February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 City Council meets at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers	7 Community Lunch-eon @ Brass Rail @ 12:00 noon	8 Rotary	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Rotary	16	17	18
19	20 City Council meets at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers	21	22 Chamber Board of Directors meet @ 7:30 a.m. at Holiday Inn Express Rotary	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Rotary			

For further dates check out the Community Calendar on our web site www.willcoxchamber.com

Willcox Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture

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Staff—
Kathy Smith, Executive Director
Connie Bonner, Accountant
Teresa Palmer, Receptionist

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

Bringing a growing community together...By building community, encouraging economic development and attracting and providing for visitors

February 2012

WILLCOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & AGRICULTURE

CHAMBER NEWS

Willcox Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture

2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wayne Crane, President
SSVEC
520-384-5510

Ron Bastian, Treasurer
Radio Shack
520-384-2520

BOARD

Bob Cutlipp
Willcox United Methodist Church
520-384-3482

Brenda Haas
Holiday Inn Express
520-384-3333

Cory Alexander
Simflo Pumps
520-384-2273

Jan Kortsen
Shotton Insurance
520-384-3635

Kelly Stamback
Stamback Septic
520-384-4468

Lana Estes
Valley Telecom Group
520-384-2231

Lisa White
Western Bank of Lordsburg
520-766-3521

Roland Knox
Northern Cochise Community Hospital
520-384-3541

Sara Nolan
Art League of Willcox
520-508-2221

EX-OFFICIO

Kees Rodenburg, Past President
Dr. Richard Rundhaug
Pat McCourt

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members of the Willcox Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture,

You may have read this article in the Range News, but for those of you who did not—I have announced to the Board of Directors my retirement as Executive Director of the Willcox Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture. The board has asked that I stay through June to give them ample time to send out requests for resumes, and I have agreed to do so. This was not an easy decision for me to make as I have truly enjoyed the past seven years as Executive Director of this organization. I leave here with a better understanding of how to work together with the city, the community and our neighbors.

I want to thank all of you for your support through your membership investment and event sponsorships. Without the support of the businesses in the community this Chamber would not exist. I have enjoyed every minute working with you to make Willcox a great place to live, work and visit. The Board of Directors will be forming a search committee in the next few days to recruit a new Director. The person who follows me will inherit a great organization with great people.

Mick and I plan to spend considerable time getting to know our grandchildren, playing a lot of golf and spending time on the lake with our poles in the water, but we do have plans to visit Willcox on a regular basis since I have found winters in Arizona are much easier to take than winters in Iowa.

Again, thank you for all you have done for this Chamber during my time here. Your support of this organization is priceless.

Sincerely,
Kathy Smith

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

You're invited to join us on February 7th at 12:00 Noon at the Brass Rail (Plaza Restaurant) for our community luncheon.

Our program will be presented by Geoff Oldfather and Jim Andrew of Sierra Southwest Cooperative Services (AEPCO). Feel free to bring a friend.
Please R.S.V.P. your attendance to Teresa at 384-2272.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS
REV. BOB CUTLIPP AND BRENDA HAAS

Rev. Bob Cutlipp, Pastor of Willcox United Methodist Church is a native son of Arizona born in Phoenix and raised in Buckeye and Phoenix. He spent 20+ years in sales and marketing in the food industry in Phoenix and Southern Arizona working for food brokers selling groceries to independent grocery stores, chains, convenience stores and Drug stores. In 1981 he surrendered to the call to ministry in the Christian Church and in 1983 was appointed to Williams Community United Methodist Church. Since then with the exception of four years in Texas while he completed his masters education, Bob has served United Methodist churches in Page, Kingman, Show Low, Holbrook and Winslow prior to coming to Willcox in July of 2011. He is married to Judy and they have two children, Brian who is a Senior at NAU studying Criminal Justice and Business and Katie who is a Senior at Willcox High School. Since coming to Willcox the Cutlipp's have become very involved in the church community as well as Willcox as a whole. Bob also serves as a Chaplain for the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Willcox Department of Public Safety and was recently named at the Chaplain Coordinator for the U S Marshals for the state of AZ

Brenda Haas, manager of the Holiday Inn Express was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. She attended Jefferson Community College and the University of Louisville. Brenda began her career in the hospitality industry in 1972. She has worked for Horizon Hotels for 20 years at various locations coast to coast. She was on the Board of the Etowah County Tourism Council of Alabama from 1985-1988 and served on the Guntersville Chamber of Commerce Board from 1988-1990. She has been active in Lee County Hotel/Motel Association, serving as Secretary from 1990 to 1992. Brenda was president for the TN Days Inn Alliance from 1994-1997. She has been a resident of Willcox since March 2008.

