The Tombstone Epitaph.

Rounding Up Tombstone in Brief.

Low on experience, but full of vision.

Thuba Nguyen

The council is scheduled to meet Feb. 15.

New arsenic regulation forces change

Photo by Laurie Lane / Epitaph

The Bush administration has imple-

Photo by Thuba Nguyen / Epitaph

organizers for Ed Schieffelin Territory Days re-

Organizers for Ed Schieffelin Territory Days received a boost to their coffers after the Council agreed Tuesday to give $3,500 toward an improved event.

Tombstone Chamber of Commerce president and event chairman Laura Lane Correia said, "The new standard will affect two city water systems. We're trying to empower some of those systems with the tools to be compliant."

"We're trying to empower some of those systems with the tools to be compliant," said Correia. But the city does not know what the exact cost of the treatment is or how much it will cost. The grant is for $3,500, but the city does not know how much it will cost to treat the water. The city does not have a grant writer to pursue the grant.

The council confirmed its decision to renovate the existing town senior center, 511 E. Toughnut St., instead of building a new facility. The council is scheduled to meet Feb. 15.

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New fire district within reach

Hillary Davis

The Tombstone Fire Department is making progress in its quest to become an official fire district. By the end of the year, the district will have an election to be held Oct. 1, and, if there is a majority vote, the fire district will be formed.

“Then the department has about a third of its growth in the fiscal district,” said operational director Dave DeJournett, who runs the fire district. “We’re a small town, but we have a big city concern.

Villa said that the department has about 22 full-time firefighters who are 24 hours on site. They have a small department that consists of 45 minutes, depending on who can respond and the turnover.

The town was under staffed until the 1980s, when Tombstone firefighters started living in the area and their priorities started to change. They started to fight more fires and make more runs. They started to provide more service for the community.

The Tombstone fire district board has near- ly 15 years of experience in the community. They have a good track record and are well respected.

The fire district will provide more services to the community, such as fire prevention and education programs. They will have fire inspectors and backup roster of volunteers.

The new mayor lays out some key issues to address during his term

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Jacqueline Maran

The Tombstone Epitaph

Tombstone has two brand new stage-coaches, but they resemble the original the Tombstone stage-coaches used in the 1880s by Wells Fargo.

They're the identical replica, except for an inch because Wells Fargo has them patented," said Cheri Escapule, 49, owner of the new stagecoach and Old Tombstone Tours.

The new stagecoaches mirror the Wells Fargo Concord and are the talk of the town. Some people say it will bring back the authenticity of the way stagecoaches used to be.

It's more authentic and original looking. It's what people expect to see when they see a stagecoach, said Jeff Pickern, 50, stagecoach owner.

Tombstone's historical board is encouraging people to keep important things. Board men want to restore the way Tombstone used to be decades ago.

"There was a need for something more authentic, something people can relate to," Escapule said.

She said that many tourists come to Tombstone looking for things that remind them of what a real stagecoach is something that can fulfill those expectations.

"They come and think, 'that doesn't look like the one I saw in the movie,'" Escapule said.

She said she hopes the new stagecoaches will fulfill Tombstone visitors' needs.

The new stagecoaches were built by Fred Longmire, owner of Stage Line Tours.

They took nine years to build and cost $35,000.

They hold nine people and are pulled by two horses.

It's a leather rack-and-roll, hand made," Escapule said.

She explained the "rack and roll" as being six bands that are put together, he said with pride.

"It's leather, so it's soft, and it's warm," he said.

Ride prices will go up because of the expense of the new stagecoaches.

"I haven't raised my prices in 10 years," it's time," Escapule said.

The new prices will be $55 for adults, $7 for seniors and $8 for children.

"Hey, it's the Rolls-Royce of stagecoaches," she said.

New stagecoach ready to roll

Francisco and Maria Villa, happily married for 63 years, both came from extended families where divorce was non-existent.

Francisco, 90, believes his marriage has been successful because of the emphasis on the family by the family of both Maria and Francisco and because of the love she has for him.

Francisco "Pancho" Villa and his wife Maria, the couple with the longest marriage in Tombstone at 63 years, plan on spending Valentine's Day quietly gardening at their modest Tombstone home, without exchanging gifts.

“We'll send something to our grandkids, but I won't get him anything," Maria said, with a dismissive wave of her hand.

If the weather is warm enough, they might just spend the day in the garden tending lovingly over which she has worked tirelessly.

