

BUSINESS REVIEW

Volume 4 Issue 4

April 2011

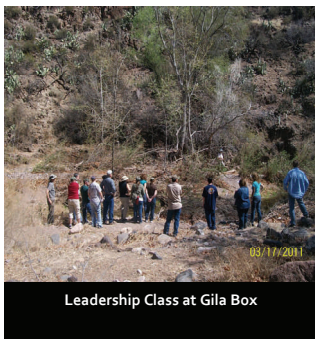
GILA VALLEY LEADERSHIP CLASS VI FILLED WITH ADVENTURE

The Gila Valley Leadership Class is in its eighth month with education being the theme for the April workshop. The program consist of 10 workshops over 10 months. Each workshop is a day long and consist of classroom time and tours. The March workshop was hosted by BLM and featured "The Complexities of Land Management", with a field trip to the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area.



Scott Cooke, Safford BLM Field

The Leadership Class Students for 2010-2011 are: Sharon Allen, Eastern Arizona College; Eric Blair, Kainoa's Hawaiian Grill; Julie Bryce, City of Safford; Fernanda Calienes, Sunset Hills Care Rehab Center; Jimmy Dominguez, Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold; Karl Ellsworth, Valley Furniture; Jenna Ferrin, Country Insurance; Marion Gauna, City of Safford; Ruth Grant, Caldwell Funeral Chapel; Kimberly Henderson, Federal Bureau of Prisons; Beth Holloway, Federal Bureau of Prisons; Lorrie Innes, SpringHill Suites; Erik Lehmann, Eastern Arizona College; Randall MacDonald, New Testament Baptist Church; Seth McRae, Ron Cox Construction; Glen Orr, Safford Police Department; Katrina Pearson, Mount Graham Regional Medical Center; Rebecca Santistevan, Arizona State Credit Union; Duffy Schaefer, RSC Equipment Rental; Jonathon Stailey, Vining Funeral Home; Levi Trujillo, Trophies 'N Tees.



Leadership Class at Gila Box

For more information about the Leadership program contact Laura at (928) 428-2511 or email: laura@graham-chamber.com. Applications for the next year's Class VII, which starts in September, 2011, can be downloaded off the Chamber website at www.graham-chamber.com.

CULPEPPER & MERRIWEATHER CIRCUS TWO SHOWINGS 5:00 P.M. AND 7:30

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Circus on Thursday, April 21st, at Bashas' parking lot. Get your advanced tickets early at discounted prices. Tickets can be purchased at: Bashas', Graham County Chamber of Commerce, Arizona State Credit Union, Richards Music Company, Taylor Freeze, Trophies N' Tees. Skeeter the Clown will be out to different schools before the Circus comes to town to educate students about a day in the life of a clown. Skeeter

got her clown start at the early age of 9 years old in Columbus, Ohio. She is a graduate of the Ringling Clown College and has spent much of her time traveling around the country clowning around.



Advance tickets are \$6.00 2-12 years and \$9.00 for Adults, under 2 is free. Buy your tickets now and save. Go to www.cmcircus.com for special offer coupons.

In this Issue

Renewals	2
Dynasty Travel	3
Calendar of Events	4

2011 Chamber Board of Directors

John Fitzgerald
Carpet, Tile and More

Sheryl Goodman
Taylor Freeze

Todd Haynie
Eastern Arizona College

Steve Junion
Chairman
Valley Furniture

Dave Konopnicki
WSK /McDonald's

Jason McDougal
Caldwell Funeral Home

Janet Oesterling
Treasurer
Trophies 'N Tees

Kevin Peck
Vice-Chairman
EAC/SBDC

Sean Wenham
Freeport-McMoRan
Copper & Gold, Inc.

NEW MEMBERS

First Southern Baptist Church of Safford

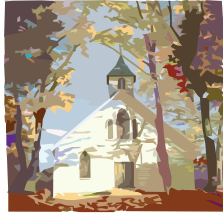
Pastor Mike Watkins

795 S. First Ave.

Safford, AZ 85546

(928) 428-4241

Church



Mt. Graham Moving Service

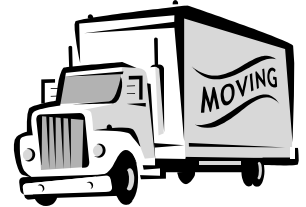
Eric M. Holmquest, Owner

2056 E. Hwy 70, #20

Safford, AZ 85546

(928) 651-4369

Professional Moving Service



CHAMBER MEMBER REINVESTMENTS

The Graham County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors wants to thank the following members for renewing their Chamber membership this year. You are helping the Chamber build a strong local economy.

All Saints Episcopal Church, Allstate Insurance Co./Graham Agency, Aflac/Brenda O'Berry, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 32, Arizona State Credit Union, B & D Air Conditioning, Best Western/Desert Inn, Caldwell Funeral Chapel, Copper Mountain Mobile Home Community, Denny's Restaurant, Doc's Food Store, Eastern Arizona College, El Coronado, Faith Lutheran Church, Fred Nackard Wholesale Beverage Co., Freedom Ford, Gila Valley Arts Council, Gila Valley Clinic, Gila Valley Rotary Club, Gi'mees Restaurant, Glenbar Gin, Golden Corral #231, Graham County, Jerome & Susie Thompson/Graham County Special Olympics, Jerry's Restaurant, Neil Karnes, Graham County Employment & Training, Graham County Sheriff, P.J. Allred; Minit Market #14, Mt. Graham Golf Course, Mt. Graham Shopping Center, National Bank of Arizona, New Champion Home Center, New Life City Church, Open Loop Energy, PLS Group, Quail Ridge Construction, R & R Pizza Express, Richard Lines D.D.S., Robyn's Nest, Roper Lake State Park, Rural Housing Development Sunshine Valley, Safford Builders Supply, Safford Floorcoverings, Safford Lions Club, Safford-Graham Library, Safford Shining Times Car Wash, SAS Real Estate, SEACRS (SEAZ Consumer Run Services), Swift Murphy Post #32, Valley Telecom Group, Vista Recycling, Wal-Mart Super Center, You Can Relax Tax & Accounting Service.



