

Community Quarterly



White Elephant Pullout Pgs 11-30

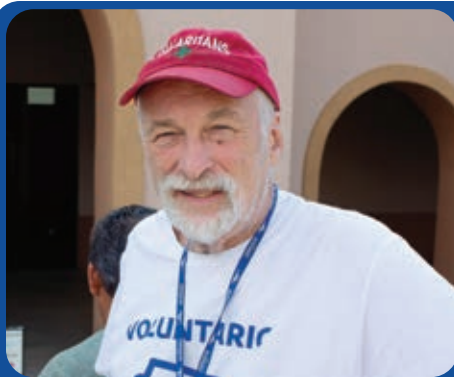
Fall 2025

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E-Edition at KGVY1080.com

Volume 16, Issue 4

Guy Chats with White Elephant Shoppers

By Guy Atchley



Steve Teichner

"I help immigrants. I help other people. I buy children's books and give them away. I help people in Nogales, so I buy shoes and water bottles, things to help kids. I believe in supporting people."



Caren Nelson

"The prices are fair, and I know they put money back into the community with the money they receive. I look for fabric and men's shirts, then I repurpose all those things to sell at the farmers market."



Manny Yescas

"I've got a couple of rentals, so I pick up stuff to fix them up. That's what I do. I find a lot of good stuff, like light fixtures, sink fixtures, basically anything I can use. You can't beat the prices here."



Matthew Jackson

"I come here because my wife loves the bargains, and I come for cheap golf balls."



KGVY Radio & The Community Quarterly Invites you to join us on November 4th for our 24th Annual Sr/Boomer Info Fair. 9AM - 1PM at Desert Hills Lutheran Church, 2150 S. Camino Del Sol, Green Valley.

Each year, KGVY puts on this community event to thank you for listening to KGVY, reading our publications, and patronizing our local businesses that use KGVY for their advertising.

Be sure to join us on November 4th. As you visit with our community businesses, be sure to let them know that shopping and doing business locally is important to you.

Of course, as we have in past years, KGVY will be serving a huge variety of complimentary breakfast, lunch and snack food!!

Free health screenings will be available. Visit over 50 local businesses ready to tell you about their services. Pima County Health Department will be offering both COVID and Flu shots through your insurance plan.

Please bring a non-perishable food donation to help the Community Food Bank gear up for the holiday season.

Special thanks go to Desert Hills Lutheran Church for hosting our event over the years. Our sponsors this year are UCHC, TMC Health Cancer Center, Origen Orthopedics and Optimal Health, and NW Medical Center - Sahuarita for helping to make this possible.

Hope to see you there!!



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Tuesday, November 4th
9AM to 1PM

Desert Hills Lutheran Church
2150 S. Camino del Sol
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- Arroyo Gardens
- Bill's Home Service Co.
- Community Food Bank - GV/Amado
- Continental Spa
- CPAC
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- Pima County Health Swimming Safety
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- TMC Hospice
- United Community Health Center
- VAS
- Vista Eye Care
- Whipple Observatory



1080AM & 101.5FM

Winter Pickleball Tournaments Coming to Sahuarita

Submitted by Town of Sahuarita Parks & Recreation

If pickleball is your passion, or even just your pastime, Sahuarita Parks & Recreation has something in the works for you! Pickleball has taken off in Sahuarita as one of the fastest growing sports among older adults, and this winter we’re bringing two new tournaments that will offer a great way to stay active, enjoy some friendly competition, and meet new friends along the way.

“Paddle Battle” Adult Pickleball Tournament – January 24, 2026

First up is the Co-Ed Round Robin Tournament on Saturday, January 24, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Open to players ages 18 and up, this event is designed for players of all skill levels to enjoy some healthy competition while connecting with other pickleball enthusiasts in the Sahuarita area.

The round robin format ensures that every team will play against all others—maximizing your time on the court and giving you plenty of chances to meet new faces. Teams can be made up of any combina-

tion of genders, so bring a friend and register together, or register as a “free agent” and get paired up.

Prizes will be awarded to the top two teams, and with food trucks on site, you’ll stay fueled up for a full day of play and connection.

“Up and Down” Adaptive Adult Pickleball Tournament – February 21, 2026

On Saturday, February 21, La Villita will host its second pickleball tournament: the Adaptive Adult Pickleball Tournament, running from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. This inclusive competition features doubles teams made up of one wheelchair player and one able-bodied player, blending different strengths and playing styles for a uniquely dynamic tournament.



Join us as we celebrate ability, teamwork, and community spirit. Like the January event, this tournament will follow a round robin format with plenty of play and opportunities to meet new people!

Open Gym at La Villita

Looking to get some extra court time before the tournaments? Join us for Open Gym hours November through February at La Villita Community Center! Whether you’re polishing your serves, or just looking for a casual pickup game, Open Gym is a welcoming space to play, train, and push your skills further.

Open Gym is available in both AM and PM sessions, Monday through Friday (check SahuaritaParksandRec.org for specific times and dates). Equipment is available to borrow, and Open Gym is open to ages 18+ (13+ with parent signature).

How to Register

To sign up for either tournament or learn more about Open Gym, visit [SahuaritaParksandRec.org/catalog](https://sahuaritaparksandrec.org/catalog), call (520) 445-7850, or stop by the La Villita Community Center (71 W Sahuarita Rd, Sahuarita, AZ 85629) during regular hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

So grab your paddle, lace up your sneakers, and get ready for some pickleball action coming soon to Sahuarita. Whether you’re chasing a medal or just here for the fun, we hope that you’ll come be part of Sahuarita’s growing pickleball community!

Nativity Drive Thru Preparations Expands Christmas Displays

Submitted by Sandy Lovell, Green Valley Baptist Church

At Green Valley Baptist Church, preparations for Christmas are underway, reminding us that it is never too early to get started. The Nativity Drive Thru team is developing a new exhibit: “Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman at the well.” This vibrant display will soon feature angels, children, and animals, enriching its visual appeal.

To create the life-size figures, the church’s construction crew cuts characters from ¾” Marine grade plywood, sands them, and applies primer. Once this groundwork is complete, the art team traces the patterns and brings each figure to life with vivid, beautiful colors. The transformation is truly exciting to witness.

During Christmas, more than 70 characters are displayed, each paired with scriptures that recount the story of Jesus from birth to crucifixion.



This event is designed to capture the true essence of the Christmas story.

Admission is free, and visitors are invited to contribute non-perishable food items to benefit local food banks. Last year, 1,133 people attended, donating \$1,278 and over 900 pounds of food.

Event Dates and Times

The annual Nativity Drive Thru will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on December 12th-14th and December 19th-21st.



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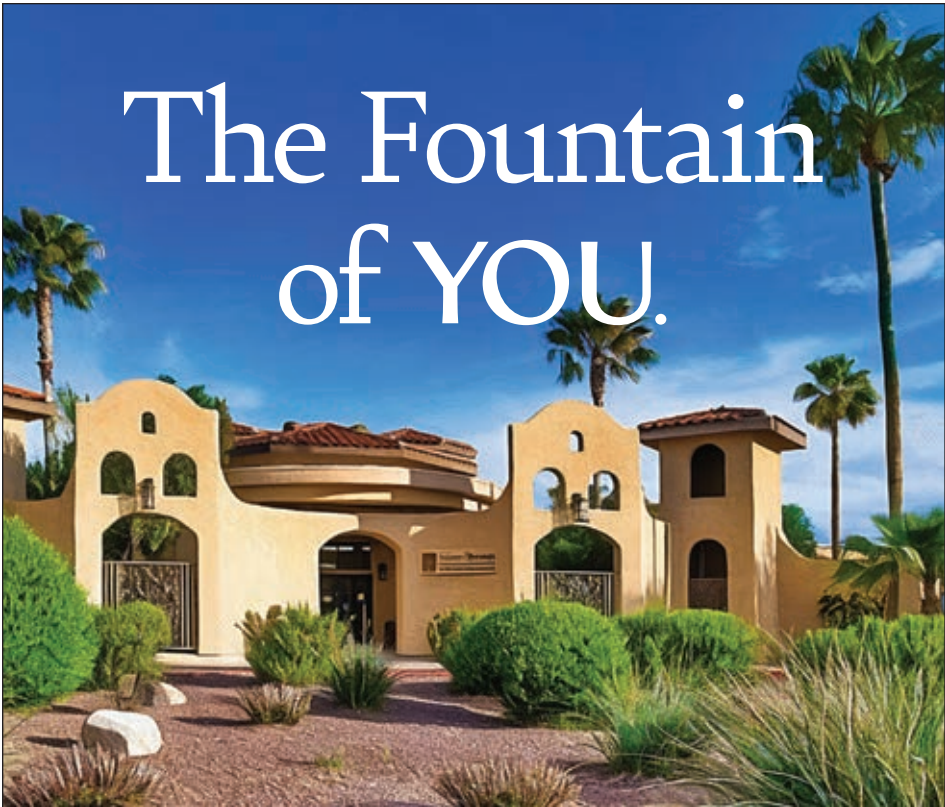
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(10:30 am – 12:30 pm Or Until The Chili Runs Out)



Saturday | November 15, 2025 | 9 am – 3 pm

Chili Tasting: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Car Show Registration: 8 am -10 am. Awards: 1:30 pm.

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The Amado Chili Cook-off, a project of the Amado Community Alliance of PPEP, Inc., is supported by Sponsorships and Donations. Proceeds support the Amado Youth Center.
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This column is provided by Hughes Federal Credit Union

money

matters

NURTURING YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR

By Elisa Ross, VP of Marketing and Sales,
Hughes Federal Credit Union

As fall arrives, many people find themselves settling into new routines, which is a natural reminder to pause and reflect on where you stand with your goals. It’s also a great time to check your financial health and consider how well you’re managing your money. Here are things to consider when reviewing your end-of-year check-up:

- End-of-Year Financial Review:**
This is your chance to review your progress on goals set earlier in the year. Check your savings goals, organize tax documents to make tax season less stressful and get a head start on next year’s budget.
- Planning for Holiday Spending:**
The holiday season can be expensive. By planning now, you can create a realistic budget for gifts, travel and festivities. Instead of facing debt in January, you can start setting aside money now, perhaps using a special savings account to make small, regular contributions.
- Setting Goals for the New Year:**
Whether you want to save for a down payment on a house, pay off a specific debt or build up your emergency fund, thinking about these goals now gives you a head start on creating a solid plan for the new year.

Credit unions can be a great partner in that they offer unique benefits designed to help you manage your money and grow it smarter. For example, credit unions are different from banks in that they are not-for-profit cooperatives owned by their members. This difference means earnings are returned to members through lower loan rates, higher dividends on deposits, and lower fees. This helps your money grow in several ways, setting you up for long-term success:

- Higher Yields on Savings:**
Since credit unions aren’t focused on generating a profit for share-

holders, they can return earnings to members through competitive rates on savings, money market and certificate accounts (CDs). This allows your money to grow faster over time.

- Lower Loan Costs:**
The same principle applies to lending. Credit unions generally offer lower interest rates on loans for cars, homes and personal expenses. This means you pay less interest over the life of the loan, saving you a significant amount of money.
- Reduced Fees:**
Credit unions typically have lower or even no fees for common services like checking accounts, overdraft protection and ATM withdrawals. This keeps more of your money in your pocket, where it belongs.

