Western Outdoor Times

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A Publication of Arizona Boating & Watersports

BOATING | CAMPING | FISHING | RVING | SHOOTING SPORTS | WATERSPORTS | WILDLIFE

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PHOTO BY MEDIA DIRECTION

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Spring Into The Southwest Boating Season

Lake Havasu Boat Show Packed With Boats, Accessories, Special Attractions

"We're [very close to] opening day and we've … exceeded our goal of 140 exhibitors and vendors," commented Lake Havasu Boat Show producer, Bob Brown. "If this is an indicator of what the recreational boating season is going to be like this spring and summer, we may be headed for the best year on the water in a very long time."

The 27th Annual Lake Havasu Boat Show, the largest boat show in Arizona and Nevada, sponsored by Jet Renu and Mohave State Bank, drops anchor at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4 Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 6-8. "But this isn't just your average land-locked boat show," said Brown. "The Lake Havasu Boat Show will be the most interactive boat show anyone has ever attended."

Emphasis On Demos, Test Rides

To support that claim, this year's Havasu Boat Show is putting an emphasis on demos and test rides, a feature that only a select few boat shows offer. This will be the second year that the new launch ramp and courtesy docks at Windsor 3 will be pressed into service with a variety of pontoons, wakesport boats and family sportboats available for serious customers to try.

Over on the Windsor 4 beach, Yamaha personal watercraft and jet sportboats will be in-water looking to provide potential buyers an opportunity to experience the newest models. Also on the Windsor 4 beach, Hobie kayaks and paddleboards with qualified

See **HAVASU SHOW**, *Page* **19**

SPEARING MAGAZINE

ALL DECKED OUT — for the Lake Havasu Boat show and the boating season in the Southwest.

ON THE COVER

'Beauty And The Boats' Is A Hit

Thanks to Bob Brown, Media Direction, for sharing this uplifting reminder that it is boating season again in the Southwest. The lovely boat "captain" pictured welcomes us and suggests we

See **COVER** , *Page* **19**

Pair A 'Pleasant' Outing With A Chance To Try These Craft

Paddle Fest 2018 is here! It is a great time for everyone to come out to Lake Pleasant Regional Park and try different forms of paddle craft (sit on top, touring, sea and Hobie pedal kayaks, outriggers, rafts, white water kayaks, canoes and stand up paddle boards)! You can bring your own paddle craft too.

The event also offers an array of fun activities, free-to-use demo water craft (in a designated cove), and live music — all on Saturday, April 7 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Who can attend? Anyone, so bring your family and friends!

Life-vests are provided and required for water recreation participation. Bring your water clothes and plan on getting wet!

What is the cost? Only the $6 per vehicle and $2 paddle craft (if bringing your own) park entry fee that includes the event to try out demo watercraft in the cove and to join the fun activities. There is a half-hour limit on trying each paddle craft.

'Waterproof': Make sure to wear a swim suit or clothes you can get wet. Bring a life vest if you have one; if not, the event will provide loaner life vest for people on the water. Don't forget your water, sunscreen, hat, sun glasses, money for food, and shoes you can get wet.

Bring your family and friends for a fun time trying out all sorts of fun paddle craft. Follow the "Paddle Fest" signs once close to Lake Pleasant Regional Park.

Location: Off Hwy 74 (Carefree Hwy) at MP 19, follow signs from the main entrance off Castle Hot Springs Road to the north entrance of Lake Pleasant to Fireman's Cove.

If you plan to camp, please arrive early on Friday, space is limited. Fireman's Cove is located just inside the north entrance to Lake Pleasant Regional Park. From Carefree Highway, head north on Castle Hot Springs Road past the main entrance to the stop sign and turn right to enter the park.

More information: https://www.maricopacountyparks.net/things-to-do/activity/paddle-fest/

New Desert Storm Organizers Unveil Exciting Event Developments

One of the nation's top poker runs and shoot-out slated for April 18-22.

One of the most elite high-performance boating events in the nation will be revamped in preparation to celebrate its 20th anniversary. The Desert Storm Poker Run and Shootout, presented by Kicker Audio, will be headquartered at the London Bridge Resort, 1477 Queens Bay, from April 18-22 in Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

Long History

"Desert Storm has a long and grateful history in Lake Havasu City with the Nautical Beachfront Resort," said Christina Crane, one of the new co-owners of the event. "But we thought the event's 20th anniversary was the perfect time to explore how we could evolve the Desert Storm experience, especially for our most long-running and loyal participants and sponsors. We are excited to see how the event unfolds as it will be more centered in the famous Bridgewater Channel."

Six-Day Event

The six-day event will continue to feature the distinguished Main Street Party – featuring the top-caliber boats lined along Lake Havasu City's Main Street – to be held on Thursday, April 19, 2018; the street party is free to the public and open from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. The famed poker run will be held

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Boating

Check Out Some Tax Tips

Keeping kids and all boaters safe, a donation to the BoatUS online course, may qualify for a tax deduction./**Page 4**

Western Wildlife

Arizona Elk Arrive In West Virginia

The AZGF Commission last summer approved the capture and transport as part of West Virginia's ongoing restoration project/**Page 15**

Western Outdoor Times
Arizona Boating & Watersports

Linus

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Recipients of 2008 and 2013 AZGFC Media of the Year and 2009 National Water Safety Congress Award of Merit 2016 AZGF Writer Of The Year

Our country has faced some terrible, traumatic events this year, and we thank all those who respond, in spite of the danger to themselves, to help those affected: all first-responders and military personnel (as well as caring, brave citizens).

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DOWNSTREAM: April 2018 Events Calendar

BOATING

7 LAKE PLEASANT REGIONAL PARK: Paddlefest 2018; It is a great time for everyone to come out to Lake Pleasant Regional Park and try different forms of paddle craft (sit on top, touring, sea and Hobie pedal kayaks, outriggers, rafts, white water kayaks, canoes and stand up paddle boards)! You can bring your own paddle craft too. (See story on page 1.)

17-22 LAKE HAVASU CITY: 20th Annual Desert Storm Poker Run & Shootout – One of the top five poker runs in the nation with world-class performance boats racing on Lake Havasu. Speeds upwards of 160+ MPH from high-performance boats are not uncommon. Wednesday night open house, Thursday street party, Friday boat parade and poker run, Saturday shootout with over 67 runs. Three-day beach party and banquet at Rotary Park. 623-238-13330 or https://golakehavasu.com/event/desert-storm-poker-run-and-shootout/

CAMPING/RVING/AZ OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

8 TUCSON: Cyclovia – Downtown Tucson. An annual car-free event that opens selected streets to people so that they can walk, skate, run, bicycle, and socialize with their neighbors, it's a free event, packed with activities, open to the public and fun for people of all ages. Free. 10 am – 3 pm. 520-261-8777 or http://www.cycloviatucson.org

14-15 SHOW LOW: Arizona Family Campout – Fool Hollow Lake State Park. Arizona Family Campout Programs are designed for families who have little or no experience camping. We'll introduce you to the experiences you can share with your family and inspire you to continue to explore the great outdoors! Learn how to set up a tent and to cook outside, plus you will get to try some fun activities you can do while camping! $90 for a family of up to 4. https://azstateparks.com/family-camp

TO OUR FRIENDS AT BARLETT LAKE MARINA

Thank you to Sarah, Bryan and Eric Church – founders and owners of Bartlett Lake Marina – for the many happy times we have spent with you at your very special corner of our state.

20-22 KINGMAN: 16th Annual Home & Garden Expo – Mohave County Fairgrounds. Featuring home & garden products and services, demonstrations, carnival for the kids. 928-753-2636 or http://www.mcfafairgrounds.org

28 CORNVILLE: Rocks in the Park II – Windmill Park. Verde River Rockhounds present a rock and mineral sale. 9 am – 5 pm. http://www.verderiverrockhounds.com

28 WILLCOX: 3rd Annual Willcox West Fest – Ranch Rodeo – Quail Sports Park. A fun filled day with real cowboys competing in real ranch work. Events include ranch cutting horse, trailer loading, ranch bronc riding. Willcox Ranch Rodeo in the cattle capitol of the World. $5. Kids under 10 free. 520-384-2272 or http://www.cattlecapitol.com

28-29 SAFFORD: Arizona Family Campout – Roper Lake State Park. Arizona Family Campout Programs are designed for families who have little or no experience camping. We'll introduce you to the experiences you can share with your family and inspire you to continue to explore the great outdoors! Learn how to set up a tent and to cook outside, plus you will get to try some fun activities you can do while camping! $90 for a family of up to 4. https://azstateparks.com/family-camp

29 WILLCOX: Full Moon Walks - Chiricahua National Monument. Join a ranger for a half-mile walk around the Massai Point Nature Trail under the full moon. Come discover how to be comfortable under the full moon, using all your senses, and see the similarities between humans and nocturnal animals. While humans primarily rely on sight, our other senses are just as useful, especially when exploring at night. Limited to 20, must pre-register. 8 pm. 520-824-3560 x9302

CLASSES/SEMINARS

AZGFD, CG AUXILIARY, PHOENIX POWER SQUADRON BOATING CLASSES: Ongoing (See page 3 of this issue.)

COMMUNITY AND SEASONAL

5-8 FLORENCE: 2018 Country Thunder – 4 days of the hottest country acts, this year headliners include in addition to 20 other national and local country acts. 866-802-6418 or http://www.countrythunder.com

7 DRAGOON: 5th Annual Amerind's Texas Canyon Trail Run – Amerind Museum in partnership with Bisbee Vogue Inc. present the run, see remote areas of Texas Canyon. This 10k run will take runners (or walkers) through the amazing quartz monzolite rock formations of Texas Canyon on trails that have never been open to the public. http://www.amerind.org

7 ELGIN: 40th Annual Blessing of the Sonoita Vineyards Festival - Sonoita Vineyards. No reservations needed, admission includes wine tasting with souvenir glass, souvenir corkscrew, food and wine pairings, it includes tastings, pairings, tours of the winery and vineyard and a procession through the vineyard behind Father Greg, who has been giving the vineyard its annual blessing for years. $20-25, 10 am - 4 pm. 520-455-5893 or http://www.sonoitavineyards.com

14 QUEEN CREEK: 8th Annual Over the Hill Gang Classic Car Show - Schnepf Farms. Showing Hot Rods, Custom, Muscle, Classics, raffle, music, vote your favorite car, benefits Hospice of the Valley. Free. 8 am – 3 pm. http://www.schnepffarms.com

11-15 PHOENIX: 43rd Annual Maricopa County Fair - State Fairgrounds. An annual occasion to celebrate & pursue the traditional values of educational opportunity, agricultural prosperity & love of family, midway, commercial exhibits, hobbies, agriculture & youth exhibits, motorized events. $9, children 7 & under are free. 602-252-0717 or http://www.maricopacountyfair.org

14 LAKE PLEASANT: Lanterns at the Lake; www.pleasantharbor.com

14-15 CAMP VERDE: History of the Solider – Fort Verde State Historic Park. Visitors experience a military timeline of history form the Revolutionary War to present day. Features speakers, reenactments, military encampments and other demonstrators. Honors the dedication, commitment and sacrifice of military men and women from the Armed Forces of all eras. We invite veterans from around the state to attend this event. $4-7. 9 am. 928-567-3275 or http://www.azstateparks.gov

19 LAKE HAVASU CITY: Desert Storm Street Party 2018 – Kick-off to the Desert Storm Poker Run & Shootout. Multi-million dollar presentation of high-performance race boats displayed on McCulloch Blvd (Downtown District). Crowds of over 10,000 can meet the drivers/owners. Custom autos, tow vehicles, PWCs, and a full range of marine electronics, products and accessories for sale. Vendors, live music, food vendors, entertainment and giveaways. Free. noon – 10 pm. 623-238-1330 or https://golakehavasu.com/event/desert-storm-street-party/

