

Spring sports in full swing

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John Hernandez | Crier



Oracle Towne Crier

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—David Brinkley

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Music Returns to Oracle School District

The Oracle School District is very excited to bring the music program back for the 2015-16 school year.

It has been two years since Oracle students have been able to experience the benefits that come with a quality music program. Music programs are not only invaluable to a student's overall educational success, they also provide opportunities for students to perform, where they often discover hidden talents that contribute to their personal growth and self-confidence.

There is overwhelming proof that having music as part of the curriculum will benefit the Oracle School District students in ways that reach far beyond the music classroom. A comprehensive study conducted by the Education and the Arts Project Report (REAP) showed that there are significant, reliable causal relationships between the systematic, formal study of music and gains in mathematics and in spatial-temporal relationships. Brain studies show the development of more extensive neural connections in musicians.

How was the District able to bring the program back? Careful fiscal management, a progressive School Board and strong District wide community support of the recent budget override are the



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Dennis Blauser
 Special to the Miner

primary contributing factors that make it possible for the District to take this huge step forward. One obstacle to establishing a top notch music program has been not having a dedicated music classroom. A creative solution to this dilemma is the District's decision to convert a long unused locker room into a first rate music classroom. The great thing about this renovation is that the new music room will actually be connected to the building where the students will perform.

Because the District has had a music program in the past, there are music teaching materials and instruments to help get the program started. Thanks to the support of a core of strong volunteers like the Mountain Vista Music Boosters, the sky is the limit for the new program. The District would very much like the program to eventually teach band instruments beginning in the fourth grade. To help make this dream a reality the morning SaddleBrooke Rotary Club is putting together a program that will help provide band instruments for the program.

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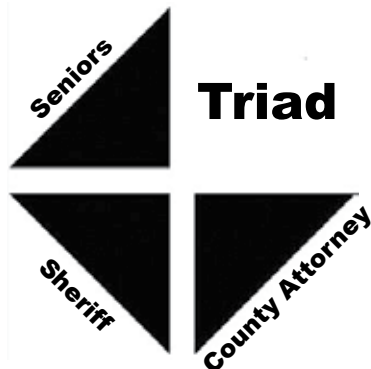
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Oracle TRIAD Coalition

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TRIAD is a cooperative project composed of seniors, Pinal County Attorney's Office, Pinal County Sheriff's Department, Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens, and other community partners who are dedicated to preventing the victimization of seniors, improving their quality of life and reducing consequences associated with abuse and misuse of prescription medications and alcohol. Community members are welcome. Call Jim Stephens to sign up for volunteer opportunities, 520-483-8193.

River Fest coming to Copper Corridor

Save the date and prepare for plenty of spring time fun at the 2015 River Festival hosted by the Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition and the Town of Winkelman at the Winkelman Flats Public Park on Saturday, April 25. The event will kick off with birding walks in some of the most pristine birding habitats along the San Pedro River at 7 a.m., head over to the Winkelman Flats Public Park on the Gila River for a day of entertainment, amusements, festival food, vendors and outdoor demonstrations. The festival venue will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pre-registration for the hikes will open soon.

Those wishing to register as a vendor can register for a booth online at: <http://bit.ly/RiverFest2015>. For more information on the event, to sign up as a vendor, entertainer or set up a display booth you may also call Mila Besich-Lira at 520-890-8433.



Greg Vinson talks about his grass fed beef at last year's River Fest.

DIAPER BAG

Parade of Events at Family First

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday schedule your 40 minute class presented through the Earn While You Learn Program. Instead of feeling helpless, stressed and confused, come and learn simple, effective, and loving ways to turn the Terrible Twos in to the Terrific Twos in a few short weeks. Parents are commenting on how they have seen amazing improvements in their toddler's behavior after applying the practical lessons they have learned. Call the center at 520-896-9545

Our store is overloaded and we need room for the Spring clothes. The whole month of March we will be having a \$1 bag sale on diapers, infant and toddler clothes, toys and stuffed animals from our store. So come in Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays in March from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Easter Eggstravaganza
FUN FUN FUN!!!

Make your hat and win a prize!

Moms, Dads, infants and toddlers: On Wednesday, March 25, at 10 a.m., there



will be eggs to color, stories, an egg hunt and prizes. Those wishing to attend will need to call and register to participate, 520-896-9545 before March 23.

SaddleBrooke TWO DESERTVIEW Performing Arts Center

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The Texas Tenors
"Deep In The Heart of Christmas"
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3pm & 7:30pm
Tickets on Sale
Monday, March 16, 2015



Saturday, March 7, 2015—Luck of the Irish - A Salute to Music, Dance and Comedy from the Emerald Isle - 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm - Produced by Lonely Street Productions.

