



The Spirit of Christmas

As the holiday season approaches, the air is filled with a palpable sense of warmth and anticipation. Streets are adorned with twinkling lights, storefronts showcase festive decorations, and familiar melodies of holiday songs fill the air. It is the time of year when the spirit of Christmas takes hold, reminding us of the values that truly matter - love, generosity, and joy.

The spirit of Christmas is not merely about the exchange of gifts or the indulgence in delicious feasts. It is a time when communities come together, transcending differences and fostering a sense of unity and compassion. It is a reminder that, regardless of our backgrounds or beliefs, we are all connected by our shared humanity.

One of the most beautiful aspects of the Christmas spirit is its ability to inspire acts of kindness and generosity. During this season, individuals and organizations extend a helping hand to those in need, embodying the true essence of selflessness.

Whether it is donating to charitable causes, volunteering at shelters, or simply reaching out to a neighbor in need, the spirit of Christmas encourages us to look beyond ourselves and make a positive impact in the lives of others.

Moreover, the spirit of

Christmas rekindles our capacity for love and forgiveness. It is a time for families and friends to gather, to embrace one another, and to create cherished memories. It is an opportunity to set aside grievances and replace them with forgiveness and understanding. In a world often marked by division and discord, the spirit of Christmas serves as a gentle reminder that love has the power to heal and unite.

Christmas also brings with it a unique sense of joy and wonder. The excitement of children, their eyes lighting up at the sight of beautifully wrapped presents, is a testament to the magic that permeates the season. From decorating homes with tinsel and ornaments to baking cookies and singing carols, the spirit of Christmas invites us to embrace childlike joy and immerse ourselves in the enchantment of the season.

In recent times, the world has faced numerous challenges and uncertainties. However, the spirit of Christmas remains unwavering, reminding us of the resilience and strength within us all. It serves as a beacon of hope, urging us to focus on the blessings we have and to extend a helping hand to those who may be struggling.

So, as the holiday season unfolds, let us embrace the spirit of Christmas wholeheartedly. Let us embody kindness, generosity, and love in our actions, and let us share the joy and warmth of the season with those around us. In doing so, we can create a world where the spirit of Christmas lives not just during this season, but throughout the year.

As we gather with loved ones, exchange gifts, and celebrate the magic of Christmas, let us remember that the true spirit of the season lies not in the material trappings, but in the love we share and the connections we forge. May the spirit of Christmas fill our hearts and guide us towards a brighter, more compassionate future.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friends,

I would like to introduce myself for those that don't know me. I am a 55-year-old Christian, and have been happily (mostly, LOL) married to my first wife, Dee for over 30 years now. You may know her from the Kiwanis Thrift Store. We have 2 daughters, with 5 grandchildren and 2 of them have blessed us with 2 incredible great-grandchildren.

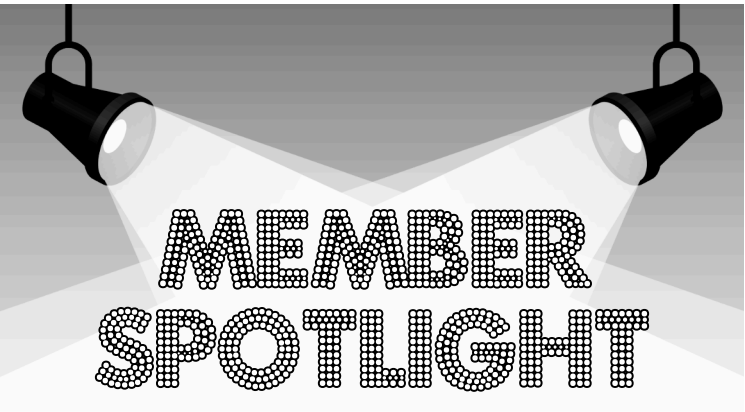
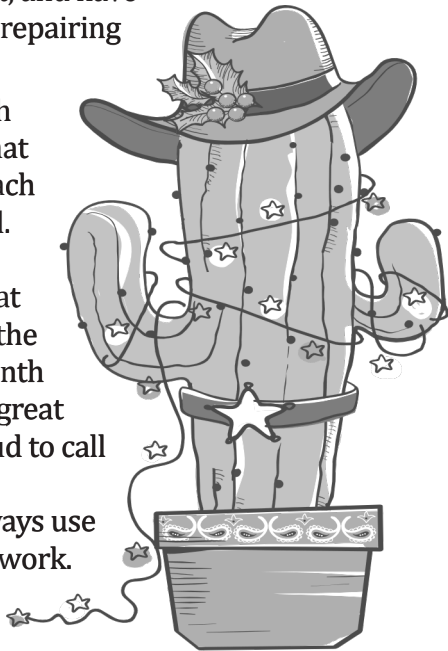
Before moving here, we lived in Colcord Estates, near Christopher Creek for over 22 years. We owned and operated several water utility systems there for over 16 years. I am a certified water distribution/treatment operator with ADEQ, was a Firefighter/EMT for CKFD (trained right here in Tonto), and their District Board Treasurer for many years. I am also certified in computer/general electronics. (No, I don't do computer repair). I am presently working with SRP to be their Community Ambassador for some major projects they are planning in this area. Finally, as a recovering Alcoholic/Addict with over 5 years sobriety, I started a



