

TONTO TRIBUNE

Brought to you by The Tonto Basin Chamber of Commerce



Embracing the Fresh Start: Welcome to the New Year!

As we bid farewell to the past year and step into the unknown of the new year, it's an opportune time to reflect on the challenges we've faced and the lessons we've learned. The arrival of a new year brings with it a sense of renewal, hope, and the anticipation of new beginnings. As we embark on this journey together, let's explore what lies ahead and how we can make the most of the fresh start.

Reflecting on the Past Year:

Take a moment to reflect on the past year's accomplishments, milestones, and challenges. Celebrate your successes and acknowledge the lessons learned from the obstacles faced. It's important to recognize the growth and resilience that you've developed throughout the year. This reflection will provide valuable insights as you set new goals and aspirations for the upcoming year.

Setting Meaningful Goals:

The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to set goals that align with your personal and professional aspirations. Start by identifying what truly matters to you and what you wish to achieve. Set realistic and measurable goals that will motivate you to stay committed and focused. Remember to break down your goals into smaller, manageable steps, as this will make them more attainable and less overwhelming.

Embracing Change and Adaptability:

The only constant in life is change, and the new year presents an opportunity to embrace it. Cultivate a mindset of adaptability and openness to new experiences. Be willing to step outside of your comfort zone, try new things, and embrace unexpected opportunities. Remember, personal growth often happens when we challenge ourselves and venture into uncharted territory.

Prioritizing Self-Care:

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it's crucial to prioritize self-care. Make a commitment to take care of your physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Incorporate activities that bring you joy and help you recharge into your routine. Whether it's practicing mindfulness, exercising regularly, or indulging in hobbies, make self-care a non-negotiable part of your daily life.

Cultivating Meaningful Relationships:

The new year is an ideal time to nurture and strengthen your relationships. Reach out to loved ones, friends, and colleagues to express gratitude and reconnect. Surround yourself with positive influences and individuals who inspire and motivate you. Remember, meaningful connections can enrich your life and contribute to your overall happiness and well-being.

As we enter the new year, let's embrace the

~Continued on Page 2





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

From Jeff D,



WOW!! What an incredible response we've gotten on this Newspaper. Seems like it was needed. It was a shame when we lost the "Just for You", and that it would be a major loss here. Communication is key to success.

Well, the first couple months were a hard "soft start" for us to try to work out some of the challenges and issues with doing this. There have been quite a few, and we've worked through a lot. All of Us.

Printing costs for the hard copy have been one of the biggest. The Chamber Board resolved that this project must pay for itself through Ads and donations. At over \$2 per printed copy, we could not sustain those numbers. I think we have that somewhat under control now, and there should be plenty more copies distributed from here on out. We distributed about 400 copies last month.

That leads to "where" they are distributed? I've been putting them at:

- Kiwanis/P.O. message Board, Hut (in the parking area)
- Punkin Bar
- Alfonzo's
- Kiwanis Thrift Store
- TB Chamber building
- IGA
- Dollar General (in the rack just inside the door, Not sure if I'm allowed though)
- Butcher Hook

Again, we need to say that this is YOUR Newspaper.

WE NEED YOU... to contribute and keep it interesting.

- We're starting a new Classified section which is all about YOU.
- The Calendar of Events needs to know what YOU are doing.
- The Advertisers are YOU, the locals.

The articles and stories need to be from and about YOU. Lets keep this local and interesting.

- We need a Fishing expert for lake and fishing info.
- We just enlisted the Native Plant Society to contribute a monthly Nature article. Check it out in this issue.
- The Churches, Artists, Writers, Off-roaders/4x4, Political interests, Historians or whatever your own specialty or interest is, can be highlighted in an article.

I know we have all of them here in Tonto, so Let us know what YOU can do.



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TONTO TRIBUNE

The Official Newsletter of the Tonto Basin Chamber of Commerce

Contact Information:

Phone: 1-833-4TONTOB (833-486 6862)

Email: Info@TontoBasinChamber.org

Website: www.TontoBasinChamber.org

Newsletter: Info@TontoBasinChamber.org

Building Rental Reservations:

(833) 486-6862 Option 4

Online booking form. Please visit our website.