MEMBER NEWS

R & M Homes has new business address, 3275 West 8th Street, Suite F, Thatcher, AZ 85552, phone number is still the same (928) 348-4966. Check out their website www.randmhomes.com

SEACUS is having their 2nd Annual BBQ Cook Off, May 27th and 28th. Event starts at 6 p.m. on Friday, 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. Come and enjoy professional and amateurs cook offs, horse shoe tournament, raffles, live entertainment, rib eating contest and much more. For more information on this event and register to enter any of the activities call SEACUS at (928) 428-3229

DYNASTY TRAVEL INC. & THE LOLLIPOP SHOP

The travel industry has had some challenges in the last few years due to the economic downturn, but Dynasty Travel owner Lois Ann Moody believes the industry is in an upswing since January.

She also says now is a good time to make travel arrangements to lock in prices before seasonal increases or fare hikes due to increasing oil prices.

Lois is no stranger to making sound business decisions. For nearly 32 years she has provided the Gila Valley with a variety of services and products.

In June 1979 Lois opened the doors to Office Operators in the old Boulevard Plaza. This business provided several services, including typing, copying, temporary office help and travel arrangements.

She sold the business in 1985 and a new, full-service travel agency, called Dynasty Travel, was born.

"The travel business is one of those that changes constantly," Lois said recently in an interview at her office, housed with "The Lollipop Shop," in the old Sonic drive-in building at 1809 W. Thatcher Blvd., Safford.

Customers are greeted by attractive displays of candy, jewelry, candles and other gift items. At the back is Dynasty Travel, where Lois not only arranges trips and vacations; she also must keep up with the individual rules of each airline and TSA requirements so she can give customers the best service and advice possible.

This is a tall order for the only full-service travel agency in Graham, Greenlee, Gila and northern Cochise County. But Lois doesn't stop there.

She also keeps the Lollipop Shop stocked with 18 to 20 flavors of fudge.

"I make all the fudge myself," she said as she wrapped a few sample pieces for a visitor. "Christmas is our big, big fudge month".

Lois pointed out a collection of "nostalgia candies," which includes old favorites like Black Jack, Teaberry and Beeman's chewing gum. She also offers sugar-free chocolates.

The recently dedicated LDS Temple in Central has brought in new customers, many of whom buy candy.

A popular item sought by local customers and visitors are The Lollipop Shop's Halloween bags filled with candy.

"Halloween is a big holiday for us," Lois said.

Being the owner-operator of Dynasty Travel and The Lollipop Shop has not been without challenges. For instance, Dynasty Travel burned to the ground in 1988, forcing Lois to move to the Gila Valley Shopping Center. She had to start her business over from scratch.

In 2001, business dropped off after the 9/11 attacks for most travel agencies, including Dynasty Travel.

Throughout these challenges and others, however, travel consultant Jennifer Barney and Lois's sons, Greg, Jeff and Chris, have been supportive, and today the businesses continue to be successful.

Submitted by Diane Saunders. The Word Nanny



Lois Ann Moody, Owner of Dynasty Travel Inc. and The Lollipop Shop
(928) 428-6805

NEW ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CENTER OPENS

Grand Opening of the new St. Vincent de Paul Center of Safford is at noon on April 15. The new location, 221 East Main, features a food distribution center downstairs and a thrift store upstairs. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a centuries-old organization that offers person-to-person services to those in need. It welcomes volunteers from all faiths and backgrounds and offers assistance to those in need, working tirelessly with other organizations to provide relief. In Safford, this includes a food pantry, rent and utility assistance, a cannery, and home visits in addition to the thrift store. For more information, contact Tammy Mayhew at (928) 428-0460 or (928) 651-1000.

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Chamber Calendar of Events April 2011

- 12** Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting-Tuesday-Noon
- 16** Gila Valley Community Foundation - Legacy Training
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Manor House Restaurant
- 21** Earth Day at EAC Discovery Park Campus - Thursday
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 21** Culpepper & Merriweather Circus-Thursday-Two Shows
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Bashas' Parking Lot in Thatcher



Are you planning a special event or sale at your business? Do you have a new menu? Have your business hours changed? The Chamber's newsletter "The Business Review" can help. Supply 500 copies, pay \$50.00, and we will include your flyer in the Chamber "Business Review". Please call to reserve your spot in the newsletter. Flyers are due in the Chamber on the 20th of each month. Be sure to contact the Chamber so that we can update any business information and keep it current in our Chamber database and website.

For more information or if you have questions please give us a call at (928) 428-2511 or email us at info@graham-chamber.com.

We're on the Web!

www.graham-chamber.com
www.visitgrahamcounty.com
www.salsatrail.com

*Graham County
 Chamber of Commerce
 1111 Thatcher Blvd.
 Safford, AZ 85546
 (928) 428-2511*

Life the way it ought to be.....

March		Year to Date Inquiries	
Phone	775	Phone	24,956
Walk-Ins	711	Walk-Ins	19,172
Mail	825	Mail	14,532
Web Hits	159,664	Web Hits	3,239,290
Web Sessions	11,781	Web Sessions	115,003
TOTAL	173,756	TOTAL	33,412,953

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