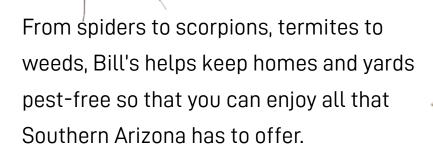




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2025-2026

CHAMPIONS









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INFLUENCERS













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INSIDE GREEN VALLEY SAHUARITA is produced by the staff of

Green Valley News



Dru Sanchez PUBLISHER

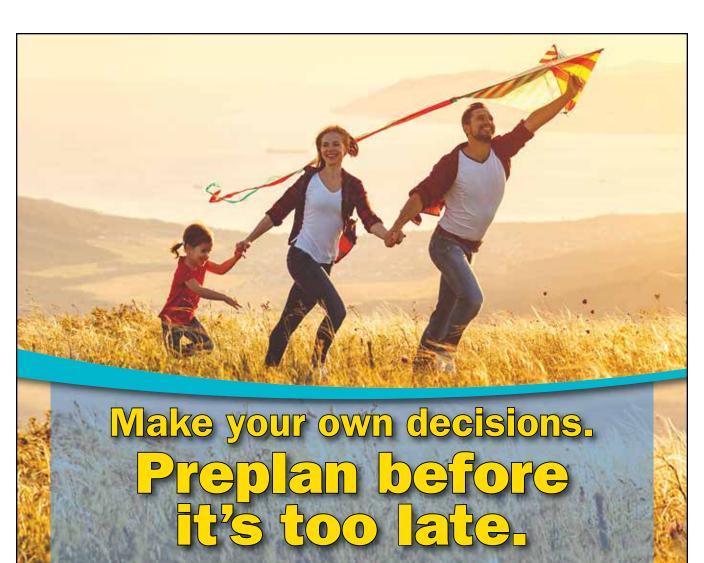
AZ19 Santa Cruz Valley Attractions.

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A special thank you to all of the area photographers who submitted photos of Az19.

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WELCOME

THE SANTA RITA MOUNTAINS from Canoa
Hills Trails Park in Southern
Green Valley.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH KILPATRICK

GREEN VALLEY

Welcome to Green Valley and Sahuarita!

n behalf of the Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our wonderful communities along the Interstate 19 corridor. Whether you are a resident, a visitor discovering our area for the first time or someone considering making this your home, you'll quickly see why Green Valley and Sahuarita are such special places.

Nestled in the heart of the Santa Cruz Valley, our communities combine natural beauty, a strong sense of belonging and an energetic business environment that makes life here both rewarding and enjoyable. The Chamber of Commerce is proud to be at the center of this story, working every day to support our businesses, strengthen community ties and create opportunities for growth.

SUPPORTING OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY

At the chamber, we believe a thriving business community builds a thriving region. Our members represent the backbone of the local economy. Entrepreneurs, healthcare providers, retailers, restaurants, service companies and industries all contribute to the quality of life in Green Valley, Sahuarita and beyond. We work hard to give them the tools, visibility and advocacy they need to succeed.

From networking opportunities to workshops and community events, the chamber is dedicated to ensuring businesses not only grow but also feel deeply connected to the people they serve. This commitment is not just about economics, it's about community building, collaboration and creating a shared vision for the future of Southern Arizona.

NEW PROGRAMS MAKING AN IMPACT

This past year has been especially exciting, as we have launched new programs designed to meet the evolving needs of our region.

- Elevate SGV Leadership Program — Our newest initiative, Elevate SGV (Sahuarita Green Valley), is designed to build the next generation of community leaders.
- ElevateEdAZ Workforce

 Development Program —

 Through a unique partnership

Through a unique partnership with the Sahuarita Unified School District and the Greater Phoenix Chamber Foundation, this program is giving students valuable career exposure while connecting local employers to future talent.

- Woven Women's Cohort
- Recognizing the importance of connection and collaboration, this cohort supports women in business and leadership roles.
- Third Thursday Breakfast and Business Workshops
- Held monthly, these gatherings bring members together to learn, network and share insights.

Each of these programs reflects the chamber's focus on innovation, inclusivity and impact. We are not simply responding to the needs of today, we are preparing for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

A COMMUNITY THAT CONNECTS

What makes Green Valley and Sahuarita so unique is that we are a region of connections — where businesses connect with customers, neighbors connect with one another and newcomers connect with a community that feels like home. The chamber is proud to be a hub for those connections, linking together people and organizations who share a commitment to making our corner of Arizona a better place to live, work and visit.

AN INVITATION TO ENGAGE

As you read through this magazine, I encourage you to take note of the businesses and orga-

nizations featured here. These are the people investing in our community, providing jobs, delivering services and contributing to the unique character of Southern Arizona. Supporting them means supporting the heart of who we are.

On behalf of the Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce, thank you for being part of our story. Whether you're enjoying the outdoors, exploring our local shops and restaurants or engaging with our chamber programs, we are confident you'll find plenty of reasons to love life here.

Welcome to Green Valley and Sahuarita — where business thrives, community grows and opportunity connects us all.



Rebecca Willer
Owner, Continental Spa &
Wellness Center

Chair, Board of Directors

Green Valley Sahuarita
Chamber of Commerce &
Visitor Center





ear Friends and Neighbors, Sahuarita continues to grow and thrive, and I'm proud to share a few of the ways we moved forward in 2025 and what's on the horizon for 2026.

This past year, we celebrated major milestones for our community. We opened the Anamax Splash Pad and the La Villita Community Center, both of which have already become vibrant gathering places for families. Youth programs like Camp Sahuarita and Club SPIKE expanded to serve more families.

Economically, Sahuarita continued to shine. We welcomed new businesses like Burlington, Pima Heart and El Herradero

Carniceria Cocina y Tacos, and supported nearly 90 local entrepreneurs through our Grow in Sahuarita program. We have several new business opportunities on the horizon, so stay tuned for more updates this fall.

In 2026, we will move forward with the General Plan update, guiding growth for the next decade, and visioning for Parcel 30, a 232-acre site near Town Hall that will be key to future development and placemaking.

Cultural and community connections will remain a cornerstone. We are planning a new fall Oktoberfest event with the Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance and we are continuing discussions with the side you.

A COLORFUL MURAL near Sahuarita Lake.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH KILPATRICK

Phoenix Zoo about a regional safari park — an amenity that could place Sahuarita on the map as a regional destination.

Through it all, one thing remains constant: our commitment to connection between residents, businesses, regional partners and neighbors. These connections drive our success and ensure Sahuarita remains a beautiful place to live, work and play.

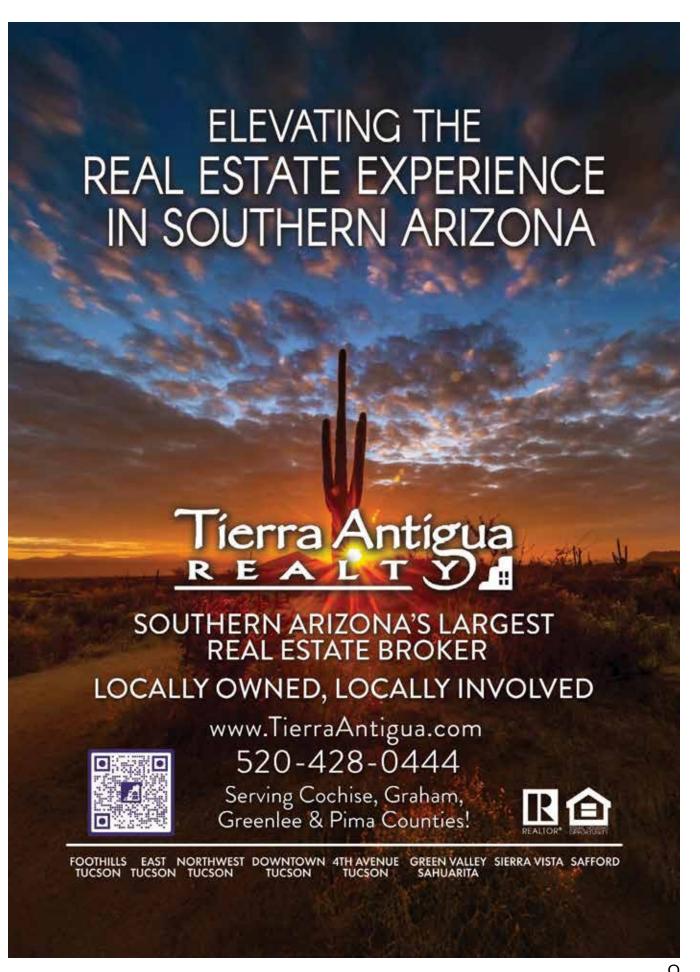
If you see me around town, please don't hesitate to say hello. I am grateful to serve this wonderful community along-



Tom Murphy Town of Sahuarita

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SHOPPING

reen Valley and Sahuarita residents and visitors have a great mix of shopping opportunities to explore.

Green Valley Village in the heart of Green Valley has more than 60 businesses, including boutiques, book stores, restaurants, salons, professional offices, gyms and an Ace Hardware.

About a mile away on Continental Road, Continental Shopping Plaza has more than 50 shops and businesses, including a True Value hardware store, restaurants, salons, unique homegrown boutiques selling clothing, gift items and more and a popular Safeway supermarket.

Major shopping destinations in Sahuarita include the Sahuarita Plaza on Duval Mine Road, anchored by a Ross Dress for Less, Ace Hardware, Petco, restaurants and a Dollar Tree at the west end of the plaza. Across the street, The Crossing at Sahuarita at the southeast corner of Nogales Highway

and Abrego Drive features a popular Sprouts store, TJ Maxx, PetSmart and Bealls outlet, along with a MOD Pizza restaurant, Starbucks coffee shop, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Popeyes, Eegees and more.