Chamber monthly meetings every 3rd Tuesday at 5:30pm

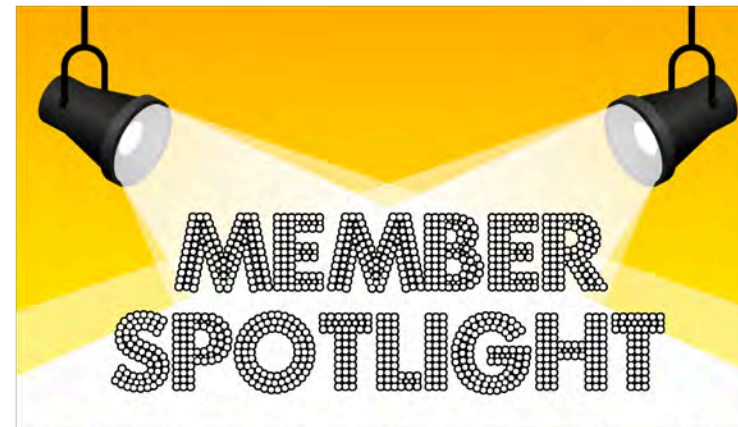
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~Embracing the Fresh Start, Continue from page 1
opportunities it presents. It's a chance to set new goals, embrace change, prioritize self-care, and cultivate meaningful relationships. Remember, each day is an opportunity for growth and progress. Let's welcome the new year with open hearts and open minds, ready to make the most of the fresh start that lies ahead. Here's to a year filled with joy, success, and fulfillment!



Punkin Center bar /restaurant/motel

Tonya Bridges
punkincenteraz@gmail.com
(928) 479-2627

How did you arrive in Tonto Basin?

I came to do karaoke for Punkin Bar stayed at the motel next door, it needed a lot of work. We bought the motel in 2005 and the bar in 2007. The name has not changed since we purchased the property. The whole area is Punkin Center so I would never change the name.

Punkin Center has been in Tonto Basin since 1932 when it burnt down in 1992, and was rebuilt in 1994. There was a farmers market out front. There was a pumpkin growing contest every year, I think that's where it got its name? The post office was in the corner of the bar. This was every ones meeting place, kind of still is. We have packages still delivered to the bar for customers John Wayne , Ben Johnsons, and Dolen Ellis the Arizona ballads all use to hang out at Punkin. Punkin is a meeting place inside and out side.

What services or products do you offer to the community?

Food, drinks, good company, a great place to congregate, and if you have had to good of a time you could get a room next door at Punkin Center Lodge. Just a great place to hang out, just ask my customers. Bingo on Wednesday

What makes your business unique?

Punkin is unique because it

has hung there since 1932. In the great area of Punkin Center, witch is one mile long. No one else can shut off the road in front of their business to have say the Veterans Day Parade or the Trunk or Treat for the kids

Please let us know about your involvement or your business involvement in our community?

We have raffles to help out anyone in need, the fire fighters, the little red school house, library, etc.

Do you have any open positions for hire?

Not at this time

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

I enjoy owning my businesses in Punkin Center. I'm only in Punkin 3 to 4 days a week. My great employees help me out the other days. The small town is great, with no stop lights.



HOMESTEADING LIFE



Homesteading is a lifestyle that emphasizes self-sufficiency, sustainability, and a connection to the land. If you're interested in homesteading or looking for new ideas to incorporate into your existing homestead, here are some suggestions for the new year:

Organic Gardening: Dedicate space in your backyard for growing your own fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Plan your garden layout, start seeds indoors, and implement organic gardening practices such as composting, companion planting, and natural pest control.

Food Preservation: Learn different methods of food preservation, such as canning, fermenting, dehydrating, and freezing. Preserve the abundance from your garden or local farmers' markets to have access to nutrient-rich foods throughout the year.

