

The Tombstone Epitaph.

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134 YEARS IN THE TOWN TOO TOUGH TO DIE

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Photo Courtesy of Sierra Vista Farmers Market

A farmer from Arevalos Farms sells produce at the Sierra Vista Farmers Market.

Farmers market season begins

By Ashley Reid
The Tombstone Epitaph

Farmers markets surrounding Tombstone are connecting seasonal local produce with community tables. The land surrounding the town “too tough to die” isn’t a desert wasteland, but is thriving with local produce. Community farmers markets are linking the health, social and economic values of seasonal produce and making them accessible to Tombstone. “People are feeling the need to spend their money locally,” said Diane Jones, a director of the Sierra Vista Farmers Market. “I don’t think anyone in

Southern Arizona is immune to that. Farmers markets are such a good source of food and a lot of people don’t realize that all of these things grow in Arizona.” Purchasing in-season produce from local vendors and shopping at farmer’s markets has increased exponentially in the past 10 years, Jones said. “The area used to be for agriculture and people either sold off or went to other resources. They have increased food production,” said Laura Smith, manager of Bisbee Farmers Market. “Farmers markets entice more growing and to get people to do more

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Farmers Markets

Sierra Vista Farmers Market - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays at Veterans Memorial Park, 3105 E. Fry Blvd., Sierra Vista.

Bisbee Farmers Market - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays at Vista Park in Warren.

Sunsites Farmers Market - 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays, the lawn in front of Shadow Mountain Golf Clubhouse, 1105 Irene St., Pearce/Sunsites.

New app available for Tombstone event

By Jessica Dollin
The Tombstone Epitaph

Tombstone Councilman Armando Villa created a free mobile app for the town’s monthly Tombstone at Twilight event. On the fourth Saturday of every month, shops and restaurants stay open late for visitors, as the Blood at Dusk Gunfighters perform free gunfights in the street. To bring more attention to the year-old event, Villa, who helped found Tombstone at Twilight, created an app that highlights the schedule of events, photos and videos and a directory of sights. A service tab includes the location, contact information and links to social media for restaurants and Tombstone bars and saloons. An additional tab allows users to answer the question, “How can we improve Tombstone at Twilight?” Villa said

To learn more

A preview and free download of the app is available at appcatch.com/app_tombstone_az_-465605.html

he hopes to get feedback from users to improve both Tombstone at Twilight and the app. Social media is included in the app in the form of Facebook, Twitter and Google Plus. Links to social media profiles allow users to find more in-depth information about Tombstone events and interact with local businesses. The app is only available for Androids, but Villa said he plans to make it adaptable for Windows, iPhones and tablets. Archivist Nancy Sosa helped develop the map feature on the app. “You can do everything on



Photo Courtesy of Armando Villa

Crowds gather on Allen Street to watch the gunfight show during February’s Tombstone at Twilight event.

your phones now. By having an interactive map before you get to the town and once you’re here it allows people to get off the beaten path,” she said. She added, “Most people

come here and only go down Allen Street.” As of late March, the app has been downloaded 30 times. The target audience for the

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Tombstone man dies in rollover

By Maci Hidalgo
The Tombstone Epitaph

A Tombstone man died in a rollover accident Tuesday on Charleston Road, according to a report Wednesday in the *Arizona Daily Star*. Authorities identified the man as Stanley Shuttleworth, 53, the *Star* reported. Cochise County Sheriff’s spokeswoman Carol Capas told the *Star* that the 1986 Nissan truck rolled several times after it traveled through a barbed-wire fence at milepost 12 just before 2 p.m. Capas could not be reached

for comment on Wednesday. The Sheriff’s Office was notified of the accident after a county road worker found the damaged vehicle. Capas told the *Star* the worker waved down a deputy from the Tombstone Marshal’s Office, who found Shuttleworth inside the truck and unresponsive. The investigation indicated Shuttleworth drove straight when he came to a curve before milepost 12, the *Star* reported. Capas told the *Star* that the accident had taken place several hours before Shuttleworth was discovered.

City mandates EPA H2O codes

By Alex Wainwright
The Tombstone Epitaph

Tombstone became the second city in the country to mandate water conservation standards in its building code. Tombstone City Council adopted changes to the city’s building codes on March 11 that require new homes to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency’s WaterSense standards for water conservation. The EPA’s WaterSense program seeks to protect future water supplies by offering WaterSense labeled products designed to use less water. The program makes water conservation easy by labeling products that are water efficient similar to the Energy Star certifications on energy efficient appliances.

Pat Call, Cochise Board of Supervisors Ward 1 and chairman of the San Pedro Partnership’s advisory commission, said that Cochise County adopted these measures Feb. 25.