Grab a pint and join us for a whale of a time! You won't need a four-leaf clover to know that you've stumbled upon a pot of gold. Luck of the Irish promises plenty of surprises. You might find yourself doing a jig, singing along with an Irish fiddler, playing a penny whistle, reciting a limerick, or taking part in an authentic contra-dance. Don't worry, though, we'll make sure to sing Danny Boy before the night is through. \$25 inclusive \$30 door.



Wednesday, March 11, 2015—Bring Back That Lovin' Feelin' - A Salute to Righteous Brothers and Blue-Eyed Soul - 7:30 pm - Produced by Lonely Street Productions.

The term "blue-eyed soul," originally coined in the 60s, refers to musicians who were influenced by soul, rhythm and blues. Sensational artists such as The Righteous Brothers, The Kingsmen, The Rascals, and Dion were the cornerstones of this movement and their music has inspired artists ever since. Bring Back That Lovin' Feelin' features classics including "Unchained Melody," "Just Once in My Life," "Money," "Louie Louie," "Runaround Sue" and "The Wanderer." \$25 inclusive \$30 door



Saturday, March 14, 2015—The Spouse Whisperer - 7:30 pm Produced by TAD Management.

Come spend an evening with hilarious comedian Mark Cordes as you examine the ups and downs of dating, relationships, marriage, divorce and all other aspects of this crazy thing we call life. This is one show that will have you laughing hysterically as Mark educates the crowd on the do's and don'ts of relationships. \$25 inclusive \$30 door.



Wednesday, March 18, 2015 - Barbershop Chorus - Berlin Goes Barbershop - 7:00 pm.

SaddleBrooke's Canada del Oro Barbershop Chorus presents an extravaganza of the great Irving Berlin's songs in a extraordinary performance. Joining them on stage will be the Regiona Champion Sweet Adelines Quartet CONTEMPO. Additionally performing are the young men of the Chandler High School Men's Chorus who in June received AUDIENCE FAVORITE Award at the eighth Annual International Youth Barbershop Festival in New Orleans. They are among America's best. \$20 inclusive \$23 door.



Saturday, March 21, 2015—American Made Starring The Presidio Boys - 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm. Produced by Lonely Street Productions.

Nothing rivals the pure sound of a country-gospel quartet and we're bringing you one of the best! This accomplished group of musicians masterfully recreates the hits of Country and Gospel Music's favorite vocal groups including the Oak Ridge Boys, the Statler Brothers, the Cathedrals and more! \$25 inclusive \$30 door.



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Requiem for Echo the Wolf

In the fall of 2014 a female wolf was spotted on the north rim of the Grand Canyon. She was the first wolf seen at the Grand Canyon since 1938. Park rangers, federal biologists and volunteers spent days marching across the countryside searching for scat. DNA tests confirmed that this lone female wolf was not part of the controversial Mexican Gray Wolf release program. This was a Rocky Mountain Wolf and she had migrated hundreds of miles south from the Wyoming/Idaho border. A contest was held to name the Grand Canyon's newest resident. Entries came from around the world and the winning name was Echo – because she came back to the Grand Canyon. Sadly, on Dec. 14, a hunter in Utah mistakenly shot what he thought was a coyote. Weeks later DNA tests confirmed the tragic news that Echo the Wolf was dead.

The Mexican Gray Wolf reintroduction program in Arizona has been very successful with wolves being seen as far north as Lake Mary of the Flagstaff area. If more wolves return to the north rim, Mexican Gray and Rocky Mountain wolves might soon be separated only by the width of the Grand Canyon. I cannot imagine even that great chasm presenting much of a barrier to these adventurous beasts. Wolves, wherever they have been released, have quickly ignored the tiny confines of the national parks and wilderness areas which were meant to

hold them. Wolves have migrated surprisingly far very quickly, and often covered vast tracts of land unseen. Not only was Echo the first wolf seen at the Grand Canyon but she was the second wolf seen in Utah in many decades. Had she arrived only a few months earlier, she would have been the first wolf in Utah as well as the first wolf at the Grand Canyon in over 70 years.

There have been unexpected benefits to wolf reintroduction. Studies done in Yellowstone have shown that many species benefit from the presence of wolves especially large raptors such as eagles and hawks who dine upon the leftover carcasses. Botany has benefitted as well, such as the aspen groves whose saplings are devoured and trampled by herds of elk without wolves to control the population. Successful wolf

reintroduction programs such as Yellowstone have turned out to be hubs for wolf migrations in many directions and migrations which go much further than many biologists expected.

