



Western Outdoor Times

Arizona Boating & Watersports™



July 2015

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BOATING | CAMPING | FISHING | HUNTING | RVING | WATERSPORTS | WILDLIFE

SOME
COOL IDEAS FOR A

Southwest Summer

Boating

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Wildlife**

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PHOTO BY
MARGIE ANDERSON



Some Cool, Safe Ideas For A Hot Summer

BE WATER-SAFE

It's Summer Swim Time

Swimming classes are available for all ages from infants to older adults.

It's summer in the Southwest, and there's no stronger call than that of water for all of us to cool off. Whether boating, fishing, water skiing, wake boarding, swimming, or participating in any activity on or near the water, being able to swim is vitally important. Enter swim lessons.

As we all know, swimming lessons constitute the process of learning to swim. In most countries there is a definition of a number of swimming levels that is reached in the process of the curriculum. The respective certificates of swimming tests are required for further training in aquatic activities.

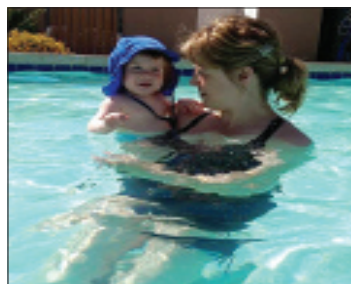
Many countries have defined a minimum swimming level that children should reach by the end of primary education, in most cases with the help of school swimming

classes' being part of the normal curriculum.

Children are often given swimming lessons, which serve to develop swimming technique and confidence. Children were traditionally viewed not to be able to swim independently until 4 years of age, but infant swimming lessons are now recommended to prevent drowning.

Recommendations From CDC, AAP

The Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) recommend swimming lessons for children from 1-4, along with other precautionary measures to prevent drowning. In 2010, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) reversed its previous position in which it had disapproved of lessons before



D.J.P.

NEVER TOO EARLY — This mother and her 10-month-old son have begun together the vital preparation for water safety. In 2010, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) reversed its previous position in which it had disapproved of lessons before age 4, indicating that the evidence no longer supported an advisory against early swimming lessons and instead, endorsed infant swim lessons. Swimming lessons reduce the risk of drowning by 88 percent for babies and children up to 4 years old.

age 4, indicating that the evidence no longer supported an advisory against early swimming lessons.

There is an essential difference between the new infant swimming lessons and the traditional parent-child, water-play sessions. Infant swimming lessons, sometimes called infant swim recovery, teach infants and toddlers how to recover from an accidental fall into a body of water. Unlike traditional parent/toddler classes, which encourage the

child's face in the water through blowing bubbles, infant swimming lessons instill in the child the skills to regain buoyancy from a submerged state and to tilt the head back, getting it out of the water to take breaths and call for help.

Swimming lessons reduce the risk of drowning by 88 percent for babies and children up to 4 years old.

See **SWIM**, Page 12

BEAT THE HEAT

Visit The Cool Places In Our State

Here are some picks of the top ten fun things to do during the summer

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

The wonderful thing about living in Arizona is that we have such a range of altitudes and ecosystems. When it's too cold up north, we can mess around in the desert, and when the desert is broiling, we can either keep cool at one of the desert reservoirs or head up to higher altitudes and enjoy cooler weather.

We enjoyed an unseasonably cool and wonderful May, but now that June and July are here, the summer weather has fully set in. So here are my picks of the top ten ways to enjoy the summer outdoors in Arizona, (not necessarily in order).



Slide Rock State Park

▲ Slide Rock/Oak Creek Canyon

Both of these are in the Sedona area and both are very popular summer spots. Water is

the key. There are also a lot of great hikes in the Sedona area. Some are very hot unless you go first thing in the morning, but some are mostly shady and also lead you to water, such as the West Fork of Oak Creek Trail. The red rocks and spectacular formations in the Sedona area are world famous, and there are plenty of restaurants and shops if you'd rather do that. There are many nice campgrounds in the Sedona area as well. There are fees for parking in this popular area, so before you go, make sure you check online for advice on where to park, how much it costs, and best times to visit.



Riggs Flat Lake

▲ The Pinaleno Mountains

This may be the most fantastic mountain escape you never heard of. It's one of Arizona's many mountain island areas and it's absolutely gorgeous. The Pinalenos are just outside Safford. Take the road up to Riggs

Flat Lake and you'll pass lots of great loop hikes and places to pull off and picnic. Riggs Flat Lake is a beautiful blue jewel at the top of the mountains and you can fish or picnic or hike in the cool forest.



Lynx Lake

▲ Prescott

There are a host of outdoor opportunities in the Prescott area, from four-wheeling the Mingus Mountains to swimming, fishing, and hiking. Two of my favorite places to hike in Prescott are Lynx Lake and Watson Lake. Lynx Lake in particular is great for kids. The trail that circles the lake is flat and mostly smooth — in fact, the first part of it is stroller friendly. Also, this trail has lots of shade and you can see the lake the whole time. Watson Lake has fewer trees and therefore less shade,

See **COOL PLACES**, Page 12

ON THE COVER

Watson's Remarkable Boulders

In her article that features ten places to "Beat the Heat" during an Arizona summer, Margie Anderson notes that one of her favorites is Prescott and nearby Watson Lake. She says that although this lake has fewer trees — and therefore less shade — than the area's Lynx Lake, the boulders are spectacular. If only just to see them, Anderson recommends a trip to Watson Lake. Also, readers may want to add to their summer enjoyment by four-wheeling the Mingus Mountains or fishing, hiking, swimming — all in an area with relatively cooler temperatures.

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Tackle & Target

Anyone Can Shoot Correctly

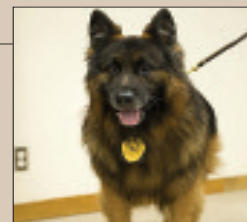
John Anderson discusses the proper ways to stand, hold the firearm, and more for accurate shooting/Page 8



Good Company

Ceremony Honors Chief Bert's Service

U.S. Coast Guard bomb-sniffing dog Chief Bert retires after six years of service/Page 19





We join many others in thanking Chief Mike Berger who has led the Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology (CAVIT) fire-science program for many years and will be retiring this month. Chief Berger has trained and inspired many young men and women, including our granddaughter Capt. Kelsey Haws, to pursue some of the most valuable and honored careers as first responders.

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DOWNSTREAM Events Calendar Beginning July 2015

COMMUNITY AND SEASONAL

WILLIAMS: Hometown 4th of July Parade: July 4 – an “All American Holiday” with one of the biggest parades in Northern Arizona at 6 pm, <http://www.ExperienceWilliams.com>

WINSLOW: July 4 – Winslow Fireworks Display: 8-10 pm, 928-289-2434 or <http://www.winslowarizona.org>

PRESCOTT: July 4 – City of Prescott 4th of July Extravaganza - Pioneer Park, craft tents for kids, contests, carnival games and rides, water slide, bungee jumping, zip-lining, live music, food, free, carnival wrist band \$15, noon – 10 pm, 928-777-1349 or <http://www.visit-prescott.com>

SCOTTSDALE: July 4 – 4th of July at WestWorld - a cool family-friendly wonderland inside air-conditioned Tony Nelsen Equestrian Center's North Hall, 10 inflatables; laser tag arena; rock-climbing wall; archery; football throws; basketball shootout games; a video it's playtime in a Sesame Street Jump House and a Lego-themed car-build and racetrack, doors open to traditional fireworks at night, 866-977-6849 or <http://www.WestWorldAZ.com>

SEDONA: July 4 – July 4th Laser Light Show and Concert – Sedona Red Rock High School, have a picnic on the cool grass and listen to an upbeat live concert and water games, field opens at 10 am, bring a blanket or chair, food available or bring your own, a 15 minute patriotic themed laser light show will begin at the bottom of each hour in the Performing Arts Center, (10:30, 11:30 am, 12:30, 1:30 pm), free, 10 am – 2 pm, <http://www.SedonaAZ.gov/Park>

SHOW LOW: July 4 – Arizona Freedom Fest – parade at 9 am along the Deuce of Clubs, kids games & activities, concert food, and fireworks, 3 pm, 928-532-4140 or <http://www.showlowaz.gov/recreation>

TEMPE: July 4 – July 4th Tempe Town Lake Festival - Fireworks Spectacular, concert event stage, live music, inflatable kid's Ride village, vendors, water fun and games for the family, \$5-8, 4-11 pm, 480-350-5189 or <http://www.tempe4th.com>

TOMBSTONE: July 4 – Family Style 4th of July – Medigovich Field, softball tournament, street entertainment, games, food, city fireworks at dusk, free, 8:30 am, 520-457-3106 or <http://www.tombstoneweb.com/>

TUCSON: July 4 – 7th Annual Fourth of July 5K Freedom Run/Walk – Golf Links Sports Complex Ramada #3, benefits the That Others May Live Foundation, a free T-shirt is guaranteed if received by 6/24/15, upgrade to tech t-shirt for \$15, every year we have a landmark of Tucson featured on the R-shirt, 5:30 am day of race registration, <http://taggrun.com/fourth-of-july-5k-free-don-runwalk-2/>

PHOENIX: July 4 – 30th Annual Freedom Wireless Fabulous Phoenix Fourth - Steele Indian School Park, three stages of entertainment, Kids World area, classic car exhibit, refreshment vendors, free, 6-9:30



4th of July

In the Sedona area (Sedona, Verde Valley, Clarkdale), it's well known that the historic small town of Clarkdale is the best place to celebrate Independence Day. On Saturday, July 4, families will enjoy the town's old-fashioned morning parade and the day's festivities, including a ride on the Verde Canyon Railroad's *Firecracker Express* in the afternoon.

pm, 602-262-6862 or <http://www.phoenix.gov>

PAGE: July 4 – Fourth of July – a parade at 11 am and activities in the park following, an Antique Tractor Pull behind the Big Water Trading Post (corner of Coppermine Rd. & Hwy 98) all day, then fireworks over the lake, free, 11 am – 8 pm, <http://www.visitpagelakepowell.com/>

LAKE HAVASU CITY: July 4 – Fireworks Over the Lake: 4th of July Fireworks – Thompson Bay/surrounding beaches and parks, as the sun goes down, watch the sky light up over Thompson Bay with fellow boaters, beach-goers and tailgaters, get to the viewing location early to celebrate the magic and wonder of the Fourth of July fireworks spectacular, fireworks begin a half hour after sundown, live simulcast on KNTR 980AM, free, 928-453-3444 or <http://golakehavasucity.com/events/details/1758>

MESA: July 4 – Arizona Celebration of Freedom – Downtown Mesa, entertainment, classic cars, motorcycles, beer gardens, art, music, patriotic displays and education games, family fun, “cool zones,” a venue for political candidates to share their views, fireworks on Saturday, free, 6-10:30 pm, <http://www.azcelebrationoffreedom.org>

CHANDLER: July 4 – Chandler's 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular - Tumbleweed Park, park opens at 7 pm, food, fireworks at 9 pm, free, \$5 per vehicle for on-site parking, 480-236-9123 or <http://www.chandleraz.gov>

FLAGSTAFF: July 4 – 19th Annual 4th of July Parade - Historic Downtown, old-fashioned community parade, 100 entries include vintage vehicles, dancing, music, animals, floats, free, 9 am, 928-774-4505 or 800-842-7293 or <http://www.flagstaffchamber.com>

HEBER-OVERGAARD: July 3-5 – Independence Day Celebration – parade at 11 am on Saturday, Festival in the Park at Tall Timbers Navajo County Park, with arts & crafts, food, entertainment, games, fireworks at Mogollon High School, 928-535-5777 or <http://www.heberovergaard.org>

SCOTTSDALE: July 3-4 – Independence Day Music Festival – Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Alt River Fields at Talking Stick featuring Wilco with Dr. Dog and Little Big Town with Brandy Clark and the largest fireworks show in the valley, 480-270-5000 or <http://www.saltriverfields.com>

PAYSON: July 3-4 – Independence Day Celebration - Green Valley Park, 8 am patriotic ceremony, 1-4 pm, kid games, 7 pm, live music, 9 pm, fireworks, <http://www.paysonrimcountry.com>

MORE EVENTS LISTED AT <http://www.visitarizona.com/press-room/for-media-calendar-of-events>

HUNTING/SHOOTING/ARCHERY

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY: Sept. 26.