Lusting marriages just might ruin it in the heart of the Tombstone people, who came to Arizona from Chihuahua, Mexico, in the late 1950s.

Neither side of their families has had a divorce.

Francisco, 90, believes his marriage has been successful because of the emphasis of the family and his love for his wife, but it seems to be the same for them too.

“We've always been focused on our family and concerned about it," Francisco said.

"Nobody gets divorced in our family and everything is something that's very important to us.

Though Maria was 19 and Francisco 27 years old when they married in 1941, they said they were married when she was seven or eight.

"When I first met him she was my wedding dress and just a little girl," Francisco said. "I didn't play any wedding games and I was a little girl for some time and came back, and when I was I never wanted to marry her again.

In 1951, Francisco helped a friend bring horses from a ranch in Mexico to Douglas. He said his friend wanted to go on a ranch near Tombstone, and that is where he is.

"It was a pain," Francisco said.

"People said it was going to be a big marriage, but I never wanted to get married, I just wanted to work," he said.

After getting his visa and working in Arizona for two years, Maria met him in Tombstone when they raised their four children.

Both Maria and Francisco were drawn to Tombstone by the intimacy and connectedness of the town, which remind them of the close-knit communities in Chihuahua.

When they first came to Tombstone, it was much smaller than it is now.

"It was just a few old houses and a rancher's compound.

Everyone was friendly and knew each other.

"It was like a family then," he said.

"It's really changed today, now it's all new and it's young," Maria said, as she felt like I don't know anybody anymore.

Regardless of the expansion of the Tombstone that the Villa's have seen it their years in Arizona, they are proud of contributing to Arizona and working as a rancher who has helped the community survive.

"We were just too busy to fight," Francisco said. "We were taking care of our kids and saving a sanity. But sometimes we're like any other couple."

Though Valentine's Day might be spent as any other day for the couple, they do enjoy spending time together outside their cozy ranch house on Fort Apache Road where they profit and other company's most.

"Working in the gardens is the fun- way to spend time with her," Francisco said.

"We never say things to put plain and hard to do things, but I always like her company."
Rock climbing in historic, rugged Cochise Stronghold beckons fearless adventurers

Hillary Davis / The Tombstone Epitaph

The scene at Cochise Stronghold is a high desert pastiche. Tall grasses, the color of dried corn husks provide a thick blanket for slender yucca, prickly cactus. Majestic mesquite and oak, and hardy, low desert pastoral. Tall grasses, the color of dried corn husks provide a thick blanket for slender yucca, prickly cactus. Majestic mesquite and oak, and hardy, low desert pastoral.

Clockwise from top: Jon Gleeson of Phoenix sheds light on Cochise Stronghold; Tom Parchman of Las Cruces, N.M., is only a speck on the cliffside. Howard practices his rock craft. Rock climbing in historic, rugged Cochise Stronghold beckons fearless adventurers.

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by the 1960s, climbers began recording their ascents and pushing standards of difficulty. Many of today's most-monumental routes were established over the 1970s and 80s. Dave Baker was just out of high school when he and a few friends began visiting the Stronghold in the early 1970s. Baker, 53, retired from climbing and teaching on February 11, 2005.
Tombstone’s tourism has timeless appeal

Larry Noyes, reporter for the Tombstone Ranger, has lived in Tombstone for four years.

He said that when he had a heart attack he was showered with cards, letters and money.

“I love it here. The people, the whole community pulls together like a big family,” Noyes said.

Ronald Southerd, an actor who played Morgan and Wyatt Earp during the gunfight reenactments said people want to see history in action.

“When he goes out in public, like to dinner with his wife, Southerd always stays in character. He said he personifies Wyatt Earp to keep the history alive for visitors who want to see how Tombstone used to be.

Even the town motto has a history. It was the slogan of the Tombstone Epitaph, William Kelly who wrote, sometime around 1929, “The Spirit of Tombstone is to never say die,” said Traywick in his book, “The Tombstone Epitaph: A Gothic Philip Charm.”

It was not just irony, but clever marketing that inspired the town’s people to change the motto to the now famous expression.

“There’s a thousand years built in publicity,” said Traywick.

Think about it.

Whatever the magnetism, Tombstone, a registered historic landmark, still draws crowds. Whether it is the silver fever, the lure of the Old West, or the desire to preserve the past, people are still coming to experience Tombstone’s mystique.

Though the season is slow now, Southerd said, in two or three weeks there will be plenty of people interested in learning about Tombstone.

