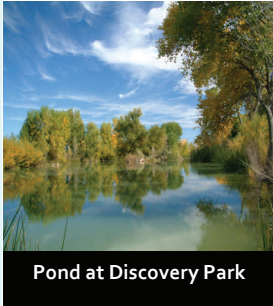


BUSINESS REVIEW

GRAHAM COUNTY HAS IT ALL!



Pond at Discovery Park

Already dreaming about your upcoming summer vacation? Then start thinking about all the places close to home in Graham County to explore! With elevations ranging from 2,400 feet to more

than 10,000, there is no shortage of scenery and activities to enjoy.

Want to fish? Opportunities range from catfish in the Gila River to trout in Riggs Lake high in the Pinalenos. Roper Lake State Park, Cluff Pond, San Carlos Lake, and Dankworth Pond are among other favorite fishing spots. And, of course, there's now a chance to catch an Apache trout at Frye Mesa Reservoir.

Up for a hiking challenge? Consider the 11-mile Safford-Morenci Trail crossing the Gila Mountains between Eagle Creek near Clifton and the Safford end near the upper end of Bonita Creek. Want something a bit cooler? The Coronado National Forest has dozens of trails on Mt. Graham, all of which are open for hiking while some are also open to bicycling and equestrian use. The steep terrain on some trails poses difficulty levels to test your fitness.

If driving is more your style, we have plenty of scenic drives to explore. Swift Trail winds its way up the Pinalenos, taking travelers on a journey equivalent to driving from Mexico to Canada, with an elevation gain for nearly 6,000 feet in less than two hours. The 35-mile road begins in cactus-studded lowlands, climbs through woodlands, and ends in spruce-fir forests...and much cooler temperatures!

A shorter drive can be enjoyed on the Black Hills Back Country Byway, which begins and ends along U.S. 191 between Safford and Clifton. Many interesting exhibits along the way tell the story of the "Riches from the Earth" - the many resources that public lands offer, including some that support livelihoods of area residents through ranching and mining.

Diverse vegetation coupled with abundant lakes and streams in Graham County make this

a top destination for birding. Our county checklist includes more than 300 species including common desert Gambel's quail and water-dependent species such as the less-common gray hawk. Peregrine falcons and bald eagles soar above cliffs in the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area.

Speaking of water, did you know that you can also enjoy a day at the beach in Graham County? Many miles of the Gila River offer chances for the kids to play in the water or to join in the fishing action. Those with rafts and kayaks can also explore the Gila Box while canoes and rowboats are welcome at Riggs and Roper lakes.



Experience Great Hiking

For history buffs, museums offer a chance to view a world-class pottery collection and Ice-Age fossils. Take the Graham County Walking/Driving Tour to explore some of the historical landmarks in our community. Those with four-wheel-drive vehicles or a willingness to hike can also visit ancient cliff dwellings and pioneer cabins.

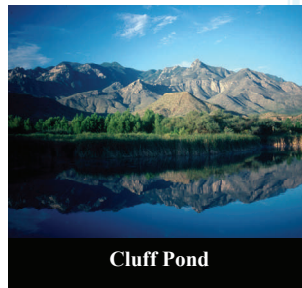
Eastern Arizona College houses the famous Mills Collection of Native American pottery and Discovery Park offers star parties and telescope use on some nights.

Or would you rather just relax? Kachina Hot Springs and Essence of Tranquility combine mineral springs with the opportunity for a therapeutic massage. Smaller hot tubs can also be found at Roper Lake State Park and the Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area.

At the end of the day, don't forget to enjoy one of the many restaurants along the Salsa Trail.

Stop by the Chamber office before starting your adventure. We have many information maps and brochures to enrich your experience.

Much more information is also available on our website at www.visitgrahamcounty.com



Cluff Pond

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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.

NEW MEMBER

BRANDING IRON STEAKHOUSE

Robin Cantrell

2344 N. Branding Iron Lane

Safford, AZ 85546

(928) 428-7427

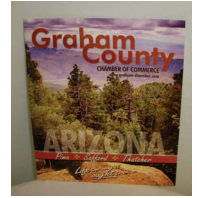
Restaurant



HOT OFF THE PRESS....