To the west of Interstate 19 is the Valley Verde Center with an Ashley Furniture Homestore, Planet Fitness, several restaurants and an Arizona Department of Motor Vehicles office that's open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Also on Duval Mine Road at La Cañada Drive is the Sahuarita Palms Plaza, anchored by a Safeway supermarket and gas station and home to a variety of small shops, businesses and restaurants.

To the east is Madera Marketplace with a Walmart Supercenter, two banks, automotive shops, Walgreens, restaurants and more. South on Abrego at Esperanza Boulevard is a Tractor Supply Co. store, featuring tractor/trailer parts and accessories along with lawn/garden, home maintenance and pet supplies.

Fry's Marketplace and

Chase Bank anchor the
Rancho Sahuarita Marketplace
and Village at Interstate 19
and Sahuarita Road, along
with a dry cleaners, dentist,
veterinary and medical offices,
salons and restaurants. And
just to the east, The Corner
at Rancho Sahuarita hosts
a Panda Express, Arby's
and Fry's gas station and
new businesses. Nearby, the
Sahuarita Library has been
welcoming the public since
September 2021.

In addition, unique shopping and dining experiences in

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP: The Crossing at Sahuarita.

PHOTO BY GRAHAM HARRINGTON

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM:

A shopper downloads a digital coupon at a local grocery store.

PHOTO BY CODY HEDGES

ABOVE: The new Burlington opened this year.

PHOTO BY **GRAHAM HARRINGTON**

Green Valley and Sahuarita can also be found at The Marketplace on Calle de las Tiendas; The Quorum Plaza on West Beta Street, home to Copper Fitness and more; the White Elephant thrift store off La Cañada Drive; and Madera Plaza at the corner of Continental Road and Whitehouse Canyon Road.

MORE COMMERCE

The Sahuarita Advanced Manufacturing and Technology Center,

a hub for business innovation research and technology, welcomed PowerPhotonic to the town's 32,000-square-foot multi-tenant advanced manufacturing center — the first of its kind in Sahuarita on the southwest corner of La Cañada Drive and Sahuarita Road. A Scottish company that uses laser micro-machining to manufacture micro-optics products, PowerPhotonic moved into SAMTEC in March 2022. Also moving into SAMTEC will be Global Water Resources, serving part of the area's water needs.

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ABOVE: Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Ann Timmer with Green Valley Justice of the Peace Ray Carroll and his dog, Bella.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP

LEFT: Pima County Sheriff's Deputy Tim Senne looks up information in his patrol vehicle.

PHOTO BY KIM SMITH

OPPOSITE PAGE RIGHT: A

child pets a snake at an event at Joyner Green Valley Library. PHOTO BY KIM SMITH GOVERNMENT **SERVICES**

GREEN VALLEY

ecause Green Valley is an unincorporated community, the majority of its municipal services are provided by Pima County. Most local, county and state services can be found at the Pima

County Government complex at 601 N. La Cañada Drive in Green Valley.

The complex houses Precinct 7 of the Pima County Justice Court, which handles local traffic, criminal and civil violations and issues marriage certificates. The justice of the peace can perform marriage ceremonies at the court as well. There's also a representative of the District 4 supervisor's





La Posada Rec Center 685 S. La Posada Circle, Bldg #37, Green Valley

www.valleverderotary.org



The Pima County Sheriff's Department Green Valley substation can also be found at the complex. The PCSD deploys squads of deputies and supervising sergeants. Staffed by a public safety support specialist and members of the Green Valley Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers, the substation is

open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The popular Joyner-Green Valley Branch Library also is at the complex, offering a large selection of books for adults, teens and children, as well as a poetry group and a book club.

All other government services are in Tucson.





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COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

GOVERNMENT **SERVICES**

SAHUARITA

ncorporated as a municipality in 1994, the town of Sahuarita has a council-manager form of government. The Town Council typically meets every second and fourth Monday.

Most town employees are on a four-day work week. Sahuarita has its own police force, a municipal court and a town attorney and prosecutor. Its Parks and **Recreation Department** oversees leisure activities in the town. The Public Works

ARIZONA GOV. KATIE

HOBBS speaks as Sahuarita Police Chief John Noland and Sahuarita Mayor Tom Murphy listen.

PHOTO BY KIM SMITH

Department watches over the town's streets, wastewater and engineering needs. The Planning and Building Department issues building permits, performs fire inspections and maintains standards for building safety. Fire service is provided by Santa Rita Fire District.



THE DETAILS

SAHUARITA TOWN HALL

375 W. Sahuarita Center Way | 520-822-8800

SAHUARITA MUNICIPAL COURT

360 W. Sahuarita Center Way | 520-344-7150

SAHUARITA POLICE DEPARTMENT

315 W. Sahuarita Center Way | 520-344-7000



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Senior Living for Every Stage of Your Retirement



Story and photo courtesy La Posada

n today's evolving senior living landscape, the demand for options that seamlessly blend independence with peace of mind is on the rise. Retirees seek communities that cater to their unique needs and lifestyles, offering long-term options for every stage of their best years.

La Posada at Green Valley stands out as a beacon of exceptional care and experience. With nearly four decades of dedicated service, La Posada has become a trusted name in senior living, offering award-winning home options and a comprehensive range of services and amenities designed to enrich the retirement journey.

La Posada at Green Valley understands that senior living is more than just a place to reside; it's a lifestyle choice. A Life Plan Community, La Posada at Green Valley provides a continuum of care, ensuring support for every stage of retirement. Whether seeking independent living, assisted living or memory care, La Posada offers a seamless transition. With Posada Life, residents have access to receiving services to support their health and well-being, brought to them through the At-Home program.

But what truly sets Green Valley apart is its idyllic location. Nestled amidst the stunning Santa Rita Mountains, Green Valley

boasts a vear-round moderate climate perfect for outdoor activities. From exploring nearby hiking trails to enjoying vibrant farmers markets, residents can embrace the active lifestyle they desire.

La Posada at Green Valley believes in providing a vibrant community where residents can connect, socialize and engage in a variety of activities.

The town itself offers a rich cultural tapestry, with local artisans, historical sites and a friendly community atmosphere. Green Valley offers the perfect blend of tranquility and engagement, making it an ideal place to call home.



Looking for a senior living community that offers exceptional choices, a supportive environment and a commitment to your well-being? La Posada at Green Valley may be the right choice. To learn more or to schedule a tour, visit LaPosadaGreenVallev.org, or call (520) 648-8131.

La Posada **Community Services**

Adult Day Services

Supported care for adults and respite for their caregivers (520) 393-6835

Los Niños del Valle

Award winning, state-licensed preschool and daycare (520) 393-6833

La Posada **Community Center**

Senior lunch program, social events and day trips (520) 393-6800

Outpatient Therapies

Physical, occupational and speech therapies from La Posada staff (520) 648-2200

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering offers significant health benefits (520) 648-7999

and Online:

Connect Green Valley

Online resource for services and information in Greater Green Valley

www.connectgv.org



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Experience the Nonprofit Difference



La Posada at Green Valley is an award-winning, nationally accredited community.



EDUCATION

CONTINENTAL

or more than 100 years, since its founding in 1916, Continental School continues to serve and prosper as Green Valley's only local school. Home of the Continental Colts, the school offers a quality education for its 640 students from preschool to eighth grade.

Located at the base of Madera Canyon in a beautiful desert setting, the entire school district is the school itself. As a result, Continental has one of the lowest student-teacher ratios in Southern Arizona schools, allowing more time for teachers and staff to focus on their core mission of helping its students excel in academics, character and life skills.

Known as The Little School with a Big Heart, Continental prides itself on its student involvement in Green Valley with many parent and community volunteers active in mentoring students, and assisting with a wide variety of clubs, special programs and after-school sports and activities. This special bond between our students and our many volunteers makes our district a truly unique place to

Community involvement is seen through such activities as the annual eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C., in which the student-led Civics Club helps to raise funds throughout the year for this amazing graduation trip to our nation's capital. The Continental Jazz Band performs throughout the community for charity events and at local nursing homes.

In promoting its kindness to all program, Continental helped in the creation of the annual National Thank You Letter Day, (Nov. 14) in which they created the world's largest handwritten thank you letter (the size of a basketball gym), envelope and stamp. For their efforts, they received a Guinness World

Please contact our school if you have any questions or visit our website at: www.continentalesd.org.

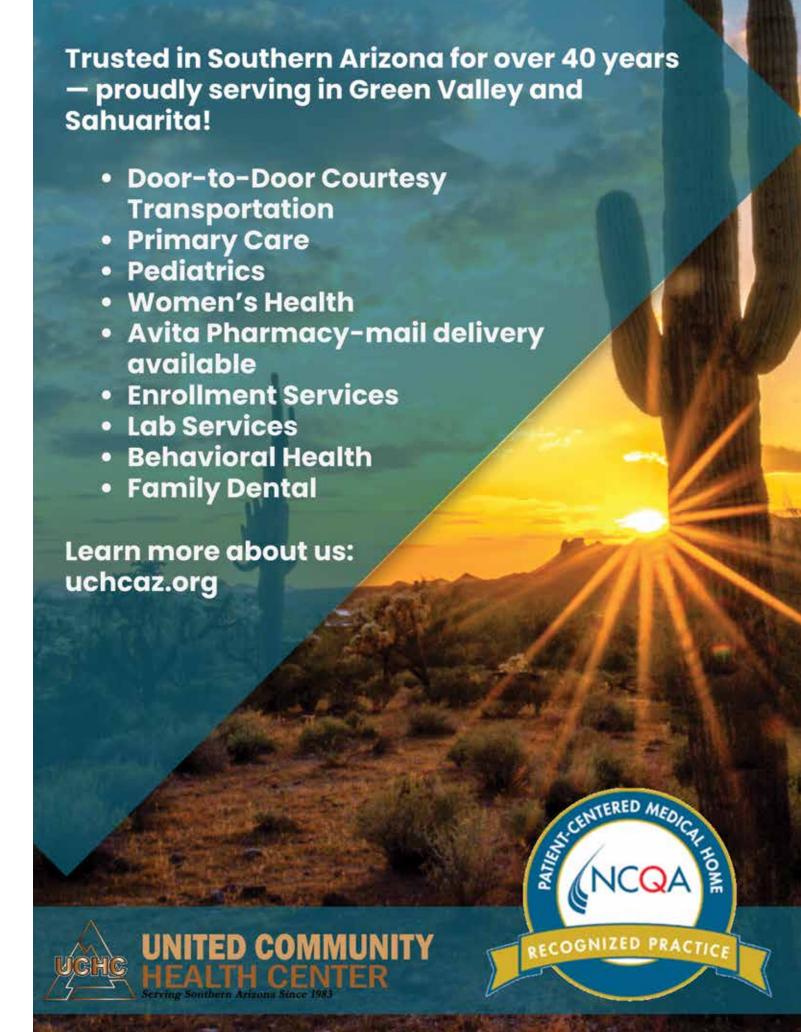
ABOVE: Continental School staff held a Back to the Future-themed Meet and Greet complete with a Delorean.

