Cochrane County’s top cop takes leadership role on immigration

By Devlin Houser

When he began his college career 40 years ago, Cochise County Sheriff Larry Dever had already spent two years doing prison work in Yuma, Arizona, carting there with his family and his wife. These days, Dever is on the National Sheriffs’ Association board of directors, and in September was elected chair of the Southwest Border Sheriffs’ Coalition, which was formed in 2007. The coalition’s goal, Dever said, is to increase communication among sheriffs in the border region and lobby Congress for tighter border security.

Dever, along with Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu, is also the poster child on bordersheriffs.com, a website soliciting donations for legal defense in lawsuits by the ACLU and the federal government over Arizona’s SB 1070. The law, if implemented in full, would criminalize all law enforcement agencies in arizona for federal immigration laws, though a federal judge ultimately froze the law.

The law was developed in the wake of several illegal immigration laws that have been passed in other states, including Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona.

The law was first proposed by the Arizona legislature in 2006, and was signed into law by Governor Janet Napolitano in May 2006. The law allows law enforcement agencies in Arizona to ask law enforcement agencies in other states to assist in enforcing the law.

The law was challenged in court, and ultimately overturned by a federal judge.

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The team practice football on a vacant lot at the new Tombstone High School on Wednesday, Sept. 15. Currently the school is unable to afford building new facilities for its outdoor sports until the old school is sold.
Tombstone takes steps to preserve its history

By Kate Banao
The Tombstone Epitaph

Tombstone, Arizona (September 24, 2010) — Tourists come from all over the world to take a walk through Tombstone’s authentic history. What they don’t see is the time and effort spent keeping the “town too tough to die” alive.

Game restrictions, museums filled with artifacts and people dressed from head to toe in old western attire are just a big part of the authenticity of this town — an attraction for both visitors, graffiti and long hours of upkeep for preservation plus just as big of a role.

One artist-of-few can stroll through the Bird Cage Theatre and amateur where western history is wondrously outdoors, dotted and even shot in color.

One can see more recent history of Tombstone’s historical markings on the walls.

“Tombstone is absolutely disappearing,” Bird Cage Theatre employee Laura Shade said. “On a couple of walls, people have written their names, their initials, love notes and cut pieces of timbers out of the walls and have even written in row houses — it’s absolutely heartbreaking.”

Shade said it’s even odder for her to see because of the building’s authenticity and having survived fire in 1881 and 1882.

Whether touring the Bird Cage or walking outside and coming in through the open, Tombstone Courthouse Manager Patricia Morrow said she nearly got caught.

“Tombstone comes to life when you come in and do whatever they want to do that we can accommodate,” Dibble said. “It’s very busy. It’s better than it thought it would be. It’s very rewarding.”

The center is open Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and offers free lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. as well as classes. The center also offers a weekly dance class on Thursdays, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

When the city applied for a grant to repair the old high school and open the center in 2004, officials said the center would benefit an estimated 698 people and that senior membership.

Before the city took over in July, the center was being run “like a private club,” according to Debbie Hankeld, volunteer at the center today and a critic of previous social services.volunteer complex.

“We don’t have members as they used to have members,” Shade said. “We now have a card system. We said, ‘Hey, why don’t you sign up?’”

She called and everyone participates now.

“The city took over in July of 2005, used to manage her husband’s construction company,” Shade said. “Basically running a restaurant is what I feel like I’m doing, but I really like it.”

Dibble said the visitors seem happy, too.

“I love it. It’s very busy. It’s a lot busier than I thought it would be. It’s very rewarding.”

Deborah Hankeld Center Manager

Senior center thrives under new manager

By Alison Woon

Tombstone’s senior center, located at 101 E. Tough St., has undergone some changes since July.

The center was run by Barbara Hankeld, the manager for Tombstone’s community assessor office.

“It was designed so as to allow the students to be able to take ‘virtual field trips’,” Fenton explained. “This will not hinder the communication or collaborative and higher level technology. The teachers want the students to be able to take more field trips and with the help of this new technology, students are going to be able to take ‘virtual full field trips’.

Teachers are not only getting pleasure out of seeing their students engaging in higher level learning, but they are getting other benefits as well.

For example, teachers are now able to grade documents and drop them into car’s on the internet.

This avoids having to manually bring graded documents to offices throughout the school.

The technology is hopefully going to stimulate the students to want to learn, to be better, to improve, to grade on.

In previous years, students’ math and science grades were not meeting passing standards.

“With the science grade, our students are going to increase in students’ grades due to the collaborative and higher-level technology.

Grant spurs school’s latest technology training

By Samantha Silberman
The Tombstone Epitaph

Students in the Tombstone Unified School District have the opportunity to work with high-level technology thanks to a $40,000 Arizona grant.

The grant is part of the Enhancing Education Through Technology, State Program (EETT).

As part of the grant, the school must purchase 25 percent of the money for professional development, said Jeanne Voyten, a full-time computer and library assistant at W. J. Meyer Elementary School.

