

**Tombstone Fire Department
1990 to 2016, 2nd Edition**



To those interested in the history of the Tombstone Fire Department. We have put together all the information that we have. If you have additional information, articles, photos, etc. we would be very interested in adding them to this collection. Please contact Al Ring, ringal@comcast.net to make arrangements. We do not have to keep any of the items. We scan copies and return or you can scan them or copy them and mail or e-mail them. Make it easy on yourself.

A special thanks to the Arizona Historical Society library for the supply of newspapers, mainly the *Bisbee Daily Review & Tombstone Epitaph* where much of this information came from. We were able to use the internet from the early days up to 1922, after that is the AHS collection that was most useful.

October 5, 1990, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Nighttime House Fire Was Arson, Chief Says

By TOM FUTRELL
Epitaph Staff

Arson caused an early-morning fire that destroyed an unoccupied house Sept. 28, Tombstone's fire chief said.

All three of the city's fire trucks responded to the blaze at 112 S. Fifth St., said Fire Chief Joseph D. Perotti.

"I was called at 3:25 a.m., the first truck arrived at 3:35 and the fire was out by 3:45," he said.

"It was arson," he said, adding that a state fire inspector had confirmed his findings.

Perotti said there was no indication of how the fire was started.

"We didn't smell any gas fumes or anything else" that would prove what the arsonist used to torch the building, he said. "Whatever was used burned up in the fire."

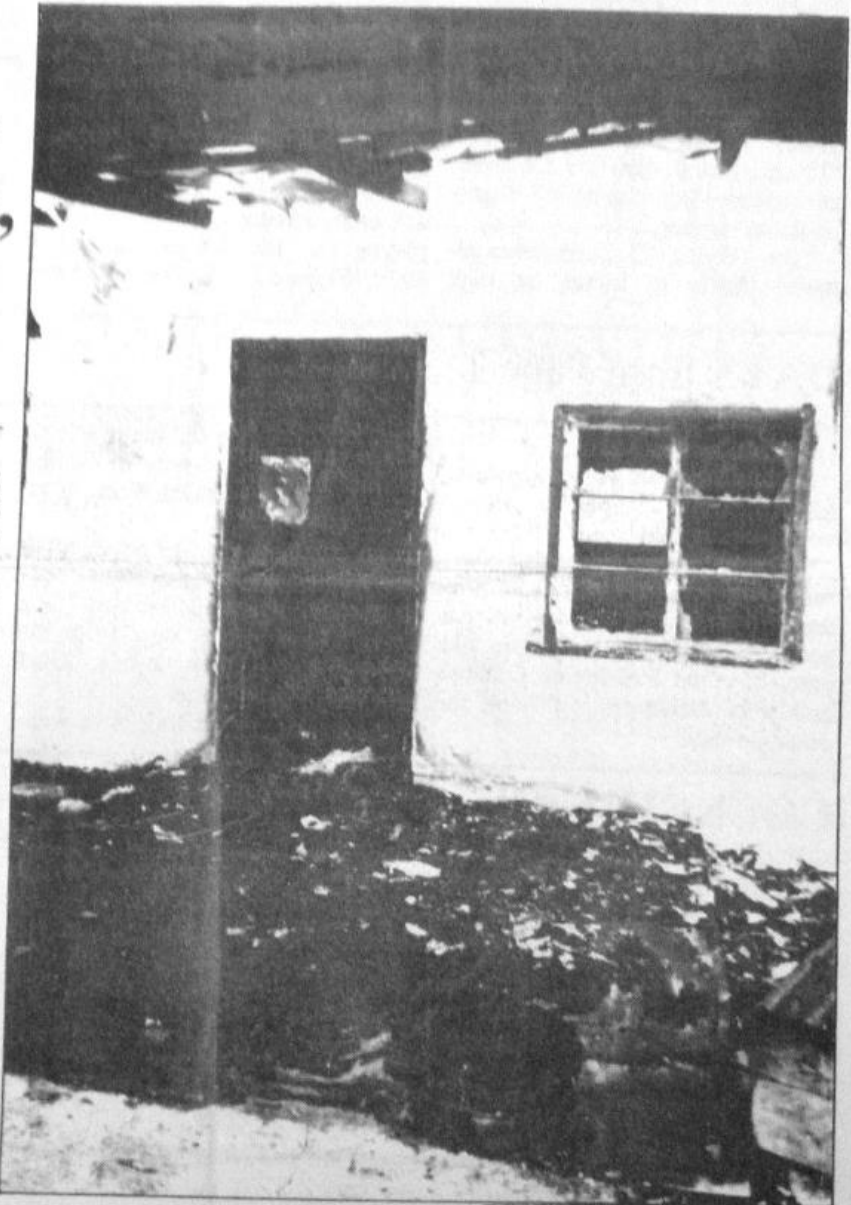
Firefighters feared the blaze might spread to other buildings, but none were damaged, Perotti said.

"The wind was blowing north and sparks were flying over some of the other buildings," so all three trucks were called out to prevent further damage, he said.

Perotti estimated the property damage at between \$20,000 and \$25,000. There were no injuries.

Tombstone law enforcement officers did not say if they had any suspects.

costs the city to pump ground water. Department of Agriculture's soil several thousand dollars, he added.



ARSON — A blackened porch roof blocks the entrance to the burned out, vacant house at 112 S. Fifth St. Fire Chief Joseph D. Perotti said an arsonist started the Sept. 28 blaze. He estimated fire damage at \$20,000.

"I really don't know," said Deputy Dan Romero. "Marshal Schnautz won't be back in town until the ninth (of October) and he's the one doing the investigation."

The house had "been unoccupied

for quite awhile, but I don't know exactly how long," said Opal Gill, owner of Opal's Realty. She said she was "keeping an eye on it" for the owner, who was out of town and unavailable for comment.

October 19, 1990, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

LOCAL EDITION

TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1990

Perotti Labels Blazes 'Arson'

By TOM FUTRELL
Epitaph Staff

The yellow tape surrounding the two charred buildings at 112 S. Fifth St. reads "CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS"

"I don't have any evidence of how the fires were started," said Marshal Edward E. Schnautz. "I think somebody was sleeping in there, but I can't say that person started the fire."

Tombstone police are investigating the cause of the fires and potential suspects, Schnautz said.

Schnautz said that he suspects more than one person of starting the fires.

"We've got it narrowed down really close, but we can't charge anybody because we don't have any evidence or witnesses," he said.

The fires started inside the buildings, Schnautz said. "Whether they were accidental or purposely started remains to be seen."

"It was arson," said Fire Chief Joseph D. Perotti. "The state boys have confirmed it," Perotti said, referring to findings by the state fire inspector.

"There's too much coincidence" for the fires to be accidental, Perotti said.

The two fires occurred five days apart on the same lot.

The first blaze started in the early morning hours of Sept. 28, destroying an unoccupied house on the property.

The second started shortly after 8 p.m. on Oct. 2 in a storage building on the same property.

"I have no comment on the fire chief's statements," Schnautz said. Police should have a suspect, he said, before calling it arson.



Photo by TOM FUTRELL/Tombstone Epitaph

SECOND TIME AROUND — Police tape surrounds a vacant residential lot after two separate blazes ripped through it five days apart. Tombstone city officials have condemned the area because the fires left the buildings unstable. Police are investigating the fires and have yet to name suspects.

The first fire took only about 15 minutes to extinguish. The second posed a three-hour challenge to the 20 firefighters battling the blaze.

The building was "stacked to the ceiling" with mattresses, foam rubber, cans of paint and other flammable liquids, Perotti said.

The fire was under control within

15 minutes, Perotti said, but was not completely out for three hours. Cans of paint and paint thinner ignited 10 times, he said.

Two additional problems made fighting the fire more difficult.

The city's water system did not supply enough pressure for the two trucks used, and the air bottles fire-

fighters use to protect themselves from breathing harmful fumes ran out, Perotti said.

Firefighters had to go to Sierra Vista to get the bottles refilled, he said.

The property is owned by William Flake, who could not be reached for comment.

It has since been condemned by an order from City Clerk Doris L. Pulsifer, Perotti, Tom Wright, the city's building inspector, and Robert L. Reames, the city's public works director, Pulsifer said.

The property is "extremely dangerous. Everything's going to fall in," Perotti said.

FIRE from Page 1

nothing else to put on the flammable liquids."

Because there were noxious fumes all the firemen had to have air bottles, Perotti said.

But the Tombstone Fire Department does not have enough bottles, according to Perotti. Four broke at the scene, but two have been repaired, he said.

"We went through the air bottles in about an hour and 15 minutes and then we had to drop back," he said. "We couldn't fight the fire up close because of the fumes."

It took firefighters two hours and 15 minutes to haul the empty bottles to Sierra Vista, get them filled and bring them back, Perotti said. That had to be done twice during the night.

Perotti told the council he would like to get a compressor and would bring the idea up again.

Perotti said he wants to see the water system completed. "It hasn't changed in 25 years."

The current project to repair the old water line will help the water volume in the downtown area, Perotti said.

City workers are removing the old, small pipes from the south side of Allen and Toughnut streets and laying eight-inch pipes on the north side.

"There is a high concentration of buildings in the area," Perotti said. "That's where the hazards would be."

"Fire protection in Tombstone is a problem," Councilman William J. Brett said.

Brett said he would like to see fire protection upgraded in both the residential and historic district.

"The next council should start a plan for adequate fire protection," Brett said.



Photo by TOM FUTRELL/Tombstone Epitaph

DEVASTATION — Ashes cover the site of recent blazes, which fire officials say is the work of arsonists.

October 19, 1990, *Tombstone Epitaph*: rest missing

Old Plumbing Slows Progress Of Firefighters

By JENNIFER JONES
Epitaph Staff

Century-old water lines led a list of problems that plagued firefighters' efforts to battle the Oct. 2 storage building fire near Allen Street, the fire chief said.

"We hooked up two fire trucks to two different hydrants and neither one was any good," Joseph D. Perotti told the Tombstone City Council Oct. 8.

The problem was the water volume, Perotti said. The water pipes are too small, he said.

"We still have 1880 lines in there," Perotti said.

The building was the second structure on the same lot destroyed by fire in a week. Former sign painter William Flake owns the storage building, 112 S. Fifth St., just south of Allen Street, and the house beside it, which burned Sept. 28.

"If the wind had been blowing in a northerly direction we would not have stopped that fire," Perotti said.

State fire marshals believe the fires were caused by arson, Perotti said. Tombstone police are investigating suspects.

Perotti said hazardous chemicals at the site caused multiple explosions during the fire.

"That fire must have started up 10 or 12 times because of the flammable liquids," Perotti said.

"We used all of our foam in the first 10 minutes and we had

Please See FIRE on Page 2

November 30, 1990, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Robinson Vows to Update Fire



By BILL KIRCOS/Epitaph Staff

OUT WITH THE OLD — Councilman Ronald L. Robinson stands next to his 1940 firetruck, which he hopes to restore. He also wants to upgrade the city's outdated Fire Department so it can better serve the City.

re Equipment, Trucks

By BILL KIRCOS
Epitaph Staff

Tombstone's volunteer fire department needs better equipment and facilities, according to Councilman Ronald L. Robinson, a former firefighter who has vowed to use his position to accomplish the improvements.

"I have nothing but praise for the fellas, they've done a hell of a job," Robinson said of the volunteers. "It's just that from a professional standpoint, better equipment and facilities would reduce fire damages and reduce insurance costs.

Robinson, a 19-year veteran of the Buffalo, N.Y., fire department, came to Tombstone almost three years ago. He believes the most important improvement to the department should include a better facility and a more modern fleet of fire trucks.

Robinson also said the city needs a fire code.

"We've got building, electric and plumbing codes to name a few, but no fire code. It's unbelievable," he said.

Fire Chief Joseph D. Perotti

agreed that the city needs its own code, although it presently follows state requirements.

Several alleys and accesses in the town have been built over or had fences added. "There are a few places now that we would have to stop the truck and haul everything in there," Perotti said.

Robinson also cited a report by Perotti that claims the building that houses the trucks and equipment is a "leaky, drafty old barn that leans on the (City) Hall."

"That's giving the place too much credit," Robinson said. The firefighters train in the basement and the trucks line up in a row with one door to exit. If the first fire truck failed, the firefighters "would be out of luck," he said.

"Andy Griffith had more room to work with than those guys," Robinson said.

Robinson said he hopes to build a new facility with help from federal and state funding but so far has no specific plan, except that he wants to house all public safety departments under one roof.

Please See FIRE on Page 2

November 30, 1990, *Tombstone Epitaph*:**FIRE** from Page 1

"Our facility is terrible. Dust, water and even birds mess up the house and get onto the trucks, but a new public safety house can be looked into next year, we need water line repair and replacement now," Perotti said.

Some of the water lines date back to 1880 and are only four inches in diameter, Perotti said. Others are clogged with rust and dirt, limiting water flow and depositing residue into the pumpers.

"We've been blessed that we have not had a fire needing multiple trucks, because no matter who comes to help fight a fire, there still will only be limited water usage," Perotti said.

The old lines pump about 650 gallons of water per minute through the fire hydrants, as compared to 1,000 to 1,500 gallons pumped from

the trucks.

The fire department has three fire trucks — a 1970 Ford 900, a 1979 Dodge Quick Attack Mini-Pumper and a 1983 General Motors Corp. 7000. To keep insurance premiums down, most companies require that a fire department have one truck that is less than 10 years old. Other trucks can be on reserve for another ten years.

Robinson also said the department lacks adequate aerial equipment for fires in buildings that are higher than one story.

The department has 30-foot ladders for second-story fires, but they can not be used to fight fires on the upper floors of the high school or old courthouse, Perotti said.

"They would need help from another department and it would take

about a half an hour response time (probably from Sierra Vista or Huachuca City), an eternity for firefighters," Robinson said.

Even when the firefighters reach a fire, they may not only have to battle the blaze, but also some fire hydrants that are either inactive or small.

Twenty-nine of 116 hydrants are impaired in some way and either do not function or are difficult to operate, Perotti said, causing even more problems for the fighters.

Robinson praised the work of the department during September and October fires on Fifth Street that caused considerable damage and was worsened by flammable materials at the site, but said better equipment could have reduced losses.

"I'd say that better equipment and facilities would have greatly reduced the response time to the fire and controlled it even quicker if it was available, but it wasn't," Robinson said.

"There was a \$120,000 grant to refurbish the senior citizen's facility, why can't that be the same for the fire department," Perotti asked.

Perotti said the city is looking into replacing the water lines. Mayor Alex H. Gradillas said he realizes the department needs help but added that money is hard to come by.

"We know what is needed, and eventually would like to see a public safety building, but you do only what you can, and without grants, we can't afford to do everything we would like," Gradillas said.

December 28, 1990, *Epitaph*:

Recent Blazes Spark a Debate Over Tombstone's Fire Safety

By PAUL G. ALLVIN
Epitaph Staff

12/28/90

It's a disturbing scenario, one that many Tombstone residents fear is all too likely in the wake of the recent string of arsons:

A firebug sets a building ablaze on or around Allen Street.

Flames quickly spread through the parched wood that comprises the town's historic facades. The volunteer fire department rushes to the scene, but the antiquated equipment is simply no match for the raging fire.

Neighboring fire units are rushed in, but by the time they reach Tombstone the inferno has destroyed an entire city block, perhaps more.

The town was spared such devastation after three recent arson-set fires, including one which damaged historic Schieffelin Hall. But the blazes have fanned a debate about Tombstone's firefighting capability.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Dick Bingham and Tombstone Fire Chief Joseph D. Perotti warn that more arson fires could cause deadly consequences.

"If this person or persons keeps at it, there's liable to be a fatality," Bingham said.

"Tombstone is built in a way that it has rustic-looking lumber to make it look old-fashioned. If they had one fire, it would probably take out

Arsonist Strikes Landmark, Restaurant and Retail Store

By PAUL G. ALLVIN
Epitaph Staff

The Dec. 11 fire in Schieffelin Hall was sparked by an arsonist, perhaps the same one who burned two buildings earlier this year on Fifth Street, Tombstone Fire Chief Joseph D. Perotti said.

Tombstone firefighters rushed to Schieffelin Hall around 2:30 a.m., shortly after a deputy city marshal spotted the fire in the map room, various officials said. Firefighters doused the fire shortly afterward.

The blaze was sparked on an exterior wooden window frame in the back of the room, City Marshal Edward E. Schnautz

said. It probably smoldered for some time before flames erupted, he added.

An unknown number of maps were destroyed by the fire and others sustained water damage when firefighters fought the blaze. Insurance agents have not yet put a price tag on the damage the hall sustained.

The night of the fire, the back doorways of two nearby buildings — the Wagon Wheel Restaurant & Lounge, 401 E. Fremont St., and Arlene's Southwest Trading Post, 404 E. Allen St. — sustained small burns, Deputy State Fire Marshal Dick Bingham said.

SCHIEFFELIN continued on 4

a whole block," he said.

Perotti said that because of antiquated water lines and a lack of easements behind the buildings along Allen Street, he may not be able to pump enough water or sufficiently position a fire truck to control such a blaze.

Merchants who share Perotti's

feelings of vulnerability to such a threat are waiting apprehensively to see if the arsonist will strike again.

"We're not equipped to fight a big fire," said David Sanford, co-owner of the Wagon Wheel Restaurant & Lounge, 401 E. Fremont St.

"By the time Sierra Vista and neighboring fire districts get here,

our town could be lost completely," he said. "It's irreplaceable."

A doorway on the 110-year-old Wagon Wheel building bore a burn mark discovered Dec. 11, the morning an arsonist set fire to Schieffelin Hall.

Authorities believe the same person who set fire to the historic building also tried to spark a blaze in the Wagon Wheel. Both it and Arlene's Southwest Trading Post, 404 E. Allen, had burn marks on their doorways.

Perotti angrily told the City Council the volunteer fire department is not equipped to fight a major fire, warnings underscored by the occurrence of nearly 20 fires in the last year or so.

"I don't mean to be mean. I don't want to be jumping on the council," Perotti said. "But if a fire started and it was big, what resources would we have to put it out?"

Tombstone Marshal Edward E. Schnautz said Perotti has never reported an arson to him, which he said is customary. He said he and his deputies continue to investigate leads, but so far have no suspects.

Perotti said he files his reports with City Hall, and has confirmation from the State Fire Marshal that the recent blazes were the work of an arsonist.

"He says he spends more time in Tombstone than in all the other towns in the three counties put together," Perotti said of Bingham.

During an Oct. 8 City Council meeting, Perotti described the problems he and his fellow volunteers had putting out the Oct. 2 blaze that gutted a storage building at 112 S. Fifth St., just south of Allen Street.

"We hooked up two fire trucks to two different hydrants, and neither one was any good," Perotti said. "If the wind had been blowing in a northerly direction, we would not have stopped that fire."

As it was, it took 20 firefighters three hours to extinguish the fire, which was repeatedly ignited by mattresses and flammable paints inside the building.

Tombstone Mayor Alex H. Gradillas, however, said he thinks Perotti is blowing the need for a beefed-up fire department out of proportion.

"He's overreacting," Gradillas said. "It's no different here than at any other city, like Benson. We're a small, little city and we provide

what we can afford."

Gradillas said he is concerned about the rash of arsons, but is confident that Schnautz is doing everything he can to catch the arsonist.

"If they could apprehend the guy, they would," Gradillas said.

Bingham, stationed in Safford, said the recent fires were indeed arson-caused and are reason for concern, because 20 arson fires in Tombstone in one year is highly unusual for such a small community.