Raising Backyard Chickens: Consider keeping a small flock of chickens for fresh eggs and natural pest control. Research local regulations, choose the right chicken breeds for your climate, and provide them with a suitable coop and run.

Beekeeping: Explore the fascinating world of beekeeping by setting up beehives on your property. Bees play a crucial role in pollination and honey production, and beekeeping can be a rewarding and educational experience.

Composting: Start or improve your composting system. Utilize kitchen scraps, yard waste, and other organic materials to create nutrient-rich compost for your garden. Composting reduces waste and enriches the soil, promoting healthy plant growth.

Rainwater Harvesting: Install rain barrels or a larger

rainwater collection system to capture rainwater for irrigation purposes. This sustainable practice conserves water and reduces reliance on municipal water sources.

Renewable Energy: Explore renewable energy options for your homestead. Install solar panels or a small wind turbine to generate clean, sustainable energy. Evaluate your energy usage and find ways to reduce consumption through energy-efficient appliances and practices.

Off-Grid Living: Gradually transition to off-grid living by reducing your dependence on public utilities. Invest in alternative energy sources, such as solar power or wind turbines, and explore water conservation techniques like rainwater harvesting and water-efficient fixtures.

DIY Projects: Embrace the do-it-yourself spirit by taking on various projects around your homestead. This could include building raised beds, constructing a chicken coop, creating a rainwater collection system, or making your own natural cleaning and personal care products.

Community Engagement: Connect with like-minded individuals in your community who are interested in homesteading. Join local gardening groups, attend workshops or classes, and participate in farmers' markets or community-supported agriculture initiatives to share knowledge and resources.

Remember, homesteading is a journey, and it's important to start small and gradually expand your skills and projects based on your resources and interests. Embrace the principles of self-sufficiency and sustainability, and enjoy the rewarding experience of building a resilient homestead.



45239 HIGHWAY 188

P.O. Box 84 • (928) 479-2299
Pastor Robert Melotti

www.TontoBasinBibleChurch.org

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday School (Nursery to Adult).....9:30 a.m.
Worship (with Nursery + Kids Church)....10:45 a.m.

Call for Mid-Week Small Group Schedule



Builders Club

7-8 grade

The Builders Club will meet Jan 8 and 22nd in the cafeteria. Jan. 13th.

Hawaiian Dinner Fundraiser for Lahaina Maui School.

Community Wranglers

4-6 grade

The Community Wranglers are meeting Jan. 8th and 22nd at the Library (due to Holidays, both clubs will meet on the same days).

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 closed Dec. 24th to Jan. 3rd.

Regular Hours: Thurs thru Sat. 9am to 2pm.

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!



Building Reservations

Our Chamber building is available for event rentals. Included in your rental are 8ft tables and padded chairs.

If you have any questions, please contact the Chamber at 1-833-4TONTOB, then select no 4 for building rental information.

TO RESERVE YOUR EVENT - Visit <https://www.tontobasinchamber.org/rent-the-chamber-building>

DECEMBER 2023 CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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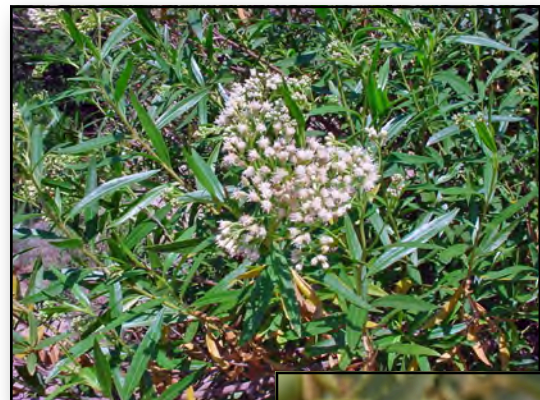
Arizona Native Plant Society

Our Blooming Desert

Have you ever wondered what makes our desert so beautiful when the rains come?

Well it is the result of numerous factors and one is the presence of what is called Keystone Species of plants.

Like the keystone of a bridge, significant in



holding up the structure of stone, keystone species of plants are significant in holding up the structure of diversity in plants AND animals.