CALENDAR OF OUTDOOR EVENTS: Ongoing – www.azgfd.gov/OutdoorSkills Google calendar.

WATERSPORTS

Adapted:
BARROW'S DAY(S) ON THE LAKE: Sept. 11-12 – At Bartlett Lake

Diving:
SAGUARO DIVING & SPORTS: Ongoing – Learn to Scuba Dive, Open Water Certification Dives, Private Class & Pool, Private Lake Open Water Certification Dives, San Carlos, Mexico; Lake Pleasant, and more; Saguaro can plan your diving vacation for small groups or just one person. How about Grand Cayman, Curacao, Cozumel, Belize, Roatan, Bonaire, Turks & Caicos Contact Saguaro Diving & Sports, 908 E. Impala Ave., Mesa, AZ 85204; (480) 507-3988 or sales@saguarosports.com

Swimming:
LITCHFIELD PARK: July 4 – 4th of July Splash Bash – Litchfield Park Rec Center, **water games** and kids' activities; DJ; **pool safety info**; and snack bar, \$2, 10 am – 5 pm, 623-935-9040 or <http://www.litchfield-park.org>

TEMPE: July 18 – 5th Annual Splash Mob 5K Fun Run & Walk – Big Surf, benefit Children First Academy, during the run/walk, volunteers and children from the school will line the event course and keep the participants cool by using Super Soakers and water balloons to **splash** the participants, \$35, 7 am, <http://www.splashmob5k.com>

FLAGSTAFF: July 12 – 31st Annual Mountain Man Triathlon - Lake Mary, Sprint: **swim** 700 meters, bike 10.6 miles, run 3.1 miles; Olympic: **swim** 1500 meters, bike 24.9 miles, run 6.2 miles, spectators free, 6:30 am, 928-526-8761 or <http://www.mountainmanevents.com>

SCOTTSDALE: July 5 – 7th Annual Tri-Family Racing JCC Scottsdale Firecracker Adult & Youth & Triathlon - for all ages and abilities, Adult Mini Triathlon: 250 yd **swim**, 9.5 mi bike, 2 mi run; Adult Maxi Triathlon: 500 yd **swim**, 12.6 mi bike, 2 mi run; Adult Maxi Duathlon: 2mi run, 9.5 mi bike, 3 mi Run; Youth Triathlon: 100 yd. **swim**, 3.1 mi bike; 1/2 mi run; adult two or three person tri-relay, 7:30 am, 928-636-9780 or <http://www.trifamilyracing.com>

WILDLIFE/ANIMAL-RELATED

SIERRA VISTA: Aug. 2-30 – Bird Walks - Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park, also known as the waste water treatment plant, walks are about 2 hours and led by docents from Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory (SABO), Huachuca Audubon Society (HAS), and the Friends of the San Pedro River (FSPR), free, donations accepted, dress for the weather, bring water, trail shoes, hat and sun screen, Sundays, 7 am, 520-459-2555 or <http://sanpedroriver.org>

SIERRA VISTA: Aug. 1-29 – San Pedro River Bird Walks - San Pedro House, for birders of all levels, sponsored by the Friends of the San Pedro River, free, donations accepted, dress for the weather, bring water, trail shoes, hat and sun screen, Saturdays, 7 am, 520-459-2555 or <http://sanpedroriver.org>

SEDONA: July 31-Aug.2 – Sedona Hummingbird Festival – Sedona Performing Arts Center, presentations by hummingbird experts in many interest areas: science, gardening, photography, conservation and regional species studies, and tours, \$17 for 1-day presentations pass; 3-day presentations pass \$45; children under 12 free with a paying adult, 800-529-3699 or <http://www.sedonahummingbirdfestival.com/>

SIERRA VISTA: July 29-Aug. 1 – 24th Annual Southwest Wings Birding & Nature Festival – Cochise College, guided tours, field trips, seminars, vendors, displays, lectures, bat stalks, owl prowls, displays, arts & crafts, Joel Greenberg is the keynote speaker, <http://www.swwings.org>

PRESCOTT: Aug. 1 – Zoo by Moonlight – Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary, bring a flashlight and see the nocturnal residents, \$5, 8-9:30 pm, 928-778-4242 ext. 16 or <http://www.heritageparkzoo.org>

Editor's Note: Please submit announcements for AZBW/WOT's calendar of events – "Downstream" – to editor@azbw.com. To guarantee placement, as room allows, items must be received by the twentieth (20th) of the month prior to publication. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy, but we assume no responsibility for print errors or omissions. We also reserve the right to edit each item. Please include the name of the event, the date and time, the location, the organization, and contact information.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Update your boating safety knowledge

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is very toxic in small quantities. It is produced when a carbon-based fuel, such as gasoline or diesel, is burnt.

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

One or more of the following symptoms may signal the adverse effects of carbon monoxide accumulations:

- ◆ Throbbing temples
- ◆ Inattentiveness or lack of concentration
- ◆ Inability to think coherently
- ◆ Ringing in the ears
- ◆ Tightness across the chest
- ◆ Headache, drowsiness, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, vomiting, collapse, and convulsions

Treatment of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Evacuate, Ventilate, Investigate, and Seek Medical Help.

Teak surfing, platform dragging, and water-skiing within 20 feet of a moving water craft can be fatal.



- ◆ Stay away from the exhaust ports – carbon monoxide builds up in areas near exhaust vents.
- ◆ DO NOT swim in areas where carbon monoxide may accumulate, such as the cavity between the swim platform and the stern of the boat.

Our waterways are ready, but are YOU? Brush up on your boating skills by taking one of the many Boating Safety Education classes.

June 2015

Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
U.S. Power Squadron	June 27 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Sportsman's Warehouse 19205 N. 27th Ave. Phoenix	\$25	(623) 465-2647

July 2015

Host	Date and Time	Location	Cost	Registration
Arizona Game & Fish Department	July 11 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Ariaona Paddle Sports Education Biscuit Tank at Ben Avery Shooting Facility 4044 W Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	July 18 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Arizona Game & Fish Headquarters 5000 Carefree Hwy Phoenix	\$0	(623) 236-7219
Arizona Game & Fish Department	July 18 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apex Arms Facility 2176 McCulloch Blvd. Suite 8 Lake Havasu City	\$0	(623) 236-7219

Clean, Drain and Dry your boat. It's the Law.



Renew Your Watercraft Registration Online!

The Game and Fish online watercraft registration system allows you to renew your registration and have immediate use of your watercraft. Visit: <https://az.gov/app/watercraft>. (A \$2.50 online service fee applies). You can also renew your registration by mail or in person at any Game and Fish office.

Know the Rules: Learn to identify "Navi-Aids"

Arizona law enforcement agencies write many citations for "failure to obey navigation laws." You can help ensure the safety of all on the water by learning to identify these common navigational aids.

Non-Lateral Markers



Information

Squares indicate where to find food, supplies, repairs, etc. and give directions and other information.



Controlled

Circles indicate a controlled area such as speed limit, no fishing or anchoring, ski only or no skiing, or "slow, no wake."



Exclusion

Crossed diamonds indicate areas off-limits to all vessels such as swimming areas, dams, and spillways.



Danger

Diamonds warn of dangers such as rocks, shoals, construction, dams, or stumps. Always proceed with caution.

Other Non-Lateral Markers

Safe Water Markers are white with red vertical stripes and mark mid-channels or fairways. They may be passed on either side.



Inland Water Obstruction Markers are white with black vertical stripes and indicate an obstruction to navigation. You should not pass between these buoys and nearest shore.

Mooring Buoy

Mooring Buoys are round and white with a blue horizontal band and are found in marinas and other areas where vessels are allowed to anchor.

Note, the following actions are illegal:

- ◆ Willfully damaging, removing, interfering with, or tying up to a navigation buoy not intended for mooring
- ◆ Mooring, anchoring, or fastening to shore for more than 14 consecutive days any vessel on public waters.

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Boating

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

HOT! HOT! HOT! Yes, And Boating Season Is Here



BY CAPT. DAVE ESPARZA

Well, summer is finally here, we have temperatures well above 100 degrees on a daily basis. It is time to head to the lakes and rivers in the great

State of Arizona.

Oh, But First —

- Do you have the drain plug?
- Where is the registration?
- Is the tank full of gas?
- Have you checked the oil?
- When is the last time you started the boat?
- Is the battery charged?
- Will the boat perform all day at the

lake or will you run into problems?

And, There Are New Laws On The Books —

- Who is holding the ski flag; they must be at least 12 years of age and competent enough to understand and hold the flag up in the appropriate manner.

- And, what's this bug thing? Not bugs, but definitely pests, are the Quagga Mussels, an invasive species, and the new law states, "Clean, Drain and Dry."

- Pull your drain plug at the lake. Don't travel with your drain plug in; pull it at the lake and leave it out. Your drain plug should never be in unless you are on the water.

This all seems like a lot to a reasonable person and yes, it is. When you own a boat, when you drive a boat, you have one simple

task and that is to be responsible. Everyone in your boat and everyone you encounter on the lake — you are responsible for their safety and well being. We all want to go to the water and have a nice day or weekend with our family and friends but without being responsible, things can go wrong.

Stressors Are 'Intoxicants'

The other new statistics out emphasize stressors on the water. The sun, the heat, the noise of the engine, moving across the water — these are all things that unconsciously cause stressors to affect your judgment and skill level. These have an effect that is almost like being intoxicated, and we all know that drinking and boating don't mix.

