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Complimentary

ARIZONA

Dec-January 2024

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starting on
page 12

YOUR COMPLIMENTARY GUIDE TO LOCAL SHOPS AND EVENTS

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Litchfield Park Hosting Annual Christmas in the Park, Dec. 9th

Dec-January 2023-24

The City of Litchfield Park will hold its award-winning annual Christmas in the Park celebration on Saturday, December 9th, in the heart of the city along Wigwam Boulevard and Old Litchfield Road. This family-focused event is free and open to the public. Some activities require a small fee.

The Holiday Market will be open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Arts and Crafts Vendors will start off the day's activities at 9 a.m. when they open for business. Approximately 60 artists and crafters will be selling items from their unique collections. Most offerings are hand-made and perfect for gift giving. Food Vendors will also open at 9 a.m. making their delicious Festival fare available to attendees. All Vendors will be open until 5 p.m.

One of the most anticipated features of Christmas in the Park is the hometown Parade! It starts at 10 a.m. and will include approximately 2,000 participants this year. Families from all over the Valley line up along Old Litchfield Road and neighboring streets to watch this hugely popular event. Taking part will be state and local dignitaries, high school marching bands, local scout troops, school groups, residents, non-profit agencies and area businesses. Some march with banners and others ride in their decorated floats. Santa and Mrs. Claus take part as well!

After the Parade, visitors can spend the day enjoying the numerous activities. Children can have their pictures taken with Santa. They can also enjoy interactive games and inflatables, make-and-take holiday crafts, a petting zoo, and a mini golf wonderland.

The entertainment stage will showcase live acts and choirs all day long. Litchfield Park Mayor Thomas L. Schoaf will open the stage acts with a special holiday read-along at 11a.m. Young children are encouraged to join the Mayor on stage for the reading, which will have a surprise ending that is sure to delight them all!

Those attending Christmas in the Park will rediscover the joy of the holidays in this friendly, small-town atmosphere. Presented by Hilgers Orthodontics and Hilgers Pediatric Dentistry, the annual celebration is one of Arizona's most popular seasonal family events. For more information, call 623-935-9040 or visit the website at www.







SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS CONCERTS First Baptist Church of Sun City

11019 W Peoria Ave, Sun City Sunday, December 3, 2023 • 4:00 PM

First Baptist Church Garden Lakes 2517 N 107th Ave, Avondale Sunday, December 17, 2023 • 5:00 PM

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Antique & Vintage Clothing Buttons Show & Sale in Avondale, February 24th & 25th

Many people have no idea that clothing buttons are avidly collected and that a large group of button lovers and collectors comes together every year in Arizona to buy, sell and compete with these fascinating fasteners. Sponsored by the Arizona State Button Society (ASBS), the Annual Convention attracts button enthusiasts and the curious from

all over the state who will enter competitions, shop and trade and attend educational workshops.

Arizona

The 2024 Button Show and Sale will be held on February 24th and 25th at the Hilton Garden Inn, 11460 W Hilton Garden Way in Avondale. The theme is "Summer in Paris - 2024 Olympics" and hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. The non-profit group asks for a \$5.00 donation at the door. Children are admitted free.

There are antique and vintage buttons that will appeal to almost everyone. Tiny treasures surviving the 18th Century, breathtaking Victorian picture buttons, miniature glass paperweight buttons, fine enamels and whimsical Bakelite are just some of the examples of the types of buttons

that can be found and purchased at this show from the country's finest dealers. Each year, ASBS members enter their competition trays of buttons just before the show. Each tray entered focuses on a specific material, era, size or topic, with judging taking place on the Friday before the show.

After judging, all the trays that were entered into competition are placed on racks for public viewing during the Show. The winners receive prize money and are awarded

Button collecting first became an organized hobby in Chicago in 1938. The National Button Society was then formed and their first show was the following year in Chicago. Button collecting didn't come to the state of Arizona until the 1970s and there has been an annual show in Arizona since 1973.

Arizona has four active button collecting group clubs that meet monthly and are located in the West Valley, East Valley, Tucson and Prescott—all of which are associated with the ASBS. Membership dues are \$20 per year (\$2 for Junior members) and include an emailed Bulletin three times a year with articles, photos, project topics and more.

For more information about the ASBS Annual Show, ASBS Membership and joining a local club follow the group on Facebook www.facebook.com/arizonastatebuttonsociety or email Arizonastatebuttonsoc@gmail.com

The Christmas Wish

Ok, I'll admit that Little Sam is not the most original name, but what else do you call a cat that looks exactly like another except for size? Little Sam just seemed to fit.

I'm not sure exactly when he made his presence known, but I clearly remember he was very aloof, coming near only when he knew it was dinner time. For a year he watched me, hiding under bushes and watching my every movement in the yard. At the same time, I watched him and wondered if I would ever be anything but a free meal

Finally, the day came when I was allowed the honor of petting his head while he ate. Eventually I was allowed to pet him for longer lengths of time and even hold him for short intervals. Still, it was very clear that this feral would always be guarded and that snuggling and cuddling were just not in his nature. I was ok with that and happy to be

His boundaries defined; it took me by complete surprise when Little Sam brought home a friend. Actually, more than a friend. Little Sam brought home a kitten and decided to play mother. The tiny gray and white bundle of fur seemed almost attached to Sam's side as they walked in the yard, and most afternoons I'd see them curled up tightly as they slept in the sun. Male or female, I had no clue for the mere sight of me sent the little one under the house with Sam in hot pursuit. Where Sam was, the kitten was. These two

Sam was a good teacher and the kitten paid close attention. I watched from the window as Sam taught him to chase bugs, climb trees, and use my car tire as a scratching post. He also learned quickly to go in and out of the kitty door of the heated shelter we had on the property. This building had been built for the feral cats we fed and looked out for and it was on one of the kitten's visits to the shelter that I thought it was a good idea to teach him about human contact.