Celebrate Recovery program here at DCCF Church. I am honored to serve with the local Kiwanis and this Chamber of Commerce. I see a bright future for both, and for what they do for this Community. We are looking forward to many improvements to the Chamber building, organization, and service. Obviously, we've started this newsletter, rebuilt our digital presence, setup and phone system to easily contact, and have begun cleaning up and repairing the building.

Our Board is filled with some awesome folks that are well qualified for each of the positions they fill. Come on out to one of our monthly meetings at the Chamber building, the third Tuesday, each month at 5:30. We have some great plans to make you proud to call us YOUR Chamber of Commerce and can always use more hands to make it work.

Thank You,
Jeff Daniels



Turquoise Cowboy

Danny & Marva Riccitelli

Hwy 188 MM259
Bldg 215
Tonto Basin
928-451-2413

Meet your neighbors, Danny & Marva Riccitelli, purveyors in unique gifts, turquoise jewelry and knife handles in Tonto Basin. Marva has ties to Tonto Basin through her family since 1952. The couple sold their ranch in Pie Town, New Mexico and moved here to Tonto Basin to be closer to family.

Danny, is a master in-layer of knives and cutlery and the Riccitelli's have manufactured these stone handle knives for 42 years under the name, *Blue Mountain Turquoise*.

With their entrepreneurial spirit and desire to sell their turquoise jewelry and knives in their new home of Tonto Basin, they decided to create their little store, "*Turquoise Cowboy*."

Turquoise Cowboy offers not just beautiful jewelry and knives, but a huge variety of unique gift items for any occasion. Truly a gem for locals to shop at for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, and especially the holidays.

Turquoise Cowboy is another small business owner and member of the Tonto Basin Chamber. "We just love the people here in our community and will give each customer their personal attention when they visit", says Marva. "We are invested in the



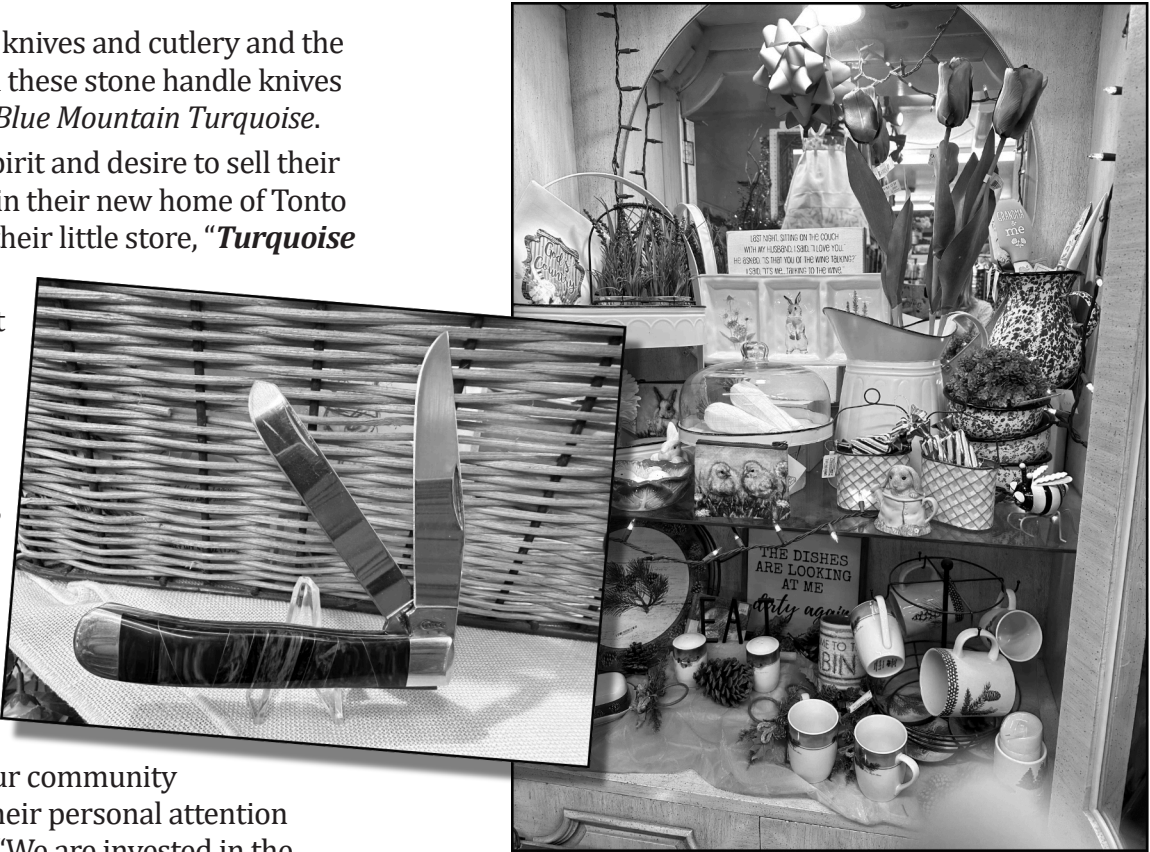
success of our community." When you visit their store, you will be greeted by Johnny Walker Red and Rosie, the Riccitelli's two dogs who greet all neighbors and visitors who walk through their doors. Come on down and say "Hi" to one of our Chamber members, *Turquoise Cowboy* for your Holiday shopping!