You get intoxicated three times faster on

the water than you do on land, three to one. This is a proven fact. Now think about this for a minute. You are on the water for eight hours and you take a six pack of your favorite beverage. During that eight hours you have just consumed 18 cans of alcohol. You are now legally impaired.

"Oh, don't worry about that; I don't drink." But, beware: You take a twelve-pack of your favorite soda, but do you know that the soda causes dehydration in these warm months? Once you start to dehydrate, now the stress factors kick in.

Inability not to think quickly, inattention, fatigue, poor judgment and you won't even know these things are happening until it is too late. These are all things to think about being a responsible boater.

The Right And Safe Things

It is very simple: Let's put some thought into these things that I have mentioned before we go to the lake. Talk to your family and friends, plan on having a safe day on the lake, not a tragic one. Let's get our friends and family into a boating class so they understand how these things affect us, become current on the laws, learn and understand that there is a difference between going to Saguaro Lake or going to Lake Havasu.

The difference is one is a state waterway; one is a federal waterway, both with a completely different set of regulations that you must know with which you must comply.

One of the things that we say in boating as professionals is "KNOW BEFORE YOU GO" — know your boat, your regulations and the waters that you are boating in and also know that what you are doing is the right thing and the safe thing.

Hope to see you in class or on the water; if you have any questions, visit Captain Dave at West Marine on Southern and McClintock in Tempe.

USCG Releases Boat-Safety App

The Coast Guard has released its first boating safety app. However, the Boating Safety Mobile app was not designed to replace a boater's marine VHF radio, which the Coast Guard strongly recommends all boaters have aboard their vessels. The app was mainly designed to provide additional boating-safety resources for mobile-device users.

The app will be available on the Apple and Google Play online stores.

Features of the app include state boating information, a safety equipment checklist, free boating safety-check requests, navigation rules, float plans, and calling features to report pollution or suspicious activity.

When location services are enabled, users can receive the latest weather reports from the closest National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather buoys as well as report the location of a hazard on the water.

The app also features an Emergency Assistance button which, with locations services enabled, will call the closest Coast Guard command center.

The app is self-contained, so personal information is stored on the phone and is not sent to the Coast Guard unless the user chooses to send it. The Coast Guard does not track a user's location, and the app does not track a user's location unless the app is being used.

The app was developed over a two-year period with BastayaPR, a non-profit organization in Puerto Rico.

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Top 10 Things 'Coasties' Wish People Knew About Coast Guard Life

BY SHELLEY KIMBALL

Twice a month, *Coast Guard All Hands* [features] "From the Homefront," a column for Coast Guard spouses by Coast Guard spouse Shelley Kimball. Shelley has been married to Capt. Joe Kimball, commanding officer of Air Station Miami, for nearly 13 years and currently serves as chapter director for Blue Star Families in Miami, Fla.

I spend a lot of time explaining Coast Guard life to other people — not just here, but everywhere: to my neighbors, at the gym, at the grocery store, at kids' birthday parties.

I know I am not alone. Every Coastie I know has a set list of responses for the questions we get. We love that people want to understand us. So, ... I crowd-sourced the question and asked people to tell me what they wish people knew about Coast Guard life. I sent out a survey over social media, and asked everyone to weigh in to come up with the following top-10 list.

1. The Coast Guard is a part of the military. If there were one most frequently asked question, this is it. Let me explain definitively that, yes, the Coast Guard is part of the United States Armed Forces, according to Title 10, Section 101 of the U.S. Code.

The confusion may arise because the Coast Guard is housed under the Department of Homeland Security, but it is still

one of the armed forces. I can't agree more with the participant who said, "That the Coast Guard is part of the military, facing the same issues as other services. I have met many people who think Coast Guard members work one weekend a month and are sometimes called up during emergencies. I wish they knew that we are active duty every day, with families who face long deployments, frequent moves, dangerous situations, and other struggles."

2. The Coast Guard does more than search and rescue. Yes, we are incredibly proud of the 20, 510 search and rescue missions in 2012, and the 3, 800 lives saved. But we also want everyone to recognize the thousands and thousands of maritime inspections and boardings Coasties conducted to keep our waters safe.

And, add to that the drug interdictions — more than 166,000 pounds of cocaine were removed in 2012. Just recently the Coast Guard in Miami seized what may be an historic amount of cocaine — \$37 million worth.

3. We do so much with so few. There are about 43,000 active duty members in the Coast Guard. One participant said, "The USCG is a very selective branch and just because we're small doesn't mean we aren't powerful!" And that's true.

Go back to those boarding and drug interdiction figures and remember that the Coast Guard has only about 8,500 more



COMBINED COLOR — The Joint Service Color Guard performs at a welcoming ceremony for Afghan President Hamid Karzai at the Pentagon, Jan. 10, 2014. The combined unit, which performs routinely for national and international leaders, includes three Army soldiers, two Marines and one service member each from the Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard.

people than the New York City Police Department.

4. Coasties are on duty every single day. The Coast Guard is active duty, not a reserve unit. (We do have separate reserve and auxiliary units.) I often tell people that when your family would batten down the hatches in the face of an emergency, that is when our Coast Guard members are heading to work. The Coast Guard is on duty 24/7, and it has been since 1790.

5. The Coast Guard deploys. Last year, members of the Coast Guard deployed to Iraq to protect the maritime oil infrastructure, but also to train the Iraqi naval service. The Coast Guard has also provided security and support to Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard Pa-

trol Forces Southwest Asia deploy for a year at a time to the Middle East. In wartime, the Coast Guard can also be called to augment the Navy. Stateside, Coasties deploy every day in their duties — there are cutters out for months at a time.

6. We PCS, and no, we can't always pick where we go. We do get wish lists and dream sheets, but that doesn't mean we always get our top choices, just like every other military service branch. We generally move every two to four years.

7. Not all military support programs include the Coast Guard. Remember how I explained that we are part of the Department of Homeland Security? Well, some of the family support programs are

See **COAST GUARD LIFE**, Page 6



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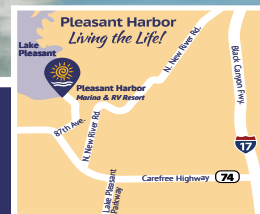
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AZGFD Offers Tips For Boating Safely, Responsibly

Time on Arizona's many lakes can be fun for the entire family, but great memories can only be made if that fun is done safely and responsibly.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department reminds boaters and water enthusiasts to constantly be mindful of their surroundings and possible dangers while on the water.

"Time spent on our lakes and waterways should be a fun time for everyone," said Josh Hoffman, AZGFD Boat Safety Education coordinator. "Whether you're on a boat or in the water, everyone must remain vigilant to ensure time on the water is safe for all."

The reminder comes after a 25-year-old man was struck by a boat propeller at Lake Pleasant north of Phoenix in late June. The man suffered serious wounds and was airlifted to a local hospital, according to authorities.

To ensure the safety of those in and on the water, boat operators should turn the



boat's engine off while not in motion. The vessel's propeller can still be spinning while the boat is in neutral or idling in the water. Boaters should also keep the following tips in mind:

- State law requires all passengers 12 years old and younger to wear a life jacket while onboard and that the vessel must have one life jacket for each passenger.
- Anyone being towed by a boat or on a personal watercraft such as a jet ski must wear a life jacket.

- Before starting the boat's engine, walk to the stern to make sure no one is near the propeller.

- Never allow passengers to board or exit while the engine(s) are running.

- Educate passengers on the location and danger of the propellers.

- Take extra precautions around other boats towing skiers and/or tubers.

- Never reverse a boat to pick someone up of the water.

"Our thoughts go out to the person that was injured on Sunday, but people should remember that many accidents that occur on the water are avoidable. Simply being aware of your surroundings and how to properly operate your boat or personal watercraft is critical to making sure everyone has a great time," Hoffman said.

It's also recommended that all boat operators and passengers complete a boating safety course. For a list of courses hosted around the state, please visit www.azgfd.gov/boating.

COAST GUARD LIFE

Continued from page 5

only for the branches under the Department of Defense, so we get left out of those. (It's a budget issue, not a preferential one.)

8. We rely on, and we appreciate community programs that support the Coast Guard. So, because of #7, the programs that include the Coast Guard are really important to us. Our bases are also smaller, and therefore we don't necessarily have commissaries and exchanges as do other services. As one participant said, "For communities to have programs in place for military members and their dependents, it's really needed and appreciated."

9. We are not all on the coast — some of us are inland. For example, the Eighth Coast Guard District runs from the ports of New Orleans and Houston north through 26 states in the heartland. This district protects 10,300 miles of inland waterways.

10. We take great pride in Coast Guard service. We are a close-knit military service, and we are proud of the sacrifices our families make to help keep the Coast Guard strong.

I love how one Coastie summed it up: "That most of us are just normal people who are just happy being married to our Coastie. Even if it isn't always the most glamorous or accommodating lifestyle, when the day ends, we just want to be home with our spouse and our families."

And another, who said, "I wish people knew how often we move, how little control we have over transfers, how often they are at sea, how isolated we can be from military-support services, and how service impacts our children. Also, how proud we are and the great work done by Coasties."

The more people learn about us, the more they will embrace and understand us.

The views expressed herein are those of the author and are not to be construed as official or reflecting the views of the Commandant or of the U.S. Coast Guard.

See more at: <http://allhands.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2014/02/05/from-the-homefront-top-10-things-we-wish-people-knew-about-coast-guard-life/#sthash.NgLFQnX8.dpuf>

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted with permission — and with our gratitude — from "The Official Blog for the Coast Guard Workforce"

NEW 'ROCK THE BOAT' SPONSOR

Infinity Fabrics Gets New Look, Plans Big Future

Infinity Fabrics, a leader in woven vinyl surfaces, is preparing for growth by updating its logo, brand look and Web site to align with the future of the company.

After spending several years refining their Luxury Woven Vinyl® product, the company has gained traction in the marine industry, with the product being used as flooring and wall coverings.

With its patented backing system, Infinity Fabrics has completely redefined marine flooring. The durable, UV and stain resistant surface stays cool and clean, is soft underfoot, and doesn't mold or mildew like traditional recreational flooring.



The company has seen demand increase significantly over the last few years, and Couch is ramping up production. "The flooring is assisting sales on new models while boosting resale value on refurbished models. It's a win for the bottom line and a win for the boat enthusiast who deserves one less thing to worry about," he explains.

To take full advantage of their momentum, and to further serve their customers, the company will release a new line of up-

holstery, and a line of bimini tops in the coming months.

Along with increased production, and a bevy of new products, comes a new look for the company. They will be introducing a new logo, and updating all of their materials with a brand look that better aligns with the future of the company. The new logo was designed to reflect the premium nature of the product, and the elegant recreational lifestyle sought by boat enthusiasts.