Let's just say that I was the one that did the learning that day. Although armed with leather gloves and determination, I was no match for Sam's little student. After much hissing, spitting, and growling the little one, who I named Spitfire because of this encounter, jumped out of my hands and out the kitty door he flew.

While I did hold him briefly that day, he was too mad at being caught to realize that I only wanted to show him love. Love was not something he desired or something I could force. It was then that I realized that I might have finally met my match. I would have to learn patience if I ever wanted to earn his trust.

Several months passed and Spitfire was becoming a handsome young man. Each day he came closer to me, and seemed to be learning that I meant no harm, but any wrong movement or loud noise sent him into a hasty retreat.

Christmas was quickly approaching and my only wish that year was for our young charge to like me, or at least tolerate me enough to allow me to touch him. I did not desire presents, just the feel of this sweet kitty under my fingers. I shared this wish with my family, but no one gave me any hope.

Christmas arrived that year with bitter cold and a cutting wind. Late in the afternoon I ventured outside to wait for my 'present.' He always showed up around the same time knowing I would feed him but today there was no sign of him.

Fooled again I thought. He was the smart one, probably curled up in the kitty shelter

continued on next page...



AZ Renaissance Festival February 3rd to March 31st, 2024

The annual Arizona Renaissance Festival will open for its 36th season on February 3rd, 2024. The Festival, held in Gold Canyon, is a 16th century European style park with its "Village of Fairhaven" where attendees are immersed in a whimsical and historical setting featuring artisans, 16 stages offering live entertainment, rides, games, jousting knights, music, comedy and ample food and drink.

The Festival offers an opportunity to enjoy and explore the outdoor 50-acre village for nine consecutive weekends, Saturdays, Sundays, and Presidents' Day Monday, February 3 through March 31, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each event date, open rain or shine. For more information, contact **The Festival** at 520-463-2600 or go to arizona.renfestinfo.com.

Free Ticket Giveaway! Enter to Win!

The Country Register is giving away free tickets to the 2024 Arizona Renaissance Festival to a few lucky readers. Send an email to arizona@barlomedia.com before January 10th and put AZ Renaissance in the subject line. Or you can send a letter or postcard to: The Country Register, 515 E Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number. One entry per person, please. The drawing will be held on January 11th and the winners will receive their tickets in the mail.



Christmas Wish, continued from previous page...

out of the cold while I sat on the backsteps shivering. Three times I rattled the food bowls and called which had always worked in the past but not today. On this chilly Christmas evening he was nowhere to be found.

With cold hands and a sad heart, I was about to give up when finally, I caught a glimpse of him out of the corner of my eye. Then, as if he had lived there all of his life, he marched right up to me, looked at the food dish, and loudly demanded his dinner. Much to my delight, he was far too busy eating to notice when I simply reached down and picked him up. I thought for a moment that I was dreaming.

I snuggled, I kissed, and I whispered soft words to my furry captive. He glared at me and then settled into the 'torture.' I was thrilled with each glorious second, but I could almost hear him thinking: "Ok, I'm putting up with this but only because its Christmas."

I'd like to tell you that after that night we were best friends, but Sam's kitten, like Sam, had a mind of his own. I was allowed to pet him when it suited him and on other days, I was back to being a free meal.

In the end, I decided I was ok with him being the boss. Watching him mature and seeing the love between him and Sam was a gift in its own. I would love him on his own terms and be content in the knowledge that Sam had taught him the most important lessons of all - where to find food, where to find shelter, and where to call home.

Authors note: Someone recently asked me if I had a favorite Christmas memory which brought this story to mind. Although this took place many years ago, I will always remember it as one of the best Christmas days of my life. Each year I reflect on what my family deemed as my impossible wish and what I fondly recall as my furry Christmas

Deb Heatherly is a designer for Creative Grids® rulers and the author of eight popular pattern books. Creative Grids® fans are invited to join her Facebook group, "Grids Girls," for tips and inspiration. https://www.facebook.com/groups/770429649800457/. Shop Owners are invited to join her group just for you, "Grids Girls for Quilt Shop Owners Only" https://www.facebook.com/groups/273593657256524.

Visit Deb's website at www.Debscatsnquilts.com.



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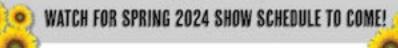
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An After-Thanksgiving Teatime

by Lydia E. Harris

Arizona

The holidays are here, creating such a happy time of year! First, we welcome Thanksgiving with feasting, football, and counting our blessings.

Then the joy and excitement of Christmas quickly follow. Between these two holidays, why not plan and enjoy a relaxing "after-Thanksgiving"

teatime? A friend shared that after hosting their Thanksgiving dinner, she and her daughter create a simple teatime for the two of them and perhaps a friend. "It's a time to slow down, relax, and make

memories." The foods and flavors of Thanksgiving are ones that people love to gobble up beyond that holiday. So

why not turn your Thanksgiving leftovers into a quick and tasty teatime? By doing so, you can extend the season of gratitude and serve up a festive prelude to Christmas.

As you count your blessings, here are some recipes to consider for your after-Thanksgiving teatime.

Turkey Sandwiches: Take Two

Turkey-Salad Croissants

Delicious to gobble up with leftover, moist turkey.

