Ranch opens barn doors to public

By Andreea Cociurean
The Tombstone Epitaph

Apache Spirit Ranch is finally open to the public. The ranch opened more than a year ago to specifically cater to European visitors. Since the change, Apache Spirit Ranch has been advertising locally in newspapers and on the radio, but Julia Hastings said that travel agencies are the most successful method for promoting the ranch.

“We are working with several big travel agencies throughout the whole world,” Julia Hastings said. “We are also on online booking engines like booking.com, Expedia and TopAdviser.”

Even though Apache Spirit Ranch has recently put more emphasis on promoting to the general public, the managers say there is still a high appeal for European guests to visit the ranch.

“The Schieffelin Historic District in regards to a busker’s location, volume and proximity is to other performers. It also requires that the Schieffelin Historic District in regards to an ordinance regulating street performance that Bones ratted followed following citation.

Street performer seeks aid from ACLU in free speech issue

By Rebecca Ritles
The Tombstone Epitaph

A city ordinance regulating street performance is facing a challenge from the American Civil Liberties Union after a local performer questioned whether the rules are constitutional.

Ronald Koch, a Tombstone busker and street performer, is better known as John Bones, the vibrantly dressed one-man-band who can be found slapping his tambourine and jingling bones for tourists on Allen Street.

Bones, who has been performing in Tombstone for five years, contacted the ACLU of Arizona after he was cited in February for violating the ordinance.

The ordinance, passed by the City Council in 2011, restricts performances in the Schieffelin Historic District in regards to a busker’s location, volume and proximity to other performers. It also requires that buskers obtain a permit in order to perform in Tombstone.

Under the ordinance, Bones was required to move from his long-time spot on the Allen Street’s boardwalk near the Shady Lady’s Closet to either the Visitor’s Center or Tombstone City Park. However, Bones said the move greatly affected his business. When he moved to the Visitor’s Center, he was making less than 50 percent of the tips that he made in his previous location because there was less foot traffic in the new area.

“What I do is a wholesome,” the mature love Bones said. “The city was showing that they did not care about my constitutional rights so I went to the ACLU.”

The First and Fourteenth amendments protect the free speech rights of a street performer because the Ninth Circuit recognizes free speech as a form of free speech.

Dan Pochoda, legal director of the ACLU of Arizona, sent a letter to the city attorney of Tombstone on March 7, requesting that the city stop enforcing the ordinance.

The letter states that several provisions of the ordinance “function as unconstitutional prior restraints on speech and have unconstitutionality curtailed Johnny’s and other performers’ First Amendment rights.”

Mayor Schmidt sworn in after recall victory

By Michelle A. Monroe
The Tombstone Epitaph

Steve Schmidt became the new mayor of Tombstone on March 20 at the City Council meeting. Former mayor Jack Henderson left with a standing ovation after his final remarks.

Mayor/Pages 2

By Andreea Cociurean
The Tombstone Epitaph

Julia Hastings, a co-owner of Apache Spirit Ranch, describes the changes she and her husband initiated at the resort’s barn on March 24. The barn and other amenities at the ranch are now open for public use.

“A lot of people have said to us that they love the barn, because they love the animals,” Julia Hastings said. “And we love the barn!”

Mayor/Pages 2

Ranch opens barn doors to public

By Andreea Cociurean
The Tombstone Epitaph

Apache Spirit Ranch is finally open to the public.

The ranch opened more than a year ago to specifically cater to European visitors. After a change in management two months ago, the ranch is going in a new direction by opening its services to a broader range of visitors.

Julia Hastings, a co-owner of Apache Spirit Ranch, describes the changes she and her husband initiated at the resort’s barn on March 24. The barn and other amenities at the ranch are now open for public use.

“Since the change, Apache Spirit Ranch has seen an increase in visitors. This is a first,” Julia Hastings said. “They told me two things when I decided to run for mayor. You can ask for what you want but the second one was ‘There will be a recall.’”