At our last Field Trip, to 3Mile Wash, the Tonto Basin Chapter of Arizona Native Plant Society, focused on the keystone species found in that wash and surrounding desert, including our home area here.

Oak, Willow and Cottonwood, were noted to support; 228, 175, and 135 species of moths and butterflies. Plants like our common Baccharis (commonly known as Desert Broom)



supports 22 species, and our native sunflower supports 60, and these were just a few of the many we saw!

Considering the moths and butterflies are responsible for pollination and reproduction of our desert plants this is a huge plus for....more flowers!

This January 5, for our First Friday Field trip, the Native Plant society will be going up to Tonto Monument to explore plant families. Why is that important? Well, if we know the families "in our own back yard", then where ever we go, we can feel like we're in familiar neighborhood. How does that sound for making all the World like your back yard?

Go ahead and check out our Facebook Page, Arizona Native Plant Society Tonto Basin Chapter, for fun info on First Friday Field Trips and more.



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Hiking The Basin

Park Creek Trail #66, Tonto Basin

by Preston Sands (Hike Arizona)

Overview Well hidden in central Arizona's Mazatzal Mountains is Park Creek Falls, one of many large, seasonal waterfalls in this rugged range. Park Creek Falls is located where Park Creek suddenly drops off the top of the range, below Edwards Park. There are two waterfalls here: a 30-foot upper falls and the 100 to 160 foot lower (main) falls.

The height of the lower falls is a guess, based on the U.S.G.S. topo map and my observations. The falls can be reached by a short, off-trail hike, starting from either Park Trail #66, or forest road #422 (El Oso Road). This description begins on the Park Trail. The best time to see the falls is after wet winter weather or snowmelt. If Park Creek has a healthy flow at the trailhead, Park Creek Falls should, too. Due to the narrow confines of its surroundings, a wide-angle lens is essential for photographing Park Creek Falls. Warning This hike consists of both on and off-trail hiking through rough country, that was severely burned during the 2020 Bush wildfire.

The Park Trail, which this hike begins on, receives little or no maintenance, so following it may be difficult. Boulders and dead trees cling precariously to the area's steep terrain, just waiting to injure unsuspecting hikers who may come into contact with them. Footing near the edge of the lower falls is sketchy, and a fall there would likely result in death. Be very careful when hiking in this rugged area!

Hike Beginning at the Park Creek Trailhead, start hiking up Park Trail #66. After ascending a low ridge at the foot of the Mazatzals, the Park Trail starts a steady climb up the eastern wall of the range. Sweeping views of Tonto Basin and central Arizona motivate to continue the ascent. After a 2000-foot climb in a little over 2 miles, the trail reaches a cone-shaped hill I call "The Pyramid" (peak 4759). The Park Trail passes through Pyramid Saddle on the south side of the Pyramid, then begins to level out. Once you are above the 4800-foot contour, and about 0.25 to 0.5 miles past Pyramid Saddle, pick a ridge

or ravine below the Park Trail, and head for the bottom of Park Creek. When you reach Park Creek, begin heading downstream (north).

The creek reaches the upper falls at about the 4400-foot contour. Down climbing along the east side of this waterfall provided me with a do-able route. From the upper falls, it is a short walk down the bouldered creek bed to the lower (main) falls. As the creek crosses the bedrock shelf at the top of Park Creek Falls, it enters a chute carved into the pale granite by countless years of runoff. Park Creek Falls does not make a vertical drop, but rather cascades over a 60-degree granite wall. The falls disappear into a maze of polished monoliths at the base of the cliff. It is so rugged here that one cannot see the bottom of the gorge. For a better vantage point, carefully work your way north from the top of the falls, along the east canyon wall, until you cliff out. At this point, you should be able to see most of Park Creek Falls. Be extremely careful where you step, so as not to slip into the abyss. I

n the distance, Park Creek can be seen entering a narrow gorge with smaller waterfalls, before curving east to enter Tonto Basin. The top of Park Creek Falls is the end of the line for this hike unless you are a climber (or crazy!) Return the way you came.

