea Life is a subsidiary of Merlin Entertainments. Earlam joined other Sea Life executives at a groundbreaking celebration where construction on the aquarium in an existing 26,000 square-foot space at Mills mall has begun. Fine year-round weather, a major-metropolitan setting and the Valley's longstanding tourism industry were the state's main draws, Earlam said.

UK-based Merlin Entertainments is second only to Disney in the themed-attraction industry and operates LEGOLAND and Madame Tussauds. In all, the entertainment leader draws 35 million annual visitors to the 59 attractions, six hotels and two holiday resorts it owns in 13 countries across three continents. The first U.S. Sea Life Aquarium opened last year in California but was located next to LEGOLAND to build off of the visitors to that Pacific Coast attraction. But in a state that had 37.4 million visitors in 2008, a stand-alone Sea Life Aquarium is a unique enough Valley attraction that it could sustain business year round, regardless of whether it is next to a sister themed park, Earlam explained.

Tempe's Sea Life is expected to employ about 50 people and draw 400,000 visitors annually. A lawsuit filed last month by the Goldwater Institute claiming an incentive Tempe offered Sea Life is illegal has questioned the development agreement but Tempe officials maintain the deal was legal. Development and recreation experts believe the high-profile aquarium could spur the Valley's tourism industry. Tourism dollars are becoming increasingly important as Arizona deals with one of the nation's worst budget deficits and struggles to rebuild its economy in the wake of the real-estate market crash, said Tempe's Community Development Manager Chris Salomone.

The Valley could benefit financially by refocusing efforts to promote Arizona's natural resources, said Megha Budruk, an Arizona State University professor in the School of Community Resources and Development. The state already attracts millions to the Grand Canyon, one of the world's most visited natural wonders. "It's a great opportunity to line up with the Desert Botanical Gardens, the Phoenix Zoo and other larger community parks," she said. "I understand it's an aquarium but if we tie it really well with the other desert attractions it makes it a really nice compliment to the other nature-based tourism opportunities we have within the Valley.

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

Global Travelers Rank U.S. No. 1 After trailing perennial favorite Australia, the U.S. earned the No.1 spot for the first time in this year's Country Brand Index, an online survey of international business and vacation

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travelers that ranks how countries are perceived. The 2009 report, from the FutureBrand consulting firm, attributes some of the U.S.'s previous slump to anti-U.S. sentiment worldwide and credits the "Obama effect" for much of its jump in status. But while the U.S. earns top marks as a country that is "ideal for business," it's outshined in many of the 29 specific brand categories—for example behind Japan and the U.K. for nightlife and Singapore for shopping. And the burnished image hasn't translated to a boost in tourism. The Commerce Department predicts an 8% drop in international visitors this year. Rounding out the top 10 country brands: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, France, Italy, Japan, U.K., Germany and Spain.

Arizona was selected as the “**Best Domestic Tourism Destination**” by readers of Global Traveler magazine! This is a tremendous honor and a wonderful reflection of how the Arizona tourism industry has worked together to bring awareness of Arizona as an amazing leisure destination. Furthermore, those same readers selected the Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa as one of the top ten "Best Hotels in the Western United States" as well as The Boulders Resort as one of the top ten "Best Domestic Golf Resorts"! Congratulations to everyone for this wonderful distinction.

Scottsdale Updates....

Scottsdale Liberty Garden Replicates the American Flag Next time you're on the Civic Center Mall, check out the Liberty Garden planted recently by members of the Scottsdale Pride Commission and city parks staff. The flowers that make up the garden are in the shape and color of the American flag. Keep America Beautiful, a national non-profit public educational organization, started the Liberty Garden movement as a way to commemorate September 11th. The garden is on the west side of Scottsdale City Hall, 3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd. For more information on the project, including photos, visit:

<http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/reinvestment/LB>.

