



For more photos of the Rose Tree Festival visit the Tombstone Epitaph page at ArizonaSonoranewsservice.com



Photos by Anthony Victor Reyes/ The Tombstone Epitaph
(Left) Nutmeg and Poncho, siblings, won best costume at the small animal pet parade during the Rose Tree Festival. Debbie Korleski (Owner); **(Center)** Charlotte Gilbert and her Yorkie Beany took home the award for smallest pet at the Rose Tree Festival; **(Right)** The small animal pet parade took place during the 47th Annual Tombstone Rose Tree Festival.

World's Largest Rose Tree Celebration

By Anthony Victor Reyes
 The Tombstone Epitaph

The Rose Tree Festival and Parade celebrated the 129th blooming of the "World's Largest Rose Tree" last weekend. The festival from April 11-13 showed the softer side of the town "too tough to die."

Between 3,000 and 4,000 people attended the event,

which is the second largest festival in Tombstone behind Helldorado Days. The festival, with a budget of \$1,500, is run by volunteers.

Emily Addington was crowned the Rose Queen and Cera Norris and Christa Hart were announced as the Rose Princesses under the Rose Tree.

Here's the festival by the numbers:

64 ounces of fudge sold in Madame Mustache.

42 photos taken in Madame Mustache photo booth of visitors dressed up in 1880s Western-wear provided by Tonya Todd.

10 cowboy hats and **4** cowboy boots sold at Spur Western Wear.

10 cowboy-themed toys were sold at Lily's Tombstone Sweet Memories.

510 ounces of yogurt served at Lily's Tombstone Sweet Memories.

6 people were key festival organizers: Dorothy DeVere, Loretta Howie, Annette Stewart, Vic Robeson, Joy Robeson and Penny Germain

25 volunteers helped set up and manage the Rose Festival.

300 pancakes served at the Pancake Breakfast at Tombstone Community Church.

38 floats marched down Allen Street.

24 square dancers stepped at the Thunder

Mountain Twirlers Square Dance.

40 dancers from Jumelle Folklorico and Dance twirled around Allen Street.

70 Dance Kidz performed on Allen Street.

100 man hours needed a month to maintain the world's largest rose tree.

Upcoming events

April 17-27: Pima County Fair

Southern Arizona's largest anticipated annual event will be held over 11 days, at the Pima County Fairgrounds, 11300 S. Houghton Road in Tucson. Come experience food, concerts, rides, games and much, much more! General admission is \$8; children 6-10 are \$3; children 5 and under are free. Parking is \$5. pimacountyfair.com

April 11-27: 23rd Annual Arizona International Film Festival 2014

The Arizona International Film Festival is the oldest and longest running independent film festival in Arizona. The festival will show Tucson audiences 136 films representing 31 countries from April 11 to A27. filmfestivalarizona.com

April 19: SVPD Golf Tournament

The Inaugural Sierra Vista Police Department Golf Tournament will be hosted at the Pueblo del Sol Country Club 2770 S. Saint Andrews Drive in Sierra Vista. Come dressed ready to play 18 holes of golf, along with a

dinner and a chance to win different raffle prizes. Proceeds will benefit local charities and the Christmas with a Cop event. To register, visit www.svpoa.org, or call Bill at (520) 508-6218.

April 26-27: Kartchner Caverns State Park - Arizona Family Campout Program

This event is open to anyone interested in camping, experienced or not. This fun, safe and supportive program will assist you in learning everything you need to know when camping with your family. It will take place at Kartchner Caverns State Park, 2980 Hwy 90 (9 miles south of Benson). For more information, contact 1-602-542-4174 or visit AZStateParks.com/family

May 17-18: Willcox Wine Country Festival

Come out for two days of wine tasting and more. Your \$15 tasting fee includes more than just wine – you will be able to experience eight wine tastings, live entertainment and a commemorative glass to take home with you. willcoxwines.com/events.html

— By Amanda Bodenstein and Han-

Better than OK Show at O.K. Corral

By Joey Adelman
 The Tombstone Epitaph

A year after visitors and others complained that the noise from the daily gunfights along Allen Street was too much to bear, the event has found new life at the O.K. Corral.