“The idea is to have every new home meet EPA WaterSense standards and allow every new home with the ability to be certified as a WaterSense efficient household,” he said. WaterSense products will be required in new homes under the revised building code. New houses must be fitted with fixtures that are WaterSense certified including toilets, faucets, drip systems and pressure reducing valves. Other requirements include water efficient evaporative coolers, on-demand water heaters that heat water at the faucet, and rain/humidity sensors for outdoor irrigation systems. The Upper San Pedro Part-

nership helped lead the effort to adopt these standards in building codes for the San Pedro River Valley. The partnership, a consortium of agencies and organizations, is working to preserve the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and ensure the long-term viability of Fort Huachuca. Sierra Vista leads the effort, becoming the first city in the United State to adopt these building codes on Jan. 24, 2013. Mayor Stephen Schmidt said that Tombstone was one of the original founding members of the partnership so it was natural that the City Council adopts the measures. “These changes will alter (Tombstone’s) building code,” Schmidt said, “but most are aware of conserva-

tion issues so the transition will not be very difficult.” Ken Budge, Bisbee’s councilman for Ward 1 and vice chairman of the partnership’s executive committee, said that Bisbee City Council adopted these measures into its code March 18.

-Pat Call

“The less water we use, the less will be pumped from the aquifer, which lowers the water table which would affect the river,” Budge said. “The new water conservation codes are just one more step in the whole process of what we out here are doing responsibly to do our part in managing the river.” “I am very pleased that Tombstone has approved these measures and have adapted their plumbing codes and zoning regulations,” added Supervisor Call. “Tombstone is truly a partner in the effort to save water and the area. I am proud that Tombstone has stepped up.”



Following footsteps onto the field: Tombstone senior dominates in three sports.

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Saving history: Community member fights to keep archives local.

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App
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 app is tourists. Villa said he thinks that most people who visit and live in Tombstone have smart phones.

Villa, who has a background in computers, launched the app on the Appcatch.com marketplace. The actual app was mostly written on Appcatch, so Villa just had to adapt it so that it was specific to Tombstone. A considerable amount of effort was put into taking photos, videos and gathering content, he said. As the founder of Tombstone at Twilight, he decided to refocus the purpose of the app as a supplement to the monthly event. “We needed more presence online so what better way than with a smart phone app?” he said. Tombstone at Twilight usually has hundreds of visitors according to Villa. The app can be downloaded by scanning a QR code using a smartphone. Villa said he plans to put the QR code up around town so that people can automatically download it. The code will also appear in Wild West Magazine.



Courtesy of Armando Villa

Smartphone users can scan this code for more information about the Tombstone at Twilight App. Users need to download a QR Code Reader to access the scanner.

High tea time at rose fest

By Anthony Victor Reyes
 The Tombstone Epitaph

Sacred Heart Catholic Church will hold a high tea celebration on April 13 as part of the Tombstone Rose Tree Festival. High tea will be held under the rose tree on Sixth and Safford streets from 2 to 3 p.m. Admission is free. The Tombstone rose tree is the world’s second largest, according to the Rev. William Louis Gyure, who serves the church in Tombstone. The women of the parish will serve the tea, which will revive a previous tradition of the Business and Professional Women’s Club of Tombstone. The last time the rose festival high tea was served was about 10 years ago, Gyure said. Sacred Heart Catholic Church will sponsor the event in honor of it patroness, Nellie Cashman, who helped establish the church in 1880.

Couples wed in Wild West fashion

By Stephanie Caffall
 The Tombstone Epitaph

One bride wore a frilly, chest-popping bodice. The groom had on Sunday-best jeans and a starched collar with a turquoise bolo tie hung from a piece of twisted leather. A man in black cowboy hat presided over the I do’s in a wedding that could easily have been staged in the 1880s, not 2014. But it is 2014 and Old West-themed ceremonies in Tombstone are as easy as popping into Richard and Diane Fenton’s nine-year-old Tombstone Wedding shop. Richard arranges the officiating and Diane will take care of the 1880s-style outfits. Thatcher couple Billie and Phil Capps had the Fentons stage their wedding as a “shotgun PhilBillie” affair four years ago. The event followed a story line that started out with Phil, 43, being accused of stealing a gunman’s horse, chicken and wife, deeds punishable by death. The re-enactors from the Six Gun City troupe led him to his demise with a noose around his neck. Richard Fenton, a 20-year resident of Tombstone, played the role of the minister, and read him his last rights. “He said the only thing that will save you is if you can find a woman that will show you the error of your ways. My son yelled, ‘Hey I have a good woman for ya,’ and then he

