

The Tombstone Epitaph.

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131 YEARS IN THE TOWN TOO TOUGH TO DIE

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Couple tunes into the town's soulful touch

By Mike Christy
The Tombstone Epitaph

Delbert Roach had to bite his tongue when his dad surprised him with a musical instrument one afternoon in 1945.

While he had told his dad of his desire to take music lessons the day before, Roach had also mentioned wanting to play the cornet — not a clarinet like the one sitting in front of him.

"The clarinet was considered to be a girl's instrument and the cornet was a boy's instrument," the younger Roach said.

"He didn't know the difference, but he did make it very clear to me that he paid \$10 for that instrument and I was going to learn how to play it."

It was a mix-up that Roach later said he's glad his dad made. With a flourishing white beard now grown in over his once 11-year-old face, Delbert — or "Doc" as most Tomb-

stone citizens know him — has created a name for himself with more than just the clarinet.

"It was kind of embarrassing to learn the clarinet, but I'm certainly glad that I did," he said. "The saxophone and clarinet are very close to the human voice, and therefore a very pleasant thing to listen to."

Finding inspiration in fellow sax musicians Al Gallodoro and Eddie Miller, Doc decided to expand his musical repertoire and become a jazz musician.

"That was the thing to do in those days," he said, adding that he's learned to play all jazz instruments.

"Flute, piccolo, bassoon, you name it. Some of those things I'm fairly accomplished at, and some I can't do very well."

After the Marysville, Calif. native met his wife Mary, the pair became "full-time RVers" and happened to traverse the main drag through a new Western town in 1981.



Mike Christy / Tombstone Epitaph

Delbert "Doc" Roach, 77, plays a tune on his soprano saxophone in his office at The Gift of Giving Thrift Store at 312 W. Allen St. The brainchild of Doc and wife Mary, The Gift of Giving encompasses the thrift store and the tutoring services of the Tombstone Academy for the Performing Arts.

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Bars, dining up but retail lags



Kevin Zimmerman / Tombstone Epitaph

Auston Menadue makes a drink at The Crystal Palace on Wednesday, April 27 in Tombstone. Unlike the hotel and lodging industry, restaurants and saloons like The Crystal Palace have done well with tourists dropping into town for the day before leaving.

By Kevin Zimmerman
The Tombstone Epitaph

Within driving distance of Sierra Vista, Tucson and even Phoenix, Tombstone tourism appears to be on the upswing as far as bar and restaurant sales are concerned.

However, compared to last January, retail and lodging sales dropped by 20.7 and 19.1 percent, respectively, according to a release by Robert Carreira, the director at the Cochise College Center for Economic Research.

Meanwhile, bar and restaurant sales climbed by 12.9 percent.

The reason behind the disparities?

"Probably, it's an indication of more day visitors," Carreira said. "You have people wanting to get away for a little while but maybe not spend as much money as far as spending money overnight."

In 12 of the last 16 months, the rising bar and restaurant sales have gone the opposite way of retail.

Sales in that industry have gone down in 27 of the last 33 months, while hotels and lodging statistics have decreased in seven of the last eight months, according to the study.

That's not in line with national sales numbers, which have seen an increase for three consecutive months, according to the release.

Tombstone is doing fine attracting people within driving distance who will go to the gunfights and grab a bite to eat.

However, getting them to stay in town is a tough draw, Carreira said.

Debra Shambaugh, a clerk at the Silver Hills Trading Co. on Allen

Street, said that February is usually one of the stronger months for visitors.

Snow birds come to Tombstone to get out of the cold, but as summer approaches things begin to slow down.

At the Crystal Palace Saloon, employee Auston Menadue said the business doesn't see too much drop-off in the summer, mostly because of the good reputation the restaurant has state and countrywide.

Menadue began working at the bar last year and said that while August is generally the slowest month, "even last summer was decent" considering the economy.

Most of the patronage comes from tourism, Menadue said, adding to the idea that people are increasingly dropping into the town for the day.

On the northwest corner of Fremont Street and Fifth Street lies The San Jose Boarding House, a three-unit lodge that rents out by the week or month.

Joe and Barbara Ouellette, who manage the lodge and live in it for half of the year, said the property is rented out to out-of-towners who often return each year.

Whether they come from the Netherlands, Canada or Washington state, many of the lodge's customers will stay for a couple weeks or a month, Barbara Ouellette said.

But wedged in between the Larian Hotel and the Tombstone Motel, she said she doesn't see the parking lots fill overnight, except for the occasional groups of cyclists that rumble into town.

Business/Page 2

Financial audit hints at troubles

By Angela Mullis
The Tombstone Epitaph

An audit of the Chamber of Commerce's financial records is currently under way, and missing financial records are leading to suspicions of foul play.

The man who was in charge of the Chamber at the time says bring it on.

"Do the audit," said former Executive Director Pat Greene.

He stated that there was no wrongdoing during his time in the chamber and any financial troubles were due to a lack of funds, primarily from the Boothill Graveyard gift shop and the city's decision to withhold bed tax funds.

