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Holbrook celebrates with Old West Fest

Old West Fest was held last weekend, with activities throughout including live music, arts, games, rodeo and delicious food. Despite the intense heat, event goers appeared to enjoy the festivities and the opportunity to visit with old friends.

Chili and Chile contest winners included, for chili, Brandon Leanard, first place; Peggy Reid, second place; and Dean Thompson, third place. Chile contest winners included Brandon Leanard, first place; Dean Thompson, second place; and Noemi Montes, third place. There was a total of nine participants.

Photos by Linda Kor



Local artist Liz Nichols was one of many artists who had their work on display and for purchase at Old West Fest.



Six bands competed as part of the Battle of the Bands including the Wasted Phantoms Band (pictured) during Old West Fest.



The cornhole competition brought out some steep competition to the event.



Cowboys and cowgirls took part in the Junior Rodeo and Open Barrel Race.

Summer camps in Indian Wells

Bita Hochee Camps is hosting its 18th year of summer sleep-away camps, including a kids sports camp on its campgrounds at Broken Arrow Chapel in Indian Wells. The two five-day camp sessions are scheduled as follows:

Kids Camp for ages 8 to 11 will be held Monday through Friday, June 24 – 28.

Youth Camp for ages 12-19 will be held Monday through Friday, July 15 through 19.

This month's Kids Camp – "Mega Sports Camp," is a five-day Bible-based sports program. This sleep-away camp for children ages 8 to 11 includes basketball, volleyball, flag football, soccer and gymnastics.

The fee for the camp is $25, which includes all meals and snacks, a camp T-shirt, cool arts & crafts, games and other fun activities. Day-campers are welcome, with daily vans going to the housing in Indian Wells, White Cone and Dilkon.

The camps will take place on our 5.5-acre campground with air-conditioned bunkhouses. Broken Arrow Chapel-Bita Hochee is located at milepost 17 on Navajo Highway 6 (Highway 77) in Indian Wells. For more information on the two summer camps call or text 928-313-3997 or 928-313-3998.

Apache County Attorney Michael Whiting under investigation

By Linda Kor

Apache County Attorney Michael Whiting is under investigation by the Arizona Attorney General's Office. The investigation involves the alleged misuse of public monies, and threatening and intimidating a political opponent. In a letter submitted to the Apache County Board of Supervisors, Attorney General Kris Mayes stated that her office served a warrant on the Apache County Attorney's Office on June 3, and another warrant was also served at Whiting's home address.

Mayes stated, "Seeking and executing a warrant on a county attorney's office was a significant decision that I did not take lightly. Since serving the search warrant, County Attorney Michael Whiting has not returned to the office and attorneys from the office are now calling on him to resign. As the state's chief law enforcement officer, I made the determination that serving a warrant at this time was in the best interest of the State of Arizona and the Apache County Attorney's Office."

Mayes noted that during the investigation, Chief Deputy Celeste Robinson will have full authority to make decisions as if the chief deputy were the county attorney in the absence of County Attorney Whiting.

Mayes added that should County Attorney Whiting return to the Apache County Attorney's Office, he will be required to obtain approval of the Criminal Division Chief of her office before making personnel decisions or expending more than $200.

Supervisors approve Stage 1 fire restrictions

By Shawn White

The Navajo County Board of Supervisors convened for a special meeting last week to address the escalating threat of wildfires. The decision followed a meeting of the White Mountain Fire Coordinating Group (WMFCG) on June 3. This group comprises representatives from Apache and Navajo County Emergency Management, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Arizona State Department of Forestry and Fire Management, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs - Ft. Apache Agency, Northeast Arizona Fire Chiefs Association, and Northeast Arizona Police Association.

The WMFCG aims to create a unified approach to fire restrictions, as well as to disseminate information and education regarding fire safety. The region's coordination on entering and exiting fire restrictions is based on scientific data and expert updates. This cohesive strategy ensures a consistent response across the region.

Current conditions are extremely dry, and the region is expected to experience moderate to high Haines weather, which measures the potential for fires to become larger and spread faster. After discussion of unfavorable weather forecasts, firefighting resource availability, and current forest conditions, the WMFCG voted unanimously to enter Stage 1 fire restrictions. With this restriction, campfires are allowed, but they must be within a developed site.

Although ample resources are available at present, the increasing number of fires could soon strain these resources as they are called upon to assist in other regions. The current state of the land is extremely dry, with little to no relative humidity recovery at night, exacerbating the fire danger.

Navajo County Emergency Management reminds all citizens and visitors that it is never permissible to leave a fire unattended or abandoned without first completely extinguishing it until it is cold to the touch. Multiple human-caused fires have already occurred, highlighting the importance of vigilance. If sparks or embers were to ignite a fire, the potential wildfire could be catastrophic to nearby communities.

Northeast Arizona Technological Institute of Vocational Education School District
Kayenta, Arizona

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Contact: Ron Tsosie
N.A.T.I.V.E. District Office
P.O. Box 710, Kayenta, AZ 86033
Phone: 928-466-8668
Email: ron@nativected.org

HPD investigates one collision

One collision was investigated by Holbrook police officers during the period of May 29 – June 4, according to dispatcher reports.

At 11:22 a.m. on Friday, May 31, a two-vehicle, non-injury collision occurred in the 1300 block of Navajo Blvd. The vehicles involved were a black 2015 Chevy Traverse driven by Aylissa Barton, 20, of Joseph City and a silver 2012 KIA Optima driven by Elijah Ollasarba, 18, of Holbrook. According to the report, Ollasarba was traveling behind Barton. Barton entered into the center lane to turn left and was struck from behind by Ollasarba. Ollasarba was cited for failure to control speed to avoid a collision.

Tony Sanguigni named to Dean's List

GROVE CITY, PA--Tony Sanguigni, an entrepreneurship major at Grove City College from Snowflake, has been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2024 semester. Sanguigni is a 2022 graduate of homeschool and is the son of Thomas and Christine Sanguigni of Snowflake.

Students eligible for the Dean's List have a GPA of 3.40 to 3.59; for the Dean's List with Distinction a GPA of 3.60 to 3.84 and for the Dean's List with High Distinction a GPA of 3.85 to 4.0.

Grove City College is a highly distinctive, nationally ranked comprehensive Christian liberal arts college that equips students to pursue their unique callings through a Christ-centered, academically excellent, and affordable learning and living experience.



IF YOU DON'T BELONG TO A PARTY YOU CAN STILL COME TO THE PARTY.

INDEPENDENTS CAN VOTE IN THE PRIMARY.

The Primary Election is July 30. If you're an Independent and vote by mail, contact your county recorder by July 19 to request a ballot. If you're voting in person, just tell the poll worker which party ballot you want.

Get more info for Independent voters at **azcleanelections.gov.**

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