19 CASA GRANDE: Day Out Downtown Living History Tour – Main Street Patio. Historical walking tour, refreshments, living history tour, merchant scavenger hunt and more on each third Thursday through April. 9:30 am. 520-836-8744 or http://www.cg-mainstreet.org

EXPOS/SHOWS

6-8 LAKE HAVASU BOAT SHOW: See story on page 1; www.lakehavasuboatshow.com

SHOOTING SPORTS/ARCHERY

BEN AVERY CLAY TARGET CENTER: Ongoing — Open seven days a week; (623) 434-8119

WATERSPORTS

SAGUARO DIVING & SPORTS: Ongoing — Learn to Scuba Dive, Open Water Certification Dives, Private Class & Pool, Private Lake: sales@saguarosports.com Frozen

LEARN TO CURL LESSONS: ongoing — learntocurl@coyotescurling.com

WILDLIFE/ ANIMAL-RELATED

7 CLARKDALE: Raptors on the Rails with Liberty Wildlife - Verde Canyon Railroad. As breathtaking as an eagle is in flight, a face-to-face encounter with a raptor is an equally astounding event. Our friends from Scottsdale's Liberty Wildlife share the majesty of a rescued bald eagle with visitors at the depot and on the train on select days throughout the year. Everyone has the opportunity for personal interaction. http://www.verdecanyonrr.com

21 BENSON: Earth Day/Bat Day – Kartchner Caverns State Park. Day filled with presentations and hands-on activities, visiting bat experts plus family activities throughout the day. 9 am – 5 pm. 520-586-2283 or http://azstateparks.com/Parks/KACA

21 FOUNTAIN HILLS: Fountain Hills Dark Sky Festival – Fountain Hills Community Center. Events include nationally known speakers, a mobile planetarium, exhibits, photo and art contests, animal display, a star party and food and craft beers. Celebrating the new Dark Sky designation for Fountain Hills. Free. 3-10 pm. http://fhdarksky.com/events/fountain-hills-dark-sky-festival/

26-29 COTTONWOOD: 18th Annual Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival - Dead Horse Ranch State Park. Field trips, local tours, workshops & seminars, educational activities for kids, exhibits, key-note speaker, entertainment. $. 928-282-2202 or http://www.BirdyVerde.org

21 CHANDLER: Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration – Environmental Education Center at Veterans Oasis Park. Experience hands-on activities, live animal presentations and

See **CALENDAR**, *Page* **19**

Our waterways are ready, but are you?
Free courses offered by the Arizona Game and Fish Department:
Boater Education Course
• April 21 in Phoenix
• April 21 in Lake Havasu City
• May 19 in Phoenix
• May 19 in Lake Havasu City
Paddlesports Education Course
• April 14 in Lake Havasu City
• April 14 at Lake Pleasant
• May 12 in Lake Havasu City
• May 12 at Lake Pleasant
Sign up online and get the details at www.azgfd.gov/boating or give us a call: 623-236-7258
Check Your Fit!
While life jackets must be worn by all passengers 12 and younger, it's strongly recommended that everyone out enjoying the water wear one. To make sure a life jacket is worn properly, keep in mind:
1
A life jacket should fit snug.
2
Have a child lift his or her arms overhead while you lift up on the life jacket by the shoulder straps; if the jacket rides up above the ear lobes, it's too big.
3
You should be able to fit your fingers in the back of the life jacket on a child. If you can't, then it's likely too tight.
4
Adults can self-check by hooking their thumbs under the shoulder straps and pulling up; if the jacket rides up over their ear lobes, it's too big.
ARIZONA GAME & FISH
Register Your Watercraft
Make sure your vessel's registration is current before heading out on the water! Skip the line and renew your watercraft registration online at www.azgfd.gov/boating
Arizona Game & Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086
602-942-3000 | www.azgfd.gov

BoatUS: Tax Provisions For Boats Extended

Have a boat loan? Ask your lender for form 1098.

Just two short years ago, Congress extended some boat sales tax and mortgage interest deductions for recreational boat buyers. Excluding home equity loans, those deductions remain for next year's 2018 tax season with the recently passed GOP tax overhaul plan signed into law on December 22, 2017, albeit with some new lower limits on lending amounts, according to Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS).

'Second Homes'

Before passage of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017, BoatUS, the nation's boating advocacy, services and safety group, had concerns that boat owners would be singled out for negative tax treatment. However, recreational vessels with a sleeping berth, cooking and toilet facilities will be treated equally with second homes and recreational vehicles that may qualify for some sales tax and mortgage interest deductions when filing (in 2019) a 2018 federal income tax return.

The new Tax Cut and Jobs Act reduces the previous $1 million second-home mortgage deduction limit to $750,000. "Most new boats sell for far below this new cap, so we don't think that will have much impact on the average boat buyer," said BoatUS Manager of Government Affairs David Kennedy.

However, what could affect buyers of smaller vessels is the act's removal of the deductibility on interest for a home equity loan. Historically, borrowers could deduct home equity interest on loans up to $100,000 ($50,000 for married couples filing separately). "With the new tax law, that deduction is gone," said Kennedy.

For The Current Tax Season

For the current 2017 tax season, the existing deduction remains in place and is offered to new owners who paid substantial state sales taxes on a new or used boat purchased in 2017. If there is a loan taken, mortgage interest paid on the loan may also be deducted from federal income taxes. Again, the vessel must have a sleeping berth, cooking and toilet facilities to qualify. Here are the details:

2017 Sales Tax Deduction

The Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014 continues to offer a federal tax deduction for state sales taxes paid on a recreational vessel. Boaters must choose either the state sales tax deduction or state income tax deduction on their federal tax return — they cannot take both. In addition, to take the state sales tax deduction, the sales tax on a boat purchase must be applied at the same tax rate as the state's general sales tax. In order to claim the sales tax deduction, tax returns must be itemized. State sales taxes are entered on IRS form Schedule A, line 5b.

2017 Boat Loan Deduction

A boat is considered a second home for federal tax purposes if it has a galley, an installed head and sleeping berth. For those owners with a secured boat loan, mortgage interest paid on the loan may be deducted from federal income taxes. Taxpayers may use the home mortgage interest deduction for one second home in addition to their primary home, and must itemize deductions on their returns.

SECOND HOME — Boat buyers should be aware that a boat is considered a second home for federal tax purposes if it has a galley, an installed head and sleeping berth.

More Details

Some boaters may be unaware of this potential tax benefit because not all lending institutions send borrowers an IRS Form 1098, which reports interest paid. Not receiving the form does not preclude taking the deduction. If a 1098 is not available, boaters should contact their lender for the amount of interest paid and should enter it on line 11 on Schedule A

See **TAX PROVISIONS**, *Page* **19**

ARIZONA'S LARGEST BOAT SHOW

JET RENU

Mohave State Bank

27TH ANNUAL

Lake Havasu Boat Show

APRIL 6-8, 2018 LAKE HAVASU STATE PARK, WINDSOR 4

OVER 150 EXHIBITORS
MORE THAN 9,000 ATTENDING!

Show Hours (rain or shine) Friday noon-6pm, Saturday 9am-6pm,
Sunday 9am-3pm • Admission: $8.00 adults, kids 6 & under free. Parking is Free!

MORE INFO: LAKEHAVASUBOATSHOW.COM

SAVE $$$

ADMISSION DISCOUNT!

ADMIT 2 ADULTS ONLY $15

This coupon and $15.00 admits two adults, good any day, April 6, 7, 8, to the 27th Annual Lake Havasu Boat Show. No other discount offers apply. Bring this coupon with you to the Boat Show and SAVE!

Lanterns at the Lake

April 14, 2018

Pleasant Harbor
Living the Life!
(at Lake Pleasant)

Purchase tickets for $25 at: **www.pleasantharbor.com**

8708 W. Harbor Boulevard
Peoria, AZ 85383

Just 45 minutes from downtown Phoenix!

NWSA Women's Sailing Conference Slated For June 2

Event will be held at Corinthian Yacht Club in Marblehead, Mass.

Where do ladies go to improve their sailing? The National Women's Sailing Association (NWSA) will hold its 17th Annual Women's Sailing Conference on Saturday, June 2 at the Corinthian Yacht Club in Marblehead, Mass.

The event, which features hands-on land- and water-based workshops and seminars, offers women a fantastic opportunity to learn or hone sailing skills, network with other women sailors from all over the United States, and gain the confidence necessary to become a valuable crew member or knowledgeable skipper.

Financial support from the major supporters, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) and Black Rock Sailing School of Boston enables NWSA to meet the educational needs of women sailors and continue to provide one of the top women's sailing conferences in the US.

HANDS-ON — Women get hands-on sail reefing experience at the NWSA Women's Sailing Conference.

All Abilities

"Women of all sailing abilities are encouraged to attend," said NWSA President Linda Newland. "By sharing experiences, women leave with improved skills and knowledge that contribute to better days on the water. There is always something of interest for everyone."

Cheryl Steiner, conference co-chair and registrar, said, "Seventy percent of last year's attendees had five or more years of sailing experience. With more experienced sailors attending, we've moved some of our 2018 courses in that direction."

On The Water

On the water, women can improve their sail-trim skills or take the helm for their very first time in a Colgate 26 or Sonar provided by Black Rock Sailing School and the Corinthian Yacht Club.

New courses this year include Preparing for Offshore and Extended Cruising, Sailboat as Teacher (how to be aware of what your sailboat is telling you), Classroom Docking, Navigating the Intracoastal Waterway with the Help of Electronic Tools, and 'Forty Camels', an entertaining look at cruising the Red Sea.

Returning conference workshops include Suddenly Singlehanded, Dinghy Captain, Navigating in the Fog, Plot Your Course, Know Your Rigging, Reefing and When to Reef, Using Spring Lines, as well as beginner's necessities such as Knots to Know.

See **CONFERENCE**, *Page* **18**

AZGFD Offers Safety Courses For All Boating

Anyone who is a new — or experienced — boater is encouraged to attend one of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's (AZGFD) free safety-education courses. In addition to providing an overview of the basic skills required to safely operate a boat or personal watercraft, the courses also cover trailering, navigational rules, buoys, anchoring, legal requirements, watersports and boating emergencies.

Novice Or Veteran

"Whether this is your first watercraft or you're a veteran to all things boating-related, taking one of our courses will help prepare you to have a safe and fun day out on the lake or river," said Josh Hoffman, boating safety education coordinator for AZGFD. "The time you invest into taking our classes will come back tenfold when you encounter an issue or question while out enjoying one of Arizona's waterways."

Offered Monthly

The Boater Education Course is offered monthly in Phoenix and Lake Havasu City and can accommodate up to 30 students depending on the location. The instructors all have backgrounds in boating and are a great resource for answering questions. Registration is available online, and the next courses are offered Jan. 20. And there's an added financial benefit: Many insurance companies will offer a discount on the boat's rate for completing the course.

Paddlesports Education

The Paddlesports Education Course is a smaller class, with a capacity of eight to 12 students, and held in Phoenix, Lake Havasu City, Show Low and at Lake Pleasant. Aimed at those who enjoy or want to learn more about kayaking, canoeing and standup paddleboards, the course includes time in the classroom and hands-on instruction on the water.

Groups Welcome

AZGFD welcomes groups to attend the courses. For example, Girl Scout or Boy Scout troops or outdoors groups can contact the Education Branch at 623-236-7258 to learn about the opportunities available.

Just A Click Away

The AZGFD website also includes information about a number of online courses that have been approved by the department. Becoming a safe and knowledgeable boater is just a click away.

"Whether you prefer an in-person or online course, educated boaters are better prepared for whatever they may encounter during a day out on the water," Hoffman said.