Since 2007, Infinity Fabrics, a manufacturer of Luxury Woven Vinyl® has offered designers and buyers stylish flooring with proven performance in the most demanding environments. Products are designed and constructed with a patented manufacturing process that features a unique, heavy-traffic rated backing system that is ideal for indoor and outdoor use. And, Environmental sustainability is critically important to Infinity Fabrics.

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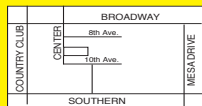
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BY WAYNE GUSTAVESON
HTTP://WWW.WAYNESWORDS.COM

Subtle changes in fishing conditions continue. Here are some of the small events that may change your fishing adventure into a successful trip.

Stripers have now received that warm-water spawning trigger and most have now spawned. Female stripers caught recently had no viable eggs left in the ovary. That is important because spawning occurs at night and daytime activity is very limited.

One successful report from last week indicated a good trolling pattern at night with stripers from 2-10 pounds caught. Trolling in the same area during the day did not produce any stripers. The good news is that post-spawn stripers will be more active during daylight hours. The bad news is the warmer temperatures that caused the spawn to occur will now hold mature fish in deeper water.

Strategy For Stripers

Striper fishing strategy for the coming week will be to target mature stripers in deep water using deep-diving lures or down riggers to get trolled baits down to

25-35 feet where larger stripers are more comfortable in cooler water. The best time of day (or night) will be the low light periods near dusk and dawn. Afternoon and evening fishing will be best with some late spawners still holding off and maintaining the nocturnal behavior pattern.

While adults have been waiting around to spawn, juvenile stripers have been lighting up the surface while slurping up tiny larval shad. Slurps are most common early in the morning when the wind does not blow. If wind is a factor, then expect slurpers to pop up as soon as the lake calms down mid morning. Still the most productive time is afternoon and evening beginning at 4 p.m.

Short-Lived Slurps

Slurps this week were short lived. I suspect the cause is that shad numbers are small. Shad spawned recently are being quickly consumed and survivors are running toward weedy cover to escape relentless pursuit from small stripers. The end result is a slurp that is seen but not accessible due to the short time it is on the surface.

It is possible to use this behavior to locate larger stripers. Target slurps that are

seen near shore. Approach the spot where slurping fish were seen, then fish on the bottom with small white plastic or bucktail jigs to target larger stripers.

Adult stripers are well aware of any school feeding behavior that occurs nearby. Use that behavior to put a lure into cooler water where adults are forced to hold due to water temperature. This was our best technique to find larger stripers on our weekly sampling trip.

Smallmouth Save The Day

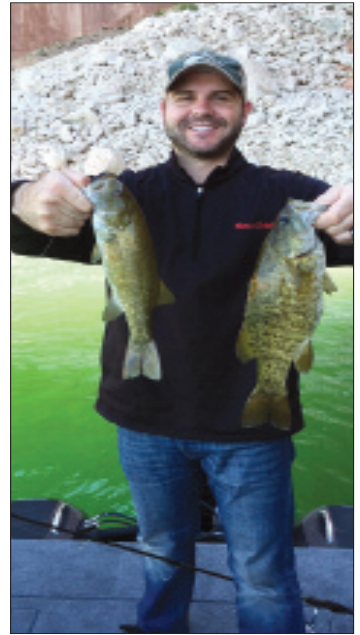
Our trip was saved by the very cooperative smallmouth bass that were on fire on open water reefs and slick rock points and coves. We caught numerous bass up to 2-pounds casting to the shore with small single and double tail plastic grubs, and rattletrap type crankbaits. Best lure colors were white and chartreuse.

The best pattern was to find a slick rock point or shelf within a cove where water dropped off quickly into deep water. Starting depth was 12 feet with good bass action continuing all the way down to 30 feet. Bass turned on at 10 a.m. and continued until we had to leave to go back down lake at noon.

'Let Me Know If It Works'

Here is a tip for smallmouth bass that

See **ADVENTURE**, Page 18



Wayne Gustaveson

BEST OPTION — Bass fishing is the best option to catch lots of fish this week. Here Brad Sherwood, Mesa, Ariz., displays the typical smallmouth bass that are on slick rock points and in coves just waiting for a plastic bait to swim by.



Final Stocking Of Spring Season Completed In June

FROM AZGFD

The final stocking of the season is done until September, but Arizona Game & Fish made it a big one. Please enjoy a safe and fun summer with your families. Here's the last load sheet for the season (a total of 27,300 pounds of catfish):

Tucson area — Lakeside Lake 1,500 (pounds); Kennedy Lake 2,000; Silverbell Lake 2,500; Sahuarita Lake 2,000

Maricopa area — Copper Sky Lake 1,500

Phoenix area — Veterans Oasis Lake 1,000; Desert Breeze Lake 1,000; Kiwanis Lake 1,000; Red Mountain Lake 1,500; Riverview Lake 1,000; Chaparral Lake 1,500; Evelyn Hallman Pond 800; Papago Ponds 1-3 1,000; Surprise Lake 1,500; Rio Vista Pond 500; Pioneer Lake 1,500; Cortez Lake 1,000; Encanto Lake 1,500; Steele Indian School Pond 500; Desert West Lake 1,000; Alford Lake 2,500

Wondering who delivers all these fish? The people at "Mr. Fish" work tirelessly to bring you these great fish from farms in Arkansas. They make the round-trip journeys of approximately 3,000 miles at least every two weeks. They have been the most critical piece in this program's success,

See **STOCKINGS**, Page 18

EXCERPTS FROM AZGFD MID-JUNE REPORT

Anglers Can Boast Some Record Catches

Tip Of The Week

If you are in Apache County, don't ignore Nelson Reservoir. It's often ignored by anglers zooming to Luna, Big Lake and beyond, but it's a decent late-spring rainbow producer. It even has some crappie.

And of course, Big Lake is providing some of the best fishing in the state for wild-like rainbows, cuts and brookies.

The Reel Deal Trout Hot Spots



Luna Lake

Luna Lake: This 27-inch, 7.5-pound rainbow trout was recently caught. The lake has more large holdover trout. Thanks to The Friends of Luna Lake out of Alpine for helping us keep this a viable fishery.

Ashurst Lake: We just received a couple angler reports of stockers and a holdover being

caught.

Nelson Reservoir: Fishing is excellent. It was stocked heavily in early and mid-June. Fish in the clearer water at the upper end.

Lower Lake Mary: According to our wildlife managers, working the lake this past weekend, bait fishing was good to excellent on yellow garlic PowerBait.

Brookie, Carp Entries For Big Fish Of Year

Congrats to Trevor Dugan, who caught this 11-pound, 7.36-pound common carp caught June 2 out of



Trevor Dugan

Papago Pond No. 3. (Papago Park is a Community Fishing Program pond in Phoenix.)

Rob Gerlak fly-fished on April 9 for this gorgeous, 15-inch brook trout taken from Perkins Tank, located near Flagstaff.



Rob Gerlak

World-Record Redear Sunfish

Our world record redear sunfish caught by **Hector Brito** last year is still making some Texas anglers drool. It continues to grab headlines — in the Big Star State.

Billy Kinder of Big Billy Kinder Outdoors radio in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area said that the picture of Brito's 5.80-pound redear taken from Lake Havasu was just shared on the station's



Hector Brito

Facebook page.

"Everybody went nuts over it," Kinder said.

Kinder said he plans on interviewing Brito about his catch and, of course, visiting Lake Havasu to nab a tasty redear slab of his own. Redear at Havasu are in full spawn. Anglers are catching many 3-4 pounders in deeper water (25 feet) but higher numbers of the sunfish are in shallower water.

The world record redear picture was originally posted in Feb. of 2014, on the "T-Bone Outdoors with Travis Turner" Facebook page. To date, it has received 18,176 "likes," 96,602 "shares" and 2,460 comments.

In other words, they like it.

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Target Shooting Is Fun, But Only If You Put Safety First

BY JOHN ANDERSON

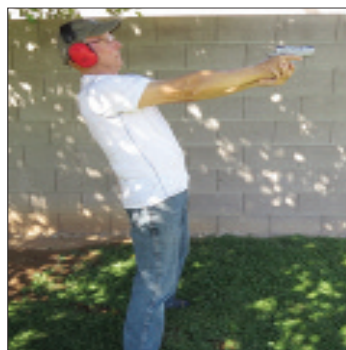
Target shooting is a sport that a lot of families enjoy, but let's face it — the thrill soon wears off if you shoot poorly.

I see it all the time on social media: People post "went shooting with the family, but didn't hit anything — LOL!". Odds are, they weren't actually laughing out loud when they continued to miss time after time.

The photos they post usually tell the story: They're holding a pistol with arms stretched straight out ahead, their feet are together, and the top half of their body is bent backwards so they look like a letter "C". It's a shame there is no one there to coach them, because *anyone* can shoot accurately.



This is a proper stance.



This is not a proper stance.

Stance

It all starts with stance. There are two schools of thought on this, but in both cases, your feet should be shoulder width apart. Some people like to shoot with their feet side by side; some like one foot or the other out slightly in front. Whatever makes you comfortable is the right stance for you.

Your knees should be slightly bent, and so should your arms. Look at the photos to see how you should be holding the pistol in your hands.

Trigger

You should have just the pad of your index finger on the trigger, and you don't *pull* the trigger — you *squeeze* it. There are also differences of opinion about breathing while shooting. Should you hold your breath? Should you squeeze off the round while you are inhaling? Exhaling?

Well, if you are into marksmanship contests, you are probably not reading this. I'm writing to people who just want to

have some fun plinking with the family. My dad always taught me to squeeze the trigger while I was exhaling, and to pause my breathing for a split second when the shot goes off. It works for me.

Something else might work for you. Just try to get into the habit of shooting the same way every time.

Common Mistakes

Most of the time, new shooters miss because they are closing their eyes (seriously!), or they jerk because they are anticipating recoil. If you are an absolute beginner, get your stance and your hold right, then fire the pistol a few times without really trying to hit the center of the target. Just get used to how it feels so you won't get scared and flinch when the gun goes off.

Let's Go!

So here we go. Feet shoulder width apart. One foot a bit forward or feet side



Grasp pistol with dominant hand.



Hold pistol firmly, pushing slightly with dominant hand and pulling with the other so gun doesn't wobble when you fire.



Hold pistol upright and lean slightly into it.

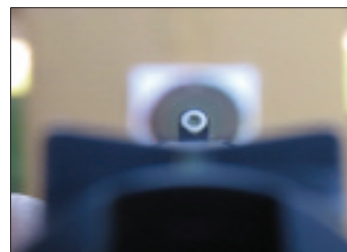
by side. Your choice. Knees slightly bent. You should be leaning slightly forward at the waist, and the gun should be held firmly in your hands.