Although the news of Echo's death hurts my heart, I wanted to take a moment remind people that despite this terrible tragedy, these are amazing times to be a nature enthusiast in Arizona. River otters were declared extinct in the state in the 1960s. But thanks to a reintroduction program involving captive Sonoran otters and their Louisiana Cajun cousins, otters can



EVERY MAN'S MUSINGS

By Gary Every
Special to the Crier



A Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf runs in the snow. This public domain photo can be found at <http://bit.ly/1M6jZ8g>.

now be seen throughout much of the Verde Valley River system. Beavers are either thriving or have been reintroduced to several Arizona river systems including the San Pedro in a way that would make an old mountain man like James Ohio Pattie proud. Jaguars have been returning to the southwest for decades and now have federal protections. Rancher Warner Glenn recorded his encounter with a jaguar in his book *Eyes of Fire*. Glenn's photos and video were the first documented proof of the return of the species. Much more evidence, and many more big cats would follow.

Like the return of Echo, the photos of the jaguar named Macho B were celebrated worldwide. Unlike Echo, Macho B was a resident for many years with photos of his distinctive "Betty Boop" spots taken all across the southern Arizona landscape. Like Echo, Macho B's death was a tragic casualty in this reintroduction process. We can only hope that just as Macho B was a pioneering trailblazer for the return of jaguars, many more wolves will follow Echo to the Grand Canyon.

Condors sail the skies above the southwest in numbers we dared not hope many decades ago, when the giant birds had almost completely disappeared. An aggressive breeding program helped reestablish a fragile population. Some of my friends have been able to add condors to their lifetime birding lists.

The skies of southern Arizona were sometimes filled with giant, raucous flocks of parrots as late as 1922 until the brightly colored birds were over hunted into extinction in Arizona and New Mexico. The Thick Billed Parrot was a stocky 15 inches long and a bright green color with red patches on the forehead and shoulders. There have been a few attempts at reintroducing a flock into the Chiricahua Mountains but the problem is every time they release a flock of parrots the hawks and falcons arrive. Releasing more parrots has only attracted more winged predators. I am the only person I know who can check the Thick Billed Parrot off his birding list. In the late 1980s a small flock of parrots had been released in the Chiricahua Mountains but a huge storm soon hit the region. I was doing landscaping work in an old neighborhood, deep in the heart of Tucson, a neighborhood filled with big old trees and after hearing a cacophony in the branches looked up



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Understanding Lyme Disease

The prevalence of Lyme Disease has been reassessed recently. It is believed to be much more pervasive than originally thought. It is the fastest growing vector born infectious disease in this country. It has been found in every state in the Union. Statistics reveal an infection ratio of 8.6 cases for every 100,000 persons. In the 10 states where Lyme disease is most common the ratio increases to 58.8 cases per 100,000. Some researchers believe these figures to be off by 10 to 100 fold. It was first described in the community of Old Lyme, Connecticut, in 1975.

The disease is caused by a spirochete bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is most often transmitted by the bite of a tick found usually on deer and dogs. It has also been detected in fleas and mosquitoes. The likelihood of infection increases dramatically if the tick stays imbedded in the skin for 36 to 48 hours. Lyme Disease is the most common tick born disease in the United States. There is some evidence that it can also be transmitted through bodily fluids from person to person. Commonly, symptoms of an infection with Lyme's Disease begin with redness around the site of a bite that expands into a circular rash. It takes on the form of a bull's eye. Fever, headache, lethargy and muscle pains often develop. This is followed by joint inflammation that can persist. The symptoms may appear as early as three days after a bite. However, it may also take months for the symptoms to show up. It is believed that less than 50 percent of those infected with Lyme's Disease exhibit the bull's eye rash and the

initial joint swelling is even less frequently seen. If the early stage of Lyme disease goes unnoticed, later symptoms include swelling and pain in joints (similar to arthritis), numbness and tingling in the hands and feet, persistent fatigue, poor memory and reduced ability to concentrate and weakness or paralysis in the muscles of the face. Because it is often left untreated for years and has many varied symptoms, it has developed the reputation as the new "Great Imitator." Though primarily an arthritic type disease, Lyme can also present as atypical illness in the brain, spinal cord, pericardium, gastrointestinal tract, endocrine organs and glands, skin and other tissues and systems. Due to the corkscrew shape of this bacterium, it can burrow into multiple cells and organs and lay dormant for many years much like tuberculosis. This makes



HEALTH ISSUES

By Dr. Michael Miles
Special to the Crier

treatment difficult. Long term antibiotic treatment is often required because the bacterium are hard to reach, hard to kill and hard to detect in order to determine eradication. Blood tests can be used to detect an infection, though there are notoriously high rates of false negatives meaning that the test shows no infection where there actually is one. It is a good idea to consider this ever increasing infection when seeking help with ailments that resemble arthritis, chronic fatigue syndrome, lupus, chronic yeast infections and other degenerative conditions. It is especially prudent to consider after having been bit by a tick in the Northeasterly states or the Northwesterly states. The bull's eye rash should be considered a big red flag.

