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APRIL EVENTS IN COCHISE COUNTY

COCHISE COUNTY, Ariz. (April 2, 2009) – April events start with **Old West Founders Day** in **Tombstone**, the “town too tough to die.” Brimming with events this month, Sierra Vista will host **Frontier Days** and the **All Women’s Rodeo**, the **Men Who Cook** fundraiser and more. **Bisbee** is a hub for cars and bicycles with the **Copper Classic Car Show** and **La Vuelta de Bisbee**. Musicians will be pluck banjo, guitar and mandolin strings at the **Benson Bluegrass Festival**. Wrapping up the month is **Willcox’s Southeastern Arizona Fine Arts Show**.

April 3-5, Tombstone Old West Founders Days, Tombstone

Tombstone’s annual March celebration known as Ed Schieffelin Territorial Days has a new name: Old West Founders Days. It is now presented jointly with the Rose Tree Festival. Tombstone is home to the “World’s Largest Rose Tree,” according to the Guinness record book. Enjoy history with mining displays, performances, exhibition, the Tombstone Gun Show, “Taste of Tombstone” featuring samples from local restaurants and evening concerts as well as the Rose Parade and crowning of the Rose Queen!

When: April 3-5

Where: Allen Street

Admission: Free

Info: 888-457-3929 or www.tombstonechamber.com

April 3-5, Frontier Days & All Women's Rodeo, Sierra Vista

Frontier Days will combine with the All Women’s Rodeo for a weekend of Western fun. Days will be filled with dancing, ventriloquists, comedy, performances by local dance schools, the Sierra Vista Chorus and Miss Sierra Vista, plus live performances by country rock artists. The Sierra Vista Kennel Club will have a breed show and canine events. If that’s not enough, there will be a carnival and beer garden! Tickets are available at the Sierra Vista Visitors Center, Spur Western Wear, Windemere Hotel and Boot Barn.

When: 11 a.m. gates open

Where: Sierra Vista Riding Club Arena, 401 Guilio Cesare Dr., Sierra Vista.

Frontier Days Admission: \$5 per person to the fair

Rodeo Admission: \$10 per person, general admission; \$15 reserved seats (includes admission to fair)

Info: 520-417-6960

April 5 & 6, Copper Cities Limited Rail Excursions, Bowie

Visitors can relive the romance of rail travel in this excursion through the land that includes the history of the Old West, mining boomtowns and the Chiricahua Apaches. The train will consist of a full-length dome, an open window coach and a lounge observation car. The charter passenger train rides will travel from Globe, Ariz. to Bowie, Ariz. Passengers will travel by bus for the first leg of the trip and return by train. Another excursion will travel from Duncan, Ariz. to Lordsburg, NM, Clifton, Ariz. and return to

Duncan. Sponsored by the Southern Appalachia Railway Museum, which has operated similar trips in more than 20 states.

When: 8 a.m. departure from Bowie, April 5; 8 a.m. departure from Duncan, April 6

Where: round trip begins in Bowie, Ariz. (4/5) & Duncan, Ariz. (4/6)

Tickets: \$220 per person, per day

Info: <http://www.techscribes.com/sarm/Arizona%20Eastern.htm>

April 11, Copper Classic Car Show, Bisbee

Early 1900s models, "modifieds," antique, low riders, hot rod trucks and motorcycles will be on display on Bisbee's historic Main Street. Prizes will be awarded in many categories. There will be drawings, goody bags, food, music and fun.

When: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Trophies will be awarded at 2 p.m.

Where: Main Street, Old Bisbee

Admission: free for spectators

Info: 520-432-3554 or 1-866-2BISBEE

April 18, 4th Annual West End Block Party & Earth Day, Sierra Vista

Join Sierra Vista's West End for a day-long block party. Enjoy entertainment, food, music, kiddie-land games, the Tombstone Vigilantes and a street dance. Sierra Vista will also celebrate Earth Day in conjunction with the farmer's market.