PHOTO COURTESY CONTINENTAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

THE DETAILS

CONTINENTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 39

1991 E. Whitehouse Canyon Road, Green Valley 520-625-4581 continentalesd.org





EDUCATION

SAHUARITA

ahuarita Unified School District No. 30 (SUSD) is a premier public school district in Southern Arizona, serving 6,400 students in grades K-12. Founded in 1964, the district is proud of its long tradition of academic excellence. Since then, Sahuarita Unified School District has become known for its innovative curriculum, rich history and sense of community. Today, the district is made up of a childcare/ early education center, two high schools, one K-2 primary school, one 3-5 intermediate school, one middle school, two K-8 schools, two K-5 elementary schools and one K-12 online

Both award-winning high schools offer a wide selection of educational choices in

ABOVE: Sahuarita Unifed School District kindergartners learn lessons about fire safety.

PHOTO COURTESY SANTA RITA FIRE DISTRICT

RIGHT: A Wrightson Ridge teacher leads her new students to her classroom. PHOTO BY KIM SMITH

academics, the arts, sports and career and technical education. Our graduates continue to be admitted to a wide number of universities, and among the nation's best schools. This past year, our graduates earned more than \$17.5 million in scholarships! Through our 30 dual college enrollment programs with Pima Community College, our high school students can earn college credits while simultaneously earning high school credits. The



college tuition value of these earned credits at the local state universities is about \$3 million.

In athletics, the Walden Grove High School academic decathlon team placed fourth in nationals. Sahuarita High

School's boys wrestling team secured its fourth consecutive state championship.

The NJROTC Raiders ranked 19th in the nation.

• New football fields and tracks were installed at Walden Grove and Sahuarita high schools thanks to a \$50 million bond passed by voters in 2023.

- The bond also will provide for a new auditorium at Walden Grove High School that will ease demand at the district auditorium.
- Wrightson Ridge School saw seven new classrooms, including a new art room and a new room to grow Career and Technical Education programs.
- New safety measures are also being put into place in the district, including new hightech cameras and riot-proof and bullet-resistant laminate windows. As the 2025-2026 school year unfolds, there are new and promising next steps and indicators of further progress and success in the Sahuarita Unified School District.
- A new pilot partnership with Intermountain Centers

RIGHT: A photo of a Sahuarita High School football player captured before a game by Tyler Rushing of TLR Media who, is a Sahuarita High School graduate and the youngest member of the Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce. PHOTO BY TYLER RUSHING

launched on the Wrightson Ridge K-8 campus to support convenient and accessible mental health services.

- We've also brought in a second, full-time master's level social worker to further support the interpersonal, mental health and behavioral needs of our students.
- In Career and Technical Education (CTE), we are expanding the middle school career exploration elective program, and continuing to grow all CTE programs,



TRINA ALBERTA RANKED NO. 1 INDIVIDUAL AGENT

TUCSON, Ariz. - June 2, 2025 - Trina Alberta, a distinguished Coldwell Banker Global Luxury Property Specialist affiliated with the Green Valley office of Coldwell Banker Realty, has been recognized as the No. 1 individual agent in Tucson based on both sales volume and transaction sides, for Coldwell Banker Realty Arizona by RealTrends.

With over 20 years of real estate experience, Alberta has built a reputation for excellence, integrity and results-driven service. Her extensive knowledge of the Southern Arizona market, combined with her background in communications, allows her to expertly guide clients through every step

"Alberta's commitment to her clients is matched by her dedication to her community."

of the buying and selling process. Whether working with first-time homebuyers, seasoned investors or luxury property clients, she is known for her personalized approach, strategic marketing and strong negotiation skills.

"I am honored to be recognized as a top agent," said Alberta. "My goal has always been to deliver exceptional service and results

for my clients. To have my efforts acknowledged in this way is incredibly rewarding. I'm especially proud that the majority of my business comes from referrals. It's a testament to the trust and satisfaction of the people I serve."

Alberta's commitment to her clients is matched by her dedication to her community. She actively supports local initiatives, including Green Valley Assistance Services, and the Continental School District, reflecting her belief in giving back to the community that has supported her career.

As a Coldwell Banker Global Luxury Property Specialist, Alberta leverages cutting-edge tools, global marketing reach and a vast professional network to ensure her clients receive the highest level of service and exposure. Her consistent success and client-first philosophy have made her a trusted name in Tucson real estate.

About Coldwell Banker Realty Arizona: Coldwell Banker Realty in Arizona, a leading residential real estate brokerage company, operates 16 offices with approximately 1,465 independent agents throughout Arizona. Coldwell Banker Realty is owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Real Estate Inc. (NYSE:HOUS), the largest full-service residential real estate services company in the United States. For more information, visit ColdwellBankerHomes.com

#1 Luxury Home Agent in Green Valley #1 Coldwell Banker Agent in Arizona



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TOP: Walden Grove High School class of 2025 graduation

PHOTO BY GREEN VALLEY NEWS STAFF

ABOVE: Sahuarita High School football going through drills ahead of the 2025 season.

PHOTO BY **NATALIE DIAZ**

including automotive technology, architectural drafting and medical assisting.

- We are expanding our technology network to increase the number of available devices.
- A new three-part professional development series for elementary teachers on the Science of Reading rolled out last year.

We are committed to doing whatever it takes to advance



our purpose of delivering highquality education and pushing forward in the never-ending quest to honor our noble mission, working as a team to help every student succeed.

THE DETAILS

SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 30

350 W. Sahuarita Road, Sahuarita 520-625-3502 www.susd30.us

EDUCATION CHARTER SCHOOLS



SAHUARITA MAYOR Tom Murphy and a Great Expectations teacher play cornhole at Sahuarita's Kids

PHOTO BY KIM SMITH

reat Expectations Academy is a K-8 public charter school in Sahuarita. Since 1999, it has served students with an emphasis on literacy and the arts. Small class sizes and a supportive school community allow opportunities for students to thrive and work toward their full potential. The school is home to an award-winning band and performing and visual arts programs.

THE DETAILS

GREAT EXPECTATIONS ACADEMY

1466 Camino Antigua, Sahuarita 520-399-2121 www.geageckos.org



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TOWN & VALLEY CULTURE & COMMUNITY ATTRACTIONS CHAMBER INFORMATION LIST OF MEMBERS



EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION

he University of Arizona has offered enriching adult educational opportunities with non-credit and credit classes in myriad subjects on and off campus.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Arizona is a nonprofit organization created to meet the needs of those 50 and older. A large variety of interesting classes covering a wide variety of topics are offered. We continue online using Zoom, as well as in-person classes in Green

Valley at the Community Learning Center at CPAC, 1250 W. Continental Road. Classes are also offered in Southeast Tucson and Central Tucson. Visit https://olli.arizona.edu/.

Green Valley Recreation traditionally offers a large variety of sports, arts, clubs and classes year-round, and nonmembers can take part with certain stipulations.

At the Pima County Public Library's e-library, entertainment, knowledge and inspiration are just a click away. Stream award-winning

documentaries on Kanopy Films, learn a new language with Pronunciator, trace your family's past on Ancestry, unlock a world of e-books and audiobooks, read newspapers and magazines, watch live concerts on Qello and so much

The local Joyner-Green Valley Library branch is also a go-to source for reliable information. Staff are on hand to offer book recommendations, help with a streaming service and provide information about

AN OLLI-UA class in Green Valley.

PHOTO BY JORGE ENCINAS

educational resources for kids. small businesses, community resources for food and other basic needs or authoritative health information. It also hosts the Page Turner's Book Club, the Poet's Corner, a Mindful Meditation and more.

Call the Joyner-Green Valley Library at 520-594-5295, the Infoline at 520-791-4010 or email AskALibrarian@pima.gov

HEALTH & WELLNESS

n Sahuarita, Northwest Healthcare has served the Green Valley and Sahuarita communities for more than 10 years, and in 2020 Northwest Medical Center Sahuarita opened as a full-service neighborhood hospital to further solidify their commitment to the community.

Northwest Medical Center Sahuarita has 18 medical/ surgical inpatient beds to take care of patients after surgery, or with illnesses that require hospitalization. Emergency care is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are two operating rooms, currently offering orthopedic surgery, general surgery, podiatric surgery, spine surgery, gastroenterology procedures

and pain management procedures.

The hospital also offers outpatient procedures including routine lab work and diagnostic imaging (X-ray, ultrasound, CT scans, Nuclear Medicine, stress testing and more).

In addition to the hospital, Northwest Healthcare also operates Northwest Primary & Specialty Care, employing 14 providers in Sahuarita and Green Valley. Specialties include Cardiology, Family Medicine, Gastroenterology, General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Orthopedic Surgery, Pain Management, Podiatry, Spine Surgery and Urogynecology.

In Southern Green Valley, the Health & Wellness Campus

at 4455 S. I-19 Frontage Road is home to Valley Ear, Nose & Throat: United Community Health Center (UCHC); AZ Kidney Disease & Hypertension Center; Pima Pain Center; and

DMC Dermatology.