Our new Graham County Community Profile & Business Directory just arrived!! Stop by to pick up your copy. We are now working on our new "much needed" Graham County Street Map. For information on how you can advertise your business on the new map contact:

Alynn Lustig
 Village Profile Project Mgr.
 Chamber 428-2511
 Cell (480) 720-6999
 Email: alynn.vp@villageprofilemail.com



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.

Boulevard Glass LLC, EAC/SBDC, COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services, Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp., Gila Valley Arts Council, Hancock Home Center, Jones Outdoor Advertising, Larry Moeller/CPA, Medicap Pharmacy, Mount Graham Dental Associates, Newton Manufacturing/Jim Vedders, Oddfellows/Independent Order of, Pizza Hut, Pro Office Equipment, REPAC/WIA, Redington Land and Cattle Co., Rhodes Enterprises Heating & Cooling, Rural/Metro Southwest Ambulance, Safford Valley Cotton Growers, Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church, Steward Observatory/U of A, Super Wok Chinese Restaurant, Village Profile



MEMBER NEWS

Safford-Graham Library Friends - Meet 'N Greet Program, the public is invited to attend a free evening with published authors Heather Tregaskas and Diane Saunders on Wednesday, May 25th at 6:00 p.m. They will talk about their books and the writing process. Refreshments will be served, followed by a book signing. Join us for an entertaining evening. Library hours are: Monday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday. www.saffordcitylibrary.org

MARKETING WITH LOCAL RESOURCES: Safford Business and Professional Women is presenting a panel of local professionals who will talk about how they market their business using locally available services, as well as answer questions about marketing in the Gila Valley. Join us for lunch and this valuable panel discussion at noon, May 12th, at the Main Street Café. Call Barbara (428-1102 or 428-0915) for reservations.

TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) has new President, Joyce Flamm (928) 428-7786, second contact is Kelli (928) 965-2801. They are now holding their Thursday meeting at the Cancer Center Conference Room, 2115 W.16th Street, Safford.

Woman's Club has a new rental manager, Julie Cluff (928) 651-8822. Please give her a call if you are interested in renting the Woman's Club in Safford.

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RAY'S CATERING

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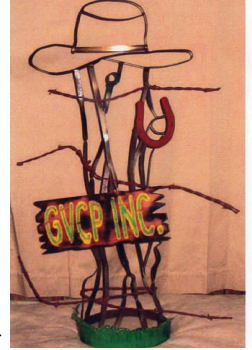
15% OFF CATERING SERVICE

Coupon Expires June 30, 2011



GILA VALLEY COWBOY POETS INC. INSTALL NEW OFFICERS & LOGO

The Gila Valley Cowboy Poets iron art logo was created by Arnold DeLaO, who has been associated with the Cowboy Poets for about 12 years doing the photography for the Spring Preview and the Fall Show. The design was from a drawing by Maggie Bryce, a local artist, who also is a past member of the Cowboy Poets. The drawing is used by the GVCP in correspondence, fliers and posters.



The dust has settled and the newly elected officers for the Gila Valley Cowboy Poets, Inc. are Bunny Dryden-President, Arnold DeLaO-Vice President, Julie Burrell-Secretary, Gale Boyd-Treasurer. “Skelly” Wayne Boyd continues to be an intricate part of this established group and remains as an Executive Board Member, heading the talent and entertainment category, along with Judy Johnson, newly appointed Executive Board Member, raffle category.



Officers left to right: Arnold DeLaO/Vice-President, Judy Johnson/Board Member, Bunny Dryden/President, Gale Boyd/Entertainer Coordinator, Skelly Boyd/Board Member

“Lasso Your Dream” is the theme for the 2011 18th Annual Gila Valley Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering event which will be held October 21, 22, & 23rd. The Friday night talent search program, a family friendly activity will once again light up the stage with local talent bringing their unique form of cowboy music, storytelling, poetry and song. This a free activity and will be held on the last Friday of May, June and July. Participation packets will be available at Graham County Chamber of Commerce and Pollock’s Western Outfitters. “Advanced-Advanced” \$5.00 October, Saturday night concert tickets will be available at each Friday night talent search program along with raffle tickets.