Boaters Stand To Gain With Government's Recognition Of Outdoor Industry

Department of Commerce Report: Outdoor Industry makes up 2 percent of US GDP.

It's no surprise that the industries that produce the most goods or services and keep the economy humming often receive favorable attention from legislators in Washington.

Now with the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) February announcement that the outdoor recreation industry's 2016 annual gross output is 2 percent ($373.7 billion) of the US gross domestic product (GDP), Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) believes boaters stand to gain from the news.

CORPUS CHRISTI CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

BIG BUSINESS — Boating is big business according to a new government report.

A Strong Industry

"Having a strong industry behind you is important when working in the halls of government," said BoatUS Manager of Government Affairs David Kennedy. "It can ultimately influence legislation that makes boating better, such as improving boating access by funding new launch ramps, providing budgets to maintain boating infrastructure or navigation aids, improving fishing habitat, and helping support boating safety efforts."

The analysis was a result of passage of the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016, which required the Department of Commerce, acting through the BEA, to enter into a joint memorandum with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior to conduct, assess and analyze the outdoor recreation economy of the United States and its effects on the overall US economy.

Boating And Fishing Activities

The outdoor industry grew 3.8 percent in 2016, compared to 2.8 percent for the overall economy. Boating and fishing activities totaled $38.2 billion, an increase of 4 percent over 2015. The BEA report also noted that the outdoor recreation industry, which includes boating, fishing, RVing, hunting, camping, hiking, bicycling and supporting activities, surpassed the US agriculture and petroleum industries.

Outdoor Recreation Roundtable

BoatUS remains part of a coalition of outdoor groups, organizations and businesses under the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable that urged the federal government to recognize the industry's economic importance. The "prototype" statistics covering 2012 to 2016 from the newly established Department of Commerce Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account allow the public to comment before the BEA releases the final statistics this fall. The full report can be found at: https://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/industry/orsa/orsanewsrelease.htm.

The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable advocates for bipartisan support for improved access to public lands and waters, increasing public-private partnerships to help modernize infrastructure and reduce decades-old maintenance backlogs that can provide a better visitor experience, support for responsible conservation efforts, and growth of outdoor recreation participation.

Boat Lift Mounts To A Wall Or Single Pile; Raises 3,000 Pounds

Golden Boat Lifts' 3K Single Track Lift is the ultimate in adaptability when space is at a premium. It boasts a small footprint when installed on a seawall and even mounts securely onto a single pile. Despite its size, it confidently raises PWC, runabouts, center consoles and RIBS up to 3,000 lbs. and accommodates up to a 7' beam.

The key to Golden's 3K Single Track Lift's strength is its construction and commercial grade materials. It's manufactured using an exclusive double I-beam track that provides extreme stability for safety and long life.

Power comes from the Golden SeaDrive delivering 8,000 in. lb. of torque. It's so reliable, it's backed by a 10-year warranty. Yet in 18,000 units manufactured, not a single one has ever failed.

A heavy-duty cradle provides superior load distribution fore and aft, and side to side. The pipe structure fits angles from 90° to 45° for maximum hull support. The standard wood or optional aluminum bunks nestle the boat in the exact perfect location. Heavy-duty rollers, a boxed track cover and adjustable guide poles make using Golden's 3K Single Track Lift a breeze.

Golden Boat Lifts' 3K Single Track Lift is virtually maintenance-free. An occasional greasing of easily accessed fittings and check of the cables is all it takes.

For 35 years, Golden Boat Lifts has manufactured a wide range of safe and reliable boat lifts in its ISO 9001:2008 certified facility. Continually innovating, the company recently broadened its scope with the freestanding Tornado Boat Lift. It offers a wide range of solutions for vessels up to 250,000 lbs. and has a robust dealer network.

Contact local dealers or Golden Boat Lifts, 17611 East St, North Fort Myers, FL 33917. 888-909-5438 or 239-337-4141. sales@goldenboatlifts.com; www.goldenboatlifts.com.

UPLIFTING — Golden Boat Lifts' 3K Single Track Lift is the ultimate in adaptability when space is at a premium. It boasts a small footprint when installed on a seawall and even mounts securely onto a single pile. Despite its size, it confidently raises PWC, runabouts, center consoles and RIBS up to 3,000 lbs. and accommodates up to a 7' beam.

Launching Small Boats Is Easy With Wheel-A-Way

Unlike their larger brothers, small boats typically aren't launched from a trailer. Owners tend to wrestle them to water's edge, often damaging hulls and backs in the process. With Davis Instruments' Wheel-a-Weigh™ launching wheels, one person is all it takes to easily roll a RIB, rowboat, dinghy or inflatable with hard transom to the shoreline. Best of all, the innovative device doesn't even need to be removed to use the vessel.

Wheel-a-Weigh is built to last using 316 stainless steel. The pivot brackets install easily on a wood, fiberglass or aluminum transom. Mounted as wide as possible, they accommodate an outboard and provide maximum stability when rolling. Attached using quick-release detent pins, the robust wheel assemblies can be flipped up and locked into position when the boat is in the water, or simply removed.

Offered in two sizes, Wheel-a-Weigh Standard is perfect for boats up to 220 lbs. Weighing a mere 9.4 lbs., it has 10" inflatable tires with non-corrosive hubs that accommodate almost any terrain.

For boats up to 330 lbs., Wheel-a-Weigh Extra Duty comes with 14" inflatable tires with non-corrosive roller bearing hubs. Its unique curved frames are engineered to move the point of balance forward to make rolling even easier. It weighs 15.9 lbs.

Davis Instruments' Wheel-a-Weigh Standard sells for $169.99 and Wheel-a-Weigh Extra Duty, $259.99.

Contact local dealers or Davis Instruments, 3465 Diablo Ave., Hayward, CA 94545. 510-732-9229; Fax: 510-732-9188. info@davisnet.com; www.davisnet.com.

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LAKE POWELL REPORT

Fish 'Warm Up' To Rising Temperatures

'Quality of life is measured by amount of time spent fishing.'

BY WAYNE GUSTAVESON
WWW.WAYNESWORDS.COM

Welcome back to the weekly fish reports from Lake Powell — 2017 was a banner year with high water levels that covered shoreline vegetation and provided extensive habitat for both predators and prey fish. Young fish survived in big numbers and these fat healthy fish will awake and become active as soon as Lake Powell water temperature rises above the 54-57 range.

"Warm water" fish residing in Lake Powell really do like warmer water better than the 47-50 F water they are now enduring. Here is what is happening with fish in the cold conditions.

Walleye

Walleye begin spawning in March, which actually makes them harder to catch because they focus on spawning instead of eating. After the spawn is over in April, walleye start to feed regularly and often.

Striped Bass

Striped bass have been resting on the bottom in deep water but with warming, they will get more active and pursue shad wherever they can find them — from the 100 foot depths to the shallow shoreline. Expect lots more movement by stripers with warming water.

Largemouth Bass

Largemouth bass get very active in March with the first hint of warming (53 F). Their cousins, smallmouth bass don't really get active until the water temperature exceeds 57 but they will not have to wait long for that comfort zone.

Catfish, Bluegill, Crappie

Catfish, bluegill, and crappie wait until April before starting their spring feeding ritual.

Warmer Ahead

As this report is written, the weather forecast shows a quick warming period coming. That means most fish will respond to warming weather in a certain fashion. Clear blue water is beautiful but does not retain the warmth of the sun as well as colored water. The first positive fish response will be in the backs of canyons where water is cloudy or murky.

Just watch the water color while heading to the back of the canyon. Do not start fishing until the clear water gives way to murky and visibility decreases to less than 5 feet. If you can see the bottom at 20-25 feetm you are in the wrong spot.

Watch For Color Change

Striped bass have been the most active fish over the winter and that will have continued through March. Travel to the back of any major canyon. When water color change is seen, start graphing the bottom at 100 feet or less looking for 2-3 fish traces to show.

This winter most fish seen in deep water on the graph have been stripers. Drop spoons as quickly and close as possible to the fish traces seen. Jig the spoons up about 18 inches and let them fall back to the bottom to imitate shad and entice stripers to bite. You may get lucky and catch fish on the first drop. If not, move on to the second best technique which is trolling.

Stripers Looking For Food

After stripers quit resting on the bottom, they head to the back of the canyon looking for food. They are seen on the graph as individuals or small groups of 5-10 fish. Note the depth and then deploy trolling lures that run close to the holding depth. Most flat line trolling lures are only effective down to 25 feet.

If fish traces are deeper, then downriggers are a better option. If fish traces are shallower than 20 feet, then casting to the shoreline may be better than trolling.

Warming Is The Trigger

Largemouth and smallmouth bass reside in brush or rocky structure. A good plan is to target stripers in the cool March morning and then switch to bass as water temperature rises 2 degrees or more. Rising water temperature triggers bass activity. If water temperature is 52 at dawn and then rises to 54, bass respond. If morning water temperature is 57 and then rises to 60, bass behave in a similar fashion. Warming is the trigger.

Look for bass by checking water temperature. Sometimes similar coves on one side of the lake may be 2-3 degrees cooler than similar coves on the other side. Target the warmer coves. A large sandstone boulder facing the morning sun might warm the water near the rock and attract bass into the cove.

General, Rather Than Specific

This report purposely covers general patterns rather than specific locations. We have found during the winter that a good trip to one canyon is followed by a mediocre result on the return trip. Time of day has been important but randomly swings between morning and afternoon.

Wayne Gustaveson

Now as temperature is warming, fishing results will become more predictable and dependable.

Fat, Healthy Stripers

It is my prediction that bait fishing for stripers along main channel walls (Dam, Buoy 3, Moki Wall etc.) will not be as successful as it has been most years. Physical condition of striped bass is exceptional now due to the strong shad crop produced in 2017.

Fat healthy stripers tend to stay in the backs of canyons rather than moving to the main channel walls looking for forage. You may try fishing bait in an old hotspot but if it does not produce then move to the back of a nearby canyon and try trolling, spooning, and casting for a better result.

Share Your Fish Tale

When your trip is completed please share your fishing experience with us on *Wayneswords.com.* That way, we can give each other hints on fishing success at this huge lake. If you share your results it helps the next person to fish in your spot. Then when you return in a month or two, you can have the same advantage by reading a fish report on where you should try as you return.

At press time, lake elevation was 3615, and water temperature was 47-52F.

10TH ANNUAL YELLOWTAIL DERBY 2018

Get Your Lines Ready To Reel In Great Fun And Prizes

Who will land a 50-pound yellowtail to break Harry Okuda's 49-pound, 11-ounce winner in 2017 and get their name on the Perpetual Derby Trophy? The one who does receives his or her weight in Ballast Point Beer, as measured on the "Scale of Ale".

Event planners expect over 250 participating anglers, which means more entries, more prize money.

Invited to all the Yellowtail Derby events will be the past winners and past Miss Yellowtail Derby queens.

The kick-off party is on April 25 at the Bali Hai restaurant in Point Loma, San Diego, Calif.

For more information, contact the event organizer John Campbell at johncinsd@gmail.com.

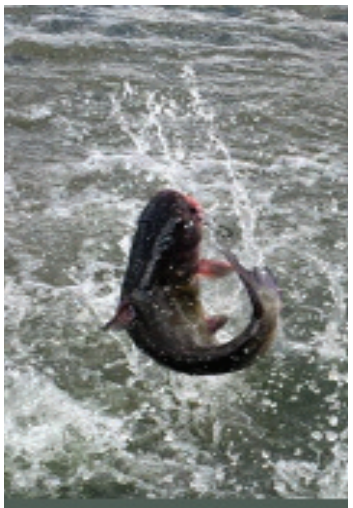
DAY AT THE DOCKS

It's Informative, Fun, And Free!