"For a town your size, that's way

December 28, 1990, *Epitaph*:**ARSON** *Continued*

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Plans are underway to replace the antiquated, 4-inch water lines, some of which Perotti said date back to the 1880s.

Six-inch-diameter replacements have been ordered, but Perotti said it will take 8-inch lines to deliver enough water to adequately fight fires.

Councilman Ronald L. Robinson allied himself with Perotti and cast the sole vote against buying the 6-inch pipes when the measure came before the council on Dec. 3.

Robinson, who spent 19 years on the Buffalo, N.Y. fire department, has vowed to upgrade Tombstone's fire fighting equipment.

But merchants say they will not wait for upgrades that may or may not come.

They are collecting money to offer a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the arsonist. They also have asked Schnautz to step up foot patrols on the streets of Tombstone in the early morning hours, when the blazes have been set.

Schnautz said he prefers to keep his deputies rolling in cruisers, because the town can be traversed more quickly by car, and suspects can be pursued more easily.

SCHIEFFELIN *Continued from Page 1*

Those burns probably were caused by a butane lighter or similar device, said Bingham, who investigates suspected arson cases in Graham, Greenlee and Cochise counties.

Bingham said in a telephone interview from his Safford office he thinks the person who burned the doorways of the two businesses set fire to Schieffelin Hall in the same manner. A doorway to the basement of the meeting hall sustained a similar burn, he said.

On Sept. 28, an arson fire destroyed an unoccupied house at 112 S. Fifth St. Four days later, a warehouse on the same lot was torched by arson, Perotti said.

Whoever started those fires works similarly to the person who sparked the blaze in Schieffelin Hall, which was the 20th fire set in Tombstone this year, Perotti said.

"It's the same M.O. (method of operation)," he said. "They're using whatever is there to start the fire."

The lock on the first structure to

"It's the same M.O. They're using whatever is there to start the fire."

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be burned was off the door, indicating the arsonist might have entered the building to spark that fire, Bingham said.

When the warehouse burned four days later, the trash next to it was torched and the flames spread to the eaves of the building, he said.

"I think it's an amateur doing it — it's not a pro," Bingham said. "And often, the time they're setting them (early in the morning), they're expecting a good, heavy burn before people see the flames."

The day after the fire, City Clerk Doris A. Pulsifer retrieved the maps. She is drying the remaining maps

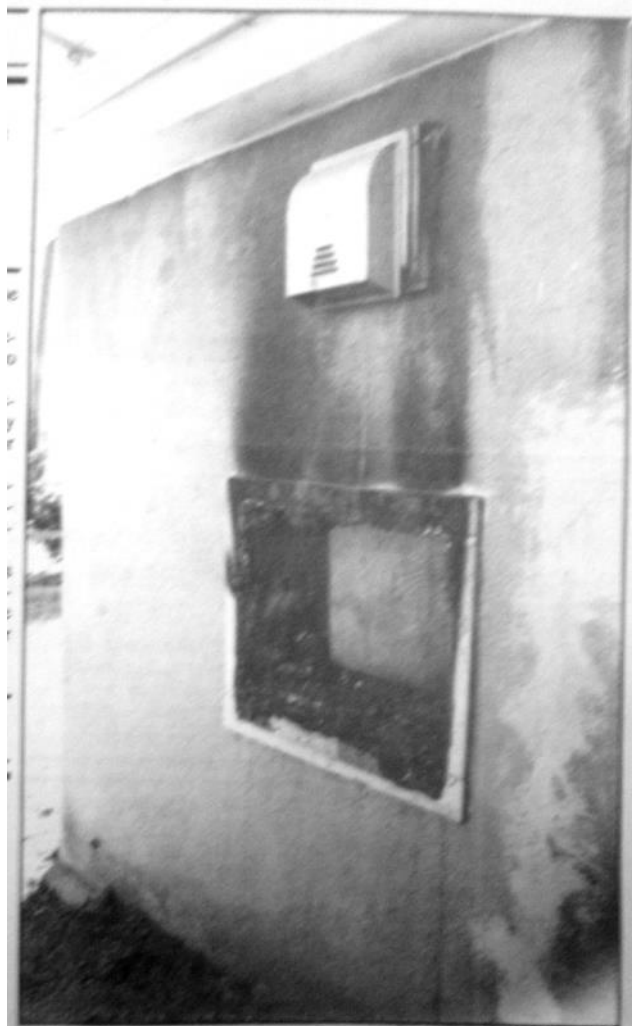
and taking an inventory to determine which maps were burned.

Pulsifer said she believes the destroyed maps will not be difficult to duplicate.

"A lot of the maps that were destroyed weren't rolled up, and they weren't really valuable," Pulsifer said.

Those easily replaceable maps include plot maps of the town that residents used to look at the characteristics of parcels of land.

Some of the water-damaged maps were "special purpose" maps, Pulsifer said, such as those that plot the location of the city's fire hydrants or cemeteries.



FIRST FLAMES - The back window to Schieffelin Hall's map room caught fire when an arsonist put a flame to this window frame Dec. 17.

December 28, 1990, *Epitaph*:**ARSON** Continued from Page 1

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1990

December 1994, Courtesy Al Ring:



January 25, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Cost Concerns Keep Fire Code on Hold

By J. LEON KEITH
Epitaph Staff

Tombstonians agree that the city should adopt a fire code before a serious blaze cripples the town, but residents and the City Council are unsure how effectively a code could be implemented.

"You can't really argue against it," said John D. Waldron, a retired firefighter and bartender at Big Nose Kate's Saloon. "About 12,000 people die from fires every year. A fire code's got to be beneficial," he said.

"In Tombstone, there's only so much you can do," said Mayor Alex H. Gradillas. "How much do merchants really want to spend?"

Councilmember Ronald L. Robinson said it would be too expensive to require building owners to add safety features such as sprinkler systems and pre-action fire systems to existing buildings not undergoing renovation.

"The cost of bringing 1880s buildings to a 1990s fire code would be prohibitive," he said.

However, despite the cost, implementation of some sort of fire code

in Tombstone is essential, Robinson said.

"We're talking about a matchbox city here," he said. "It's already burned down twice. Three times and you're out."

"We're all aware of how vulnerable we are to fire," Waldron said. "It's the nature of the structures."

Gradillas said a newly installed water line down Allen Street and the city's volunteer fire department would help greatly in the event of a fire.

"No matter what we have, a fire could get out of control," he said.

While the cost of updating is costly, Robinson said owners can "nickel and dime their repairs" with less expensive means of improving fire safety. Among the hazards that could be easily corrected are inward opening doors and poorly placed extension cords and heat sources, he said.

Robinson proposed to adopt the National Fire Protection Association's fire code in full. "What applies to us, we use, what doesn't, we won't," he said.

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FIRE

continued from page 1

Robinson also said he would like to give building owners six months to comply with a council-approved fire code, after which they would face a \$100-a-day fine for non-compliance.

Though penalties for failing to comply with a new code would be harsh under his proposal, Robinson said that would need to be tempered with limits on the extent of improvements building owners would need to make.

"We've gotta find the middle of the road," he said.

1991

February 3, 1991, *Tombstone Epitaph*:



Councilman Ronald L. Robinson brought his firetruck to the celebration. The 51-year-old truck is the same make and model as the one originally used by the Tombstone Fire Department. The truck was driven in the parade.

May 17, 1991, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Holiday Estates Needs Fire Agreement

By NEIL R. McLEOD
Epitaph Staff

The Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department is scheduled to suspend service to Holiday Ranch Estates July 1 unless an agreement is reached, City Clerk Doris A. Pulsifer said.

Service could be suspended because the city and the fire depart-

ment do not have a written contract with Estates residents for fire protection.

The Estates residents do not contribute to funding for the department because they live outside the city limits and do not pay city taxes, according to city officials.

"We should have a contract," Pulsifer said.

Pulsifer said she expects an agreement to be worked out before service could be halted.

"I think we'll have something in the works by July 1," she said.

The fire department answers one or two calls a year in the Estates, Pulsifer said.

The suspension notices were

scheduled to be mailed with the water bills May 14.

Pulsifer said the city expected a large response following the mailing.

Options include a written contract between the city and Estates residents or a fee for fire protections, Pulsifer said.

1991

November 1, 1991, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Fire Chief Requests Air Bottle System; \$600 Quickly Donated For Equipment

By SARAH T. HARRIS
Epitaph Staff

A call for help from the Fire Department got a fast response at a recent City Council meeting.

Fire Chief Joseph D. Perotti requested \$2,000 for equipment to refill firefighters' air bottles Oct. 21.

Because of recent expenditures and lack of revenue, the department has only about \$139 left to pay for the filler system.

In response to the department's needs, Councilman William J. Bone donated \$500 and Gayla L. Hurley donated \$100 during the meeting.

In the call to the public, Perotti told the council he must buy \$755 worth of equipment to replace pieces that have been pilfered from the Fire Department in the past two months.

"This is the first list, as fire chief, that I have given the mayor and council with so many things," Perotti said.

"I don't think that the City Council has received anything like this in all the time that I have been fire chief because the firemen themselves have been buying all the equipment."

The department recently spent \$465 for trash hooks, gloves, hoods and other necessary emergency equipment, Perotti said.

The money came from the firefighters and fire department funds.

"We've been having a problem over the past two months," he said, referring to the thefts. "We needed these things, and it was an emergency."

The firemen also bought \$404 worth of T-shirts with their own money to serve as uniforms during Hellorado Days, he said.

In response to the thefts, the chief replaced

all locks at the fire station. Since changing the locks, no tools have been stolen, he said.

The council also agreed to contribute \$491 to pay for electrical materials for the City Park gazebo. Tombstone Restoration Commission asked the city to contribute a portion of the total \$1,243 for the work.

In other business, the council:

- Authorized Richard S. Coons of Wild West Woodworks to begin restoring the Old Bank Building facade.

- Authorized Councilwoman T. Margaretha Harper to represent Tombstone at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns annual conference Oct. 22-25. The council agreed to reimburse Harper for gasoline and \$65 for registration.

Mayor Alex H. Gradillas was ill and missed the meeting, City Clerk Doris A. Pulsifer said.

November 29, 1991, *Tombstone Epitaph*:



BIRD'S EYE VIEW — An aerial view looking north of Tombstone shows historic Allen Street and other landmarks. The Courthouse State Historic Park is in the lower left of the photograph, taken in September.

111 Years In The Town Too
Tough To Die

The Tombstone Epitaph.

No Tombstone Is Complete
Without Its Epitaph

Vol. CXI, 8

Local Edition

Tombstone, Arizona

Friday, Nov. 29, 1991

Price: 30 Cents

February 18, 1992, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Fire chief sues Tombstone

Accuses mayor, city clerk and marshal of

By Ignacio Ibarra
The Arizona Daily Star

Tombstone Fire Chief Joseph D. Perotti and his wife filed a suit in U.S. District Court Feb. 8, alleging Tombstone and city officials tried to intimidate them and interfere with a recall drive.

The suit alleges that Tombstone Mayor Alex Gradillas in May threatened to fire Perotti unless he controlled his wife, Betty Tee, who was at that time one of the organizers of a recall campaign aimed at Gradillas.

The suit also says that City Clerk Doris Pulsifer and City Marshal Edward E. Schnautz used their office to

interfere with the petition drive and intimidate the Perottis.

The recall organizers failed to collect the necessary signatures to recall the mayor.

Gradillas now denies having threatened Perotti, but he told newspaper and television reporters, who quoted him in May, that he asked Mr. Perotti to "control" his wife or "suffer the consequences."

The suit does not specify the compensation sought by the Perottis. But a Sept. 16 notice of claim to the city asks for \$5 million for violations of the Perottis' first amendment rights of free speech, and peaceful assembly as well as violations of their 14th amend-

of intimidation, interfering in petition drive

ment right to equal protection under the law.

The suit filed by the Perottis' attorney, Edward W. Matchett of Bisbee, states that Gradillas' actions were planned, intentional and "designed to have a chilling effect" on Mrs. Perotti's civil and voting rights.

The suit also alleges that the threats against the Perottis were "followed by continuing and systematic harassment," manifest when Schnautz followed petition circulators around town, and Pulsifer interfered in the petition process in violation of the state Constitution.

Speaking for the Perottis, Matchett said: "What we have here is a situation ... in which (Gradillas) ad-

mitted to making the statement and then repeated that statement over a period of many days. He basically said it to anyone who would ask."

Gradillas, speaking of his May 16 conversation with Chief Perotti, said: "When I first talked to Joey, I praised him about the good work he does — and he does, he's a good fire chief. I told him all I'm asking you to do is talk to your wife and see what the problem is between us

Pulsifer said she feels responsible for the suit in that she suggested Gradillas meet with Chief Perotti

See **SUIT**, Page 2B

Suit

Continued from Page 1B

in May. But she insists the meeting was friendly, and that Perotti's job was never threatened.

She said Gradillas did say Mrs.

Perotti's push for a recall was causing undue friction, and that it "could affect you down the road."

She said the allegations that she interfered with the petition drive stem from an error she made in the format of the petition forms she provided a recall organizer. But she said the error was unintentional,

and delayed the recall effort by a day or two at the most.

Tombstone Marshal Schnautz declined to comment on the allegations that he violated the Perottis' rights by following Mrs. Perotti and other petition carriers around town, and passing by her home in an intimidating manner.

March 13, 1992, *Tombstone Epitaph*:



Photo by Alex Theodoropoulos/The Tombstone Epitaph

GRACIAS — Tombstone Marshal Edward E. Schnautz and Mayor Alex H. Gradillas hand over the keys of the city's old ambulance to Puerto Peñasco representatives Christy Snow and M. Rosario Romero.

Tombstone Gets New Ambulance After Giving Old One to Mexico

By Alex Theodoropoulos
The Tombstone Epitaph

Tombstone, after receiving a new ambulance from the state, has donated its old one to the town of Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico.

The exchange is part of the Arizona-Mexico Commission, Christy Snow, staff representative of the Emergency Medical Task Force of Arizona and Sonora, said.

The 1979 Chevrolet ambulance will be delivered to Puerto Peñasco next month, after it is cleared through customs, Snow said.

Puerto Peñasco, also known as Rocky Point, is a fishing and tourist village on the Gulf of California about about 200 miles southwest of Tucson.

"There are a great deal of highway traumas (near Puerto Peñasco), where many Americans are involved," Snow said. "That is why the U.S. is working with them."

The deal earns Tombstone a 1991 Ford ambulance,

through a grant from the Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Emergency Medical Services.

The city has applied for the grant for the past three years, Tombstone Marshal Edward E. Schnautz said.

The new ambulance is worth about \$50,000, Schnautz said.

The new model will be the city's primary ambulance, replacing a 1984 Ford, which will become the secondary vehicle. The 1979 model had been the secondary ambulance.

"In order to have an ambulance service you need two ambulances," Schnautz said.

The local emergency medical technicians, who drive the ambulance, said they like the new vehicle.

The EMTs looked over the new white ambulance inside and out.

"It's nice to have another dependable, well-equipped ambulance," EMT Denay C. Valenzuela said.

"Looks good to me," EMT and mechanic Keith L. Evans said.

March 13, 1992, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Fire Department Honors Spangler for Dedication

By Alex Theodoropoulos
The Tombstone Epitaph

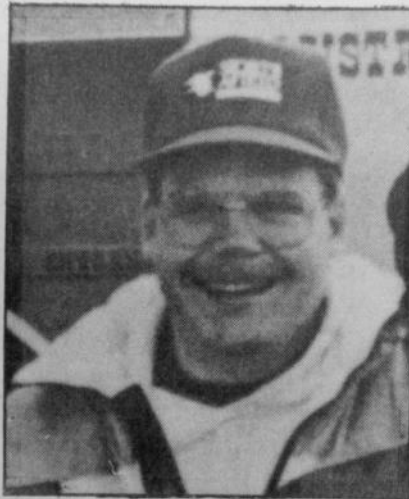
The entire room at the Bella Union went silent as the crowd waited for the name of the Fireman of the Year to be revealed. Cheers and applause filled the room when the surprised winner modestly stepped forward.

Keith J. Spangler — looking happy and a little embarrassed — walked onto stage and received his plaque with a smile of disbelief.

"To be Fireman of the Year, it takes the whole department," Spangler said in his acceptance speech.

Friends and family crowded him with hugs, handshakes and congratulations.

Spangler has been on the Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department since 1986. Before that he was an



Keith J. Spangler
emergency medical technician, and, at 16, he was the youngest EMT in Arizona.

Spangler, 24, is a full-time deputy

sheriff.

"I like to help people," he said. "It makes me feel good."

Spangler moved to Tombstone from Scottsdale when he was 10. He lived in town about 11 years, until he moved to Benson, where he lives now.

Spangler is engaged to Kathy A. Lane, and they plan to marry in June 1993.

Lane said she has known for a month that her fiance was chosen Fireman of the Year.

"I had a hell of a time keeping it from him," she said.

She secretly arranged for Spangler's parents, who are from Kingman, and his brother and sister-in-law from Tucson to come down for the ball.

Please see FIREMAN, page 3

Fireman

Continued from page 1

"I was surprised, but he deserves it," Lane said, "It's like a really big honor for him."

Spangler said he refuses to believe he is the most important person in the department.

"In a fire department you have to work as a team. There's not one person who can run a fire department," he said.

Keith L. Evans, a member of the fire department, said "unquestionably" Spangler deserves the award.



Photo by Steffani Nicoluzakis/The Tombstone Epitaph
ONE DALMATION — Ronald L. Robinson and his dalmation, Sponsor, join the pet parade on Allen Street as fireman and firedog.

1992

March 13, 1992, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

VISITOR FROM SWEDEN.



REIGNING CHAMPS — Tombstone's winning hose cart team was, from left, Keith J. Spangler, Joseph D. Perotti Jr., James M. Dotson Sr. and Robert M. Altamirano (not shown).

Hose Cart Competition Won by Local Firemen

By Danielle Tatum
The Tombstone Epitaph

Tombstone Fire Department captured a close victory at the Arizona Hose Cart Championships over the firemen from Sierra Vista March 8.

Competition was fierce between Tombstone's team No. 1 and Sierra Vista's team No. 1. However, Tombstone took its second consecutive championship less than one second in front of Sierra Vista.

Crowds of tourists and locals gathered to watch this featured event of Tombstone's Territorial Days at 12:30 p.m. on Allen Street.

Fire Chief Joseph D. Perotti Jr., James M. Dotson Sr., Fireman of the

Year, Keith J. Spangler, and Robert M. Altamirano made up the victorious Tombstone team.

The teams raced fire carts from the 1880s, each weighing 600 pounds.

The contestants were required to pull them 300 feet, connect the hose to a fire plug and carry it across the finish line.

Tombstone's team No. 1 finished in 38.60 seconds.

Sierra Vista No. 1 finished in 39.22 seconds.

Tombstone's team No. 2 came in a distant third at 50.06, Whetstone, 53.56, was fourth and Sierra Vista team No. 2 finished fifth with 58.81.

March 27, 1992, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Car Crash Causes Damage to Home, Garage, Vehicles

By William W. Dycus
The Tombstone Epitaph

A half-ton pickup crashed into the garage, home, truck and camper of Ed and Eddell Phelan on West Gleeson Road, police said.

Police identified the driver as Lance C. Crabtree, 21, of Tombstone.

No one was hurt in the accident that took place March 21 at 4:30 a.m.