Old Adobe Mission Reopens to the Public The Old Adobe Mission has reopened as a place for residents and visitors to sit, contemplate and find serenity. The historic building opened in the early 1930s and served as a Catholic Church. The church still owns the property which was recently renovated and reopened to the public. The mission is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday and is at First Street and Brown Avenue. For more information, visit: http://www.olphaz.com/old_adobe_mission.htm

Native Trails Begins its Season Jan. 21 on the Civic Center Mall Native Trails, presented by the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and produced by the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts and the Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, kicks off Jan. 21, 2010, at the Scottsdale Civic Center Mall. The series of free festivals runs through April 10 on most Thursdays and Saturdays from noon to 1:30 p.m., and includes memorable musical performances and traditional dances. Tribes represented include Yavapai, Zuni, Pima-Maricopa, Hopi, Apache and Diné (Navajo). The event celebrates Native American society and focuses on the individual cultures of these Southwest tribes. Performers present their history, pottery, textiles and more to introduce attendees to the diverse lifestyles. Each performance ends in an audience-participation round dance that draws in the crowd and completes the educational journey. Visit www.ScottsdaleNativeTrails.com for a complete schedule.

Airport News.....

Who says you can't eat healthfully at an airport? According to the 2009 Airport Food Review, just released by the non-profit Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, the top five airports where travelers can find healthful meals in Detroit, San Francisco, Phoenix, Houston and Newark. The bottom five airports are Baltimore-Washington, Reagan National, Chicago O'Hare and Washington Dulles (tied) and Las Vegas McCarran. According to the report, "Phoenix improved slightly this year, moving from fourth to third place. Visitors can find an avocado cucumber roll at Yoshi's Asian Grill, a Portobello mushroom and red pepper sandwich (hold the cheese) at the Home Turf Bar, or a black-bean burger at Chilli's Too. Dieticians examined the food at 17 of the nation's busiest airports. Each restaurant received a point if its menu offered at

least one low-fat, high-fiber vegetarian entrée. The airport then received a percentage score, calculated by dividing the number of restaurants serving healthful fare by the total number of restaurants.

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Great airports deserve great art The Phoenix Airport Museum is one of the largest airport art museums in the United States. The museum serves Phoenix Sky Harbor, Phoenix Deer Valley Airport and Phoenix Goodyear Airport. It includes a collection of more than 500 works, 25 exhibition spaces in six buildings, and the Phoenix Aviation Archive. The City of Phoenix Aviation Department sponsors the museum whose mission is to showcase Arizona's unique artistic and cultural heritage. So, next time you work at the airport, and have a break for lunch or such, take time to explore the various exhibitions in all three terminals at Sky Harbor. And, if there's time, take a trip to the 125,000 square-foot rental car center where exhibits are a tribute to Arizona's light and space.

Education

Certification dates remaining for this coming season May 1, 2010. The AGA Certification Committee wants to increase the number of its AGA Certified Guides again this year! We encourage any AGA member to step up to the plate and become a 'Certified Guide' by taking the test. YOU could become an "ambassador" for the AGA - and Arizona - with the knowledge you gain. Also, many DMC's will ask if you are a "certified" guide and you will then be able to answer YES!

Contact Chairperson, Sharon Waldie (480.704.9868), and she'll be happy to give you the study information and start you on your way to becoming a Certified Guide with the Arizona Guides Association. If you think you are about ready to pass the test, but would like a bit of additional help or someone to critique what you have learned, call Joan Day (480 614-5348).

Here's a sample Certification Test Question : How many major vortexes are there in Sedona?

Items of interest.....

Salt River Project is planning a massive solar-power plant in the southeast Valley and wants to offer its power to customers instead of having them install panels on their homes to make their own power. The utility is planning a \$75 million, 20 megawatt solar photovoltaic-power plant that would cover about 150 acres, according to Chief Executive Officer, Mark Bonsall. While natural gas or coal-burning power plants might have a capacity of 1,000 megawatts or more, a 20 megawatt photovoltaic plant would be about the 30th largest in the world if it were running today.