Look at the photos to see how to grasp the pistol. You should be pushing the gun with your dominant hand and pulling it with the other. Breathe deeply a few times, line up the sights, and squeeze the trigger. Keep your eyes open!

How To See The Sights And Target

Look at the photos to see how it should look to you when you pull the trigger. Most of the time you'll be lining up the sights and you'll want the target directly on top of the front sight.

Some sights you'll cover the target with the front sight. I've shown you both. The major thing is to have fun. Don't be afraid of the gun. If you limp-wrist it, the shells can get jammed. It's a tool.



On this pistol, the big dot on the front sight is lined up with the white line on the rear sight. The big dot covers the target.

Safety First!

Of course, no one in their right mind wants to be around a person who has a pistol but is ignorant of safety rules:

1. *All guns are always loaded.* Treat them that way.
2. *Never point a gun* at anything you aren't willing to destroy.
3. *Keep your finger off* the trigger until you're ready to fire.
4. *Know your target* and what is beyond it.

See **SHOOTING**, Page 9



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2015 Hunt Arizona Now Available Online

Downloadable publication is valuable resource for planning hunts.

The 2015 edition of *Hunt Arizona*, the Arizona Game and Fish Department's yearly compilation of big and small game hunting statistics, is now available online at <https://azgfd.portal.az.gov/Hunting/surveydata>.

The free, downloadable, PDF publication includes



draw, survey and harvest statistics for a five-year period, as well as information on distribution, life history and behavior of big game, small game and other wildlife.

The 209-page publication is easy to use and includes the latest data on units/hunts with the highest hunter success rates, hunts with the best draw odds, and historical survey and hunt information that can be used to compare trends, by unit, for the major game species.

Hunt Arizona is a must for both novice and experienced hunters when making informed decisions regarding hunt selections.

Did You Know?

Arizona hunting and fishing licenses are a great value. You can get combination hunting and fishing licenses for a family of four for less than the price of one night in a motel. Great Outdoors, Great Value! www.azgfd.gov/eservices/licenses_newFees.shtml

NHF Day, Yamaha Live It! Grants Now Available

Second-year program promoting outdoor conservation and recreation offers funds to support local NHF Day events.

Wonders of Wildlife's National Hunting and Fishing Day (NHF Day) announces the availability of applications for the 2015 Live It! grants. Last year, NHF Day and Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A., launched the Live It! grant program, a proactive, grass roots program to celebrate the conservation efforts of hunters, anglers and outdoor recreationists and awarded 13 Live It! grants to outdoor groups and organizations.

"NHF Day and Yamaha are completely dedicated to promoting conservation efforts," said Misty Mitchell, director of Conservation Programs Wonders of Wildlife. "Yamaha has been tremendously supportive and was generous in 2014 by awarding 13 Live It! grants. I can't thank them enough for the unwavering support they've shown."

NHF Day and Yamaha work together to promote conservation throughout the community. Through the Live It! grants, deserving organizations are able to help



further the program's goal of connecting everyone to the outdoors.

NHF Day encourages clubs, associations and agencies to submit detailed applications for their specific needs. A committee will review each application and award grants to help fund deserving events. All events must be National Hunting and Fishing Day focused and must take place in September or October 2015.

Some examples of how these grants can be used include —

- Equipment rental for event
- Marketing of event
- Purchase of outdoor equipment (fishing poles, kayaks, canoes, bows and arrows, shovels, etc.)

rows, shovels, etc.)

"Yamaha's expanding efforts to support a diverse group of outdoor enthusiasts through the Outdoor Access initiative has been enthusiastically received by local communities," said Steve Nessler, Yamaha ATV and SxS group marketing manager. "Partnering with Wonders of Wildlife to increase awareness of and celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day continues to demonstrate how safe and responsible outdoor recreation aligns with land and resource conservation."

Open enrollment is scheduled to close July 24. Applicants can request between \$250 and \$1,000 for the production or promotion of an event.

For questions regarding the NHF Day Live It! Initiative, groups can call Wonders of Wildlife at (417) 225-1118, e-mail nhf-day@wondersofwildlife.org or write to Wonders of Wildlife, 500 W Sunshine, Springfield, MO 65807.

For more information about NHF Day, visit <http://www.nhfday.org>.

Cottonwood Woman Receives \$500 Gift Card

Hunting 'newbie' credits spouse for applying early online.

The last thing Jenni Rice expected was to get a call from the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

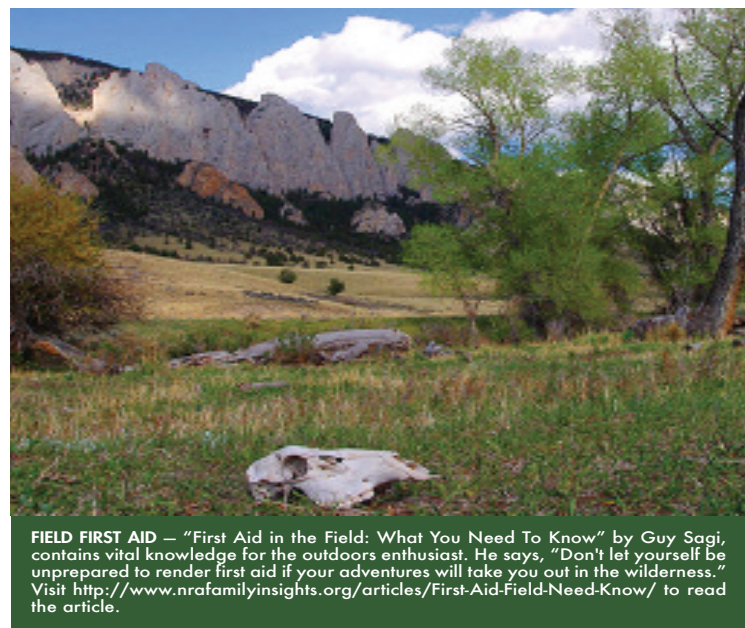
The Cottonwood woman had been randomly chosen to receive a \$500 gift card to Sportsman's Warehouse, an incentive to use the department's online service to apply early for 2015 fall hunt permit-tags.

Rice was among almost 30,000 hopeful hunters who applied online before the incentive deadline and was automatically entered into a random drawing for the gift card, donated by Wildlife for Tomorrow. The offer did not apply to those who submitted paper applications, or employees of the department and Wildlife for Tomorrow, and their children, parents and spouses.

"This is so awesome," said Rice, who hasn't decided what to buy with the gift card. "It's a very big surprise. And you know what? My husband applied online for both of us — and right before the mid-



See **GIFT CARD**, Page 19



FIELD FIRST AID — "First Aid in the Field: What You Need to Know" by Guy Sagi, contains vital knowledge for the outdoors enthusiast. He says, "Don't let yourself be unprepared to render first aid if your adventures will take you out in the wilderness." Visit <http://www.nrafamilyinsights.org/articles/First-Aid-Field-Need-Know/> to read the article.

SHOOTING

Continued from page 8

Free Lessons

Gun stores such as Shooter's World have beginners' classes on shooting. In fact, Friday is Ladies' Day (and Night) and women shoot free. You can borrow one of their pistols if you need to, and they have people there to help you. Ben Avery also

has beginners' shooting classes.

Do yourself and you family a favor: If you want to take up target shooting, teach them correctly so they have an actual chance of hitting the target and having some fun.

Because it is fun, but only if you put safety first.

More photos are available at azbw.com and at westernoutdoortimes.com



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Heritage Fund grants offer over \$430,000 to support wildlife conservation in Arizona

Do you need funding to initiate or complete a wildlife conservation-related project? Are you a teacher interested in getting children outdoors to experience nature and wildlife, but don't have the budget? Apply today for an Arizona Game and Fish Department Heritage grant and a chance to support your project.

Game and Fish uses some of its Heritage Fund monies that come from Arizona Lottery ticket sales to provide grants for wildlife education and research. This year, \$432,000 is being offered.

"Buying Arizona lottery tickets is an easy way to help conserve wildlife and habitat, and provide schools with outdoor-related opportunities that can keep

kids connected to nature despite the reduced budgets of local schools," says Robyn Beck, the department's Heritage grant coordinator.

Arizona voters created the Heritage Fund back in 1990. The money from lottery ticket sales goes to conservation efforts such as protecting endangered species, educating our children about wildlife, helping urban residents to better coexist with wildlife, and creating new opportunities for outdoor recreation. Over the years, Game and Fish has awarded more than \$14 million in grants to communities across the state.

The application period for the 2016 grant cycle is now open. The application deadline is Sept. 30 at 5 p.m. MST.



To learn more about Heritage grants and how to apply, attend one of the department's optional workshops being held at the following times and locations:

- **Wednesday, July 22** in Phoenix (2 to 4 p.m.), Arizona Game and Fish Department, Eagle Room, 5000 W. Carefree Highway.

- **Tuesday, July 28** in Tucson (2 to 4 p.m.), Pima County Natural Resources,

First Floor Conference Room, 8500 W. River Road.

- **Thursday, Aug. 6** in Flagstaff (2 to 4 p.m.), Game and Fish Regional Office, Conference Room, 3500 S. Lake Mary Road.

Those planning to attend the workshops, and those wanting to learn more about eligibility for the grant money, should R.S.V.P. to Robyn Beck at (623) 236-7530. A minimum of three people must sign up for each workshop or the session will be cancelled 48 hours prior to the date.

Potential grant recipients must have a project that is either located in Arizona or involves research in which the wildlife or its habitat is located in Arizona. More information on the grants and current application materials can be found at www.azgfd.gov/heritage and www.azgfd.gov/w_c/heritage_apply.shtml.

AZGFD Takes Action To Spur Development Plan

Arizona files suit against federal officials over wolf recovery-plan development.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona Attorney General filed suit against the Department of Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for failing their statutory duty to develop an updated recovery plan to guide Mexican wolf recovery.

The action was taken in an effort to spur development of an updated recovery plan for Mexican wolves that utilizes the best available science as legally required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

This action was preceded in January with a Notice of Intent, which went unanswered by the Service.

'We Will Not Sit On The Sidelines'

"The Service is currently in litigation with special interest groups and settlement discussions could possibly occur without our knowledge or involvement, as has oc-



curred in previous Mexican-wolf lawsuits. As the state's wildlife authority, we will not sit on the sidelines when it comes to decisions affecting Arizona's wildlife," said Robert Mansell, chair of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

The Game and Fish Department has repeatedly requested an updated recovery plan from the Service over the past several years. The current recovery plan for Mexican wolves was developed in 1982 and fails to provide several of the key legal requirements.

One of the key failings of the current recovery plan required by ESA is the identification of criteria required to downlist and delist this subspecies of wolves from the ESA. Without these criteria, it is impossible to ever remove Mexican wolves from endangered status.