Charges were pending, said Deborah S. Chadwick, the city court clerk.

Chadwick said a copy of the police report is being sent to the county attorney's office for review.

Ed Phelan estimated \$9,000 damage to his home, his pickup, porch, garage and lighting system.

"He never stopped driving after all that damage," Mr. Phelan said.

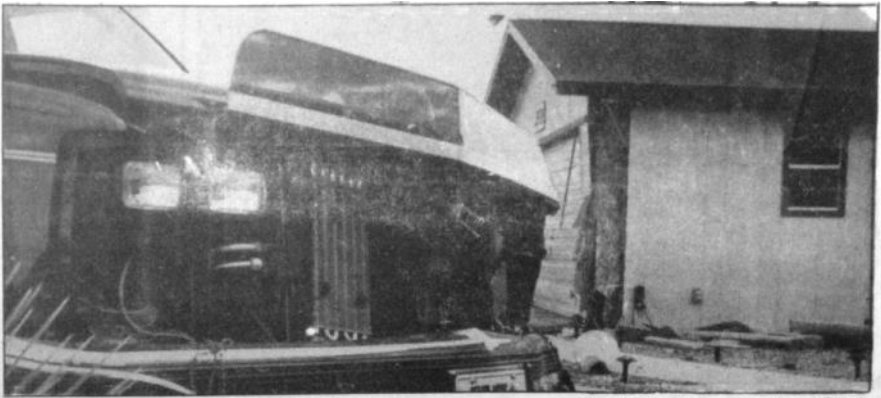


Photo by Brian Chemow/The Tombstone Epitaph

DAMAGED GOODS — a pickup and garage were damaged after a truck crashed into them.

Crabtree told police that he swerved to avoid a deer on Gleeson Road. According to the police report, Crabtree went through 75 to 100 feet of brush before damaging Phelan's property.

Tire marks on the Phelans' driveway indicated acceleration through the accident, the police report said.

Phelan said he had a gun and was prepared to

shoot if the driver would have tried to drive away.

A tow truck removed Crabtree's truck from an embankment, Phelan said.

Crabtree passed a field sobriety test, Chadwick said.

Crabtree refused to comment.

October 2, 1992, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Firefighter Museum To Shut Down

After only seven months in business, the Tombstone Firefighting Museum is closing its doors forever.

"I got tired of whipping a dead horse," said Ronald L. Robinson, owner of the museum.

The museum, located on Allen Street, will close Oct. 31.

The museum has operated for six months and never was profitable, Robinson said.

"I couldn't move stuff in the way I needed," Robinson said.

Robinson, who was a firefighter in New York, has old uniforms, hats and fire hydrants on display and for sale.

Everything is at a 50 percent discount.

With the museum's close and the loss of his Ward 3 City Council seat in November, Robinson said he now plans to enjoy himself and "take a two-year vacation."

(Stories by Kimberlee Noll)

October 16, 1992, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Students Taught Fire Safety from Chief

By Matt Wixon
The Tombstone Epitaph

Educating Tombstone's children about fire safety can prevent most of the town's blazes, Fire Chief Joseph D. Perotti said.

That was the reason for a fire education program presented to all students at Walter J. Meyer Elementary School. The program was a part of National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4 to Oct. 10.

"Most of the fires in Tombstone are caused by kids, so we do everything down at this level," Perotti said.

The presentation included fire safety tips from Sparky the fire dog, played by Armando E. Molina, 13. A puppet show was performed for the younger grades, and a firefighter spoke to students.

The presentations emphasized the

importance of smoke detectors and gave children a chance to look at how they work. Molina also told the children to check the batteries in the detector.

"The message of Fire Prevention Week 1992 is 'test your detector,'" Perotti said.

Annual Fire Prevention Weeks began in 1911, when the National Fire Protection Association inaugurated the week in memory of the 250 people who died in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Playing Sparky was fun, Molina said. He decided to do it after Perotti, who is also Molina's teacher, asked for his help.

"Most of them don't know what fire danger is," Molina said. "It's something they should know and maybe they'll go home and tell their parents."

Molina presented information to students about smoke detectors, fire escape routes and general fire safety.

The National Fire Protection Association cited 4,670 household deaths due to fires in 1991. Children playing with fire caused 440 of the deaths.

Tombstone does not have many fires, but Perotti said that "one fire can be a problem." The record in Tombstone shows that fire education works, he said.

One of Tombstone's problems is the grass that grows in washes. The children always like to burn the grass in the wash, Perotti said.

The fire chief wants to use a controlled burn to clear out the washes, but he needs permission from the Environmental Protection Agency. The agency outlawed outdoor burning about a year ago, Perotti said.

With permission from the agency's branch in Phoenix, the controlled burns can be done.

"We can have controlled burns as long as we get a hold of them," he said. "But it's ridiculous trying to get a hold of them."

The Tombstone Fire Department will be making safety checks of the businesses and fire hydrants on Toughnut Street this month. The department has found problems with the hydrants in the past.

"It ended up costing more than \$1,000 (for Tombstone) because rocks were in the lines," he said.

The Tombstone Epitaph.

Founded on the Southwestern frontier
by John P. Clum, May 1, 1880.
The local edition of the Tombstone

Firefighters Find Fragrant Friends

By Heath Copps
The Tombstone Epitaph

'Tis the season to smell the distinct aroma of Tombstone's cool weather visitors — skunks.

Fire Chief Joseph D. Perotti said one of the department's meetings was interrupted by two skunks that decided to take up residence in the fire station.

"An officer that was there said there were two skunks that were cavorting in the station," Perotti said. "We had to be very careful."

Skunks often find their way to the city during the cooler months, looking for shelter under houses and in cool crawl spaces. Acting Marshal Robert D. Gerencser said it is a very common occurrence in Tombstone, especially this time of year.

The onus of taking care of any skunk disturbance falls into Gerencser's and his department's hands, along with Tombstone Public Works.

"We've got traps, which we set here and there," Gerencser said. "The skunks hibernate in basements and crawl spaces and have babies. We give people that have problems with them traps and then we come by and pick them up."

Gerencser said the animals are turned over to public works, which then takes them out of the city and turns them loose.

"We seem to go through this every year," Gerencser said.

Once as a deputy, Gerencser made the mistake of putting a dead skunk he had found in his car in or-

der to dispose of it.

"It stunk up the whole car. I'll never do that again," he said.

Mark J. Escapule, the public works water operator, said: "They (public works) usually take them out of the town and let them go at the edge of the dump. I see them around all the time. Quite a few come around town and eat garbage."

He added that none of the skunks caught have had rabies.

"There's a lot of old buildings, and they just get under anything," Escapule said. "It's easy for them. They don't need to make a home underground, it's already there."

Brenda M. Altamirano, a secretary at City Hall, said the skunk problem was much worse about 12 years ago.

1993

February 12, 1993, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Life Savers



Photo by Diane Targovnik

Billy S. Pierce, a nurse, plays the role of a crash victim as part of the first emergency nurses training course administered in a rural area. The training helped to prepare the rural nurses for the national certification test given on Feb. 20. The 60-hour, free class was offered in Benson. SEE RELATED STORY, PAGE 3

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March 12, 1993, *Tombstone Epitaph*:



Photo by Brooke D. Ryan

Tombstone Fire Department team members compete in hose cart races held during Territorial Days. The Sierra Vista Fry Fire Department team won this year's race, ending Tombstone's winning streak.

Sierra Vista Defeats Tombstone in 11th Annual Fire Hose Cart Race

By Brooke D. Ryan
The Tombstone Epitaph

There are few days during the year that Tombstone is more protected from fire threats than during the Territorial Days fire hose cart race. Four fire departments from southeastern Arizona descended on Tombstone March 7, to take part in this popular 11th annual event.

The Sierra Vista Fry Fire Department ended the Tombstone Fire Department's two-year winning streak, beating them by almost 2.5 seconds. The Sierra Vista Fry team placed last in the 1992 race.

Sierra Vista Fry team member Al Slarve said they learned from last year's loss and did a "couple of dry runs"

prior to the race to improve their chances.

Other fire departments participating were the Benson Fire Department, the Nogales Fire Department and another Tombstone team.

The event, which uses an 1880 hose cart, requires a four-man team to run a block from Fourth and Allen Streets to the Crystal Palace. Teams must pull the cart, drop 100 feet of hose and hook a nozzle to a fire hydrant as quickly as possible.

Teams are penalized "by adding time to their final time if they don't do something right," William J. Brett, the race's starter said. "The rules are very specific." Time is assessed for such things as dropping the end of the hose cart or having kinks in the hose.

Brett said invitations are sent out to fire departments throughout the state prior to the contest. About 10 teams usually attend, Brett said.

Teams from Tucson, Bisbee and Whetstone did not show up for this year's race.

Hose cart racing has been a popular event for more than 100 years, Wallace E. Clayton, chairman of the Tombstone Tourism Association said.

"In the last century, hose cart races have been big events in the West, especially on holidays such as Labor Day and Fourth of July," Clayton said.

The first place winners received a plaque. "In the old days, cash prizes up to \$1,000 were given for first place," said Clayton. "Now people just participate for the honor."

October 1, 1993, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Fire chief raises concerns about lack of city code

By Jim Ferolie
The Tombstone Epitaph

The city fire code has become an issue for the entire city government.

All members, including the mayor, city clerk, city attorney and the council, along with Fire Chief Joseph D. Perotti have received a copy of the state fire marshal's recommendations for fire safety.

"I never mentioned the fire code when I ran for election," said James M. Dotson, Tombstone's Ward 4 councilman.

"The city needs to adopt a fire code," Dotson said. "Tombstone needs to come up to date. Fire codes are written for the safety of the public."

The issue came up during the call to the public at the beginning of the Sept. 20 council meeting.

Tombstone resident Joe Boluski asked, "Don't they test the hydrants in this town? If it doesn't work, I want to increase my insurance."

For some residents, fire safety and the city's lack of a code have been an issue since long before the City Council debated it.

"We've tried. They've adopted every other code," said Perotti, Tombstone's chief firefighter for 14 years. He has fought Tombstone fires for the past 28 years, since he first volunteered during his senior year in high school.

It was a few years ago, he said, when the city decided to pay for replacing the old fire hydrants in the historical district. Those water lines had been in place since the 1880s.

He said just one fire truck, let alone the two the city owns, could easily "suck them dry." The new water lines on Allen Street became functional in 1992.

Part of the problem is due to the historical value of certain buildings. The city has not regulated building in alleyways around Allen Street.

"The city has allowed them to build wherever they wanted to," Perotti said.

So the buildings are not uniform, often do not have effective rear exits, and, in general, make firefighting a difficult task, firefighters said.

"There are no fire breaks in the buildings," Perotti said.

Instead of one level surface on top of the buildings or sloped roofs, there are several different elevations, and often there are walls between close buildings. The barriers would prevent a firefighter from going from one building to another along the top. The priority is the need to establish easements, Perotti said. Most of the blocks on Allen Street have few or no alleys to allow firefighters to attack a fire from the rear and the front. In those cases, they would have to settle for fighting a fire "defensively," meaning to stand in the street and pour water on the fire until it goes out.

Water flow is a concern for the department. Two main tanks provide water for the Tombstone area.

The nearby main tank has a 110,000-gallon capacity and the mountain reservoir can hold up to 1 million gallons. But there has been a leak for some time, limiting the reservoir to an effective capacity of only about one half, Dotson said.

Perotti estimated the combined water usage of the two city fire trucks to be about 100,000 gallons an hour. If there were any problem with the backup reservoir, the city's main tank

see Fire Codes, pg

Fire from page 1

would provide only about an hour's worth of water.

Dotson said that the city has applied for a filtration grant.

"If that goes through, there will be a 300,000-gallon tank," he said.

"When I raised Cain, I was a troublemaker," Perotti said. "I was damned if I did and damned if I didn't."

Later, he added, "I virtually have no authority."

Dotson said he hopes to adopt the new universal federal fire code that will go into effect for 1994.

But he has yet to have a discussion with other members of the council to ascertain whether they are receptive to

the idea.

For the time being, he said, he believes "people are taking (fire safety) into consideration and doing what they can afford."

He said some provision should be made for a "grandfather clause," which would allow exceptions for buildings that already exist, and adopt the code for new construction.

Also, he said, there is grant money available to add sprinkler systems to existing buildings.

"I believe there has been progress made," Dotson said. "There has been change in the way things have been handled in the last few years."

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Vol. CXIII, 11

Local Edition

Tombstone, Arizona

Friday, January 14, 1994

Price 30 Cents

Historic district poses 'great' fire, safety risk

By Richard Ornellas
The Tombstone Epitaph

The potential for fire is "great" in Tombstone's historic district, said the state assistant fire marshal.

Meanwhile, it appears some historical buildings may qualify for financial help to pay for fire sprinkler systems.

Steve Alley, who toured the district last August in response to "complaints and questions regarding fire safety there," said, "The buildings are getting old, and the potential for fire is great."

"I feel like there's a potential hazard there based on types of construction," he said.

Alley said most of the district's buildings are wood, have wooden frames and were built "side-by-side," typical of 19th- and early 20th-century construction styles.

State Deputy Fire Marshal Alfred J. Swegard, who accompanied Alley, said, "If they get a fire started and a strong wind going, it could wipe out a whole block, because there's no separation between buildings."

Sixteen of the district's buildings were built in 1890 or before, and nine were constructed between 1890 and 1910. The remaining structures were built after 1910, according to a 1972 study by the Tombstone Restoration Commission.

A commission map shows the heart of the district extending from Third Street to Sixth Street, bounded by Fremont Street to the north and Toughnut Street to the south. Allen Street runs through the heart of the district.

Poor fire access

"A fire can spread from one block to the

next because you can't get in the center of the block," Swegard said. "Once a fire gets started, it's very hard to put it out."

Tombstone City Councilman James M. Dotson, a volunteer firefighter for 15 years, said he was concerned about the lack of fire lanes or alleys between district buildings.

Dotson said the area's side-by-side buildings impede quick, easy access to a fire.

He said "poor access" jeopardizes the safety of firefighters.

"The No. 1 goal of a guy in charge of a fire scene is the safety of his firefighters to go in and out of a fire," Dotson said.

"You've got to remember when you go into a fire, you need a back escape route."

Dotson said the district needs more fire lanes.

"We only have two partial lanes and it's block 18 and 19 that have some kind of alleyway and that's between Bella Union and Johnny Ringo's and the space between the post office here," he said.

Alley's Recommendations

In a November letter to Dotson, Alley stated: "I believe the best approach to provide protection would be a combination of fixed fire protection systems and fire department access."

Alley made six recommendations to improve fire access and fire safety in Tombstone. They include the following:

- The town or responsible party avoid allowing any actions or construction that would further reduce the fire department's access.

- Review areas where property could be donated, purchased, or condemned in order to provide fire lanes.

- Review all areas to see where fire lanes could be added, improved or widened.

- Determine areas that would be appropriate to create area separations between buildings.

- Evaluate options available to provide fixed fire protection systems for building protection.

- Eliminate weeds and combustible debris hazards.

Alley said he has "not heard from anybody" regarding his recommendations.

No one from the fire department, City Council or any business people has called me."

Buildings "in great shape"

Tombstone's buildings are "in great shape," said the town's building inspector.

Thomas D. Wright said the historic district's buildings do not have any serious fire-safety hazards. "I would say 99 percent of the buildings along Allen Street are in great shape, as far as I can see."

"As of right now, I can't think of any buildings that are a fire hazard," Wright said.

An electrician by trade, Wright said, "Most of the buildings along Allen Street have been remodeled and rewired during the last 15 years."

He said, "The only safety hazard in the historic district is that most of the doors swing out instead of swinging in. But that can't be changed if the buildings are to be historically correct."

Gerry R. Herbst, of Gerry's Gifts, 511 E. Allen Street, said he feels safe doing business in the district.

See FIRE, Page 4



Photo by Richard Ornellas
The outdated fire hydrants are incompatible with the equipment on the current Tombstone fire trucks.

Lack of after-school programs

By Richard Ornellas

The Tombstone Epitaph

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"As of right now, I can't think of any buildings that are a fire hazard," Wright said.

An electrician by trade, Wright said, "Most of the buildings along Allen Street have been remodeled and rewired during the last 15 years."

He said, "The only safety hazard in the historic district is that most of the doors swing out instead of swinging in. But that can't be changed if the buildings are to be historically correct."

Gerry R. Herbst, of Gerry's Gifts, 511 E. Allen Street, said he feels safe doing business in the district.

See FIRE, Page 4

FIRE

The Tombstone

Continued from Page One

"My building is made of adobe. To catch fire is virtually impossible," Herbst said.

Stephen K. Elliot, who owns the Silver Lady Antique Shop, 515 E. Fremont St., said, "Tombstone is like a bomb just waiting to be ignited."

"I just pray to God that it's not going to take another disaster to get these people awake."

Arthur Austin, assistant park manager of the Tombstone Court State Historic Park, 219 Toughnut St., said, "I do think that Tombstone stands a rich chance of having a devastating fire."

"Tombstone is a national landmark. Can the country afford to lose such a treasure?"

"Today, there seems to be a feeling of it can't happen to us, and that is dangerous," said Austin.

City ablaze

On June 22, 1881, a barrel of whiskey exploded in the Arcade Saloon on Allen Street between Fifth Street and Sixth Street.

No deaths occurred, but the resulting inferno leveled four blocks along both sides of Allen Street and caused \$175,000 in property damages, *The Tombstone Epitaph* reported.

Fire struck again May 26, 1882. The blaze, which started in the water closet of the Tivoli Saloon on Allen Street, caused one death and \$500,000 in property damages.

"The business portion of the town has been destroyed and many a man and woman too, who yesterday were in affluent circumstances, find themselves today reduced to poverty," the *Epitaph* reported.

Fire's economic threat

"I think what many people fail to realize is that if there is a devastating fire in the business district, we could lose 95 percent of our tourist trade," said Arthur Austin, assistant park manager of Tombstone Court State Historic Park.

What would happen to Tombstone's economy if a fire similar to those of

1881 or 1882 swept through the city's historic district, where most residents worked and most tourists spent their money?

City officials declined to comment when asked that question.

However, state figures suggest a major blaze would financially cripple the town.

Tourism provides the primary source of jobs and income for Tombstone, according to the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

About 1,220 people lived in Tombstone in 1990, and 443 Tombstonians 16 years or older were employed.

Tourist-related jobs

In 1990, about 290, or 65 percent of the town's workers, had tourist-related jobs.

A breakdown shows 152 residents worked in the wholesale and retail trades while 138 worked in the service area.

"Anybody who sells to the final consumer works in the retail trade," said Jennifer L. Pagio, a state economic planner.

"They are usually sales clerks who work in retail shops along Allen Street."

Fifty-five shops line Allen Street between Third Street and Sixth Street.

Pagio said people such as waiters, waitresses and bartenders work in the service area.

City revenue

Tombstone's city government gets most of its revenue from tourist dollars, said its City Clerk Doris A. Pulsifer.

"My guess is that 60 percent to 70 percent" of the city's sales taxes come from tourism, she said.

Pulsifer said the city earns 2 percent from every dollar spent in Tombstone.

The city earned \$191,144 in 1990 and \$199,205 in 1992 in sales taxes.

A major fire

Some Tombstonians question whether the city's volunteer fire de-

partment can handle a major fire.

Resident Harry R. Hanes wrote a letter to Alley last August, questioning "the ability of our volunteer fire department to perform their duties in case a fire would break out in Tombstone's historical district."