When: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Where: Sierra Vista's West End 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Admission: Free

Info: 520-515-0674

April 18, Sierra Vista Car Club 25th Annual Spring Show

Chrome fenders, shiny mirror-like paint jobs. Check out these rides!

When: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Awards given at 2 p.m.

Where: Sierra Vista Diner, 3500 Canyon De Flores

Info: 520-227-9458 or <http://www.sierravistacarclub.org/>

April 18, Guided Tour of Buffalo Soldier Historic Sites, Sierra Vista

Learn about the accomplishments and history of Fort Huachuca's Buffalo Soldiers from members of the Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers. Reservations are required.

Note: The post is an active military installation. U.S. citizens may take the tour and must provide valid photo identification if over age 13.

Call 520-417-6960 for details.

April 24-26, Bluegrass in the Park, Benson

The annual Bluegrass in the Park gets better each year. With Sandoval Productions putting together the line-up, the bands are some of the best in the North America. For Information Call the Benson Chamber of Commerce at 520-586-2842. www.bensonchamberaz.com

April 24-26, La Vuelta De Bisbee

The 29th year of the three-day staged bicycling event includes time trials, a circuit race and a road race covering Bisbee, Hereford, and Tombstone.

Info: 520-432-5795 or www.lvdb.info

April 24-26, Southeastern Arizona Fine Art Show, Willcox

This event showcases artwork from all over southeast Arizona. An artists' reception will be held from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday. The event is sponsored by the Art League of Willcox.

When: Fri., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where: Willcox Community Center

Admission: Free

Info: 520-384-2658

April 25, 2nd Annual "Men Who Cook," Sierra Vista

Cheer for your favorite local chef at the Sierra Vista Symphony League's unique fundraiser.

When: 6-9 p.m.

Where: Windemere Hotel, 2047 S. Hwy. 92, Sierra Vista

Admission: \$35. Tickets available at Dillard's and Safeway

Info: 520-459-0093 or 520-378-1318

April 25, 18th Annual Earth Day Festival, Bisbee

Celebrate Bisbee's Earth Day with educational and environmental booths, arts and crafts for sale, live entertainment, natural foods booths, mini massages, a circus parade, traditional May pole and children's activities at Vista Park in the Warren district.

When: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Where: Vista Park in Bisbee's Warren District

Admission: Free

Info: 520-227-5060 or (520) 432-3554 or 1-866-2BISBEE for details.

Ongoing

Tours of Historic Faraway Ranch, Chiricahua National Monument

The Faraway Ranch was one of the earliest cattle and guest ranches in southeast Arizona. Step back in time to experience how life was lived in the early days of the West.

When: 2 p.m. & 3 p.m. Fridays-Sundays

Where: Chiricahua National Monument, 12856 E. Rhyolite Creek Road

Admission: Free with park admission

Info: 520-824-3560, ext. 303; e-mail kathrine_neilsen@nps.gov

Arizona Folklore Preserve, Sierra Vista

Arizona's Official State Balladeer Dolan Ellis and musical guests perform Saturday and Sunday afternoons in the intimate setting of the Folklore Preserve in forested Ramsey Canyon. With so many songs inspired by various aspects of Arizona lifestyle and culture, Ellis' shows are often presented as themes. Reservations are required.

April 4 & 5: The Desert Sons, cowboy singer/songwriter

April 11 & 12: Dolan Ellis, "A Song of Arizona Spring"

April 18 & 19: Michael Grandé, guitar virtuoso

April 25 & 26: Tim Weed, singer, musician

When: 2 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays

Where: 44 E. Ramsey Canyon Road, Hereford

Admission: \$15 for adults; \$6 for students 17 and under

Info: 520-378-6165 or www.arizonafolklore.com

Located in southeastern Arizona, Cochise County is one of the most culturally, historically and geographically diverse areas in the American Southwest. Its legendary communities—Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Tombstone, Sierra Vista and Willcox—were strategically located less than a day's journey by stagecoach and are now just a short drive from one another.

For more information about Cochise County, contact the Cochise County Tourism Council at 1-800-862-5273 or visit their website at www.explorecochise.com.

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