The atmosphere changed, though several months later, Julia Hastings said. “We voted with pretty large numbers and I congratulate you on this, but remember to stay involved in your city and its government,” Henderson said. “To paraphrase an old saying: All it takes for evils to triumph is for good men not to act. So both sides need to back Steve (Schmidt). Let’s move this town forward. You know what I was trying to do for the town, put it. We all vote for Steve for a reason. Put it. Let’s move this town forward.”

Several attendees spoke about Henderson during the call to public address.

“Mayor/Pages 2

By Michelle A. Monroe
The Tombstone Epitaph

It was standing room only at Tombstone’s City Council meeting on March 20 as hundreds of spectators gathered for the changing of the guard.

Jack Henderson made his final remarks as mayor before leaving in arm with his wife to a standing ovation.

“People of Tombstone, I pray I sat some of you down for that, and I’m sorry,” Henderson said. “Many of the difficult decisions however I would still stand by, even with the consequences.”

More than 500 people voted in the recall election, which was held on March 13. “I want to thank, either my love, my friend, my significant other,” Henderson said. “She told me two things when I decided to run for mayor. You can ask for what you want but the second one was ‘There will be a recall.’”

The audience laughed, though several members laughed between sobs.

“We voted with pretty large numbers and I congratulate you on this, but remember to stay involved in your city and its government,” Henderson said. “To paraphrase an old saying: All it takes for evils to triumph is for good men not to act. So both sides need to back Steve (Schmidt). Let’s move this town forward. You know what I was trying to do for the town, put it. We all vote for Steve for a reason. Put it. Let’s move this town forward.”

Several attendees spoke about Henderson during the call to public address.

“With a great deal of sorrow that we see Jack (Henderson) step down, we can only hope Steve (Schmidt) will carry on the things that Jack initiated and not yet completed,” said Bussing. “We’re very sad to lose you.”

Other residents said they believed Henderson losing the recall election was appealing because he made the right calls after the pipeline was broken.

“In all the years I’ve lived here, I cannot recall a mayor who has faced so many issues from Bayreuth, Germany. welcome sight for the ranch supervisors because their busy season is typically during the summer vacation months, June through August.

“The city is a valuable asset from us. We’re very sad to lose you.”

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“In all the years I’ve lived here, I cannot recall a mayor who has faced so many issues
Senior citizens strong-arm their way to top of Arizona records

By Sam Grossman

Most people believe powerlifters are young, muscular, and strong. Don’t tell that to other Donald Judd or Gene Lawrence. The two continue to break records at 74 and 72 respectively.

Cold Iron Gym hosted the Second Annual U.S. Powerlifting Federation Region 7 Championship Meet on Saturday, March 24. Region 7 consists of Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, North and South Mexico.

Powerlifting is a sport that requires strength and endurance, and the competitions are broken down into three categories: squat, bench press, and deadlift. Each person has three attempts at each, adding more weight each time, with the goal of breaking records. And that’s exactly what Lawrence and Judd did.

Judd started powerlifting when he was young. He coached the sport for 50 years, and has broken the state record for 60 and up masters class. Lawrence, a 1984 graduate of the University of Arizona, has been powerlifting for 10 years — short a time for a man who has three world records, including a 407-pound deadlift in the 300-pound weight class in 2010, which he set to break the record for the 60-64 age group.

Lawrence decided to begin competing in powerlifting at the age of 53 because he said he started getting out of shape and wanted to do something about it.

“I was getting to the point where I just wanted to feel strong again,” Lawrence said. “I made friends with personal trainers and they pretty much forced me into a powerlifting competition.”

People keeping them was too old, but Lawrence and Judd said that just added to the motivation to already had in wanting to get into shape. He completed his first meet with a bang, setting two national records, and has since inspired his grandkids.

Before Saturday’s meet, Lawrence said he hoped to set records in his division, which is age 70 and over, in the weight class between 220 and 242 pounds. He achieved his goal, setting three state records, including a bench press of 220 pounds, breaking the previous record by 20 pounds.