The Port of San Diego's Day at the Docks is the West Coast's largest public celebration of sportfishing. Signaling the official start of Southern California's spring saltwater fishing season, Day at the Docks takes place on Sunday, April 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. against the colorful and dynamic backdrop of the world-renowned sportfishing fleet on San Diego Bay.

This annual event provides marine attractions for the whole family, and especially the sportfishing enthusiast. Packed into an incredible day are boat rides in the bay, displays by marine artists and fishing-tackle experts, great food, entertainment, fishing seminars, open house aboard sportfishing boats, kid's fishing, contests, prizes, and more.

For more details, visit *https://www.sandiego.org/explore/events/sports/day-at-the-docks.aspx*



Mr. Whiskers Returns To CFP

The Arizona Game & Fish Department has begun stocking channel catfish into Community Fishing Program waters again. Check out their site for the latest Community Fishing news: www.azgfd.com/Fishing/Community/

AZ LAKES, AZ PROS: LARRY MANTLE

'Hook Up' With A Respected Angler

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

Larry Mantle has been a fixture on Arizona's lakes for years, and he's one of the most respected anglers out there. In the 1980s and '90s he teamed up with John Murray and the two of them were pretty much top dogs on the tournament circuits for all that time.

Larry is one of the most energetic guys I know, and he's also one of the most friendly guys you'll ever meet. He currently guides for the Hook Up Outfitters, and if you get a chance, you'll never regret a day on the water learning from Mantle.

We Learn From Him

John and I have had the pleasure of going out fishing with Larry several times, and we never fail to learn something new. Nothing about fishing is left to chance with Larry. For instance, driving to Alamo Lake involves some serious dust, so he takes his reels apart and uses WD40 to clean them. Just the tiniest amount of oil is necessary to lube them – too much oil just collects dust and turns to sticky sludge.

Those dusty roads are really hard on reels, even if they are in the rod locker, so Larry will dip the reels in the lake to rinse them off. "Fix it *before* it breaks" is his motto.

About Crawdads

Crawdads, he says, live at different levels and come in different colors. He loves to crash jigs – since crawdads are hard, a jig doesn't bother a bass at all. He uses big ones – often one ounce, because "you gotta touch bottom". Crashing a jig simply means getting your jig on the bottom, then hopping or dragging it so it crashes into rocks and other structure.

The combination of the mud stirred up and the noise attract bass, and they just hammer those big jigs. A Yamamoto Hula Grub is ideal for jigs – the combination of the skirt and the two tails give the bulk and outline of a craw, and they come in tons of colors. Pick one to match the craws or pick a color that will show up best in the water.

Mantle On Baits

Mantle suggests finesse baits in low water, but with the water up like it is now, you can use spinnerbaits, buzzbaits, and crankbaits. He uses scent on plastics every five to ten minutes – it's a confidence factor for him. The fish seem to hang on better when he uses scent.

Mantle loves Michaels topwater baits – they are little poppers that were incredibly expensive when they first came out – I'm talking $25 each several decades ago! I still have a couple, but I don't know where to buy any now. I do know that the Lobina Lures Rico is the spitting image (pardon the pun) of the Michael. You can find them at www.lobinalures.com. Seriously, they work every bit as well as the Michael.

In Arizona, the best topwater bite is in the middle of the day, not the early morning, he says. A lot of people make the mistake of starting out with topwater first thing then laying it down when the sun gets up. That's a mistake. He often starts out deep then moves shallow around 11 a.m.

Tournaments Should Be Fun

When he's prefishing for a tournament, Larry removes the hooks from his lures. He want to know what they're biting, not sore-mouth them. Removing the hooks also keeps the stripers from stealing the lure if you're on Pleasant. Also, during a tournament, he never fishes the same bait as his partner.

Fishing with John Murray was one of the biggest helps to him, he says. He loves fishing because it isn't about how big you are or what sex you are – it's about how you can find fish. Anyone can catch fish, he says. The best thing you can do is get into a club and get contacts. People get nervous about fishing tournaments and they shouldn't – it should be fun. Do it to

Larry Mantle

See **HOOK UP**, *Page* **16**

SHOT SHOW DAY 2

Tactical Market Has Grown Incredibly

BY JOHN AND MARGIE ANDERSON

Well, yesterday (second day of the 2018 SHOT show) we put over 9 miles on our shoes at the SHOT Show, and today just a little less than that – because we had a couple of meetings and a press conference to go to. But it's so much fun seeing all the great products that we really don't mind all the walking. Of course, SHOT Show has tons of guns, and that means that there are also tons of accessories designed to help you shoot better.

Simple Sights

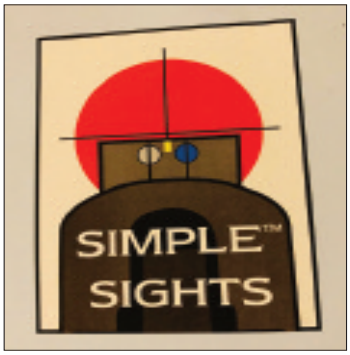
Up on the third floor of SHOT is an area called "NEXT", where the companies who didn't make it into the actual show get to set up a small booth and just let people see what they do and get to know them.

One of the cool things up there is called Simple Sights. Simple Sights helps you shoot a pistol better because instead of having to line up the top of the front sight and the top of the back sights, then center the front sight in the opening, all you do with a Simple Sight is complete a couple of circles. You look down the gun, and when you see two complete circles side by side, you're all lined up and ready to pull the trigger.

The inventor put a laser on a dummy pistol and handed it to me to try. I deliberately aimed at a small fire sprinkler a ways down the hall. I completed the circle, then pulled the trigger to activate the laser – and I was dead on! They are made by Mansfield Munitions and they're just starting out, but hopefully we'll be able to give you a website soon.

Night Fision

Another great set of sights we saw was by Night Fision. Their tritium night sights are the brightest in the world. In fact, they told us theirs are 30 percent brighter than the competition. You may wonder why on earth you would even want night sights, but if you've ever been to an indoor range, you know how dim it can be in there, plus tritium sights are easier to see even in daylight.



Simple Sights

So yes, if you want to shoot better and faster, put some night sights on your gun. I priced them out on the website for a set for my Glock 19, and it came to $108. Find them at *nightfision.com*. They really are pretty awesome.

Gun Guardian TS-1

Another thing we found in the NEXT section is a safety product for ARs called the Gun Guardian TS-1. It's a hand grip with a sliding shell on the outside. Flip it up, slide the cover back, and it covers the trigger and locks the safety in place. Slide it back out, flip it down, and it's a hand grip again. This thing was getting a lot of attention. The company also makes trigger shields for pistols. Go to *gunguardian.us* to see their products.

Guard Dog

A lot of people prefer to carry less-lethal means of self defense, and SHOT Show has plenty of those. A company called Guard Dog has a variety of products. New for this year is AccuFire, a pepper spray with a laser that shows you right where the spray will go. Their Insta-Fire hand sleeve keeps your pepper spray ready to hand at all times – great for jog-

See **TACTICAL MARKET**, *Page* **16**

Victorinox Honing Knife

2018 Kayak Fishing Tournament Series Kicks Off In Arizona Lakes

Anyone wanting to learn more about kayak fishing and maybe take home some cash while they're at it can register for any one of more than a dozen tourney events spread across five different lakes in Arizona in 2018. Best of all — no entry fee, but still with cash and gear prizes!

Great Group Of Anglers

Dallas Shewmaker, owner of LowerGear Outdoors in Tempe and Southwest Kayaks in Lake Havasu, puts on the events with his staff and pro fishing team members to grow the community of kayak anglers with a taste of competitive fishing without any financial risk or intimidation.

Shewmaker says, "While sure, a chance at a few thousand dollars over the year is attractive, most participate to learn from other anglers and to just get out on the water with those that share the passion. We always try to mix in a cookout or camping evening along with the event, and part of the deal is winners have to share their secret to success that day. It's a lot of fun with a great group of anglers at both the Havasu and Phoenix-area waters."

Dates Near Phoenix

The Phoenix area remaining 2018 dates and approximate times include the following:

- April 7, 6a.m.-12 p.m., Pleasant (with Paddlefest)
- May 19, 6 a.m.-mid, Bartlett
- June 9, 6 a.m.-mid, Saguaro
- July 14, 6 a.m.-mid, Canyon
- Aug. 11, 5:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Apache
- Sept. 15, 5:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Roosevelt
- Oct. 27, 6 a.m.-12 p.m., Bartlett
- Nov. TBD- Championship Event with Paddlefest in Havasu

See full details including the rules and prizes at https://www.facebook.com/lowergearkayakfishing.

Lake Havasu Dates

The remaining Lake Havasu event schedule with approximate times includes:

- April 29, 6 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Sept. 2, 5:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
- Oct. 13, 6 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Nov. TBD- Championship Event with Paddlefest in Havasu

See full details including the rules and prizes at https://www.facebook.com/southwestkayaksfishing.

More Information

On the *Facebook* event pages, anglers can select the dates of interest and download a standard waiver. ID and scorecards are handed out immediately preceding the event. For more information, contact LowerGear Outdoors at 480-348-8917, or Southwest Kayaks at 928-680-9257.

ROSES SHOOT — Desert Roses and Desert Roses, Too – the women's shotgun-shooting program at the Ben Avery Clay Target Center – will conduct a fun shoot at 10 a.m. April 7. For more information, call (623) 434-8119.

Court Denies Arizona's Motion Re: Temporary Restraing Order

A federal court denied the State of Arizona's motion for a temporary restraining order to prevent the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from conducting a high-flow water release at Alamo Lake beginning this week.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission on Feb. 26 had voted unanimously to request that the Office of the Arizona Attorney General pursue the action.

Concerns Over Timing

The Game and Fish Department and Arizona State Parks have expressed concerns over the timing of the project. Game and Fish estimates the rapid draw-down of the lake at this time of year will disrupt reproduction and recruitment in fish such as largemouth bass and black crappie, as they are currently in pre-spawn condition in Alamo Lake and expect to be spawning during the proposed drawdown.

In addition, as the lake is drawn down, the shallow areas will dry, and most, if not all, of the current spawning area and eggs would likely be lost.

Negative Impacts

Game and Fish says the loss of that segment of the fish population at Alamo not only would have biological impacts to the fishery, but also it would include negative impacts to the state and local economy. Alamo Lake State Park draws visitors from around the state for its premier bass and crappie fishing. Many anglers are reporting some of the best fishing at Alamo Lake in recent years and hope for another

See **COURT DENIES**, *Page* **17**

Gunsmiths Finish, Test Their Martini

BY MIKE BERGER AND PAT KNIGHT

We finally had a brief bit of time to do some additional work on the Martini, after catching up on the urgent work for customers who were going on hunts and had not planned ahead. It was a lot of extra hours, but almost everything was completed.

Back To The Martini

And now, back to the Martini. A pilot hole was drilled where the forend-attaching screw would be placed. This hole is deliberately undersized to allow for some movement if it is not placed in exactly the right position from side to side. A center punch was placed through the hole. And a small mark made on the barrel to indicate where to drill.

The barreled action was then placed in the mills cross vise to ensure it remained centered. A small mill bit was used to locate the hole, and everything re-measured to ensure proper placement. The bit used to drill the hole was marked to ensure depth, as a confirmation for the milling machine markings, and the hole was drilled to depth.

Distributing Pressure

The hole was then tapped with a tapered tap, and then with a bottom tap to have a complete range of travel for the screw being used to attach the forend. An escutcheon was fabricated on the lathe out of stock from the local hardware emporium. This helps distribute the screws pressure on the forend, and prevents the screw head from sinking into the wood of the forend.