However, current Executive Director J.R. Botts said these are not valid reasons for financial troubles.

Councilman Jim Doherty said that while the city did decide to withhold the bed tax funds from the Chamber of Commerce, the decision was repealed before any payments were missed.

Greene also cited a lack of money from Boothill Graveyard gift shop, which is given to the chamber by the city. However an employee at the gift shop said that there was no month when a substantial amount of profits were not given to the chamber.

In December 2010 and this January, about \$6,700 was given to the chamber from the gift shop profits, according to Doherty.

While Greene stated that payments were being made for local television ads during the months of December and January, Botts said

that no ads were being run for the chamber.

"Channel four was cancelling the contract for non-payment," Botts said. He stated that the chamber has currently paid off \$10,000 in bills to the station and is negotiating a new contract to run an ad that has just been made to draw tourists into Tombstone.

Botts said that the way money is handled in the chamber has changed since he became the executive director. He claimed that, previously, the president or director was able to spend money by signing checks themselves.

Greene challenges that claim. "I could not spend any money that wasn't prior approved by the board of directors," Greene said. Botts said that this was not how money had been being spent, and now two members of the board had to sign off on checks spent by the chamber.

The audit will be finished in about five weeks, said Doherty. With a price tag of \$8,000, Doherty said an audit like this is only done in extreme cases.

"The audit puts a tremendous strain on money flow," Doherty said. "That's \$8,000 of public money."

Both Botts and Doherty stated that the financial records of the chamber appear troubling.

Greene attributed a large portion of spending to the creation of rack cards to promote the city in tourist centers and other locations around the state.

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Community's latest leaders threatened with recall

By Will Ferguson
The Tombstone Epitaph

Members of Tombstone's new city administration may find themselves hitting the campaign trail a year early.

Former Chamber of Commerce president Don Taylor recently proposed a recall of the city's current administration.

Taylor, who said he was not ready to discuss his position at this time, wrote in a letter to a newspaper on April 27 that some city officials are using strong-arm tactics to dictate the town's business climate.

His concerns were echoed by Lee McKechnie, owner of the Tombstone Trolley Tours, in a letter published on the same date.

McKechnie claimed after releasing one of the company's employees, Councilmember Jim Doherty, the company has been harassed by the city.

Doherty, current Chamber of Commerce Executive Director J.R. Botts and Mayor Jack Henderson denied the claims made by McKechnie and Taylor.

"They are harassing us and it's a shame. But that's OK, it's a part of being in politics," Henderson said.

The proposal of a recall is a new chapter in an ongoing feud between Tombstone's current city administration and former ousted members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Doherty said the current administration has been at odds with Taylor and Pat Greene, former chamber executive director, since their resignation in January from the Chamber of Commerce. Both men resigned after Doherty encouraged inquiries into the chamber's quarterly spending reports.

In a letter to The Tombstone Epitaph, Doherty wrote that, "over the next few days, the remaining Board

members uncovered more than \$38,000 in outstanding Chamber bills, a \$20,000 transfer from Boothill to the chamber that had not been repaid and essentially empty checking and savings accounts."

Botts said the current administration is in place because people of the town wanted officials to be more accountable.

He said a recall wouldn't help to solve the city's problems.

"When we had an election last year, it was made pretty obvious that people wanted a different viewpoint. I'm not saying the way it was run before was bad, but I am saying it is

being run more to the book now," he said.

If voters choose to initiate a recall, it would take place in November. It would cost city taxpayers \$6,000 to hold a recall election. In order for a recall to take place, Henderson said 10 percent of voters in a city ward have to sign a petition. In some cases, he said, the number of signatures required could be as low as 13.

"Unfortunately, they can do it for any number of reasons," he said. "You would think it would be done for a serious cause or something. Their reasoning is a little more obtuse than normal."



Councilman Jim Doherty



"Fall Scene" by Patricia McAloon, Watercolor.

Western views revealed at gallery

By Ashley James
The Tombstone Epitaph

"Looking West" is the theme for May's exhibit for Tombstone Association of the Arts' next show.

According to Publicity Director Jan Huthoef, the theme was decided after learning that both of the featured artists, Mary Jo Burns and Patricia McAloon draw most of their inspiration from western scenery.

The new exhibit begins April 28 and continues until May 31.

Meet the artists.

71-year-old Hereford, Ariz., resident and featured artist Patricia McAloon has been part of the gallery for nearly 20 years.

Her mediums of choice vary from oil painting to sewing, but McAloon has recently taken an interest in decorating rocks with ceramic paints that she was looking to discard.

Her first rendezvous with art took place at a young age when McAloon was encouraged to enter a scholarship competition by submitting a cartoon to the Minneapolis School of Art.

Her casual entry landed her a small scholarship that jumpstarted her artistic career.

McAloon landed herself in Arizona and, by chance, crossed paths with the Tombstone Art Gallery. She immediately knew that she wanted to be a part of it.

