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New in Cochise County: July 2009

COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZ. (July 17, 2009) – It's easier to find information on unique Arizona cultural attractions in Cochise County. Visitors can find out how five themes made an impact on Arizona and the American West by viewing "Cochise Origins," a video produced by the Cochise County Tourism Council. Plus, with the arrival of a new marshal in Willcox, guesthouses in Bisbee and more, visitors have much more to explore.

Cochise Origins debuts at visitor centers and attractions

Cochise Origins is a new video that helps visitors learn about Cochise County's culture and heritage. It plays on high definition TVs and Blu-ray DVD players at six visitor centers and seven of the county's attractions. The Cochise County Tourism Council produced the 22-minute video, which details five cultural themes (Military history, Hispanic/Mexican influence, the Native American/Apache experience, the Old West/Ranching and Geology/Mining), many of which shaped Arizona and the American West.

Visitors can watch the video at a visitor center in one of the county's incorporated communities, at a number of attractions and on the Cochise County Tourism Council's website. The video was produced by Media Solutions. Equipment for the project was purchased with the help the Arizona Office of Tourism's Rural Tourism Development Grant program. See the video at www.explorecochise.com.

The Sleepy Tortoise Guest House opens in Bisbee

Colorful and cozy, the Sleepy Tortoise is a charming slice of Bisbee. Located in the historic residential district, the guesthouse is a convenient walk to downtown, yet far enough to afford peace and relaxation. This private upstairs suite includes a comfy bedroom, full bath, kitchenette, cable television with DVD player, central heat and AC, free WiFi; a balcony and off-street parking.

The Sleepy Tortoise Guest House
508A Tombstone Canyon
PO Box 781
Bisbee, AZ 85603
520-432-6948
www.thesleepytortoise.com

Two restaurants reopen in Benson

The Horseshoe, a landmark restaurant in Cochise County, reopened in Benson on June 29. It serves Mexican, American and southern food. In addition, the Beijing Restaurant also reopened, serving Chinese entrées and a buffet.

The Horseshoe, 154 E. 4th Street, Benson, 520-586-3303

Beijing Restaurant, 577 W. 4th Street, Benson, 520-586-7140

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There's a new 'Marshal' in Willcox

Marshal Bo's Old West Mercantile opened on historic Railroad Avenue earlier this year. In addition, "Marshal Bo's Gunslingers of the West" stage gunfight reenactments at high noon and 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The new store, featuring "anything a modern or Old West cowboy wants," is located at 162 N. Railroad Avenue in Willcox.

Soldiers from Civil War and Indian Wars reburied with full military honors

In a May ceremony, 58 soldiers were reburied at the Southern Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. They served in the U.S. Army in Arizona from 1862 to 1881. The soldiers were interred in a 19th Century-style military cemetery. The plot was built especially for the remains of these soldiers, which were found in Tucson.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provided period headstones for the troopers, and cemetery officials plan to erect a monument describing the soldiers' lives during the Indian Wars. The troopers will be laid to rest with full military honors a stone's throw away from the oldest operating Army post in Arizona. Two of the soldiers were U.S. Army Indian Scouts, and one was a "Buffalo Soldier."

Info: www.visitsierravista.com

Bisbee hosts ghost hunting, paranormal weekend Aug. 7-9

Have you ever wanted to train with real Ghost Hunters or learn the tricks of the trade? Have you ever gone on a real paranormal investigation? Here's your chance in two of the most haunted buildings in the American Southwest! Sign up for a weekend of ghost hunting.

Stay at the Copper Queen Hotel and attend a paranormal investigation of the Birdcage Theatre and the Copper Queen Hotel. Attend ghost hunting lectures with members of the International Community of Paranormal Investigation and Research. Admission to the Old Bisbee Ghost Tour and the Tombstone Ghost Tour is included. Attendees must be 18 or older to participate.

Info: Old Bisbee Ghost Tour: 520-432-3308, <http://www.ldbisbeeghosttour.com/>
Copper Queen Hotel: 520-432-2216, <http://www.copperqueen.com/>

Wild Sky Productions presents Birds of Prey Show in Tombstone

New to Tombstone is the Wild Sky Birds of Prey Show. Three daily shows demonstrate free-flight birds of prey. The fun encounter for the whole family is designed to reveal the environment through imaginative presentations. Show times are daily, 12:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. at the corner of First & Fremont Streets.

Info: www.tombstonechamber.com

Southwest Wings waives registration fee for free programs

This year the 18th Annual Southwest Wings Birding & Nature Festival's free programs will be open to the public. Any resident or visitor can attend without paying the \$15 festival registration fee. Among the 24 free programs are Cochise County's National Wildlife

Refuges with Bill Radke; Nectar Feeding Bats with Ronnie Sidner; Hummingbird Banding with Sheri Williamson & Tom Wood; and Nest Box Building by Mike Guest. The keynote address will feature Kenn Kaufman, who will talk about bird migration from the migrating bird's point of view.

Info: www.swwings.org

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New multi-use path opens in Sierra Vista

Walkers, hikers and bikers have a new fitness path in Sierra Vista. The multi-use path opened this spring. It is a five mile loop that follows Buffalo Soldier Trail, Avenida Cochise and Highway 92. The path is part of an existing 19-mile multi-use network throughout the city. Total mileage for the paths is expected to be 80 miles!

Info: www.ci.sierra-vista.az.us

Double Jack Guesthouse in Bisbee

Visitors can stay in a restored Bisbee guest house built before 1900. The Doublejack Guesthouse, perched hillside in the heart of Old Bisbee, takes its name from the mining term that describes a two-man rock drilling team. It offers dramatic panoramic views of historic downtown Bisbee and Mexico. This charming one-bedroom miner's cottage is located along an old mule path-turned-staircase. It features a king-sized bed, fully-equipped kitchen, central AC, claw foot bathtub, walk-in double shower, flat-screen monitor with DVD/VCR player, movie library, wireless high speed internet and complimentary locally-roasted coffee.

Info: Doublejack Guesthouse, Bisbee, AZ, 520-559-6708,
<http://www.doublejackbisbee.com/>

Tombstone gets 'mini'

Tombstone, the town associated with larger than life characters and tall tales, has gone miniature. Mini golf, that is. Helldorado Town has added a miniature golf to its repertoire. Helldorado Town added gold panning and a mini golf course to the attraction to its Helldorado Mavericks' comedy stunt gunfight, Texas Kate's Wild West Show and petting zoo. Admission to each of the attractions within Helldorado Town ranges from \$2 for children to \$5 for adults. An all-day pass is available for \$19.

Info: Helldorado Town, 520-457-9035 or Tombstone Chamber of Commerce,
www.tombstonechamber.com, 520-457-9317

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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