“I feel good,” Lawrence said. “Not the best I’ve ever done, but I feel good.” He said he is excited for his next competition, which is April 1 in Phoenix.

Like Lawrence, Judd headlined into Saturday’s meet hoping to break state records. While he didn’t do quite as well as he wanted, he was able to set a new Arizona state record for the 70 to 74-year-old, 165-pound group, squatting 226 pounds. Judd came extremely close to breaking the Arizona state record on the bench, but couldn’t quite put up the attempt. He ended up 32.6 pounds on either the first or second attempts.

“I felt short on the deadlift and bench,” Judd said. He said what makes not breaking the records even harder is that after July he will be in the 75 to 79 age group.

“At least I totalled,” Judd said. “I didn’t bomb.”

There was a big crowd out to watch Lawrence, Judd and 20 others compete.

Region 7 and Arizona chairwoman Donna Eldridge was very excited about the meet. This is Cold Iron Gym’s second meet owners have hosted in seven years, and they will be hosting in third meet next month.

According to Eldridge, whose daughter Sheri Hartmann owns Cold Iron Gym, they meet owners have hosted in seven years, and they will be hosting in third meet next month.

“I do these events to keep our gym members and the community involved,” Eldridge said. “It’s a way to top of Arizona records.”

Pochoda referred to Berger v. City of Seattle, the Supreme Court case that stated that it’s affirmative to the rights of the First Amendment for the government to require citizens to obtain a permit to practice free speech anywhere within the city if it has included that the permit requirement be ‘reasonable and necessary’ to achieve the valid government interest.

According to Bones, City Attorney P. Randall Bays sent notices to the owners of Lady’s Closet. He will appear in the Magistrate Court on April 19 regarding his Feb. 9 citation for violating the busking ordinance.

No one knows it better than a year if they did not enjoy what they did,” Gosselin said. “It’s a job you get to love, or you are not going to make it.”

While Gosselin said she is honored and flattered by the nomination she said it’s enough to feel appreciated by far professionals and students.


gene lawrence, 72, breaks an arizona state record for his division, bench pressing 220 pounds at the second annual u.s. powerlifting federation region 7 championship meet on march 24.

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Special education teacher receives gold star for efforts

By Samantha Muxey

The Tombstone Epitaph

It is a large high school classroom filled with desks and colorful student projects lining the walls, transition and special education teacher Kimberly Hansen calls it “home.”

Hansen, owner of an online store, writing notes and planning for the day.

“It really varies what I do day-to-day,” Hansen said. “How the day goes is that after school I have the records even harder is that after July he will be in the 75 to 79 age group.

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**Volunteer efforts crescendo with benefit concert**

**By Armanda Sady**

The Tombstone Epitaph

Michael Grande, a guitarist, played a benefit concert at Schieffelin Hall on Saturday to aid the Tombstone City Archives.

Grande has played concerts internationally, ranging from Carnegie Hall to Country Thunder. Although he has traveled the world, he has a soft spot for Tombstone.

"I love all the history," he said. "It's the music I love. It's the beautiful town. I love the wildlife and being around the horses, and really the people. The people are just so sweet." Grande said he wanted to perform at the benefit because he believes that the history in important and America is beginning to forget to honor it.

"It's all America, and America is losing its roots. I believe that when you are away from here, you can't defend it. To save some- thing you have to put your best foot forward. Right now we are coming here...Any time you can save the archives or the history of a great place, it's important."

Nancy Sosa opened the concert by explaining what is special about the archives.

"We have over 131 years of history in one of the most historic homes in town," she said.

"We do have a grant that is in process right now, due in June, and I'm almost done with it," the grant has funded Sosa's work with the Arizona Memory Project. The grant has continued to grow, despite being funded completely by donations. "It's going well," Sosa said. "We're getting some rolling shelves, which is what we need." The money raised from the concert tickets would have paid for the shelves. Sosa said. However, now it will go toward affor- ding monthly utility. She said she has sup- port within the city as well as nationally. "I have a lot of background support," she said. "What we need is more of those people to step forward.

