

BUSINESS REVIEW

"The mission of the Graham County Chamber of Commerce is to promote and develop the community and businesses of Graham County."

DR. SUZANNE MENGES KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Suzanne Menges

Dr. Suzanne Jenna Ferrin/Country Insurance, Ruth Menges was the Grant/Caldwell Funeral Chapel, Elizabeth speaker for the Holloway/Federal Correctional Institution, graduating Gila Erik Lehmann/Eastern Arizona College, Valley Leadership Eric Blair/Kainoa's Hawaiian Grill, Fer-Class VI . nanda Calienes/Safford High Student, Karl Graduation was Ellsworth/Valley Furniture, Marion Gauna/ndel Thursday, City of Safford, Kimberly Henderson/June 23rd at the Federal Correctional Institution, Lorrie In-

General Services Building in Safford.

This is the 6th year of the Gila Valley Leadership program. The program consist of classroom times and tours. For more information about the up-coming 2011-2012 class contact Laura at the Chamber office at (928) 428-2511 or email: laura@graham-chamber.com. Applications are available now on line at our website www.graham-chamber.com. The new class begins Thursday, September 15, 2011.

Graduates of the Gila Valley Leadership Class VI are: Sharon Allen/Eastern Arizona College, Julie Bryce/City of Safford,

nes/SpringHill Suites, Randall MacDonald/Pastor-New Testament Baptist Church, Katrina Pearson/Mount Graham Regional Medical Center, Duffy Schaefer/RSC Equipment Rental, Levi Trujillo/Trophies 'N Tees, Glenn Orr/Safford Police Department, Rebecca Santistevan/Arizona State Credit Union, Jonathon Stailey/Vining Funeral Home.



Gila Valley Leadership Class VI

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- 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.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

WHAT: Farrell Quinlan/Arizona Executive Director of the National Federation of Independent Business

WHERE: General Services Bldg. - 921 Thatcher Blvd., Safford

WHEN: Thursday, July 28th, 2011 - 6:00 p.m.

Topic: Does Arizona Need a Small Business Jobs Recovery Act? A discussion of the 2011 legislative session and what small business needs going forward to lead Arizona out of these challenging economic times. Bring your business cards, meet and greet.

MEMBER NEWS

WALGREENS - Stop by for a Saturday of beauty at *Walgreens-1995 W. Thatcher Blvd., Safford* - www.walgreens.com. Saturday, July 9th, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. - 8 p.m. Our Nice and Easy foam hair color and Pantene shampoo & conditioners will have coupons featuring these products. Nice and Easy foam hair color has \$1.00 off coupon and Pantene shampoo and conditioners have a 50 cent coupon, samples available on this day. Don't forget the 2nd Annual Back to School Supply Drive, Friday, July 22, 2011 at 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., free refreshments and popcorn. Enter phone number and email to win a backpack full of supplies, 1 boy and 1 girl will be chosen. All donations of supplies will be given to area schools in need.

BROWN BAG WITH THE MAYOR



Want to talk? Got a great idea for an agenda item?

Bring your lunch and come for casual conversation with the Mayor and others. Mark your calendar for the 4th Friday each month at noon, Safford City Annex, 808 8th Ave., Safford. Mayor Chris Gibbs would like to hear your views.

RIBBON CUTTING

The new Gila Valley Clinic, 1680 S. 20th Ave., Safford is now open. The ribbon cutting was held Monday, June 28th. The official Grand Opening will be Wednesday, July 20th, 2011 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Gila Valley Leadership Alumni gives monetary donation to the Our Neighbors Pantry food bank. The Class raised money selling baked goods at this past month's SEACUS BBQ.

DONATIONS WELCOMED!

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.

A-1 Autos Inc., Apache Gold Casino Resort, Big O Tires, Casa Manana, Central Dentistry, Copper Steer Steakhouse, Desert Skygazers Astronomy Club, Discovery Plus Academy, East Valley Stone & Masonary, H & S Pipe & Fence,



Images Salon & Day Spa, Kainoa's Hawaiian Grill, Kachina Mineral Springs, Millennium Medical Supply Inc., Pinaleno Foothills, Rhodes Construction, Smith and Taylor Automotive.

MGIO TOURS STILL WAITING FOR PERMIT

By Kimberly Termain



In 1988, authorization was given to build the Vatican telescope on top of Mt Graham. This resulted in the creation of Mt Graham International Observatory (MGIO). The University of Arizona, the Vatican and the Forest Service (Coronado National Forest) are joint operators of the MGIO. The MGIO is now operating on a temporary basis under administrative law as their 20-year permit expired two years ago. A new permit was applied for three years ago, a year prior to expiration to attempt to ensure for continued operations. However, the new operating permit has yet to be issued due to ongoing regulatory complications. The National Historic Preservation Act of 2003 requires that the operators consult with the Indian tribes that have ownership of the MGIO site. In addition, other laws such as the Environmental Species Act must be considered.