A Cheap Insurance Policy

A weaver style rail was selected, that was close to the barrel contour, for a scope mount base, and then the bottom

Forend Partially Finished

Forend Hole Being Tapped

was contoured exactly to the rifles bull style barrel. Two holes were drilled using the method described above, and then tapped to 8-40 screws, to attach the scope mount to the top of the barrel. Using 8-40 screws for this non-recoiling rifle might seem like overkill, but the weight of the rifle coupled with the potential for someone to grab it by the scope, makes this a cheap insurance policy.

For Initial Testing

For initial testing a BSA Sweet 17 scope was selected and mounted. I could

See **GUNSMITHS**, *Page* **17**

Grand Canyon National Park To Celebrate 2018 Earth Day

Grand Canyon National Park will celebrate the 48th anniversary of Earth Day with an open-house style celebration from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21 at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza. This year's activities will focus on waste, water, and energy reduction. The event will share innovative ways to reduce our footprint and protect our environment.

Grand Canyon's Green Team is comprised of National Park Service employees, park concessioners, and park partners collaboratively working to increase awareness and level of environmental stewardship within the Grand Canyon community. To learn more about Grand Canyon's Earth Day celebration contact Green Team chairperson, Kim Park at kim_park@nps.gov.

Shuttle Bus Tips And Other Hacks For Grand Canyon National Park

The focus is on spring-break time, but much applies to all visits this season.

Visitors planning to hike, camp, recreate, and take in the breathtaking views of Grand Canyon National Park during spring break should also prepare for long lines and road construction.

As a result of increased spring break visitation, traffic regularly backs up at the South Rim entrance stations, with the longest wait time between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Parking lots, especially near Grand Canyon Visitor Center, start reaching capacity by 11 a.m.

In addition to increased traffic, Grand Canyon Village roads are also under construction and some detours are in place. All South Rim operations and businesses are open and accessible during road construction.

Motorists Need To Stay Alert

Motorists should keep alert and follow detour signs, temporary stop lights and other traffic control signs; slow down in work and pedestrian zones; and pay attention to flaggers. GPS units are not a reliable way to avoid the construction. Detour maps and construction information are available here: https://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/management/construction.htm.

Tusayan Route Shuttle

The Tusayan Route shuttle bus started March 1. Visitors who want to avoid congestion, construction, and parking woes can park in the gateway community of Tusayan and ride the shuttle into Grand Canyon National Park. A valid park pass — available at several Tusayan locations — is required to ride the Tusayan Route. Before heading into the park, stop at the Grand Canyon Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau in Tusayan for trip-planning and advice.

Hermits Rest Shuttle

The Hermits Rest (Red) Route shuttle bus also started March 1. Visitors can enjoy the scenic viewpoints of Hermit Road by connecting from the Village (Blue) Route shuttle bus. For more information about all the shuttle bus options in Grand Canyon National Park, visit https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/shuttle-buses.htm.

Take Safety Precautions

Grand Canyon National Park rangers would also like to remind visitors to take safety precautions when visiting the park. Prepare for your hike ahead of time, visit the Backcountry Office, and know your and your group's abilities.

If you plan to travel with a pet, please know which trails are pet-friendly and use the South Rim Kennel instead of leaving your furry loved one in a car. Remember to lock your vehicle and secure all valuables. Don't forget to pack your hoodies and beanies! Grand Canyon South Rim sits high atop the Colorado Plateau at 7,000 ft above sea level and frequently experiences spring snowstorms.

Other Parks Sites

The Grand Canyon State offers visitors many beautiful and fun destinations aside from its namesake. Add Arizona State Parks adventures to your bucket list and explore the other 21 national park sites in Arizona for an unforgettable spring break. Above all, enjoy your spring break (or future) visit to Grand Canyon and your other public lands responsibly!

Did You Know?

Grand Canyon National Park, located in northern Arizona, encompasses 277 miles (446 km) of the Colorado River and adjacent uplands. One of the most spectacular examples of erosion anywhere in the world, Grand Canyon is unmatched in the incomparable vistas it offers visitors on the rim. Grand Canyon National Park is a World Heritage Site.

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HARQUAHALA MOUNTAINS

Experience Both History And Beauty Here

BY MARGIE ANDERSON

The road to the top of the Harquahala Mountains takes you to the historic Solar Observatory. We had read several accounts of the road, and many of them said that it was very rough, even dangerous. The day we went there it was neither.

Yes, there are a couple of place where 4WD came in handy because of loose rock, but for the most part it was not that bad. There is one short stretch near the end that has been paved with concrete, and that part was apparently the worst place before the paving was put in place. It's a fun drive. It's a National Back Country Byway and is 10.5 miles long.

The Road To The Top

The road was built for mining access over a span of 70 years. Still, it is very narrow and steep in places, and several spots have a lot of loose rock. I wouldn't attempt it without a 4WD vehicle. Watch for vehicles coming the other way, especially on the steep switchbacks near the summit. You also have to keep an eye out for large rocks in the road – they roll off

The short stretch of the road is paved with concrete.

Four-Wheel Drive Necessary

the mountain.

Start by getting to the Harquahala Mountain Back Country Byway. Take I-10 to the Salome Road exit and go up Salome Road for about nine miles to Eagle Eye Road. You can also catch Eagle Eye Road in the town of Aguila.

The Harquahala Mountain Back Country Byway turn off is about eight miles north of the Salome Road. There's a big sign that says "Four-wheel-drive required". Just off the Eagle Eye Road there is a really nice staging/camping/picnic area with restrooms and a covered area with interpretive signs.

A 1920s Solar Observatory

In 1920 a two-story solar observatory was built at the top of the mountains. It was made out of adobe and the scientists lived on the top floor and worked on the bottom floor. The harsh weather caused constant problems, and all the food and water had to be hauled up a 5-1/2-mile

The old solar observatory (you can see inside through the open door), a small parking area, and the CAP towers are at the top. Look at the size of that building and imagine living there for five years, hauling your food and water up a foot trail!

pack trail on the northwest slope. The nearest water was over a mile away and over 1000 feet lower!

One of the scientists even brought his wife along, and by all accounts she made a lot of improvements in the living conditions there. The observatory never used telescopes, so it might not look like you expect, but it is still there. It has been reinforced with lumber but it isn't safe to go

The solar observatory still stands, but it is unsafe to enter.

in, so there is a fence around it. You can still see inside through the open door.

A Challenging Trail

The trail is still there if you're hardy enough to hike it. There is a 3,360 foot elevation change over the 5.4 miles, and there are great views. However, it is a steep and challenging trail, and I can't even imagine trying it in the summer.

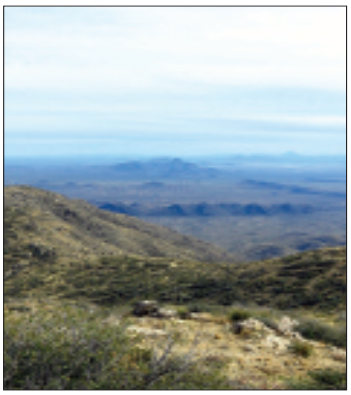
The northern slope of the mountains is now a Wilderness area — 22,880 acres. To get to the hiking trail, take Highway 60 southwest 13.6 miles from Aguila — it's near mile marker 71 and there is a palm tree on the opposite side of the highway. Turn left here onto a jeep trail. The trailhead is 2.2 miles down this jeep trail and you'll need a high clearance vehicle at the least.

Bring *lots* of water no matter what time of year it is — this is a super-tough hike uphill all the way. It's out and back, steep both ways. This trail doesn't get a whole lot of use but it is still clear and easy to follow. While you're hiking, imagine having to haul food and water up that hill by foot and mule. Once you get to the top you may run into people who drove up and are enjoying the views.

An old cistern is still there, but the main attraction is the amazing views. By walking around, you can see for miles and miles in every direction.

Relics Of The Past

The people who lived and worked there in the '20s originally used a heliograph for communication — that is basically using mirrors to reflect the sun and use Morse code. It was pretty cumbersome, and eventually they got a radio and then a telephone. Now there are towers up there built by Central Arizona Project, and they control the canals. There are interpretive signs around the solar observatory building, and the hiking trail is also clearly marked. There is an old well or cistern there too, but it's all filled up with dirt to about 4 feet deep.



A Gorgeous View

Gorgeous Views, Wildlife

We had a nice time walking around everything — wherever you go, there are gorgeous views. You can see for miles and miles, and entire mountain ranges look small. It was very windy up there as well. Just before you get to the very top, there is a large parking and picnic area with tables. Parking at the very top is limited, but it isn't far to walk from the picnic area.

We saw deer, roadrunners, ground squirrels, hawks, and lots of other kinds of birds on our drive, and apparently the Wilderness area is home to rare cacti and bighorn sheep. The first couple of miles of the road have occasional pull-outs with fire rings, but once you hit the steeper parts it gets narrow and twisty with no room for pull-outs. There are no guardrails, so slow and steady is the key.

Fun, Beautiful, Historic

It took us about an hour to get to the top, and about the same coming down. We went on a weekday and we only saw one other vehicle, and that one was parked at the top when we got there.

The story of the scientists and the solar observatory is interesting, and you will learn more about it from the signs at the top. If you have a 4WD vehicle, I highly recommend this fun, beautiful, and historic drive.

Back Country Byway

Modest Fee Adjustments For Maricopa County's Regional Parks Approved

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve a modest adjustment to several park and recreation fees. Revised fees include the following:

- Day-use entry;
- Camping and early check-out;
- Annual pass fees would remain the same; however, additional and replacement cards would increase; and
- Special Use Applications

In addition to the adjustments, the department also sought approval to add a new service, a hike/bike/equestrian annual pass. This service is aimed at park visitors who hike or ride directly into the park without using the parking and staging areas.

Market Study Comparisons

Before the request to adjust fees reached the Board for consideration, the department presented market study comparisons, public survey results, and the proposed fee adjustments to the Parks Commission for discussion and approval. This information was also made available on both the county and department's websites for public review, notices were posted at all county parks, and ads were run in the newspaper.

Public Hearing

Prior to taking this to a vote, the Board hosted a public hearing to ensure any concerns were taken into consideration. No public requests to speak were entered. The new fees went into effect on April 1.

Necessary Increase

"The increase to the selected fees are necessary for us to be able to continue providing quality outdoor recreation experiences to visitors who use the parks and conservation areas. Inflation, although relatively modest, continues to increase and is displayed in what the department pays for goods and services – including basic utilities; equipment; insurance; technology; maintenance, and repair charges," stated R.J. Cardin, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department Director.

"It has been more than 11 years since the park entry fee was last raised and four years since camping fees were last increased."

Details

For a detailed listing of fees affected by the adjustments, see the table below, or visit the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department website at www.maricopacountyparks.net/fees/.