She and her daughter began to enter their pictures, and their artistic common grounds transitioned into a form of friendly competition.

"The two of us went to the gallery together to encourage each other," said McAloon. "The funny part was she was better than me at the time!"

The artist, although coping with



"Ruin" by Mary Jo Burns, Oil.

medical setbacks such as carpal tunnel syndrome and arthritis, will not let anything deter her from her art.

"I won't give up," said McAloon. "I like to challenge myself."

When seeking inspiration for her work, McAloon will observe even the smallest things.

"I can be gardening and notice something different, then run to my truck to make a sketch."

She will often keep a series of different sketches before compiling them together to make her final work of art.

McAloon's words of wisdom to aspiring artists are to keep doing what they are doing so long as they enjoy it.

"There are unlimited things out there, you just have to try," she said.

Also featured in May's "Looking West" exhibit is Tombstone resident Mary Jo Burns.

This self-taught artist first mastered her preferred technique of painting with a palette knife in junior high school when her teacher showed her how to mix and paint

with the unique tool.

"Through the years, I have just been painting along," said Burns. However, she did take a sabbatical from work for about 17 years.

"Landscapes are what I do," said Burns, "That is what this show is going to have in it."

From winter landscapes to mountains and deserts, Burns enjoys painting outdoor scenes, though usually produces indoors.

"I have painted outdoors, but the light is very difficult so I take photos," said Burns who uses many of her pictures of travels as inspiration.

The photos also make capturing light and shadow easier.

The show will be at the Tombstone Art Gallery, located at the corner of Fourth and Allen streets.

Also available for viewing and purchase is the work of more than 36 artists and 30 crafter members from the surrounding area.

Gallery hours are 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Free admission. Call 457-2380 for more information.

Courthouse revenues double since city took over from state

By Neal Bourbon
The Tombstone Epitaph

What a difference a year can make. In the nine months since taking over the Tombstone Courthouse from the state, the city's Chamber of Commerce has cut expenses by more than \$20,000 and doubled its revenue.

The data, collected by Ellen Bilbrey, chief public information officer of Arizona State Parks, reflects the revenue and expenses under the chamber's control from July 2010 through March 2011 compared to the same time period under state control the year before.

Under state control, the Court-

house spent \$118,829 in expenses and generated \$100,125 in revenue.

Since the chamber took over, it has spent \$92,803 in expenses and have generated \$184,735 in revenue.

J.R. Botts, the executive director of the chamber, attributes the turnaround to good management. "With any type of government, there's so much bureaucracy that they can't really manage effectively. Any private sector will outperform anything that the government does."

How did they do it?

City Clerk George Barnes said that staffing was reduced and salaries were brought down from the higher pay scale that the state gives, which explains the cut in expenses.

Then, to generate more revenue, he said that the price of admission went from \$4 to \$5 and the Courthouse is open seven days a week now, instead of five.

So where is all this new money going?

Under contractual obligations, it first goes to covering expenses, according to Barnes.

Then, what is left over goes toward improving the Courthouse.

Barnes suggested that it may cost somewhere around \$130,000 to \$150,000 just to fix the roof.

Lastly, whatever is left after expenses are paid and improvements are made goes toward advertising and promoting the city.

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"Doc said, 'Honey, I don't think we've ever seen Tombstone,'" Mary recalled.

As they arrived during Tombstone's then-bicentennial celebration, the town marshal helped establish a place for Doc and Mary to set up their RV amid a crowded Allen Street, even offering prime location for the two to sell crafts.

"We fell in love with this town," Mary said.

"That's the kind of town this is." With a memorable first impression those 20 years ago, Doc and Mary finally parked the RV for good in Tombstone in 2007.

The time to pay back the kindness they received had arrived.

Doc purchased a 1.5-acre lot at 312 W. Allen St. where the Roach residence sits next to the cornerstone of his and Mary's brainchild -The Gift of Giving Thrift Store.

Comprised of seven modular units that once served as a school cafeteria, the thrift store is managed and owned by the Roaches with the help of a handful of regular volunteers who donate their time.

The thrift store, which accepts donations of just about anything that can be re-sold, anchors just one part of the larger, non-profit charity. The Gift of Giving also houses the Tombstone Academy for the Performing Arts.

Spearheaded by Doc, the academy sought to provide tutelage and exposure in the fine arts during a time when most cash-strapped Arizona schools are relegating them to the chopping block.

The thrift store has private rooms secluded away from the shopping section of the store where lessons are given and a larger space for performing is beginning to take shape.

Most of the instruments, including a drum set and several pianos, are either donated or loaned, Mary said.

"This piano is from the 1920s," she said, plunking a few keys from an upright piano tucked in the corner,



Mike Christy / Tombstone Epitaph

T-shirts for the Tombstone Academy for the Performing Arts hang on the office door at the The Gift of Giving Thrift Store at 312 W. Allen St. Students from all incomes have the opportunity to learn music, dance, or the performing arts through the academy's program.

its tune rolling up from the stained wooden hull.