Gather

2 cups diced turkey 1/3 to 1/2 cup diced celery

1/3 cup craisins

1/3 cup mayonnaise (more if you prefer it moister)

2 T. cream or milk

Salt and pepper to taste Lettuce leaves, washed

Large or small croissants

1. Mix together the turkey, celery, craisins, mayonnaise, cream or milk, salt, and pepper. Chill the mixture for 30 minutes to blend flavors or until ready to fill the croissants.

2. Slice croissants in half horizontally. Fill with a thick layer of turkey salad. Add a

3. Wrap and refrigerate the filled croissants until ready to serve.

4. For large croissants, cut the sandwiches in half. Serve smaller croissants whole.

Makes 2 cups filling

Turkey-and-Cream-Cheese Sandwiches

My youngest granddaughter loves these made with raspberry jam.

6 slices white or wheat bread

6 slices deli turkey (or leftover homecooked turkey)

1/2 cup (about 4 oz) cream cheese, softened

1 1/2 T raspberry jam or cranberry sauce (whole berry or jellied)

Directions

1. Mix together cream cheese and cranberry sauce or raspberry jam

2. Spread three slices of bread with the cream cheese mixture. Place 2 slices of turkey

3. Spread butter on the remaining three bread slices. Place them on top of the slices with turkey to close the sandwiches.

4. Wrap and refrigerate the sandwiches until ready to serve.

5. Before serving, trim the crusts. Then cut each sandwich diagonally in both directions to make 4 small triangles.

Makes 12 tea sandwiches

Variation: Turkey Rollups: Substitute three or four 8-inch flour tortillas for the bread. Spread each with the flavored cream cheese, add sliced turkey, and roll up. Wrap and refrigerate until ready to serve. Cut each rollup into six pinwheels.

Festive Cranberry-Orange Scones

My daughter-in-law transforms an ordinary scone mix this way.

- 1. Using your favorite scone mix, replace the liquid in the recipe with orange juice.
- 2. Add 1/4 cup white chocolate chips and 1/4 cup craisins.
- 3. Prepare and bake according to the directions.

5. Optional: While scones are warm, drizzle with a glaze made with 1/2 cup powdered sugar, 1 tablespoon orange juice, and 1/4 teaspoon vanilla. Garnish with small slivers of continued on next page...



Dec-January 2023-24 Tempe • Scottsdale 7

Building Harmony

Harmony Christmas: The Effort

Well, it's Christmas again. I love the traditions and the way it brings people together. Usually you know what to expect. Snow on the ground, a big turkey dinner, family and friends dropping by, and the usual collection of Christmas songs playing over and over. (And over and over...) There are presents to buy and excited children. Inevitably some one knocks over the Christmas tree. Despite all this I find the routine very comforting.

It is a lot of work. Every year, Cathy and I pull out the boxes marked "Christmas" from storage and decorate the house. On this particular day we put up garnishes, set out ornaments, stockings and wreaths. After hours of decorating and drinking eggnog, we finally got to the main event: the Christmas tree. I have to admit, by that time I just want to sit back and watch a good horror movie, but the boss keeps me going.

We were just about done when I asked Cathy, "It's a lot of work and we'll only be pulling it all down and putting it away in a couple of weeks. Why do people go to the trouble to put up a tree in the house anyway? When you think about it, this is a very strange tradition." Somehow I wasn't sure Cathy heard me. "Do you think this is all worth the effort?"

Cathy just smiled as she pulled the very last tree ornament from the box. The ornament appeared to be made of crystal. The lights from the tree danced sparkles all different colors through the glass. The ornament had its own small rainbow around it. This wasn't any ordinary ornament and Cathy always put it on last

You see, Cathy grew up as one of six children. Every year her mother would make six shopping trips (one with each child) so that everyone could keep their presents secret. Cathy loved that time with her mother. You can imagine that being one of six children doesn't afford you a lot of personal alone time with her.

When Cathy was five, her mother bundled her up with a scarf, coat, snow pants, mittens, boots and a hat for the trip to the department store. It was a chilly day and the trip would take two different buses. Cathy could see her breath on the bus' glass window as she watched the houses go by. It was exciting!

When they got to the department store, she found it was filled with wondrous things. There were clothes and toys and jewelry. They looked at it all. Just her and her mother. Cathy thought she was having the best day ever. But it wasn't over just yet.

They finished shopping and were heading to the door when something caught her mother's eye. There was a small crystal ornament sitting in the middle of a bunch of other odd Christmas items. It somehow stood out. Cathy thought it was beautiful. They

"Can we get it for the Christmas tree mommy?" Cathy asked with wide eyes and a big smile. Her mother puzzled for a moment.

"Sorry sweetie. We only have enough money for the bus. If we get this, we'll have to walk home." Cathy didn't think about it, she just put on a great big smile and hugged

So, they set off. It was probably only a half hour walk, but the air was cold. To Cathy it felt like they were going on an expedition across the north pole. The sun would be going down soon. She had to keep her little legs going faster so they'd get home in time. Their breaths hung in the winter air. The snow crunched beneath their feet. All the while Cathy clutched the bag with the ornament in it. Her mother carried the other twelve. She still managed to hold her daughter's hand.

"It's O.K.," Cathy thought. "Mom is with me." The last ten steps were the hardest. The sun had just gone down, it was cold, snow had blown across their front steps. That front door couldn't get close enough. But they made it. Stepping into the warm house, her mother put down all the bags then smiled at her.

She saw Cathy was still clutching the bag with the ornament. Cathy smiled back at her proudly. They pulled it out and thoughtfully hung it on the tree.