Park Entry Fees	Approved Fee	Current Fee	Approved Change	Last Update
Approved changes to Park Entry Fees are for day-use vehicle entry fees for all Maricopa County Parks, with the exception of Spur Cross Conservation Area and Hassayampa River Preserve.				
Vehicle entry All Parks	$7.00	$6.00	$1.00 Increase	8/13/2007 Mountain Parks 11/4/2009 Lake Pleasant
Camping Fees	**Approved Fee**	**Current Fee**	**Approved Change**	**Last Update**
Approved changes for Camping Fees include single site camping and early check-out fee.				
Developed sites *Designated camping sites with electrical and water hook-ups, dump station access, restrooms, picnic tables and grills.*	$32.00	$30.00	$2.00 Increase	5/7/2014
Semi-Developed *Designated camping site with restrooms, picnic tables, and grills.*	$22.00	$20.00	$2.00 Increase	5/7/2014
Primitive camping *Non-designated or designated site, no amenities.*	$15.00	$12.00	$3.00 Increase	5/7/2014
Early Check Out Fee *Applies to all camping categories.*	$15.00	$0	NEW	n/a

Annual Passes	Approved Fee	Current Fee	Approved Change	Last Update
Approved changes for Annual Passes includes additional and replacement cards and a new annual pass category for Hike/Bike/Equestrian visitors.				
Additional card for household member **Must reside in same household as Annual Pass Holder*	$20.00	$15.00	$5.00 Increase	5/7/2014
Replacement card for lost/stolen card	$5.00	$3.00	$2.00 Increase	12/7/2016
Hike/Bike/Equestrian Annual Pass	$30.00	n/a	NEW	n/a
Other Fees	**Approved Fee**	**Current Fee**	**Approved Change**	**Last Update**
The approved change in this category is for the Special Use Permit Application Fee.				
Special Use Permit Application fee	$100.00	$75.00	$25.00 Increase	11/4/2009

IT'S A SNAP! — Dirt and road grime play havoc with zippers, snaps and hinges. Frustrated RV, car, truck and motorcycle owners often buy special tools just to open and close them, and occasionally damage the surrounding fabric when attempting to free the fastener. With Shurhold Industries' Snap Stick, a few minutes of simple maintenance alleviates hours of irritation later. Contact local dealers or Shurhold at www.shurhold.com/rv.

Discover Rim Country; Join The Adventure

Mogollon Rim Near Payson, Ariz.

Do you like to hike, mountain bike, drive or horseback ride in Rim Country? Do you have thoughts about how to make our trails better in the places we love? The Rim Country Trails Working Group invites all trail enthusiasts and others interested to help develop a comprehensive trails plan for the Rim Country.

The Rim Trails Working Group is comprised of the towns of Payson, Star Valley, Pine and Strawberry, as well as the Tonto National Forest, many trail user groups and organizations with interests in recreation. This collaborative effort is for all trail uses and interests. "The Town of Payson is excited to work with all the stakeholders and the public to make the outdoor experience of Rim County inclusive to all and a quality experience," said Craig Swartwood, mayor of Payson. "We are excited to move forward with the comprehensive trails plan."

Please consider participating in the one remaining evening workshop to make our current trails better, identify where you would like potential new trails, trail connectors, and trailheads, and which trails need maintenance. Your input is needed to develop and implement a trails plan than crosses jurisdictional boundaries and identifies short, medium, and long-term priorities for future projects.

"Engaging our community and forest users will help the Tonto National Forest with future trails planning and prioritization," said Debbie Cress, Payson District ranger. "It will also improve the quality of your trail experience."

The Rim Country Working Group encourages you to share your input during the last workshop: Wednesday, April 11 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. This final workshop will be held at the Church of the Nazarene, 200 E. Tyler Parkway in Payson, Ariz. Please arrive at 5 p.m. for networking and light snacks.

Grand Canyon National Park Announces 2019 Centennial Logo

In recognition of Grand Canyon National Park's 99th birthday, the National Park Service and Grand Canyon Association unveiled the logo for the park's upcoming 2019 Centennial.

Depicting one of Grand Canyon's most significant elements, the Colorado River, the logo is a visual reminder of the rich natural, cultural, and historical resources found at Grand Canyon National Park. The accompanying tagline, "Go Grand", encourages inspiration and grand adventures.

The logo was the result of a collaborative effort between the park's official nonprofit partner, Grand Canyon Association, Grand Canyon National Park employees, and marketing firm Off Madison Avenue.

100 Years In 2019

The 2019 Centennial will commemorate 100 years of the National Park Service at Grand Canyon and acknowledge Grand Canyon's significant cultural history and relationships with the park's 11 traditionally associated tribes. To prepare for a new century of stewardship, the park's Centennial goal commemorates the past and inspires future generations to experience, connect with, and protect the canyon's unique resources.

To accomplish this goal, Grand Canyon National Park is working with employees, gateway communities, and tribal

See **LOGO**, *Page* **17**

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Inside Lookout Mountain Outdoors
Also located inside Changing Hands Bookstores and now in Lake Havasu City at Southwest Kayak Center

Western Wildlife

AZGFD: Applications Accepted To Adopt A Desert Tortoise

Approximately 50 desert tortoises will soon awaken from their winter slumber and the Arizona Game and Fish Tortoise Adoption program will once again be looking for good adoptive homes. There is no charge to adopt a tortoise.

The desert tortoises up for adoption are a wide range of ages and sizes. AZGFD is accepting applications for those willing to provide a special home. Adoption application packets and general information can be found at www.azgfd.gov/tortoise.

Adopters need to have a securely enclosed yard or separate enclosure in their yard, free from potential hazards such as a dog, fire pit, or unfenced pool. The enclosed area must include an appropriate shelter for the tortoise to escape Arizona's extreme summer and winter temperatures.

All of the desert tortoises eligible for adoption will be given health checkups before going to their new homes. Tortoises are only available for adoption to residents living within the species' native range, which includes the Phoenix, Bullhead City, Kingman, Prescott, Lake Havasu, Tucson and Yuma areas.

Desert tortoises offer a unique alternative to more traditional family pets and can teach many of the same life lessons to children, including responsibility, compassion and commitment. Contrary to many assumptions, desert tortoises can be interactive and provide companionship without as many demands as a cat or dog.

Desert Tortoise

Volunteers Needed To Spotlight Endangered Black-Footed Ferrets

Survey results shine light on recovery effort in Aubrey Valley, on Double O Ranch.

Black-Footed Ferret

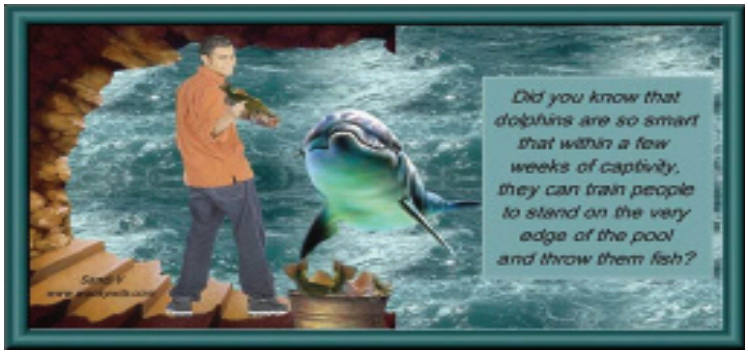
The Arizona Game and Fish Department is seeking volunteers to assist with spotlighting efforts to help document the population of endangered black-footed ferrets in Aubrey Valley and on the Double O Ranch near Seligman.

As part of the recovery effort, the department has scheduled one remaining spring spotlighting project: April 26-29 (the department also conducts two spotlighting projects in the fall). The spotlighting method involves using high-powered lights to locate and identify black-footed ferrets. Their eyeshine is reflected by the spotlight and helps surveyors with identifying and locating these elusive, nocturnal carnivores.

Volunteers must have the ability to stay attentive from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. while spotlighting for black-footed ferrets and use, or learn how to use, a Global Positioning System (GPS). Volunteers can sign up by e-mailing azferret@azgfd.gov — with "spring spotlighting" in the subject line — by April 20 for the last opportunity.

Volunteers are reminded to include their full name, a contact phone number, month(s) and night(s) available to spotlight, and full names of others who also will be attending (a parent or guardian

See **FERRETS**, *Page* **17**



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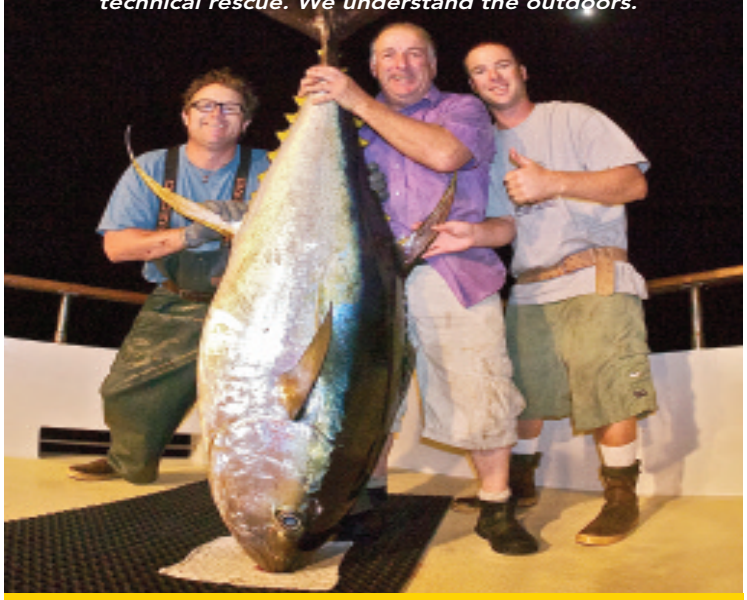

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Arizona Elk Arrive In West Virginia

Partnership between states bolsters ongoing restoration project.

For the first time in more than 150 years, elk are leaving their hoofprints on West Virginia soil.

Dozens of elk that were captured and quarantined in January east of Flagstaff were loaded into a livestock trailer and transported nonstop to a release site in the Tomblin Wildlife Management Area in southwest West Virginia in early March.

The elk were captured at the Raymond Wildlife Area through a partnership between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission had approved the capture and transport as part of West Virginia's ongoing restoration project at its August 2017 meeting.

Elk Disappeared

A native species, elk disappeared from West Virginia's landscape when the last documented animal was killed in the Mountain State around 1875 – 10 years after the end of the Civil War.

Letter Of Appreciation

In a letter of appreciation dated Feb. 14, West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice thanked commission members and the department's director, Ty Gray, as well as department staff and volunteers, for their "leadership, professionalism and hospitality."

Justice added: "Through this restoration project program, we anticipate our state will soon support a viable, self-sustaining elk population that provides opportunities for wildlife viewing, hunting and economic benefits to our local communities."

Only The Second Time

The conservation project marks only the second time Arizona has provided elk to another state. In 2000, Kentucky's elk restoration efforts received a boost with 26 animals that were captured near the Raymond Wildlife Area. After a brief quarantine period, the elk that were delivered this week to West Virginia will join nearly two dozen more that were received in 2016 from Kentucky.

In 1913

Arizona benefitted from the same kind of out-of-state generosity back in February 1913. In an effort to re-establish an elk population, sportsmen released 83 elk

See **ELK**, *Page* **17**

76 Citations For Wildlife Violations Issued In 2017

Nearly 1,100 reports came into the Arizona Operation Game Thief 24/7 program to protect the state's wildlife.

"Poachers are criminals." If you talk to any of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's wildlife managers, you're likely to hear that phrase repeated as they go about their work as part biologist, part law enforcement officer.

As part of their duties, the department's 97 wildlife managers work to investigate potential poaching cases to ensure that the state's most precious natural resource — its wildlife — is effectively managed so that future generations can enjoy the more than 800 species found in Arizona.

Public Reports

At the heart of the effort to eliminate and investigate poaching is the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Operation Game Thief program, a silent witness initiative that encourages the public to report information or suspicious activity. Last year, more than 1,000 calls came into the Operation Game Thief hotline (1-800-352-0700) as well as 75 submissions via the online form.

Those reports contributed to 76 citations being issued statewide for wildlife issues including the illegal take of big game, fishing violations and the unlawful killing of raptors.

See? Say!

"Poachers are thieves. They do not represent the hunting community, and the majority of the reports come from hunters and anglers who are out in the field and witness suspicious activity," said Scott Fischer, program manager for Operation Game Thief. "The hunting community does a great job of policing itself. If you see something, say something. Together we can make a difference for Arizona's wildlife."

Public Health Officials Identify Precautions To Protect Against Rabies

Coconino County Public Health Services District (CCPHSD) officials are reminding individuals to take precautions to protect against rabies. Spring brings warmer weather and a rise in outdoor recreational activity, increasing the potential of exposure to wildlife.