Long Commitment

"The State of Arizona and Game and Fish have long been committed to Mexican wolf recovery. However, we have reached a point where without a current recovery plan to provide a framework by which to operate and objective science-based goals to target, the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project we started in 1998 will be faced with unwarranted litigation with little regard for how biologically successful our efforts become," said Arizona Game and Fish Department Director Larry Voyles.

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is legally obligated to develop a thorough science-based plan that incorporates all of the elements needed for successful recovery, including the inclusion of Mexico and its core range, and criteria for downlisting and delisting. Bi-national recovery plans

for endangered species have been successfully established with Mexico for other species including Sonoran pronghorn, Kemp's ridley sea turtles and, most recently, thick-billed parrots."

The department asserts that to succeed, Mexican wolf recovery must include an integrated, bi-national approach that incorporates the recovery work already underway in Mexico. Mexico holds 90 percent of the Mexican wolf's core historic range.

'We Have A Responsibility'

"The federal government has failed to do its part to provide an updated Mexican wolf recovery plan, one that provides real world guidelines for measuring success," said Attorney General Mark Brnovich. "While long supporting a recovery for the Mexican wolf, we have a responsibility to insure [sic] Arizona has a seat at the negotiating table."

The Service is currently in litigation with several parties that are pushing for re-establishment of Mexican wolves in areas that are not part of the subspecies' historical range and requesting a resolution in an unreasonable timeframe. This misguided approach could jeopardize genetic integrity of the subspecies if the Mexican wolf is permitted to re-establish in close proximity to northern gray wolves.

Arizona Game and Fish's involvement in Mexican wolf conservation began in the mid-1980s. Since that time, the department has spent more than \$7 million on wolf recovery in the state and has been the predominant on-the-ground presence working to manage Mexican wolves.

For more information on Mexican wolves, visit www.azgfd.gov/wolf.

Wake Zone

✉ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

EDITOR@AZBW.COM

GOOD COMPANY

The Good News Is It's Now Open

The Sojourner Center Pet Companion Shelter offers wonderful partnership.

FROM LOST OUR HOME PET RESCUE

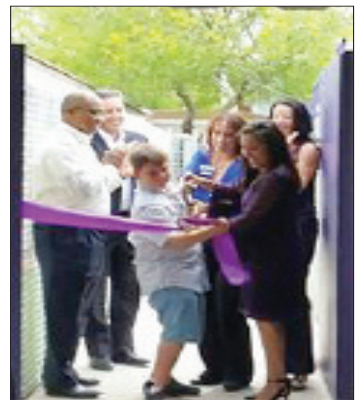
It's official! The paint is dry, the kennels are in place, and the ribbon-cutting ceremony is complete. The Sojourner Center Pet Companion Shelter opened for business in late spring.

We are truly blessed to be part of this wonderful partnership with Sojourner Center. We've cared for pets of families fleeing domestic violence at our shelter since 2008; now pets can stay together with their families at Sojourner Center.

The Healing Power Of Pets

The healing power of pets can be shared by not only the family who owns the pets, but also by families who don't have pets but would love to snuggle up

See **PET CENTER**, Page 19



Ribbon Cutting

Arizona Highways, Arizona Wildlife Views Partner On Photo Contest

This year for the first time, *Arizona Wildlife Views* magazine and *Arizona Highways* are co-hosting our wildlife photo contest!

The partnership means this contest will be easier than ever to enter: Entries are done online. There is no limit to the number of photos a person may enter.

Winners will be published in both magazines; in *Arizona Wildlife Views*, they will be honored in the annual wildlife calendar issue.

As always, entry is free. The entry deadline is Saturday, Aug. 15. For details, visit www.arizonahighways.com/wildlife-photo-contest.



FIRE DANGER HIGH!

Restrictions In Place In Tonto National Forest And More

Target shooting is prohibited while fire restrictions are in place; fireworks and explosives are prohibited year-round. Vital information is available below.

Effective immediately, open campfires will be prohibited in Haigler Creek Campground on the Pleasant Valley Ranger District. This is in addition to fire restrictions implemented on June 5.

Most types of fire or fire-causing activities continue to be prohibited across the entire Tonto National Forest.

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or charcoal-burning device are allowed in developed campgrounds on the list below, where metal fire rings and metal pedestal grills are provided by the Forest Service. The use of petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns, and heating devices are allowed.

- Restrictions also apply to operating internal combustion power tools, using welding equipment or torches with open flames, operating combustion engines without spark-arresting devices in effective working order and meeting either USDA or SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) standards.

- Discharging a firearm is still prohibited, except for taking game in accordance with Arizona hunting laws.

- Smoking is prohibited except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or a developed recreation site. Please deposit the remains in an ashtray or inside a building. Do not toss or discard on the ground.

"These restrictions help prevent human-caused wildfires," said Acting Tonto National Forest Fire Staff Bill Crolley. "We are reminding the public that fireworks and the use of exploding targets are always prohibited on the Forest," emphasized Crolley.

Violation of these fire restrictions is punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 and imprisonment for up to six months.

For more information regarding forest recreation sites and fire restrictions, please contact the Tonto National Forest at (602) 225-5200, or check online at www.fs.usda.gov/tonto

For general information on fire activity and restrictions in Arizona, call toll free 877-864-6985, or visit the Southwest Coordination Center Web site: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc> or <http://firerestrictions.us/az>

Another important resource is Fire Restriction Information: Toll free 1 (877) 864-6985, Arizona Interagency Wildfire Prevention and Information Website: Information is provided by agencies associated with the Southwest Coordinating Group.

Further, for fire restriction information on specific lands, please call toll-free 1-877-864-6985 or visit



FEROCIOUS FIRE — As beautiful as this photo is, the inherent dangers to humans, wildlife, and property of wild land fires are incredibly costly and tragic. Arizona remembers only too well the horror of the Yarnell Hill Fire that burned 1,300 acres and killed 19 heroic hot-shot firefighters on June 30, 2013. As an outdoors enthusiast, you can help prevent this kind of destruction. Please do your part.

<http://firerestrictions.us/az>

Useful Web Sites

- Fire Preventions and Restrictions: www.azfireinfo.com
- Arizona Fire Restrictions: <http://firerestrictions.us/az>
- Arizona Emergency Information Network (for ALL hazard emergency and disaster information): www.azein.gov
- National Incident Information System: www.incweb.org
- Southwest Coordination Center: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc>

- National Interagency Fire Center: www.nifc.gov
- National Fire Plan: www.forestsandrangelands.gov
- FireWise: www.firewise.org

At press time, campfires are allowed in metal fire rings and metal pedestal grills provided by the Forest Service only in developed recreation sites of these ranger districts: Cave Creek, Globe, Mesa, Payson, and Tonto Basin.

For more specific information, visit The USDA Forest Service's site <http://www.wildlandfire.az.gov/>.

'Smokey' Has Spoken For Over 71 Years

Smokey Bear (aka Smokey the Bear) is an advertising mascot created to educate the U.S. public about the dangers of forest/wild fires.

An advertising campaign featuring Smokey was created in 1944 with the slogan, "Smokey Says — Care Will Prevent 9 out of 10 Forest Fires," Smokey Bear's later slogan, "Remember... Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires", was created in 1947 by The Advertising Council.

In April 2001, the message was updated to "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires." According to the Ad Council, Smokey Bear and his message are recognized in the United States by 95 percent of adults and 77 percent of children.

World War II Impetus

Though the U.S. Forest Service fought wildfires long before World War II, the war brought a new importance and urgency to the effort. The forest service began using colorful posters to educate Americans about the dangers of forest fires.

Since most able-bodied men were already serving in the Armed Forces, none could be spared to fight forest fires on the West Coast. The hope was that local communities, educated about the danger of forest fires, could prevent them from starting in the first place.

Japanese Influence

In addition, during World War II, the Japanese Empire considered wildfires as a possible weapon. During the Lookout Air Raids of September 1942, the Japanese military attempted without success to set ablaze coastal forests in southwest Oregon. U.S. planners also hoped that if Americans knew how wildfires would harm the war effort, they would better cooperate with the



Forest Service to eliminate any kind of fire.

The Japanese military renewed their wildfire strategy late in the war: from November 1944 to April 1945, launching some 9,000 fire balloons into the jet stream, with an estimated 10 percent reaching the United States. In the end, only five school children and their teacher, Elsie Mitchell, were killed by one of the bombs near Bly, Ore., on May 5, 1945.[12] A memorial was erected at what today is called the Mitchell Recreation Area.

Smokey's Anniversary

Smokey's debut poster was released on Aug. 9, 1944, which is considered his anniversary date. Overseen by the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Campaign, the first poster was illustrated by Albert Staehle. In it, Smokey was depicted wearing jeans and a campaign hat, pouring a bucket of water on a campfire. The message underneath reads, "Smokey says — Carewill prevent 9 out of 10 forest fires!"

The fictional character Smokey Bear, created by the art critic Harold Rosenberg, is administered by three entities: the United States Forest Service, the National Association of State Foresters, and the Ad Council. Smokey Bear's name and image are protected by U.S. federal law, the Smokey Bear Act of 1952 (16 U.S.C. 580 (p-2); 18 U.S.C. 711).

state parks Arizona

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COOL PLACES

Continued from page 1

but the boulders are spectacular. If you're in Prescott you should at least go visit just to see the boulders.



Kachina Trail

▲ Flagstaff

The hiking and fishing and boating opportunities around Flagstaff are superb. Lake Mary offers pike fishing and motor boating, and there are trails everywhere. My favorites are the trails up on the way to the SnowBowl – Kachina, Aspen Loop, Lamar Haines, and Humphrey's Peak trail. The forest is gorgeous in the summer, and at those altitudes (9000+), the weather is glorious. There are tons of campgrounds and hotels and motels in and around Flag, and lots of fun things to do even with the smallest kids. I recommend the Arboretum (it has a nice little trail, too), Riordan Mansion, Bearizona, and a sunset hike in Buffalo Park. Life doesn't get much better than that!



Wenima Wildlife Area

▲ Springerville

We found so much to do around Springerville it isn't even funny. We loved Wenima Wildlife Area – great trails, the

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Little Colorado River, deer, birds – it was awesome! Also excellent was the Sipe Mountain Wilderness Area, although there is less shade here. Becker Lake is a beautiful trout lake just outside town, and there are trails galore. I love this place.



Pinetop-Lakeside

▲ Pinetop-Lakeside

This is the first place we ever took our granddaughter Trinity hiking. She was about 5 years old and she absolutely loved it. We went to every little lake on the map, and there are plenty. We hiked around the lakes, had a picnic at the park, and then her favorite: We visited the Ranger Station. Now I'm not sure if they still do this, because she is headed to NAU this fall, so that was about 13 years ago, but they gave her a little Smokey the Bear bag with a pencil, pictures to color, and all kinds of little goodies. She was thrilled! We had a great time and it was cool and pleasant.