"Was it worth the effort?" her mother asked.

"Oh yes!" Cathy replied. She stroked the ornament then she turned to look at me as if she'd just come back from somewhere. I could tell it all from the look in her eyes. We clinked our eggnog glasses, she curled up in my arms and we admired the Christmas tree. Yes, it's all worth the effort.

Merry Christmas from Jeff and Cathy at Harmony Acres.

© Jeff Cappis 2023 jcappis@telus.net

After-Thanksgiving, continued from previous page...

Praline Pumpkin Pie

Our son's favorite pumpkin pie.

Transform an ordinary pumpkin pie recipe by adding this praline layer on the unbaked

1/4 cup butter, melted 1/3 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup pecan halves

Combine butter and brown sugar. Cook and stir until the mixture bubbles. Mix in

- 1. Spoon the praline mixture onto the unbaked pie crust.
- . Pour the pumpkin filling over the praline mixture in the crust
- 4. Bake according to recipe directions. 5. Chill. Serve with whipped cream.
- 6. Optional: For a new flavor twist, add 1/4 teaspoon maple extract to the whipped

Consider fall and holiday flavors of tea, such as pumpkin, cranberry, apple, Republic of Tea Ginger Peach, and spicy flavors such as chai. Brew at least one decaffeinated tea. Our family's favorite herbal tea is Celestial Seasonings Country Peach Passion.

'Tis the season to share a cup of tea with family and friends. Won't you join me? Lydia E. Harris is a tea enthusiast and the author of three grandparenting books: GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids (2023); In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories; and Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting. All are available online and wherever books are sold.



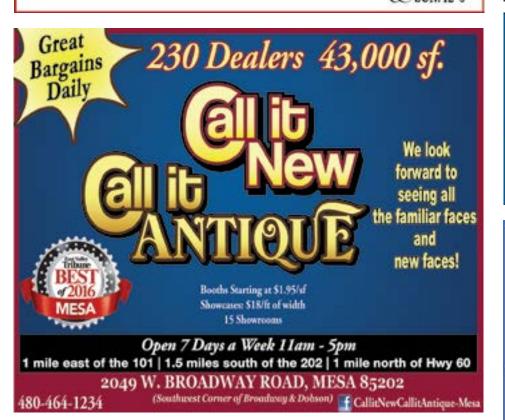






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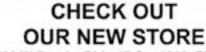
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Next deadline is Jan 2, 2024 Not for shops or shows. Great place to find crafters.



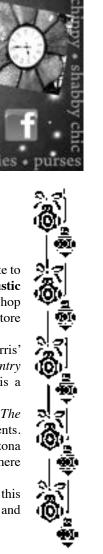
Giveaway Winner from October-November

We have two giveaway winners from our last issue. Cynthia Lamb from Mesa will receive a \$25 Gift Certificate to be spent at her favorite Country Register advertiser, The Rustic Hutch also in Mesa. Cynthina told us this is her favorite shop because, "there is always something new to look at and the store is always clean!

Barbara Smith from El Mirage will receive Lydia Harris' book GRAND Moments. Linda picks up her copy of The Country Register at 35th Ave Sew and Vac in Phoenix. Barbara is a grandmother of 10 and has 1 great grandson.

We love to hear from our readers about how they enjoy *The* Country Register and use it to discover great finds and fun events. In this issue, there is another \$25 Gift Certificate and Arizona Renaissance ticket giveaways so be sure to enter and tell us where you pick up the newspaper.

Take a copy with you as you travel around Arizona this Holiday Season! We wish everyone joyous and safe holidays and a very Happy New Year!



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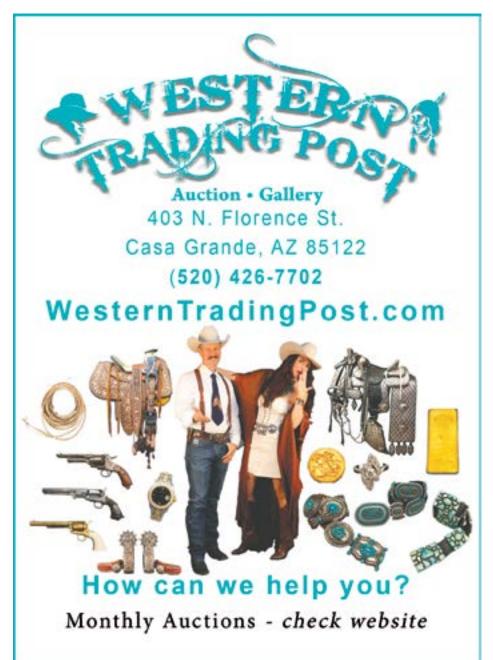
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Dating the Age of Belt Buckles From Vintage, Antique & Native American

Most Saturdays or By Appointment

Arizona

For dealers and collectors of vintage and antique Native American Indian jewelry, accurately dating a piece remains challenging. Though there are various markers, like design, materials, wear, patina, and hallmarks, to consider, these can often be misleading. Older designs are frequently replicated, and wear and patina can be artificially induced.

A persistent query regarding belt buckles is, "When did the swivel bar (hinge) on the back of belt buckles become popular?" as opposed to a solid bar for belt attachment. The question, though seemingly specific, can be crucial in estimating the age of a buckle. Despite the widespread discussions, especially on platforms like Facebook, conclusive answers remain elusive.

In my capacity as a long-time collector of Western memorabilia and the owner of a Trading Post, I've had the privilege of handling numerous buckles. While I had an instinctive response to the question, I sought concrete evidence to back my claims. Given the often subjective nature of dating Native jewelry, I decided to explore the easily dateable Western-style, trophy, or championship belt buckles. The rationale being that trends in Native-made buckles likely mirrored these Western counterparts.