Turquoise Cowboy is located at mile marker 259 on highway 188, building 215 in Tonto Basin.

TURQUOISE COWBOY

We have lots of unique items for all the people on your Christmas list. Come by and enjoy a fun shopping experience.

~ Danny & Marva Riccitelli



RECIPES

Yummy Scotcheros

They're fun to make. And, thanks to the chocolate, butterscotch and peanut butter, they're even more fun to eat.

- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 6 cups Kellogg's® Rice Krispies® cereal
- 1 package (6 oz., 1 cup) semi-sweet chocolate morsels
- 1 cup butterscotch chips

Directions

1. Place corn syrup and sugar into 3-quart saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until sugar dissolves and mixture begins to boil. Remove from heat. Stir in peanut butter. Mix well. Add KELLOGG'S® RICE KRISPIES® cereal. Stir until well coated. Press mixture into 13 x 9 x 2-inch pan coated with cooking spray. Set aside.
2. Melt chocolate and butterscotch chips together in 1-quart saucepan over low



heat, stirring constantly. Spread evenly over cereal mixture. Let stand until firm. Cut into 2 x 1-inch bars when cool.

Note: Before measuring the corn syrup, coat your measuring cup with cooking spray--the syrup will pour easily out of the cup.

FISHING



BASS TOURNAMENTS



2023/12/09

Region: Central Arizona

Lake: Roosevelt / Windy Hill Ramp-Bobcat

Season Year 2024
Championship Qualification / Credit Awarded Yes
Number of Days 1
Event Start Time Safe Light

Director's Contact Info:

Director's Name Tracy Purtee
Director's E-mail Address letstalkfishin@gmail.com
Director's Phone Number (928) 978-3659
Season Description Season Year: 2024

2024/01/13

Region: Central Arizona

Lake: Roosevelt / Windy Hill Ramp-Bobcat

Season Year 2024
Championship Qualification / Credit Awarded Yes
Number of Days 1
Event Start Time Safe Light

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Director's Phone Number (928) 978-3659
Season Description Season Year: 2024

SEND
US YOUR
FISHING PICS
& STORIES
Info@TontoBasinChamber.org



FISHING RATING - GOOD

Crankbaits Early, Buzz Baits, Drop Shots, 4 to 7 Inch Texas Rigged Worms, and Texas Rigged brush hogs for bass. Use minnows or 1/16 oz. jigs with 2" Kalins BBC or John Deer Green around trees to load up with crappie. Catfish on stink bait (dips and nuggets) and circle and treble hooks. Crappie are being reported to be near cover in the 20-foot to 25-foot range

Source: <https://fishingreports.sportsmans.com/>

TONTO CREEK STORAGE COMPLEX

Call Now: (928)-433-2902
45596 Highway 188
Tonto Basin, AZ 85553

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday 8 am - 4 pm
Closed Saturday & Sunday
Other times by appointment

ACCESS HOURS
24 Hours a day

Our property is ideally situated for your RV or boat storage needs given our proximity to the wealth of outdoor recreational areas. You'll find us easily accessible from Payson, Roosevelt, the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, the Tonto National Forest, and the Phoenix, AZ metro.

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- 1 BATH (sleeps 6)
- Full RV Hook Up (additional fee)

Large Patio, Gas Grill, Fire Pit, Fenced Yard. Space for your Boat, Toy Hauler & Side by Side

- \$150 A DAY
- \$900 A WEEK
- \$2000 A MONTH

(2 Night Min, 3 Night on Holidays)

Refundable Security Deposit and Non-Refundable Cleaning and Pet Fee

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
CHRISTA 602-481-0530

DECEMBER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**CMP
Management,
LLC**
Christa Lombardo
602-481-0530

I came to Tonto Basin when my friends who have property here, invited me in March 2007. *I fell in love with Tonto Basin* and what it had to offer.