"It's got a beautiful sound to it."

Doc points to the charity's overall goal of helping the Tombstone community for where The Gift of Giving's slogan draws from.

"What is donated in Tombstone, benefits Tombstone," he says.

The charity not only focuses on accepting donations and providing training in the arts, but also will provide for and assist destitute persons who come seeking help.

"We will give them leads for further help," Doc says of the 10 people on average the charity helps in needy situations in a given month.

"(We'll) get you supplied with clothing, meals from local restaurants until we can get you settled out and self-sufficient," he adds.

The cost of overhead for the building upkeep, a never-ending job according to the Roaches, and charity sometimes threatens the balance sheets, however.

Doc says the charity breaks even pretty well because, he says, they have no other choice.

"My wife is on the payroll, but she never gets paid. Neither do I, because there isn't enough money."

The seasoned sax maestro scoffs, however, when asked if the financial situation frustrates him.

"I don't find it frustrating," he said.

"There's so much good going on. People come in with the most beautiful things [to donate]. They've been unbelievably generous."

In the meantime, Mary works tirelessly alongside her volunteers accepting random piles here, assorted goods there, each getting a price sticker and place on the shelf in the thrift store.

"The people are so generous. They know they want to help," Mary comments as she sorts through another bin of donations.

"It's been a great life, and it's not over yet."

Business

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And judging by what the Ouellettes see when they walk into the heart of Tombstone, very few tourists will stay for a night or two.

"They aren't carrying much for bags," said Joe Ouellette. "They don't usually stay overnight."

In their 13th year of coming to Tombstone from Wisconsin, the Ouellettes believe it's a matter of the town not being especially interesting for families with children.

While the history is important, Joe Ouellette said it's no Disneyland.

"It's not a town for children to (go on) rides," he said.

Historic Commission plans new processes

By Adrienne Nelinson
The Tombstone Epitaph

Asking for forgiveness rather than permission is not going to cut it with Tombstone Historic District Commission anymore.

"That phrase has worn itself thin in business and industry and that phrase is also wearing itself thin in Tombstone," said Steve Troncale, Tombstone historic district commissioner and city councilman.

With the addition of Mac McMullan, the new city building inspector, the HDC will now be able to enforce city codes that have been neglected for years.

People often begin construction or painting a building before applying through the commission, said

Troncale. "In the past people basically got away with a bunch of stuff, but that's not happening today."

"Enforcement is not our first choice," said Troncale. "We'd rather people just follow the rules."

Troncale recalls when a business owner on Allen Street put a satellite TV dish on the balcony of their building facing the street. "If they would have asked first we would have told them they couldn't do it, but they did it anyhow," Troncale said.

Troncale believes the root of this problem is that applicants need help understanding and getting through the application process.

This is the reason he and the other HDC members plan to schedule a workshop to develop a checklist for

future applicants.

"It's going to be a brainstorming session," said Troncale. The HDC will use models from cities like Bisbee and documents from Tombstone that detail the ways that have fallen by the wayside.

The primary purpose is to help the applicants put together a more accurate application so small paperwork errors don't come before the HDC. "It saves time, and in some cases it saves money, on the applicant's part," said Troncale.

For Lee McKechnie, owner of Tombstone Trolley Tours, time is money. "My business is suffering because this is the busy season, and I want to start building this thing (a proposed theater that was tabled by the HDC)."

Troncale understands how tabling an application can be a great hardship for the applicant and that is why he is so motivated to enact a proper checklist. "We will try to help them (the applicants) as much as we can to try and get a good, accurate application out of them," he said.

At the end of the day, this is all about keeping Tombstone as historically accurate as possible, said Troncale. "We're always under a watchful eye and the watchful eye is the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, god love 'em, and the U.S. Department of (the) Interior," he said.

As far as the laxness of previous HDCs? "We can't answer to the sins of the past but we will not repeat them," Troncale said.

Audit

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Botts is challenging that claim. "Pat Greene never ordered or bought rack cards," Botts said.

Both Doherty and Botts said that Greene had told the city council during the Dec. 16 meeting that he had purchased rack cards.

Botts said that in August 2010 the chamber was notified that they were being charged \$1,000 each month for distribution of cards, but there were none to distribute. Greene said he is standing by his decisions and advocated for the audit to show that there was no wrongdoing.

"Politically, some parties have chosen me as an easy issue to go after," Greene said.

The Tombstone Epitaph.

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Fighting against cancer one step at a time

By Melissa Guz

The Tombstone Epitaph

One night every year, Donna Cook finds herself battling cancer by walking laps around Buena High School's track in Sierra Vista.

She is guided along the track with hundreds of glowing luminaries outlining it, all written with messages dedicated to those who died of cancer. Some say, "I miss you grandma," while others read, "We love you Dad."