Credit unions focus on member success and offer a more personalized and supportive experience. When you join a credit union, you’re not just a customer; you’re a co-owner, member and owner with a voice, and your financial success is the credit union’s mission.

Hughes Products to Take You Further

Hughes Federal Credit Union offers a wide range of products designed to help you with your financial planning and goals. Beyond the basics, these products can help you get ahead:

- High-Yield Savings:**
They offer various savings options, like high-interest money market accounts and Certificates Accounts (CDs), that provide rates that outperform the market to help you build your wealth more quickly.



- Specialized Loans:**
From auto loans offering One Low Rate™ to a home equity line of credit (HELOC) for home improvements or debt consolidation, Hughes’ lending products are designed to save you money and give you financial flexibility to reach your personal goals.

Hughes Helps and the “People Helping People” Philosophy

The “people helping people” philosophy is the cornerstone of credit unions. It’s the idea that a financial institution’s success is directly tied to the financial well-being of its members and the community it serves. Hughes Helps is a real example of this value in action.

Through Hughes Helps, the credit union actively gives back to the Tucson community. This goes beyond just financial donations and includes a hands-on approach to community support. For instance, Hughes employees volunteer their time and expertise to a variety of local organizations, promoting financial literacy and community well-being. They’ve partnered with organizations like Junior Achieve-

ment to teach students about financial responsibility and the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona to help young girls develop valuable life skills, including money management. They also offer a special affinity debit card that allows members to directly support the Banner Health Foundation with every transaction, showing that helping the community is a continuous effort integrated into their services. These initiatives demonstrate that Hughes’ commitment extends far beyond its financial products, focusing on building a stronger, more resilient community from the ground up.

Hughes membership is open to anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in the Tucson metropolitan area, providing these valuable resources and services to a broad base of the community. To learn more and start your financial journey with a partner that truly cares, visit HughesFCU.org.



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Entrance to This Event is Free
Tastings for Wine & Beer are
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This column is provided by Joseph Lessard, CPA PLLC

TAX *update*

THE OBBA AND YOUR TAXES: A GREEN VALLEY GUIDE FOR SENIORS (WITH A SMILE)

By Joseph Lessard, CPA PLLC

If you’ve been following the news from Washington (and let’s be honest, most of us would rather be watching the hummingbirds in Madera Canyon), you may have heard about the new OBBA—the Optimized Budget and Benefits Act. Congress loves its acronyms, and this one is the latest to shake up how Uncle Sam keeps tabs on our wallets.

Don’t worry, I won’t drown you in legalese. Think of this article as your friendly tax-weather forecast: a light breeze of information, a sprinkling of humor, and hopefully not enough jargon to make you reach for the margarita mix before noon.

Bigger Standard Deduction for Seniors

The OBBA made a change many retirees will cheer about: the standard deduction for those 65 and older is going up. That means more of your income is shielded from taxation without you having to itemize deductions (translation: fewer receipts to keep track of and less arguing with your shoebox full of Walgreens slips).

For a married couple filing jointly where both spouses are 65 or older, the increase could save several hundred dollars each year. That’s a couple more dinners at your favorite Green Valley spot—or at least a few rounds of golf before it gets too hot out there.

Charitable Giving Simplified

If you’re in the habit of giving to local charities—whether it’s the animal shelter, your church, or the crew at the Green Valley White Elephant—the OBBA makes it easier.

There’s now a “universal charitable deduction” that doesn’t require

itemizing. Translation: you can write off some giving even if you stick with the standard deduction. For many of us who like to support local causes but don’t track every penny, this is a win-win.

Energy Efficiency Incentives

Thinking about upgrading your air conditioner (again)? The OBBA sweetened the pot for energy-efficient home improvements. Seniors living in sunny southern Arizona may find tax credits for installing better windows, solar panels, or energy-saving appliances.

Now, before you get visions of the IRS paying for your new hot tub in the backyard, keep in mind the credits are capped. Still, it’s nice to know there’s a little reward for keeping your electric bill from skyrocketing in July.

Medical Expense Threshold Adjustment

Medical costs are no laughing matter—though if you don’t laugh, you might cry. OBBA lowered the threshold for deducting medical expenses, meaning more of what you spend on doctors, prescriptions, and even hearing aids could count toward a deduction.

And let’s face it: between co-pays, new glasses, and that “mystery ache” your doctor says is “just aging,” this deduction will be one many of us can actually use.

So, What Should You Do?

1. Don’t panic. Most of these changes are good news for seniors.
2. Check your withholdings. Make sure you’re not giving Uncle Sam an interest-free loan.
3. Keep basic records. You don’t need to hoard paper like a squirrel with pecans, but hold on to important tax-related documents.



4. Ask for help. This is where a friendly CPA (hi, that’s me) can walk you through what matters for your specific situation.

A Final Thought

Tax law changes come and go. (Remember when we were all worried about Y2K? The IRS survived that just fine.) The OBBA is the newest chapter, and while it’s not

earth-shattering, it does offer some tangible benefits for retirees in southern Arizona.

So, pour yourself some iced tea, take a stroll around Desert Meadows Park, or head to the White Elephant for a little trea-

sure hunting, and rest easy knowing you don’t have to figure it all out alone.

And remember: if you ever feel like the tax code was written in Martian, you’re not wrong. But at Joseph Lessard, CPA PLLC, I promise to translate it into plain English—with maybe a joke or two along the way.

Weekend Nutrition for Hungry Students

DID YOU KNOW?

Area kids go to school hungry on Monday mornings, even in Sahuarita!? During the school year, the Sahuarita Food Bank provides weekend food for the 507 kiddos recommended by their counselors.

Why is this so important? Teachers say hungry students don’t learn well.

What do they get? Two breakfasts, two lunches, five snacks, one milk, one juice.

How much does this cost the food bank? \$210 per child for 38 weeks: \$106,000.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FEED HUNGRY KIDS

- By donating on-line at www.sahuaritafoodbank.org
- By “adopting” a child at \$210 for the whole year. Note that names cannot be revealed as they are confidential.
- By sending a check to the Sahuarita Food Bank at 17750 S. La Cañada Dr.; Sahuarita, AZ; 85629.



Joseph Lessard, CPA PLLC
3280 S Camino Del Sol #124
Green Valley, AZ 85622
520.648.2990

Arroyo Gardens Introduces Fall Prevention with AI Platform

Arroyo Gardens Independent and Assisted Living LLP in Green Valley, is renowned for its exceptional quality and high standard of care making it a top choice for residents and families seeking both comfort and clinical support.

Offering a full continuum of care including independent living, assisted living, and memory care, Arroyo Gardens blends boutique-style living with 24/7 clinical oversight.

Even with an already low fall rate, Arroyo Gardens’ leadership set their sights higher. They aimed to elevate care standards and lead the way in population health management. By partnering with Helpany and implementing its AI-powered fall prevention system, the community achieved remarkable results.

This past April, after installing Helpany’s devices in 10 apartments, falls were reduced by 52%. By mid-May, the system was rolled out to most apartments. Over the next three months, falls dropped by 68%.

This success reflects a deep understanding of the true cost of falls. The consequences go far beyond physical



injury—residents often face long-term health setbacks that can lead to a loss of independence and relocation out of the community.

Caregivers are diverted from meaningful care to handle time-consuming incident reports. Families, left anxious and uncertain, may begin to question the safety of the environment. The emotional toll, administrative burden, and difficulty in timely response reveal a critical truth: falls aren’t isolated incidents, they’re a systemic risk.

Helpany’s proactive care AI platform, powered by its privacy-preserving radar device Paul, helps to address that risk. Without using cameras, Paul continuously monitors residents’ movement patterns, detects subtle changes in condition, and alerts caregivers to potential issues. This enables timely intervention,

more accurate triage, and transforms care teams from reactive responders to proactive leaders.

At Arroyo Gardens, the results speak for themselves. This isn’t just a beautiful place to live, it’s a forward-thinking community that’s redefining senior living through data-driven insight. It’s a place where independence is protected, and innovation supports everyday care.

“The hardest part of care has always been the unknown. What’s happening when we’re not in the room. Helpany gives us insight into those in-between moments where small changes can become big problems. It’s helped us move from guessing to knowing, and from reacting to truly anticipating our residents’ needs. I also appreciate that we can use one system across all levels of care, it simplifies our operations. With Helpany’s proactive care AI platform, we’re able to align staffing, streamline workflows, and ensure

residents get the right support at the right time. That’s the kind of impact we strive for.”— Amy Malkin, Executive Director, Arroyo Gardens

This outcome highlights the transformative power of proactive intervention at every level of care and reinforces Arroyo Gardens’ commitment to advancing population health, one resident at a time.

Disclaimer: The outcomes described are specific to Arroyo Gardens.

For more details on Arroyo Gardens and Helpany AI-powered fall prevention system stop by for a free tour of their Community.

**Arroyo Gardens
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Thank you to the Community

Written by Chris Cota, CFWE General Manager

Each year in October, KGVY Radio gives us the honor of putting together a thank you letter to the community, to be published in the October KGVY Quarterly. As the last quarter of the year 2025 begins, the White Elephant is proud to say thank you to the community for their continued support. Our organization is truly blessed to have such wonderful community members that support us as much as they do.

Since June of 2020, I have had the great pleasure to be a part of all that goes on here. Starting in an entry level position, I have seen all the inner workings of the White Elephant and the great things that it does. After stepping into the General Manager position at the beginning of the year, I'm still in awe at what is accomplished each day, week, month and year. After 5 years here I've seen all the good deeds happen before my eyes and it makes me proud to be a part of something that does so much good for our community. It would take an epic book to cover the many good deeds done over



Chris Cota, CFWE General Manager

the years, all the hard work that is done here on a daily basis does not go unnoticed. With volunteers numbering 500, we are fortunate to have folks from all walks of life and with many varying backgrounds and experience putting their knowledge and know-how to work, to make this organization such a great success. I couldn't be prouder to be a part of it.

In looking back over the last 5 years at this great organization, it became increasingly clear that the Country Fair White Elephant is an organization that means a lot to so many in Green Valley, Sahuarita, and the surrounding communities along the I-19 corridor. Our volunteers, donors, customers, student scholarship recipients and grant recipients all have opinions, praise, and input about all that goes on here at the White Elephant.

As we move forward into our future here at the White Elephant, it's important to remember that the hard work, consistency, and a great business model are what keeps the White Elephant functioning and successful like it has been for many years now. There have been revisions, changes, improvements, expansions, and challenges on our journey. Nothing that we can't handle here. With that, I'm proud to say that all of the re-

sponses to each of these items have been accomplished with the good of the organization in mind.

So as I lead this great place that has been my second home for many years now, I'll say thank you to everyone who makes running this organization manageable. Whether you are a volunteer, a donor, or a shopper, your contributions to the White Elephant are so appreciated by this organization. It has been my pleasure and my honor, and I am so very blessed to be a part of this great organization. For your part in that, whatever it may be, please accept my thanks for your contribution and for your appreciation and support of what the White Elephant does for your community all year long.

From all of us here at the White Elephant, thank you for your continued support and we look forward to what our great organization does in the future.

Chris Cota, CFWE General Manager

Special Christmas Sale in November

Written by Chris Cota, CFWE General Manager

Clear your calendars for November 22nd from 5-7 pm. The White Elephant will be having a very special and unique sale. To my knowledge, this type of sale has never been held at the thrift store. If it is a success, this could be the start of a brand-new White Elephant tradition.