In addition to its Frontage Road location, UCHC serves patients at its Sahuarita offices at 1260 S. Campbell Road; 670 S. Park Centre Ave.; Sahuarita Heights Clinic on Sahuarita Road, as well as its Amado Clinic.

Haven Health bought Santa Rita Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Arroyo Gardens is an assisted living community offering 86 apartments, and outpatient physical therapy. Other providers in town include Silver Springs assisted



THE ARROYO GARDENS

STAFF make one of their viral TikTok videos.

PHOTO BY BRIANNA MCCORD

living, The Villas at Green Valley assisted living and memory care, Prestige Assisted Living at Green Valley and Canyon Valley Memory Care.

La Posada offers a continuum of care with the best in independent living and priority access to healthcare services for ages 62 and up, including levels of assisted living and memory







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GREEN VALLEY COUNCIL

reen Valley was developed as a standalone or full-service community for retired persons in 1964, complete with medical facilities, places of worship, essential shopping. restaurant and business services and exceptional recreational opportunities. Green Valley is in Pima County, adjacent to the Santa Cruz River Valley in Southern Arizona. It is approximately equally distanced south of Tucson, Arizona, and north of Nogales, Sonora. Green Valley aligns with the Santa Cruz River Valley and is bounded by the copper mines to the west and the Union Pacific Railroad to the east. Safety, law enforcement and judicial services are provided by the Pima County Governmental sub-complex in Green Valley. Fire protection services are provided by the Santa Rita Fire District.

The town of Green Valley lies in unincorporated Pima County. On June 23, 1973, the Green Valley Council Inc., a 501(c)(4) nonprofit, was created to serve as an all-volunteer representative organization for the original Green Valley Homeowners Associations. In



the 52 years since then, the Green Valley Council has grown to be the recognized and unified civic voice of Green Valley.

The Green Valley Council represents the Green Valley community at the local, county, state, federal and tribal governmental levels. The GVC operates through its eight standing committees that interface directly with their counterparts in Pima County. These include Traffic & Arroyos, Health and Human Services, Planning & Architecture, Environmental, Parks Advisory, Community

Services, HOA Relations and Citizens Corps Emergency Response. Strategic direction comes directly from the Green Valley community.

Incorporated as a membership organization, the residents of Green Valley become members through the 800-plus member HOAs, HOA affiliates, businesses and public service organizations. Each member has a seat on the Board of Representatives, the council's governing body. More than 200 people volunteer All council and committee hundreds of hours of their time and talent each year to serve on

ABOVE: Volunteers check expiration dates at the Sahuarita Food Bank and Community Resource Center on Mitzvah (Good Deed) Day hosted by the Green Valley Council and GVC Foundation PHOTO BY GREEN VALLEY NEWS STAFF

the council and its committees to ensure that Green Valley remains a premier place to live, work, play and invest. meetings are open to the public.

The council sponsors



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programs such as the Preferred Vendor Program; Dispute Resolution; Community Forums; Homeowner Association (HOA) workshops; Legal Workshops; Planning and Architectural Permit review; Service Line Warranty; Service Requests for people to report problems with county-owned roads and other property; and contractual support for Pima County.

In 2012, the Council created The GVC Foundation Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit affiliate, to help support special projects that offer new services or supplement Pima County services to the Green Valley community. These services are accomplished through the foundation's volunteer interest **RIGHT:** First responders urge people to be alert and obey barricades at the Third Annual Monsoon Madness event hosted by the Green Valley Council.

PHOTO BY KIM SMITH

groups: Good Deeds Done Together and The Friends of the Canoa Parks.

Would you like to contribute your talent to the community or need more information? Visit the council at 555 N. La Cañada Drive, Suite 117, Green Valley AZ 85614, call 520-648-1936 or email us at info@gvcouncil.org. The Green Valley Council website offers a wealth of information on the council's programs and services, the projects supported



by the GVC Foundation Inc., and general information on living in Green Valley (gvcouncil.org and gvc-foundation.org).





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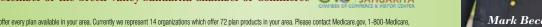




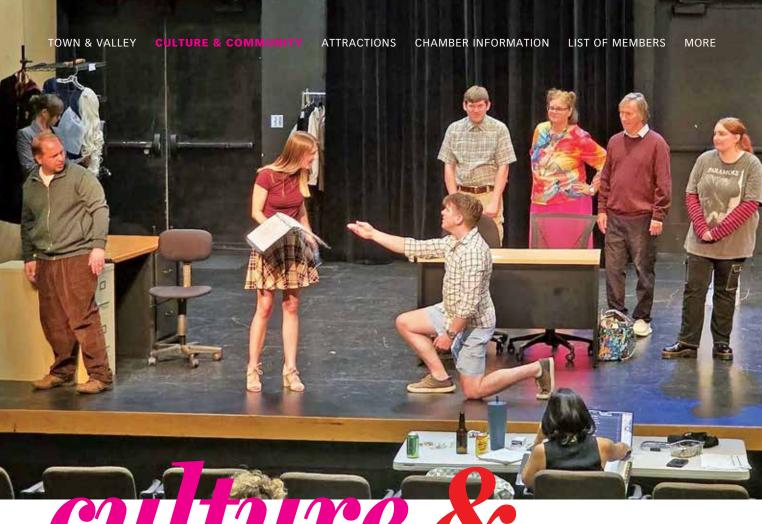
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cutture & Community

ARTS & CULTURE

From street fairs and historic landmarks to art shows and Broadway-style performances, Az19 is rich with arts and culture. Here's just a taste.

reen Valley Recreation brings in entertainment from around the country, and thespians both new and experienced can join its popular GVR Valley Players club, which offers a variety of Readers Theater presentations each year. GVR also hosts great concerts and numerous clubs for members, many of which are dedicated to arts, crafts, dance, photography, current events and more.

Throughout the year, the Community Performance & Art Center in Green Valley also **ABOVE:** Actors from The Santa Cruz Shoestring Players rehearses for the musical comedy "Office Party."

PHOTO BY BRIANNA MCCORD

presents a delightfully enticing mix of entertaining concerts, history lectures, art exhibits and more, including plays presented by the Santa Cruz Shoestring Players. In addition, the facility is available for rent to arts organizations and touring shows, and to the public

RIGHT: Sankofa-Lized
Phoenix by Godshand OwusuAppiah is one of the pieces
in the Tubac Center of the
Arts' first outdoor Garden
Sculpture exhibit.
PHOTO BY DIEGO DIAZ

for a variety of activities, such as private receptions, meetings and seminars.

At the 48,000-acre Historic Canoa Ranch in southern Green Valley, walking tours throughout the year highlight the area's fascinating multi-cultural history, plants and Western lifestyle, along with seasonal events, including concerts and car shows, as well as bird walks at the popular lake.

To the south at the Tubac Center for the Arts, an eclectic mix of intriguing exhibitions run from August 2025 through July 2026. Also the 2025-26 performing arts season features

a delightful mix of concerts, including jazz, western and classical, from October through March

In addition, Desert Diamond Casino at Interstate 19 and Pima Mine Road offers a variety of slots, table games, Sportsbook & Bar, delicious food at Taste of Agave – At The Buffet as well as the Diamond Grill and the Sports Bar. Casino del Sol in Tucson also offers plenty of world-class live acts at its AVA Amphitheater, including comedy and Latin, Tejano and classic rock concerts. Gaming options



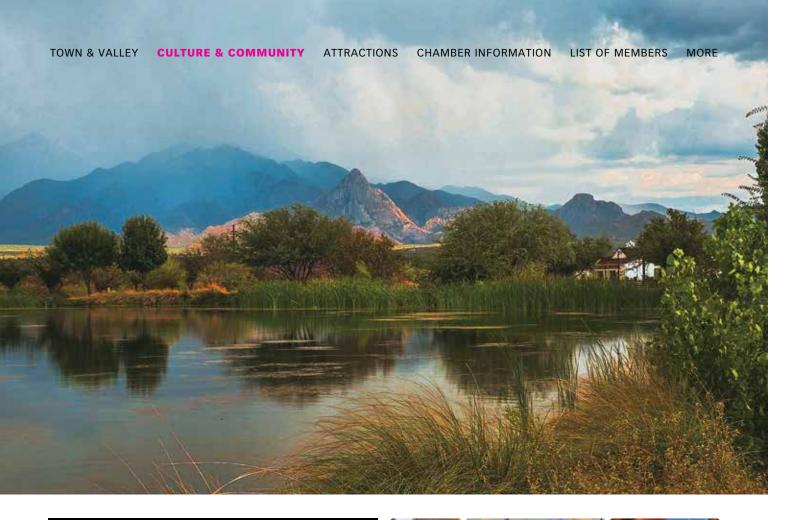


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include slots, table games, bingo and poker. Among the many dining choices are a steakhouse, Italian restaurant, Fiesta Buffet, a deli and more.

In Sahuarita, the school district's 1,200-seat auditorium is a popular venue for student and community plays, recitals, ballets and musical performances.

Plus, a whole city full of culture is just 25 minutes up

OPPOSITE PAGE: A storm brews above the Santa Rita Mountains as seen from Canoa Ranch.

PHOTO BY **ELIZABETH KILPATRICK**

the road in Tucson, including the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, Arizona Theatre Company, Arizona Arts Live, a mix of high-quality museums and much more.

