

Inside

Talk of the Town



REGINA FORD
Pg. 2B

Around Town Pg. 3B
Horoscopes Pg. 4B
Travel Pg. 6B
Movie Review Pg. 8B

The New York Times
Crossword Puzzle
Pg. 3B

Today in History

April 23-29

4/23 1998 James Earl Ray, who'd confessed to assassinating the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 and then insisted he'd been framed, died at a Nashville, Tenn., hospital at age 70.

4/24 2005 Pope Benedict XVI formally began his stewardship of the Roman Catholic Church; the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said in his installation homily that as pontiff he would listen to the will of God in governing the world's 1.1 billion Catholics.

4/25 1945 During World War II, U.S. and Soviet forces linked up on the Elbe River, a meeting that dramatized the collapse of Nazi Germany's defenses.

4/26 1986 The world's worst nuclear accident occurred at the Chernobyl plant in the Soviet Union. An explosion and fire killed at least 31 people and sent radioactivity into the atmosphere.

4/27 1509 Pope Julius II excommunicated the Italian state of Venice. (The pope lifted the ban in February 1510.)

4/28 1789 There was a mutiny on HMS Bounty as the crew of the British ship set Capt. William Bligh and 18 sailors adrift in a launch in the South Pacific.

4/29 1992 Deadly rioting erupted in Los Angeles after a jury in Simi Valley, Calif., acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the videotaped beating of Rodney King.

Birthdays: **4/23** Actress-turned-diplomat Shirley Temple Black is 78; **4/24** Actress-singer-director Barbra Streisand is 64; **4/25** Actor Al Pacino is 66; **4/26** Actress-comedian Carol Burnett is 73; **4/27** Announcer Casey Kasem is 74; **4/28** "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno is 56; **4/29** Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 52.

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USA Today's Top 10 Bestsellers

Key: (F) Fiction, (NF) Non-Fiction, (H) Hardcover, (P) Paperback

- The Da Vinci Code**
by Dan Brown
Doubleday (F-H)
- Don't Make a Black Woman Take Off Her Earrings**
by Tyler Perry
Riverhead (F-H)
- Two Little Girls in Blue**
by Mary Higgins Clark
Simon & Schuster (F-H)
- Marley & Me**
by John Grogan
William Morrow (NF-H)
- Giada's Family Dinners**
by Giada De Laurentiis
Clarkson Potter (NF-H)
- Angels & Demons**
by Dan Brown
Pocket (F-P)
- Rule #1: The Simple Strategy for Successful Investing**
by Phil Town
Crown (NF-H)
- Full Scoop**
by Janet Evanovich,
Charlotte Hughes
St. Martin's Paperbacks (F-P)
- No Place Like Home**
by Mary Higgins Clark
Pocket (F-P)
- True Believer**
by Nicholas Sparks
Warner (F-P)

ASSOCIATED PRESS, USA TODAY

Picture this:

Safe cycling—the goal of bikers and local Camera Club

By Regina Ford
Green Valley News

Recent growth in the Green Valley and Sahuarita has created challenges for all residents. One of these challenges is dealing with increased traffic and safety on our streets and highways. One group in particular is more aware of the need for safety than others—the area's bicycle riders.

The number of people riding bikes has increased dramatically in recent years, so has the need for all area residents to practice good auto driving and bicycle riding safety habits.

To this end, two groups have combined their talents to highlight the situation. One is the local Green Valley Recreation Camera Club and the other is a group of Green Valley area cyclists who ride together several days each week.

Earlier this year, two Green Valley photographer/cyclists decided to combine their interests. Don Spear, longtime Green Valley Camera Club member and a bike rider, enlisted the help of fellow cyclist/Camera Club member Burton Featherman in the project. Spear, a past president of the Camera Club, organized more than 37 local cyclists to have a formal portrait made in the club's photography studio in East Center.

Camera Club member Bob Suomala also assisted in the studio. Several of the bikers are also members of the Camera Club and were very interested in the project.

After the studio work was completed, Spear and Featherman followed the 40-plus bikers around Green Valley to make a series of "action" shots.

Special exhibit

The result is an exhibit of 50 photographic prints now displayed in the West Center foyer gallery. The exhibit will be shown in the gallery until May 9.

All of the photos were taken in the GVR Camera Club's modern digital photo studio, but the final 16 X 20-inch framed prints are far from typical studio portraits.

They are what Spear calls, "theme, activity portraits." Each picture includes not only a formal image of the person, but also an additional rendering that highlights the person's activity—in this case cycling. This is done with digital images, a computer, and professional level Adobe Photoshop software.