Dotson said he "doubted if we could take care" of a major fire.

He said such a fire most likely would occur between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. when most firefighters are working out of town.

"Most of the department's 21 volunteer firefighters work outside of Tombstone," Dotson said.

"Only four or five of the department's firefighters live or work in Tombstone," he said. "The other 18 or 19 come in town after work."

Dotson said many of them may not be available to fight a blaze.

"Since it's only a volunteer department, when the beeper goes out, there's no way of determining how many people will respond. 'We've always had a good response. It all depends on who is there. You have to remember these aren't professional firefighters. These are volunteers who get paid \$15 an hour for a fire,'" he said.

He said it would take the fire department five to 10 minutes to respond to a downtown fire.

Dotson said he did not know whether Tombstone has an agreement with surrounding towns to get help to fight a major fire.

Town reservoir leaking

Tombstone's main water reservoir has "a seep in it," said the city's public works director.

Steve Henderson said, "There is a leak in there, and the city is well aware of that. It's been there for quite a while."

He said the city plans to repair the reservoir but did not know when the repairs would be made.

When asked how much water the reservoir contained, he said, "I couldn't really tell you off hand. We try to keep it at least half."

Henderson said he thought the reservoir had enough water to fight a major fire. "It's adequate as far as I feel it is."



James M. Dotson

Outdated fire hydrants

Dotson said some of Tombstone's fire hydrants were outdated and might hamper firefighters, because "we can't connect to them."

He said the hydrants have a single 2.5 inch outlet while the city's fire trucks can connect only with six inch outlets.

The hydrant in front of the Tourist Information Office at Fourth and Allen Streets, is outdated, Dotson said.

The city has about 150 hydrants, and "at least 20 with 2.5 inch connections and probably more," Dotson said.

He said the city's newer hydrants have six-inch and 2.5-inch outlets.

The Insurance Service Office, a private agency that calculates property insurance premiums, advised the city nine years ago to replace its old hydrants with newer ones, Dotson said.

"We're due for another rating next year," he said, "and the 2.5 inch hydrants could hurt us."

The 1985 report states, "Credit is reduced when hydrants lack a pumper outlet, and is further reduced when they have only a single 2.5 inch outlet."

On a scale of one to 10, with one being the best rating and 10 the worst, Tombstone has a seven.

Multilayered Roofs

Some of the district's buildings have multilayered roofs, which would hamper firefighters, Dotson said.

A couple of the buildings in the downtown area have maybe three or four roofs built over one another, leaving a foot of access space between roofs.

"You've got to remember when you have a fire in a building you got to ventilate to stop explosions."

"You have to decide whether to

take the trouble to cut through four roofs or back off and protect other structures," Dotson said.

No fire code

Tombstone does not have a fire code, and town Mayor Alex H. Gradillas, said the city is reluctant to adopt one.

"Once we have a code, we have to enforce it, and there are probably a lot of small businesses that can't really afford to comply with it. That is the reason we've held back," Gradillas said.

Business owner Elliot said, "We want fire codes in Tombstone. It's like a bomb just waiting to be ignited."

Gradillas said, "I think the time is probably coming when we'll have to adopt a code."

"Fire concerns all of us. We always hope that a fire never happens, but if it does, I'm sure our firemen would do the best they can to put it out."

Wright said, "As far as I know the only codes we are using are the National Uniform Building Code and the National Uniform Electrical Code."

The codes apply only to modern structures or the renovation of existing buildings, Wright said.

State powerless

The state is powerless to force fire safety changes in Tombstone, Swegard said.

"We're really handicapped when it comes to doing anything down there."

He said although Tombstone is obliged to follow the state Uniform Building and Uniform Fire Codes, "They apply primarily to new construction going on."

"We can't take a building that was built 100 years ago and tell them to follow a code that was written three years ago."

"Tombstone is a very unique community," Swegard said, "and it's very hard to apply modern-day codes."

"We can talk to the people there and make recommendations, but it's up to the city and shop owners to make any changes."

He recommended that businesses install fire sprinkler systems to limit

damage.

"Whenever you have a sprinkler system in a building, most of the fire is put out," he said. "A sprinkler system is probably the best protection they can get."

William M. Hunley, manager of the Bird Cage Theatre, 517 E. Allen St., said the building has an indoor and outdoor sprinkler system.

"We put it in about 10 or 12 years ago, because it's a historical building and to protect it."

He did not know the system's cost and said his business paid for the sprinklers.

Elliot said he plans to install a sprinkler system in his place of business. "This is a historic building. I feel I should make every effort to protect it."

State-funded sprinklers

Tombstone business owners who operate in buildings that are eligible, or listed, in either the Arizona or National Register of Historic Places may qualify for state funding for a sprinkler system, said the grants coordinator of the state Heritage Fund.

Fran Tropea said, "We did fund a fire sprinkler system in February 1992 for the Ortheum Theater in Phoenix. The project cost \$34,512, and we matched it 50-50."

"A business owner could probably apply for money, because the sprinkler system would protect the building from fire."

Tropea said building owners cannot apply for money themselves. They would have to find a sponsor.

"We would not reimburse funds directly to the owner," she said.

Tropea said owners interested in applying for money need to get an estimate from a contractor to determine how much it would cost to put in a sprinkler system.

"Matches may vary," she said, "but the most recent percentage is 60-40, with the Heritage Fund providing 60 percent and the participant providing 40 percent of the project cost."

Tropea said she did not know of any Tombstone city officials or business people who applied for state money to help finance a sprinkler system.

March 11, 1994, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Territorial Days



Firefighters from Nogales win cart race

By Mary Ann Stacy
The Tombstone Epitaph

Nogales firefighters took home the trophy after racing to beat six competing teams in the Tombstone Territorial Days 1880 Championship antique fire hose cart race.

The men, with a winning time of 40 sec-

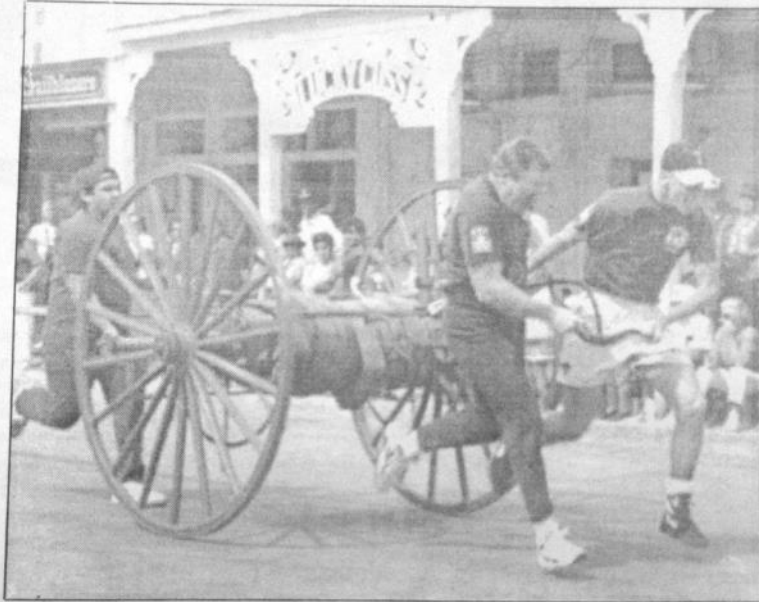


Photo by Mary Ann Stacy

WHERE'S THE FIRE? Tombstone volunteer firefighters race down Allen Street during the annual Territorial Days antique fire hose cart race.

Nogales firefighters took home the trophy after racing to beat six competing teams in the Tombstone Territorial Days 1880 Championship antique fire hose cart race.

The men, with a winning time of 40 seconds, raced up Allen Street pulling a cart holding a coiled fire hose. As they approached the hydrant set up in the middle of the street, they unwound the hose and connected it.

Before claiming victory, all firefighters and their carts had to move clear of the hydrant. Penalties of additional seconds were charged for allowing kinks in the hose or dropping the hose and tools.

"Last year we were penalized for dropping a hose, but this time we did pretty well," said Tony G. Meraz of the Nogales Fire Department.

"We came down early and did a couple of practice runs," Meraz said. "We really wanted to bring home a trophy."

The Fry Fire Department from Sierra Vista came in second with a 42-second run. Benson was third at 45 seconds.

South Tucson was next with a time of 46.5 seconds, followed by Tombstone's firefighters who ran the course in 48.25 seconds. Tombstone was penalized 10 seconds.

Team No. 2 of the Nogales firefighters came in sixth at 54 seconds.

In last place, but with the most cheers, was a team of South Tucson firefighter's wives. The women's team posted a final score, after a 10-second penalty, at 71 seconds.

1994

April 22, 1994, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

UP IN SMOKE ...

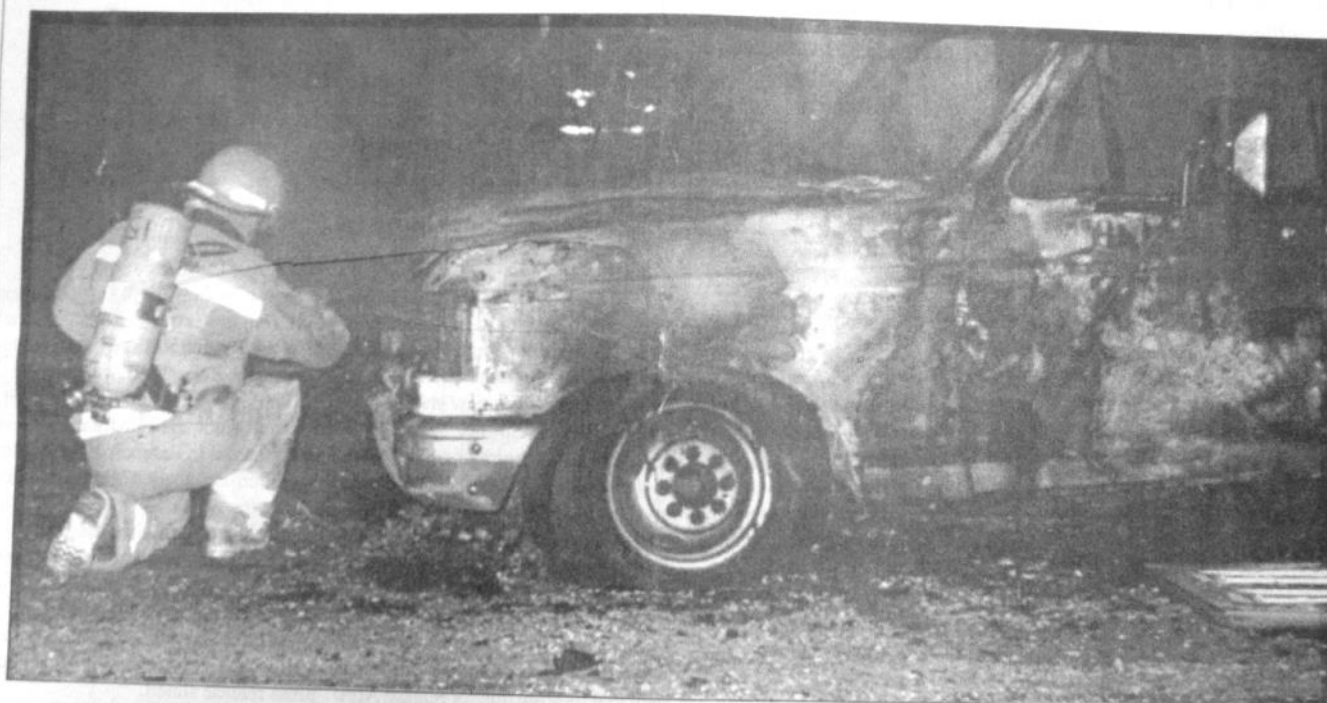


Photo by Jessica Pepper

SOME LIKE IT HOT — A Tombstone firefighter cracks open the grill of a flaming 1988 Ford truck to help extinguish a fire in the engine. Volunteer firemen responded to the call on Davis Road last Friday night. The driver said he was told to pull over after passers-by saw smoke coming from the engine. About five firefighters were on the scene to control the blaze and direct traffic.

October 7, 1994, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Combustion causes City Council, fire

By Timothy Callahan
The Tombstone Epitaph

The Tombstone City Council has agreed to form a six-person committee to determine how to bring buildings up to state fire codes, and how to police owners who do not comply.

The panel, headed by Councilman James M. Dotson Sr., comprises five Tombstone residents, some of whom will be merchants on Allen Street.

Allen Street businesses, which make up the city's chief economic and historical arena, are connected to each other and heavily surrounded by wood — a feature that residents have long complained about for fear of fire danger.

Such fears have been backed up by Richard K. Bingham, the state

deputy fire marshal.

"It's really a combustible load. The first five minutes of a fire is a shooting match," Bingham said. "The walkways are wooden, the awnings are wooden, a fire gets under there and the whole block goes."

Bingham spent several days in Tombstone reviewing current standards used by businesses along Allen Street. He then submitted a list of recommendations to the City Council and suggested some action toward improving the area's fire safety codes.

Topping the list are increased firefighting water reserves. About 100,000 gallons of water running from a 6-inch pipe to a 12-inch pipe make up the city's reserve.

With the water bond passing in last month's election, the reserve

will increase to a million gallons, with standard 12-inch pipes.

Bingham also provided some ideas on fire prevention.

The electrical wiring in some of the businesses is old, temporary and dangerous, Bingham said.

"Extension cords cannot be used 24 hours a day," warned Bingham.

He recommended ways in which business owners can improve wiring structure, adding that electrical fires can occur by overheating at any time.

Automatic-overhead sprinklers need to be installed in the entire Allen Street historic district, Bingham said.

"It's like having a fireman on duty 24 hours," he said.

He said the sprinkler system would probably be the largest incon-

venience and most expensive of the recommendations.

Bingham estimated that if business owners bought the sprinklers by the block, rather than individually, the system would pay for itself through insurance premiums.

Building access by firefighters was another factor concerning Bingham.

He stressed the importance of keeping backdoors available, and keeping storerooms cleared enough to have an aisle to move through.

Fences that are too tall, too wide or are otherwise out of standard can severely prevent fire trucks from gaining access to the back of buildings, Bingham said. Even overgrown brush and weeds can obstruct as well as fuel a fire.

In all the businesses Bingham

Fire marshal action

inspected, he said he found only about half that kept hand held fire-extinguishers on the premises. Of those extinguishers, none were serviced up to date.

He said those extinguishers are useless in a fire. He also stressed the importance of using the correct type of extinguisher on the proper type of fire.

There are three types of fires. Type-A involves combustibles like wood and T-shirts. Type-B fires involve flammable materials like gasoline. Type-C is electrical. Extinguishers are labeled which type of fire they are intended for.

Residents have questioned how to regulate the enforcement of fire-code standards.

Some felt that unless the state stepped in with threats of fines and

shut-downs, businesses

would not spend the time and money necessary for improvements.

Enforcement lies within local jurisdiction of the Tombstone Marshal's Office, City Attorney Biagio Gingo said.

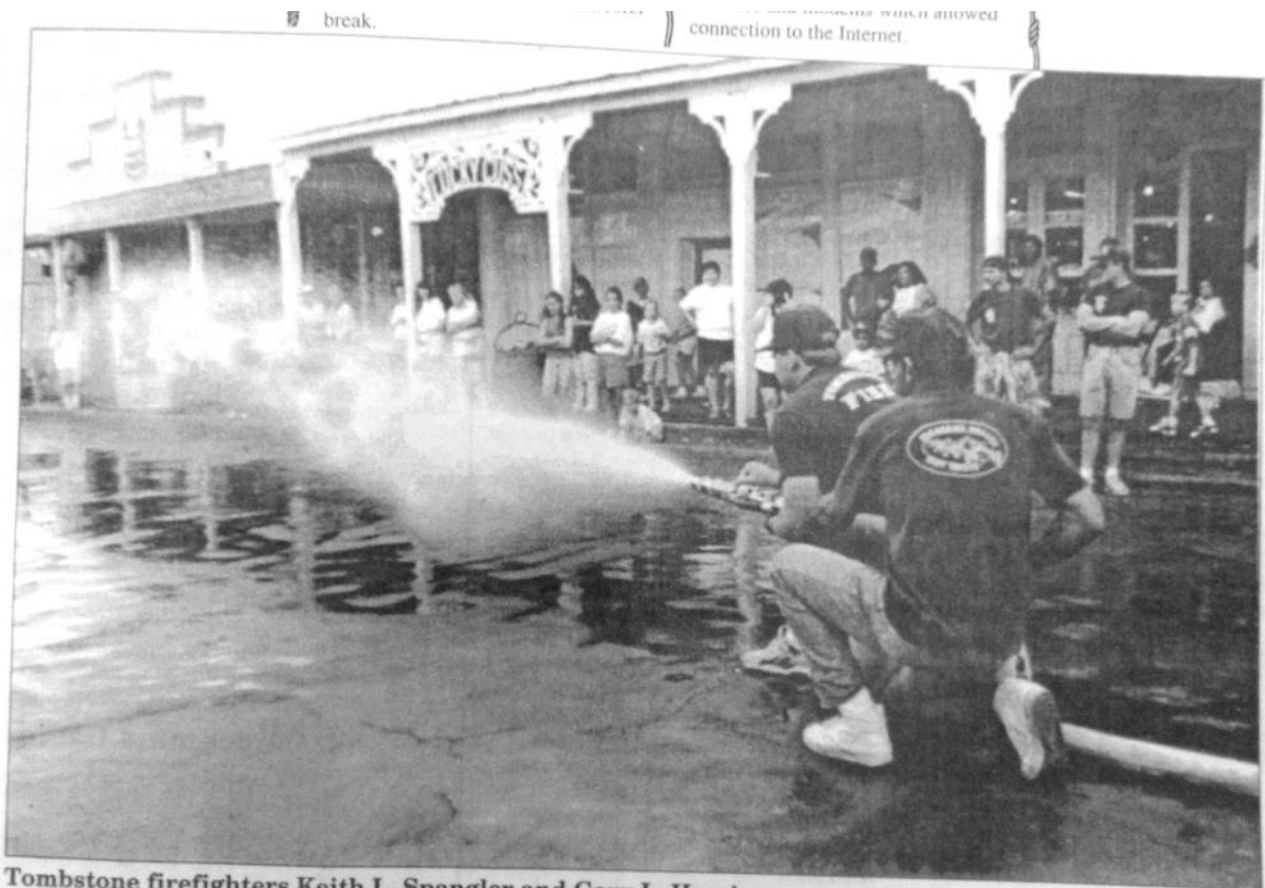
The committee will decide a reasonable amount of time to allow business owners to reach safety standards and how much improvement is necessary in each separate case.

Ultimately the panel will suggest to the marshal if a business is in violation and what type of action needs to be taken.

"How can people who have owned property for 40 years be expected to spend how many thousands of dollars to fix it," Gingo said. "It's a matter for the whole community."

1995

January 27, 1995, *Tombstone Epitaph*:



Tombstone firefighters Keith L. Spangler and Gary L. Harrison compete in the "make and break" event. Players from each team fastened three hoses together and took aim at a tennis ball on top of a barrel.

February 10, 1995, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Arson suspected in mine fire

By Priscilla J. Quesnel
The Tombstone Epitaph

Evidence indicates possible arson in the TCI Mine Co. fires, but investigation is at a standstill pending results from the crime lab, said Tombstone Marshal Robert D. Gerencser.