We will be transforming our donation/customer pick-up parking lot into a winter wonderland. Lights will be strung, there will be a grove of Christmas trees, and tables will be set up outside the building full of decorations and other holiday items for sale.

The wonderful Optimist Club will join us with their food truck selling their delicious sausage sandwiches, hamburgers, and hotdogs. Soda, coffee, and hot chocolate will be available to purchase as well.

All of us here at the White Elephant want to give our community something special like we have in past

years with the Parade and Midnight Madness. We are hoping that this special Holiday Winter Wonderland Sale is well received and will become our new tradition and special gift to the community.

Bring the whole family, see the lights, enjoy some delicious food, and go home happy with new holiday items to decorate your home. We hope to see lots of our community members, and we hope everyone enjoys this new and exciting event.



Attention Winter Residents – Get Ready to Volunteer!

Over the years, the White Elephant has had various rules about who can be a White Elephant volunteer...

In the early years, both year-round residents and winter visitors were accepted as volunteers. For some time now, the White Elephant did not accept new winter only volunteers but had many "snowbirds" who had been long-time volunteers who were "grandfathered in" to their positions. Each winter season, these winter residents would return to their volunteer position and work while they were in Green Valley for the winter months. They were always needed and appreciated.

This year, it has been decided that we will open our doors to winter residents who would like to volunteer with us. For now, positions will be on our afternoon shift in our back workroom, processing



and preparing donations for sale. This is one way that we can include our winter residents who want to donate their time and efforts to keeping the White Elephant operating efficiently. We are looking forward

to seeing how this new procedure goes, and to welcoming some new winter volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering, please stop in for an application. Be sure to let us know you are a winter resident so we can place you in an appropriate position on a day that works for you.

And as always, if you are a year-round resident, you are also welcome to come in and apply. We look forward to meeting you!

Chris Cota, CFWE General Manager

Letter from the CFWE Board President

Dear Community Members:

On behalf of our White Elephant Board, our hundreds of volunteers, and our professional staff I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude and thanks for the ongoing support and generosity of our community. Your continuous donations of clothing and merchandise enable us to raise funds that directly benefit many other worthy charities within our area. Thanks to your kindness we are able to continue with our mission of giving back and making a positive impact on the lives of others. Every dollar we are able to raise helps us help those in need and strengthens our shared bonds with our community.

The more than thirty million dollars we have raised and given away over the past 60 years is a record that will likely never be equaled by any other organization and would not have been possible without your help.

One area I would like to make particular mention of involves our educational foundation of which we are very proud. Since its inception our Foundation has assisted more than 150 students attain college or vocational training in medicine, nursing, engineering, teaching, and other professions. Officially named the Country Fair White Elephant Scholarship Foundation it is a separate entity from our White Elephant organization but operates from a White Elephant grant given annually, part of which sup-



Tom Cooke, CFWE Board President

ports scholarship students and part of which has been invested each year in an endowment fund. This fund has been growing since the Foundation was formed back in the late 90's and now nears three million dollars. Once we reach that goal, we believe the Foundation will be self-sustaining, meaning we will be able to continue with our scholarship awards without requiring funds from store operations. Not only does this mean the Foundation will operate in perpetuity, but also the funds now making up its annual grant can be used to distribute to other charities we support. What a legacy to leave our community youth—all made possible by the efforts of our generous donors and our many volunteers!

All of us at the White Elephant deeply appreciate your commitment to our cause, and we look forward to continued collaboration. Together, we are making a difference.

With sincere thanks,

Tom Cooke

WE Board Chair

COUNTRY FAIR WHITE ELEPHANT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

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White Elephant Facility Report 2025

Written by Manny Jacques, CFWE Facility Manager

Another year has come and gone here at the White Elephant. The usual conversation of what the summer month's monsoon season will bring was on everyone's mind. The hot days brought wishes of clouds and rain to come cool us down. Thankfully with the weather we did receive, our building held up to the elements.

Prior to the monsoon season, we went ahead and did some preventative maintenance to our roof. Areas like the drain spouts, sections around our solar panel supports, and various spots that had the rubberized coating show signs of minor cracking. With the exception of these minor repairs, and this being my first year as the Facility Manager, I'm pleased to see just how well previous Facility Managers have attended to this building.

Another area of continued maintenance is to our HVAC system, one of the many systems in this building that we all have a close eye on. I don't want to feel what this place would be like if we lost that system. A big plus helping the White Ele-

phant to be a cool option for those hot summer mornings and afternoons for not only our customers, but our many volunteers who go above board to help keep this organization running.

Speaking of systems we keep eyes on, the White Elephants "power plant" of 420 Photo Voltaic panels has continued to generate some impressive numbers. I say impressive because we did unfortunately lose 3 months of undocumented data. The reports I have been able to pull shows our quarterly figures in 40,000+ kWh (Kilowatt-hour). Had our report operating system been functional during those lost months of data, we would see a very different number. I did however get a rough estimate of what our panels could have reported by plugging in the weather patterns for those months. What was shown is that our panels potentially generated between 48,500 kWh – 52,000 kWh. This system is definitely a fantastic investment to the White Elephant.

On behalf of all of us here at the White Elephant, a big thank you



Manny Jacques, CFWE Facility Manager

goes out to all of you in the community who help us drive this organization forward in our mission to give back to the community. Those who look forward to our support for their organizations mission, we all are most definitely partners in the ever growing family of individuals who come together to help strengthen the foundation of giving back to the community, and helping where it's needed.

On a personal note, I find it funny to be in this position. A few years ago when I started working for the White Elephant, my mother Karen Lavo was the General Manager. She asked if I would come in and help fill the position until they found a new staff member. I told her I could give three months of time, thinking that would be all the time that was needed to get the position filled. Three years later, I've been promoted to the Facility Manager position. Since my mother had been with the White Elephant for 17 years, I got to know the previous managers.

Starting with Jim, then Richard, and also Chris, who is now the new General Manager, I wouldn't have guessed that I would be joining these men as caretakers of this facility for this wonderful organization. I'm happy and proud to be a part of the White Elephant and I hope to bring my skills to the table and keep this place up and running as they have for all these years.

History of the White Elephant 1964-2025

Written by Maureen McCarthy, White Elephant Historian

Anyone who lives in or visits Southern Arizona boasts about the White Elephant! It is often described as a tourist destination for having the greatest selection of gently used merchandise at the lowest prices. It even is a haven for resellers who make a living selling products they purchase at the store.

Shoppers looking for the best bargains in clothing, shoes, furniture, household items, linens, toys, holiday decorations, electronics, books, sporting goods, patio items and so much more can find them at the White Elephant. Everything is donated, tax-deductible and all proceeds go directly to the local community.

Since its inception in 1964, the Country Fair White Elephant has experienced many milestone events and transitions. The year 2025 has been no exception.

Beginning in January, Chris Cota took over the reins as the Thrift Store's General Manager, and Manny Jacques became its Facility Manager. Also, for the first time ever, two full-time truck department employees were hired to assist volunteers in picking up and delivering furniture and large appliances, which immediately increased store revenue.

In addition, beginning this summer, store sales escalated due to the newly installed in-store Boutique Department, making new and higher-end products available throughout the year. Previously, these items were sold only during recent special

events twice a year and at the "Midnight Madness Green Valley Style" sale which was conducted annually beginning in 2004 and ending in 2021 when the Board voted to discontinue the White Elephant Parade due to Pima County's Health Department regulations and higher costs.

"It is so encouraging to see all our dedicated volunteers and store management working together to make possible our mission of contributing to the Green Valley, Sahuarita and Southern Arizona communities," said Jim Luhning, 2025 Board Vice President. Jim will succeed Tom Cooke next year as Board President.

Over the years, the White Elephant has donated more than \$36 million to local youth groups, school districts, adult and child assistance programs, volunteer fire departments and hundreds of thousands in scholarships for local students.

Additionally, the White Elephant donates hundreds of boxes of usable but not salable, merchandise to various organizations every month.

In retrospect, there was no way the small group of community leaders in 1964 could predict how their first sale and fair would successfully evolve over the next 61 years! The \$146.20 they earned was donated to the Friends of the Library to purchase a typewriter and table and chairs. They accomplished their primary goals to promote good fellowship and to provide a means for local residents to get better acquainted. In doing so, they created a legacy!

In 1980, the Country Fair Board leased land from Pima County in the Government Center at 601 N. La Canada Drive to build a 3,000 square foot year-round store that opened for business the following year. The first building was remodeled and expanded five times.

The current White Elephant Thrift Store was completed, and a Grand Opening was held on October 7, 2009. It occupies 34,400 square feet including 17,200 square feet of new space and 17,200 square feet of remodeled space. It is open Monday through Saturday from 9am to noon and has gone "green" with a dedicated recycling program and solar panels on the roof to supply electricity for the building.

The successful history of the White Elephant would not be possible



Maureen McCarthy, CFWE Historian

without the continuing and much appreciated help of donors, shoppers and volunteers. With their support, the White Elephant has grown step by step, year after year, into a favorite place to make friends, to donate and recycle items, and to go shopping without "breaking the bank."

When the White Elephant prospers, the community prospers. Yesterday, today and tomorrow, the White Elephant continues its long history of serving Southern Arizona!

For more about the Country Fair White Elephant:
Website: gvwhiteelephant.org
Facebook: facebook.com/GVWhiteElephant

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From left to right: Stacy Kafka, Ryan Clark, Susie Sierra, Manny Jacques, Julian Salazar, Chris Cota, (in front) Reggie Howell

Chris Cota.....	General Manager
Manny Jacques	Facilities Manager
Susie Sierra	Office Coordinator
Ryan Clark.....	Truck Driver
Julian Salazar	Truck Driver
Reggie Howell	Warehouse Facility Asst.
Stacy Kafka	Custodian

Thank you Country Fair White Elephant from:

Santa Rita Fire Corps

The Mission of the Santa Rita Fire Corps is to provide Prevention and Safety Services to our Community that result in Superior Customer Satisfaction and Enhance the Effectiveness of the Santa Rita Fire District. It started in 2006 to help the Fire District with day-to-day, non-emergent calls, such as desert pests and chirping smoke alarms. Today, Fire Corps serves Green Valley and the Town of Sahuarita. It has five-day-per-week coverage for our Smoke Alarm Battery and Replacement Program, monitoring and replacing batteries in residential smoke alarms, installing new A/C powered, battery back-up smoke alarms, and installing residential lock boxes.

The White Elephant Country Fair grants have been instrumental to helping the Santa Rita Fire Corps and our volunteers accomplish our mission. In 2024, the donation of \$21,000 assisted towards the purchase of a new 2025 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck. This truck is utilized 5 days a week to help with our lockbox program where volunteers will install an emergency access lockbox, change keys as needed, and periodically come and check lockboxes installed in previous years to ensure they are properly functioning. Since 2006 the White Elephant has assisted us with three grants towards purchasing vehicles. All three vehicles remain in service today. Learn more about Fire Corps at [Fire Corps - Santa Rita Fire District](#)

Kevin McNichols
Volunteer Coordinator
Santa Rita Fire District



Fire Corps members John Knoll, Jim Handley, and Roxeann Teiper with the new 2025 Santa Rita Fire Corps Chevrolet purchased with the assistance of the White Elephant.

Thank you Country Fair White Elephant from:

Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center

To the White Elephant Contributions Committee,

The Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center (SFB-CRC) is so grateful for the support we received from The Country Fair White Elephant in 2024. The continued recognition of the important services and food we provide for our neighbors means a great deal to our recipients and to the staff and volunteers of the SFB-CRC.