I have been an Executive Director for Non-Profit Associations since 2003. I have run many different Non-Profit Associations during the past 20 years. My beginnings were with a Land Surveyor Association, which I ran for 13 years, then 5 or 6 others. Now, I run Physical Therapy Associations in Arizona and Wyoming where I do all the event planning, board meetings, website design, newsletter, accounting, membership drives, and more.

The name of our Company came from our names. Christa and Mike Ploof. We own and run Vacation Rentals in Tonto Basin. As a side business, I also sell Tupperware and Pampered Chef, so we wanted a name that would cover all three businesses. My event planning background has helped me volunteer for the Annual Carnival and Basin Bazaar; now, I am the chair for both. I also offer Pampered Chef and Tupperware at a reasonable price and offer demonstrations and recipes on using the products.

About our vacation rentals.

We bought our first rental property with a month and in June 2007, we bought our second home and, by the end of the year, purchased our third property next

door to that home. So, we have three properties on the same street, and by July 2008, another property was purchased.

We offer beautiful vacation rentals for the short term only. We want to allow others to enjoy the beauty that Tonto Basin provides at an affordable price.

What is your favorite thing about living and owning a business in Tonto Basin?

There is so much that Tonto Basin Offers. Boating, Hiking, Biking, Side by Side Riding, Fishing, Hunting, etc.

Our home offers a place for people to stay and enjoy all that Tonto Basin offers.

I am grateful I can work from home most of the time and volunteer with the community. I don't have a commute like many people, so I use the time I usually would be commuting and give it back to our community.

You can contact Christa Lombardo at (602) 481-0530 if you are interested in a Vacation Rental, Pampered Chef or in Tupperware.



**Kiwanis
Builders Club**
Building Leaders

7-8 grade - Meeting Dec. 11th at 3pm.

Community Wranglers

4-6 grade - Meeting Dec. 4th, and Dec 18th, at 3pm. Collecting pennies for Phoenix Children's Hospital until Dec. 30th.

Builders Club and Community Wranglers (K-kids) clubs are student led clubs where members develop self-awareness as they discover their passion to serve, their desire to lead and their ability to engage and collaborate with others. Service to school and community become a way of life!

Light Parade

Both clubs are selling hot cocoa at the Light Parade on Dec 16th at 5pm.

Meetings

Kiwanis Club of Tonto Basin meets every Friday at 8am at the Kiwanis Community Center.

Bingo

Bingo is every Thursday, doors open at 5:30pm and games start at 6:30pm.



Thrift Store

Thrift store is open
Thurs thru Sat. 9am to 2pm.



Desert Community Christian Fellowship Bread of Life Ministries FOOD PANTRY

FOR MORE INFORMATION
(928) 595-1252

DISTRIBUTION:
Monthly on the 3rd Friday
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
173 Stephens Way
Tonto Basin
Behind the DCCF Building

CASH DONATIONS NEEDED
To purchase milk, fresh meats,
fresh fruits and vegetables.



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Tonto Basin
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Curt Rambo Jr., Assoc. Broker,
REALTOR®
623-570-6221
curt.rambo@gmail.com

Crystal Phillips, REALTOR®
928-970-0973
Young AZ
crystal.hwy188@yahoo.com

MANUFACTURED –SITE BUILT HOMES

RR Space 31 Affordable home in park 2000 2 BD 1 1/2 baths 14x56 workshop & AZ Rm **MLS 89456, \$73,000**

RR 128 Bull Pen Circle 3 miles to Roosevelt Lake AZ. Location, Location, Location! Quality site built home sooo close to the lake and forest trails. This Immaculate home features custom cabinetry through out, RV parking, Large dining and family room! Kitchen features Breakfast bar, dining area with bay window. All fenced, nice yard & landscaping, well maintained, Three spacious bedrooms three + 1/2 bathrooms New shop roof above ground pool 1 bay garage, attached double carport/patio w/ quality upstairs guest quarters **MLS 89443 \$569,000**

RR 209 A Dirt Rd 2 units w/add-ons prvt shared well Remodeled Great rentals adj 2 mobiles avail, **\$315,000. MLS 89422**

RR 233 E A Dirt Rd 2 units. 1981 14x70! W add ons 1978 Redman w addons **\$299,900, MLS 89424**

RR 333 Ewing Trail 4 bed 2 ba stucco manufactured metal roof new flooring .94 ac, New HVAC. Split floor plan, family room , dining, kitchen nook **MLS 89329 \$280,000**

RR 266 N SHREEVE Lane Glamping at its Best! RV Fenced lot 40ft. Ramada including large carport/patio 2017 Mobile Suite Model# 38-RSSA 5th Wheel RV Custom Greenhouse, Storage buildings Tall RV parking, Work shop Extensive landscaping including 3 Peach trees 1Pecan, 1Almond, 1 Plum tree with water system Rose bushes private setting with mountain views **MLS 89466 \$175,000.**