"These photographs are truly unique. They are excellent examples of how far the photographic arts have progressed since the conversion from film and chemical darkrooms to digital cameras,

computers, and high-tech InkJet printers," Spear added.

The group of bike riders featured in the exhibit has been riding together in the area for more than 15 years. They number between 10 and 45 riders, depending on the season. They meet year around, three times-a-week on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings.

Ride 35 to 70 miles

Starting from the West Center tennis court parking lot, they typically bike from 35 to 70 miles each outing. Their round trip destinations include Tubac, Tumacacori, McGee Ranch, Madera Canyon, Mount Hopkins Visitor Center and, on occasion, Arivaca, Rio Rico, San Xavier Mission, and Tucson.

Unfortunately, the group became even more aware of the need for bicycle safety when one of its members was killed in a tragic traffic accident.

Longtime member of the group, Sahuarita resident Fred Hettig, 69, was killed, while riding alone, on Wednesday, March 22. The West Center print exhibit has been dedicated to the memory of Hettig.

Two cyclists, Bill Adamson and Jim Jordan, co-chair the Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocate Committee (SCVBAC).

This committee started as the Green Valley Community Coordinating Committee's (GVCCC) Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee in 2004 to develop the GVCCC master plan for multi-use lanes and trails as part of the GVCCC Vision 2020 project.

There were many gaps in the system of bike lanes in Green Valley that were becoming increasingly unsafe with more traffic. So the local bicyclists formed a citizens' committee to convince Pima County to add bike lanes for safer riding throughout the community. The first two gaps filled by Pima County were the new bike lanes on Camino del Sol in 2004 and Continental Road in 2005.

The committee also worked with Pima County and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to win two grants this year valued at over one million dollars. The grants will fund two safety projects.

The first would provide a separated multi-use path from Madera Reserve to Continental School, and add bike lanes on White House Canyon Road (Continental Road to Continental School) connecting to existing bike lanes on Continental.

The second will add bike lanes on Continental under Interstate 19 connecting to the existing bike lanes on Continental.

In recognition of the committee's interests both within Green Valley and in the broader Santa Cruz Valley region, and with the encouragement of GVCCC, the com-



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY GREEN VALLEY CAMERA CLUB

LOCAL BIKERS enjoy the scenery of Elephant Head.

mittee expanded its membership and changed its name to be more effective regionally.

The Santa Cruz Bicycle Advocate Committee continues working with the GVCCC Traffic & Arroyos Committee, Pima County, and ADOT to improve bicycling safety and enjoyment throughout our region.

The Green Valley Camera Club was formed more than 25 years ago. It maintains studio/classroom and a computer based digital imaging facility at the East Center.

More than 600 members

In the last three years, membership has grown from 200 to more than 600 GVR members. The growth is attributed to the expansive interest in digital imaging and the club's extensive education programs.

The club has more than outgrown its allotted space and is working with GVR to expand the facilities.

Three years ago, the club began offering classes on all aspects of digital photography. These range from "how to use your new digital camera" to the basics of good picture making.

Also included are classes on the latest available computer software to process digital images and several classes on advanced image and exhibit print making.

The initial classes were attended by about 100 members each week; now, the total members attending the classes top 300 each week.

The purpose of the cyclist project was to use the excellent facilities and talent of the Camera Club to highlight and bring attention to an active group of bikers.

"As Green Valley continues to grow, vehicular traffic has increased and more people



'BIKES AT REST' is one of the photos on display in a photo exhibit by the Green Valley Camera Club in the West Center lobby through May 9.

are using the streets to ride bikes. So it is more important than ever for the cyclists to be safety conscious. Auto drivers, too, must be more aware of other people using the roadways and all users need to share the road," Spear said.

"We hope that those who see the print exhibit at the West Center will be more aware of this need for safety on our streets."

The Camera Club maintains an informational Web site at www.gvcameraclub.org. Anyone who is interested in

the club can learn all about it from that Internet site.

Also, most of the biker portraits are displayed on the site in the "Members' Photo Gallery" section. For more information on the club call Jim Michael, membership chairman at 648-2686, or club president, Ron Harper at 203-7764.

Anyone interested in joining the cyclists on their weekly rides may contact Bill Adamson at 648-6340 or Jim Jordan at 625-9190.

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(ABOVE) **CYCLIST** Bob Gullet, who has had two knee replacements, is a longtime Green Valley biker who participates in the Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday bike group.

(AT LEFT) **JACK AND GUENDA** Spafford are avid cyclists and also part of the Green Valley Camera Club photo exhibit, currently on display at the West Center.