TONTO BASIN CHAMBER SWAG

Now Available through the Chamber website ONLY www.TontoBasinChamber.org!





**Tonto Basin
Community
Meeting
Minutes
12/5/2023**

37 Residents were in attendance.

Supervisor Humphrey said that he represents all constituents in District 2 and holds his community meetings to give the residents a platform to bring issues, problems, and concerns to him. He let residents know that he had voted in favor of the proposed cell tower at Jakes Corner and that the other two supervisors voted against it. Supervisor Humphrey briefly went over the permanent closure of A-Cross road and then asked the residents if they would like a bridge update or if they preferred to move directly to the question-and-answer session. The residents indicated that they would like to skip the bridge update.

Jeremy Plain, USFS, took a moment to address several questions posed by residents.

- One resident asked if Three Mile Wash would be re-opened. Jeremy responded that Three Mile Wash will be re-opened. He stated that the contractors doing the work on Hwy 88 are using Three Mile as their base. When they have completed the work on 88, they will use leftover material to re-open Three Mile.
- Another resident asked why Ash Creek was closed to public equipment use. Jeremy responded that technically the public was never allowed to use equipment in Ash Creek. The resident said that he has "paperwork" showing that he had permission to use equipment in the pit and would provide it.
- Another resident stated that he used to buy material from the pit for .50 cents per ton and that the current price is \$15 per ton. Jeremy let residents know that he would look into their concerns and have an update at the next meeting.

Tonto Basin Fire Chief, James Stoltenberg, then spoke to the residents.

- A resident told the Chief that the community was lucky to have him and that he had done many great things since his arrival.
- A resident asked the Chief if he was involved in the 911 addressing process. The resident stated that he was having a hard time getting a 911 address from the County. He said that he has asked many times and is always denied. Supervisor Humphrey responded that the County has changed the policy on addresses for vacant land and that the new policy allows for addresses to be assigned to vacant land as long as there is a designated entrance. The entrance is needed to facilitate first responders being able to locate the potential victim in an emergency situation. Supervisor Humphrey asked the resident to contact him if he had a particular piece of property that he was unable to obtain an address for. The resident said that Supervisor Humphrey needed to communicate with the Payson office as they would not let vacant land be issued an address. Supervisor Humphrey responded that he fought for and won the policy to have vacant land receive an address in Gila County. The policy covers the entire County, it does not exclude Payson. Chief Stoltenberg stated that when the County issues an address, the Fire Department is notified. He reminded residents that the next Fire Department Board Meeting will be December 21st at 4 PM.

Supervisor Humphrey then discussed the recent IGA approved by the Board of Supervisors with the Tonto Basin Fire Department and the Tonto Basin Schools which allows them to obtain fuel from Gila County and for the School to park their buses in the County Yard. He also discussed the abandoned property in Tonto Basin that he is working to make into a park for the community.

Darde De Roulhac, Gila County Flood Engineering, gave a brief overview of the project that Gila County and FEMA are working on to re-map the flood zones and flood plains in the area.

- LIDAR technology is being used to ensure accuracy in the flood mapping for the County and the maps should be available by 2025. A resident then added that she knows of several programs the public can use to purchase flood insurance that are less expensive than the FEMA flood insurance.
- A resident asked if there was an evacuation plan in place in the event that Tonto Creek flooded. The resident said that she had spoken to Gila County Emergency Manager, Carl Melford, and that she was

not satisfied with his response to her inquiry. The resident felt that the County's emergency notification program was not effective as a neighbor of hers has been receiving Ready-Set-Go messages about fires in the Phoenix area. Supervisor Humphrey let her know that if she is unhappy with Carl's response, we will look into the issue further and try to get her an answer. The resident stated that recent flooding had Tonto Creek at 26,000 CFS and that evacuation had been done for lower volumes of water.

Randy Plumier, Director of Gila County Community Development, was then asked questions by residents.