"It was a typical arson fire," Gerencser said. "That's the problem with this kind of case. Most of the

evidence is destroyed."

Nevertheless, the evidence, including a fingerprint, has resulted in good leads and possible suspects, Gerencser said.

"I feel very strongly that we're on the right track," he added.

Authorities declined to identify the evidence, which they sent to the crime lab for analysis about a month ago. The testing usually takes about 60 days, said Cochise County Inves-

tigator Ben Ledford.

The fires caused approximately \$100,000 in damages.

The mining company is offering \$1,000 for any information leading to the arrest and indictment of those responsible for the fires. So far, no one has come forward.

"There have been no calls, no nothing," Gerencser said. "No one wants to get involved until it happens to them."

March 10, 1995, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

The Tombstone Epitaph

Friday, March 10, 1995

h Tourists, locals cram into Tombstone es for variety of Territorial Days events

By Stephanie Valley
The Tombstone Epitaph

Cars jammed Highway 80, recreational vehicles packed the trailer parks and roadsides and hundreds of tourists and residents crowded Allen Street for Tombstone's annual Territorial Days.

Territorial Days festivities swept into town March 4, bringing a win for the Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department in the 15th Annual Antique Firehose Cart Race. Territorial Days also included a pet parade, a Vigilette fashion show, and art and photography shows.

The Antique Firehose Cart Race

Hundreds of people watched as four members of the Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department blazed down Allen Street in 44.2 seconds to win the firehose cart race, marking the first time Tombstone has won the event since 1992.

"This is the best (Tombstone) has ever done," said Richard D. Curry, chairman of Tombstone Office of Tourism.

The four-man team of Jesse L. Grassman, Monchi J. Lopez, Keith J. Spangler and James M. Dotson was the quickest to cross the finish line, 300 feet from the starting position.

The course began in the middle of Fourth Street and ended in the middle of Fifth Street, taking the racers down Allen Street. The object is to race the 300-pound cart down the street, take the hose from the cart, unroll it, attach the nozzle, hook the hose onto the hydrant and get all members of the team across the finish line. The team that can do all this the fastest wins, Curry said.

Nine teams competed in the race with the following times:

Tombstone, 44.2 seconds; Sierra Vista Fry (B) 46.45; Whetstone, 47.82; Nogales Team One, 49.18; Sierra Vista Fry (A) 50.04; Benson, 52.32; Bisbee, 54.53; Nogales Team Two, 59.47 and St. David with 61.98.

"With a little more practice, we should be able to do pretty good," said St. David volunteer firefighter Larry K. Moore.

Nogales Fire Department One was slapped with a five-second penalty for dragging equipment. The contestants are not allowed to drop or scrape the equipment, Curry said. Anything that in real life would impede the flow of water throughout the hose can lead to deductions, he said.

The Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department received a trophy. After the race the Tombstone Office of Tourism provided participants and their families with food and drink at Johnny Ringo's on Allen Street, Curry said.

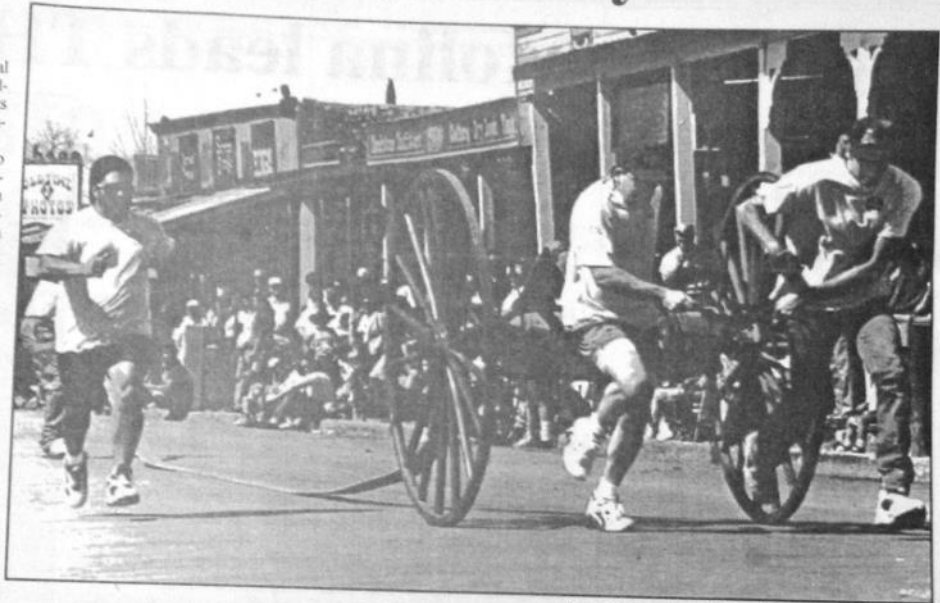


Photo by Stephanie Valley/The Tombstone Epitaph

Tombstone Fire Department members (from left) Monchi J. Lopez, Keith J. Spangler and Jesse L. Grassman pull the antique fire hose cart down Allen Street during Territorial Days.

The Judged Art Show

Culturally-minded visitors and residents viewed art and photography at the 16th Annual Judged Art Show in the Tombstone Art Gallery. The event was sponsored by the Tombstone Art Association.

The show began Feb. 26, and judges picked the winners March 1. There were 92 entries by 32 artists divided into several categories.

The first category was determined by the artist's experience—professional, semi-professional, amateur and novice. The second category was evaluated by the art medium—oil, acrylic, pastel, pencil and charcoal, watercolor, photography, mixed media and china painting.

The judges gave ribbons to first, second and third places and sometimes gave an honorable mention.

Gallery director Ethel Barkley said anyone who paid the \$5 entry fee and brought their art to the gallery by Feb. 27 could participate in the monthlong show. The show included artists from as far away as Tucson and Green Valley.

The Judged Photography Show

Sixteen artists, including seven Tomb-

stone residents, submitted 93 entries to the third annual photography show at the Tombstone Senior Citizens Center.

The grand prize, a \$100 award given by Arlene's Gift Shop, was presented to Jeanne Kidd for "The Bird". The picture was selected by weekend visitors Don and Karen Anderson, from Michigan, who were chosen at random so they wouldn't be biased, said James L. Kidd.

Top honors in the color category went to Jim Huddle for "Nature's Glen". Best of Show for black and white went to James I. Kidd for "Rails East".

Jay Rodriguez received the popular appeal award for "Ranch Cats."

The following businesses gave cash or gift certificate awards: Nellie Cashman's Restaurant, The Rose Tree Inn, Museum of the West, The Popcorn Wagon, Ironhorse Ranch, OK Cafe, City of Tombstone, Silver Nugget Gift Shop, Arlene's and Wizard's Workshop.

The Vigilette Fashion Show

Fashions from 1880 to 1915 were shown off on an Allen Street runway March 4 during the Vigilette Fashion show. Nine members of the Vigilettes modeled original clothes or exact copies of Territorial cos-

tumes for the exhibition. High Vigilette Cindy A. Robinson said.

The Pet Parade

Fourteen pets, from goats to ferrets, pranced around for the annual pet parade and competition Saturday, March 4.

Pets marched down Allen Street boasting their talents to judges Joe Graves, Josephine Pacheco and Yvonne Lefebvre from the Tombstone Small Animal Shelter.

The pet awards were divided into five categories.

The Best Family Pet prize went to the mother and daughter blue chow duo, Buddy and Blackie, owned by Walt Weddell of Tombstone.

The Cutest Pet prize went to Angel, a Yorkshire terrier, owned by Jim Lewis of Tucson.

The Most Unusual Pet prize went to a goat named Gambit, owned by Sheila Foster of Sierra Vista.

The Ugliest Pet prize went to Queenie the goose, owned by Seren Helday of Tombstone.

The Best Dressed prize went to Cougar, a golden retriever, owned by Kirk Stearns of Tombstone.

April 7, 1995, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Price: 30 Cents

'Illegal' propane tank causes blaze in trailer

By Melanie Harrice
The Tombstone Epitaph

A propane tank that exploded March 21, injuring one person and burning down a Tombstone mobile home, was "illegally" hooked up and did not appear to have been inspected since it was made in 1973, the state deputy fire marshal reported.

"(The propane tank) had an illegal hook up because a PVC pipe was used to pump propane to the house," said Richard Bingham, state deputy fire marshal.

Bingham explained that the fire code prohibits the use of plastic piping such as PVC pipes, requiring tank owners to use steel pipe instead. Bingham added that plastic is easier to work with and cheaper, making it attractive to homeowners. However, plastic pipe becomes brittle when exposed to the weather and can leak fuel.

Propane tanks are also required by law to be inspected at least once every six years, Bingham said.

"As far as I know (this tank) was not inspected since 1973," he said. "It was way, way outdated."

After inspection, an approval seal is printed on the tank. Once the metal becomes old it can weaken and rust, Bingham said, creating a potential fire hazard. He added that tanks must only be filled to 85 percent capacity.

"Some people are filling them too full," Bingham said. "When the sun hits the tank and the liquid turns to vapor, there's no place for the vapor to go." He explained that when the gas vaporizes it expands 270 times.

"One gallon liquid turns into 270 gallons."

"The owner told me it was only 85 percent full but I don't know if it's true or not," Bingham added.

Ken Schweitzer, the owner of the propane tank and mobile home, could not be reached for comment.

The mobile home at 147 Ernest Drive was consumed by fire after the propane tank exploded and shot 500 feet straight up, according to reports. Three local firefighters were nearby at the time of the blaze and they offered immediate assistance. Five people were in the trailer at noon when the explosion occurred and two suffered minor burns, said Cindy Dotson, Tombstone volunteer firefighter.

The deputy fire marshal's report stated that the 70-gallon tank leaked gas that collected under the trailer and eventually reached the water heater's pilot light. The flame from the pilot light ignited the gas causing a blaze that burned through the plastic piping and blew up the tank.

The mobile home caught fire.

"Two of them blew completely off the bed," Bingham

said. "They were lucky they weren't killed outright."

"If it was 3 a.m. then they would've been killed outright," he added. "They were up and awake and alert to be able to get out of the trailer quick."

"The tank blew up in the air approximately 500 feet and then veered over toward the cemetery, about 356 feet from the mobile home," he explained.

Bingham said it landed just 50 feet from three Tombstone firefighters who were digging a grave for a family member.

"They were right in the path of it, but it ran out of poop before it got there," said Bingham.

He said the explosion ruptured the tank and "peeled it back like a can of soup."

Bingham said he has been a state inspector for 15 years and a volunteer firefighter for 30 years.

A 1985 Dodge Colt that was parked on the north side of the trailer also caught fire as a result of the blaze, Dotson said. She added that the car, owned by Casey Escapule, was a total loss.

"Two of them blew completely off the bed. They were lucky they weren't killed outright."

— Richard Bingham, state deputy fire marshal

City Council adopts state's fire ordinance

By Janet M. Buck
The Tombstone Epitaph

The Tombstone City Council voted unanimously to adopt its first city fire code.

The vote means the city has adopted state fire codes into city ordinances and will begin enforcing them.

Adoption of a fire code has been proposed to the council before, said Michael Molina, a councilman and fire captain. Previous councils did not seem to see the need for a fire code, Molina said.

Mayor Joseph D. Perotti, a former Tombstone Fire Department fire chief, has been pushing for Tombstone to adopt the state fire code for 14 years, Molina said.

"Now, with the adoption of the fire code we are exactly where we want to be," Molina said.

New buildings will have to be built in accordance to state code, and older buildings will have to be brought up to code, Molina said.

Several buildings along Allen Street lack room for emergency access, alleyways, fire lanes and other fire safety precautions, Molina said.

"It will take millions to bring everything up to code," Molina said.

The fire commission is seeking grants to help pay for updating the buildings to code, but business owners will have to pay for an equal percentage, Molina said.

The council probably will work on a clause to assist buildings that have been in Tombstone for a long time, Molina added. The clause would exempt some of the older buildings from new fire codes.

"It will be a hassle to try and bring Tombstone up to code," Molina said, "but in this day and age we need to keep up with codes."

In other business during the March 28 meeting, the council passed an ordinance that will restrict manufactured housing from the city unless it is less than 10 years old.

The council then decided on a clause allowing owners of manufactured homes already set up in the city, to relocate the homes within the city regardless of the homes' age.

April 7, 1995, Tombstone Epitaph:



The Riddells' 4,700 square-foot home, at 275 W. Allen St., burned down just two weeks before being completed. Arson is suspected and the investigation is still in progress. The fire caused nearly \$330,000 in damage.

Arson suspected in 'dream house' fire

By Jennifer Anne Barth
and Meghan McNichols
The Tombstone Epitaph

Like many loyal visitors, Alvin R. and Ellen L. Riddell had been coming to Tombstone for many years.

The Riddells were California residents who enjoyed the climate and the idea of a small town and decided to move to Tombstone. Little did they know that two weeks before their dreamhouse was to be completed, it would burn down.

The Riddell home, at 275 W. Allen St., caught fire the night of Nov. 6. Arson is suspected, and some people believe the Tombstone Fire Department's lack of updated equipment could have caused more of the house to burn than was necessary.

Sharon and George Faulk, visitors from Tennessee, said they saw a man fleeing the scene on foot. The Faulks described the man as 6-foot tall, 190 pounds and about 35 years old.

"There is an ongoing arson investigation," said Paul A. Schattenberg, a spokesman for USAA

Insurance, the company that represents the Riddells.

"Mr. Riddell is not and has never been a suspect in the arson investigation," Schattenberg said. "Although there is still reason to believe it is arson."

Marshal Robert D. Gerenscer noted that arson is not usually committed at 6:30 p.m.

"It's scary if there is a person out there starting fires," said former Mayor Alex H. Gradillas.

Riddell said he has no idea who would have committed the crime, but he said he feels that one section of the house could have been saved.

Neighbor Dave Miller, who also built the house, said two-thirds to three-fourths of the house could have been saved with proper attention.

The fire department tried to extinguish the blaze, but the Faulks contend the water stream directed at the fire fell short.

"It's easy to point fingers when something (like this) happens," Gradillas said.

See Fire on 2

Friday, April 7, 1995

Fire

From 1

"It wasn't entirely the fire department's fault, but two fire hydrants and one truck didn't work, and they were fighting the fire from the wrong side of the house," Riddell said.

Tombstone does not have the money that other cities have for a full-time fire department, but Gradillas believes they do the best they can.

Gradillas also said that there were strong winds during the fire.

Fire Chief Gary Harrison admitted fire equipment and clothing needs upgrading, but said they did the best they could considering the house was already half-way burned by the time they got there.

When a fire breaks out, the 24 volunteer firefighters are alerted by pagers or airhorns. Ten firefighters have radios.

"Communication is in real bad shape," Harrison said.

The department responded to the

Riddell fire with two fire trucks, but the house was already engulfed by the time help arrived, Harrison said.

"The accelerators are what helped it burn," he said. "They were using highly flammable materials to treat the doors."

The fire cost the Riddells about \$230,000 in structural damages to their 4,700-4,800 square foot home. In addition, \$100,000 in rare antiques and dolls were lost, Alvin Riddell said.

Miller said he also fell victim to the fire with a loss between \$25,000 and \$30,000 in tools and supplies.

The insurance claim has been paid in full, and no charges have been filed, Schattenberg said.

No suspects have been found, and the arson debate continues.

For the Riddells, life in Tombstone is over.

"If we return, it would only be for business," Riddell said. "We're not going to rebuild."

May 5, 1995, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

No Tombstone is Complete Without Its Epitaph

The Tombstone Epitaph.

114 Years In The Town Too Tough To Die

Vol. CXV, 1 Local Edition Tombstone, Arizona Friday, April 21, 1995 Price: 30 Cents

Old Tucson blaze alerts Tombstone to hazards

Old Tucson's loss may prove to be Tombstone's gain

By Angela D. Way
The Tombstone Epitaph

A recent fire that devastated most of Old Tucson Studios may benefit Tombstone.

Nina A. Parker, director of the Tombstone Chamber of Commerce, said the destruction at Old Tucson may cause an increase in tourism for Tombstone.

"We expect an increase in tourism as a result of the unfortunate fire at Old Tucson," she said.

Karen Wilp, office manager for Ironhorse Ranch, said a few people each day have said they are in Tombstone because Old Tucson was shut down.

"If I'm getting four to five people a day who say they are here as a result of Old Tucson burning," she said, "then there must be an increase, though it's hard to predict now."

City Clerk Charlotte Gilbert said she wants to focus on the positive side of the fire.

"It might increase tourism in town," she said. "There is that possibility."

Billy Hunley, who answers calls at the Tombstone Office of Tourism, said the city possibly could receive a small increase in tourism as a result of the Old Tucson fire, but ultimately the two at-

See **Tourism** on 3



City officials work to reduce risks of similar devastation

By Angela D. Way
The Tombstone Epitaph

The recent fire that ravaged Old Tucson Studios has heightened fear of a similar devastation in Tombstone.

Fire officials, business owners and city employees agree a fire in Tombstone is imminent.

The fire at Old Tucson Studios was "unfortunate but fortunate," said State Deputy Fire Marshal Richard Bingham.

"Tombstone can use this as an example because they have the same potential as Old Tucson," he said.

"That's exactly what's going to happen to Tombstone if we don't get some fire lanes here pretty quickly," said Tombstone Fire Capt. Michael F. Molina.

"Looking at the Tombstone business district, it could go up like Old Tucson," said Fire Chief Gary Harrison. "The buildings are so close together."

"Fire issues have been and are an ongoing concern for Tombstone," said former City Councilman Willy Freiheit. "We have the same kinds of problems as Old Tucson."

Bingham said this week he estimated about 98 percent of buildings along Allen Street contain faulty wiring.

See **Fire** on 2

Fire Capt. Scott Bird rolls burned hose on Front Street in Old Tucson. The hose was abandoned when a large propane tank was in danger of exploding. The fire destroyed 80 percent of Old Tucson April 24. City officials fear Tombstone is at risk of similar devastation because of the lack of fire lanes and rear access to downtown buildings. Photo courtesy of Gary Gaynor/ Tucson Citizen.

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See **Fire** on 2

May 5, 1995, *Tombstone Epitaph*:

Tourism

From 1

tractions help each other.

"I would say we're going to have a little more percentage of people down here," he said. "But Old Tucson helps our business, and we help theirs."

He said visitors often ask about Old Tucson, and he tells them about it and sends business there.

"And I think they do the same for us," he said.

Several tourists have visited Tombstone because Old Tucson was closed.

Tourist Cindy Van Reese from Albert Lea, Minn., said she planned to visit Old Tucson.

"We were planning on going there, but it burned the second night we were here," she said. "Tombstone wasn't on our agenda."

After Old Tucson burned, she said, someone at the mall recommended they

go to Tombstone.

"He said Old Tucson would have been nothing compared to Tombstone," said Carlyn Tufte, also from Minnesota. "This is interesting."

Brenda M. Boring, a corporate meeting planner for John Deere Insurance in Jacksonville, Fla., said she and her husband were in Tombstone to con-

sider it as a meeting place.

"We were going to Old Tucson next," she said. "But it burned."

Though the fire may be beneficial to Tombstone, most said it was unfortu-

"We were going to Old Tucson next, but it burned."

**—Brenda M. Boring
Tourist**

nate to see a piece of Arizona history disappear.

"I'm a big Western buff," Hunley said. "You can rebuild Old Tucson, but the things they used when making movies... it makes you sick to know those things won't be there anymore."

Fire

From 1

"The largest cause of fires in the U.S. right now is faulty wiring," Bingham said.