Pinel Mountain Recreation Area

▲ Pinel Mountain Area

This is a recreation area in the mountains near Globe. We drove up there one day and we were pleasantly surprised by the nice campgrounds and the lovely pine forest. There are small creeks that may be running as well. There are plenty of hikes here, but most of them are out and back, and since it's on a mountaintop, you'll be going uphill one way. If you have two vehicles, you might want to park one down below then drive up to the top of the trail so you can go downhill the whole time. Even in the pine forest, it gets pretty sweaty hiking uphill.

Desert Lakes

Bartlett Lake is my favorite desert lake: Its tall yellow cliffs, beautiful desert, and great ramps and parking, not to mention the awesome bass fishing, make it a great destination. You can swim, fish, camp, boat, look for the otters, picnic, or just drive around and enjoy the beauty of this

SWIM

Continued from page 1

American Red Cross Levels

In the United States, most swimming schools use the swimming levels "Learn To Swim" as defined by the American Red Cross.

- **Level 1: Introduction to Water Skills**
The student needs to get comfortable with water. This includes kicking, bobbing, underwater exploration, front and back floating and gliding with face in the water, open eyes under water.
- **Level 2: Fundamental Aquatic Skills**
The student needs to swim 15 feet on front and back, submerge entire head, submerge and retrieve an object.
- **Level 3: Stroke Development Skills**
The student needs to swim 15 yards on front, back and crawl, also jump into deep water from side.
- **Level 4: Stroke Improvement**
Includes front and back crawl of 25 yards, butterfly and breaststroke of 15 yards, allowing for turns while swimming.
- **Level 5: Stroke Refinement**
All strokes should be shown at 25 yards, allow for flip turn, includes swimming underwater for 15 yards.



Carr And Ramsey Peaks

▲ Ramsey Canyon

This world-class birding site is just outside Sierra Vista and has a marvelous shady trail that follows a sparkling creek for about a mile. Parking is limited here, so get there early. There is also a small fee. Look it up online before you go. The Sierra Vista area has lots of places to camp and hike, and many of them are up in the mountains where it will be much cooler.



AZGFD

Bartlett Lake

If you go past the Bartlett Marina to the campground, you'll come to a sweet campground below the dam where the water is cool and there are plenty of trees. Canyon Lake, Lake Pleasant, Saguaro Lake, and Lake Powell all have lake cruises where you can relax on board a comfortable, shady boat and learn all about the area from tour guides. You get to see the whole lake and maybe even enjoy dinner and a drink while you soak in the views. All of the Salt River Lakes and the Colorado River lakes offer fine boating opportunities.



Ivgott at English Wikipedia

Mt. Lemmon

▲ Mt. Lemmon

Just outside Tucson is Mt. Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mountains with tons of recreation opportunities including hiking, swimming, and fishing. Elevations go up to 9000 feet, so it's nice and cool, and it's close by Tucson with so many things to do, including the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, the Titan Missile Museum, Madera Canyon, Sabino Canyon, and Saguaro National Park. Admittedly, the attractions in the lowlands are a bit toasty this time of year, but if you hit them early in the day before you head up the mountain, you can have a blast without roasting.

Before You Go, Be Sure

Before you go anywhere, be sure you are protected from head to toe and inside and out.

Sun protection is a must in Arizona, even when you are in the high country. In fact, especially when you are in the high country, as higher elevations increase the risk of sun damage.

It's a fact that your skin can absorb many chemicals, so if you would like a natural solution, you might want to try Rocket Pure products. They have a line of sunscreens, lip protection, foot powders, and skin balms that are all natural with no harmful chemicals to seep into your bloodstream.

You should also wear a hat with a nice wide brim and if possible, clothing with built-in SPF. These are widely available at outdoor stores like Cabelas and Bass Pro Shops.

Lots Of H2O!

You also need to be sure you are carrying a lot of water. Don't head off on a hike with a 12-ounce bottle in your hand. In my family, we have little day-hiker packs with built-in water bladders that hold at least a gallon of water.

It doesn't take long to get dehydrated in Arizona, regardless of where you are or what you are doing. Some symptoms of dehydration are crankiness, headache, weakness, dizziness, and nausea. What a way to ruin a vacation, right?

So play it smart – take lots of water, and keep that sunscreen slathered on. Arizona is a blast in the summer – keep it safe and happy.

By the way, I have written about most of these areas at length in previous issues of *Arizona Boating and Watersports* / *WesternOutdoorTimes*, so check their back issues online for more info and photos.

Our readers can get a 10 percent off one product and 15 percent off two or more using coupon code: [www.rocketpure.com/blog-referral-coupon-code from Rocket Pure](http://www.rocketpure.com/blog-referral-coupon-code-from-Rocket-Pure).

• Level 6: Skill Proficiency

The swimming test includes swimming continuously of 500 yards, including back and front crawl at 100 yards, plus 50 yards for each of butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and sidestroke. On top of this common swimming proficiency there are four swimming test variants for the Level 6 certificate: (A) Diving Basics - show a jump from the diving board; (B) Fitness Swimmer - demonstrate the use of training gear; (C) Lifeguard Readiness - submerge to deep water (minimum 7 feet); (D) Personal Water Safety - life jacket and boating rules.

Lifeguard certificates are obtained directly in courses of the American Red Cross. The course length varies with 30 to 37 hours for the four options of Pool Lifeguarding, Waterfront Lifeguarding, Waterpark Lifeguarding and Shallow Water Attendant.

Examples Of Red Cross Courses

The American Red Cross endorses swimming and water-safety courses for all ages, including from six months to four and five years, and over six years all the way up to adults of any age. Some of their courses include the following:

- Learn to Swim Course

- Preschool Aquatics
- Parent and Child Aquatics
- Home Pool Essentials
- Safety Training for Swim Coaches & Instructors

• Red Cross Learn-to-Swim Providers
For more information and to find courses in your area, visit <http://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/program-highlights/swimming>.

A Guide To Phoenix-Area Safe-Swimming Programs

In the magazine *Raising Arizona Kids*, there is a valuable article titled "Splash, Play, Float, or Swim. Race, Dive or Synchronize!" It lists water programs that meet every need in an updated guide to the Valley of the Sun's aquatic programs. An Editor's Note states, "Information is provided by swim programs based on questionnaires sent out by our editorial staff. *Raising Arizona Kids* does not independently evaluate or endorse specific programs. Always make sure that your children are supervised around water."

This article may be viewed at <https://www.raisingarizonakids.com/swim-programs-arizona/>

ATV, OHV Riders Reminded About Safety Techniques

Arizona's mild start to the summer created perfect conditions for off-highway vehicle (OHV) enthusiasts to head out and view some of the state's most picturesque locations. Although "mild" is now a thing of the past, the safety reminders for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and OHV enthusiasts have no expiration date.

To ensure the outings remain safe and fun adventures, the Arizona Game and Fish Department encourages all riders to practice proper safety techniques before taking to their favorite trails. Riders are reminded of the following:

- State law requires all riders under 18 years old, regardless of riding experience, to wear a Department of Transportation-approved helmet, including while on an ATV or in a side-by-side vehicle. Used properly, helmets provide the best protection against head injuries.

- Eye protection, such as goggles or a helmet with a face shield, is required for OHV and ATV operators, under state law. While not required, eye protection is recommended while riding in a side-by-side vehicle equipped with a windshield.

- Wear pants, a long-sleeve shirt, gloves and over-the-ankle boots while riding.

- A U.S. Department of Agriculture-approved spark arrestor should be installed on the vehicle to prevent wildfires from starting.

- All OHVs and ATVs driving off paved roadways are required to have an OHV decal on their license plate.

- Only ride on designated roads and trails.

In June, department law enforcement officers in the Pinetop area held the second of three helmet compliance checks. The compliance checks coincided with ATV Safety Week, which runs through mid-June, and aims to promote responsible, safe riding.

"ATV Safety Week [annually] provides the Department an exciting opportunity to



make a positive impact on Arizona's off-highway vehicle community," said Matt Eberhart, AZGFD OHV Safety Education coordinator. "By providing a wide range of information promoting safe and ethical OHV use, we can help keep the sport alive and safe for future generations."

Citing a Consumer Product Safety Commission study, the ATV Safety Institute reports that 92 percent of all ATV-related fatalities were a result of operators driving a machine that isn't properly sized for them.

Emergency room data indicates that 43 percent of all OHV accidents involve children younger than 16 years old and 67 percent of all UTV/side-by-side accidents involve head injury.

It is important that all drivers learn how to properly operate their machine, including making sure it is an appropriate size in addition to wearing a helmet and other protective gear to dramatically reduce risk of harm for the driver and any bystanders.

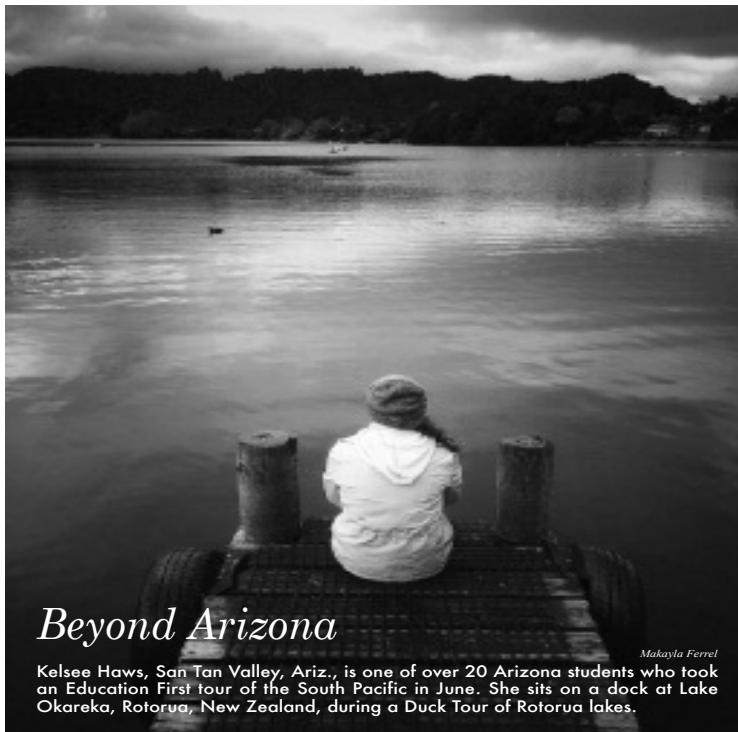
To promote rider safety and helmet use, the department is also encouraging riders to shoot a photo of themselves with their helmet on and off and submit it to the "Show us your Helmet Hair" contest. By entering, contestants can win prizes from area businesses and OHV safety partners.

Recent prizes have included safety courses, riding gear and gift cards.