The first question was, "...does Gila County have jurisdiction over public utilities." Randy responded that no, if the utility does the work, they are covered by the Utility Commission. However, if someone outside the utility does the work it has to be permitted if it is being done on private property. Homero Vela added that work done in a ROW (Right-of-Way) is governed by Gila County ordinance and requires both utilities and individuals to obtain a permit.

A resident then said that she had attempted to get a permit to build a garage on her property. She said that she has 5 acres with a barn, a modular home, her home, and a workshop. She would like to build the garage in front of her house. She stated that the permit tech in Payson told her she would need a variance and the cost would be \$250 with no guarantee that she would receive the variance. Randy explained that the fee was for publication in both the Globe and Payson newspaper and that the variance would go before the Board of Adjustments as well as the Board of Supervisors. The resident asked how long that would take. Randy stated that it is generally a 90-day process. Another resident then added that "the community" feels that Community Development has changed since Randy took over. She stated that every time she applies for a permit the process seems to be different. She made it very clear that she is unhappy with the perceived changes in Community Development.

Randy responded that he has not changed any ordinances since he has been with Community Development. He stated that the ordinances in place were voted in by the Board of Supervisors which were voted in by the residents. Randy said that when he has questions regarding the wording or implementation of an ordinance, he contacts the County Attorney to make sure he is following the ordinance legally and correctly. Supervisor Humphrey added that we can provide copies

of the ordinances and the dates they were approved and if any changes have been made.

A resident said that he had a list of questions, but that he felt we would not have sufficient time to address all of them at this meeting. He said that he would provide a list of his questions. A resident added that he feels the County only requires permits to get more money.

A resident stated that his property is zoned as agricultural land and wanted to know how the County could require permits on that type of land. He added that he read that grading and drainage permits are only required if you are changing a drainage. Homero Vela responded that grading and drainage requires clearance. At this point Supervisor Humphrey interjected that we would not have sufficient time to solve the problems brought up during the meeting this evening. He suggested that the residents who had issues write down their names

and concerns and that we will arrange a meeting with those residents and County staff to get to the bottom of the issues and get them sorted out. The resident that asked about the grading and drainage permit said that he felt he was being singled out by staff and was being ~

Continued on page 10



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FISHING

Tonto Basin/Roosevelt Lake Fishing

Current Boat ramp levels:

- Badger 91 ft
- Bobcat 15 ft
- Cholla 83 ft
- Coyote 27 ft
- Grapevine 42 ft
- Indian Point 31 ft
- Marina 4 Ln. 47 ft
- Mar Dog Leg 67 ft
- Ringtail 60 ft
- Schoolhouse 27 ft

As most of the local fishermen and women would agree the higher lake levels from the record snow and rain levels last winter and spring have changed the fish habitat considerably. What used to be the perfect fishing spot is in most cases, not the same. This has made fishing Roosevelt much more challenging. Having said that, a bad day fishing is better than a good day at work!

Crappie is just about to go into pre-spawn. Most crappie are being

caught in 20 – 40 ft deep water with the best luck in steep banks. Drop-shot rigs seem to do the best!

Small Mouth Bass are also deep. 20 ft or so. Black and blue Jigs with chartreuse plastics or deep dive lures in the darker colors typically do well on our lake but each day is different so switch it up and do your best.

Roosevelt lake is an amazing place to explore. Be courteous and safe out there!

~Tonto Basin Community Meeting Minutes Continued from page 9

unfairly required to obtain more permits than other residents. The resident wrote down his contact information and provided the list of his questions.

A resident asked why the applicants for the cell tower at Jakes Corner had not been notified by staff that the Board of Supervisors had denied their application. Supervisor Humphrey let the resident know that the Board meetings are streamed live on YouTube and that the audio minutes are available the same day as the meeting. He also added that the applicant had the opportunity to attend the meeting and find out the decision immediately.