walked me over to him,” said Billie the bride, 48. Billie added, “The whole wedding was just epic. (Diane) covered everything. She took care of decorations, flowers, cake, music, (and food).” “We’ve done tons of weddings. I’ve married people from England, Canada (and) Germany ... in a church, in Benson, Sierra Vista and all over town. It’s really whatever you want,” said Richard, 70. “I came to Tombstone to retire, but I haven’t done that yet,” Richard said. “We’ve even done weddings in front of the Bird Cage Theatre and had the local Doc Holliday re-enactor give (the bride) away,” Diane, 57, added. Diane says the dressing room of the 1800s Costume Rental is like a “time machine.” Customers come in wearing regular clothes and come out dressed head to toe in the period dress of Tombstone. She also rents costumes to those who would like to walk around Tombstone in Tombstone style. Diane, who moved to Tombstone in 2004, explained that her husband had inspired her to help with the wedding business. Five years ago, she even made the customized website for their business, Tombstone Weddings. “We make close friends from doing this. It’s just so much fun, especially if they’re excited about it. I have a blast,” Diane said. “I think our wedding prices are re-



Photo Courtesy of Phil Marbark

Tombstone Weddings hosted the wedding ceremony of Billie and Phil Capps in September of 2010.

ally (reasonable) compared to Tucson or Sierra Vista. We have a wonderful wedding photographer as well who takes pictures for our weddings,” Richard said. Tombstone Weddings advise those interested in scheduling a wedding or consultation with them should make an appointment. However, Richard explained, he has scheduled weddings with days and even hour notice prior. Further information on pricing can be found by calling (520) 559-5703, or going to tombstoneweddings.com or facebook.com/tombstoneweddings.costumerental.

Vineyard puts on local wine festival

By Miki Jennings
 The Tombstone Epitaph

Kief-Joshua Vineyards in Elgin will host the third annual Southeast Arizona Wine Growers Festival on April 12 and 13. The festival marks the 30th anniversary of Arizona’s establishment of the American Viticulture Area. Twenty-one Arizona wineries, including Keeling Schaefer and Golden Rule from Willcox; Callaghan, Village of Elgin and Flying Leap from Sonoita/Elgin; and Su Vino from Phoenix. “I really, really enjoy seeing all the wineries here hanging out in our backyard,” said Charlene Manning, who helps her son Kief Manning with the winery. Winemakers will be onsite to promote new wine releases. There also will be food vendors, a chili cook-off and live music. “Just a fun day of hanging out, tasting wine and listening to music,” Charlene Manning said. “It’s really pretty here.”

If you go

What: Southeast Arizona Wine Growers Festival.

Where: Kief-Joshua Vineyards, 370 Elgin Road, Elgin

When: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 12 and 13.

Cost: \$20, which includes 12 wine tastings and complementary wine glass.

Details: 1-520-455-5582.



Photo courtesy of Kief Manning

Guests mill around the 2013 Southeast Arizona Wine Growers Festival in Elgin, Ariz. at Kief-Joshua Vineyards.

Hit the road for Tejano festival, Jason Aldean



Photo Courtesy of Jordan Benson

Benson Band & Heartlyn Rae are among the Arizona bands playing at Country Thunder.

By Amanda Bodenstein
 The Tombstone Epitaph
 As summer approaches, the music industry in Arizona is heating up. In April, must-see events include Country Thunder in Florence from April 10-13 and the Tejano Shootout at Casino del Sol’s AVA in Tucson on April 25. Country Thunder, Arizona’s “premier music and lifestyle’s festival,” has an amazing lineup this year — The Band Perry, Jason Aldean, Miranda Lambert and a host of Arizona bands including 74th Street Band, Ace ‘N Eights, American Longspurs, and Benson Band & Heartlyn Rae. The festival opens with the duo Thompson Square. Country Thunder’s campgrounds have been sold out for months and all of the VIP and reserved seats are gone, but

Country Thunder

Where: Canyon Moon Ranch, 20585 E Price (Station) Road in Florence.

When: April 10-13, concerts begin at 2:30 p.m. each day.

Cost: \$190 for four-day general admission until April 8, then the price increases to \$220.

Details: www.arizona.countrythunder.com

Tejano Shootout 2014

Where: 5655 W. Valencia Road, Tucson.

When: April 25. at 7 p.m.

Cost: \$12 through tickets.solcasinos.com

four-day passes and daily passes are still available. It’s \$190 for a four-day pass until April 8; after that, the price increases to \$220. Norteño superstar Michael Salgado heads the Tejano Shootout lineup April 28 with Rey Reyna, Boni Mauricio and special guest Jaime De Anda at the AVA, which has a 10-story, 215-room hotel and several restaurants on site. For reservations, call 1-855-765-7829.