Conventional treatment is often laborious, harsh and expensive. It usually includes large amounts of antibiotics administered over many months and years. Additional drugs are incorporated in an attempt to control the multitude of symptoms and side effects. Outstanding results have been seen with the use of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy. This treatment drives pure oxygen deep inside each cell to eradicate the Lyme spirochetes. *Dr. Michael Miles' Clinic is located at 15601 N. Oracle Rd. in Catalina behind Golf Cars of Arizona. You can learn more about the Catalina Clinic and Dr. Miles by visiting the website: www.catalinaclinic.com. To contact Dr. Miles or make an appointment at the clinic call 520-825-8100.*

Knights of Columbus set date for annual golf tourney

Local Knights of Columbus urge golfers to save Saturday, April 11, for the KofC annual charity golf tournament. "Many golfers expect this tournament in early April, but we always like to see new faces too," said tournament organizer John Wahlmeier. The tournament, to benefit KofC scholarships and charities, will be held at the SaddleBrooke Ranch golf course near

milepost 93 on highway 77, using a four person scramble format. "We are really excited to have the backing of Apache Gold Casino and Golf Course for one of our hole in one contests. They have been very generous," Wahlmeier said. Golfers can get an early sign up discount by contacting Wahlmeier at 385-4590 or 610-1151 or jmfaalias@gmail.com.

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Saturday Worship Service 11 a.m.

To be included in the monthly church listing, call the Crier at 520-385-2266.

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adj.

1 capable of being touched

2 evident; real; existing

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Spring baseball, softball in full swing at Mountain Vista

By John Hernandez
Oracle Towne Crier

Baseball and softball season is in full swing. The Mt. Vista School baseball and softball teams have been practicing and playing since the season began Feb. 25.

The baseball team's Head Coach is Joe Estrada and Assistant Coach is Renee Martinez. Coach Estrada said, "This year's team is young but they have a lot of heart." There are only five eighth graders on the team this year, six seventh graders and five sixth graders.

The softball team is coached by Patti Ellis, head coach and Assistant Coach Brenda

Garcia. Coach Ellis said of the team, "We have some pretty good ballplayers this year."

The Central Junior High League is made up of the following teams: Mt. Vista Cougars, Eloy Blue Devils, Ray Bearcats, High Desert Tigers, Hayden Lobos, Miami Vandals, San Carlos Braves, Superior Panthers and the San Manuel Miners.

Cougar Schedule

Monday, March 23, MVS hosts San Manuel

Wednesday, March 25, MVS hosts Miami
Wednesday, April 15, MVS plays at Hayden
Monday, April 20, MVS plays at High Desert Middle School (Globe)



MVS Softball

Mt. Vista track team receives grant

By John Hernandez
Oracle Towne Crier

The Mountain Vista School track team received good news late last month as they prepare for the upcoming track and field season. Head Coach Elizabeth Tilley says the track team will be receiving a grant for approximately \$1,600 which will be used to purchase equipment. The grant is from the USA Track and Field Foundation. Coach Tilley wanted to thank Oracle School Board member Linda Lyon for telling her about the grant and introducing her to Trixie Bluvstein and Tom Jackovic of the USA Track

and Field Foundation.

This year's track team has 28 members. It is coached by Elizabeth Tilley, Assistant Head Coach Brady Whitman and volunteer Ron Victor. "We are proud of our team spirit," said Coach Tilley. "We have some really strong runners this year and expect to do well in competition."

The track schedule follows; all meets begin at 3:45 p.m.