She also has the capability to use a special pointer that can write on and erase markings that are put on the screen, which provides an additional tool for the student who learns visually and creates collaboration between teachers and students.

More than half of the teachers at the school are participating in a 40-hour class that teaches them how to develop higher level thinking skills.

“We were one of 11 districts to receive this grant,” said Karl Uhrbom, Tombstone Unified School District superintendent.

The main reason for educating the students with this new technology is to encourage them to be collaborative, strong learners so the teacher can focus on new environments.

The technology will make it easier for the students to adjust from learning new skills in a classroom to learning new skills outside of the classroom.

For example, learning could potentially occur on the banks of the San Pedro River.

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Tombstone High School digs in for needed renovations

By Samantha Silberman
The Tombstone Epitaph

Tombstone High School is to undergo repairs related to structural deficiencies. The repairs started on Sept. 20.

Principal Robert Decik is also the head of maintenance. Richard Fenton is the head of maintenance at the high school and will oversee the project.

The estimated time of the repairs is 90 days. It will cost about $230,000, according to a release from school officials.

Fortunately, the school will not be handing. This project will be funded by the Arizona School Facilities Board.

The Arizona School Facilities Board paid for the school, but the school would not otherwise be able to afford it.

Fenton explained that the original redesign plan had many problems.

In the original plans, Fenton said, the fire suppression and water system were joined together as the time of original construction.

“It was designed so as to allow the domestic water and fire water to input into the system together and that was separate for the building,” Fenton said. “The fire suppression would have to be handled as a test.

Another major change that will occur is moving some of the administration offices from the high school to the W. J. Meyer Elementary School where they have extra classrooms.

Fenton said, “They are using approximately five classrooms for the new District office. This will not hinder the communication between the teachers and the students. They are primarily located in a different building and will continue as usual.”

This move should be finished by Dec. 1.

Another major change the school has faced is the concrete between the two major buildings. According to Fenton, there is a problem with the slope of the concrete.

The concrete is falling into the building rather than staying flat.

Fenton said that the way to fix this is by removing the concrete that is currently there, fixing the slope, and then re-pouring new concrete onto the area.

On top of the changes to the building’s environment, Monday, Sept. 20, takes her six hours to clean the display cases in one room alone.

Even a simple cleaning in the courtroom is tiresome. All of the original chairs must be completely cleaned before the room is used and the floors are cleaned along with the picture frame and natural light either, and further steps were made to reduce any possible damage: the windows and the UV-protecting film and the light bulbs have UV-protectors on them.

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To top off the changes to the building’s environment, Monday, Sept. 28, takes her six hours to clean the display cases in one room alone.

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Tombstone loses champion of the arts

By James Bourland

Actor and playwright Robert “Bob” Hoskin died Sept. 7 at the age of 85. Hoskin lived in Tombstone for 28 years and was a member of the Tombstone Repertory Company and the Tombstone Vigilantes.

Hoskin produced several plays, including “Strange Cuckoo,” “The Medici Secret,” “The Days of Tombstone” and “The Chameleon,” according to TRC actress Barbara Howard.

“He was just a great friend… he had such a strong demeanor about him.”

Roberta Elford, Actress, member of TRC

One of Hoskin’s passions was art. Shakespeare once said, “all the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.”

As far as Tombstone is concerned, the city is now missing one of its favorite players.

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As talented as he was through the theater, Davis also remembers that Hoskin did more than just his theatrical and canvas work. “I feel very privileged, because I think I’m the only one who has a self-portrait of Bob,” Elford said.

“With Bob, it was one of these things where we just clicked.”

Elford said. “We’ve also kept in touch, it was like having a big brother to me. He was just a great friend. He had such a strong demeanor about him.”

Through the month of October, TRC will perform his last play, “Doctor Claudinot and the Boot Hill Body Shop,” at Schelliffin Hall and give a brief farewell-speech after every show, according to Howard.

“We are in the process of rehearsing for Bob’s last play,” Howard said. “I do feel very honored to be in it. His last play is extremely funny. It’s got a few little digs about Tombstone in there.”

Along with the play, Howard said that attendees will also be able to look at the self-portrait of Tombstone’s champion of the arts. “We’re going to miss a very good man that was a gentleman, had lots of charms, (and) the various just loved him,” Elford said. “They’re going to miss a wonderful character of Tombstone.”

For friends and co-workers of Hoskin, there will be a memorial for Hoskin Sept. 22 at Schelliffin Hall.

To attend the event, contact Barbara Howard at 928-457-4480.

Details:
If you go
What: “Doctor Claudinot and the Boot Hill Body Shop”
Where: Schelliffin Hall
Hours: Saturday, performances begin @ 7 p.m.
Sunday, performances begin @ 3 p.m.
Details: Bob Hoskin’s final play
More Information: Play will run all weekends in October

Apache Spirit Ranch: Adding the finishing touches

By James Bourland

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