Specifically, funds for the purchase of protein included milk and eggs as well as nutritious non-perishable foods such as canned meats, beans, peanut butter, and hearty soups. These foods and modest delivery costs for home delivery to those who are homebound, recovering from an illness or surgery, or lack transportation are essential to their food security.

These life-sustaining food items and services combined with health/nutrition, family support, and workforce development programs help thousands of people in our region achieve greater personal and economic stability.



We send you a profound thank you for the grant and for the work of your hundreds of volunteers.



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White Elephant Shoppers Chat with Guy

By Guy Atchley



Shirley Ford

"I can't give you the reason I come here, then everybody will know. But my friends know. You never know what you'll find, but I'm always looking for a certain something."



Debbie Cook

"The prices are unbeatable, great selection, fun to come and see what's new every day. I just love it. Whatever is 50 percent off, that's where I look first."



Maryanne Rogers

"I like a good bargain. I enjoy looking for books and clothes. When I bought my house here, I pretty much furnished it with things that I got here. Furniture, chairs, rugs, lamps, art. I always wait until the art is half off."



Johnny Yu

"I actually own a vintage store on Esperanza near the legion, Cheng's Galleria, and I come here because I can make more for my buck than getting kids to come in and sell me stuff. Plus I like to support the community. I look for old Levis, old Harley, old sports, stuff like that."



Jonnie Stowe

"I love it here. You get such great deals. Last time I was here I got a chair to go with my dining table. It was great. You can just find so much here. When I first came to Green Valley, everybody was telling me to go to the White Elephant. Well, I finally listened to them, I came here, and I said, 'Oh my God, why did I take so long?'"



Thomas Bates

"I shop here because of the prices mainly, and I love all the unusual stuff. For example, all the shirts. I love 'em. Just a lot of good stuff."



Mike Taylor

"I've been coming here for 25 years, even before this building was built. Today, I found a Navajo sand painting. I've been collecting them. I always find something I want here, and the price is always right."



Rick Rivera

"I come here once a month. I like looking for antiques and old things. Someday, maybe I'll find that elusive million-dollar piece. I look at the old wristwatches. And don't forget the golf clubs."



RC Cowgirl

"I've been coming since the 1900s when they opened up the place. It used to be a little store, and now it's grown. I always gotta get my fix. I find all sorts of stuff here. I drive up from Rio Rico at least once a week on Friday. It's my fun day. I run, run, run, and I'm havin' fun."

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CFWE Recycling Keeps Materials Out of the Landfill

Written by Manny Jacques, CFWE Facility Manager

I came across this article by Chris Cota about our volunteer, Glen Pfefferkorn who puts in a tremendous amount of time categorizing and processing items that we send to the recycling yard. It's worth sharing again.

Glen Pfefferkorn grew up on a farm in Eastern Oregon. He remembers occasional trips to the landfill. Dad often exchanged what we didn't need for items others were dumping. "Never know when we might use this, dad would say."

After earning an accounting degree and spending three years in the army, he worked thirty years with the Oregon Department of Revenue. Tax auditor, accounting supervisor, management analyst and hearings officer is among the titles he earned.

He spent leisure hours gardening and growing flowers and plants. At one time, Sunday was spent nurturing a collection of over 100 house plants. Then he discovered back-



Glen Pfefferkorn

packing and every weekend was another trip into the Cascade Mountains.

In 1982 he encountered llamas at a fair. Perfect packing companion and like potato chips you can't have just one. When his first llama baby needed medical care, a new friendship started with the Veterinary College at Oregon State University.

He and his spouse endowed a scholarship to assist veterinary students and endowed the only professorship in the world dedicated to llama and alpaca medical research. He still serves as a director of a Foundation supporting the vet college.

The herd flourished and in 1998 he moved 80 llamas from his ten-acre suburban plot to a forty-six-acre former cattle ranch. By then, retired from office work, he traded eight-hour days for 12-14 hour days doing what he enjoyed most, caring for a livestock herd which grew to 120 animals.

Not one to be a name on a roster, he helped form a local llama association, served as a director on a national association and introduced llamas to the local county and Oregon State Fair. He volunteered as a superintendent for almost twenty years, organized many shows and dedicated hours coaching 4-H kids and judging county fair projects.

Health required a change. In 2004 he purchased a small house in

Green Valley. In 2009 he chose volunteering at the White Elephant to fill empty hours. Sorting donations was his first assignment. Then he moved up to redirecting unsalable items from the dumpster to the recycle yard. Full circle back to the landfill.

Three days each week he separates metal from plastic sorting copper, brass, aluminum, steel, Christmas lights, electric cords and electric motors for transporting to the recycle center. Glen can be seen "dumpster diving" when he sees recyclable items in the dumpster. Sales annually pay for or exceed the maintenance expenses of the two "White Elephant" trucks seen about Green Valley. His time and contribution to the White Elephant is greatly appreciated.

Special note from Manny Jacques

It's amazing to read about someone's life and the things they have done. It makes you think that if this is from just one of our volunteers, imagine the stories that would come from over 500 volunteers.

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Thank you for 20 Years of Service

Written by Chris Cota, CFWE General Manager

White Elephant volunteers are some of the most dedicated people I've met.

Here at the Elephant, we have folks who have just started their journey with us and some who have been here for many years.

This year, we have 13 volunteers who have achieved 20 years of volunteering at the White Elephant. That is 20 years of dedication and hard work! These volunteers have witnessed challenges, changes, and the huge success that the White Elephant has become.

I am honored to congratulate and thank this group of 20 year volunteers! Their time and efforts do not go unnoticed. They are as follows: Bill Durant, Terri Anderko, Landy Bense, DiAnn Bresina, Dottie Fletcher, Terry Giovanelli, Patty Green, Lorraine Harsch, Clayton Messelt, Rosie Sauve, Bobbe Stowers, and Shirley White. Thank you all for your hard work, efforts and dedication to the White Elephant. Here's to another 20 years!



Bobbe Stowers



DiAnn Bresina



Lorraine Harsch

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Patty Green



Rosie Sauve



Terri Anderko



Terry Giovanelli

20 Year Volunteers Not Available for Photos:

Bill Durant
Dottie Fletcher
Shirley White

Landy Bense
Clayton Messelt

Thank You to Our White Elephant Volunteers



Monday Morning Volunteers



Monday Afternoon Volunteers



Tuesday Morning Volunteers



Tuesday Afternoon Volunteers



Wednesday Morning Volunteers



Wednesday Afternoon Volunteers

Thank You to Our White Elephant Volunteers



Thursday Morning Volunteers



Thursday Afternoon Volunteers



Friday Morning Volunteers



Friday Afternoon Volunteers



Saturday Morning Volunteers



Saturday Afternoon Volunteers

Thank you Country Fair White Elephant from:
UCHC

United Community Health Center (UCHC) deeply values its more than 15-year partnership with the White Elephant Country Store. Over the years, your generosity has strengthened our ability to provide essential, life-changing care for our patients.



In 2022, your support allowed us to purchase four hand-held diabetic cameras, greatly improving our ability to screen and care for patients living with diabetes. Most recently, in 2024, your generosity sustained our sliding fee discount program, ensuring that more than 200 low-income and uninsured patients could access critical dental services—including evaluations, cleanings, and fluoride treatments—that they might otherwise have had to forgo due to cost. This investment not only eased the financial burden on patients but also helped UCHC continue its mission of delivering accessible, compassionate care.

For more than 15 years, White Elephant has been a vital partner in helping UCHC remove barriers to care and bring hope to those who need it most. Together, we have transformed lives—whether through better diabetes screenings or improved access to dental services.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and shared commitment to community health. We look forward to building on this legacy of impact for years to come.



Thank you Country Fair White Elephant from:
The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army in Green Valley wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude to the White Elephant for their steadfast support. Your generosity allows us to meet the needs of our community in ways that would otherwise be impossible.



Through your grants, we are able to help neighbors with utilities, transportation, clothing, and household necessities. These contributions provide more than just assistance- they offer hope, comfort, and dignity to those facing difficult times.

Your support is a cornerstone that enables us to be present for our community and to respond with compassion when it is needed most.

We are deeply thankful for your past and continued support. Your commitment strengthens our ability to serve and inspires all of us to keep working toward a community where everyone can feel cared for and supported. The White Elephant's generosity touches countless lives, and we are honored to join in with other organizations in recognizing the profound impact you have in Green Valley and Sahuarita.

With gratitude,

The Salvation Army Service Center
Green Valley, Arizona.

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The White Elephant Summer Student Work Program

Written by Chris Cota, CFWE General Manager

The summer of 2025 brought the return of the White Elephant’s very specialized program for Sahuarita School District students. The Summer Student Work Program which began in June of 2006, is a life-skills program that gives students, who are age 14 and older who attend a Sahuarita middle school or high school, the opportunity to work at the White Elephant for an 8-week program during the months of June and July.

Students are notified that the program is available and that application packets can be picked up at their school office right around spring break time. The students then have about two weeks to return their completed application packet to the school and the process

begins. The following qualifications must be met in order to be considered for the program:

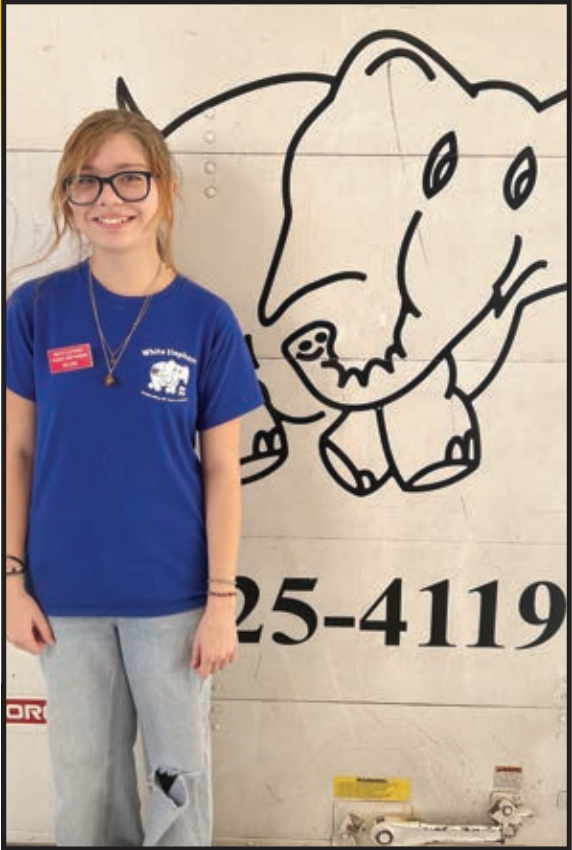
- Complete the White Elephant application and submit all the necessary paperwork to Sahuarita Schools Human Resource Department.
- Attend a panel interview with White Elephant management.
- Agree to the work program requirements and have parental permission to participate.
- Be available to work the entire 8-week program.
- Attend orientation and agree to all rules & regulations as outlined in the Student Handbook.

The program gives students a head start for future employment. For many, this is the first paying job they will have. Each student has the opportunity to experience how to complete an application, how to be interviewed, and how to accept a job offer if they are chosen. They learn a variety of positions that will teach them how to be a bagger, a cashier, a salesperson, a donation drop-off and customer pickup worker, or multiple other jobs that they learn to do by working side by side with White Elephant volunteers who give them on

the job training. The experience they gain gives them valuable knowledge that they can use in future employment situations.