MVS Track Schedule
Thursday, March 12 – Mt. Vista at High Desert Middle School
Thursday, March 26 – Mt. Vista at Ray
Thursday, April 2 – Mt. Vista at HDMS

Thursday, April 9 – Mt. Vista at Ray
Thursday, April 23 – San Manuel, CJHL Championship Meet



MVS Baseball



MVS Track

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CROSSWORD

The 1970s

ACROSS

- 1. Libra symbol
- 6. Weep convulsively
- 9. Under-dress garment
- 13. Knucklehead
- 14. *Some Watergate burglars had worked for it
- 15. On the rocks
- 16. *"Fear of Flying" author, given name
- 17. *"____ My Children"
- 18. Gossipmonger's information
- 19. *iPod predecessor, debuted in Japan in '79
- 21. *Its fall ushered the end of Vietnam War
- 23. Snakelike reef dweller
- 24. You can't have this and eat it too?
- 25. Business school reward
- 28. Tibetan teacher
- 30. #20 Down, to

Shakespeare

- 35. Miner's bounty, pl.
- 37. Measles symptom
- 39. Dictation taker
- 40. Signal receiver
- 41. *Punk rock, e.g.
- 43. "I'm ____ you!"
- 44. Kindle content
- 46. ____ lamp
- 47. *Travolta and Newton-John, e.g.
- 48. Historically, they were sent to colonies
- 50. Sacred Hindu writings
- 52. *Martial artist
- 53. Ambience
- 55. Genetic initials
- 57. Like a bikini?
- 60. *Type of men's suit
- 64. The present
- 65. Calendar square
- 67. Forty-niner, e.g.
- 68. Arabian chieftain

DOWN

- 69. "But I heard him exclaim, ____ he drove out of sight..."
- 70. Plug-in
- 71. Something necessary but lacking
- 72. Hi-____
- 73. Film director Sergio
- 1. Old World duck
- 2. Countess of Grantham, "Downton Abbey"
- 3. Seed coat
- 4. English philosopher John
- 5. Canine's coat
- 6. *First clinical CT- or Cat-____ in '71
- 7. *Subject of 1970s crisis
- 8. Model-building wood
- 9. Like a bug in a rug
- 10. Stretched ride
- 11. Clickable picture
- 12. For every
- 15. Bay windows
- 20. Eye opener
- 22. *Arthur Herbert Fonzarelli, ____ "The Fonz"
- 24. Source of tapioca and
- a staple in the tropics
- 25. *Cheryl Tiegs or Beverly Johnson, e.g.
- 26. Palm grease
- 27. Famous fabulist
- 29. Sledgehammer
- 31. At the summit of
- 32. Of the kidneys
- 33. Undo laces
- 34. *She had a hit TV sitcom
- 36. Old Woman's home
- 38. Bee home
- 42. Military group
- 45. *Kramer's opponent
- 49. Small amount of liquid food
- 51. *"____ House"
- 54. Actress Winona
- 56. Out of the way
- 57. Not all
- 58. Capped joint
- 59. Like a decorated cake
- 60. Cleaning cabinet supplies
- 61. Backward arrow command
- 62. Seabiscuit control
- 63. European sea eagle
- 64. A Bobbsey twin
- 66. Present plural of "be"

CROSSWORD

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Super spellers and stellar scientists found at MVS

By John Hernandez
Oracle Towne Crier

Mt. Vista School will be sending five students and two first grade class projects to the Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Foundation (SARSEF) regional Science Fair week. The students winning the 2014-2015 Science Fair and representing Mt. Vista are: fifth grade, Amy Soule; sixth grade, Jesus Burrell; seventh grade, Phaius Wolgast; seventh grade, Mikayla Martin; eighth grade, Victoria Flores. The science students are being mentored by Julie Formo.

SARSEF fair week is being held at the Tucson Convention Center from March 19 through March 24. It is open to the public and admission is free. The students will get to have a great learning experience and an opportunity to win prizes including scholarships, trips and cash. It is also a good opportunity for the students to bring recognition and publicity for their school.

This year’s Mt. Vista Spelling Bee Champion is Phaius Wolgast. He will be representing Mt. Vista at the County Spelling Bee in Florence.