2012 Wings Over Willcox

WOW! What an incredible weekend for our 19th anniversary festival! With over 500 registrants (an all time high for our festival), those of us organizing the festival were amazed at how well everything turned out. Even the weather was incredible, with beautiful clouds and colorful sunsets setting the backdrop for the crane tours - a majestic weekend all around. As a festival, we were proud to be recognized as a Centennial Event celebrating Arizona's statehood. The presentations and tours related to the Centennial were also excellent. It was amazing to learn about the local history, not only about our communities, but also about the birds that live in our communities. Our connection with the Centennial Event assisted greatly in the promotion of the festival and Willcox. Given that, WOW was the only birding festival included in the list of Centennial Events, it was also a "feather" in our cap!

The weekend resulted in 135 species of birds, with highlights of Short-eared Owl, American Bittern, Lewis's Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Mexican Chickadee, and Lapland Longspur. One of the most amazing sightings was a flock of easily 20,000 Lark Buntings (no exaggeration) sway, and swirl, and wing their way back and forth across the dirt road.

On an economic note, we estimate that over 1,000 people visited the 2012 WOW festival. One local hotel was completely sold out on Friday and Saturday night and others were close to capacity. Of the revenues that are raised by the festival, 80 – 85% are returned to the Willcox community through food, supplies, and fuel purchases, contracted labor, advertising, education, and improvements to viewing areas. The economic impact does not end when the festival is over. Thanks to the news media promotion of the festival including KVOA, KUAT, Arizona Daily Star, Arizona Republic, and Arizona Highways, visitors are still coming to see the cranes. Since January 15 the Visitor's Center has been receiving more than 15 calls or inquiries a day about cranes and how to see them. The cranes have been most cooperative and several thousand are loafing and roosting at the Cochise Lake near the golf course right here in town! Please inform visitors to your businesses or have them call the Chamber! Let's keep these visitors in Willcox!

As excellent as this year was, we are already planning for our 20th Anniversary in 2013. The planning will begin with our WOW Bash for volunteers and guides in February and continue with committee meetings in March and April. If you are interested in participating in the planning, call Connie at the Chamber office for more information. Thank you to all who assisted in making this our best festival year ever!

Thank You For Investing in Your Chamber of Commerce
2012 Members (Paid through January 26, 2012)

Gus & Marsha Arzberger
Howard & Gwen Bethel
Ellen Clark
Robert Coder
Phyllis Cohorn
Vince & Eileen DiMiele
Mary Pencin
Advanced Air Systems LLC
Allred Law Office PC
Amerind Foundation Inc.
Andrew O Terry PC
Apple Annie's Orchard
Arizona Electric Power Cooperative Inc.
Art League of Willcox
Benefit Intelligence-GMI
Bonita Bean Company
Bowie Power Station LLC
Briggs & Eggers Orchard
Buddyz Auto Repair
Bushman Medical Clinic
C Bar Ranch
Carlson Creek Vineyard LLC
Carquest - Willcox Auto Parts Inc
Charles Wm Leighton Jr. Hospice Inc.
Chicanos Por La Causa Inc.
City of Willcox
Clifton Insurance Group Inc.
Cochise College
Cochise Community Foundation
Cochise County Republican Committee
Cochise County Workforce Development
Cochise Credit Union
Cochise Farm and Auto (dba Napa Auto Parts)
Coldwell Banker - The DiPeso Group
Community Food Bank Inc
Coronado Vineyards Inc
Country General Corp
Days Inn
Desert Car Wash
Dicks Auto Service
Dos Cabezas Spirit & Nature Retreat
Dunlap Oil Company
Dynamite Solutions dba Trophies 'N Tees
Edward Jones Investments
Encore Dance Academy
Eurofresh Inc.
Friends of Marty Robbins
H & R Block
Holiday Inn Express
III Counties Distributing
Inde Motorsports Ranch
Joe's Car Care
JPD Hotels 2 LLC
Keeling Schaefer Vineyards
Kempton Chevrolet
Kief-Joshua Vineyards
Law Offices of Lowell A. Jensen
Lawrence Dunham Vineyards LLC
Magic Circle RV Park
McDonald's of Willcox/WKS Management
Northern Cochise Community Hospital Inc
Pioneer Title Co.
Plaza Restaurant
Quality Inn
R & R Electric
Radio Shack (JMJ Electronics)
Re/Max High Desert Realty LLC
Rodney's
Rustic Rooster LLC
Shotton Insurance Agency Inc.
Sierra Lumber
Simflo Pumps Inc.
Southeast Arizona Food Bank Warehouse
Southwest Disposal
Southwest Gas Corp
Spalumcheen Ranch
SSVEC
Stamback Septic Service
Stronghold Feed & Supply
Sundown Signs
Sunglow Guest Ranch
T & O Enterprises
TMM Family Services
Troy L Garey DMD PC
Wesleyan Preschool & Childcare
Western Bank of Lordsburg
Willcox Ace Hardware
Willcox Apartments/Englewood Development Co.
Willcox Community Food Pantry
Willcox Cowbelles
Willcox Elks Lodge #2131
Willcox Greenhouse LLC
Willcox Hometown Grocery
Willcox Rock & Sand Inc
Willcox Unified School District
Willcox United Methodist Church
Yurgec Financial Services