These people lost someone close to them, she thinks. The family members faced the same rough battle as her sister, Shirley Crawford, when her late husband, Robert Crawford, was diagnosed with cancer. Sadly, none of them won the fight.

Recalling her sister's loss and thinking about her close friends who have cancer motivates Cook to continue onto her 10th year fundraising for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, taking place this year on May 6 and 7.

"Cancer never sleeps," Cook said. "It's a fearful thing for people and it seems like there's more (of it) than ever. ... This gives you a drive when you think of those who suffer and how it affects families."

Cook is a proud and healthy 78-year-old. She grew up in Monterey, Calif., where she met Henry "Hank" Cook in 1948 before marrying him in 1950.

The two had four children: Sharon, Patricia, Michael and Caren. She also has 16 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren with the 18th on the way, she said as she smiles.

Though she never attended college, Cook had a variety of professions ranging from a high school cafeteria worker to a scout leader to a receptionist for an ophthalmologist,



Melissa Guz / Tombstone Epitaph

Tombstone resident Donna Cook, 78, designs luminary bags for the Tombstone businesses that helped sponsor her cause for this year's Relay for Life. The rally to raise money and awareness for cancer will be held May 6-8 at Buena High School.

or an eye specialist. Then, when she moved to Tombstone where Hank grew up, she found herself fulfilling various roles, such as a secretary or a dog groomer.

She is now retired.

Cook became an active member of Relay for Life back in 2001.

This was around the time she also found out she had a pre-cancerous

skin condition, a result from never wearing sunscreen while growing up in California.

"When you're young, you don't think about things," Cook said. "My

sister and I exposed ourselves to the sun a lot ... and rubbed oil and cocoa butter on us to get these beautiful tans. We weren't aware of sunscreen."

Even so, Cook stresses that she wasn't inspired to fundraise because of her close run with cancer. Instead, her inspiration mainly derives from her sister's loss, as well as her efforts to help fight cancer with others.

"My sister was my biggest inspiration," Cook said. "Not only did she lose her husband to cancer, but she was also one of the founders of Sponsoring Survivorship (an organization that fundraises to fight breast cancer in California). If she can do all that, I realized I should do my part, too."

So far, Cook has raised \$2,426 this year, which is less than her record of \$3,150 last year.

"The economy has been hard on all of us, but I'm not doing too bad this year though," Cook said.

Even so, it's still greater than the \$100 she raised her very first year.

"I had an awful time trying to raise \$100," Cook laughed. "I was shy by nature. I was hesitant to ask for money. Then my friends got cancer and my sister's husband died. Then it just got personal."

As a result, she developed various fundraising strategies throughout the years such as putting up posters, asking friends and walking along the boardwalk.

"I had a 50-year-old cousin who died of breast cancer," said Gloria Goldstein, the owner of Shady Lady, 404 E. Allen St. "Donna is a very nice lady. She walks for a very good cause (and) it's just something I hope they have a cure for."

Cook notes that last year was the very first year she received support and sponsorships from local businesses, as well as local residents.

"We've lived here for 41 years," Cook said. "I know a lot of people here. ... I don't know what I'd do without them (especially in helping) a worthwhile cause," Cook said.

Business offers the fantasy of your personal gunfight

By Chelsea Johnson

The Tombstone Epitaph

Stacy Foster has created The Ultimate Tombstone Souvenir, with the help from Bonnie Solonley and Bruce Bliss, a new business located on Allen Street that is now up and running.

"I was the manager of Six Gun City, where we did the gun fighting stuff. It burned down in December so we wanted to come up with an idea for something to do, and I just came up with this," said Foster.

"I thought it'd be simple and put a couple of us back to work."

Solonley, a gunfight actress, said that they were all so devastated when Six Gun City burned that they wanted to come together and create something new.

"We were all victims of the fire, so we devised this and just wanted to try something different in town," said Solonley.

"We're doing great, and the people are happy with it."

The Ultimate Tombstone Souvenir is a place where tourists, and anyone else interested, can be a part

of their own personal Old West gunfight for only \$25.

"What we do is we dress them up in 1880s Western costumes and then give them a quick skit," said Foster. "They don't have to have any acting experience or anything. We tell them exactly what to do, and they get to shoot a man over a poker game that goes bad."

Solonley said even though they do instruct the people on what to do they can always act off of their own ideas.

"We do have it pre-planned on what they need to do at the table but if they want to do their own thing that's welcomed, too."

Once the acting is completed and filmed, Foster edits the scene with old film clips, sepia-toned coloring and music.

He then burns the mini-movie on a DVD for participants to take home.

"We are kind of like the Old West photos, but we are giving them more," said Foster.

"They get to actually kill a man in a gun fight, shoot a real cowboy pistol and take home a DVD to put it on Facebook or wherever."

Bliss, the cowboy actor that gets shot by these tourists, enjoys his new

job as the man who dies many deaths.

"My role is a cowboy. The tourists get into playing the poker game with me," said Bliss. "Well, they've been winning all night long so I'm a little upset. They win one last poker hand, throw their cards down and point at me. I draw on them so they stand up and shoot me dead."

