

Her one moment in time at the Olympic Games

B1



GREEN VALLEY NEWS AND SUN

INSIDE
Tubac Festival of the Arts begins today!



VOL 48, NO. 11 FEBRUARY 5, 2014

WEDNESDAY

www.gvnews.com 75¢



FAIRWAYS HOMEOWNER Bettye Jo Preis joins homeowner Richard Arnold, who helps with watering, and landscapers from C&D Landscaping, Jose Gonzales and Fonso Carpio. They're standing by a century agave, the only plant that was on the median before work began.

ELLEN SUSSMAN | SPECIAL TO THE GREEN VALLEY NEWS

Bill would move GV into Santa Cruz County

By Dan Shearer
dshearer@gvnews.com

State Sen. Gail Griffin on Tuesday breathed life into a bid to bring Green Valley, Sahuarita and the mines into Santa Cruz County, though the idea hasn't proven popular locally.

Griffin, a Republican whose District 14 skirts the eastern edge of Green Valley, introduced SB 1357, which would put a boundary change to a vote in Santa Cruz County and to those affected in southern Pima County.

"What I'm hoping for is open dialogue by people who are affected," Griffin said late Tuesday. She said she has received "lots of calls" about moving the boundary, and "I haven't heard from anybody who doesn't want to do it."

Griffin said she introduced the bill at the request of constituents, doesn't expect to

have trouble getting it through the Legislature, and wants to hear "about any possible unintended consequences" it may bring about.

"I want to hear all sides of the issue."

Emmett McLoughlin, a former Tucson City Council member who lives in Sonoita, formed the Santa Cruz County Committee for Quality Jobs more than a year ago to explore moving the county line from Amado to Pima Mine Road, which is where Griffin's bill would put it.

McLoughlin said Tuesday night that a boundary change would add 798 square miles to Santa Cruz County, including Green Valley, Sahuarita and Corona de Tucson, along with the Freeport-McMoRan and Asarco mines and the proposed Rosemont Mine.

"I think it's going all

SEE COUNTY, PAGE A11

Better than dirt

2-year effort turns median into showcase

By Ellen Sussman

Special to the Green Valley News

Once-bare median on Abrego Drive just north of Esperanza Boulevard has been given new life thanks to the perseverance of Fairways I homeowner and Master Gardener Bettye Jo Preis.

Preis had hoped the Fairways Property Owners Association would approve having the volunteer group MedianGreen do the work but when the request was denied because of cost, Preis launched a two-year mission to get the permits and approval to take on the job.

"The median had only one agave century plant on it. The rest was bare dirt," she said.

From fall 2011, when she began the process of finding the right person in Pima County's Real Property Division, to May 14, 2013, when she signed a Right of Way License Agreement giving her responsibility for several medians, Preis' determination has paid off.

With 750 homes in Fairways I, II

and III, Preis pitched her plan to raise money at HOA meetings.

"Homeowners gave from \$1 to \$1,000, and everything in between. They dropped money into jars at homeowners meetings and contributed by mail," she said. "I wrote 'thank you' notes."

She was successful in raising \$2,000 and work began in last May.

Preis spoke with MedianGreen founder Susanne Blodgett, who was helpful in directing her to the Green Valley Fire District, which agreed to fill a 132-gallon cistern twice a month. A second cistern was recently purchased for median two, which will get a face lift in April.

Preis' daughter Robin Shifflet, who is in charge of landscape architecture for the City of San Diego, drew up the initial landscape plan. It was rejected because it included trees that could cause visibility problems for traffic; full-grown plants can't be taller than three feet. Several medians on Abrego have trees and tall saguaro cacti exceeding three feet but are not at significant intersections.

When the second plan was approved, Preis and her daughter went to Civano Nursery in Tucson and selected Green Cloud Texas Rangers, Euphorbia, Bear Grass, Yucca Pendula, Century Plant

and Agave and Santa Rita Prickly Pear plants. They require minimal watering, are resistant to disease, insects and hungry desert animals, and with time will provide color.

They bought 57 plants wholesale, and Civano delivered them. Planting was done in one day by Ruth Gleason and her crew with C&D Landscaping of Amado.

Fairways homeowner Richard Arnold has been helping Preis with watering. When the heat arrives and he leaves for the northwest, she hopes other homeowners will pitch in.

Seven medians on Abrego are within the Fairways neighborhood, stretching from Verde Vista near Esperanza south to Del Rio. Preis is planning to make another request for funds at the annual homeowners meeting this month to plant medians two and three. She is also asking homeowners who have cactus and drought-tolerant plants to donate to contact her.