As an added opportunity to preview some of the wonderful raffle items and to get your “Advanced-Advanced” Concert Tickets for the Saturday Night live-concert at the Lee Little Theater on October 22nd, the GVCP, Inc. will have a booth at the Graham County Fair Grounds during the SEACUS Barbecue Cook-Off on May 28th. The “Advanced-Advanced” concert tickets will be \$5.00 each; a \$10.00 value and are available at this price during special activities only.

For more information contact Bunny Dryden (928) 428-6481.

Submitted by Bunny Dryden, President, Gila Valley Cowboy Poets

SHOES ARE A GOOD FIT FOR ORTEGAS

For Richard and Theresa Ortega the old saying, “if the shoe fits, wear it,” is appropo. They successfully owned and operated Ortega’s Shoes in Safford for 39 years as of April 24th.

“When we opened this store this (location) was considered the edge of town,” Theresa recalled. The store is located at 1944 W. Thatcher Blvd. “I think the Lord just pointed him (Richard) here.”

Theresa, who is from Flagstaff, met Richard, a Douglas native, when Richard was a student at Northern Arizona University. Richard’s dream was to own a shoe store. “I thought it was just fabulous that he had a dream, had a goal,” Theresa said. Richard is the third generation of shoe store owners in his family. The Ortega family has sold and repaired shoes in southern Arizona since 1923. Richard and Theresa were living in California when his father became ill, so they returned to Arizona. Richard soon began exploring areas for his own store and thought Safford was the right place. Theresa said owning a shoe store is an every-changing venture. Owners must keep a product mix that customers want.

“You always have to be changing, always moving,” she said. Theresa believes a stand-alone shoe store like Ortega’s has a place in the footwear marketplace just as big box stores have their place. It is up to customers to determine what stores fit their needs best.

Ortega’s carries many popular styles and brands, including Skechers, Dockers, Nike, new Balance and K Swiss. There are shoes and boots for children and adults. The store also stocks athletic clothing for men and casual clothes for girls and women. The store also stocks wide-width shoes for women and men. Theresa said she and Richard were trained in fitting shoes. “I give a lot of credit to my father-in-law. He taught me a lot. So did my husband,” Theresa said. Making sure shoes fit properly is important. When one’s feet hurt it often affects the whole body. For more information about Ortega’s, call (928) 428-0636.



Theresa Ortega showing off shoes

Submitted by Diane Saunders, The Word Nanny

BUSINESS REVIEW

Volume 5 Issue 5

Chamber Calendar of Events May 2011

10 Chamber Board Meeting

Noon-Board Room

10 Pima Town Hall

Ribbon Cutting - 12:00 Noon

10 Thatcher - Ribbon Cutting

Wastewater Treatment Plant-5:00 p.m.

19 Gila Valley Leadership

Mt. Graham Regional Medical Center

"Health & Human Services" -8:00 a.m.



MEMBERSHIP TILES ARE IN!

If you have ordered your membership tiles they are in and ready for pick up.

Trilogy Price \$25.00

Single Tiles \$10.00

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.....



SAFFORD - Thursday - May 26th

PIMA - Wednesday - May 25th

THATCHER - Friday - May 20th

FT. THOMAS - Thursday - May 26th

EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE - Friday - May 13th

GRADUATION TIME IS HERE !

April		Year to Date Inquiries	
Phone	811	Phone	25,767
Walk-Ins	900	Walk-Ins	20,072
Mail	928	Mail	15,460
Web Hits	119,698	Web Hits	3,478,686
Web Sessions	12,555	Web Sessions	140,113
TOTAL	134,892	TOTAL	3,680,098

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