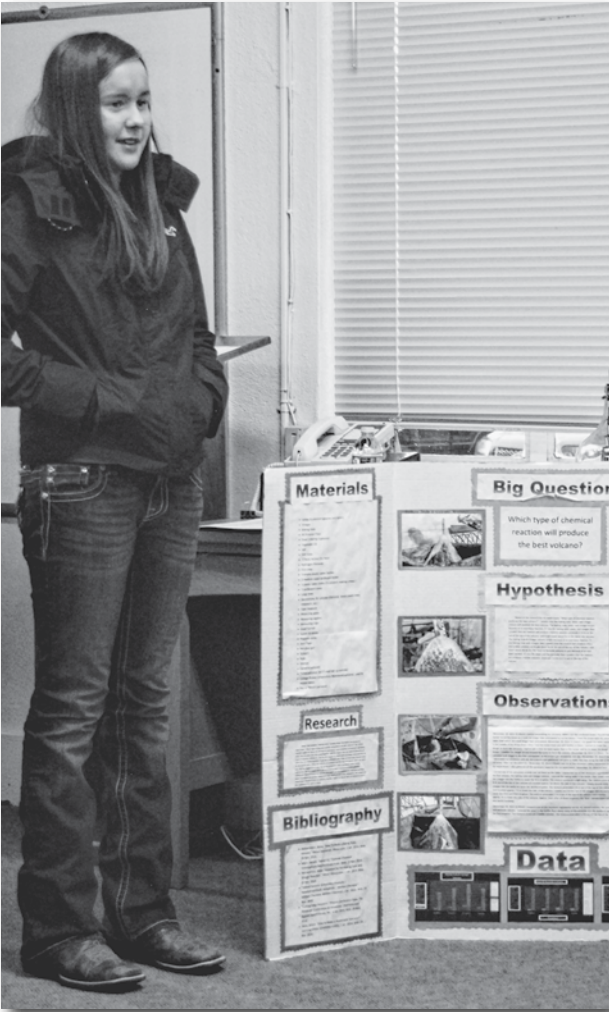
WALKING WITH THE LIGHT

Allowing God’s Word to Bring Peace

By Anna Stich
Special to the Crier

I find the world a rather dark place these days with talk of darkness in the forms of terrorism, riots, bullying, sex trafficking, drugs, persecution of Christians...and the list goes on. These things have been with us for ages on end but in our present society and global media I find it hard to escape from the darkness of the news and fear and chaos that it inevitably brings. However, in the midst of this chaos I find hope and encouragement in “The name and person that is available to all God’s children that have accepted Him as their savior.”(Jn.1:12-14)

Continued on Page 10



Victoria Flores Mt. Vista Science Fair Winner



Phaius Wolgast Mt. Vista Spelling Bee Champion

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Music, food, telescope viewing celebrates Dark Sky Park designation

A day-into-night celebration is set at Oracle State Park Center for Environmental Education on Saturday, March 21, to honor its designation as an International Dark Sky Park — only the 20th park in the world and the first state park in Arizona.

Extended hours for this “Dancing with the Stars” event at the Kannally ranch house and patios are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Activities include an awards presentation at 4 p.m. with officials of the International Dark-Sky Assn., local and state officials, and members of the Oracle Dark Skies Committee. Live music for listening and dancing will follow. Food will be available for sale, or visitors may bring their own lunch and beverages.

Representatives from regional organizations, among them Arizona Trail Assn., Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance, Cascabel Conservation Assn., and Friends of Oracle State Park will welcome the public in the nearby group-use area from 1-6 p.m. with information tables.

The evening “star party,” with telescopes pointed at the skies and astronomers on hand to answer questions, begins at sundown.

The event is free with park admission at the gate on Mt. Lemmon Rd. in Oracle. Because this is a day-long event, carpooling is recommended to ease parking congestion.

Information about this and all other park events is available at www.azStateParks.com/Parks/ORAC or by calling the park office at 520-896-2425. Oracle State Park Center for Environmental Education is open Saturdays and Sundays 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and weekdays by appointment.



Astronomers set up telescopes for Star Party goers at the Oracle State Park to view the night skies over Oracle. Folks will get another chance to see the heavenly beauties on Saturday, March 21.

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Oracle Listings - Homes

- Well built home, wood kitchen cabinets, open floor plan, ceramic tile thru home, large trees, 1.25 ac., horse property. \$62,000
- Historic c. 1909 Bungalow completely modernized, 3 bdrm 2 ba, 1770 sq ft, 2 fireplaces, guest house. \$212,000
- Great mobile home 3 bdrm 2 ba, new carpet and paint. Horse property.
- 3 bedroom, 2 bath on 1.25 ac, hilltop views, horse property. \$75,000
- Oracle Charmer on 1.78 acres, 3 bed, 1 bath covered in oaks. \$195,000
- 3 bedroom, 2 bath spacious living area, tile floor & fenced backyard. \$122,900

Oracle-Land

- 3 Lots off La Mariposa, custom home area, unobstructed views of the Catalinas. \$47,500 - .97 ac, \$59,000 - 1.04 ac, \$69,900 - 1.38 ac.
- 10 ac, views, oaks, water and electric to lot line, horse property, owner may carry. 5 ac for \$135,000 or all 10 ac for \$260,000
- 3.3 ac hilltop in custom homes only area, views in all directions.
- Double Lot 1.66 & 1.26 off Linda Vista. 2 Great parcels to choose from. Owner will carry with just 10% down. Build your dream home on one of these two lots. Paved road. Homes only area. Utilities at or near the lot line. \$85,000.
- Great Investment! 10 ac, can be split, electric in the road. Great views! \$79,900