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1250 W. Continental Road, Green Valley, 520-399-1750, www.performingartscenter.org LEFT: Green Valley News and Sahuarita Sun publisher Dru Sanchez greets attendees at the annual AZ19 Most Influential Event held at the Desert Diamond Casino. PHOTO BY GREEN VALLEY NEWS

HISTORIC HACIENDA DE LA CANOA AT RAUL M. GRIJALVA CANOA RANCH CONSERVATION PARK

5375 S. I-19 Frontage Road, Green Valley, 520-724-6680. webcms.pima.gov

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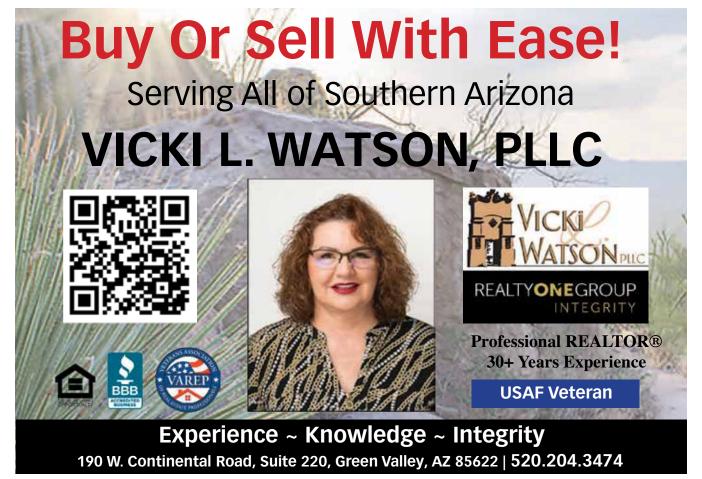
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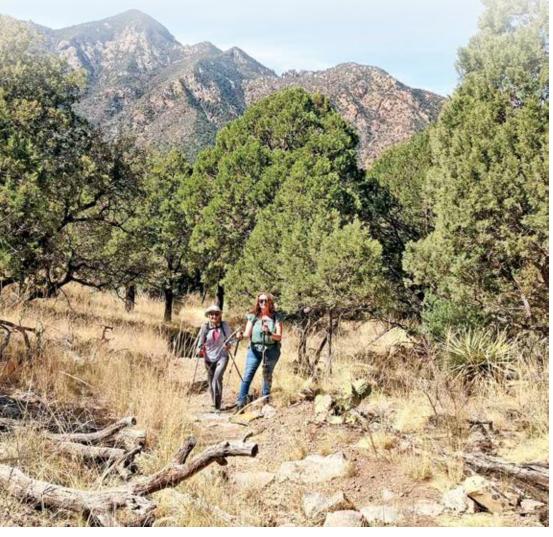


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SPORTS & RECREATION IN THE VALLEY



reen Valley and Sahuarita offer terrific ways to connect to the sports and recreation scene, whether as spectators or participants.

Green Valley Recreation has 15 modern rec centers for duespaying members and their guests. Many feature the latest exercise equipment, large pools for lap swimming, water classes and water volleyball: tennis and pickleball courts and much

Just to the east in the Santa Rita Mountains, several challenging trails will take hikers to the top of the peaks or to a babbling brook deep in the Sky Island forest. To the west, the desert calls from a large swath of land traversed by hiking and biking trails called the West Desert Trails. Runners and walkers of all ages can join in the annual Run/ Walks & Family Fun Runs series, presented by TaggRun at the Green Valley Pecan Company

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OPPOSITE PAGE: Hiking in Madera Canvon.

PHOTO COURTESY NORMA BAKER

RIGHT: A drive to centerfieldw during a BAJA softball game.

PHOTO BY TIM SAYLOR

in Sahuarita, while fishing fans can take to Sahuarita Lake, which is stocked throughout the year. The lake also is open to canoeing and kayaking.

Softball, soccer and volleyball are popular in the valley, with leagues for young and old. The BAJA Sporting Club has about 400 members who love to play softball, go bowling and volunteer in the community.

The Town of Sahuarita's Parks & Recreation Department also offers a variety of adult sports

leagues and fitness classes at its Anamax Park Recreation Center and ball fields, as well as children's programs including karate, dance and more.

If you want to watch from the bleachers, Sahuarita High School has varsity teams that always are competitive in their divisions, and they love to have

Green Valley fans come out. Walden Grove High School, which opened in fall 2011, has grown into a worthy cross-town





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TOWN & VALLEY CULTURE & COMMUNITY ATTRACTIONS CHAMBER INFORMATION LIST OF MEMBERS MC







A big draw in the region are the NCAA Division I teams at the University of Arizona in Tucson. With strong basketball, volleyball, hockey, football and baseball teams in the Big 12, there's always a sport in season on campus.

You also can take a two-hour drive north to Phoenix to see the Arizona Diamondbacks play pro baseball, or watch the Phoenix Suns take down the competition on the basketball courts. The Arizona Cardinals football team has done well, and the Arizona Coyotes always play exciting, fast-paced hockey.

For youngsters, Sahuarita offers public parks with sports fields and more, including skate parks at North Santa Cruz and Anamax parks. In addition, there is local Little League, youth football, soccer and swim teams.



OPPOSITE PAGE: The
Aquabelles practice at a
Green Valley Recreation pool.
PHOTO BY KIM SMITH

ABOVE: The University of Arizona is now part of the Big 12 Conference.

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PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

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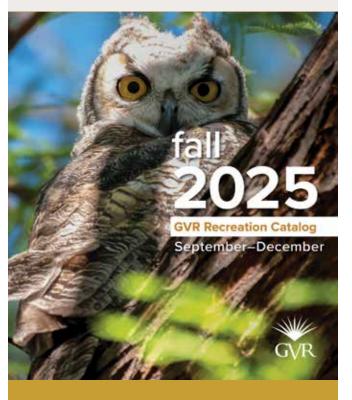
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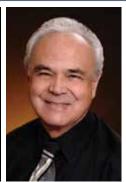
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UZLY SUNTU cruz valley attractions

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he spiritual and historic Mission San Xavier del Bac, between Tucson and Sahuarita, dates to the late 1700s. Known as the White Dove of the Desert, it is an architecturally significant historic landmark off Interstate 19 on the Tohono O'odham Nation. Visitors can view the ornate parish church from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the gift shop is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mass times are Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m and noon. Museum visits and

TOWN & VALLEY

Heading south, the Asarco **Mineral Discovery Center** in Sahuarita provides visitors an opportunity to learn about the importance of mining in everyday life. It includes an award-winning exhibit center, video theater, cactus garden and picnic area. Visitors also can stand at the edge of an open-pit copper mine, and stop at the mill to see how the ore is processed. Shop at the Company Store gift shop, too.

guided tours are available.

Wanna bet — or be entertained? The **Desert Diamond Casino** on Pima Mine Road features slot machines, table games from Blackjack to Roulette, and Keno, plus entertainment and dining choices that include Taste of Agave — At The Buffet, the Diamond Grill, and the Sportsbook & Bar.

Also in Sahuarita, the **Titan** Missile Museum offers tours that take visitors 30 feet underground to see the silo of this former intercontinental ballistic missile site, now a National Historic Landmark. The only ICBM site in the world with a Titan II missile in the launch silo, this complex provides above-ground and underground exhibits depicting the Cold War era. See the command center and walk the silo cable ways

At Historic Hacienda de la Canoa at the Raul M. Grijalva Canoa Ranch Conservation Park in southern Green Valley, Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers offer a variety of intriguing guided tours of the ranch buildings, gardens and corral, birding tours at the lake, plus special nature and history-oriented events for the public. Dating back to the original Spanish San Ignacio de la Canoa land grant, this ranch was a stop for the Anza Expedition in 1775-76 and was one of the largest cattle ranches

in Arizona when operated by the Manning family from the early 1900s until the 1970s. Farther south is Tubac

Presidio State Historic Park and Tumacácori National Historical Park with a historic adobe church.

OPPOSITE PAGE: A monsoon storm gathers above San Xavier Del Bac Mission in Tucson PHOTO BY JEFFERY WEBSTER

THE DETAILS

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TITAN MISSILE MUSEUM

520-625-7736. 1580 W. Duval Mine Road, Sahuarita. Interstate 19 Exit 69. www.titanmissilemuseum.org

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TUBAC

bout 20 miles south of Green Valley on Interstate 19 is a quaint little riverside village that calls itself the place where art and history meet.

Indeed, the village of Tubac has dozens of shops, galleries and restaurants, many of them selling unique products made by the artists and artisans who call the village home.

Tubac's history is impressive as well. It was here, in 1752, that the first European settlement in what is now Arizona was founded when the Spanish built a presidio near the banks of the Santa Cruz River. The area's history is celebrated at Tubac Presidio State Historic Park, where, every fall, the town turns **TOP:** A stroll at dusk along the fairway at the Tubac Golf Resort.

PHOTO COURTESY TUBAC GOLF RESORT

ABOVE: The night sky over Tubac, which received a DarkSky International Community designation in November.

PHOTO BY **JOHN ASHLEY**

out to recognize local hero Juan Bautista de Anza II, a commandant of the presidio, an Indian fighter and colonizer who led a group of settlers to California in 1775-1776 to establish what is now San Francisco.

Tubac has established itself



as a resort destination with the expansion and renovation of the Tubac Golf Resort, and a place for high-end vacation and part-time homes.

TUMACÁCORI



ABOVE: The historic Abe's Old Tumacácori Bar has remained largely unaltered nearly 100 years later.
PHOTO BY CODY HEDGES

ABOVE: 1957 Chevy Bel Air outside the Santa Cruz Chili & Spice Company.

PHOTO BY ROBERT KALE

ust down the road from
Tubac is Tumacácori,
where a Spanish mission
still stands at Tumacácori
National Historical Park as a
reminder of the part this region
once played in settling the
New World. Across the street
is the Santa Cruz Chili & Spice



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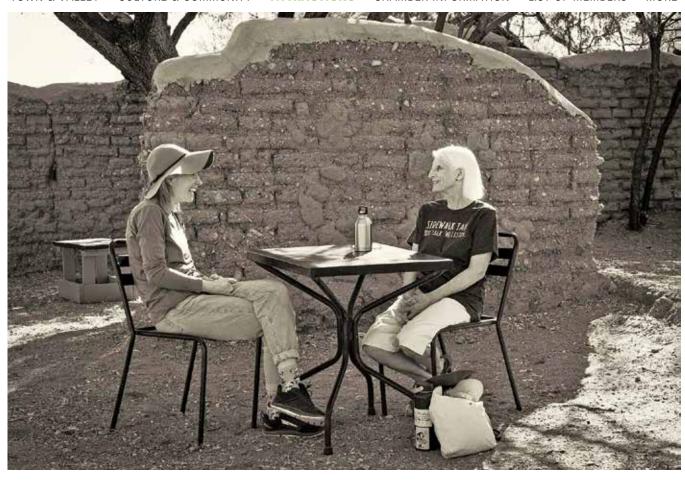
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ARIVACA

ABOVE: A volunteer listens to an Arivaca resident at Celebrate Arivaca Day. PHOTO BY JON KAMMERMAN rivaca is a beautiful rural community 23 miles off Interstate 19 south of Green Valley. The gentle winding road to Arivaca is the perfect afternoon drive.