Each year, our Summer Student Work Program participants have a positive impact on the work environment at the White Elephant. They fill in for volunteers who may be away for the summer or on vacation and get paid for a job well-done. The students receive a paycheck at the end of June and again on their last day of work in July. It’s a win-win program with many of our students re-applying for multiple summers. Some have even come back to work as volunteers on Saturdays and during holiday time-off during the school year.

The White Elephant is proud to support and fund this innovative program that gives student participants a solid foundation for higher education and future employment.



Melanie Jacques



Mitchel Collins



Natalia Salazar & Kaili Galovale

Free Food
Free Health Screenings
Free Admission

WHERE?

KGTV Sr/Boomer Fair
November 4th 9AM-1PM

Desert Hills
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Rehabilitation Hospitals

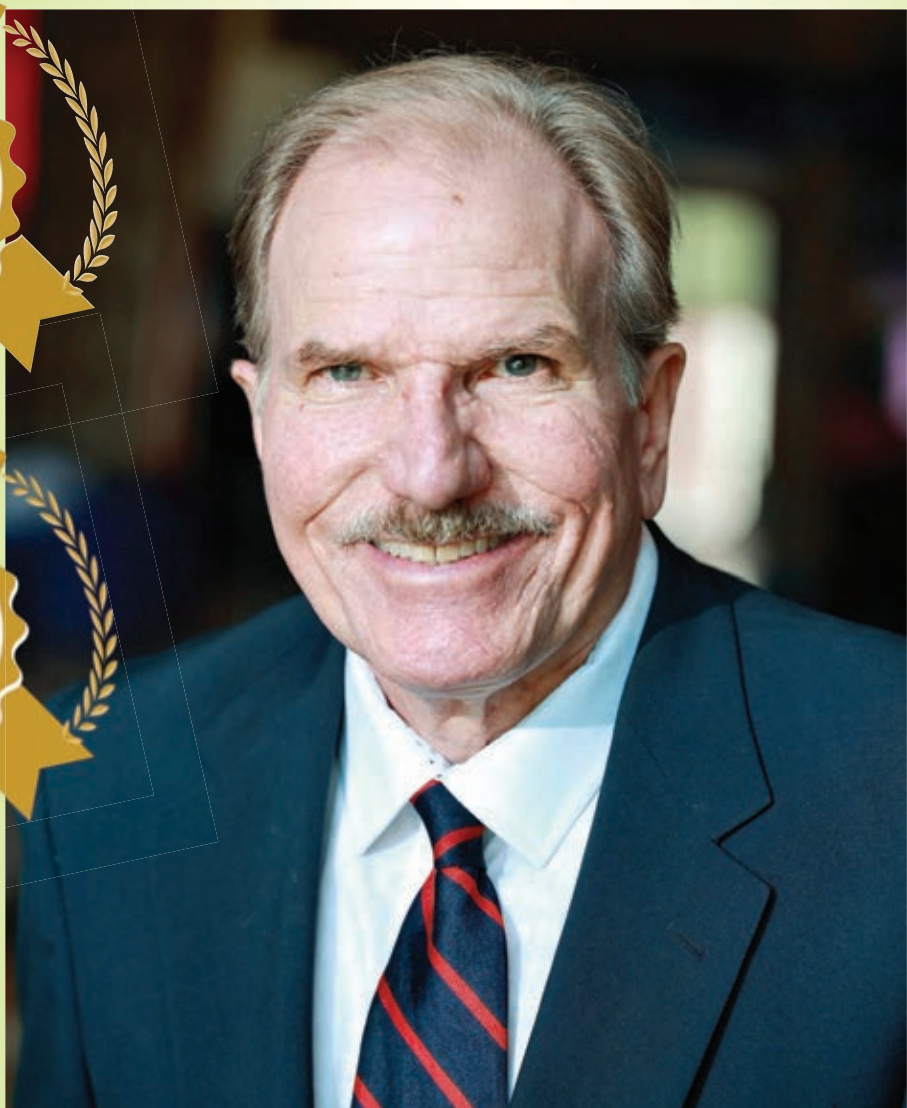
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<https://www.themedicareadvantageplans.com/store/mark-becque/>

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We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent 14 organizations which offer 74 plan products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-Medicare, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to get information on all of your options.

White Elephant In Need of Volunteer Truckers!

Written by Chris Cota, CFWE General Manager

Our truckers are another team of volunteers that our organization just can't do without. Their day starts early in the morning before most people are awake. Our truckers are no strangers to early mornings and heavy lifting, which is why finding volunteer truckers can be a job in itself. We are very fortunate to have our teams of truckers going out into the community on a daily basis, however we are always looking to add a few more who are able to do the heavy lifting and don't mind the early mornings to our volunteer roster. Our truckers are going out each day in the community to pick up donated items that our community residents graciously donate to the White Elephant Thrift Store. They also make deliveries of purchases to residents that have no other way of getting their purchased item to their homes.

Our White Elephant trucks go out 5 days a week. Keeping our trucks running and up to date on maintenance schedules is the job of our volunteer truck manager George Schmidt. George is in charge of scheduling regular service for our trucks, as well as any repairs that might need to be done in order to keep our trucks on the road. George also keeps the trucks clean and stocked with the equipment that helps truckers with the daily job of picking up donations of furniture and large appliances, as well as delivering purchases of large items to our local customers.

Our truckers job doesn't stop at the front door to a residence. Our truckers typically move furniture in or out of homes where the resident just cannot do it on their own. The White Elephant is honored to say that we receive numerous calls, letters and emails from local donors paying compliments

to the great job that our truckers do.

Here are a few excerpts from a few different letters that we received:

"I can't praise the crew enough for the pick-up they did for me this morning, which was the unsold items from an estate sale I handled. They arrived at the scheduled time they said they would, were so courteous as well as professional, and then gone on to their next pick-up. They really work hard doing what they do. My compliments and appreciation are directed to all of the daily truck crews. They have my thanks!"

"The 2 gentlemen that came to deliver my double recliner sofa, which was not a light piece of furniture, did a fantastic job getting it in my home without any damages to my home. They were very friendly and professional and I can't stress enough how much of a great job these 2 guys did. Once they were done with me they went off to the next location with smiling faces. Those truckers at the White Elephant do a wonderful job and I know when I buy something at the White Elephant that I can't take home myself, I can count on the White Elephant truckers to get it to my home with no problems."



Ruben Herszel & Kieth Messerschmidt



George Schmidt CFWE Truck Manager



Jack Fish



Troy Bartelt



Jim Butler

Here are some of the guidelines for becoming a White Elephant volunteer:

The White Elephant is always in need of volunteers. We especially need individuals who are able to lift at least 30-50 pounds to work on our trucks and in our Receiving department. Our truck crew volunteers must be able to lift at least 50 pounds and work 6:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Other volunteer opportunities are also available at this time on various days of the week. The minimum work commitment is 4 hours per week, one day a week, Monday through Saturday. Morning shifts are available. Volunteer applications are available from cashiers during store hours and in the donation drop-off area of the building. Please complete your application and return it to the White Elephant. Once your application is received, you will be contacted to start the process to get you started as a White Elephant volunteer! If you have any questions about volunteering at the White Elephant, please contact the store directly at (520) 625-4119. We hope you'll consider being a White Elephant Volunteer! And remember, people who volunteer on a regular basis have a healthier outlook on life. They are more inclined to be go-getters and consistently report being happier. Young, old, professional, student, teacher - it doesn't matter. Volunteering is good for everyone and it's a great way to help raise money for your community. You'll have fun, make friends and get a good workout while helping raise money to support the many programs and services vital to the welfare of the community and its residents.

Community Performance and Art Center

OCTOBER 17
7PM

REX ALLEN JR



OCTOBER 24
7PM

GARY ALLEGRETTO



OCTOBER 25
7PM

STANLEY JORDAN



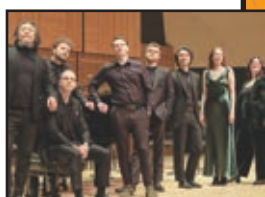
OCT 30-31
NOV 7-8 @ 7PM
NOV 1, 2 & 9
3PM

UNNECESSARY FARCE
BY PAUL SLADE SMITH
The Santa Cruz
Shoestring Players



NOVEMBER 5
7PM

4TH WALL



NOVEMBER 13
4PM & 7PM

TEXAS FLOOD:
THE MUSIC OF
STEVIE RAY
VAUGHN



NOV 14 & 15
3PM & 7PM

SHINE ON FLOYD:
TRIBUTE TO PINK
FLOYD



NOVEMBER 18
7PM

THE FARMER &
ADELE
WESTERN SWING



NOVEMBER 20
3PM & 7PM

ANN HAMPTON
CALLOWAY
INSPIRED CLASSICS
AND ORIGINALS



NOVEMBER 21
7PM

THE MAGIC OF
ANTHONY
HERNANDEZ



DEC 4 & 5
3PM & 7PM

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BEYOND '77



Buy Tickets Online at www.performingartscenter.org

Thank you Country Fair White Elephant from:

Sahuarita Unified School District

“There is a special spirit of community in our Sahuarita / Green Valley region, a spirit that manifests itself in the belief that we truly can do more together than by acting alone. Year after year, the Country Fair White Elephant models these values in a visible and transformational way. From core academic success in the traditional classroom, to invaluable extracurricular programs and opportunities, the Country Fair White Elephant provides our students with an enriched educational experience. Their symbolic handprints are visible at all of our schools, in classrooms, playgrounds, athletic fields, band rooms, and many more. Thank you for exemplifying our Mission of “Working as a team to help every student succeed.” You are a vital member of our team and, together, we will continue to make a difference! “



Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Sahuarita Unified School District
350 W. Sahuarita Rd.
Sahuarita, AZ 85629



Thank you Country Fair White Elephant from:

Crossroads Nogales Mission



Crossroads Nogales Mission is deeply grateful to the Country Fair White Elephant for their generous 2024 grant. This gift helps us continue providing food, shelter, and hope to those who need it most.

Their support does more than cover expenses; it changes lives. It keeps our doors open, our facilities safe and welcoming, and our message of compassion reaching the wider community. Every meal served, every safe night's rest, and every moment of dignity offered to someone in crisis is possible because of caring partners like the White Elephant.

Recently, a mother arrived with her two young children, unsure of where to turn. After receiving a warm meal and a safe place to rest, she told us she felt “a little hope again.” That hope exists because of the generosity of partners like the White Elephant.

On behalf of our staff, volunteers, and the families and individuals we serve, thank you for making such a meaningful difference. Together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate community.

Thank you,
Alejandra Martinez
Executive Director
Crossroads Nogales Mission



520.399.1750
1250 W. Continental Road
PO Box 1301
Green Valley, AZ 85622

The 2025 CFWE Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Written by Maureen McCarthy, CFWE Volunteer

The Country Fair White Elephant (CFWE) Scholarship Foundation recently awarded five \$5,000 scholarships to Sahuarita and Walden Grove High Schools’ students. Scholarships are renewable for up to four years as long as the recipient remains in college.

Sahuarita High School awards were given to Kayla Carlson, Rylee Davis and Jayse Hinkle. Walden Grove High School students awarded were Ana Rojo and Martina Salazar. Scholarships are available both for university or vocational educations. All five of the 2025 students awarded scholarships will be attending college.