San Manuel

- Lovely 3 bdrm, 1 bath with like new cabinets, carpet & upgraded appliances. Must see! \$71,900.
- DRASTICALLY REDUCED – Charming home on 40 AC home and well is solar powered, beautiful views, horse property, can be split. \$249,900.
- Energy efficient home with solar panels. Sellers' highest electric bill was \$13.00. Electric company buys back unused electricity. Remodeled kitchen, marble countertops, interior block walls have been insulated. 3 bed, 2 bath. All new doublepane low-E windows & much more. \$89,000.

Surrounding Area

- 1 acre parcel with single wide mobile in Catalina. \$65,000.
- 3-lots to choose from. Hill top views shared well, horse property, leveled off areas for home sites. Two lots \$50,000 each & one lot \$70,000.
- In Aravaipa 2 bdrm, 2 ba, 2 car garage with 1/4 bath, fenced yard. \$49,000.
- Private location hilltop views, 3 bedroom home, new interior paint & carpet, A/C, barn & corrals, 3.18 ac. \$200,000.
- 5 ac, views of Galluro Mountains desert vegetation, homes or mobiles, horse property, can be split. \$35,000.
- Great views, 2832 sqft, 3 bedroom, 4 bath, open kitchen with storage island, pantry, 3 stall horse barn with concrete floors with electric and hay storage, tack room, 3.32 ac. \$367,000
- Immaculate home feels like new! Hilltop location, incredible mountain views & sunsets. 1867 sq ft. 3 bed, 2 bath, open floor plan. \$214,000
- Mountain views 4 bed, 2 1/2 bath, 2,404 sq. ft. plus a 1,244 sq.ft. basement, 34 x 27 detached garage on 6.85 ac. \$449,000.
- Custom Home with great views, custom features throughout the home, high end stainless steel Jenn-Air 6 burner stove in gourmet kitchen. \$399,000

WALK WITH THE LIGHT

Continued from Page 9

In the Bible a name is much more than an identifier as it tends to be in our culture. Personal names (and even place names) were formed from words that had their own meaning. Thus, the people of the Bible were very conscious of the meaning of names. They believed there was a vital connection between the name and the person it identified. A name somehow represented the nature of the person.

When God commissioned Moses to return to Egypt and lead His people to freedom Moses said to God, “But when I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ if they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what am I to tell them? God replied, “I am who am,” then He added, “This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you.” (EX: 3:13,14)

This passage brings me a great deal of comfort in this age when there is such an urgency of “have to do this right away!”, and the confusion, fear, and turmoil that assails us daily. Good is now called evil and evil is called good which brings chaos. However I AM who AM is our great God that is the same yesterday, as He is Today and as He will tomorrow. With God Truth is Truth and we need never doubt His word and love for us. God is a God of order not chaos.

God is truth, peace, love and the way for not only this life but life eternal. I pray you take the time to find and allow the word of the sovereign I AM to bring you His peace.

ECHO THE WOLF

Continued from Page 4

to see a pair of Thick Billed Parrots.

Since then another species of parrot has appeared in the state. In the Phoenix and Queen Creek area there are peach faced lovebirds. Native to Nigeria, the peach faced lovebirds thrive in the desert heat. The original release is believed to have occurred when an elaborate aviary in Phoenix fell into disrepair and 14 birds escaped. The tiny brightly colored birds have been photographed nesting in saguaros.

Once, many years ago, I was part of an adventure through the Gran Desierto and Sierra Pinacate region of Mexico and as we rolled across the lava fields our trucks scared up fourteen Sonoran pronghorn. The Sonoran pronghorn is a slightly smaller and very rare subspecies of the antelope which one sees across the rest of the continent. The day we crossed the international border and returned to the United States I purchased a newspaper

whose headline declared that the number of endangered Sonoran pronghorn had dropped to approximately 400. I was startled to realize that I had just seen 14 of the 400 remaining Sonoran pronghorns racing like the wind across the dry desert prairie. A forest service friend of mine was speaking with a federal biologist who explained to him that one of the problems with Sonoran pronghorn populations is that their summer grazing grounds were the fields north of Oracle around the area of Antelope Hills. General consensus of the locals old enough to recall is that the antelopes disappeared from the Oracle area during the Great Depression and World War II. Perhaps the time has come for someone to look into local grazing leases and inquire about reintroducing antelopes to the Black Hills. It would be nice to see the summer home of Sonoran pronghorn restored.