Over-regulation might be contributing to the delay of permit issuance. Recent telescope builds have been occurring internationally as gaining approval of builds within the United States has been difficult to achieve. The United States has also seen a decline in the manufacturing industry, resulting in the need for some parts to be purchased from other countries. For example, the 23 miles of 25,000 volts underground electrical line at MGIO required the purchase of shunt reactors that were manufactured overseas.

How does this affect our area? With the build of MGIO, international and local attention and visitation increased as the project is a world-renowned astronomy site. However, since no valid permit exists, the MGIO tour (operated by Eastern Arizona College Discovery Park's campus) has been suspended until such a time as permitting allows for continuance.

The suspension of this tour affects tourism as the public no longer has access to showcase a local area attraction and because the tour cannot be sold, it affects local revenue streams that benefit our community. The Graham County Chamber of Commerce is an organization devoted to maximizing area exposure through its tourism efforts and seeks to sustain and grow area business profitability. It is through the success of local business that our area is able to grow revenue streams. It is imperative to mention that revenue generation creates a cyclical effect that allows the area to continue current service levels and/or offer new services which is beneficial to residents.

On behalf of the Graham County Chamber of Commerce, I recently spoke to Mr. John Ratje, Supervisor of the MGIO, in regards to a recent effort by the joint operators to seek permit issuance. The Chamber is interested in advocating for permit issuance on behalf of the area since the suspension of the MGIO tour has the potential to impact local revenue. In addition, the Chamber wishes to encourage community activism for permit issuance as the MGIO does benefit the area.

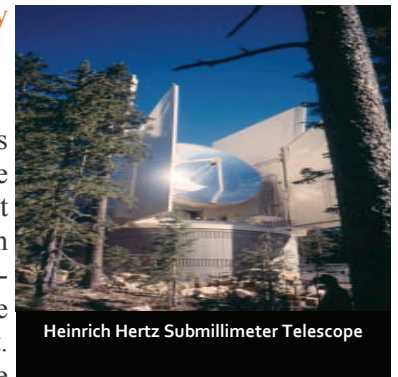
Mr. Ratje stated that he is "appreciative of the community spirit and the backing and support of the Chamber and its members". Mr. Ratje remains committed to seeking permit issuance and stated the University of Arizona is working with the joint operators to facilitate resolution. Mr. Ratje did state that at this time, no timeframe is in place for successful permit renewal. However, Mr. Ratje did provide an additional contact at the University of Arizona to follow-up with.

Stay tuned for next month's article for more information on how the public can get involved in support of this local area attraction. Included below is information on what these educational tours offer.

The Mount Graham International Observatory (MGIO) is operated by **Steward Observatory**, the research arm for the Department of Astronomy at **The University of Arizona**. The MGIO consists of three telescopes: the **Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope**, the **Heinrich Hertz Submillimeter (Radio) Telescope** of the Arizona Radio Observatory, and the **Large Binocular Telescope**, the world's most powerful telescope. The high-tech mirrors of the VATT and LBT were cast at the **Steward Observatory Mirror Lab**.

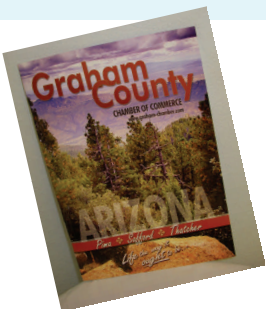
The Discovery Park Campus at the Eastern Arizona College is the official visitation agent for MGIO. Public education outreach visits feature a 40-mile trip to the MGIO site near the summit of scenic Mt. Graham and focus on the mountain's rich history, geology, and diversity of life.

<http://eac.edu/discoverypark/mgio.shtm>



Heinrich Hertz Submillimeter Telescope

CHAMBER DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!



The new directories are out, stop by the Chamber and pick up your supply of this new and exciting guide. The guide is filled with Chamber businesses, attractions, recreation, education, etc. Don't forget to stop and pick up your copies today in our Visitor Center or call ahead and we will have your supply ready for you.

BUSINESS REVIEW

Volume 7 Issue 7

Calendar - July 2011

- 1** Trophies 'N Tees "20" Years in Business
Ribbon Cutting-10:00 a.m.
- 2** Battle of the Bands - 12 Noon
Graham County Fairgrounds
Other activities start at 8:00 a.m. and run all day
- 4** Celebrate Independence Day
4th of July parade-10:00 a.m.
Safford - at Graham County Courthouse - Fireworks at Dark
Graham County Fairgrounds

Thatcher Parade - 6:00 a.m.
At Eastern Arizona College
- 12** Board Meeting
12 Noon-Chamber Board Room
- 12** Gila Valley Leadership
Alumni Annual Meeting
7:00 a.m. Springhill Suites
by Marriott, Thatcher

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.....

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 450 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 in-



formation 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.

June		Year to Date Inquiries	
Phone	875	Phone	27,571
Walk-Ins	990	Walk-Ins	22,147
Mail	1,349	Mail	18,059
Web Hits	138,376	Web Hits	3,757,475
Web Sessions	14,611	Web Sessions	168,719
TOTAL	156,201	TOTAL	3,993,971

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