Here are some of my findings:

Pre-WWII Era: Very few championship belt buckles were awarded before WWII. Those few buckles primarily had a solid bar on the back. Western buckles gained momentum in the 1930s and '40s, in line with the introduction of belt loops in jeans during the early '20s. Before this era, suspenders were the norm.

Post-WWII to 1960s: Trophy buckles started becoming a popular prize at equine events during the late 1940s. By the 1960s, they were fairly ubiquitous. Initial swivel bar designs varied among makers and were hand-made. Commercially produced swivel bars,

1960s to 1970s: Custom or shop-made swivel bars gained traction during the 1960s. Nevertheless, the commercial swivel bars we recognize today were not identified in verifiable buckles from the early 1960s. It wasn't until the late 1960s that these started appearing sporadically. The early 1970s saw an increase in buckle production, with the commercial swivel bar gaining mainstream acceptance towards the mid-70s.

Regarding Native American Indian buckles:

Early Designs: Initial designs featured a bar with a tongue across an open center for the belt to loop around. This style was consistent with early Native silverwork, evident in popular concho belts and horse bridles.

1930s Transition: Reflecting the growing popularity of Western-style buckles, Native-made buckles for Western-style leather belts began emerging around the 1930s. This period saw the shift of the bar to the back-left side of the buckle.

Commercial Swivel Bars: These became more common in Native-made buckles in the 1970s, mirroring the broader trend. The increased demand for turquoise jewelry during the early 1970s further streamlined this transition.

In conclusion, a Native-made buckle with a swivel bar likely hails from the early 1970s or later. While earlier iterations might exist, they are rare. That said, a solid bar doesn't necessarily indicate an older buckle, as some contemporary artisans still employ this classic design. Thus, always approach buckle dating with caution, taking into account

I hope this has helped to answer some of the questions concerning vintage and antique

Jim Olson, Western Trading Post, 403 N. Florence St., Casa Grande, AZ 85122. Learn more at www.WesternTradingPost.com, email info@westerntradingpost.com or call 520-426-7702.

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Road to California Quilt Event Returns to Ontario in January!

Road to California is pleased to return to the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario, California, from January 17 to 20, 2024 for its 28th Annual Event with a Preview Night on January 16. **Road** is well known for its outstanding classes. With over 150 to choose from, there is something for everyone!

Road to California is, foremost, a Quilt Show. On display will be over 1,000 quilts from the Road to California Quilt Contest and over twenty special exhibits! Follow the email newsletter for the periodic Special Exhibit previews that will appear from time to time leading up to the show.

There will be over 140 Vendors from all over the US as well as international locations making **Road** one of the foremost shopping destinations for the savvy quilter. You will see things that you cannot buy online. Please note: Rolling carts are not permitted on the vendor floor

Preview Night on Tuesday, January 16, features the entire show—both the Vendor Hall and the Quilt Gallery and hours are 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Show hours on Wednesday through Friday, January 17 to 19, are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 20. Admission Ticket information can be found at: https://online.roadtocalifornia.com/pageroad.php?ID=59.

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Much more information about all **Road's** activities is available online at www. road2ca.com or email info@roadtocalifornia.com. **Road to California** is on Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram. Be sure to make plans to attend this fantastic Southern California original event!

Top 5 Reasons to Attend Road to California in Ontario, CA

by Mark Bac

My wife Donna and I have enjoyed attending the Road to California Quilter's Conference and Showcase for nearly 10 years now. This will be the 29th year for the show which is held at the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario, California from January 17-20, 2024. Here are the top five reasons I have found to attend this show.

Vendors - Nearly 150 vendors are slated to be at the show. It is always great to see in person the items offered for sale rather than relying on a catalog or a picture from the Internet. Many of these vendors will not be at any other nearby show this year. There are great buys so bring an empty suitcase to tote home all your treasures. Trust me, if you are searching for that perfect fabric, thread, or pattern, it will be at this show.

Classes - The number of classes offered ranges from traditional to modern quilting and includes long arm techniques, applique, and samplers among the over 125 classes. The popular instructors are top-notch, award winners, and in demand. There are so many classes offered that the show starts the classes on Monday, January 15, two days before the show begins. Many classes are full day or half day in length. The deadline to register for a class is by January 6, 2024, but if you miss the deadline, you can try and register for an open slot in person starting on January 15. Free admission to the vendor hall is included with the class.

Location – This event is conveniently located ten minutes from Ontario Airport with plenty of non-stop flights. Or if you drive to the show, it is easy access off the I-10 freeway. There are seven host hotels near the convention center, with reasonable rates. So, this event is convenient for all.

Inspiration - The show includes a quilt contest with nearly \$60,000 in cash prizes. The quilts are presented in 10 categories, including miniatures, applique, animals and human images. The work and effort these quilts demonstrate will undoubtedly inspire you to finish those unfinished quilts, start a new quilt and even look for a new pattern and fabric for something awesome. The displayed quilts are one of the highlights for me while attending this four-day event.

Camaraderie - Let's admit it. While quilting can be done in a cocoon, it is helpful to seek out others for advice and help. At the show, you have the vendors with first-hand knowledge about their offerings. Plus, if you attend a class, other attendees will be there to lend a hand (and ear). Even walking through the halls, you will find fellow hobbyists who are always willing to offer advice and help. We always run across friendly, knowledgeable quilters at this show.

For more information visit the show's website, www.road2ca.com.