He explained when circuits become overloaded the old wiring cannot handle the heat and can ignite a fire.

Other dangers include:

- A lack of fire lanes.
- The absence of a rear escape from most downtown buildings.
- Sub-standard water mains.
- The proximity of downtown buildings.

- The raw wooden structures.
- The presence of three to four ceilings in many businesses that hinders extinguishing fires.

All these factors place Tombstone at great risk for a fire, Bingham said.

"There have been two fires in the past," he said. "And the potential for another is very, very high."

Others agreed.

Mayor Joseph D. Perotti said the potential for a fire is great, and the council needs to take immediate steps toward safety and prevention.

"We're making every effort to make it safe, not only for the visitors, but for the people in the community," he said.

Stephen K.

Elliot, owner of the Silver Lady Antique Shop and a member of the newly formed fire commission, expressed concern over the potential for fire in Tombstone.

"I am willing to do what I have to do to protect this city," he said. "We are working on it. I've been fighting this for two and a half years."

City Clerk Charlotte Gilbert also said the possibility of a fire in Tombstone poses a major concern for the city.

Others said they realize the potential for a fire, but have faith in the Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department.

"Here in Tombstone, a lot of buildings are made of adobe," said Billy Hunley, manager of the Bird Cage Theatre on Allen Street. "I think the volunteer fire department is on top of things, and we're in good hands."

"There is good fire protection in Tombstone," said Wallace E. Clayton, part owner of the O.K. Corral. "We have a fine fire company."

Bingham expressed concern over the department's ability to handle a large fire.

"They don't have enough water to fight a large fire," he said. "Some of the mains are sub-standard."

But he said the city and fire department are working toward accomplishing fire safety and prevention standards.

The City Council voted to adopt its first city fire code in April, and officials said they hope the new law will help re-

duce the threat of fire.

"Adopting the state fire code helps," Molina said.

But Harrison said the code will be difficult to enforce.

"It's going to be hard to enforce the fire code," he said. "The lack of planning and zoning 20 years back — that's what's hurting us today."

The city is working to establish fire lanes, update the water system and improve access to buildings, Mayor Perotti said. He stressed the need to keep residents informed.

Molina emphasized the lack of rear access to most buildings. He said no one would go in to fight a fire without an escape.

"There's no back entrance to most of those buildings," he said. "If we can't get into the back, then there's no use."

Harrison and Molina said the fire board is looking into installing sprinkler systems.

"Sprinkler systems would definitely help," Harrison said.

But, he stressed prevention.

"The best fire protection is prevention," he said. "Fire prevention is cheaper on everybody."

Harrison said it was the merchants' responsibility to make their stores safe for the people.

"I don't believe that would be the city's responsibility," he said.

Others said they thought it should be a joint effort.

Elliot said he would do all he could to make his business safe for visitors. He said the wiring in his store is all new.

"There have been two fires in the past. And the potential for another is very, very high."

**—Richard Bingham
State Deputy Fire Marshal**

"I can't expect someone to buy my fire extinguishers," he said. "It's everybody's problem, but it's the city's first. The city has to show they have a concern."

Hunley said the Bird Cage Theatre installed a sprinkler system in 1975.

"The businesses should try to do as much as they can," said Hunley. "I think it should be a joint effort, especially in this day and age."

Bingham recommends:

- Prohibiting smoking in downtown businesses.
- Providing rear access and keep it clear from debris.
- Keeping storage spaces clear and organized.
- Always having a fire extinguisher on hand.

Bingham said his advice can go a long way in preventing a fire.

He also said the city is taking steps to improve fire safety, and officials are making moves in the right direction.

"The next step is in the council's court," he said. "It's their move."

Freiheit said the council is taking the steps necessary to preserve the history of the city before a disaster like the one at Old Tucson devastates Tombstone.

1995

May 5, 1995, Tombstone Epitaph:

Tucson, Saturday, May 20, 1995

Midwest Region

• Money 38



The middle portion of the Western outdoor set was destroyed in the blaze, which officials say appears to have been

arson-caused. On Thursday afternoon, the Boothill Gunslingers, above, performed at the outdoor theater.

Bruce McClelland, The Arizona Daily Star

Arson-linked fire destroys part of Tombstone set

By Ignacio Ibarra
The Arizona Daily Star

Tombstone officials are investigating a suspected arson fire that destroyed a portion of the Heildorado stage owned by the Tombstone Vigilantes Inc. Thursday night.

Tombstone Marshal Bobby Gerenscer said the fire broke out shortly after 10 p.m. Thursday and destroyed a substantial amount of the outdoor set before it was extinguished by the Tombstone Fire Department.

Gerenscer said officials suspect arson because there was no obvious source of combustion. Capt. Marty Jones of the Sierra Vista-Fry Fire Department has been asked to investigate the fire.

Steve Reeder, chief of the Tombstone Vigilantes, said no one was in the Heildorado set at the time of the fire. He estimated damage to the facility, which is used by the organization for the staging of its western reenactments, at about \$25,000.

"(The fire) burned the middle section of our stage down includ-

ing the main stage and two dressing rooms. We didn't have any insurance. No one would insure a (wooden) set like that," he said.

Reeder said a concert featuring country singer Juice Newton is scheduled for the Heildorado

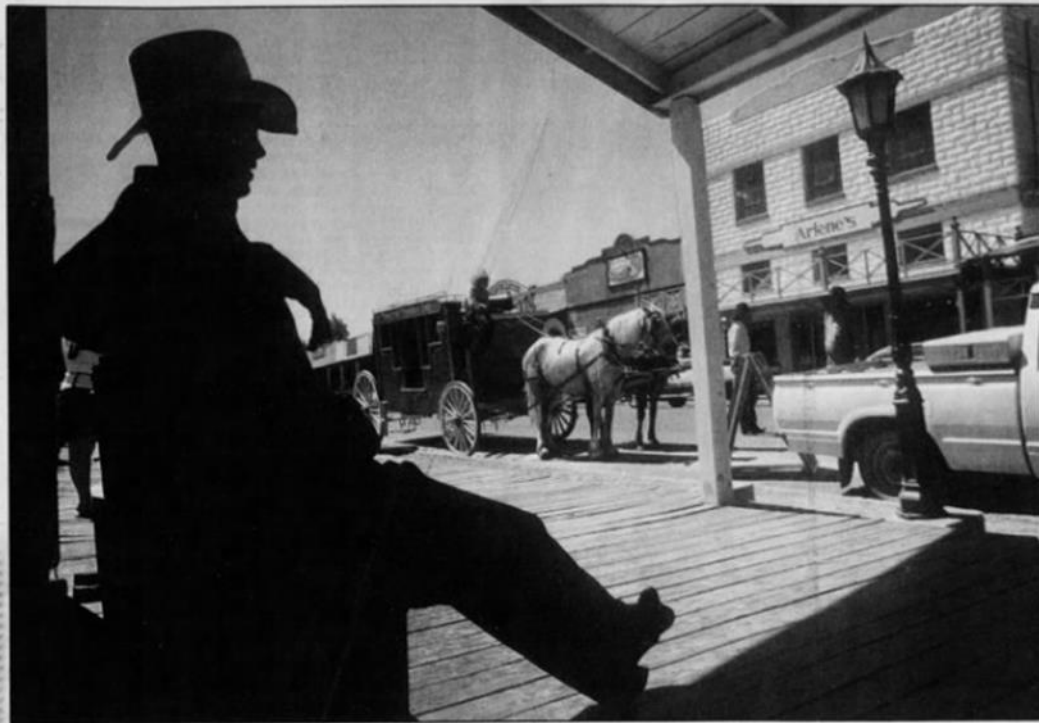
"We didn't have any insurance. No one would insure a (wooden) set like that."

Steve Reeder
Tombstone Vigilantes

set on June 24, and the organization intends to have repairs completed by that time.

He said activities planned for the Heildorado set during the Wyatt Earp Days festivities on Memorial Day weekend will go on, "but we'll probably have to work around the fire damage."

The Tombstone Vigilantes have been active since 1954, performing reenactments of gunfights, brawls, hangings and other western themes.

July 2, 1995, *Arizona Daily Star*:

David Sooter of Tombstone Stage Coach cools his heels on an Allen Street boardwalk; much of the historic district is wood construction

Photos by Linda Seeger Salazar, The Arizona Daily Star

Fire hazards a threat in Tombstone

By Ignacio Ibarra
The Arizona Daily Star

TOMBSTONE — The historic district here could burn to the ground in a fire, members of two city advisory panels say.

Members of both Tombstone's historic commission and fire commission say city leaders and state officials have done nothing to resolve fire hazards identified last year in an inspection conducted by the state Fire Marshal's Office.

The July 1994 report identified

Most downtown businesses lack fire exits, so shoppers and sightseers could find themselves trapped in an inferno.

at least 15 significant problems in Tombstone's three-block downtown historic district.

The problems include inadequate water supply, low water pressure, inoperable fire hydrants, lack of fire lanes and a buildup of weeds and debris.

For the most part, the problems have not been addressed, resulting in a serious threat to an important historical resource and the people who live, work or visit it every day, commission members said.

Tombstone has 1,300 residents, and about 500,000 tourists visited the city last year, according to the Chamber of Commerce.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Richard Bingham said a single match could start a fire capable of consuming whole blocks of the town

too tough to die.

"It's only a matter of time," Bingham told The Arizona Daily Star.

"You've got wooden sidewalks and a lot of wooden buildings filled with high combustibles like T-shirts and clothing."

All it would take is a cigarette dropped by a tourist, he said.

Bingham said firefighters would have to battle flames from the street because there are no rear alleys. And most downtown businesses lack fire exits, so shoppers and sightseers could find themselves trapped in an inferno.

Fire is not a new threat to Tombstone, which was largely destroyed by fires in 1881 and 1882. City leaders responded then by building a pipeline to bring water from springs in the Huachuca Mountains to a reservoir.

The pipeline is still in place, but no longer a reliable source of water, the fire marshal said.

Bingham said the Tombstone City Council adopted the state fire code in March but has done little to enforce it or to reduce the fire danger.

"I'd hoped what happened in Old Tucson would wake them up to the problem," Bingham said.

"The ball is definitely in their court," he said. "They adopted a fire code. Now they have to enforce it."

A fire in April destroyed nearly half the buildings and movie sets at Old Tucson Studios, Arizona's second most popular tourist destination after the Grand Canyon. Inves-



Jack Buckner stands behind a fence in the back of The Bella Union restaurant that effectively creates a barrier to fire trucks

tigators said they believe the fire, which caused an estimated \$10 million damage, was human-caused.

In May, the Tombstone Vigilantes

Fire is not a new threat to Tombstone, which was largely destroyed by fires in 1881 and 1882.

tes' Helldorado outdoor theater was nearly destroyed by a suspicious fire.

Tombstone Mayor Joseph Perotti Jr., who was chief of the Tombstone Fire Department for 14 years, said some progress has been

made.

New fire hydrants and water lines have been installed on Allen Street, the city's main tourist attraction. Fire hydrants are being color-coded so firefighters know which ones are working properly, and a 250,000-gallon water reservoir should be installed by the end of the year.

But the tough steps — buying property for fire lanes and enforcing fire-code requirements for businesses and homes — are not likely to be taken by this City Council, he said.

Part of the problem is the lack of money. But the real issue is the

See TOMBSTONE, Page 2B

July 6, 1995, *Arizona Daily Star*:

EDITORIALS

Safety last in Tombstone

Historic Tombstone amounts to a disaster waiting to happen with its blocks of wood-frame buildings, inadequate water supply and lack of **fire** lanes.

Yet the colorful little tourist town is unable to protect itself. The problem is, prudence has of late butted up against foolhardiness, in the form of some residents' and business people's insistence on an almost unbelievably self-destructive understanding of "private property rights."

To these folks, it doesn't matter that Deputy State **Fire** Marshall Richard Bingham warns that "it's only a matter of time" before Tombstone explodes.

Nor does it matter that a good number of their neighbors - spooked by the April destruction by **fire** of nearly half of Old Tucson Studios - have themselves demanded the town move to resolve some 15 significant **fire** hazards identified last year in an inspection by the state **Fire** Marshal's Office.

No, despite all that, a faction of literal **fire**-eaters has forestalled action on what remains the most critical threat to Tombstone's survival: its lack of passable **fire** lanes to the backs of its tinder-box buildings.

In so doing, this group has essentially stymied meaningful progress in turning a profitable-but-likely-doomed bit of Western commerce into a profitable concern with a future.

The town mayor, its historic commissioner, its **fire** commissioner, the state **fire** marshal's office, a local legislator and nu-

merous local residents all agree the town must clear **fire** lanes of the fences, garages and walls that now block them.

Nevertheless, downtown majority sentiment says "no way." It holds that "an individual can do whatever he wants with his property and that's the way it (is)," as mayor Joseph Perotti Jr. puts it. The result of this staunchness has been total gridlock, and the town's utter failure to clear its **fire** lanes either through voluntary cooperation or condemnation.

Now, the point here is not solely that the Tombstone City Council needs to get serious and find a way to buy or condemn the needed property - though it certainly should do that. Rather, the larger issue here involves the basic falsity of the spreading cant of "private property rights," which promotes a grotesquely unbalanced view of the relationship between the individual and society.

Never since the jungle have individuals ever possessed absolute freedom. And even there, they pretty quickly saw the need to cooperate with the group for their own survival. However, now the new patriots and greed-heads have managed to justify asocial heedlessness with a noble-sounding creed of autonomy that - taken to its logical extension - really does threaten to dismantle the common good.

In Tombstone, that lie has already prevented a town from addressing a life-and-death threat to its existence. Writ large, it promises utter disarray.

July 2, 1995, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Tombstone

Continued from Page 1B

importance placed on individual rights, which has allowed fences, walls, garages and other structures to be built where **fire** lanes once existed.

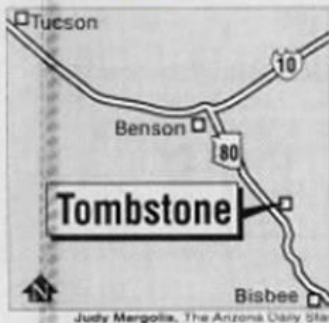
Perotti said when he was **fire** chief he was advised that "an individual can do whatever he wants with his property, and that's the way it was." Perotti resigned as **fire** chief in November to become mayor.

"Now we're being told by the **fire** marshal and our own **fire** commission that we need to acquire land for **fire** lanes, and that's what I think has to be done," he said.

"It won't happen in the short term. It's going to take a long time."

Jack Buckner, chairman of the historic commission and a member of the **fire** commission, said the city has already taken too long to act. He said it's time for the City Council to take responsibility for the safety of the entire community.

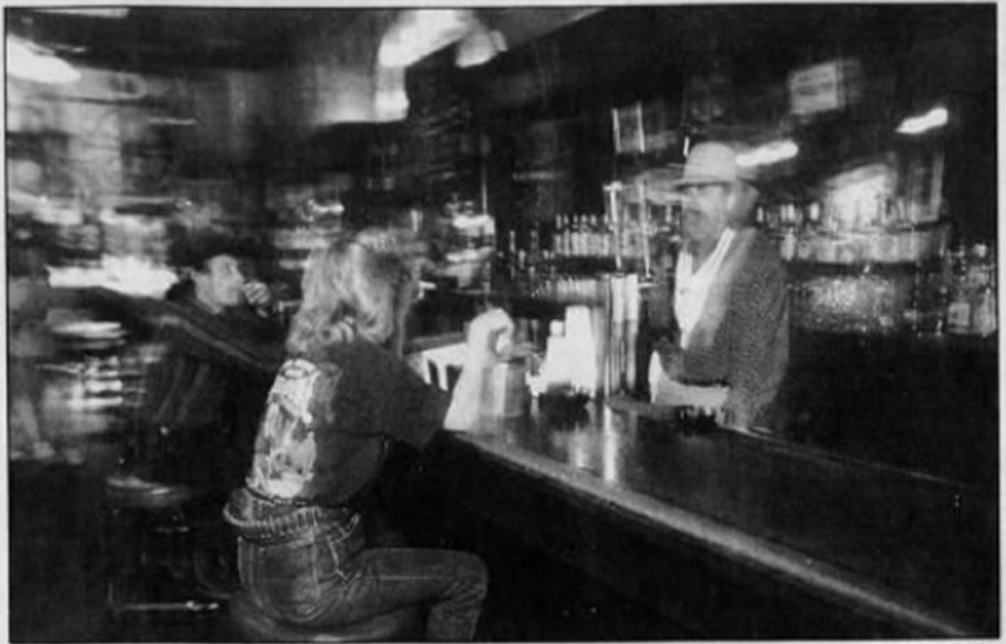
He said the city must find a way to buy the private property needed for **fire** lanes. The city



has not determined how much property is needed to provide **fire** lanes downtown, or how much it might cost.

"We need to have access to the backs of these buildings in the historic district, and the city's dragging its feet," he said.

If the owners won't cooperate, the city should use its power of



Photos by Linda Seeger Salazar, The Arizona Daily Star

Big Nose Kate's Saloon is a popular watering hole for tourists who visit the historic district

eminent domain to condemn the property, Buckner said.

Marge Elliot, a local businesswoman and **fire** commission member, said ensuring all commercial buildings have **fire** or alternate exits should be a priority. "They need to take care of this now, before something happens and people get hurt," Elliot said.

If the council fails to take action, state officials should step in to ensure the safety of the townspeople and the tourists, she said.

But in response to local residents' appeals for help, both the state **Fire** Marshal's Office and the Attorney General's Office said they have no jurisdiction in local **fire**-protection matters.

Rep. Paul Newman, D-Bisbee, said it would take legislative action to grant the state that type of authority. Newman said legislators won't support such a move.

"I was sent petitions signed by nearly 300 people, so I know there is a concern," said New-

man. "Unfortunately, all I can do is remind them they have the recourse of the ballot box, and perhaps even through the courts."

Assistant State **Fire** Marshal Steve Alley agreed that downtown Tombstone is facing a "dangerous situation."

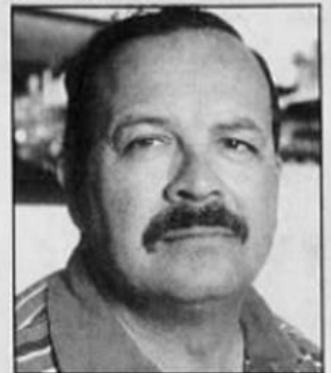
"I've been in buildings in downtown Tombstone that I'll never go into again, because I know they're a one-way-in, one-way-out death trap," he said.

As arson cases increase around the state, Tombstone risks becoming a magnet for a firebug wanting to make a mark, Alley said.

Tombstone Marshal Bobby Gerenscer agreed, noting that four of 16 **fires** the Tombstone **Fire** Department responded to last year were determined to be arsons.

In one case, **fire** destroyed a shed at the back of the city-owned Schieffelin Hall. Two other **fires** were set in the doorways of downtown businesses.

The Helldorado **fire** in May



Mayor Joseph Perotti Jr.