This year the Foundation received 37 applications. The applications were reviewed in detail by Foundation members, and the 10 most promising applicants were interviewed in person. From those interviews, five students were awarded scholarships. Alternates are also named in the event a selectee is not able to attend college.

Sahuarita HS 2025 Scholarship Winners!

Kayla Carlson

Grade Point Average: 4.093
College: University of Arizona
Major: Nursing
“I have always believed that going to college is a great opportunity to have a good, stable career ...I have a huge respect for nurses and everything they do in a hospital to help their patients.

Rylee Davis

Grade Point Average: 4.0682
College: Arizona State University
Major: Forensic Science
“I found a love of science that I just could not ignore. I knew that I wanted to work in a lab investigating crime scenes.”

Jayse Hinkle

Grade Point Average: 4.18
College: University of Arizona
Major: Biomedical Engineering, Neurological Engineering
“I will be able to drastically improve the quality of life for those

who are afflicted with neurological diseases through applying engineering concepts to the nervous system. This could include allowing paralyzed people to move again ...”

2025 Walden Grove Scholarship Winners

Anais Rojo

Grade Point Average: 3.359 -
College: University of Arizona
Major: Design Arts and Practice
“This scholarship would not only help me continue my education for something I love, but it will help me decrease the financial burden on my mother.”



Maureen McCarthy,
CFWE Volunteer

Martina Salazar

Grade Point Average: 4.0465
College: University of Arizona
Major: Law
“Despite the challenges I have faced in high school, particularly with English not being my first language, I have remained at the top of my class, earned distinctions, and achieved various accomplishments.”

2025 WHITE ELEPHANT THRIFT STORE STATS FROM JANUARY THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Total number of shoppers.....	182,477
Total Store Revenue	\$1,635,011.00
Total Student Scholarship Donations from Register Containers.....	\$6,836.00
Total Revenue from Recycling Efforts	\$8,411.39



Thank you to everyone who attended our 2024/25 forums and workshops, including our March Wildfire Awareness & Prevention Forum and Annual First Responders Fair and Monsoon Madness events. Please mark your calendars for these great upcoming events:

Upcoming Forums:

- **October 16 - Invasive Plant Species Forum**
- **October 23 - End of Life Planning & Care Forum**
- **November 13 - A morning with the Pima County Health Department**
- **December 4 - Drainageway (Arroyo) Maintenance and Remediation Forum**
- **January 15 - Pima County Assessor Forum; Your Property Taxes and Home Title Fraud Awareness**
- **Reminder: Pima Council on Aging is at the GVC Office every Wednesday from 9:30AM-12:30PM**

For more information or to register for these forums, contact the GVC office. You can also sign up for our mailing list to receive information about forums, workshops, events, and other important Green Valley topics.

Information: info@gvcouncil.org | 520-648-1936

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Thank you Country Fair White Elephant from:

Red Wolves Music Boosters

The students in the Walden Grove High School music program benefited from the White Elephant grant by bringing in instructors and other clinicians to help improve performance, and to also replace and repair instruments and other equipment. The marching band finished 5th out of 25 bands in its division at the AZMBA State Marching Band Competition, the highest score for any band not in Maricopa County. The jazz band got a superior (the highest ranking) at the ABODA state Jazz festival with a student receiving a soloist award. The Orchestra received a superior rating at the ABODA regional festival, the highest recent rating for the orchestra. The choir had students participate in the regional Honor festival and got its best recent ratings. The music program put the White Elephant grant money to use and got great results. The White Elephant grant is much appreciated by everyone in the music program at Walden Grove High School, and an important means to continue to help the students improve their music talents. Thank You White Elephant.



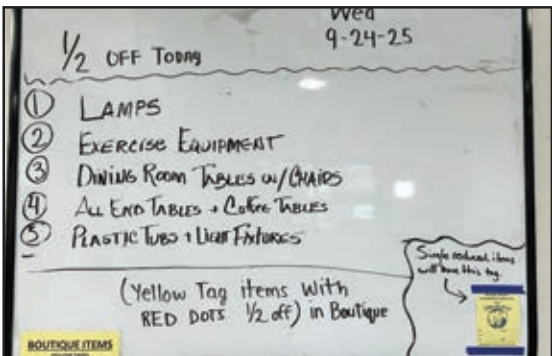
Red Wolves Music Boosters
<https://wginstrumentalmusic.weebly.com/rwmb.html>



White Elephant Facebook Page Update

Written by Chris Cota, CFWE General Manager

The White Elephant has been posting on Facebook since 2014, and we currently have over 7,300 followers. We are listed as “White Elephant Thrift Store”. Although we do not sell on Facebook, our Facebook page is a great way for customers and followers to see what will be on sale that day in the store. Shoppers will arrive at the store looking for the items that were pictured on the Facebook page that day.



We take pictures of the fun and unique items that will be available in the store on the following day and post them on our Facebook page. We also try to post a picture of the “half off board” which is hanging up at the entrance of the store. On that “half off board” is the list of items that are half price that day. The photo of the items listed on the board changes every morning and sometimes includes one of our volunteers displaying the board in the photo. Our customers enjoy getting a sneak peak of what will be half

price each day. Plus, they get to see some of their favorite volunteers. We get so many nice positive comments on our Facebook page from our customers. Many comments are “thanking” our volunteers for the hard work that they do for this wonderful organization. Our Facebook community always lets us know what a great time they had while shopping here and how much they appreciate all the effort that is put into The White Elephant by our volunteers. We sure appreciate each and every one of our followers and customers. We invite more people to follow our Facebook page, so you don’t miss out on knowing what the sales are! Find us at “White Elephant Thrift Store”.

Thank you Country Fair White Elephant from:

The GVC Foundation

Thank you, White Elephant! The Country Fair White Elephant is our community partner that makes it all possible. The **GVC Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that responds to the community’s unmet needs. The grant we received from the White Elephant last year had a profound impact on our community. With their generosity, we were able to secure critical operation equipment and storage for our community’s beloved Historic Canoa Ranch.



Over the years, our grant requests resulted in funding several GVC Foundation initiatives including our Green Valley traffic safety projects, and improvements across our 5,000 acres of community parkland. We are grateful for all that the White Elephant has contributed to and supported here in Green Valley. The White Elephant helps provide critical support to make Green Valley a great place to live, play, and thrive.

We are honored to be a grant recipient of The Country Fair White Elephant, whose support allows us to continue to respond to the community’s unmet needs. **THANK YOU, WHITE ELEPHANT!**



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Chuck Dorr, Board President with new social van

Tommy Smith, Friday Social Manager

Welcome to the White Elephant's Unique Boutique

Written by Regina Ford



The Country Fair White Elephant welcomes thousands of shoppers each month, many looking for gently used clothing, shoes, housewares, appliances, tools and furniture, as well as used books, art, jewelry, collectibles and more.

Almost everyone is looking for bargains these days and there's no shortage of incredible deals throughout the store. As the old saying goes, "One person's trash can be another's treasure."

According to recent retail market reports, second-hand fashion has experienced a remarkable rise. The increasing popularity of second-hand clothes highlights a shift in consumer attitudes, emphasizing the importance of reusing and extending the lifespan of clothing. The second-hand clothing industry is projected to grow about three times faster than the overall apparel market.

While thrift stores are nothing new, they're becoming more popular as shoppers deal with rising costs of living and in some cases, earn a living as resellers.

Lucky for White Elephant shoppers, the opportunity to buy better quality clothing, shoes and accessories, including many with the original price tags still attached, is now possible with the opening the White Elephant's Unique Boutique.

One of the thrift store's managers and longtime volunteer, Gail Bush, planted the seed for the boutique with months of brainstorming, discussion, and planning with the White Elephant's store committee. The group met with White Elephant store manager, Chris Cota and facilities manager, Manny Jacques, to finalize the location of the new sale's area. It was decided that the boutique would be built next to the store's existing dressing rooms.

Jacques designed and constructed the special addition using industrial metal frames that form the perimeter of the sales area and black rectangular shelving, giving the boutique a sleek modern appearance. He added a brightly colored whimsical carpet providing the boutique with a splash of inviting color.

The White Elephant's Unique Boutique opened on July 21 with a week-long grand opening and excited crowds eager to see what the boutique had to offer. Volunteer manager, Regina Ford took on the challenge of sorting and pricing the boutique inventory which is housed in a special work area before it makes it to the sales floor.

"With the help of so many of the volunteers in the various departments, as well as the other managers setting things aside for the boutique, I sorted and priced hundreds of items in time for the opening day," Ford says. "It's surprising at the amount of clothing, shoes and accessories that are donated to the White Elephant with the price tags still attached. Brand new things come in all the time."

Ford says that the inventory "is an unknown and changes all the time" since all the items the White Elephant sells are donated from the public.

"I've had customers ask me if I have a different size of an item they've tried on," Ford says. "Sadly, I have to tell them the pair of pants they are holding was donated and the only pair we have in the store. There ar-



Regina Ford

en't any more in stock."

Not everything donated to the White Elephant is used. Donations of boxes and bags of new clothing is not uncommon.

"I have priced dozens and dozens of new dresses in every size imaginable and all brand new," Ford says. "I often leave the original price tag on the items so the

customer can see for themselves what a bargain they are getting with White Elephant prices."

You may find Talbots, Chico's, Calvin Klein, Banana Republic, Soft Surroundings, Sundance and Ralph Lauren clothing that have never been worn.

"I imagine these higher-end clothes were hanging in someone's closet or they were liquidated from a retail store until they were eventually donated," Ford says.

The grand opening sale featured furs, leather belts and boots, unique vin-

tage clothing, a selection of men's and women's leather jackets, as well as Harley Davidson motorcycle chaps and more than 25 brand new handbags.

"I find plenty of wonderful things to add to the boutique replacing the things that sell," Ford says. "We have generous donors and loyal customers so everything goes full circle."

The Country Fair White Elephant donates the money it makes from the sale of donated goods to local non-profit organizations, schools, and scholarship programs in the Southern Arizona communities of Green Valley, Sahuarita, and the Santa Cruz Valley. The thrift store operates with hundreds of volunteers, which helps maximize the amount of money given back to the community.

"If you want to be part of the volunteer team, please pick up an application at the White Elephant," Ford says. "I could use some more boutique treasure hunters and there are plenty of other volunteer opportunities available."



Valley Assistance Services

Caring for Our Community

Fundraising events: Kicking Up Your Heels Hoedown Saturday, January 10, 2026
Empty Bowls Saturday, February 21, 2026



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Sahuarita/Green Valley/
Tubac/Tumacacori/Carmen/
Rio Rico
Volunteering opportunities
Senior Support Groups



Stay Financially Independent:Emergency
Rental Assistance
Financial Literacy Classes
Benefit Assistance, Job
Search Workforce Training
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Appointment Resume
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Emergency Utility Assistance



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3950 S. Camino del Heroe • Green Valley, AZ 85614
(M-F 8:00-5) Email: info@valleyassuranceservices.org
Satellite office: Tubac Community Center 50 Bridge Rd. • Tubac, AZ
Website: www.valleyassuranceservices.org

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Shelley Humphrey, DVM- I grew up with pets of all kinds and knew at a young age that veterinary medicine was my calling. Since I can remember, my education was always geared towards becoming a veterinarian. Pets bring us joy, comfort, and pleasure that is indescribable. It is my job and mission to strengthen and preserve that bond by prolonging the quality and quantity of their lives, especially as they age. I can't think of a better career! I started as a co-owner of Animal Care Center of Green Valley in 2010. In 2018 I became the proud sole owner.