Mark C. Bach is an accomplished writer covering a wide variety of endeavors. While he enjoys working on the embroidery process, Mark leaves the piecing and quilting to his wife Donna. He resides in the Phoenix metro area and can be reached at mbach@Route66PubCo.com.

Christmas Is...

It's not the ivy, not the holly,
Not store Santas fat and jolly.
It's not the trees with twinkling lights,
Not the darkest silent nights.
It's not cookies, eggnog, candy canes,
Not the gifts or carols, but what remains.
Faith is something we cannot see,
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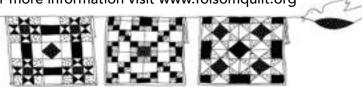






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Giveaway Winner from Oct-Nov

We have one giveaway winner from our last issue

Linda Howell from San Jose will receive a \$25 Gift Certificate to be spent at her favorite Country Register advertiser, The Granary Quilt Shop in Sunnyvale. Linda told us this is her favorite shop because, "the shop has a large selection of quilt fabrics and notions as well as other types of craft supplies.'

We love to hear from our readers about how they enjoy *The Country Register* and use it to discover great finds and fun events. In this issue, there is another \$25 Gift Certificate so be sure to enter and tell us where you pick up the newspaper.

Take a copy with you as you travel this Holiday Season! We wish everyone joyous and safe holidays and a very Happy New Year!

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Enter to Win a \$25 Gift Certificate

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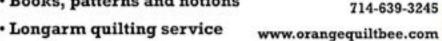
We welcome your comments and/or suggestions about *The Country Register*. Include a note with your drawing entry, send us an email or give us a call at 1-888-942-8950. We enjoy hearing from our readers!











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Home for the Holidays

As a new year approaches, many of us find ourselves reflecting on the happenings of the last 12 months that came and left in a flash. Time seems to pass faster than a shooting star... and just like that star, catching it to hold onto is impossible.

This last year has brought major change into my life. Most decidedly is the move we made back to my home state of Oregon. This year, I won't just be home for the Holidays. I am home for good!

It is early morning as I write this. I am sitting in our RV. It is dark and I can hear beautiful Oregon raindrops dancing on the roof. It is such a calming sound for me, and it makes me smile as I grab my tea.

Having the opportunity to be home again has been such a treat. I didn't realize just how much I missed it the last ten years. I find myself frequently stopping to take in the fragrance of the pine trees as I listen to the wind swirling through their boughs.

One of the things that feeds my soul is my beloved ocean. I am overjoyed that I can now drive there within a few hours! Just a couple of weeks ago, I was able to visit the coast and take in all its' beauty. Sitting and hearing the waves crash filled me with such

Recent drops in temperature have brought glorious fall color to the hills and mountainsides. Bursting flames of crimson, gold and orange peak through the evergreen forests. It is a sight to behold and treasure.

As the weather has begun to change, it's very apparent to me that my wardrobe is sorely missing items that are imperative for this part of the country. Living in Arizona for the past six years, I existed primarily in flip flops, sleeveless shirts and shorts. Those don't work so well here! (Brrrr!)

We are living rural now, so shopping locally is not always an option. The shipping boxes have been arriving on a regular basis, filled with cold weather goodies and warm fuzzy fun. I forgot how cozy it feels to snuggle up in a sweater and slide on soft slipper socks to take care of my (now) cold toes! Add a hot drink and a fireplace and it is heaven.

Above all that I have already mentioned, I am tearfully grateful to be within driving distance of my family and friends. I have missed the ability to be around those I love on a regular basis. I look forward to many happy days ahead of being a Nana, Mom, Daughter and friend in person. Facetime is great, but I've missed the hugs.

I look forward to the day when we find our house and can get settled in. In the meantime, I will continue to be grateful for the raindrops on the roof of my RV and the adventure that it is to be camping on a daily basis!

As this year comes to an end, I encourage you to relish the things that are "home" to you. The simple things. The things that you may be taking for granted. The things that make you "Home for Christmas" every day of the year. Wrap yourself up in them and

Doesn't that smell good?! Come on...we've got this. I know we do!

Julie Pirtle is a Professional Organizer and owner/operator of Clutter Happens. She also works with clients nationally through Video Consultations. The Clutter Challenged can reach her at clutterhappens@gmail.com, on Facebook:/clutterhappens or her website www.clutterhappens.com.

Christmas Word Search TIVLRDHKCANDYH

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Recognizing Love

by Barbara Polston

Saint Nicholas Day is celebrated on December 6th each year. Saint Nicholas is remembered as the bringer of gifts and, quite possibly, the origin of Santa Claus. As an immigrant of Eastern Europe, Saint Nicholas Day was very important to my maternal grandmother. She would tell stories of the children leaving out their shoes or stockings in which Saint Nicholas would leave treats - if they were good children. Every year, she would telephone me with a reminder to leave out my stocking for his visit. Grandma always had special Saint Nicholas treats for me, too. A lovely childhood memory.

This past year, my cousin posted a reminder about Saint Nicholas Day on her Facebook page, sending me into a spiral of memory. I recognized that my grandmother was sharing her culture and traditions with me, passing on the story of a bit of her life. Her annual effort to provide me with early holiday cheer was special, something none of my friends experienced. Ultimately, I realized, she was sharing her love, something I did not understand as a child.

There are many ways we share love, without saying the words. When we reach out to a friend just to say, "I was thinking of you," we are sharing love. Making a charitable donation to people (or animals) in need is sharing love. Letting the person with a few items behind you in the grocery checkout line go ahead when you have an overflowing cart is sharing love. Smiling at a stranger is sharing love.