The amount of carbon-dioxide pollution in Arizona's skies grew a breathtaking 61 percent over the past two decades, reflecting a rapid period of expansion in the state and across the West. Just as it led the nation in population growth for many years, Arizona added fossil-fuel pollutants at a faster rate than any other state from 1919 to 2007, according to a report released by the advocacy group Environment Arizona. The rate of increase was more than three times the national average. The two biggest sources of carbon-dioxide, produced when oil, coal or gas are burned, were electric-power generation and automobile exhaust. Combined, those sources accounted for almost 91 percent of the state's CO2 emissions by 2007.

What is Wilderness? Wilderness is an area of undeveloped federal land that appears "to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of mans' work substantially unnoticeable," as written in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Unlike national parks, wildlife refuges, or national monuments, wilderness designation from Congress provides the highest level of natural resource protection available in the world. The Wilderness Act created the National Wilderness Preservation System to preserve the last remaining wild lands in America. Currently, about 4.7 percent of all available land in the United States is protected as wilderness. In Arizona, wilderness designation protects approximately 6.2 percent of our land and wildlife habitat.

To allow swimming at Town Lake Tempe must meet city, county, state and federal standards. There are separate standards for partial-body and full-body contact with lake water. Partial-body contact is allowed,

which means the water is safe for a person's body to come in contact with it during activities such as rowing. But it is not safe enough, year-round, for swimmers to submerge in it, where they could possibly ingest water or get it in their eyes, ears or noses. Standards for safe swimming include limiting the water's coliform

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bacteria levels, ensuring it is not negatively affected by sewage or industrial waste, and keeping the pH level at a minimum of 5.0 and a maximum of 9.0. To meet standards to allow swimming at events such as triathlons, Tempe must begin a process of treating and testing the water prior to the event.

Compounding matters in recent years, rains have increased the amount of upstream runoff water entering the lake from Indian Bend Wash or the Salt River. Runoff can carry waste, which contributes to algae growth and makes it difficult to maintain pH levels and water-quality standards for year-round swimming. To address water quality at the lake so that it meets standards temporarily for swimming events, Tempe installed a piping system that reroutes upstream water around the lake and back into the river bed west of the lake. Prior to swimming events, Tempe uses the piping system, tests the water quality and uses chemicals recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to maintain pH levels. The water is treated until it tests safe for swimming. If after several treatments water does not meet standards, swimming would not be allowed. To facilitate about six swimming events at the lake this year, Tempe spent about \$23,250.

Recently, Tempe began discussing a plan to cordon off a small area of the lake and focus treatments there. However, city officials have said it would be unlikely Tempe could recover the costs related to having swimming. Tempe measures water quality weekly and posts the results online at www.tempe.gov/lake/Water/.

Town Lake by the numbers

- 220-surface acres, 2-miles long.
- 800 to 1,200-feet wide.
- Average depth of 12.5 feet, ranging from 7 to 19 feet
- Eight inflatable dams contain the 977 million gallon lake.
- It took 43 days to fill the lake with water.
- Each dam is 240-feet long and 16-feet tall on the west end of Town Lake and 5-feet tall on the east end of the lake.
- Each of the eight dam bladders weighs more than 40 tons.
- Initial construction costs for the lake alone, not including improvements to the surrounding park area:
\$45,532,196
- Total lake cost since 1985: \$261,409,935
- Total economic impact since the lake opened in 1999 through May: \$414,674,251
- On average, more than 100 events are hosted on the lake annually.
- Nearly 2.8 million people visit the lake annually.

A Priceless Heritage

Public Lands in the Southwest hold an extraordinary record of the past. Rock Shelters, cliff dwellings, pithouse villages, pueblos, incredible rock art, and the remains of historic homesteads, logging railroads, and ghost towns are but a few of the wonders that await your discovery. Today, however, this remarkable heritage is increasingly threatened by looters and vandals.