Frank Zagar of Phoenics had the day off. He said he has been to Tombstone before, but decided to come again because he liked the old west and the culture.

“It’s still here. That’s the thing,” Zagar said.

Tourism decline blamed on slow economy, Iraq war

President George W. Bush was enroute to office last month for his second term, and some Tombstone residents say their main concern for the next four years is tourism.

Ellie Moore, 47 and owner of the Tiger Trading Co., said she has seen a decline in tourism in the past four years, which she blamed back to the war in Iraq and the slow economy.

“This war mentality” that U.S. citizens now have keeps the crowd who normally travel at home, Moore said.

“People are not traveling and people are not spending,” she said. “People hoist to spend $50 on something.”

International travelers have been especially scarce in Tombstone for the past couple of years, Moore said.

“There are no German tourists, no Italian tourists, and you can forget about the Japanese,” she said. However Marc Luna, a Best Western employee, said he hasn’t noticed a decline in international travel and had some European tourists stay at the motel as recently as last week.

Luna said he noticed a decrease in international tourists around Allen Street.

Larry, 32, said last week’s occupation was at 85 percent, which is about normal compared to previous years.

“The time compared to last year was about the same,” he said.

Moore said aside from tourism, investments in the stock market are a major concern for her and many other Tombstone residents.

Moore said she lost around $600,000 in the last four years and went from being almost a millionaire having little money, which was scary.

“I have faith in myself and my abilities,” she said.

Morgan Hall, 22, said while tourism is crucial for Tombstone’s economy, national politics does not seem so important as local politics.

“Tombstone’s economy, national politics do not seem as important as local politics,” she said.

Hall said electing a mayor last year, not the President, was important.

“Everyone has said it was the mayoral election more than the presidential election because the nation has not seen good candidates from either side.”

Epitaph Crossword

by Shawn Patrick Green / Epitaph

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2. Pinaxton’s jacket material
3. 16
4. Fu
5. Satire
6. Ornamental bag for women
7. Charity recipient
8. Compost
9. Net no
10. 17
11. 21
12. 26
13. 27
14. 28
15. 29
16. 30
17. 31
18. 32
19. 33
20. 34
21. 35
22. 36
23. 37
24. 38

Down
1. Hippy color-scheme
2. Museum worthy
3. Down
4. Heard in a canyon
5. Kiln
6. Spinning toy
7. Prefix for “to the left”
8. Whips
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Dance
Dance the evening away and get a chance to win a “romantic stay.” This Sunday, at the Sweetheart Street Dance. Those who attend can have fun and support Tombstone, said Laura Windholz, co-owner of Patty Espresso and Tombstone Silver Club’s director of operations.

It’s also a great opportunity to listen to some good music. For Kicks, a country western band will be performing live.

Admission is free, but participants can purchase raffle tickets. Prizes include chocolate and wine.

The Tombstone Vigeilante will hold a bake sale for scholarships, according to Windholz. Tombstone resident Tom McClure said people should go because “it helps to promote the community.”

Tombstone Silver Club “People Promoting Tombstone,” sponsors the event.

Live music, dancing to support city

Jennifer Elmer

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Girls softball team starts season with high hopes

Yeowelljackets return to '05 after most successful season in school history in '04

Charles Beany
The Tombstone Epitaph

Coming off the best season in school history, the Tombstone High School girls varsity softball team hopes to go even deeper into the state playoffs this season.

Last year, the Yellowjackets went 14-8, leaving the school as the district runner-up, but finished third in the state playoffs, losing in the quarterfinals before losing to eventual state champion Northwest Christian Community Christian 14-8.

"It let us know where we stand and where we need to get," said head coach Robert Devere about the team's run. "We're excited to return to '05 after the Yellowjackets season with high hopes.

Devere said the experience and leadership that has been gained in those games along with region foes Pusch Ridge and Benson.

"Our experience often runs into one another," said Devere. "They bring great expectations for the season now.

One area that could hurt Tombstone in the early season is the Yellowjackets' defense. "We have great expectations for the season," said Devere.

Due to print deadlines, The Tombstone Epitaph was unable to publish a story highlighting last night's 2A Desert Region playoff game between the Tombstone and St. Gregory girls basketball teams last night.

The Lions and Yellowjackets played last night in Casa Grande with the winner getting an automatic berth in the state playoffs. The loser's season is over.

The Tombstone High School varsity girls basketball team walks back to the bench during a timeout of their first regular season game Feb. 11 in Benson. The Yellowjackets won the game, 57-35.

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