When we make a quilt that will be gifted to a family member or friend, we put love into the selection of the pattern, the choice of fabrics, and in every stitch. Many quilters sew for charitable causes, making quilts, placemats, holiday stockings, and so much more. While these are being made, we think about the children or adults who may receive our gifts, hoping that they comfort them and provide a bit of warmth or cheer. Some items are made to be sold to fund charitable work. While making these donations, we hope that they do well at the sale, providing much needed funds for causes important to the maker. In all of these efforts, and more, quilters are sharing love.

There's no guarantee that, when you share your love through actions, the recipients will recognize it, just, as a child, I did not recognize my grandmother's sharing of love. Just remember, "The love in your heart isn't put there to stay. Love isn't love until you

©Barbara Polston, Tucson, Arizona. Barbara Polston is the author of Quilting With Doilies: Inspiration, Techniques, and Projects (Schiffer Press, 2015) and Meet Puppy Brian (2022 on www.puppybrian.com). She lives in Tucson where she has failed at retirement but is getting more time at her sewing machine. Contact Barbara at barbarapolstonquilter@gmail.com.







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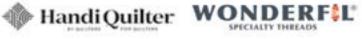
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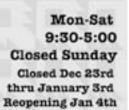
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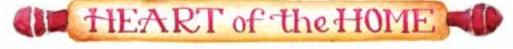


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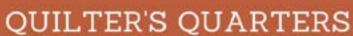
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Joy & Blessings.

Girlfriend Wisdom is written and illustrated by Jody Houghton® Color files of this writing and artwork are available: www.JodyHoughtonDesigns.etsy.com

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Havasu Stitchers 15th Biennial Quilt Show February 2nd & 3rd, 2024

The **15th Biennial Bridge of Friendship XV 2024 Quilt Show** sponsored by the Havasu Stitchers is scheduled for February 2nd & 3rd, 2024 at the Aquatic Center, 100 Park Avenue, Lake Havasu City, Arizona. The theme is *Dream It Quilt It* and promises to be an outstanding event with many quilts on display, vendors, an opportunity quilt raffle, and a variety of quilt-related displays and prizes.

Admission to the event is \$10 and is good for both days. The hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day and parking is free. Food vendors will be on site to tempt your taste buds and give you a rest before or after you explore this fabulous quilt adventure.

Both guild members and non-members are welcome to submit quilts entries. The show is not professionally judged, but ribbons will be awarded to those quilts honored by Viewers' Choice, local dignitaries, and committee chairs.

To enter a quilt display at the show, please go to the Quilt Registration page at www. havasustitchers.com/Quilt-Regisration, for more information and registration form. Quilts and 2 copies of the form are due on December 1, 2023. There is an entry fee of \$10.00 per quilt for non-members.



Opportunities to enjoy the show abound with a viewing of the guild's Quilt Challenge "Arizona Dreaming," a Bed Turning and the very popular Sew Up a Creek Boutique where you can find a multitude of handmade items for sale.

Arizona

Don't forget to buy a chance to win the lovely Opportunity Quilt "Dreaming." The Havasu Stitchers' very own Lisa Mousel led the group of creative quilters to complete its construction in time to have it available for your opportunity to win this beautiful quilt. A special thanks is extended to Ginny Clausen for the lovely quilting she provided to make

2024 Opportunity Quilt "Dreaming" this quilt complete. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5 and the winning ticket will be drawn at 3 pm on Saturday. You do not have to be present to win

The description Dream It Quilt It is just the beginning of what you can expect to see at the **Havasu Stitchers' 15th Biennial Quilt Show. Havasu Stitchers** have prepared an exciting quilt adventure and would love to share their passion for quilting with you. They hope to see you at the Quilt Show!

Havasu Stitchers Guild is an affiliate of the Arizona Quilters Guild (AQG) and was established in 1992. The guild's purpose is to promote quilting, inspire creativity, and encourage quiltmaking through education. With a membership in excess of 150, Havasu Stitchers contributes much to their local community. Community Outreach programs provide support to numerous local care and assisted living centers by delivering quilts, bibs, walker bags and other items of comfort to these establishments. The proceeds from the Quilt Show make it possible to provide funding for these worthwhile charities.

For additional information related to **Havasu Stitchers**, please check out the website – www.HavasuStitchers.com. You can also find them on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/havasustitchers.



Tombstone Quilt Show February 1 to 27, 2024

The **Annual Tombstone Quilt Show** will be coming to the **Tombstone Art Gallery** February 1st through 27, 2024. The Quilt Show will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is Free. All applications for quilt entries must be received by January 10, 2024

- The schedule for the 2024 Tombstone Quilt Show is as follows:
- The Show starts on February 1 and ends on February 27.
- Quilts entered in the show will be judged on the morning of February 1 by a Professional Quilt Judge. Judging categories include: A new sponsor, "Fran Corder Best of Show" with a \$500 prize, "Best Use of Color", "Best Art Quilt", Judges Choice" and "People's Choice"
- Special Awards for quilting include: "Best Hand-Guided Longarm," "Best Computerized Longarm," "Best Domestic Machine" and "Best Hand Quilting."

• On Saturday, February 24 the Quilt Show reception starts at noon. The drawing winner of the 2024 Raffle Quilt "Tombstone Heritage" will be announced. Awards Presentation will be announced along with the presentation of the People's Choice Award. The conclusion will be the unveiling of the 2025 Raffle Quilt.