The archives are an attraction to many out- side Tombstone: "I'm going on mine tours last night because I flew in from Arizona just to come and look at the mines," said Carey Granger.

Sosa said that the archives sometimes get lost in the shuffle. "They think the money is going out of the general fund, and it's not. Every single penny is donated. I'm even paid by donations." Grande said that the Western music he performs relates directly to the history of the West and the figures that settled it.

"If you take a western song and you speed it up, you get the polka tune. Lonesome is closer, he said. Settlers from countries such as Germany and Switzerland often moored their music with the local wind.

"Here, the music evolved with the Span- ish influences," Grande said. "At first, they weren't playing the guitar. When they mar- ried the influence with the Spanish guitar, they could slow it down and do that western stuff.

Many members of the audience attended to see Grande, as well as help the archives.

"I've been reading about Michael (Grande) for a while and I want to see him perform," said Tombstone resident Charlotte Gilber. "And seeing our history. That's what this town is all about." Mary Roach and her husband, Doc Roach, have lived in Tombstone for four years and said they attended to support the archives.

"We're very interested in our history," Roach said. "I think it really can con- tribute a lot to the community, because if people really look, they can see a lot more history than what you can see on the street."
As Arizona temperatures rise and the days become longer, cyclists cruise the trails and roads under desirable and ideal conditions. Tombstone fits the ideal.

Cyclist members of the Greater Arizona Bicycling Association pedaled through Tombstone last weekend for the annual tour from Sonoita to Bisbee. The 129.5-mile two-day ride financially contributes to the cowboy town of Tombstone, as cyclists took a much-needed break to dine and shop on notorious Allen Street.

“It’s a bicycle tour, so that’s why people stop and spend time to eat and shop. It’s not a race,” said Ike Smith, a GABA ride organizer. “Tombstone is about halfway, and it’s a great attraction.”

Chuck Martin, a GABA volunteer, said his favorite thing to do in Tombstone is watch the gun fighting shows and stop in at the Rose Tree Museum.

“We like Tombstone and Bisbee, and have done the tour about five times now,” said cyclist Nancy O’Leary. “This year we went to see the giant rosebush and it’s starting to bloom, so that was great.”

Most bike events are beneficial to the town, said Charlie Frazier, a Rose Tree Museum employee. He said he enjoys talking to the cyclists when they visit. “Those bikers are not afraid to spend money,” Frazier said.

GABA is a 600-member, non-profit organization that promotes interest and involvement in all aspects of cycling. The organization puts on bike rides all year, including day rides and overnight rides, in which cyclists can choose to ride in groups or alone.

The tour to Bisbee is a unique ride that’s not too strenuous, Smith said. Smith said this particular tour costs approximately $70 per person. This spring, there were 36 riders who participated in the tour.

Smith has previously ridden in the tour and he said GABA is always looking to get more cyclists involved. “Cyclists are always a friendly bunch, so we use cyclists on the road and ask them to come to our meetings and become involved,” he said.

Martin also emphasized that safety is extremely important to the organization, and during each tour, specific measures are taken to ensure all the participants are well taken care of and as safe as possible.

“We have support on the road. We have what we call a “sweep,” which is when someone drives behind the cyclist group. And if someone has a mechanical breakdown or is physically unable to continue, we will load the bike up and drive them to the next site,” Martin said.

In addition to the GABA cyclist tour, the Arizona Desert Training Camp Pacific Atlantic Cycling Tour incorporates Tombstone on its route, also generating revenue for the town. This popular annual ride emphasizes that it is for cyclists who are looking for a fun experience with less focus on training and fitness. The PAC tour is almost a week long, making it a bit different from the GABA two-day event.

The “Tour of the Historic Towns and Hotels” is the easiest of all of the PAC Tour Desert Camp formats. This specific tour begins in Tucson and lands itself in Tombstone on the second day, where cyclists have a free evening to explore the town before they continue on to Bisbee and Benson.