RR164 E Buckhorn Trail: Spacious 3 bed/2 bath home with great views Corner lot with Mature landscaping, Front covered patio, lots of parking, pull through driveway Workshop and Double car-port. Concrete parking, full RV Hookups. Take a look at this quiet neighborhood w/great views! **MLS 89215 \$260,000**

RR159 Quail Trail: 1893 Sq ft with attached dbl garage. New Saltillo Tile and rigid core waterproof wood plank flooring. 3 beds plus office/den, Master bedrm has private entrance from patio updated shower, dual vanity. Main bath w/jetted tub separate shower. Office/den could be 4th bedroom. Large utility room w/ on demand hot water heater. Second water heater serves baths. Front and rear patios. RV space, chain link fencing, extra parking. Circle Drive. Convenient central location! **MLS 89168 \$275,000**

RR335 Walnut Springs Blvd: Convenient location Close to fishing at Roosevelt Lake & Area amenities. Open living dining & kitchen. Breakfast bar All appliances included +washer & dryer Attached carport, extra parking, storage building, with lots of shelving. rear cov patio Back yard fencing. Views! Paved road subdivision, Call today! **\$265,000. MLS 88962**

RR1055 Deer Creek Dr: Enjoy the seclusion of this spacious .59 acre parcel tucked away in mature native trees in Deer Creek Village just off Hwy 87 & a few minutes into Payson/50 minutes into East of the Well maintained man home borders Tonto Ntl Forest. Beautiful views of the mountains. 3bed/2ba. Full length AZ room w/lots of windows. New roof, new Samsung washer/dryer, updated flooring, kitchen w/brkfst bar & all appl. Convenient att carport and workshop. Covered deck w/ramp for easy access. Extra parking. You don't want to miss this one. **\$325,000 MLS89126**

RR 1239 E Greenback Valley Rd: 2 AC of Shady Private level land. Panoramic views! Circular concrete drive . 3 bed 2 bath 1456 sq ft site built home w/ attached double garage. laminated floor in Entry Kitchen & Entry, washer dryer & refrigerator included. Dep. storage bldgs Front & rear covered patios. Privacy fencing. Animals welcome! Enjoy Roosevelt Lake & Forest trails! **\$395,000 MLS 88853**

****NEW PRICE** RR 157 W Brittlebush:** Peaceful quiet setting with 360 degree mtn views. Spacious corner. Make this 2020 Cavco Manufactured home with tie downs and ground set. 2bed 2 baths with den. Lg master bath features dual vanities and luxury shwr plus footed tub. Island kitchen. All appl. Including washer

RR 130 W Crappie Ln: Great Location for home & garage for business Large 32 ' x 32' insulated & drywalled 10 ft. tall GARAGE w/8 ft. tall doors & exterior lighting 1920 sq ft 32' x 60' custom Cavco home. ground set w/concrete walk around house. 3 bed. 2 ba. - many upgrades-split floor plan w/ large sitting room off master-electric kitchen cherry cabinets, refrigerator, dishwasher, disposal and microwave. 5 ton A/C unit, energy efficient. skylights, recessed lighting. Front patio, great views. Convenient central location **\$385000. MLS 88840**

455 S Hohokam: Great Views! Make this your Roosevelt Lake get away! 1973 2 bed/1 bath 12x60 mobile plus 10x18 add-on. Chain link fencing. Full RV hookup. Landsc. plus garden beds. Grape arbor & more. Stone patio 10x 40 attached awning. New A/C fresh interior paint. Pellet stove. Come see this cozy mobile. Imm availability. **\$130,000 MLS 88453**

RR 159 N Rope Rd: Quiet setting, direct access to Tonto Creek & TNF. Total remodel 1620 sq ft site built w/528 sq ft att gar. 12 in "SmartBlock" energy eff home. Scrn AZ rm w/bar. Kitch w/ brkfst bar, tile floor. Updtd baths. All app. incl. Fireplace. 2 beds+off. Master walk-in clos& priv bath. Cherry/Peach, Mature lands. Shared well. RV spaces. Steel carpt, vinyl & wood fence. Shed. -10 min to Lake. **\$419,000. Call for appt. MLS 88472**

57510 N Az-188 Jakes Corner Store- Building & land -Prime location-Gateway to Roosevelt Lake. Bldg features retail area, deli area w/equip. Public showers & rest rooms -previous laundromat area w/plumbing. Private off, stor areas, wrkshp, upst liv. qrts. Det. steel gar, RV space, 2 septsics, 10,000 gal fuel sys. Call for lease info. potential. **MLS 88296 \$399,000**

RR 183 W Forest Place: Everyone's dream 2 story gar! Peaceful garden setting. Quiet neighborhood. Beautiful mature shade trees, fruit trees, landscaping & lawn. Prvt Well Garage has 1440Sq ft Finished full upstairs Living qtrs 1 1/2 baths Home has open great room 2 bed - & 1 bath. 2 storage buildings covered front & rear patios. Shown by appt. **\$399,000 MLS 87581**