Just be careful as you travel

down this road. Be on the lookout for rabbits, coyotes, deer and open-range cattle. Once you arrive in Arivaca, there are a number of things to see and do.

Arivaça's town site was

originally a Pima Indian village. Mining operations in the area began in 1856, and when the mines played out, ranching took over.

Today, it's the home of the Arivaca Cienega, a wetland







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associated with the Buenos
Aires National Wildlife Refuge.
There are hiking trails and
interpretive signs telling about
the area and the wildlife you
may encounter. The refuge is
on the avid birdwatcher's list
and is home to many species of
birds. Also to the west of town
is the refuge's wooded Arivaca
Creek Trail. To the south of

ABOVE: Arivaca Lake.
PHOTO BY MARIE LEMAY AND
SUE POIRIER

town, try your luck fishing at Arivaca Lake.

Annual festivities are held for the Fourth of July, and weekend farmers markets are popular through much of the year.

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TOWN & VALLEY CULTURE & COMMUNITY ATTRACTIONS CHAMBER INFORMATION LIST OF MEMBERS



AMADO

he hamlet of Amado is nestled in prime Arizona ranching country between Tubac and Green Valley, straddling Santa Cruz and Pima counties along Interstate 19.

The area offers clear vistas, gentle mountains and green terrain. Nestled at the western base of the Santa Rita Mountains, Amado is perfect for hiking and birding. And for those who enjoy ATV and

ABOVE: The annual Amado Chili Cook-Off and Car Show always draws a large crowd. PHOTO BY **JONATHAN ARLIA**

RIGHT: An Amado rancher delivers fresh produce to the Amado Mini Market.

PHOTO BY **KELLY PARDI**

horseback riding, the area offers many opportunities to enjoy recreational riding. Dining choices and overnight accommodations also are available.

Stargazers will enjoy a visit



to the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory visitor center and check out seasonal tours up

to Mount Hopkins. Hikers will enjoy the historic Anza Trail, as well.







RIO RICO

nce part of a large Spanish land grant called the Baca Float No. 3, Rio Rico these days is mostly a bedroom community for commuters from Nogales and other Santa Cruz Valley locales, but it is quickly coming into its own with new shopping, restaurants and a growing population.

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ABOVE: Rio Rico High School girls tennis match

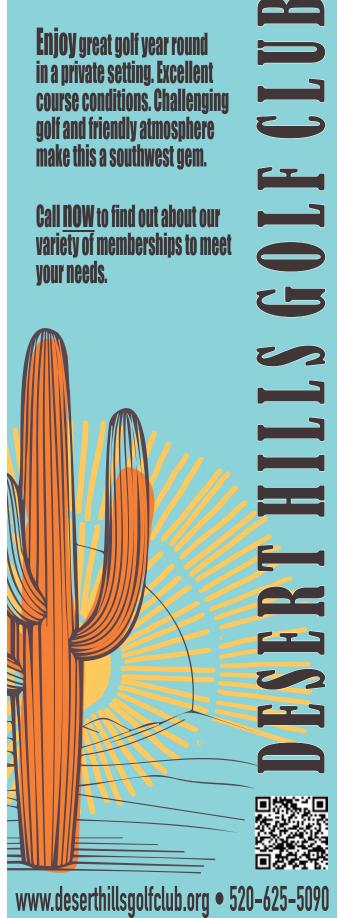
RIGHT: Rio Rico High School graduation.

PHOTOS BY **JONATHAN CLARK**

The Rio Rico History Museum at 1060 Yavapai Drive opened in 2018 and offers a historic tour in October. Details can be found at: rioricohistoricalsociety.org

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he government seat of Santa Cruz County is Nogales, Arizona, home to about 20,000 residents. Its sprawling Mexican namesake just to the south in Sonora has about 20 times that number.

The U.S. city is a government center with retail outlets, restaurants and a sizable warehousing center for fresh produce coming across the

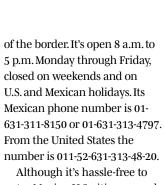
In Mexico, the city of Nogales is a modern factory and produce shipping center, but it's also a tourist destination. It's easy to get there. Just walk across the international border in downtown Nogales, Arizona.

TOP: Fourth of July celebration in Nogales. PHOTO BY GENESIS LARA

LEFT: Nogales Public Library. PHOTO BY CHRISTINA TREVINO

The tourist area immediately south of the border has restaurants, shops and, if you want, pharmacies and dentist offices. You can drive into Mexico, but the lines of cars driving north into the United States can be long and move

There's a U.S. Consulate in south Nogales, Sonora, on Calle San Jose, about five miles south School Mariachi plays in the annual Fiestas de Mavo. PHOTO BY **DAISY ZAVALA MAGAÑA**



enter Mexico, U.S. citizens need a passport or passport card to return from Mexico. Also bring along a photo ID such as a driver's license.



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SANTA RITA MOUNTAINS & MADERA CANYON

mong the highlights in the Santa Cruz Valley for visitors and residents alike is Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains east of Green Valley. Called a Sky Island, the wooded canyon is only 11 miles southeast of Green Valley, but it sports an environment quite different from the desert below.

Madera Canyon is a haven for flora and fauna found nowhere else in the United States, and it has three distinctive lodges, miles of trails ranging from easy to very difficult and picnic facilities.

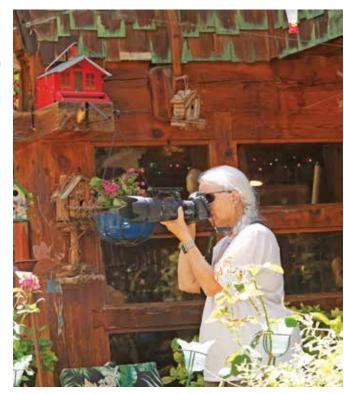
According to the Friends of Madera Canyon, a Green Valleybased advocacy group charged with protecting the canyon, more than 200 bird species have been seen in the canyon, **RIGHT:** Photographing birds at Madera Kubo in Madera Canyon.

PHOTO BY **DENISE LECOUNT-O'BRIEN**

including rare ones like the elegant trogan, flame-colored tanager, red-faced warbler and the rose-breasted grosbeak.

The best trails in Madera Canyon climb the southern side of Mount Wrightson, including the Old Baldy Trail and the Super Trail, both of which lead to the 9,456-foot peak.

A thick forest thrives in Madera Canyon. Visitors will find mesquite trees, several varieties of evergreen oaks, alligator junipers, Arizona madrones, cottonwoods, whitelimbed sycamores, ponderosa pines and more.



ANZA TRAIL

he Anza Trail has many segments that run from Culiacan, Mexico, to San Francisco, California, following as closely as possible the historic route taken by Juan Bautista de Anza II and 240 immigrants in the winter of 1775-76.

In this region of Southern Arizona, hikers, bicyclists and equestrians can use:

• A 5.2-mile section in the Canoa Ranch area, just south of Green Valley, that begins east of Interstate 19 on Elephant Head Road near the Santa Cruz River. The trail here is a packed surface for foot and bicycle traffic. Equestrians can use the river wash so as not to damage the trail.

• Take the Abrego Trailhead

in Green Valley along Abrego Drive south of Continental Road on the east side of Abrego Drive. covering three miles. Hike south from here to the Elephant Head Road Trailhead, Hikers also can head north from the Abrego Trailhead to the north end of the Country Club of Green Valley golf course, and continue to the Llano Grande trailhead in the town of Sahuarita. From there, the trail follows close to the Santa Cruz riverbed up to the southern boundary of the San Xavier Indian Reservation.

• A rather lush, 3.8-mile section follows the river from the presidio at Tubac to the mission at Tumacácori. This is one of the more popular hikes in the Santa Cruz Valley and can

OPPOSITE PAGE: The Santa Rita Mountains from the Green Valley area. PHOTO BY PHILIP COLE

be picked up at well-marked trailheads at the mission and the presidio. It's a beautiful route and this mostly flat, easy trail is a great option for families. The trail also extends north from Tubac for about a mile. This is a top trail section for birders.

• A 5.5-mile stretch of the trail near Rio Rico follows the river and winds through mesquite forests. Take I-19 exit 17, Rio Rico/Yavapai Drive. Park at the trailhead next to the Santa Cruz County building and look for the trailhead sign.



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LIST OF MEMBERS MOR

TOWN & VALLEY CULTURE & COMMUNITY ATTRACTIONS THE AURORA BOREALIS en from the Empire Ranch PHOTO BY WENDY ISLAS

DARK SKIES

p on Mount Hopkins in the Santa Rita range, the Smithsonian Institution operates the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory, a stateof-the-art telescope array used by scientists to study the beginnings of our universe.

To assist this important research, and to help out other observatories across Southern Arizona, Pima County, Tucson and Sahuarita have all passed ordinances that require special outdoor lighting, keeping the sky dark so scientists can see (or at least attempt to see) ever-so-faint objects millions of lightyears away in space.

The Whipple Observatory visitor center in Amado offers astronomy and natural history displays, occasional Star Parties and nearby picnicking.