The 2024 Raffle Quilt is titled "Tombstone Heritage" and tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. "Tombstone Heritage" was designed and pieced by members of the **Tombstone Art Gallery's** Quilt Division and professionally quilted by Kay Kartchner of St. David, Arizona. The brands that border the quilt are from the ranches in Cochise County in the 30's and 40's and provided by a postcard from the Gadsden Hotel in Douglas, AZ. The quilt is currently on display in the Gallery and tickets are available until the drawing on February 24.

The **Tombstone Art Gallery** is located at 383 E. Allen St., across from the OK Corral, and will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tombstone Association of The Arts, Ltd., doing business as **The Tombstone Art Gallery**, is a non-profit organization established for the purpose of furthering the arts in the Tombstone vicinity. It promotes endeavors of youngsters and adults alike and supports charitable and educational activities within the City of Tombstone. To learn more, visit tombstoneartgallery.com.

Wickenburg Quilt Guild's Biennial Show, Jan. 26th & 27th

Wickenburg's **Vulture Peak Patchers Quilt Guild (VPPQG)** members are very excited to welcome visitors to their Biennial Quilt Show to be held on January 26 and 27, 2024 at the Wickenburg Community Center.

The theme for this year's quilt show is "Arizona Skies" as they highlight the Arizona sunsets and sunrises that are legendary. Technicolor skies with vivid hues of orange, red and fuchsia provide breath taking back drops for the towering saguaros and vast canyonlands. Arizona skies at night are also famous with midnight-black skies awash in stars, double stars and even the planets of Mercury, Mars and Jupiter making Arizona skies one of the best spots for star gazing in the world.

Winter is such a beautiful time to be in Wickenburg and residents and visitors alike turn out in record numbers to enjoy the inspiring works created by **VPPQG** members. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience this unique small western town and all that it has to offer in its inspiring desert location.

Inspired by the brilliance of our Arizona skies, the Opportunity Quilt incorporates various techniques including both hand and machine appliqué, traditional piecing and embellishing. Starting with a stunning sunset panel, talented quilt guild members embellished desert elements to highlight the beauty of the desert that is canopied under the Arizona sky. Drawing tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00 and can be purchased at the Quilt Show or from any **Vulture Peak Patchers** member. The winning ticket will be drawn just before the show's closing on Saturday and you need not be present to win.

In addition to the show's wide range of beautiful quilts the show will be features Quilter's Attic and Consignment, a Bazaar, Quilt Appraisals, Door Prizes, Vendor shopping area, Raffle Baskets, an Opportunity Quilt Raffle, and Community Service Booth (Comfort Quilts).

Door Prizes will consist of wonderful handmade items along with purchased items related to the love of quilting. Six prizes per day will be announced and you must be present to win.

There are six beautiful theme-based raffle baskets to win featuring fabric, books and notions, all new and handmade along with collected items representing the individual themes. These popular basket themes are Wine and Chocolate, Western, Lets BBQ, Quilters Delight and Gone to the Dogs. Tickets are available at the show for \$1.00 each.

Those who attend "Arizona Skies" on Friday will judge the show, choosing their favorite in each category. It is Viewers' Choice and ballots will be handed out upon admission. On Saturday, you can come back and see who the winners are—including who received the Best of Show award chosen by the Quilt Show Chairman.

Quilt Show Hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$5 per day with children ages 12 and under admitted at no charge. The Wickenburg Community Center is located at 160 N. Valentine Street, Wickenburg. Watch for and enjoy "little quilts" displayed in businesses throughout Wickenburg as local owners join the Guild in promoting the Quilt Show. Please support local shops, restaurants and businesses during your visit.

The **Vulture Peak Patchers Quilt Guild (VPPQG)**, formed in 1997, is a non-profit whose members range from beginners to master quilters. They are bound by common interests in learning from each other, available program opportunities plus having fun, making new friends and finding inspiration. Special activities include shop hops, retreats, a Chinese auction, field trips to statewide shows and a special Christmas holiday event.

Community Service Projects (Comfort Quilts) include quilts, blankets, hats, scarves and afghans. The Guild's creative efforts are shared with a number of service organizations, Project Linus, American Legion, Stepping Stones, VA Hospital and Wise Owl Senior Center.

The Biennial Quilt Show is held to raise funds for the Guild's efforts to assist

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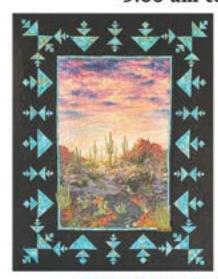
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Presented by: Wickenburg's Vulture Peak Patchers

January 26 - 27, 2024

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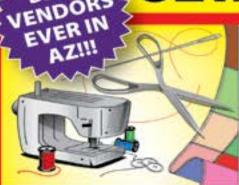
Wickenburg Community Center 160 N. Valentine St., Wickenburg, AZ

For more information contact us at: wickenburgquiltshow@gmail.com

community charities in Wickenburg and surrounding areas. **VPPQG** Meetings are held from October through May on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9 a.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church Annex in Wickenburg. New members and guests are always welcome.

For information email www.wickenburgquiltshow@gmail.com.

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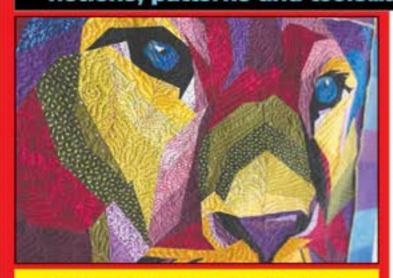
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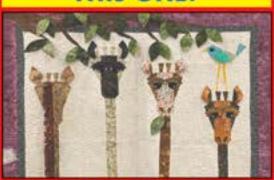
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