RR 169 W Ironwood: Fantastic views and quiet location. 2020 model Fleetwood man home. 3 bed/2 ba. Oversized .33 ac lot w/plenty of room for lg gar. Fenced back yard. Open paver patio. All appl incl washer & dryer. Lg trees, great neighbors! Nice place to call home! **\$349900 MLS87545**

RR 243 S Hohokam Lane Close to Roosevelt Lake Punkin Center Vill. Level .28 ac view lot w/1971 12 x 60 mobile home. New chain link fencing. All util incl. Call for appt. **\$87,500 MLS 88512**

LOTS/LAND

RR Space 36 585 N Sleepy Hollow Park: Roosevelt Lake Retreat- waiting for you! . Remodeled 28 ft RV w/full length add on AZ rm + slide-out. **space rent \$265 \$34900 MLS89337**

RR 585 N Sleepy Hollow #36: RV Retreat Just waiting for you. Remodeled 28 ft slide out RV with full length room add on + storage **MLS 89337 \$34900**

RR15K Hwy 188: Great Location Prime Hwy frontage West side of Hwy 188 Near Butcher Hook Paved 40 ft turnout, Zoned GU, water at property line. Electric along west boundary. Bring your goals & ideas. Commercial, residential or RV use **\$129,900. MLS 89057**

RR "E" ROS Map 5531 S Burton Drive: Panoramic Views! This 5 acres has it all. Level With desert vegetation plus a fantastic view overlooking Tonto Creek. Animals welcome, water phone and electric available. Peaceful quiet area. call today! **\$259,000 MLS 87016**

Parcel # 2 ROS Map 5583 GU zoning easy access from Bethel Lane. .75 acre parcel GU. No restrictions **\$79,000 only MLS 86769**

Information is deemed to be reliable, but is not guaranteed.

NOVEMBER 2023

Brownsville Western Heritage, Inc.

"Keeping our Western Heritage Alive"

49831 North Hwy 188
Payson, AZ 85541
501-c-3 (EIN#82-4602169)

Ever wonder what is happening at the Brownsville Arena? Brownsville Western Heritage Arena is located in the heart of Gila County, right here in our Tonto Basin. We serve the surrounding communities to include Payson, Pine, Strawberry, Young, Kohl's Ranch, Christopher Creek, Tonto Basin, Jake's Corner, Roosevelt, Globe, Miami and other surrounding areas.

We Sponsor the Youth Education for Agriculture Awareness. Eight(8) Classroom lessons are taught at our local Gila County Schools reaching 700 plus students yearly. This will be the 13th year of this growing

program.

We also provide monthly Community Gymkhanas. We have a wide variety of riders ranging in ages from 2-75, all with various skill levels. These events are held at the Brownsville Arena, located in Tonto Basin. An average of 100 riders attend monthly.

We have planned a 2023-2024 Gymkhana Saddle Series. A Ranch Saddle will be given in each age group for High Point Winners. Points are kept for the year to determine the winners. Last year we had about 150 riders of all ages. Our goal is for every child under the age of 18 receive an award. It is our hope that these awards will encourage participants to try harder, practice more and learn good sportsmanship, all while improving their skill level. We continue our support of FFA and 4-H kids with their Fair projects including sponsoring petting zoos though out the

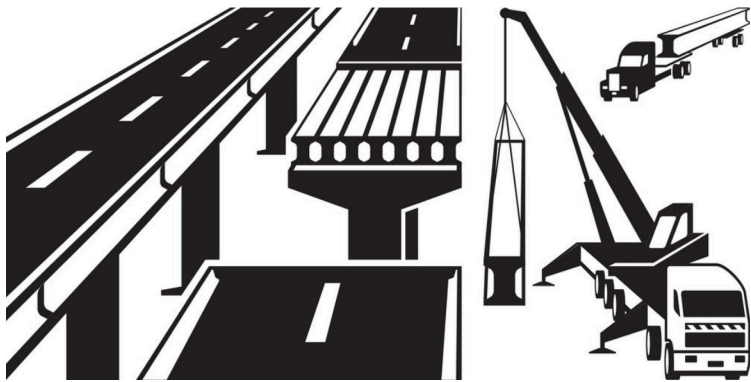
community for all types of events. We host Family Roping, Open and 4-H Horse Shows and provide Agriculture Scholarships assisting families that are participating in High School and Junior Rodeo's across the State of Arizona representing our community and our Western Heritage. Agriculture Field Days bring youth to a true working Ranch where they get hands on experience of how the True West once was. Please come out and enjoy some of our events. No charge for spectators. Come out and cheer for the riders.



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1575 E. PRICKLY PEAR WAY • TONTO BASIN, AZ
EMAIL: R.EQUIPMENTRENTALS@GMAIL.COM



Tonto Creek Bridge Project A-Cross Road Permanent Closure

Gila County is pleased to announce its planned opening of the Tonto Creek Bridge in the spring of 2024. This multimodal transportation project includes the construction of the bridge over Tonto Creek with pedestrian and bicyclist facilities. Additional improvements include improving deficient roadway geometry.