Anyone wishing to donate funds to help beautify and plant the second and third medians may mail a check to Bettye Jo Preis, c/o Fairways, P.O. Box 28, Green Valley 85622.

Contact Green Valley freelance reporter **Ellen Sussman** at ellen2414@cox.net.

Clinco appointed to fill House seat

By Dan Shearer
dshearer@gvnews.com

Demion Clinco, president of the Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation, was appointed Tuesday to fill the state House seat vacated by Andrea Dalessandro, who was named to the state Senate in January. Both are Democrats.

The vote by Pima County Board of Supervisors was 3-2, with Ray

Carroll, Ramon Valadez and Ally Miller voting in favor of Clinco.

"He's got a good reputation," Carroll said after the vote. "He's young but he's been in the public eye

SEE CLINCO, PAGE A11



Some help looking at the stars

By Susan E. Swanberg

Wick Communications Science Intern

If you received a telescope as a gift recently but don't know how to use it, don't despair. From Sierra Vista to Green Valley to Tucson, professional and amateur astronomers are ready and willing to help get you started. Even if you don't own a telescope, you can join the fun.

Some of that fun happens on a regular basis at Starizona, a Tucson shop that sells telescopes, designs and sells specialized astrophotography equipment, and

hosts star parties. Every Friday and Saturday night, weather permitting, amateur astronomers assemble in the parking lot at 5757 N. Oracle Road to stargaze and experiment with astrophotography. Novices are welcome.

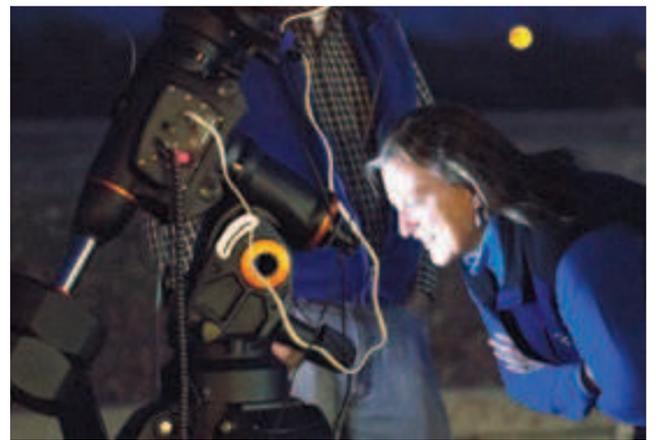
On a clear, cold Friday night in early January, enthusiasts gather in a small cordoned-off area to set up their telescopes. Southern Arizona is known for its dark skies, but on Oracle Road not far from Tucson Mall, some light is inescapable.

What the parking lot lacks in dark skies is more than made up

for by the excitement generated as an assortment of telescopes, many looking like the Star Wars character R2-D2 on stilts, are assembled shortly before dusk.

Automated or computerized telescopes with internal global positioning systems are among the favorites. Using a hand control, the user points, or "slews," an automated telescope to three bright celestial objects. The telescope's internal software models the night sky based upon the locations of the three objects.

SEE ASTRONOMY, PAGE A9



SUSAN E. SWANBERG | WICK COMMUNICATIONS SCIENCE INTERN

DARLEEN SIMS EXAMINES Curt Hughes' telescope in the parking lot of Starizona in Tucson



INSIDE

Around Town A2
Briefs A3
Classified D1-4,8

Comment A6,7
Crossword C4
Dining C6,7
Letters A6
Movie Times A4
Obituaries A8
Pets C2
Sports B1-3

GET BREAKING NEWS FIRST!

TWITTER: @greenvalleynews
FACEBOOK: Green Valley News & Sun

Follow the Green Valley News and Sahuarita Sun online for breaking news and other stories to keep you informed throughout your day

OUTSIDE

Partly cloudy and cooler, high 62. Chilly, partly cloudy night; low 37. **More weather, A4.**



SmileDental CARE

www.smiledentalnogales.com

520-223-4332 • 520-208-6001

Toll Free: 1(866) 670-1339
Mex: 011-52 (631) 312-8746

SAVE UP TO 70% LESS THAN USA

WE CREATE NEW SMILES IN EVERY FAMILY

WE ACCEPT MOST DENTAL INSURANCE

A FEW STEPS FROM THE CROSSING BORDER
Plaza Pesqueira #40-C, Col. Centro, Nogales, Sonora, Mexico