Foster said he got the idea for such a creative business because it's something he would be interested in doing.

"I thought it would kind of be the ultimate male fantasy where men could come to Tombstone and be in a gun fight, but the customers have been leaning more towards the kids which I didn't expect," Foster said.

Tourist Peter Therriault, a Vermont native who has been living in Arizona for two years, found The Ultimate Tombstone Souvenir very appealing.

"It was actually really cool," said Therriault, who was visiting Tombstone with his wife and brother-in-law. "I love the Old West, and it's like the stuff we've seen in Western movies."



Chelsea Johnson / Tombstone Epitaph

Stacy Foster, right, and Bruce Bliss instruct tourists Peter Therriault and his brother-in-law during their acting scene at The Ultimate Tombstone Souvenir. Visitors are dressed in 1880s garb and rehearse with the staff before filming and shooting (literally) their own souvenir DVD.

Foster, who was in the Army for 11 years and also served in Iraq, made Tombstone his home soon after he was medically retired due to an injury.

"I just stopped to see it after I retired in 2009 and ended up staying," said Foster. "I loved it."

Foster has future plans to possibly expand the company.

"I'd love to have two scenes going at a time on busy days and possibly hire someone else to do the video editing," said Foster. "I'd like to do more and more business."

From treatment to tap, Tombstone's water is leaking away

By Natalie Schwab

The Tombstone Epitaph

Six billion gallons of water disappear every day in the United States due to leaks in water pipelines, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, and Tombstone contributes its share.

According to a report from Tombstone Public Works in December, the city loses 40 percent of its water from treatment to tap, due to leaks in infrastructure systems as well as other issues, like people using the water illegally.

Public Works Director Phil Korte does not think that number has changed since December as he and other Tombstone officials continue attacking the town's leaky infrastructure.

"Not that I can tell at this point," he said when asked if there have been any changes. "We've had so many leaks, I couldn't even give you an educated guess."

The issue with Tombstone's infrastructure is that some of it is 120 years old, according to City Clerk George Barnes, and is simply falling apart.

According to Barnes, officials

have found some unknown lines that used to feed into the mines and other things as well.

"When you discover them you realize there's water running day and night," he said. "It's a hole in the ground. So every time one of those is found you interrupt it or plug it."

Barnes said that another issue is that Tombstone's water meter infrastructure is very old.

According to Barnes the water meters run very slowly and don't recognize low flows of water.

"One of the estimates that we've had from a company that we've talked with is that old meters can sometimes amount to a 20 percent difference in actual water versus measured water," he said.

If that is the case, then Tombstone may only lose 20 percent of water from treatment to tap, but that is up in the air.

"It sounds like an amazing number until you work all of the other things against it," Barnes said.

Korte said he thinks 30 to 40 percent is a pretty standard loss for older cities like Tombstone.

A History Channel documentary on the nation's infrastructure offered



Natalie Schwab / Tombstone Epitaph

A water leak outside of the old courthouse is set off with orange cones. The City of Tombstone loses nearly 40 percent of its water from treatment to tap due to infrastructural leaks and issues where people use the water illegally.

that Buffalo, N.Y., loses 40 percent of its water for the same reason.

Some cities in Arizona, such as Tucson, however, are mandated to limit water losses to 13 percent.

Fernando Molina, conservation program manager of Tucson Water,

said that Tombstone's number seems very high.

"That's basically half of their water that gets withdrawn is never making it," he said. "So they're paying for energy costs for water that's never being used."

Molina said that some of the water pipes in downtown Tucson are also 100 years old and have had to be rehabilitated.

Rehabilitating or plugging the leaks is much more inexpensive than replacing the pipes.

"The infrastructure replacement costs are going to go really really high, simply because there is a lot of really old infrastructure in pipes and reservoirs and valves out there," he said.

"One reason we probably will see water rates going up, not just here in Tucson but everywhere, is just to maintain our infrastructure."

The city of Tombstone applied for and was awarded a grant from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) last December, but those grants are to be used for preliminary engineering and not for construction. The funds were used for the arsenic study that was recently completed, said Barnes.

But even those grants aren't completely free.

"The city also has to pay 40 percent to match to the 60 percent WIFA money," said Barnes. "So you get a grant, but it's really only like half a grant."

What WIFA will do is loan the city money to do construction. Barnes said the city is going to submit another application to do some improvements at the springs in the Huachuca Mountains where water is gathered.

According to Mayor Jack Henderson, budget slashing is going to make projects difficult for the city.

"Our census cut us back a little bit, so we're going to be operating with a revenue stream that's approximately \$143,000 less than what our revenue stream was for this year, and that is just an awesome burden on a town with a little budget."

Cities all over the country are experiencing the same problems, as water infrastructure systems are aging.

"This is probably one of the bigger expenses that utilities all around the country, if not the world, will be seeing in the next 40 years," said Molina.