CCPSHD urges people to follow the following precautions to protect from rabies:

- Avoid wildlife, especially those exhibiting unusual behaviors, such as showing no fear of humans, aggressive behavior, staggering and/or acting sickly, and nocturnal mammals active during daytime.
- Keep all pets current on vaccinations and obey leash laws.
- Always keep pets away from wild animals.
- Never pick up, touch or feed wild or unfamiliar animals, even if they do not appear sick or aggressive.
- Report any wild animal exhibiting erratic or aggressive behavior.

CCPHSD advises individuals to seek immediate medical attention if they are bitten or have contact with a wild animal.

Pet owners should seek medical care from their veterinarian and call the appropriate authorities if their pet is bitten by wildlife:

- Wildlife emergency: 911
- Coconino County Public Health Services District Animal Management: 928-679-8756
- City of Flagstaff Animal Control/ Flagstaff Police Department: 928-774-1414
- To report unusual wildlife sightings or behavior call the Coconino County Public Health Services District Animal Management Program at 928-679-8756

For more information on rabies visit www.azhealth.gov/rabies.

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Open daily through May 13, the Spring Butterfly Exhibit is a delightful educational experience for children and adults. Visitors can enjoy the beauty of these delicate creatures, while learning about their role as pollinators, characteristics of their lifecycles and the Garden's efforts to protect them.

You'll find the exhibit at Desert Botanical Garden's Butterfly Pavilion located near the Harriet K. Maxwell Wildflower Loop Trail. Admission is included with membership or general garden admission at no additional charge.

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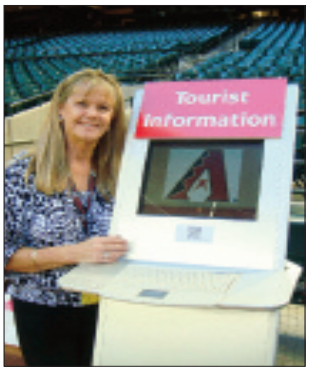

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TACTICAL MARKET

Continued from page 9

gers or for walking to your car in a dark parking garage.

They also have the Harm and Hammer model that combines pepper spray with glass breaker so you can escape your car if it goes into the water. For college kids or travelers, there's the Dorm and Away set that combines a 128 dB door stop alarm and a hard-case pepper spray.

The InstaFire keeps your pepper spray ready for instant use.

Their prices are extremely reasonable – almost everything is $12 to $25, and you can get them at various retailers or online at *guarddog-security.com*.

Victorinox

Victorinox, the Swiss Army Knife people, have lots of amazing stuff in their booth this year. Of course they have the full range of MacGyver Swiss Army

New Black Blade From Victorinox

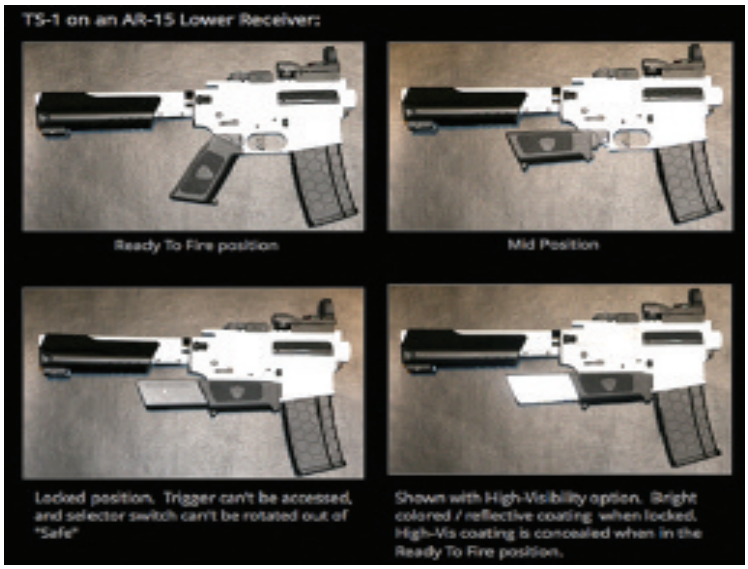
Bino Bandits

Knives, but they also have a lot of incredibly good kitchen knives that all come with a lifetime warranty. They're very reasonably priced too, especially for such quality. An 8-inch chef knife is around $44.

They have recently acquired Epicurean cutting boards, and they are the best cutting boards I've seen. The company was actually started by some guys who built skate parks and had a lot of material left over that they hated to see wasted so they started making cutting boards out of it. The boards are a lot cleaner to use than wood or plastic because they have no memory so they don't get those skinny little scratches in them where bacteria like to hide.

They come in a huge variety of shapes (like animals and states) and sizes, and they are heat resistant to 350 degrees and dishwasher safe. They even have tailgate models and one designed to fit over a bucket so you can clean fish and sweep the waste through a hole into the bucket. You're going to love these.

Also new is a slick new black blade color for their Swiss Army knives. Go



to *victorinox.com* to see all of their great products. You may be very surprised at the variety of products they have.

Bino Bandits

Sometimes the simplest and smallest things make a big difference, and that's the case with Bino Bandits. This is a simple shade that you slip onto your binoculars or spotting scope, and then flip it toward you once you've got the optics to your eyes.

Once it's flipped toward you, it blocks out your vision from the sides, as well as eliminating any glare or distraction from your peripheral vision. We tried them out and they really did make a big difference. For avid Coues hunters like us, these are a must-have item. The good news? They're only $20. You can get them at *alpineproducts.com*.

SHOT Over The Years

We've been going to SHOT Show for almost 30 years now, and it has changed immensely. One good thing is that there are now so many young people there. Another huge change is the incredible growth of the tactical market. I remember when we first started going, the tactical stuff was a smallish area in the back of the convention center. Now tactical weapons, clothing, and accessories are everywhere. One thing that hasn't changed is the people – everyone we meet at SHOT Show is fun to talk to, happy to help, and passionate about their business. We can't wait to share more of their stuff with you.

HOOK UP

Continued from page 9

meet other fishermen and have a good time and learn. Larry always tries to put his non-boaters at ease.

Experience Is Key

Once you get on a pattern, try to understand why the fish are there. If you know the lake, you can find more spots like that. Experience on the water is the only way to learn a lake. He says get to where you have five spots that will get you one fish each. Then try to upgrade.

On a strange lake, get up there early and just drive around it. Consider the conditions and try to figure out where the fish will be. Eliminate unlikely water. He and John have spent as much as 2 hours on a spot they had confidence in before the fish started biting. The biggest problem is convincing your partner you know what you're doing!

Hook Up Outfitters

If you're at the point of "what to do?" at Alamo, try to find shallow fish. There are always shallow fish and there are always deep fish, he says. Shallow fish are more affected by changes in weather, so if something drastic happens, find the deep fish. His advice is to grab a Westy worm and put it on 6# line, then just drop it down to them.

The original Westy Worms were made with super floater worms and two straight and rather soft hooks. They are hard to find. Nowadays you can find knock-offs like the Robowesty Roboworm Rig, but they aren't made with superfloaters and they have different hooks. The front hook should be on a small jighead and the back hook is tied to the front one with a short length of mono.

Larry is a super guy and knows more about fishing than almost anyone I know. If you want to go out and learn from him, give Hook Up Outfitters a call. The Hook Up Outfitters (888) 899-4665 toll free and see their website: thehookupoutfitters.com.

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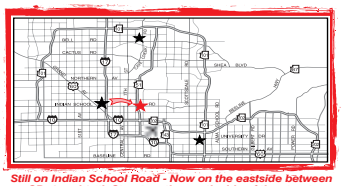

Still on Indian School Road - Now on the eastside between SR51 and 24th Street on the south side of the street.

You can also visit one of our Mini-Store locations:
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Inside LowerGear Outdoors
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17232 N Cave Creek Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85032
Inside Lookout Mountain Outdoors
Also located inside Changing Hands Bookstores and now in Lake Havasu City at Southwest Kayak Center

LOGO

Continued from page 13

and park partners. Grand Canyon Association will continue to work hand in hand with the National Park Service to support the park's 2019 Centennial.

Building A Future

"As Grand Canyon National Park gets ready to celebrate its next 100 years, we are grateful for the support of Grand Canyon Association. With this support, we continue building a future that is inclusive and reflective of our nation, while honoring those who have called Grand Canyon home and those who have fought to protect this special place for future generations," said Chris Lehnertz, superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park.

Public Engagement

To increase Grand Canyon's public engagement, the centennial year will feature events throughout 2019 at the South Rim, North Rim, Desert View, Inner Canyon, and surrounding gateway communities. The 2019 centennial logo will be part of a comprehensive brand and visual identity key to the promotion and marketing of the park's anniversary.

Looking Back And Ahead

"The Centennial year is a reminder for us to look back at our successful partnership with Grand Canyon National Park, and to celebrate the the last 100 years while we prepare for the next 100 years," said Susan Schroeder, Grand Canyon Association CEO.

"We look forward to using the logo to build awareness of the Centennial, as well as the vital conservation, restoration, and education efforts supported by Grand Canyon Association donors."

For more information visit, nps.gov/grca or grandcanyon.org.

About Grand Canyon Association

Grand Canyon Association (GCA) is the official nonprofit partner of Grand Canyon National Park, working hand-in-hand with the National Park Service to support projects including trails and historic building preservation, educational programs for the public, and the protection of wildlife and their natural habitat. GCA inspires people to protect and enhance Grand Canyon National Park for present and future generations.

For more information, visit grandcanyon.org.

FERRETS

Continued from page 14

ian must accompany any youth under 18). Volunteers also should note any equipment they can bring, such as GPS, clipboard, headlamp, pen, binoculars, walkie-talkies, compass, cordless rechargeable spotlight, backpack or 4X4 vehicle.

A total of 19 individual black-footed ferrets were captured in 2017, slightly up from 16 in 2016. Of those 19, nine were captured in Aubrey Valley and 10 on the Double O Ranch. Almost 200 volunteers totaled 2,086 spotlighting hours over the course of the spring and fall projects.

Visit www.azgfd.gov/wildlife and click on "Nongame Species" for more information about the black-footed ferret recovery effort.

ELK

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from Yellowstone National Park into Cabin Draw near Chevelon Creek in Game Management Unit 4A, just east of where the capture took place in January.

Arizona's Elk Population Today

Two other transplants of elk from Yellowstone – one south of Alpine and another north of Williams – were considered successes, as Arizona's elk population today numbers about 45,000 post-hunt adults.

GUNSMITHS

Continued from page 10

only bore sight it as I had never obtained a laser bore sighting device in .17 caliber (When starting with the .17 caliber cartridges, you will need to ensure that you already have, or purchase appropriate sized cleaning materials. Even the cleaning rod for your .22 caliber rifles will not fit). Now to the range, to see how it would do.

Shooting At The Range

Shooting at the range presented two problems. The rifle's firing pin strikes just slightly toward the cartridge center, resulting in some misfires. This will be fixed with a slight firing pin alteration. The other problem is the difficulty of counting bullet holes when they are all in one tiny group. This rifle has a definite tendency to stack rounds in the same hole, with group sizes that look like a chewed up .22 hole.

With an initial zero set, this rifle will see some increased ranges for a further examination of its capabilities. It will be interesting to see what ranges the wind effects really come on, and how the bullet is affected.

Until Next Time

Until the next time, good luck and safe shooting.

COURT DENIES

Continued from page 10

successful spring spawn that would be dependent on steady water levels keeping shoreline spawning beds submerged.

Most of the visitation to Alamo Lake and Alamo Lake State Park occurs this time of year, and most of the visitors are anglers and boaters. The Department has additional concerns such as safety issues related to launching boats on ramps where cement slabs would be exposed.