Supervisor Humphrey then thanked the residents and guests for attending the meeting. He reminded the residents to add their names to the list if they wished to be a part of a smaller meeting to discuss the issues brought up in more detail.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:

Tonto Basin Chamber,
January 2, 2024, 5pm-7pm
District 2 - Tim R. Humphrey
Phone: (928) 402-4418
thumphrey@gilacountyaz.gov



This home offers a private setting on a dead end road, on the West side. 2 wells, 2 septic systems, RV hook up, horse/chicken corral, views and forest access.

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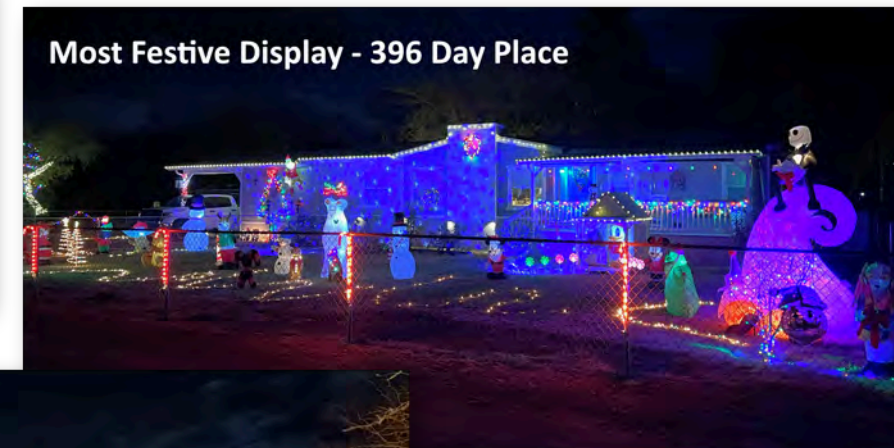
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Most Festive Display - 396 Day Place



Santa's Favorite - Peoples Choice
- 199 E Butcher Hook Drive



Most Creative Use of Lights
- 288 W Crappie Lane



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

Business Most Festive
~ Butcher Hook Bar & Restaurant





Across

- 1. Singing voices
- 6. Turnpike charge
- 10. Prophecy
- 14. Pioneer Daniel _____
- 15. African lily
- 16. The _____ Ranger
- 17. Avid
- 18. Maui garlands
- 19. Love foolishly
- 20. Catch
- 21. Plotted
- 23. Out _____ limb (2 wds.)
- 25. Wary
- 26. Indirect implication
- 31. _____ Cruces
- 32. Foot digits
- 33. Sailor
- 35. Biology, e.g. (abbr.)
- 38. Genesis woman
- 39. Inspiring wonder
- 40. Possessed
- 41. Damage
- 42. Inhabit
- 43. Japanese wrestling
- 44. Polite address
- 45. Guardian
- 47. Opera highlights
- 50. Perfect gymnastics score
- 51. Weed with yellow flowers
- 56. Innocent
- 60. _____ over matter
- 61. Teen's woe
- 62. Wheat by-product
- 63. Words of understanding (2 wds.)
- 64. Groups
- 65. Wipe away
- 66. Shore bird
- 67. Jog
- 68. More sensible

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Down

- 1. Lincoln and Vigoda
- 22. Flat surface
- 43. Singer Frank _____
- 2. Mortgage
- 24. Reply
- 44. Make unhappy
- 3. Dress for Caesar
- 26. Detail
- 46. Gets uptight
- 4. Burdensome
- 27. _____ Scotia
- 47. Concede
- 5. Tranquil
- 28. Not ever, poetically
- 48. Salary boost
- 6. Body powder
- 29. Poor grades
- 49. Not outer
- 7. Margarine
- 30. Fertile desert spot
- 52. Final
- 8. Meat cut
- 31. Bemoan
- 53. Froster
- 9. Not so much
- 34. Manner
- 54. Informed of
- 10. Golden _____
- 35. Avoid
- 55. Treetop abode
- 11. Actor Roger _____
- 36. Showed up
- 57. Islamic nation
- 12. Go in
- 37. Golden calf, e.g.
- 58. Flower container
- 13. Impoverished
- 39. Get up
- 59. Water vessel

See last month's crossword puzzle solution on page 5