For now the city of Tombstone will simply have to fix the leaks one by one.

"We have a small work force and we're trying to just provide water and services to the citizens of the city," said Henderson.

Town's horses leave behind more than Old West feel

By Natalie Schwab
The Tombstone Epitaph

When he gets the call, Chris Clarke grabs his shovel and black trash bag, jumps into his rusty blue Ford Ranger pickup and makes his way hastily through the streets in search of one thing. Poop.

"I got it all!" he yells out the truck window to the driver of the Old Butterfield Stage Coach as it passes.

It's not a fun job, but without him and the other workers who clean up after the animals, the town of Tombstone would be in deep doo doo — literally.

Horse- and mule-drawn stagecoaches and carriages are a token of the Old West, and give Tombstone its authentic Western feel. But when the animals aren't picked up after, it can create unsanitary and outright gross conditions.

According to Tombstone's Animal Control Officer Jim Everetts, known around town as Rattler, there are laws on the books that require whoever is riding the horse to clean up after it, though they aren't very strict.

"I can cite them for failure to clean it up," he said. "I can cite them

into court, or I can give them a verbal or written warning."

The provision states that failure to promptly remove waste can also result in loss or suspension of animal-use permits.

Everetts also said there is a fine associated with not cleaning waste, but he is not sure how much it is.

Most of the horses that pull the stagecoaches and carriages wear catch bags, which are much like a diaper.

Dusty Escapule, former mayor of Tombstone and owner of the Old Tombstone Tours, does not have to deal with his horses dropping on the streets because of the catch bags. He says the bags are changed each time they go.

Escapule has also trained his horses not to urinate in the street. He takes them to a special location twice a day where they can go.

Clarke, a salesman for the Old Butterfield Stage Coach, gets a call from his driver whenever the mules drop, and drives out to pick it up promptly.

He says the biggest problem is the people who ride into town.

"Most of the other people that ride into town independently just don't

care," he said. "They leave it there."

There is currently no law that says how much time the owners have to clean up after their animals, but they are encouraged to do so promptly.

"We would like them to pick it up within an hour," said Everetts. "That's what we'd like them to do. But if they say, 'Well, we're going to come back and clean it up later,' I can tell them 'I would appreciate it if you did it now.' But there's nothing that I can do to actually force them to clean it up then and there."

Most of the horse manure is taken to the dump, but it can be used for other things as well.

"Some people carry bags with them to clean it up and they take it home because they want to use it for fertilizer," said Everetts. "Others take it out in the desert. So there's a majority of things that they do with it."

Overall, horse poop isn't a major issue in Tombstone.

"Sometimes it can be a problem," said Everetts. "It depends, you know. Like if they take a dump in front of a store, you get some storeowners that get upset about it. You get some tourists that might walk in it and get upset. Other people love it, because it brings back the Old West feeling."



Natalie Schwab / Tombstone Epitaph

Chris Clarke, who helps out with the Old Butterfield Stagecoach, is just one person responsible for keeping the streets of Tombstone clean of horse feces. Owners who don't clean up after their animals can be fined and even lose their permit.

Riders get view of town

By RJ Young
The Tombstone Epitaph

"The horses are ready and we are open for business," said J.B. Brummett, owner and tour guide of Horseback Tours.

The tours take riders throughout all of Tombstone, seeing each historic landmark the town has to offer in just 25 minutes.

Stationed on 4th Street, tours are offered Friday through Sunday.

"We offer a safe way to see the land and enjoy it on horseback," he said.

After launching his business in January, Brummett said he is ready to expand the tours to show more sights and provide longer rides.

As of now, Brummett only holds a permit to give the tours throughout the city of Tombstone, but has plans



RJ Young / Tombstone Epitaph

J.B. Brummett leads his horses Shiloh and Cheyenne through the desert land on JP Ranch on Wednesday, April 27.

to seek permits that allow access to give tours in different areas.

He visions that he soon will be able to take tourist to the Cochise Stronghold through the Dragoon Mountains just outside of town.

The ride will be almost five hours long and will include a lunch break.

"I really want to do this to get people to appreciate the land for its solitude."

Brummett also offers other serv-

ices through his Horseback Tours.

Longer rides are available Monday through Thursday at \$35 per hour and also \$200 couple packages that include riding, meals and a room for the evening.

Graduates seek new adventures

By Nick Scala
The Tombstone Epitaph

On May 19, sixty-four seniors will reach the end of North Yellowjacket Way.

They'll say goodbye to Tombstone High School and start a life without the guidance and direction.

So what happens come May 20? Where do these Tombstone High School graduates end up?

Here is a glimpse into the post-graduate lives of four seniors:

Tanys DeDecker

This summer Tanys DeDecker will say goodbye to high school and hello to beauty school.

She'll begin at Trenz Academy of Cosmetology in Benson, specializing in hair, nails, skin and pedicures.

Beauty school is the beginning of a long journey for this entrepreneur.

