



Get Out!
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B1

GREEN VALLEY NEWS AND SUN



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Replacement, not repair for Abrego North pool

GVR looking to put in new facilities at site

By David Rookhuyzen
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The pool at Abrego North can't be repaired long-term, and will need to be replaced.

That's the bottom line from contractors Kratt Construction and Western Technology Inc., whose findings were presented at a meeting of Green Valley Recreation's Planning and Evaluation Committee on Thursday. Kratt gave GVR two options

for repairing the pool — either fixing the current cracks with a surface epoxy or injecting a polyurethane foam beneath the bowl of the pool. However, it's possible the foam could put more pressure on the pipes and lead to more breaks. And, because of existing soil conditions, Kratt is not recommending either option and will not guarantee repairs for more than a few months.

"The repairs would be Band-Aids on wounds that need surgery," said Ron Sills, the committee's chair.

The pool has been drained and closed since November, after mul-

tle cracks in the bowl allowed water to seep into the ground at the rate of two gallons per minute. The cracks were caused by the leak in the return line, which saturated the soil and caused the bowl to settle even more. That leak, found three or four feet beneath the surface where pressure had caused an elbow joint to snap, was found during work on the pool last month.

However, the pool's problems could eventually be more good news than bad for Abrego North residents.

SEE ABREGO NORTH, PAGE A9



CHRISTOPHER BOAN / GREEN VALLEY NEWS

The ride continues

Chuck Hill of Green Valley leads the 10th annual Ride of Silence down Abrego Drive on Wednesday, where 73 cyclists came out to support the seven-mile ride that honors those who have been killed in bicycle-related incidents. **More photos, Page B3.**

GV Hospital opens doors to patients

Green Valley News

Green Valley Hospital opened Tuesday afternoon and admitted its first patient later that day — a 27-year-old Sahuarita woman.

The opening of the independent, 50-bed community hospital came three days after a public tour drew an estimated 3,500 people. Hospital CEO David Wanger said the hospital is "bringing services up slowly" as it works out details including minor equipment issues.

It is on East Frontage Road, north of Canoa Road in Green Valley.

Southwest Ambulance, operated by Rural/Aletro Fire Department, began delivering patients to the hospital Tuesday, a spokesman said. Several people were in the Emergency Room on Thursday, and the hospital had several overnight admissions, Wanger said.

The hospital includes a gift shop and restaurant that will be open soon, as well as a chapel, helipad, community meeting room and most medical services outside of a Level 1 trauma unit.

About 200 residents have signed up to volunteer at the hospital.

Crews contain fire in Santa Ritas

By David Rookhuyzen
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The Oak Tree Fire, which burned approximately 2,023 acres of grass, oak, pinon pine and juniper on the eastern side of the Santa Rita Mountains, has been all but extinguished.

The fire, located 10 miles north of Sonoita, was 80 percent contained as of Friday night with low growth potential, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

Firefighters will con-

tinue to monitor the fire and put out hot spots until it's completely contained, but demobilization began Saturday morning. There were 15 firefighters and four engines left on scene to finish containment.

The fire was first reported around 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday. By Friday, roughly 185 people from 20 agencies were fighting the blaze. Those agencies included the state Department of Trans-

SEE OAK TREE FIRE, PAGE A9



PHOTOS BY KITTY BOTTEMILLER / GREEN VALLEY NEWS

EVAN KAUFMAN, 6, celebrates graduation from kindergarten and a birthday with family as Sahuarita Officer Joe Grijalva stops by to check out his coloring project and party wear on Thursday.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Sahuarita police answer questions, pour coffee

By Kitty Bottemiller
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Sahuarita police expected maybe a half-dozen patrons at a local restaurant for the kick-off of their new Coffee with a Cop program.

At 10 a.m., Jerry Bob's in the Sahuarita Safety shopping center was packed, and the people kept coming. While not all may have come specifically to chat with police in an informal setting, several did.

"I spoke to five or six tables who came just for this," said Jeremy John-

son, Jerry Bob's manager. "I posted an announcement the day before (online) and got 63 responses."

His is the first establishment to host the event and said he was impressed with the community-police philosophy behind it as well as the turnout.

"Would he host it again?" "Yes, definitely," he said. During the hour-long visit, at least a half-dozen officers took part, some from beginning to end, replenishing their coffee pots and pitchers repeatedly. One patron recog-

SEE COFFEE, PAGE A9



OFFICERS KELSEY SANTOS and Joe Grijalva take a quick break from serving.



INSIDE

Briefs A3
Bus. Connection C5,6
Calendar B4

Classified C1-6
Color Comics B9,10
Comment A6,7
Crossword B5

Gardening B2
Golf Scores B6
Letters A6
Obituaries A8

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OUTSIDE

Mostly sunny & nice, high 81. Clear, cool night; low 55. **More weather, A4.**



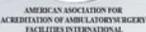


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CUSTOM CLUBS

CONTINUED FROM B1

Love of the game

Barrette picked up club-making as a hobby more than 40 years ago when his neighbor at the time introduced him to it.

He said the first clubs he attempted were horribly constructed, but were enough to get him hooked on the art of custom club-making.

"Not only is it a sport and a love, but whenever you work at something you love it really isn't work, and it hasn't been work to me," Barrette said. "That's why I'm still doing it, not because of the money or anything, it's just because I love doing it."

Barrette estimates he still cranks out a set of clubs every two to three weeks at his home in Green Valley, where he's lived since 2003.

Longtime friend and fellow Desert Hills member Bob Campbell said Barrette's work has helped his golf game tremendously.

"Bob's taught me a lot, and I'm a high handicapper, so I need a lot of help," Campbell said. "He's helped me with me with so many things that I do on the course. He know what he's talking about, and I think he'll help someone tremendously."

The right person

Barrette's hoping to find a youngster in Southern Arizona who either can't afford a set of golf clubs or has a set that's unusable.

"Golf opens up so many avenues in life," Barrette said. "If they're really interested in learning the game then they can find so many opportunities, from becoming a club or teaching professional or, if they're good enough, a touring professional. There are all kinds of opportunities."

Campbell added that Desert Hills Golf Club in Green Valley will throw in a golf bag for the person that Barrette selects.

Barrette said he hopes the person selected gets a lot of use out of the clubs and takes full advantage of the plethora of courses in and around Green Valley and Sahuarita.

"I just hope the person enjoys them, and hopefully they'll get better, because they've got a set that will fit them," Barrette said. "Who knows, maybe they'll become one of the outstanding golfers on the University of Arizona team one day, you never know."

(Young golfers interested in working with Barrette may email Green Valley News sports editor Christopher Boan at cboan@gvnews.com.)

Christopher Boan | 547-9747

SOMBER REMEMBRANCE



The 10th annual Ride of Silence went off without a hitch Wednesday as 73 bicyclists made the 7-mile loop along Abrego Drive, Esperanza Boulevard and Duval Mine Road. The event, put on by the Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocacy Committee, honors those who have been killed in bicycle-related crashes.

TOP: A group of bicyclists gathers around as Green Valley resident Chuck Hill goes over the planned route for last Wednesday's Ride of Silence.

RIGHT: A throng of bikers approach the end of the 7-mile Ride of Silence procession in Green Valley on May 20, as Pima County Sheriff's deputies watch.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER BOAN | GREEN VALLEY NEWS