DETAILS

FRED LAWRENCE WHIPPLE OBSERVATORY VISITOR CENTER

670 Mount Hopkins Road in Amado, 520-879-4407; website: cf.harvard.edu/flwo/ visitors-center









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OUR GVSCC VOLUNTEERS

'Welcome to the Chamber'

ing rings out when entering the Green Valley Sahuarita **Chamber of Commerce** and Visitor Center at 275 W. Continental Road, No. 123 in Green Valley. The center is a place to gather information, whether about local businesses and services or exploring our local area and the entire state.

The dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers are always cheerful and willing to help, and they keep the mood positive and friendly.

Whether looking for sights or local dining, the knowledgeable volunteers will lend you a hand.

The visitor center offers comprehensive information about tourism sites, state and national parks, and insights on current happenings in the community. Read the bimonthly Activity Guide, distributed by the Green Valley News and Sun, for up-todate news, events and information on local businesses. Go on a hike with Norma as she details her latest adventure. Enjoy



ABOVE: Jean Kraley, chamber volunteer.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Dennis and Barbara Pickens with chamber volunteer Vivien Nason.

PHOTOS COURTESY GREEN VALLEY SAHUARITA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mea's unique perspectives as she turns the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Enter our doors and meet with Judy, Vivien, Norma, Jean, Nancy, Judi, Diane, Pat, Addy,





David, Barb, Gloria, Tanya, Gigi, Jan, Nimi, Jack and Jackie and all the rest of the chamber's

volunteers. They truly define the word volunteer. You will be glad you did.



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hen people think of a Chamber of Commerce, they often picture ribbon cuttings, mixers and a calendar full of events. Yes, we do those things. We love celebrating milestones and bringing people together. But in Green Valley and Sahuarita, the chamber has become something more. We are a bridge-builder, an advocate and a partner. We are community-focused and business-minded.

Our mission is simple, but never small: to champion opportunities for business and our community to prosper. The way we live that mission is through the stories of the people, programs and partnerships shaping this region.

GROWING BUSINESS, AMPLIFYING VOICES

Every business that joins our chamber becomes part of a larger story. We don't just add their name to a list; we make sure they're seen, heard and supported.

Sometimes that looks like promotion; a spotlight on social media, visibility at events or a press announcement that gets people talking. Other times it's strategy and connection; introducing a member to a partner who can open a new door or sharing resources that help them take their next step forward.

And just as importantly, we advocate. We sit at tables where business policy and infrastructure are discussed, ensuring the needs of local businesses are not overlooked. We speak up for entrepreneurs and business owners so they can stay focused on what they do best — serving their customers and growing their impact.

BUILDING THE WORK-FORCE OF TOMORROW: ElevateEdAZ

This year, we stepped into

a game-changing partnership with the Greater Phoenix Chamber Foundation and our own Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce Foundation to bring ElevateEdAZ to Southern Arizona. This program is about more than career exploration. It's about building a bridge between our schools and our businesses.

Through ElevateEdAZ, students at Walden Grove High School and Sahuarita High **School** are being introduced to real-world opportunities that can shape their futures: internships, industry guest speakers, dual-enrollment classes and work-based experiences designed to match the needs of our local economy. The pilot will reach more than 2,300 students, offering them not just a glimpse of what's possible, but a pathway to high-demand, high-wage careers right here in our region.

ABOVE: GVSCC member Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts at La Posada Car Show.

PHOTO COURTESY GREEN VALLEY
SAHUARITA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND VISITOR CENTER

The program brings career coaches onto campuses while the chamber leads business engagement, ensuring that the education students receive aligns with the opportunities our employers can offer.

As our president and CEO, Randy Graf, put it, "We're not just preparing students for jobs, we're investing in the next generation of leaders, innovators and neighbors who will shape the future of Sahuarita and Green Valley."

That's the power of ElevateEdAZ — it's not only an investment in students, it's an investment in the future of Southern Arizona itself.



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MORE

One of the brightest sparks this year has been the launch of Woven: Our Women in **Business Cohort.** What started as a single group quickly grew into two groups, each comprising 12 women, with 24 women total.

These women come from every corner of our community - nonprofit leaders, business owners, entrepreneurs and professionals. They gather each month to share ideas, encourage one another and lean into the kind of leadership that doesn't compete but collaborates.

In these rooms, something meaningful happens. Women see each other, hear each other and remind each other that leadership doesn't have to be lonely. They're weaving connections that strengthen not just their own businesses, but the fabric of our region.

RAISING LEADERS: ELEVATE SGV

We also know that strong leaders build strong communities. That's why we launched the Elevate SGV Leadership **Program.** A four-month journey that brings together emerging leaders, professionals, volunteers and students



who want to shape the future of Green Valley and Sahuarita.

This year's program is ambitious, immersive and community-rooted. Participants aren't just sitting in workshops; they're visiting businesses, meeting with superintendents and government leaders, hearing from healthcare providers and law enforcement and learning directly from the people shaping our region.

The lineup of speakers and partners reads like a who's who of Southern Arizona leadership, from Town of Sahuarita Manager Shane

ABOVE: GVSCC Woven Women Cohort Leadership Group.

> PHOTO COURTESY GREEN VALLEY **SAHUARITA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND VISITOR CENTER**

Dille to Brett Lee, chief administrative officer of Northwest Healthcare; from mining and industry leaders at Caterpillar, Freeport-McMoRan and ASARCO to the voices of our healthcare, nonprofit and small business community.

By the end of the program, participants will have not only learned about their community, but also contributed back through hands-on projects, leaving a tangible legacy as they graduate.

A CHAMBER AS A CATALYST

At its heart, the Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce is a catalyst. We connect, we advocate, we elevate. We help businesses

thrive and, in doing so, we help our community flourish.

From a growing membership to transformative programs like ElevateEdAZ, Woven and Elevate SGV, our work is rooted in a belief that business and community are not separate lanes. They are threads in the same story. When one grows stronger, the other follows.

This is what drives us. This is why we show up. And this is why our mission remains clear: to champion opportunities for business and our community to prosper, today and for generations to come.

CHAMBER FOUNDATION

CHAMBER FOUNDATION

The Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber Foundation is a nonprofit organization formed with leaders and educators working together to create a strong, vibrant and sustainable community. The **Chamber Foundation supports** economic development and local job creation. Supporting small business and education, working to support the chamber's GVS Leads program, the Sahuarita Food Bank and its community resource center, plus the Sahuarita Unified School District and its CTE, are all a part of the Chamber Foundation's mission statement. The Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber Foundation conducts two shred-a-thons a year, one in the spring and one in the fall, held at Continental Shopping Plaza to help fund its organization.

TOURISM

Legends and lore

rizona, number 48 out of 50 states, is known for the Grand Canyon, summer heat and mild winters, dark skies that reflect billions of stars and, of course, the Wild West, With its towering mountains, Sky Islands and magnificent deserts, Arizona is famous sometimes infamous — for its wild and colorful history. Travel into Arizona's past and discover Arizona's legends and lore.

ARIZONA, THE 48TH STATE

Arizona, with a nickname like the Sweetheart State, should have been easily welcomed into the Union. But it is said that Arizona's statehood was held off for decades for two reasons: the Apache Wars in Cochise County and the Pleasant Valley War between the Grahams and the Tewksburys — Arizona's version of the Hatfields and McCoys — a bloody feud immortalized in author Zane Grey's "To the Last Man."

Follow the footsteps of Cochise and, after him, Geronimo while hiking the trails of the awe-inspiring Chiricahua Mountains. Camp sites are available in Cochise Stronghold in the Dragoon Mountains, both Cochise's home and burial place.

The incredible Chiricahua National Monument, on Arizona's eastern boundary in Cochise County, is one of Arizona's more than 20 national parks and monuments. The gravity-defying rock formations need to be seen to be believed. Marvel at rhyolite hoodoos formed from volcanic ash flow and carved by nature. Breathtaking colors develop as the sun breaks into day and then into night. Shadows



form and the wind sighs. Has the great Cochise come back to reclaim his land?

Here, Cochise and Geronimo held off the United States Cavalry for years. Both used their intimate knowledge of the rugged terrain to defend their land and their way of life. In 1886, Geronimo surrendered in Skeleton Canyon north of Douglas. Geronimo was moved to Florida where he died in 1909. His last words: "I should have never surrendered. I should have fought until I was the last man alive."

The Apache Wars were over. The Pleasant Valley War ended in August 1892, a sad affair with about 50 killed, making it the deadliest range war and feud in American history. Two decades later, on Feb. 14. 1912, Arizona became the 48th state. Were these two separate but violent events the reason for Arizona's late entry into the Union? Or is this just part of Arizona legend?

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River is Tubac Presidio State Historic Park, Arizona's first state park. The presidio was established in 1752 in response to the uprising of the Akimel O'odham at the Spanish missions, three miles south. These three mission complexes, part of the national park system, are Tumacácori National Historic Park and the ruins of Guevavi and Calabazas. The Tumacácori mission complex is open for a self-guided tour, but Guevavi and Calabazas can only be visited on reserved tours with park

The museum at the presidio tells the history of the Southwest from the early indigenous people to the present. Visit an old schoolhouse on the grounds and watch a demonstration of the workings of an early printing press. When visiting the presidio, be sure to take the time to watch the video of Juan Bautista de Anza's journey from Mexico through Southern Arizona and to Northern California.

The Anza Trail is a favorite hiking trail. Running along the Santa Cruz River up from Rio Rico, part of the trail cuts through Historic Canoa Ranch, alongside Desert Meadows Park in Green Valley and stops at the Country Club of Green Valley. Catch the trailhead on Quail Crossing Boulevard that joins Duval Mine Road with Old Nogales Highway.

OSTRICH RANCHING IN THE DESERT

Around 1900, one of the five C's of Arizona — cattle — was traded in for birds. Ostrich ranching came into vogue thanks to women's hats adorned with ostrich plumes.

Around a half-dozen ranches in Arizona started selling ostrich eggs, meat and, of course, feathers. Cowboys turned into bird wranglers and found these cantankerous creatures harder to herd than your ordinary bovine. Running up to 60 mph, these long-legged birds could easily outrun a cowboy and his steed.