The Tombstone native hopes to own her own salon, while holding a career as a neonatal nurse.

But she's not ready to start chasing that dream yet.

"I'm scared to leave high school," she said. "The teachers are so involved and they actually care about students"



Jordan O'Sullivan

Jordan O'Sullivan is one of few Tombstone High School students who will relocate after graduation.

This fall he'll be enrolled at Grand Canyon University in Tempe, Ariz., pursuing a degree in Sports Medicine. An athlete himself, he wants to be a physical therapist.

He was offered a \$10,000 per year scholarship, making it easier to say goodbye to his family in Sierra Vista.

"Having freedom is what I'm looking forward to," he said. "I didn't want to get too far away from my family, but also didn't want to be too close."



Patrick Spranger

Patrick Spranger will turn 18-years-old in late May, making him eligible to join the military.

And that's exactly what he'll do. "I'm joining the air force for the life experience and education," said the Sierra Vista native.

He has his family behind him and it doesn't hurt that his half-brother is already a member of the air force.

"My parents are very supportive and especially my mom," he said.

He hopes to be an aerial gunner, and has long-term ambitions to be a pilot.



Melissa Cepero

After taking a year of a teacher cadet program at Tombstone High, Melissa Cepero knows what she wants to do.

"It inspired me to be a teacher," she said. "A lot of students have needs that aren't being met and I'd like to change that."

She'll begin at Cochise Community College for two years and then transfer to the University of Arizona Sierra Vista campus.

She plans on pursuing special education, helping students with special needs.



Cheap trick keeps houseflies at bay

By Julia Etters
The Tombstone Epitaph

Bzzzz. Bzzzz. The aggravating houseflies are coming back with the warmer weather, and often with a vengeance.

Why in the world would a bag of water hanging by the door keep them out? Many Tombstone residents swear by this quirky remedy, but nobody knows why the myth has stayed alive for so many years.

"We do it every year, once the flies come out, especially during the summertime...It helps keep the fly population down...We put one on each side of the door," said Jeffery Howard, employee at The Red Buffalo.

Another Red Buffalo employee, Billy Miller, said that the store next door tried the same trick, but it didn't work. He said they have skylights at The Red Buffalo, but there are no skylights next door, suggesting lighting might factor in to its effectiveness.

Steve Goldstein, owner of Big Nose Kate's, has pinpricks on the sides of the entrance, proving his faith in the method.

"Reflective light has frequency. I think it's the frequency of the light which disturbs the flies," Goldstein said.

Many have witnessed a spastic fly committing suicide after its fatal attraction to a light, but maybe a reflective type of light would have an opposite effect.

Goldstein has been getting rid of flies with water-filled bags for 34 years.

Debra Shambaugh, a clerk at Silver Hills Trading Co., said no one could pay her to use this method.

"I mean nobody can prove to me that it really works," she said.

Shambaugh said she has seen people use this water-bag technique from the Tucson area clear to Kentucky.

Carl Olson, an associate curator in the University of Arizona's entomology department, said that



Julia Etters / Tombstone Epitaph

Plastic bags filled with water and a few pennies such as this one are said to deter flies. Experts aren't able to explain why some users have seen positive results, while others maintain there's no truth to the method.

people have seen them used in Arizona, Mexico, Central America and South America.

"When people have traveled, they've encountered these silly bags and on different things," Olson said.

He could not provide a sound ex-

planation for how this might repel flies, however.

"The reality is throughout my whole entomology friends group, nobody knows why it works. It's been around as long as probably I've been alive," Olson said.

Whether or not water-filled bags can deter the entire house fly population, several fly harassment victims religiously fight the battle of the bug with this simple trick.

Tombstone resident Tom Clark emphasized that the bags of water don't solve the problem entirely.

"It's merely a deterrent," Clark said.

Clark mentioned that some believers slide shiny pennies into the bag of water.

Does the penny add another lighting element to diffuse flies or is it for good luck?

"Different little quirks get embellished in different regions," Olson said of the technique's variations.

According to an online recap of the Discover Channel's show Mythbusters, this myth was tested after several people questioned it. Their experiment, they argued, showed the bags did not work.

Some may have alternative methods to fight the war on infestation.

Ghosts and Legends employee Jeff Honeycutt said he has seen people cut a two-liter bottle in half and then put a little bit of sugar water in the bottom of it.

"So they'll fly in there, but can't figure out how to get out," Honeycutt said.

Bird Cage Theatre employee Morgan Jones puts sugar water in the bags, leaving them open so the flies will go in and drown.

While there are several myths and trends to repel annoying flies, the National Pest Management Association advises simply practicing cleanliness.

The bothersome housefly carries more than 100 types of disease-causing germs, and "vigilant sanitation" including taking care of trash and pet waste is the key to controlling them.

But remember, the average cost of a pack of Zip Lock bags: \$3.65. The cost of a 75 pack of pushpins: \$1.54. Water: free. The relief of not swatting your hand every five seconds: priceless.