Disturbing or defacing archeological sites on public lands is a crime. Buying, selling, trading, or transporting items stolen from these sites is also illegal. Conviction can carry criminal penalties of up to 2 years in prison and/or \$250,000 in fines, as well as civil penalties such as vehicle confiscation and the cost of site repair. Report looting and vandalism to federal land management authorities or your local sheriff. Encourage others to be stewards of the past by your example:

- ~ Treat remains of past cultures with respect.
- ~ Tread lightly when visiting archeological sites. Leave articles in place.
- ~ Photograph, sketch, and enjoy rock art, but do not touch ancient surfaces or designs.

Get involved in preserving the past by volunteering your time and talents. Contact your local land managing agency, archeological society, or State Historic Preservation Office.

News from the Grand Canyon.....

Grand Canyon National Park is changing the system for getting backcountry permits. Starting February 1, the park will consider only written requests for backcountry permits four months in advance of trips. The requests can be sent in by fax, by mail or hand-delivered. All requests received by 5 p.m. each day will then be randomly ordered by computer for consideration for permits. The park website says the change means applicants will no longer be able to walk in and have their requests receive immediate consideration.

The old system was perceived as giving locals and those with the means to travel to the park to submit their requests an advantage over those trying to fax requests in. The earliest you can get a backcountry permit is four months in advance of a trip, so under the new system, the first day a request can be submitted in writing for a trip taking place in June would be February 1, 2010. Eventually the park plans to move to an online reservation system.



- The coldest temp recorded in Phoenix was 16 degrees on January 17, 1913.
- The largest amount of snowfall, in inches, in the Phoenix area was 1" recorded on January 20, 1933, and again on January 21-22, 1937.
- The largest amount of rainfall, in inches, that fell in one day in the Phoenix area, set on July 1-2, 1911 was 4.98".
- The amount of rainfall, in inches, that fell during Phoenix's wettest year, was 19.73, recorded in 1905,
- The highest recorded temp in Phoenix, set on June 26, 1990, was 122 degrees. (I've never forgotten that one!).
- The amount of rainfall, in inches, that the Phoenix area saw during 2002, was 2.82 inches, its driest year to date.
- The average number of days per year in which Phoenix temperatures rise above 110 degrees is 18.

GET OUTSIDE ~ In your "backyard"

Pinnacle Peak Park offers a variety of fun and educational programs throughout the fall and winter. Enjoy a guided interpretive hike and learn about the plants, animals, geology and history of the Sonoran Desert. Or, try a night outing on a Full Moon Hike or at an Astronomy Talk. The park is at 26802 N. 102nd Way. Call (480) 312-0990 or visit www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov/pinnaclepeak for more information.

Registration Open for Preserve Connections Hikes Registration is now available for the free Preserve Connections hiking series. The first program on Saturday, Jan. 9, explores the Taliesin Overlook via Lost Dog Trail, a 5-mile recreational hike with gentle inclines and one short, steep grade to a scenic saddle area. During this hike, you will learn about the McDowell Sonoran Preserve as well as hiking techniques, equipment and safety.

This program includes free bus transportation from McDowell and Granite Reef roads. Registration is limited and on a first-come-first-served basis. Residents may register online at www.scottsdaleaz.gov/preserve/tours, or get more information by calling (480) 312-3111. The Web site also lists the complete lineup of 2010 hikes.

The Arizona Coach Talker

AGA Newsletter

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Websites to visit

Wilderness... things you need to know:

www.fs.fed.us/r3/

www.az.blm.gov

www.nps.gov

<http://southwest.fws.gov>

Learn more about Allan Houser:

www.allanhouser.com/

More about Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport Museum:

www.phxskyharbor.com/community/art-museum.html

And for a wealth of Arizona information visit:

www.arizonahighways.com/

Certification Test Sample Question Answer: Answer: Bell Rock, Cathedral Rock,
Airport Mesa, Boynton Canyon.