Jennifer Martin, DVM- Dr. Jennifer Martin grew up surrounded by dogs and cats, and never forgot the deep comfort and love she felt from those childhood pets. Working in veterinary medicine simply made sense—Dr. Martin has never wanted to do anything else! She has enjoyed many wonderful years helping pets and their families live happier healthier lives. Dr. Martin grew up in Southern California and attended the University of California at Davis. She has had the opportunity to practice in many areas on the West Coast, and has owned clinics in Oregon and the San Francisco Bay area.



Jean Huang, DVM- Ask Dr. Huang what is most on her mind when she treats pets and she will reply, “pain management and implementation of Fear Free practices.” Making sure pain and stress are minimized before, during, and following procedures, and throughout their lifetimes, is not only her responsibility as a veterinarian, but is essential to each pet’s recovery, health, well-being, and quality of life.

Lizette Pedley, DVM - I believe my patients should live their best lives, as comfortably and pain free as possible. To support this purpose, I think preventative medicine is key.

It allows for early detection of changes consistent with disease which improves the chances that treatment will be successful.

My two biggest passions, when it comes to veterinary medicine, are internal and alternative medicine. I like to bring together western and eastern medical philosophies and practices to offer the best options for my patients and their humans.

Daniel Murray, DVM - From the time I was 11 years old, I knew that this was the career for me. My best friend’s dad was a veterinarian and I started out by helping him on his rounds of area farms. I worked for him on week ends and school breaks because I was fascinated by the animal world. I loved being able to help animals that were hurt or broken.

A BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTES!

We want to thank all of you who nominated and voted for us in the AZ19 Readers Pick! We are honored to have won Best Vet Clinic and Best Doggy Daycare since the awards started in 2019! We look forward to upholding our high standards of care for your pets in the coming year! We appreciate your trust and support!

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This column is provided by Dr. Tait with ORIGEN Orthopedics + Optimal Health in Tucson

medicalnews

WHEN YOU NEED IT WILL IT BE THERE?

Throughout my years of training, I would hear my mentors say that good health isn't built in a day—it's built *day by day*. A workout. A balanced meal. Choosing water instead of soda. Going to bed on time. Each of these small actions adds up.

Each decision is a promise to yourself, your present and future health. These "mundane" daily decisions *will* fortify you against illness, rapid aging, and a sputtering decline of health. Or can accelerate the opposite.

Notice the word *will*.

At some point, stress *will* hit your body. A cold will make its way through the office. An injury will test your ability to recover. Life will demand more energy than you thought you had. And in that moment, your body will either have the strength to meet the challenge. Overcome the obstacle in the path. Or...it won't.

Health stamina, a strong immune system, capacity to recover – or simplified, *resilience* – is not built in the moment of crisis. It is built and accumulated in the weeks, months, and years leading up to that moment.

The work to fortify yourself will either have been done...or not. That's why your present health is not *really* the current state of your health. Let me explain.

A strong and healthy body in the present day is a lagging indicator of years, even decades, of daily choices. It is the harvest of habits planted long ago.

Each time you need a strong response from your immune system, a *quick* rebound back from stress, or to overcome a painful injury, or situation, such as arthritis. This is where you can draw from the bank of health you've built.

When you need your health, will it be there?

Nothing comes from nowhere. Everything is proof of where the work was done—or wasn't. And nowhere is this truer than with health.

Which brings us to a truth most people trip over: **If we see the**

pursuit of health as a cost, it will ultimately become your greatest liability.

We've all had "*a friend*" at some point say that their health is their #1 asset. But does the sound match the actions of what you see them doing to build and protect that health?

Here's the reframe exercise you can use today – to help them – that may be useful to you as well:

Step 1: Think about the time, money, and the attention you put into your health the same way you think about contributions to a retirement account.

Step 2: Use your future goals to drive your present actions. (Rather than believe your past, or present, dictates your future)

Step 3: Be brutally honest with yourself when it comes to your daily investment in your health.

With this:

- Every session of movement is a deposit.
- Every good night's sleep accrues interest.
- Every nourishing meal compounds over time.
- Every avoidance of the "negative normal" retains resources

And much like financial wealth, the earlier and more consistently you invest, the greater the returns will be for you later in life.

The final nugget for this new way of looking at your health...

Know that the U.S. healthcare system isn't designed to make you healthy. Much like the U.S. banking system is not designed to make you wealthy. They're designed to benefit large corporate entities, not the consumer.

Sure, your healthcare insurance policy will step in when you're already sick, but rarely will it cover the proactive, health-optimizing steps that keep you thriving in the first place. The sooner you just accept that, the sooner you can put your attention on the gap in your health that *you can control*.

Because if your security for your health is tied only to a "just in case" *insurance* policy you'll likely be perpetually disappointed. On the other hand, if you focus on building and carrying a daily *assurance* policy, i.e. the confidence that comes from knowing your daily habits are compounding into health, strength, resilience, and vitality as you age, you'll likely be way more delighted in time.

So, my friend, the question becomes:

Are you treating your health like an expense to minimize, or an asset to maximize?

Because nothing pays dividends like the ability to live longer, move easier, think clearer, and show up fully for the people and work you care about.

The ROI of health isn't just years added to your life—its life added to your years.

Because at the end of your life, many would deploy every last asset in their investment portfolio to have a little more time with the ones they love.

Wouldn't you?

What is your (less than optimal) health costing you right now? The experiences, less experienced. Daily activities, less active. A life of less? Or a life of more, on your terms.

If you've read this far, I'll leave you with one final piece of advice.

Don't delay.

Today, commit to finding the right physician and healthcare team that is rooting for you to succeed – *and is equipped to guide you through the process* – rather than shrugging off *your goals* as impossible.

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." – Buckminster Fuller

That is the mindset for building your best health.

That is the mindset for the way we do healthcare at ORIGEN.

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Dr. John Tait, D.O.

Dr. Tait is the founder and Chief Health Strategist at ORIGEN Orthopedics + Optimal Health in Tucson, Arizona. The only dedicated Orthopedic clinic in the region exclusively focused on non-surgical treatments.

To learn more about Dr. Tait and non-surgical Orthobiologic treatments, please visit www.origenortho.com.

To learn more visit www.origenortho.com, and @DrJohnTait on YouTube



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Come Find Your Roots!

Written by Janis Slaughter, Southern Arizona Genealogy Society

The Southern Arizona Genealogy Society (SAGS) in Green Valley is here to help you, and we have been doing so for 50 years, thanks to Green Valley resident Allen Ogden!



In 1976 Allen saw the need for a genealogy group in Green Valley so he put the word out, and 15 people came to the first meeting! The Society was established on May 18, 1977. Four officers were elected, and meetings were held September through May with dues of \$3.00 a year.

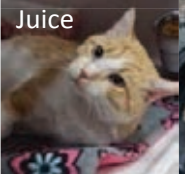
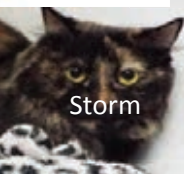
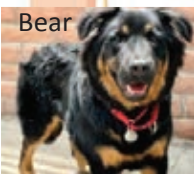
In September 1977 the members voted to start a club library and it has grown from a bookshelf in the home of Dr. Mary Hall in Villas West to the current 3,500 Green Valley-Sahuarita Genealogy Library, a project of SAGS and LaPosada. The library is located in the Posada Java building on the campus of LaPosada.

Club membership was 19 in 1977 and at the end of 1983 we had 80 members. In 1994 a newsletter was devel-

oped, and today our "Past Tracks" newsletter continues to be published monthly, October through May of each year. In 2018 the face of the Society changed, and a new logo, club colors (copper and turquoise) and a website

were developed. Also, we had a new name, Southern Arizona Genealogy Society (SAGS). In 2020 our membership approached over 300, and we started offering educational classes, special interest groups (SIGS), workshops, seminars, webinars and more!

Thanks to Allen and the many people who came after him, today we continue to help people find their roots! Interested in finding your roots??? We meet monthly, October through May. Our next meeting is Thursday, October 23 at 1:00 p.m. in the LaPosada Rec Center, 685 S. LaPosada Circle, Bldg. #37 in Green Valley. We will be having a special 50th anniversary celebration on March 19, 2026!! For more information visit our website, AZSAGS.ORG.



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Why Healthy Feet are Important to Enjoying a Good Life

Written by Anthony Allen, Certified Pedorthist, Owner of Simply Feet

Almost everything you do from the time you get out of bed until you get back to sleep requires you to use your feet. Most people don't think about what healthy feet really mean to your overall well-being.

Feet have 26 bones, over 100 muscles, tendons and ligaments working together to support weight and enable movement. It is notable to know that there are at least 50 tendons and ligaments that help support your foot and enable you to walk.

Every time you take a step three things occur while weight is on your foot. A heel strike (supinated position) happens first and is a stiff part of taking a step, slightly striking on the outside of the heel. This impact is absorbed through the fat pads in your heel and the heel bone (calcaneus), the biggest bone in your feet.

Secondly is the midstance phase (pronated position). When your foot is in full contact, this absorbs step shock and absorbs vibrations that can reduce stress on your knees,

hip and back. The midstance phase is also when your feet adapt to the terrain you walk on.

Finally, the toe off phase (supinated position), this is when your heel lifts, stiffening up your foot, bending at the ball of your feet to create a stiff lever to push you forward.

Your feet have a delicate balance in the way they work with all those fore mentioned muscles, tendons and ligaments to support you every step of the way. Whether simply walking around or being active in sports or exercise, your feet are crucial to living a life of quality.

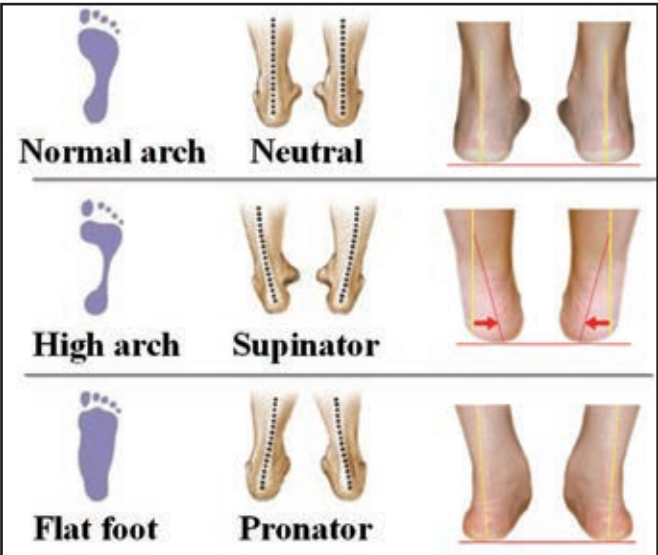
As we use our feet, the supportive structures tend to change and sometimes breakdown causing us to do what is called over-pronate or over-supinate. This can cause your feet to change the alignment of the bone structure and decrease the healthy biomechanics of your feet. Your feet require a balance of both supination and pronation, or pain in your feet can start with minor symptoms that can eventually start to affect your knees, hips, back, leg

muscles, ligaments around your knees and hips as well as decreased balance and stability.

Over-pronated feet or lower arches can affect your heel, arch, create bunions and put stress on the inside and front of your knees to name a few common problems.