The opening of the bridge is a milestone for the project. Residents will no longer be cut off from food, medical supplies, emergency services, work, and school. The bridge opening will enrich the quality of life for residents of Tonto basin. Enhanced recreational opportunities on public Forest Service lands will benefit everyone.

Beginning around January 1st 2024, the existing A-Cross road (FR 60) will be permanently closed and restored to its original condition. The contractor will scarify the abandoned access road and seed the area with native seedlings. A variety of seed mixes will be used from seed suppliers through harvesting of wildland collections or field-grown seeds.

Berms and boulders will be placed at each end of A-Cross as it crosses Tonto Creek. Erosion and sediment control measures will supplement the seeding. These erosion and pollution control principles will serve as a foundation for the successful restoration of A-Cross road to its natural conditions. Riparian habitat will be reestablished with the removal of this at-grade crossing.

The number one goal of this project has always been safety. The opening of the bridge and permanent closure of across road is a major step towards that goal.

- A safe route to school for students and teachers of Tonto Basin Elementary School.
- Emergency access for firefighters, police, and all first responders.

Please consider this permanent closure of A-Cross road in your travel plans beginning around January 1st 2024.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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 full service sign shop with a
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Greetings from the North Pole!

I want you to know how proud I am of you. Throughout the year, you have shown kindness, generosity, and a loving spirit towards others. Keep spreading love and joy wherever you go, for it truly makes a difference in the world.

Remember, my little friend, the true magic of Christmas lies not in the presents, but in the love and joy shared with family and friends. Take this opportunity to spend time with your loved ones, create beautiful memories, and express gratitude for the blessings in your life. The warmth of those connections will stay with you long after the wrapping paper has been torn away.

Please remember to leave some milk and cookies for me and a few carrots for my faithful reindeer. They work very hard on this special night and appreciate the treats.

With a heart full of love and admiration, I want you to know that you are cherished and special in every way. I believe in you and your dreams, and I know that you will continue to make this world a better place with your kind heart.

Merry Christmas,
With love, Santa Claus

Biking The Basin

Tonto Basin offers a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities, including mountain biking and hiking trails. Here are a few popular options:

Cottonwood Trail 120: From the Frazier Trailhead, the trail meanders over low ridges and through drainages until it drops into Cottonwood Canyon. Then it goes up the canyon and junctions with FR 341 that serves as the trail. Turn left onto FR 341 and travel south for approximately 1.5 miles. The trail takes off from the road to the south and continues to follow Cottonwood Canyon. After approximately 3 miles, the trail reaches the southern terminus at FR 83.

Denton Trail 69: From FR 421, the trail climbs steadily up the east face of the mountain. Some sections are quite steep. The trail eventually tops out at 5,760 feet elevation and then descends to Big Pine Flat for the last ¼ mile.

Park Trail 66: From the Park Creek Trailhead, the trail crosses Park Creek and climbs gradually through lower Sonoran Desert and riparian vegetation for ½ mile. The trail then ascends steeply towards the crest of the divide, passing through chaparral, semi-desert grassland and juniper woodland. The final 1¼ mile follows fairly even contours until meeting the headwaters of Park Creek. It terminates at Edwards Park in a stand of large ponderosa pines.

Sycamore Trail 68: From FR 421, the trail climbs steadily through lower Sonoran Desert and riparian vegetation up the arroyo formed by Sycamore Creek. It turns northward and continues to climb along a tributary, passing through chaparral,

semi-desert grassland and juniper woodland.

The trail tops out on the El Oso Divide and then descends to its end at Edwards Park in a stand of large Ponderosa Pines.

Thompson Trail 121: From State Highway 188, the trail quickly climbs along an arroyo and then follows the contour of the ridges above the highway and Roosevelt Lake. After 1½ mile, at the junction with the Cemetery Trail 255, the trail turns south and gradually ascends a broad ridge to the junction with FR 341. This trail is named after Jerome Thompson who served as the district ranger, 1956-1965, for the then-named Roosevelt Ranger District.

Three Bar Route: The Three Bar Wildlife Enclosure is a fenced wildlife study area operated by Arizona Game and Fish. The proximity of two recreation sites provides ample parking should you want to cool off in Roosevelt Lake after your ride. Scenery includes the riparian habitat associated with Roosevelt Lake and watershed as well as chaparral vegetation.

Vineyard Trail 131: Trail passes through a variety of Lower Sonoran Desert vegetation plant communities. Spectacular views of Roosevelt Lake, Apache Lake, Roosevelt Dam and Four Peaks. Historic Camp O'Rourke located near the east

terminus. Signs of long abandoned tent sites and building foundations are visible from the trail. As part of the Arizona Trail, the route continues west on the Four Peaks Trail 130 or southwest across Roosevelt Bridge to the Thompson Trail 121.