By the end of World War I, fashionable feathered hats fell out of style and Arizona's ostrich ranching faded into history, or did it?

Just north of Tucson, near Picacho Peak, is the Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Ranch. Visit this little bit of Arizona's past, feed the ostriches, explore the petting zoo and buy an ostrich feather or two; it's a little piece of Arizona's history.

Rising above the desert floor

THE CIVIL WAR COMES WEST

between Tucson and Phoenix is a strange volcanic monolith. This rugged landmark is Picacho Peak, one of Arizona's state parks. In the spring, native wildflowers attract crowds who line up to admire and photograph their colorful beauty. But something darker occurred here in the spring of 1862. Picacho Peak was the site of the westernmost battle, with fatalities, of the American Civil War between the Union and the Confederacy.

Tucson had been pro-

claimed the western district's
Confederate capital by a
Confederate force from Texas,
and Union loyalists driven
out. In this battle — not much
more than a skirmish — several
members of the Union army
were killed. The Union cavalry
retreated and a Confederate victory was declared. The Battle of
Picacho Pass was over. By May
of that year, the Confederates
were driven back into Texas, and
Tucson was once again in Union
territory.

Learn more about this battle at the Picacho Peak Ranger Station and from the interpretive trail at the park. A reenactment of the battle used to be held in March and will hope-



fully return. In the meantime, there will be a reenactment of a Civil War encampment at the park in November 2025. Visit www.arizonacivilwarcouncil. com for times and dates.

Hiking trails, campgrounds and picnic areas can be found at the park. Remember to take plenty of water and wear proper footwear when you visit Arizona's state parks. Pack it in and pack it out!

PANCHO VILLA LEAVES HIS MARK

Travel to the border town of Douglas about two-and-a-half hours from Green Valley. Founded as a copper smelting town for Phelps Dodge Corporation in 1901, Douglas has a rich, exciting history. Amelia Earhart landed here while taking part in the Powder Puff Derby air race and Eleanor Roosevelt dedicated the Douglas Municipal Airport as the nation's first international airport. Museums, restaurants and art await the intrepid tourist.

The Gadsden Hotel was opened in 1907. Its magnificent lobby hails back to a more glamourous time with its high ceilings, shining marble columns and a stupendous chandelier. Legend has it that Pancho Villa rode his horse up the grand marble staircase, chipping one of the stairs. A fire in 1928 took most of The Gadsden Hotel, leaving the staircase, columns and elevator. The hotel was rebuilt, keeping the staircase and pillars and using the same architect, but on an even grander scale. It still stands today, complete with that legendary chip in the stair.



"BIG IRON"
ARIZONA RANGERS

Marty Robbins sang about an Arizona Ranger in his classic ballad "Big Iron."

The Arizona Rangers were established in 1901, modeled after the Texas Rangers to fight increased lawlessness in the Arizona Territory with cattle rustling running rampant. They proved to be most effective; in their short tenure, they made about 4,000 arrests, with one-quarter of those felonies.

The original rangers disbanded in 1909, but in 1957, a nonprofit Arizona Rangers was reinstated and is still around today, aiding law enforcement around the state. The standing governor of the state of Arizona sits as a non-voting member of their board and is the chief Arizona Ranger.

In Tombstone, off Allen Street, is the Arizona Ranger Museum. A modest storefront, this museum tells the story of the rangers. Here you can see exhibits that narrate the history of the Arizona Rangers. Learn about the past and present of the men and women of the Arizona Rangers. Admission is free; donations are accepted.

The Arizona Rangers have been celebrated in film, song and literature. In addition to "Big TOWN & VALLEY CULTURE & COMMUNITY

Iron," the 1957 television series "26 Men" aired, telling the story of the original rangers. It lasted 78 episodes and was based on real incidents from Rangers archives and partially filmed in Old Tucson Studios. L. Ron Hubbard wrote of the Arizona Rangers in "The Toughest Ranger" long before he founded Scientology. The Arizona Rangers were legendary.

WYATT EARP IN TUCSON

Arizona's legends cannot be told without mentioning Wyatt Earp. The exploits of Wyatt and friends in Tombstone are universally known, but Wyatt Earp had a Tucson connection as well.

After Morgan Earp was killed, Wyatt took out his revenge on Frank Stilwell at the old Tucson Railroad Depot at North Toole Avenue in Tucson. It is said that



ATTRACTIONS

Earp blamed Stilwell for the shooting of his brother. Wyatt, with Doc Holliday at his side, executed Stilwell in a gun battle at the train station. A life-size statue of Earp and Holliday stands today at the spot where Stilwell met his demise.

Also at the depot is the Southern Arizona
Transportation Museum with a gift shop and an authentic steam engine. Out of 130 steam engines of its class, only two remain.
The rest were sold for scrap metal after the arrival of the diesel railroad engine. It is said that this particular engine was spared because it was featured in Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" The cab is open for

CHAMBER INFORMATION

Free to the public, the museum does accept donations. Open Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the museum is a great stop in the heart of downtown Tucson.

visitors to look around and sit

back in history.

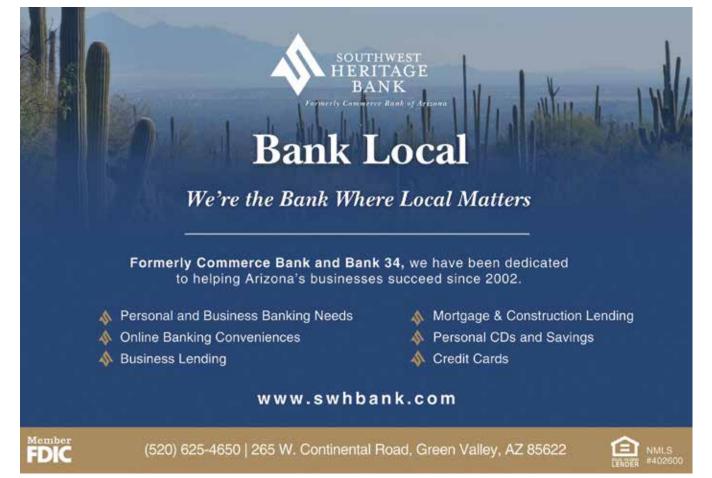
in the engineer's seat. A fun step

THE LEGEND CONTINUES

LIST OF MEMBERS

The Green Valley Sahuarita
Chamber of Commerce and
Visitor Center has a large selection of brochures, magazines
and information about Arizona,
including a section dedicated
to state parks and the national
parks and monuments in
Arizona. The visitor center sells
the Southern Arizona attractions
book. This book has discounts
and two-for-one offers. Have family or friends coming for a visit?
This book is for you!

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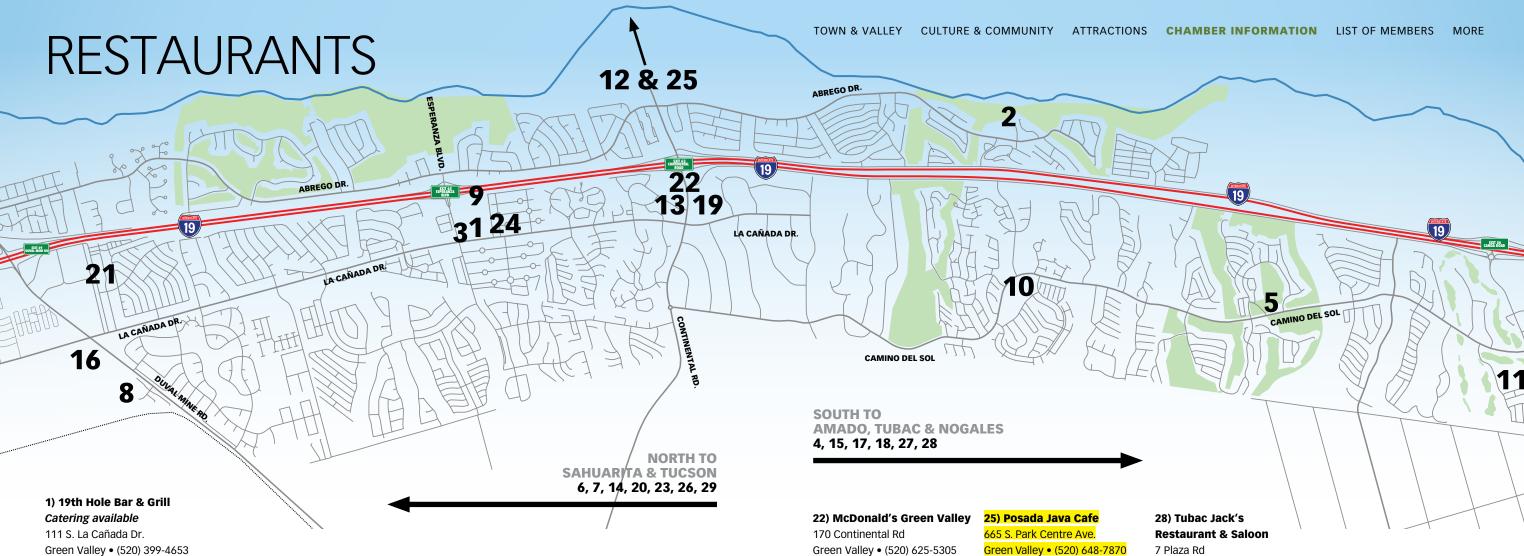


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10) Green Valley Elks Lodge #2592

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13) Hotdog Lady & More

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15) La Cantina Tubac Golf Resort & Spa

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gvsopt.wixsite.com/optimist

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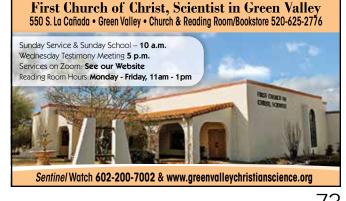
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Carelon Health

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State abbreviations indicate states where agents have resided. All currently call AZ home.