Violation Of Act Contended

The State's complaint and motion for TRO filed March 2 contended the Corps violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process in its proposed action by failing to adequately evaluate the impacts a high-flow release at this time would have on aquatic wildlife and recreation in Alamo Lake.

The motion also contended the Corps' proposed action would violate the Administrative Procedures Act by failing to comply with the Corps' binding operational criteria to complete inspection and maintenance under normal operations as prescribed in the Alamo Dam and Lake Water Control Manual, the guiding document for operation and maintenance of Alamo Dam.

Dropping Alamo Lake Level

The Corps wants to drop the lake level by about 10 feet to facilitate inspection and maintenance of Alamo Dam's intake sill. It proposes to do this by releasing water at a flow of up to 5,000 cfs, with a total release time not to exceed 20 days and the peak of the release to occur prior to March 15. The project will cause flows below Alamo Dam in excess of the typical non-flood flows of 20-50 cfs.

Other Options

"We didn't think this legal action was an egregious demand," said Jim Ammons, chairman of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. "We don't object to the project, just to the timing of it. The Corps has failed to explain why the timing in March is the only option for it to achieve its objectives.

We still believe it has other feasible options to do this project later in the year when it would have less of an impact on the fishery and the local economy."

For more New log onto www.westernoutdoortimes.com

CONFERENCE

Continued from page 6

Teaching This Year

Some of the women teaching the courses include women's sailing school owner Captain Nancy Erly of Seattle, Wash.; American Boat and Yacht Council master marine technician Beth Burlingame; and rigger and diesel engine mechanic Captain Bonnie Schaeffer.

Conference registration is $180 and includes a continental breakfast, buffet lunch, dinner, guest speaker, workshops, raffle ticket and 2018 Leadership in Women's Sailing Award presentation. A silent auction will also be held throughout the day. Registration opens in the spring at womensailing.org.

More Information

For additional information, contact co-chair Joan Thayer at joan_thayer@comcast.net.

DESERT STORM

Continued from page 1

on Friday, April 20, and the acclaimed shootout is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, which will determine who is crowned "King of the Desert," and "Queen of the Desert" by clocking the fastest speeds on Lake Havasu. Past contenders have clocked speeds topping 180 mph.

Krusin' For Kids

In addition to a new venue, the event will also feature its annual kick-off on Wednesday of the tokened "Krusin' for Kids," which takes approximately 150 special needs children and adults for boat rides. Desert Storm's Charity organization, Storm Charities, partners with Kicker Audio, Teague Custom Marine, DCB, Savage Marine, and Biokleen for the event.

"We are honored each year to kick-off our event with 'Krusin' for Kids," Crane said. "Our volunteer boat drivers take these clients on an unforgettable experience on Lake Havasu, an experience that some only dream of until now."

Silent And Live Auctions

On Wednesday evening, a Welcome Party is held at Horizon Motorsports, at 1515 Industrial Blvd., for participants and sponsors. There will be a silent and live auction where 100 percent of the proceeds will be donated to Milemarkers, Inc., and the American Cancer Society.

"We have an awesome new partnership with Kicker Audio who will be bringing some noise to Lake Havasu," Crane said. "They are going to feature their 97-foot semi-truck equipped with the Boom Room, an unforgettable sound experience. This is going to be a Desert Storm Party that Havasu hasn't seen before."

A Favorite Event

Steven Boswell, regional manager of the Nautical Beachfront Resort at 1000 McCulloch Blvd, said Desert Storm has always been one of the resort's favorite events to host.

"Our Turtle Beach Grille, our infinity pool, our Wet Bar, and our beach cove have incredible memories from Desert Storm," he said. "While we will miss them in 2018, we also understand the natural curiosity behind evolving an event after 20 years."

The new venue at the London Bridge Resort is located adjacent to the world-famous London Bridge and along the picturesque and popular Bridgewater Channel.

"Lake Havasu City is home to so many ideal event locations," said Cal Sheehy, general manager of the London Bridge Resort. "We are excited to welcome Desert Storm to our property and showcase the iconic London Bridge as the backdrop for this amazing event."

Revamped Monster Storm

Phantom Productions LLC., based in Peoria, Ariz., has also revamped the upcoming 9th annual Monster Storm to be held Oct. 12-14, 2018 at The London Bridge Resort. The 2017 Halloween-themed Poker Run featured more than 80 boats and a weekend of after parties and camaraderie.

More Information

To stay up-to-date on information and announcements, check www.StormPokerRun.com or Storm Poker Run social media pages: www.facebook.com/StormPokerRuns or www.instagram.com/StomPokerRuns

All boaters who meet the insurance and registration requirements can participate in Desert Storm Poker Run. There is no boat speed or size requirement for the event. To register for Desert Storm, go to www.StormPokerRun.com and click the *Register Now* button in the top left.

About The Storm Poker Run Team

James "Jimmy" Nichols and Christina Crane, are the co-owners of Phantom Productions LLC., based in Peoria, Ariz., the newly named production company for Monster Storm and Desert Storm Poker Runs. Nichols and Crane will continue the Poker Run legacy that Jim Sr. (Jimmy's father) created.

"We are making some small changes to update the current atmosphere. The participants and sponsors will feel that it is centered around them. We intend to attract spectators to come and see what the Poker Run is. While we all share what we are passionate about – boating." - Jimmy Nichols

Storm Poker Run Contact Information

Storm Poker Runs is produced by the managing company Phantom Productions, LLC. To learn more visit www.StormPokerRun.com , www.facebook.com/StormPokerRuns or call us at 623-238-1330 or email: christina@StormPokerRuns.com

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As a college English teacher, editor, and writer of both fiction and non-fiction for many years, I am available online (or by U.S. mail) for tutoring, editing, proofreading, copyediting, and writing. I have skills in academic research at both high school and college levels and can also assist those working toward their GEDs, those who need help with resumes, and with both advertising and proposals.

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TAX PROVISIONS

Continued from page 4

along with the lender's tax ID number. If a form 1098 is sent, boaters should simply enter the amount on line 10 of Schedule A.

For more details on the mortgage deduction on boats that qualify, go to IRS.gov and download IRS Publication 936.

Also, Consider This Potential Deduction

The BoatUS Foundation's boating safety course is the only free online educational tool that helps boaters obtain their state's boating safety education certification easily and affordably. To help keep the course free, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit is asking for tax-deductible donations to help educate the next generation of recreational boaters.

"We offer free online state boating courses to help reduce a barrier to boating and greatly increase your chance for a safe day on the water," said Assistant Director of Boating Safety Ted Sensenbrenner. "More than 1.2 million boaters have taken our courses, but we don't want to rest on our laurels. To educate the next generation, we need to look ahead and seek out more investments in technology. We hope boaters will help us."

To make a donation to the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water, go to BoatUS.org/DonateNow. A gift to the Foundation may entitle a donor to a charitable contribution deduction against his or her income taxes. See your tax adviser for details.

The Foundation offers a range of free and low-cost courses for boaters of all experience levels, from new to advanced, at BoatUS.org/courses.

Looking To 2018

The new limits on deductibility of mortgage interest and state sales taxes will kick in when boat owners calculate their 2018 tax liabilities along with changes to home equity loan deductions. Boaters are urged to contact a tax preparer or financial adviser for more information.

HAVASU SHOW

Continued from page 1

instructors will be standing at the ready to introduce this fast growing water-sports activity to both first-time novice and beginner paddlers.

If You Like Nostalgia

If you like nostalgia, the Havasu Boat Show has a special attraction you are sure to enjoy….a Classic Hot Boat Show & Shine featuring two dozen beautifully restored flat-bottom ski boats, high-performance hydros from the 1950s, 60s, 70s and 80s.

What makes this Show & Shine different are the winners will be chosen by the vote of the general public. Boat show ticket holders will receive a ballot, giving them a vote for the boat they like the best. The vote is important since a $1,000 cash prize purse is on the line.

Everybody Likes A Raffle

Everybody likes a raffle, especially when great prizes go to the winners. This year, there are two opportunities to win — both benefitting excellent local causes. The La Paz County Animal Shelter is raising money for their expansion building fund, raffling off a vintage wood deck 1974 Byers flat-bottom inboard ski boat. And, if a cool, low mileage, 2015 Harley Davidson 883 motorcycle is more to your liking, the Eagles have one up for raffle, supporting local military veterans and families in need.

Boat To The Show

For boaters who want to 'boat-to-the-boat-show, the new 600-foot wide white-sand London Bridge Channel beach located along the northwest shore adjacent to the Kings View condos is available. Boaters are welcome to park their boats on the sand and walk directly into the Boat Show during show hours.

The beach is available on a first-come, first-served basis and there is no charge for beach access to boat show visitors. Once parked, normal boat show admission prices will prevail for admittance into the show.

"We expect between 250 to 300 new boats to be on display at the boat show," commented Brown, "including a lot of the latest and never-before-seen 2018 models. And, if you're into high performance and exotic marine equipment, no place in the western United States will have as many custom boat manufacturers present plus Mercury Racing with their full complement of engine and propulsion models will be on site with factory representation."

Need-To-Knows

The 27th Annual Lake Havasu Boat Show, presented in conjunction with the Lake Havasu Marine Association and sponsored by Jet Renu and Mohave State Bank, opens to the public on Friday, April 6 at noon. Saturday and Sunday, gates open at 9am. Admission is $8.00 for adults and kids six and under are free, and parking is also free. Pets on leash are okay. The Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor 4 is located at 171 London Bridge Road, next to the Hampton Inn.

For more information, call 951-501-0210, email info@lakehavasuboatshow.com, or visit http://www.lakehavasuboatshow.com

COVER

Continued from page 1

get on board and enjoy all that boating offers — not only to beautiful destinations but also to activities such as fishing, boat camping, various water sports, shows, and/or simply a day away from the stress of city life.

Just look at the highlights on this page alone: a boat show, a paddle fest, and a dramatic Desert Storm. This season, we hope you, your family, and friends will safely enjoy all that boating has to offer!

CALENDAR

Continued from page 2

discover ways to live a more eco-friendly lifestyle from on-site vendors and exhibitors. Free. 9 am – noon. 480-782-2890 or http://www.chandleraz.gov/eec

Through 4/30 PHOENIX: Dinosaurs in the Desert – Phoenix Zoo. 23 prehistoric creatures stand along the Zoo's Desert Lives Trail. The self-guided tour includes animatronic dinosaur structures which move and make various sounds including the infamous roar of the tyrannosaurus rex. A fossil dig and a photo op with a pachyrhino are also available. Educational signage and guides highlight size and interesting facts. http://www.phoenixzoo.org/event-items/dinosaurs-in-the-desert/

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 tenth (10th) 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. You may also submit your event individually at http://www.westernoutdoortimes.com/classifieds.*

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2,815 ACRES OF FUN!

Bartlett Lake Marina has a boatable surface area of 2,815 acres - more than Canyon Lake and Saguaro Lake, combined. Fed by the pristine waters of the Verde River, Indians of this valley spoke descriptively in their legends of the river's "sweet waters".

Outdoor enthusiasts frequent Bartlett Lake for a variety of recreational opportunities, including shoreline camping in Arizona's natural desert terrain. While in this part of the Tonto National Forest, visitors may see mule deer, bald eagles, javelina, coyotes, and many indigenous desert plants, including the majestic saguaro, mesquite trees, and blooming ocotillo.

BOAT RENTALS

Bartlett Lake Marina we are ideally located 17 miles northeast of Carefree and only one hour from Phoenix. Our marina offers a range of well equipped comfortable pontoon rental boats. All safety gear and full instruction are included. We welcome novices! You can trust our rental boats to keep you and your family safe while exploring the surrounding bays. We have a number of different pontoon boats for your party needs. We also offer a variety of packages from full day rentals, and weekend rental packages.

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