Source: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/>



CROSSWORD

We apologize for not having the solution to last month's puzzle.

Solutions will be posted going forward.

ACROSS

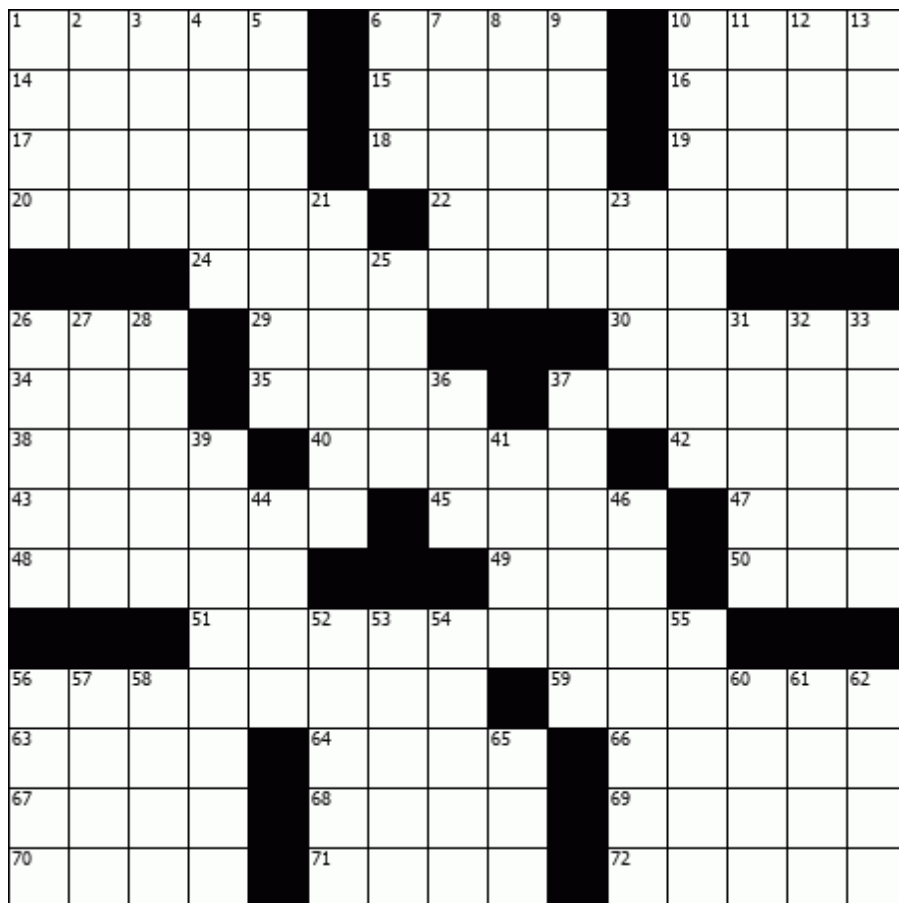
1. Trim meat
6. Tentacles
10. "Beware the ____ of March"
14. Make jubilant
15. Jump
16. Lawn tunneler
17. Select group
18. Mexican coin
19. ____ vault
20. Yacht spot
22. Wizard
24. Woodworking pro
26. Flying mammal
29. Four qts.
30. Actress ____ Keaton
34. Go wrong
35. Love deity
37. Tidier
38. Ramble
40. Mud brick
42. Grassy area
43. Accompany
45. Daring
47. Luau necklace
48. Quite small
49. NNW's opposite
50. Browning's "before"
51. Astronomer's tool
56. Most thinly distributed
59. Martial artist Chuck
63. Firefighter's need

64. On the ocean

66. Fry lightly
67. Diva's song
68. Kernel
69. Tiny landmass
70. Ground grain
71. Chef's measures (abbr.)
72. Abounds

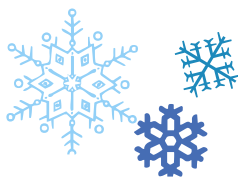
DOWN

1. Regard
2. She, in Madrid
3. So-so
4. Garret
5. Adolescent
6. Swiss mountain
7. ____ Witherspoon of "Sweet Home Alabama"
8. Stone worker
9. Tennis, e.g.
10. Regal
11. Exit
12. Model ____ Macpherson
13. Prophet
21. Biblical mount
23. Yield
25. Walk heavily
26. Flat cap
27. Got out of bed
28. Small amount
31. "____ of Two Cities" (2wds.)



32. Not as old
33. "Sesame Street" character
36. Cry
37. Singer Willie ____
39. Quebec's largest city
41. Pear type
44. Seeded breads
46. Bank transaction
52. Minimum
53. Curved letters

54. Prepare tea
55. Wipe away
56. Hoax
57. Skin opening
58. India's locale
60. Govern
61. News story
62. Collections
65. Public notices



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