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Best selling author has Oracle ties

By John Hernandez
Oracle Towne Crier

John Vaillant is a freelance writer and best selling author. His non-fiction book *The Golden Spruce* (Norton 2005) won the Governor General's Award for non-fiction, a Canadian literary award. John and his family have lived in Vancouver for the past 13 years. *The Tiger* another non-fiction book by John was also a best seller and award winner. John is also the son-in-law of Oracle residents James and Judith Walsh. He is married to their daughter Nora.

John has a new book out that has been receiving good reviews. The book *The Jaguar's Children* is a novel of suspense and survival set along the Mexican border

in the southwest United States. It is a story about Hector a Mexican and his journey to cross illegally into the US. He along with others are trapped in the tank of a converted water truck and abandoned by the coyotes in the Arizona desert. Hector using his friend's cell phone attempts to contact an American number listed as AnniMac in his friend's phone. It is their only chance of survival.

The suspense builds as Hector relates in messages to AnniMac the story of his journey from Oaxaca to the border, his dreams of being rescued and the relationships of the two border cultures. Are his messages getting through? Will the migrants survive or die along the border as hundreds do every year.

The Jaguar's Children has received rave

reviews from the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Dallas Morning News*, the *Wall Street Journal* and others. A review in the *Oregonian* calls it a "book that should be required reading in every civics class in the country."

"Vaillant," the review continues, "brilliantly exposes the dynamics driving immigration, the incredible risks people take daily to cross the border to the US, and the experience of those living now in the shadows in our own community."

John Vaillant will be at the Tucson Festival of Books at the University of Arizona on March 13 and 14. He will also be stopping in Oracle to visit his in-laws. *The Jaguar's Children* is available online at Amazon.com, Powell's Books, Indie Bound, and Barnes and Noble. You can also learn more about John Vaillant and his books at www.thetigerbook.com.



John Vaillant
Photo by John Sinal

Oracle State Park's April events highlight local natural environments

An archeology-astronomy specialist, Sonoran Desert herbalist, internationally known landscape artist, and bighorn sheep advocate are among April's featured experts at Oracle State Park Center for Environmental Education.

All programs are free with park admission of \$7 per vehicle at the gate on Mt. Lemmon Rd., in Oracle. The park is open weekends with free guided tours of the historic Kannally ranch house at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday.

Visitors are invited to bring their picnic lunch to enjoy on one of the patios with exceptional mountain views or at a table nestled in the oak-manzanita woodlands.

Richard Boyer, retired seasonal ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park and OSP volunteer, answers questions about bighorn sheep in a 35-minute talk on Sunday, April 5, starting at 12:30 p.m. He'll cover what's happening at the wildlife corridor over Hwy. 77 near Catalina, bighorn history, and sheep survival. Reservations requested.

Joella Jean Mahoney, lifelong landscape painter with a studio in Sedona, offers a landscape drawing workshop on Saturday, April 11, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Reservations required. Joella's 1985 painting of an OSP landscape was commissioned by the state to commemorate park's dedication. Her works, which are exhibited internationally, are inspired by places she has hiked or backpacked. No drawing experience needed; most materials provided.

Ken Zoll, cultural astronomy expert with the

Arizona Archaeological Society and a site steward with the State Historic Preservation Office, presents an illustrated program on "Ancient Native American Astronomical Observations" on Saturday, April 18, at 3 p.m. Reservations required. This is a repeat of his standing-room-only program in January. Zoll will cover seasonal calendars carved in rocks, which became the foundation of early cultures for hunting and gathering, planting and harvesting, worshipping and celebrating. He is executive director of the Verde Valley Archaeology Center in Camp Verde.

John Slattery, Sonoran Desert herbalist, leads a walking-lecture on "Edible & Medicinal Plants of the Oak Grasslands" on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. - noon. Slattery will identify local plants while covering aspects of botany, ethnobotany, harvesting techniques, medicine making, food preparation, clinical applications — and how local plants can be used in home landscapes. Reservations required.

Chuck LeFevre, park volunteer and indigenous plant expert, heads a guided plant walk along some of the easy park trails on Sunday April 19, at 11 a.m.

Persons should make reservations for programs by calling the park office at 1-520-896-2425.

The park, which is open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekends and by appointment on weekdays, has 15 miles of multi-use scenic trails, including four miles of the National Scenic Arizona Trail. For a full listing of upcoming events and activities, go to www.azStateParks.org/Parks/ORAC.



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