Shaded bleachers fill up three times a day — noon, 2 and 3:30 p.m. — with up to 300 people per show. Light, old Western music accompanies the anxious tourists clicking their cameras away, waiting to see the famous re-enactment of the 1881 Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. All of a sudden, Doc Holliday appears and immediately gets the crowd involved.

"The show is better than ever," said Aaron Gain, the actor who plays Doc Holliday.

Former Tombstone council member Holly Griffin said safety concerns and resident complaints led the city to move the shows off the main street to the O.K. Corral lot. Some business leaders also complained that the shows disrupted business because visitors would leave the shops and restaurants to watch the gunfights.

Gain has been acting in Tombstone since he moved here five years ago. He performs the intro bit for the gunfights and portrays the beloved Doc Holliday, the legendary gambler, drunk and best friend to lawman Wyatt Earp.

"I love it to death," Gain



Actors at the O.K. Corral reenact the famous shootout of 1881 in a staged area, opposite to out on Allen Street.

said — an ironic statement, given that he spends his days pretending to kill vigilantes.

A year ago, the show resembled more of a teenage melodrama, Gain said. It started at one end of Allen Street and as it moved down the street, the storyline changed at every block.

At the O.K. Corral, the new director, Tim Fattig, has created a storyline that follows more closely to the historical

events right down to using replicas of the original clothing and guns used in the fight.

History buffs will come in, watch the show and be blown away at the minuscule details that Fattig and his team decided to incorporate in the show.

The show is also a hit with families.

"This is a really fun skit that gives you the full story of the shootout at the O.K. Corral," New Mexico tourist Aggie

Galin wrote on TripAdvisor. "All three of our kids enjoyed it (ages 10, 7 and 3). I'm surprised at how much history they retained from this skit."

The shootouts last about 30 minutes. If you are skittish of loud noises, be forewarned: The gunshots create loud booms that can be startling. But it all ends after 30 seconds of chaos, as bad guys are splayed on the O.K. Corral dirt, just like in 1881.

133 years and it's still all about Earp

By Amanda Bodenstein
 The Tombstone Epitaph

The shoot out at the OK Corral marks its 133rd anniversary in October, but Tombstone isn't waiting until the fall to commemorate its historical legacy.

The annual Wyatt Earp Days, three days of gunfights, look-alike contests and kid-friendly events, will be held May 24-26 on Historic Allen Street.

But you don't need a festival to be reminded of the historic lawman's legacy. Just look around:

Babies named Wyatt

27 percent of all American

boys born in the U.S. in 2014 were named Wyatt, according to the Social Security Administration.

There's gold in that memorabilia

"Anything associated with the Earps – you're talking big bucks because they are known historical figures," said Bill Pakinkis, otherwise known as Bronco Bill. Pakinkis is on the Wyatt Earp Days Committee that puts on the three-day event.

The J. Levine Auction & Appraisal in Scottsdale held an auction on April 17 for several items advertised as authentic Earp heirlooms:

• Colt .45-caliber revolver advertised as being the one Earp used during the O.K. Corral shootout — estimated value at presstime between \$100,000 to \$150,000.

• Earp's Winchester lever-action shotgun — \$75,000 to \$125,000.

• Historic Earp Family Research Archive — \$80,000 and \$120,000.

• Virgil Earp's Colt Revolver — \$20,000 and \$30,000.

• Nathan Earp's Remington Ball and Cap Revolver — \$6,000 - \$8,000.

• Josephine Earp's personal effects including opera glasses and jewelry — \$800 to \$1,200.

What's in a name?

Wyatt Earp's name graces one of the three buildings at the Landmark Lookout Lodge Tombstone and the Wyatt Earp Theatre. He also is the namesake for the now closed Wyatt Earp House and Gallery.

If you go

What: Wyatt Earp Days
When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 May 24-26.
Where: Historic Allen Street.
Price: Free.



Photo Courtesy of Noel Winters, J. Levine Auction
 The April 17th auction of author Glenn Boyer's estate included several Earp family guns and memorabilia.