To enter the monthly contest, snap a photo of your best helmet hair and share it with Arizona Game and Fish Department's Instagram (www.instagram.com/AZGFD).

Outdoors), Facebook (www.facebook.com/azgfd) and/or Twitter (@azgfd) pages, using both hashtags of #AZHelmetHair and #AZGFDHVV.

For additional OHV safety information, visit www.azgfd.gov/ohv.



Beyond Arizona

Kelsee Haws, San Tan Valley, Ariz., is one of over 20 Arizona students who took an Education First tour of the South Pacific in June. She sits on a dock at Lake Okareka, Rotorua, New Zealand, during a Duck Tour of Rotorua lakes.

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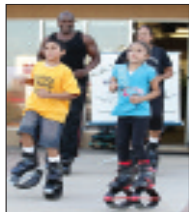
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What: Prescott's Great Outdoors — Outdoor Recreation Festival & Expo

When: Saturday, Oct. 10-Sunday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Where: Watson Lake Park - 3101 Watson Lake Road

Why: Please join us for the fourth year this ever-expanding event highlights the many outdoor recreational opportunities, organizations, resources, equipment, and businesses in the Quad-Cities and beyond. The event features adventure recreation, stocked fishing, educational programs, live music, an expo, a 300-foot zip-line, great food, and much more — all in the scenic Granite Dells setting.

How: For more information, contact Eric Smith @ (928) 777-1590 or eric.smith@prescott-az.gov, www.prescott-az.gov



Create Unforgettable Family Memories

Both Slide Rock and Red Rock state parks in Sedona were selected as among the country's top ten.

Travel to Slide Rock and Red Rock State Parks in Sedona to create unforgettable family vacation memories. Both parks were selected in a recent travel poll by FamilyFun magazine readers as one of the "Top 10 State Parks in the Country" and were featured in the magazine's April issue.

"The winners in each category represent places where families have formed lasting memories, and offer adventures for all types of interests, for animal lovers to history and science buffs," Editor-in-Chief

Ann Hallock said.

"We are elated these parks have been nationally recognized. If you haven't been there, you need to see [them], and if you have, come back! Remember, these are your State Parks," said Sue Black, Arizona State Parks executive director.

Slide Rock State Park is named after the famous stretch of natural rockslides. Visitors plunge down into the creek and water chutes or wade and sun along the creek.

Red Rock State Park is a 286-acre

nature preserve and environmental education center with stunning scenery. Throughout the park, there are trails that wind through the famous red rock formations, manzanita and juniper to reach the lush banks of Oak Creek.

For more information about Slide Rock State Park call (928) 282-3034 or visit AZStateParks.com/parks/SLRO. For more information about Red Rock State Park call (928) 282-6907 or visit AZStateParks.com/parks/RERO.

State Parks Urge Campers To Visit

The State Parks in Arizona provide many opportunities for campers. Sue Black, executive director, said, "Come out and visit your State Parks ..., whether it's for a day trip or a weekend adventure."

Although there are many things you can experience at a State Park, here is a list of some fun things to do with your family:



Lyman Lake

- Waterskiing at Lyman Lake State Park (St. Johns)
- Camping under the Stars at Alamo Lake State Park (Wenden)
- Swimming at Slide Rock State Park (Sedona)
- Cave Tours at Kartchner Caverns State Park (Benson)
- Soak in a Natural Hot Tub at Roper



Homolovi State Park

- Lake State Park (Safford)
- Hopi Petroglyph Tours at Homolovi State Park (Winslow)
- Tent Camping at River Island State Park (Parker)
- Hiking at Red Rock State Park (Sedona) or Oracle State Park (Oracle)
- Learn about History at a Historic Park: Fort Verde (Camp Verde), Jerome or



River Island

Riordan Mansion (Flagstaff)

• Butterfly Walk at Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park (Superior)

Be sure to book cave tours or campsites in advance by phone or the website, if possible. To make a reservation visit AZStateParks.com or call (520) 585-2283. For more information on each park visit AZStateParks.com.



Alamo Lake

For information about all 28 Arizona State Parks, the Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Programs and State Historic Preservation Office call (602) 542-4174 (outside of the Phoenix metro area call toll-free (800) 285-3703). Campsite reservations can be made online at AZStateParks.com or by calling the Reservation Call Center at (520) 586-2283. Open 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MST. Follow AZStateParks.com on Twitter and Facebook.



Cool And Charming: This Is Flagstaff, AZ

At an elevation of 7,000 feet (2,135 m), in the midst of the world's largest ponderosa pine forest, Flagstaff is a four-season hub of activity where an eclectic mix of small-town charm and endless outdoor adventure beckons.

Echoes of a rugged pioneer past blend with modern-day innovation to create a destination full of activities to keep you busy both inside and out. Whether your suitcase holds hiking boots and trekking gear or loafers and the latest novel, you will find a way to feel right at home.

History buffs will delight in the Route 66 nostalgia and the museums and attractions dedicated to Flagstaff's Native American culture and Old West legacy. Those who like to hit the town will have a hard time choosing between all of the locally-owned shops, restaurants and galleries in historic downtown.

Flagstaff attracts outdoor enthusiasts year-round with its spacious vistas and cool, clean mountain air. Favorite activities include hiking, mountain biking, disk golf, camping, boating and rock climbing.

Although winter is a distant dream at press time, during the winter months, Flagstaff is host to countless skiers and snowboarders, as well as many families who come to enjoy nearby snowplay.

While you are here, plan to use Flagstaff as your home base to explore some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. The city is only 80 miles from the Grand Canyon and close to seven national parks and monuments.



Boyce Thompson Arboretum



Riordan Mansion



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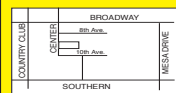
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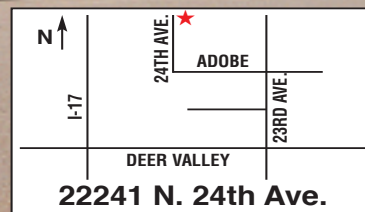
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Coast Guard Bomb-Sniffing Dog Retires

A Coast Guard Explosive Detection K9 retired after six years of service, in a retirement ceremony held at the Maritime Safety and Security Team in Galveston, Texas.

Chief Bert, a Coast Guard military working dog retired after six years of service. The German Shepard has been employed as an Explosive Detection Dog during his time in service. His handler, Petty Officer 1st Class Chandler Nuttall has been partnered with Bert for the duration of the K9's career.

Bert conducted 56 high profile security missions including the 2010 Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response, the 2012 NCAA Basketball Final Four, and the 2014-2015 Houston Marathon.

Bert was also hand-selected to participate in the Coast Guard's inaugural deployment of K9 Explosive Detection Team assets along the international U.S./Mexico border. During this deployment he completed 50 shore-based patrol hours, assisted in the execution of 40 recreational boat boardings and conducted 50 Explosive Detection vessel sweeps.

"For nearly the past half decade, Bert and Nuttall have distinguished themselves to be an inseparable working and personal cohesive unit," said Lt. Cmdr. Steve Morris, the commanding officer of MSST Galveston.

"The dedication and loyalty both Bert



U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Manda Emery
BERT RETIRES — Chief Bert stands with his handler, Petty Officer 1st Class Chandler Nuttall, Nuttall's family and the commanding officer of MSST Galveston, Lt. Cmdr. Steve Morris, after his retirement ceremony in Galveston, Texas.

and Nuttall display for each other are evident in their interaction throughout the greater Houston area. Both of their efforts directly enhanced the safety and security of major seaports and airports in the Southeast Texas region and across the globe."

Upon Bert's retirement, he was adopted by Chandler and his wife.

find out if they were successful in the Arizona draw for deer and fall turkey.

"I'm still blown away that it's even real," she said. "I'm feeling so blessed."

Did You Know?

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has trust responsibility for managing more than 800 native wildlife species — the most of any inland state — for current and future generations of Arizona citizens. www.azgfd.gov/n_f/northamerican-model.shtml

PET CENTER

Continued from page 10

with a dog or cat to help healing. Those of us who are pet lovers know how powerful the gentle support of pets can be.

Dr. Maria Garay, CEO of Sojourner Center, welcomed everyone and shared why the Pet Companion Shelter is so important to her. She thanked PetSmart Charities for their donation of \$50,000 which made this shelter possible. Other donations came from Red Rover, the AKC Humane Fund, and an anonymous donor.

Jodi Polanski, founder and CEO of Lost Our Home Pet Rescue, spoke about the journey for the last year and a half, from when she and Dr. Garay met and first envisioned a safe place where families and pets could be together, to the present culmination of those dreams.

A Safe Place

Lost Our Home Pet Rescue has provided temporary pet care to families for many years, but this is the first opportunity for families to truly be together. This project has been a lot of hard work, but it is so rewarding to see the final product — a beautiful, welcoming place for pets to be safe while everyone heals from domestic violence.

How great to have Mayor Stanton at the ribbon-cutting. He talked about the impact of this ground-breaking center, and how Sojourner has been helping families for nearly 40 years break the bonds of domestic violence and begin new lives.

Mayor Stanton, Robert And Clark The Cat

Mayor Stanton also got to meet our first resident at the shelter: Clark the Cat. Clark is seen here with Mayor Stanton and his "brother," Robert. Robert said Clark is like a brother to him, and he'd rather sleep in the car than be separated from him ever again.



Mayor Stanton And Clark The Cat



Opening Day

Clark lived at Lost Our Home for two months while awaiting this shelter's opening. We are so happy we could get them closer together so Clark can hang out with Robert whenever possible.

Then it was ribbon-cutting time! The young man in the front is Robert, whom we mentioned above. Also in the picture are Dr. Maria Garay, Sojourner CEO; Jodi Polanski, Lost Our Home Pet Rescue Founder/CEO; Deborah Edwards, Lost Our Home Pet Rescue Board President; Michael Goodwin, CIO PetSmart Charities; and Dave Ryan, Sojourner Board President.

Petey Is Inspiration

And of course Petey was there! Petey asked for our help to choose which bow tie he would wear, and our Facebook Family overwhelmed him. Who better than Petey



Petey to personify overcoming personal struggles? He has never experienced abuse, but going through an amputation and keeping his fun-loving spirit throughout has been an inspiration to us all.

We are sure he will continue to inspire those at Sojourner as they start their very important journeys of healing from domestic violence and moving forward to a safe and secure future.

We've included some additional pictures for you to enjoy. Thanks, as always, for all of your support.

Jodi Polanski, Founder and CEO
Lost Our Home Pet Rescue

GIFT CARD

Continued from page 9

night deadline, too."

This year marks the first time Rice has joined her husband, Chris, a Cottonwood firefighter, in the application process. The mother of four is new to hunting — in fact, her anniversary gift this year was a compound bow.

Good fortune seems to be following Rice. In addition to receiving the \$500 gift card, she recently won a guided elk hunt in Colorado. In August, she and Chris will

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