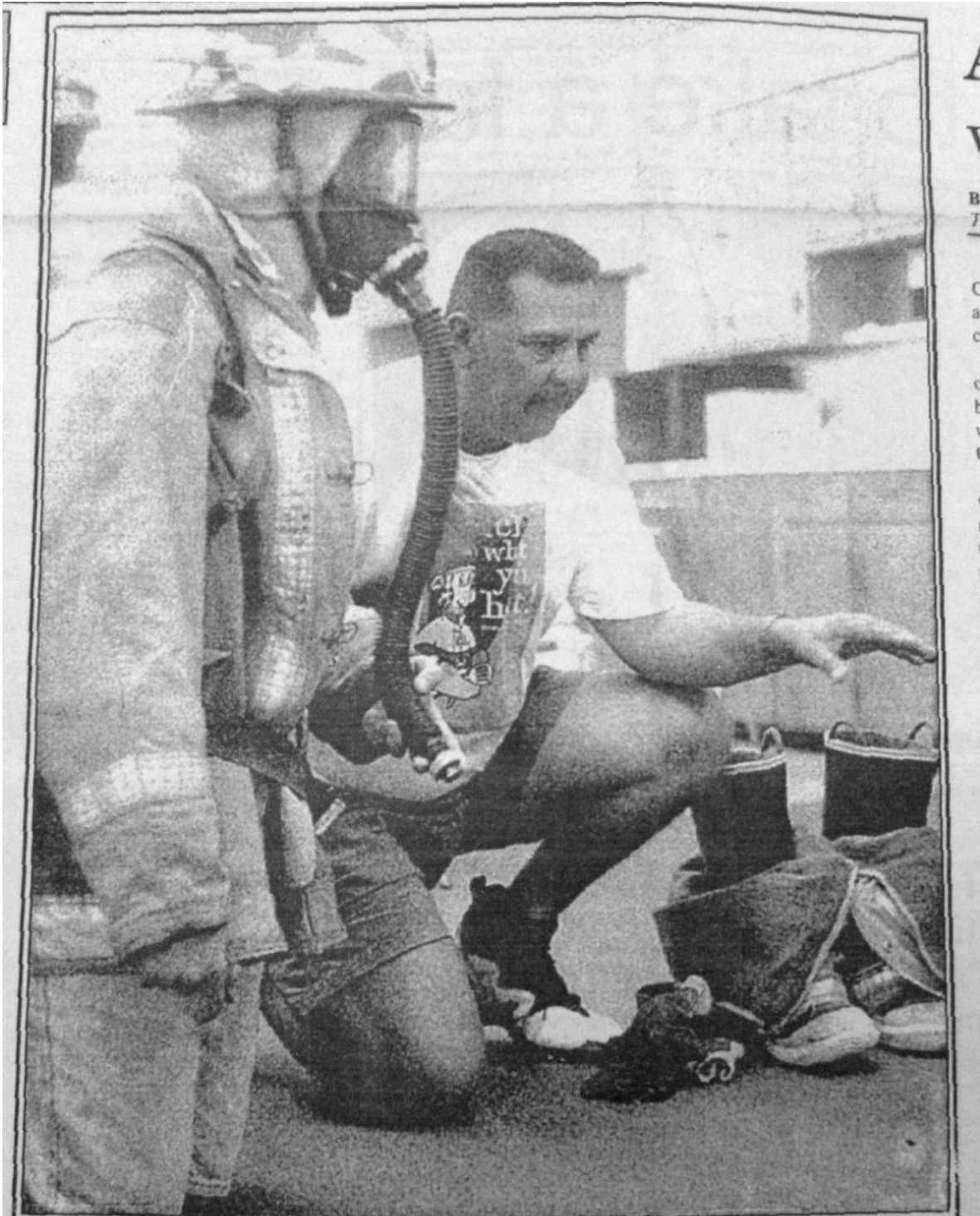
broke out simultaneously in several places.

"I would say we don't have a big arson problem, and we don't need one," Gerenscer said.

"There are a lot of crazies out there. We keep an eye out on our patrols, but it's not like they stand out on the street with a can of gasoline waiting for you to come by."

1995

September 29, 1995, *Tombstone Epitaph*:



Carolyn Collins/*Epitaph*

Students practice fire prevention

Freshman Shiloh Eckles (left) assists Fire Captain Michael F. Molina during a Sept. 22 fire prevention presentation to high school students and pre-schoolers. The presentation, an early event in Tombstone Fire Department's program for National Fire Prevention Week Oct. 8 through 14, took place in teacher Judy Eager's Life Management class at Tombstone High School.

council meeting when no one sec- meeting. "I'm sure she won't go would face misdemeanor charges

June 8, 1998 *Arizona Daily Star*:

Tucson, Monday, June 8, 1998

BRIEFS

Tombstone's historic Earp house burns

★**TOMBSTONE** – The home the legendary Earp brothers holed up in after their OK Corral gunfight burned to the ground Saturday.

It took Tombstone **Fire** Department firefighters 35 minutes to get the 2 p.m. **fire** under control, **Fire** Chief Mike Molina said yesterday. The **fire** was completely extinguished at about 3:30 p.m.

Molina would not comment on the cause of the blaze.

Contessina Elizabeth Keith, who lives across the street from the house on Arizona 80 at North First Street, said it was home to Virgil Earp from the time it was built in 1881 until 1883. The brothers barricaded themselves in the house after the 1881 shootout, Keith said.

The home was in a part of Tombstone known as "Earp Corners," because Virgil Earp owned the land in the area around the street. Keith said Wyatt Earp had a smaller house nearby that looked suspiciously like an addition to Virgil's house. Wyatt Earp's house no longer exists.

Molina said the **Fire** Department and the Tombstone Marshal's Office were continuing their investigation yesterday.

June 9, 1998 *Arizona Daily Star*:

Earp home takes spot in history

Restored abode 'total loss' in **fire**

By Ignacio Ibarra
The Arizona Daily Star

TOMBSTONE — Ann More filled her small, historic cottage with replicas of antique furniture and rugs — things she might have found there 117 years ago when Virgil Earp called it home.

Her son, Patrick, sifted through what was left of the wood-frame building yesterday, hoping to find remnants of his late mother's loving care for details.

But there was nothing left.

"It's a total loss. . . . I was hoping there might be more, but there is nothing in there to salvage," said Patrick, who lives in Vernon, Texas. "The roof is gone, and the floors look like they're ready to collapse."

A fire Saturday destroyed the building, which Ann More purchased 30 years ago. She lived in the home off and on until her death in 1987, Patrick More said.

Ann More had remodeled the home and furnished it with antiques and period replicas.

When she added indoor plumbing, she went to great lengths to track down a pullchain commode to replace the outdoor privy.

She was fascinated by Tombstone, the home and the link to the famous Earps, who faced the Clanton gang in the legendary gunfight at the OK



Photos by Benjie Sanders, The Arizona Daily Star

Corral. It was a fascination she shared with her son, who kept coming back year after year — even a decade after her death.

Last year More and his wife, Diane, spent their vacation tracking down the Earps' burial places.

They found Virgil's grave in Portland, Ore. Wyatt is buried in a Jewish cemetery in San Francisco.

This year the Mores had planned to supervise a reroofing project and restore the front veranda.

Instead they'll likely be here to supervise the demolition of the wood-

See EARP HOME, Page 7A



Patrick More, above, looking for something of his mother's work: "There is nothing in there to salvage. The roof is gone, and the floors look like they're ready to collapse." A couple of walls still stand, left.

June 9, 1998 *Arizona Daily Star*:

Earp home

Continued from Page One

frame and adobe structure at Fremont and First streets.

The home was uninsured for years because insurance companies had refused to cover such an old wood-frame building.

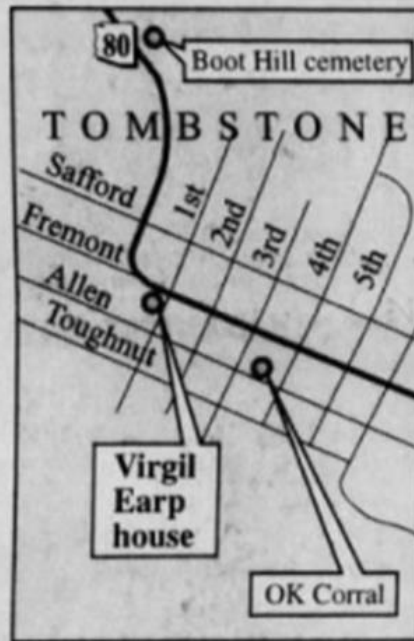
"I don't know the value," More said yesterday. "It's really irreplaceable."

Chief Deputy Marshal Frank Hidalgo said Saturday's fire remains under investigation, but indications are it began just beyond the southwestern property boundary in an area where the Tombstone Stage parks its teams.

A discarded cigarette is thought to have sparked the fire. Investigators believe it was tossed onto horse manure in an alleyway beside the property. The fire is believed to have smoldered through the dry horse manure to the fence, where it set weeds and grass ablaze.

Nearby, hundreds of cigarette butts, matchbooks and cigarette packages littered the ground.

Wind blew the fire across a weed-covered drive into a storage shed and woodpile on the west side



The Arizona Daily Star

of the building.

Hidalgo said sparks from the burning woodpile quickly ignited the wood shingles on the roof, and within a short time the entire house was ablaze.

The state Fire Marshal's Office has been warning Tombstone officials of the town's fire danger for several years. A 1994 report identified at least 15 significant prob-

lems including inadequate water supply, low water pressure, inoperable fire hydrants, lack of fire lanes and heavy fuel buildup from weed and debris.

Steve Alley, an assistant state fire marshal in Phoenix, said that although the city has made progress in water supply and pressure, the conditions that prompted the initial warnings still remain.

Tombstone Mayor Delmas "Gene" Harper said a 300,000-gallon storage facility has just been completed and when filled should eliminate the questions of water supply and pressure.

He said there also has been progress in replacing inoperable fire hydrants, although much work remains.

He said the city has adopted ordinances that now allow it to step in to clean up debris when there is a potential fire hazard and bill the cost to the property owner.

But he acknowledged that there has been little progress in obtaining easements or purchasing property needed to create fire lanes in the downtown historic district.

"All we can do is reduce the potential fire risk, but we will never be able to eliminate that potential," said Harper.

March 24, 2000, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Man, three kids die in house fire at St. David

Dad goes back into burning house for 3 of his 4 children

By Joseph Barrios
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A man and three of his children died yesterday in a fire that engulfed a home in St. David.

The man went back inside the burning home to try to rescue his children, authorities said.

The victims were identified as Eldred Deforge, 28, his 7-month-old daughter, Brittany, and sons Brian, 6, and Robert, 5.

Investigators have not determined the cause of the blaze, which was reported about 3 a.m. in the small community about eight miles south of Benson.

Tiffany Saunders and her 2-year-old daughter escaped the blaze. Deforge and Saunders were engaged and all the children in the home at the time belonged to them, said Cochise County Sheriff Larry Dever.

"The best we can tell is he woke her up, went out a back door into a patio area with the 2-year-old girl, then went back inside," Dever said. "She (Saunders) never saw him again."

Anthony Maurer, a neighbor, said he heard what sounded like loud bangs about 3 a.m.

"I could hear explosions. I could hear this woman yelling and screaming. I threw on some clothes and went out there. The woman was screaming, 'My babies, my babies,'" Maurer said.

Maurer said that by the time he got to the house, flames were shooting out the windows.

"I said, 'Where are they, where are they?' It was just roaring. It blew out a kitchen window," Maurer said.

The house that burned belonged to Saunders' parents,

SEE FATAL FIRE / B5

FATAL FIRE

Mom and girl, 2, escape blazing house in time

Continued from Page B1

Dever said. Saunders was house-sitting while her parents were out of town on vacation.

The St. David, Tombstone and Mescal fire departments were called to the scene to fight the fire.

Tombstone Fire Chief Robert Ramirez said that the fire was difficult to fight and that part of the structure had collapsed by the time they arrived. Firefight-

ers tried to enter the home but were forced back by the heat.

It took several hours for investigators to sift through the rubble and recover the four bodies. Dever said they would be taken to the Cochise County Medical Examiner's Office for autopsies.

Dever said Saunders' mother is a lifelong St. David resident who works at a local school.

He said St. David is a small community with close ties.

"It's clearly a huge community tragedy," Dever said. "We'll just plow through it here and see what develops."

► Contact Joseph Barrios at 629-9412 or jbarrios@azstarnet.com.

March 26, 2000, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Deadly fire shows need for personnel

By Kelly Lotz

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

ST. DAVID — Baby toys, smoke-stained clothing and a Super Soaker water gun lie scattered around the charred house on South Church Street.

St. David residents say the fire that killed a 28-year-old man and three children Friday morning is a wake-up call about the lack of manpower at the St. David Fire Department.

Residents are signing up as

fire station volunteers in hopes that they can lessen the devastation of future fires.

"This is a relief since the St. David department has needed to be brought up to speed for the past two years," Tombstone Fire Chief Bob Ramirez said.

St. David Fire Chief Shana Gephart estimates she is short 20 volunteers due to "lack of interest in the community," forcing the small fire department to

SEE PERSONNEL / B4

PERSONNEL

St. David relies on help from other firefighters

Continued from Page B1

rely on Tombstone, 16 miles away.

Tifani Saunders was house-sitting for her parents for two days while they were in California with two foreign exchange students who were living in the home. She was there with her fiancé, Eldred "Lee" DeForge, and four children.

Saunders escaped the blazing house, along with DeForge and Saunders' 2-year-old daughter, Kaya. DeForge lost his own life when he returned to the burning building to save the three other children.

Bryan DeForge, 6; Robert DeForge, 5; and Brittany DeForge, 6 months, died in the fire.

Even though Kelly Clemmer, a neighbor who was one of the first people on the scene, commended the firefighters for their hard work, he said they were struggling to put out the fire due to lack of help before Tombstone and Mescal firefighters arrived.

He said when he heard a loud boom at 3 a.m., he immediately woke up and tore into

the street without shoes on, even though he has pins in his foot from a painful, longtime foot injury.

"I didn't even feel my foot that morning," he said. "Tifani was hysterical. She was trying to get back in the house to save her children. She had to be held back," he said as he recounted the events yesterday at his home.

A few neighbors are saying the St. David Fire Department arrived too late to save lives.

According to records, the St. David fire station responded within seven minutes from the time of receiving the call. Gephart said this is considered an "excellent" response rate. The Tombstone fire station followed suit within 15 minutes, Tombstone's Ramirez said.

"People want us to respond within seconds, but that's impossible," Gephart said, explaining that firefighters were called right away to respond to the fire, but they needed time to gear up and drive to the burning building.

Besides, she said, arriving more quickly would not have made a difference in this particular fire due to its sheer magnitude.

Along with volunteering for the fire station, community members are also showing Saunders their support by helping her and her family clean up the devastated area.

Neighbor Anthony Maurer said Saunders found a locket containing strands of her infant daughter's hair Saturday while sifting through the rubble. "It was touching," he said softly.

Investigators say they will not know the cause of fire until later in the week.

Residents say regardless of how the fire started, they want the tragedy to spur local government to make changes to assure their safety.

"I think that there is going to be a lot of changes made," Clemmer said. "But unfortunately, it takes a tragedy."

■ Kelly Lotz can be reached at 629-9412 or

Oasis

Making your home
a desert paradise

Every Saturday

Arizona Daily Star

January 6, 2006, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Department Adds Six New EMT's

By Larry Noyes

Six new EMT's have joined the ranks of the Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department. The six men who have been members of the department for almost a year now, have successfully completed their 13 week course in EMT-B. At the conclusion of the class, all the men then took their National Examination and have passed successfully.

In the earlier months of last year, citizens voiced their opinions in regard to the lack of emergency care in Tombstone. The primary concern was that of the response times by the current Ambulance Company out of St. David, Arizona. Many citizens offered testimony to the delayed response times they had experienced and asked the Mayor and Council to investigate measures to help reduce these times. Several options were heard including a proposal for an increase in the City's Sales Tax. One proposal thrown out for discussion came from one of Tombstone's newer firemen, Larry Noyes. Noyes proposed sending a set number of volunteer firemen to attend a course in EMT training. This would allow the citizens of Tombstone a much quicker reaction time which in turn would help dramatically to assess a patients condition and allow these first responders to pass on to the inbound ambulance, vital and critical information about the patient.

Tombstone can not transport patients as Healthcare Innovations of Benson holds the Certificate of Necessity that is needed to transport patients. The City lost that privilege in a prior law suit with Healthcare Innovations.

After careful consideration, the City agreed to finance the tuition fees for these volunteers and the courses began in August of 2005.

Before these measures were taken, responding firefighters were very limited to the services they were allowed to offer on medical calls. They were allowed to provide CPR and administer AEDs, or Automated Defibrillators, only if they were CPR certified and held a current card. In many cases, the first responders were only allowed to relay information based on visual analysis. For the most part, their hands were tied by rules and regulations pertaining to Emergency Medical Services.

Now, these men can arrive on a medical emergency scene and provide a certain level of care that dramatically increases the patients immediate needs. They are allowed to take a patient's vitals such as blood pressure, heart rate, oxygen saturation, administer oxygen, administer blood sugar testing, and many more steps to help stabilize and assess a patients condition than they could before becoming EMT-Bs. They are still restricted in some areas and are limited to their scope of practice, which increases as they continue their education in the various EMS fields. The next step above EMT-B is EMT-I and then Paramedic. Many of these guys plan to proceed with their education in the future and become Paramedics.

The following men certainly deserve congratulations and great thanks from all in the community. They are: Firefighter/EMT Josh Hawley; FF/EMT Wilber Aquilar; Lt./FF/EMT Tom Valenzuela; FF/EMT David Mascolina; FF/EMT Dave Harnden and FF/EMT David Fleury. Great job guys.

March 31, 2006, *The Tombstone News*:

Start of a Record-Breaking Year for Tombstone Fire Department



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Mar 31, 2006

So far 2006 has been keeping the volunteers of the Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department very busy. From January 1 through March 29 the department has responded to seventy-six calls which consist of; fifty-five medical assistance calls, twelve motor vehicle accidents, five landing zones, one dumpster fire, one wildland fire, one brush fire and one structure fire. If this trend continues, this will put them well over the two hundred and fifty calls they responded to last year.##M{read more}##

To prepare his team for the rising number of calls, Chief Fought has been sending Fire Department members to different training schools as often as possible, including, wildland training, EMT, CPR/First Aid, and Basic Fire Fighting schools. Every school the Fire Fighters attend makes them better prepared to serve the community.

There are times when the Fire Department is responsible for responding to many calls at various hours of the day and night. Chief Fought stated "All members of the Fire Department are volunteer and put in many hours of their own time, attending weekly training meetings, responding to emergencies and going to different training schools. Fire Department members also sacrifice time away from their families and jobs to do their part for the department and community. I feel privileged to work with the volunteers on the Fire Department and am proud to be part of this group. I would also like to take a moment and thank the families of the Fire Department members. Without there support and understanding the members would be unable to work as hard as they do. Also I would like thank the community for their continued support. Finally I would like to personally thank my wife and family for their support during my long hours away from home."

When I asked Chief Jeff Fought what he thought this rise in calls meant he stated, "I believe the percent of calls will continue to go up, and within the next five years the service of the Fire Department will need to advance in order to better serve the community and surrounding areas."

May 26, 2006, *The Tombstone News*:

FIREHOUSE NUMBER 1 DESTROYED!



George Barnes • Fri, May 26, 2006

Much has been made of the recent threatened National Historic Status of Tombstone. After two Charrette planning sessions, and a new development plan, many are still left scratching their heads as renovations to the Tombstone firehouse may eliminate a significant part of its original structure. How do changes get approved? Who sets the rules? Who must follow them?