Over-supinated feet can create pressure on the outside of your feet that contribute to bunions or tailors bunions, stress on tendons on the outside of the foot that stress your calve muscles, pain on the outsides of your knees, a tight IT band (side of your leg, tightened greater trochanter ligament (in your hip area) as well as a loss of lateral ankle stability that can affect balance and stability.

Uneven breakdown of your feet can also create hip and back problems by creating alignment issues of your



hips. If you are having problems being comfortable with your feet while walking and being active, it is smart to check with a specialist that can evaluate and see if what your feet are doing may be contributing to your problems.

Everybody needs to be active to enjoy life. Don't let your feet hold you back from hiking, golf, pickleball or just walking around the grocery store, running errands and enjoying life in Green Valley!

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The GVC Foundation: A Proud Community Partner

Submitted by The GVC Foundation



The GVC Foundation’s current initiatives support the Green Valley community through public-well being with a focus on traffic safety and messaging, wildfire awareness & mitigation, and supporting the two signature Green Valley community events – The Annual First Responders Fair and the Monsoon Madness safety preparedness forum.

The GVC Foundation is a registered Arizona 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation established in 2012, that operates as an all-volunteer charitable organization that serves the Green Valley community through several charitable focuses and projects. Here is how you can be a part:

1) **THE FRIENDS OF THE CANOAS** advocates the stewardship of over 5,000 acres of Pima County parkland housed in 3 Green Valley parks, most notable of which are the Historic Canoa Ranch



2) **AVENUE OF THE FLAGS** posts nearly 100 United States flags alongside La Cañada Road between Esperanza Boulevard and Continental Road for 8 patriotic holidays with the help from volunteers from

located off East Frontage Road and the Canoa Hills Trails Park, located off Camino del Sol. The Friends of the Canoas promote and preserve these natural community resources through volunteerism at the park and through fundraising. Celebrate “National Take a Walk in the Park Day” with us annually on March 30.

3) **GOOD DEEDS** sustains community-building through a promotion of events that foster volunteerism in Green Valley and by spotlighting random acts of kindness in the community. Good Deeds promotes and supports “**Mitzvah Day/ Good Deed Day**”, an annual day of volunteering in Green Valley, which is coming up on **Friday, November 7**. Sign up to support a participating local



many Green Valley Veteran and community organizations. Your civic pride is needed to support this great community cause.

group that you can select from a list to benefit their cause for that morning and then enjoy lunch too as a thank you.

As a special treat this fall season, the GVC Foundation is sponsoring the upcoming **Halloween Hoedown** on **Saturday, October 25** at the Historic Canoa Ranch from 4-7PM. Party down with line dancing, all your country favorites played by DJ Savy, food trucks, a 50/50 raffle, a cash bar, and much more! Tickets are \$20 per person, or you can reserve a table for 8. Adults only.

The GVC Foundation is a proud community partner and welcomes those interested in making a real impact for the Green Valley community by serving on the GVC Foundation Board of Directors. Your talent and experience are needed to help the community – and it’s a great way to give back. For more information, contact the GVC Foundation at 520-848-4902 or info@gvc-foundation.org.

Celebrating Community, Tradition and Gratitude – Happy Thanksgiving from Arizona Family Restaurant

As the license plates begin to change and the 100 degree weather finally begins to fade away, we find ourselves reflecting on the many blessings this upcoming holiday season brings, beginning with Thanksgiving. This special day is one of our favorite holidays and we’re honored to share this long standing tradition with you, our Green Valley community.

Thanksgiving is a time to count our blessings, and this year we have so many reasons to be grateful:

- Nearly Four Years as New Owners: We’re proud to have served you as the new stewards of this beloved business for almost four years, continuing the warm traditions you know and love.
- 49 Years Locally Owned: For nearly half a century, this business has remained locally owned — a legacy we honor and cherish, thanks to your loyalty.
- Our Dedicated Team: We are grateful for our hard-working staff who bring passion and joy to their service.
- Continued Traditions: Sharing memorable holidays, delicious meals, and special moments with you each year. Thanksgiving is a classic holiday and we’re serving up the same meal you expect!
- New Friends & Familiar Faces: From longtime regulars to first-time guests, we value every smile and every story. We love being part of the community, supporting local students, and chatting with our valued guests.

Thanksgiving Day Special: Savor Our Famous Turkey!

Join us this Thanksgiving for our mouthwatering Turkey Special! For one day only, we’re serving up our signature, slow-roasted turkey with all the classic fixings. Whether you’re dining in or picking up a meal to enjoy at home, let us help make your holiday delicious and stress-free.

- Thanksgiving Day Turkey Plate: mixed white and dark meat, savory stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, candied yams, and green bean casserole.
- Pick-Up & Dine-In Options: Give us a call to reserve a table if you’re a group of 6 or more. If you want a to-go meal call us 30 minutes before you want to pick up your food, we’ll have a dedicated phone receptionist all day. Call us at 520-625-3680
- We’ll be open 7am-7pm. Turkey meals will be served beginning at 11am

Wishing You a Warm, Joyful Thanksgiving

May your Thanksgiving be filled with good food, laughter, and love. We look forward to serving you this holiday season and for many years to come!

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MASS TIMES

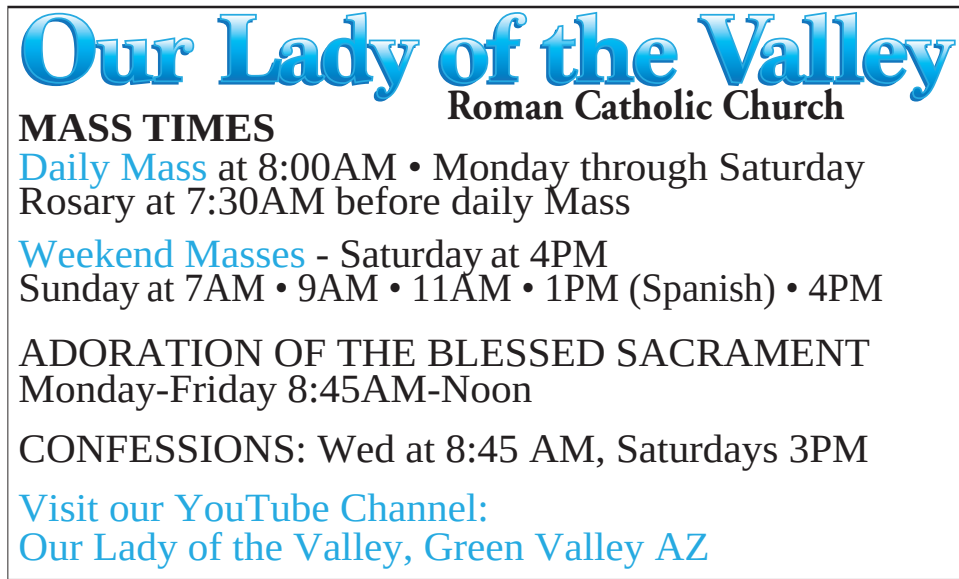
Daily Mass at 8:00AM • Monday through Saturday
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Building Connections, Celebrating Progress, and Moving Forward

Written by Mayor Tom Murphy

As Mayor of Sahuarita, I'm proud to say that 2025 was a year of great progress for our community—and more opportunities are on the horizon. Our town is strong because of the connections we've built. We are shaping a future that is safe, vibrant, and filled with opportunities for all generations.

For many of us who have lived here for years—me included—what we value most are the qualities that make life in Sahuarita special: safety, community spirit, and a sense of belonging. That's why I want to share some highlights of what we accomplished in 2025, and what you can expect as we move forward in 2026.

Safety First

Public safety remains one of our highest priorities, and 2025 brought important advancements. Sahuarita Police Department officers received advanced leadership training, and two of our own were honored by community members for outstanding service. These investments ensure that Sahuarita continues to be one of the Top 5 Safest Cities in Arizona—a point of pride for all of us.

In 2026, we will begin the expansion of our Police Department building, adding space for labs, evidence storage, secure parking, and new training facilities. These upgrades will give our officers the tools they need to serve a growing community, while also reinforcing the sense of safety that residents have come to expect.

Traffic safety is another area of focus. A new traffic signal at Walden Grove High School will make the intersection safer for young drivers, and Public Works will repair sidewalks, improve pedestrian crossings with audible signals, and replace nearly 500 street signs for better visibility. These updates benefit all residents whether they are at home or on the road.

Business Development and Economic Growth

A thriving economy benefits everyone. In 2025, we welcomed new businesses such as Burlington, Pima Heart, and El Herradero, and Boot Barn, adding services and shopping options close to home. Through the Grow in Sahuarita program, nearly



90 entrepreneurs received over 400 hours of coaching to help their businesses grow and succeed.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be an exciting year for economic development. We will complete our 10-year General Plan update, shaping how and where our community grows. Work will begin on the Parcel 30 vi-

came centers of activity. La Villita alone increased our recreation program capacity by 50%, offering everything from indoor pickleball to expanded youth programs.

Signature events have continued to grow. Fiesta Sahuarita drew record crowds with music, food, and entertainment for all ages, while Winterfest earned a state award for Outstanding Special Event. These events bring neighbors together and create a sense of belonging that is so important for our town.

In 2026, we will keep building on that momentum. Our three signature events—Fiesta Sahuarita, Stars & Stripes, and Winterfest—will each return, and we will bring a new fall Oktoberfest event to Sahuarita with the Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance.

These events are more than entertainment—they are opportunities



The new Sahuarita challenge coins pay tribute to regional plant life, and demonstrate the vibrancy of our unique community.

sioning process, setting the stage for a mixed-use area that could bring new amenities, services, and gathering spaces. At the same time, we are continuing discussions with the Phoenix Zoo about the possibility of a regional safari park—a project that would bring visitors, jobs, and cultural opportunities to our area.

These business and development initiatives mean more conveniences, new dining and entertainment options, and a stronger local economy that supports property values and quality of life.

Community Engagement and Belonging

Sahuarita is known for its community spirit, and 2025 was no exception. We opened the Anamax Splash Pad and the La Villita Community Center, both of which quickly be-



Sahuarita's New Waste Program

top national priority by the Army Corps of Engineers. Funding could begin as early as 2026, starting with feasibility studies that will lead to cleanup and, eventually, safe and sustainable development. This progress is the result of years of persistence and strong partnerships—and it represents a major opportunity for our community's long-term growth.

We are also continuing our role in regional transportation planning through RTANext, a proposed 20-year plan that would invest \$2.46 billion in projects across the region. If approved by voters, this plan would fund safer roads, improve mobility, and support economic growth. For Sahuarita, it means better connections to the region and stronger opportunities for residents and businesses alike.

Connections Sustain Us

As we reflect on 2025 and look ahead to 2026, one theme comes through clearly: connections. The connections between residents and their neighborhoods. The partnerships with schools, HOAs, and community organizations. The regional and national ties that bring investment and resources to our town.

These connections are what make Sahuarita thrive. They ensure our community remains safe, vibrant, and full of opportunity for all generations. I'm grateful to serve as your Mayor, and I look forward to working together as we continue building a future that is as strong and welcoming as the people who call Sahuarita home.



RTA Board

to connect with neighbors, celebrate community, and see grandchildren and younger families making memories right here at home.

Looking Ahead with Confidence

One of the most important projects shaping Sahuarita's future is the cleanup of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) east of town. Once thought to be decades away, this project is now recognized as a

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