Building on the Tombstone Firehouse Number 1 was begun in 1879, and completed in the next year. The adobe brick structure was home to Tombstone's first fire company which was organized in 1880. The structure in recent years has been used as a kitchen for preparation and serving of meals for senior citizens. An earlier grant of \$60,000 was used to build cement piers that add support to the adobe walls.

The old firehouse was one of six original buildings that were the basis for the city's being granted national historical status.

In 2004 the city submitted an application to obtain a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to construct a totally new 4000 square foot senior citizen center which would house cooking and serving facilities as well as meeting rooms and recreational space with paved parking for twelve vehicles. The facility would have been located on 7th Street and would be similar in construction to the American Legion building.

CDBG funding is provided by the federal government, with allocation decisions made by state councils. The Tombstone application was successful and the city was granted \$366,000 for the project. This would have left the firehouse available for other rehabilitation and historic preservation.

The opening of the new High School in late Summer this year will also leave the current school building vacant. Some have suggested that it would also make a suitable home for the senior's programs as well as many other municipal and public functions. This offered an alternative to new construction.

In February 2005, however, the decision was made by newly elected Mayor DeJournett and council to renovate the old firehouse in stead of building a new facility, in order to keep the senior citizens in the same building. The city requested CDBG approval to change the project. Then City Clerk Marilyn Slade listed the desired renovations in the application which included "stabilizing adobe walls and foundations as needed" as a priority item.

Responding to a February 2005 communication on the change in the project, Bob Frankeberger, Architect for the State Historic Preservation Office responded, "plans for the rehabilitation will be submitted by the City of Tombstone, to the State Historic Preservation Office pursuant to

May 26, 2006, *The Tombstone News*:

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act....Please be assured that, in consultation with this office, the project plans will be prepared in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties."



The project was to include renovating the west exterior wall, returning the ceiling to wood, refinishing the floors, updating interior lighting, making the original main doors operational, and adding cabinets in the main room for display of some of the original firehouse artifacts. New kitchen facilities are included in the plan as well as new heating and cooling systems. The structure would be covered by a metal roof above the current roof.

Later, a structural engineer's assessment, suggested a need for extensive reconstruction. Most controversial was the recommendation to use concrete block with a cement facade in stead of rehabilitating the old adobe exterior west wall. Once work had begun, the extent of the demolition was evident. The west wall was completely demolished as was the front wall, once the doors were removed. The interior was gutted making way for new construction. Much of the original structure now appears to be completely gone, with only one original adobe wall remaining.

The Tombstone News contacted Frankeberger to ask if the State Historic Preservation Office was aware of the extent of the demolition. He commented that "Historic integrity is interpreted to mean the ability to convey a historic significance." Regarding the potential for a cinder block wall he responded that he had been told that the west wall would have to come down and that cinder block could be used as long as the exterior plaster had the same appearance as the original wall. He was, however, not aware that the front wall had also been demolished, "The front wall [demolition] was not an amendment to the approved drawings." We sent a picture of the demolished structure at his request.

In an effort to understand the guidelines for historic building renovation, The Tombstone News reviewed federal, state and local standards for such renovations. What we found seemed inconsistent with much of the work under way, and some of the statements from state and federal representatives.

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation apply to buildings of all periods, styles, types, materials, and sizes. Some relevant details are apparent. "The removal of historic materials or alterations of features and spaces that characterize the property shall be avoided." Later it adds, "Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize the historic property shall be preserved". Again later, "Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials".

May 26, 2006, *The Tombstone News*:

In Tombstone, the Charrette planning process was used to create a plan for historic preservation and growth. This plan completed in April of this year, contains specific guidelines for construction and renovation in the Historic District. Representatives from the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office were included among the participants.

Within the new city plan we find, "Do no harm. Don't demolish historic buildings or features of buildings". The findings specifically require the use of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards which are referenced above. Again in the findings, "Save everything with a square nail or built of adobe. Commercial buildings built of adobe are very rare. All adobe construction and related carpentry ... should be preserved".

Of greatest concern is the replacement of the original adobe walls with cinder block, especially after spending \$60,000 earlier to stabilize the adobe structure. The Tombstone News did a materials search and found a manufacturer of stabilized adobe brick easily.

This vendor, Clay Mine Adobe, located near Tucson, offers adobe block in a variety of sizes and claimed to be able to closely match the original firehouse bricks in size and color. Eric Johnson, of Clay Mine Adobe, responded to our questions. He is familiar with the old Tombstone firehouse and claimed that many such old adobe structures could be reconditioned by stabilizing degraded adobe areas, and by replacement of badly decomposed sections with new adobe brick similar to the original.

The architect for the project is Bob Vint of Vint & Associates, a Tucson firm specializing in historical structures. Tombstone news contacted the office and were told that Bob Vint himself had done the work. He discussed the project with us.

The major concern was the deterioration of the adobe walls which had moved over the years out of square. Cement that had been applied to the exterior had resulted in additional damage. Estimates obtained by Vint for restoration of the original adobe walls would have consumed most of the available budget. The decision to replace the original walls with cinder block was made for two reasons, the budget available for the job, and the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Architect (Frankeberger) that block with a cement surface would be acceptable. Later in the conversation Vint offered the comment that the Frankeberger opinion may have been "a very liberal interpretation of the standards" in that if it looked right from the outside, it was sufficient.

"This wasn't a decision any of us was happy about", said Vint. He further commented that a Community Development Block Grant was not really the correct vehicle for doing an historic renovation. When the process is completed, which will include reproducing the original exterior moldings which were lost some years ago, we will have what Vint refers to as a "functioning replica" of the original building.

According to Vint, the decision to remove the front wall was made on the day of the groundbreaking, as recommended by the structural engineer.

The entire renovation project was funded by the Community Development Block Grant at \$366,000 as mentioned earlier. The Tombstone News discussed this funding with CDBG Administrator Bonnie Williams.

According to Williams, restoration of the adobe walls was considered and was ruled out by the city for reasons of cost, "It would have been very expensive". Additionally, she noted that in these situations, the CDBG relies on the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office (Frankeberger), which approved the cinder block for the west wall. She added further, "The planning meetings were open. Members of the Historic Commission could have attended, and expressed their concern." Regarding the overall demolition, Williams commented, "Actually, I think it's kind of a shame."

Apparently, the adobe blocks, or at least some of them, are still in the possession of the city. Williams commented that there was some consideration of using the adobe bricks for a fund raising project, and some would be kept for other restorations. She did not, however, have any further details.

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May 26, 2006, *The Tombstone News*

As for the budget overall, Williams reports, "It is going to be very tight. They might have to do without some of the kitchen equipment. We will not know the extent [of the required contractor's work] until the demolition is done." She will be back in Tombstone to discuss budget and status on June 7th. Current estimates of cost obtained by the Tombstone News suggest the project outlook is currently twenty thousand dollars over budget.

There was a piece of artwork prepared for the recent charrette planning session. Perhaps the slogan was right, "Tombstone Arizona, the town too tough to plan." The fate of one of Tombstone's oldest buildings hangs in the balance, and may already be fatally wounded. One local historic preservationist's comment sums up the opinion of many, "This is just another nail in Tombstone's Historic Landmark Status' Coffin".

July 21, 2006, *The Tombstone News*:

Tombstone Hosts Emergency Services Meeting

Folks driving by the Tombstone Fire Department on Wednesday afternoon had a bit of a surprise. The parking lot was full of official Fire Chief Vehicles from all over Cochise County. Each month Cochise County Fire Chiefs, EMS personnel and representatives from Health Care Innovations gather to talk about different grants they have received and to review calls they have run on. This month it was Tombstone's turn to host the event.

August 18, 2006, *The Tombstone News*:

Monsoon Rain and Allen Street Dirt Wreak Havoc

George Barnes • Fri, Aug 18, 2006

After a more than seven year drought, the rain came, and with it came the mud, and the muck and the mess.

On Friday afternoon the storm clouds were gathering. Storms coming from the west and the southeast joined in the sky over Tombstone. When the rain arrived it was reminiscent of storms which were once a regular occurrence, a real gusher which dumped inches of water in a few hours. Walnut Gulch ran strong and the San Pedro reached levels not seen for years as the sudden rainfall added to what had been a wet season anyway.



On Allen Street the rain ran off the roofs in sheets and poured onto the dirt covered street, putting a major cramp in the first day of the Vigilante Days festival. But that was only the beginning of the problems.

Wind driven rain began to wash mud up onto the south side boardwalks. In addition, water running down the street from east to west carried off the smaller particles of dirt away and down the street. Drainage systems which had previously channeled water away were now covered with packed dirt which allowed the street water and roof drainage to run down and across the boardwalk.

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August 18, 2006, *The Tombstone News*:



The worst of the impact was seen at the Snack Corral and The Emporium where water and mud flooded into the front entrances to the businesses. The Tombstone Fire Department responded to a call for help. Fire fighters and city workers began removing the dirt which was blocking drainage, exposing the curb and lowering the surface level below the boardwalk.



On Monday, the cleanup was still under way sweeping dirt from the sidewalks and boardwalk. The Tombstone News talked with Sunday Jackson who was working at the Emporium when the storm began. Jackson pointed out where drainage channels for the next door parking lot had been filled with packed dirt. Water from the parking lot and water from the street came down the sidewalk, and under the boardwalk. "It was actually bubbling up through the boardwalk".

Soon she found herself in ankle deep mud and water. She and workers from the Snack Corral next door spent the rest of the day cleaning up the mess with the help of the Fire Department and Public Works. We asked if flooding had happened anytime earlier? Jackson responded, "We never had to do this before".

August 25, 2006, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Department has record calls

By Meredith Littlejohn
The Tombstone News

With more than four months to go until the end of the year, the Tombstone Fire Department has surpassed last year's call record. These past eight months the sound of sirens has been something you've heard almost daily.

Last year the fire department responded to 250 calls in twelve months and as of now the department has responded to 253. With 4 more months left in the year, it is expected that this number will rise to be an all time high for the Fire Department.

To be well prepared for every possible call many firefighters are taking part in training and education. Twelve firefighters will begin the Firefighter I and Firefighter II courses through Cochise College starting August 28, 2006. This class teaches basic firefighter, safety, and rescue skills, and at the completion of the course each firefighter will become certified by the state. Two firefighters have begun EMT training, and when the course is complete, Tombstone will have 8 certified EMT's. At the department's last training meeting, all firefighters went through SCBA training. Each firefighter is trained to don their coat, mask, and tank and to be breathing oxygen in less than one minute. "Not every one was able to beat the one minute mark, but it shows them where they are and what improvements need to be made" stated Captain Jon Allmon, "We don't like to use the excuse that we can't do things because we are volunteers."

With the help of government grants the department now has new extrication equipment, better known as the Jaws of Life and the Cutters. Both pieces of equipment help the department work more efficiently and quickly during motor vehicle accidents. They have also received their new fire shelters which will be used for protection during wildland fires.

These dedicated men and women work tirelessly to keep the community safe and protected.

2006

September 8, 2006, *The Tombstone News*:

Power Outage Disrupts Rendezvous Weekend



Emergency Vehicles Control Traffic During Power Outage

By Meredith Littlejohn
The Tombstone News

Downtown businesses and several areas of Tombstone lost electrical power and phone service this past Sunday, September 3rd right in the middle of one of the busiest week-ends of the year, the 25th Annual Rendezvous of Gunfighters

First reports were that a large unidentified east bound truck had "snagged" a power line that went across Fremont Street, breaking the line and causing the power outage. Being that no one stopped, it was assumed that the operator of the large truck was unaware that he may have caused the power line to be damaged.

The Tombstone Fire Department along with Tombstone Marshal's and Cochise County Deputies arrived and secured the scene. When APS arrived on scene and assessed the damage it was found that the severed portion ran parallel to Fremont Street rather than across. The actual break could have been caused by a variety of factors including wind, normal wear and tear or the unidentified vehicle.

For most businesses and homes the power was out from 3:05pm – 5:00pm, for some business' the power remained out until 8:00pm. Many homes north of Fremont continued to remain without phone service until Tuesday evening. According to a press release from the Marshal's Office; "The outage caused a considerable disruption to businesses and upset everyone, some to the point of anger and frustration trying to find someone to blame and in the end it was neither intentional nor a crime but an unfortunate accident."

October 26, 2006, *Nogales International*:

Purchased by Nogales in 1895 for \$150

By Axel Holm

A great piece of Tombstone's history, and part of Nogales' history for 111 years, an 1881 Button Crane Neck fire engine will return Oct. 25-29, as part of Tombstone's celebration of the 125th anniversary of the famous Oct. 26, 1881, gunfight at the OK Corral.

The Nogales Volunteer Fire Department purchased the 1881 fire engine in 1895. The Button fire engine was transported Wednesday under special escort by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department.

On Sept. 1, 1880, a few Tombstone citizens organized a fire brigade to defend the small frontier community against one of its greatest enemies, fire. Sixteen men led by attorney H. D. Jones and Deputy Wyatt Earp, enrolled to form Tombstone Hose Company No. 1.

34 members

On Sept. 15, 34 charter members were named in the Tombstone Epitaph including: H.D. Jones; Wyatt Earp; Fred White (a town marshal later accidentally shot and killed while disarming gunman "Curly" Bill Brocius); John Behan, Sheriff of Cochise County and of questionable character; Judge Albert Wallace, Justice of Peace; Milt Joyce, owner of the Oriental Saloon; Artemus Fay, publisher of The Nugget; Harry Woods, editor of The Nugget; Tom Corrigan, owner of the Alhambra Saloon; Judge Wills Spicer, Justice of the Peace who presided over the inquest of the OK Corral deaths of Billy Clanton, Frank McLaury and Tom McLaury and the roles of "Doc" Holiday and Earp brothers Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan in the shooting who were all exonerated.

John Clum, publisher of the Tombstone Epitaph, elected mayor of Tombstone in January 1881, returned east to leave his family there after the sudden death of his wife in April.

Another reason was to purchase a fire engine at a cost of \$2,800 from the L. Button and Son Fire Engine Co. in Waterford, N.Y., a Button Crane Neck Fire Engine, serial number 2070, a 2,600 pound hand pumper. Clum returned to Tombstone on June 22, 1881.

As the train approached Benson, Clum and his fellow passengers saw a plume of smoke to the south over Tombstone. Clum wrote, "I tried to make my fellow passengers believe we had a live volcano over there." The fire, caused by the ignition of a keg of whiskey at the Arcade Saloon, destroyed a considerable part of Tombstone's business district.

On Dec. 3, 1881, the day after the fire pumper arrived from New York, George Parsons, a Tombstone diarist, recorded the gathering of townspeople to witness the pumper's capabilities: "Throws three streams with such force to go over 'Grand.' Much fun and quite a time." The "Grand" was the two-story Grand Hotel on Allen Street. Lateral rods serve as pumping levers to operate the 9 1/4 inch pump cylinder. From eight to 25 men are required on each side to generate a high pressure of stream of water extending 200 feet.

In May of 1882, another major fire devastated much of Tombstone. Without comment about the pumper, the Epitaph reported that the extent of the fire was attributed to an insufficient supply of city water.

By March of 1895, Tombstone installed a new water system making the old Button pumper, "Tombstone" obsolete. In February 1895, the Territorial Legislature of Arizona passed an act providing for organization of volunteer fire departments immediately after which citizens of Nogales, Ariz., gathered to organize the Nogales Volunteer Fire Department.

On March 12, 1895, the Nogales volunteers met to hear a report from W. W. Flewelling concerning an offer from Tombstone to sell their complete fire-fighting apparatus for a modest \$150 payable in installments of \$25.

On Saturday, March 16, 1895, the "Tombstone" pumper arrived by rail in Nogales. The equipment also included a hook-and-ladder truck, a hose cart and reel of hose and axes and lanterns. The "Tombstone" was renamed "Able and Willing," and officially retired in 1923 after serving Nogales until 1917 when a new motorized American La France pumper truck arrived. But old "Tombstone" - "Able and Willing" - a great piece of Southern Arizona history, remains in Nogales. It was first displayed at the Arizona State Fireman's Association meeting in Nogales in 1930. The ASFA 1930 program stated, "Old 'Able and Willing' because of its service during the lurid days of old Tombstone is of interest historically."

'Able and Willing' on the road again

Oct 26, 2008 (0)



Nogales Fire Fighters in front of a fire engine the department used in 1895. They are from left Battalion Chief William Sanchez, Ca Rivas, Jesus Zuniga and Roberto Heredia.

"Able and Willing" was removed from storage in 1937, made a parade appearance after which it was displayed for a short while in the Nogales City Park, where it suffered exposure damage. Foolishly, again it was placed on display in the Nogales City Park in 1948 and again returned to storage until 1970 when the Tucson Rodeo Association asked to borrow her.

In 1980, "Able and Willing" returned to Nogales and her permanent home in the Pimeria Alta Historical Society. After 83 years of retirement and 111 years away from her original home, "Able and Willing," formerly "Tombstone" returned briefly to her first home as part of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Gunfight at the OK Corral. That event occurred only six weeks before she arrived in Tombstone.

November 24, 2006, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Department Change Of Directors

During a regular scheduled fire department meeting we held our two year election and appointment of the fire chief position. Every election year thru the fire dept. By-laws we are required to vote on the chiefs positions thru nomination's which is taken to a motion with a second, and then voted on by the fire dept. members and then sent to the city council and mayor for approval.

A vote was conducted by 23 members out of 25 members that are on the fire department. And the majority vote of the fire dept. decided to elect Jesse grassman as the new fire chief for the next two years. Effective on 11/21/2006 after the regular schedule council meeting Jesse Grassman will assume the duties of the fire chief position for the tombstone volunteer fire department.

Chief Jesse Grassman has been a long time friend of mine and we both have served on the fire dept. side by side for many years. I know that he will make a excellent fire chief for the fire dept. , I congratulate him on his new position and wish him the best. I James fought will still continue to be a member of the fire dept. and be moving into a different position and rank with the fire dept. to continue to serve the fire dept. and its community.

I have been a member of the Tombstone Fire Department for seventeen years and I am very proud of this dept. and its members. I have held the ranks of Firefighter, Engineer, Lieutenant, Captain, and Fire Chief. The last two years I was very proud to be honored with the chance to be the fire chief and I believe that the fire dept. as a whole has made very big steps forward in improving our knowledge, training, and equipment when the call comes out for an emergency when someone needs our help. When a emergency happens and lives are at stake we want to do our best to help.

During my term as the Tombstone Fire Chief we have accomplished several different things with the help of the fire dept. members, M.L. Johnson associates, grants, and donations from the community.

I would like to say thank you to all of you for all of your support. We have been able to send 12 members to EMT-B Training and 8 members to Firefighter I & II course's which will be able to give them the knowledge and training that is so much needed for our community. We also were able to purchase a second rescue vehicle that has came in handy on many calls this past year, we also received a new set of extrication equipment that was much needed. Two storage tanks and wildland equipment was also purchased to help us with our wildland program. Also several different safety and fire equipment items were purchased to help us with our duties when the time arrives.

During my two year term as Fire Chief five grants and three donations were secure for the amount of \$40,223.00 with the help and guidice of Mary Lynn Johnson the city grant writer. As I leave the fire chief position we still have three grants pending for the amount of \$118,000.00.

In the past two years the fire dept. has received the two largest budgets it has ever seen which is a good thing because it is very much needed. In 2005 the fire dept. responded to 250 calls for help, and so far in 2006 the fire dept. has responded to 365 calls for help. The fire dept. has seen probably close if not more than a 50% increase in volume of calls it handles.

The fire dept. has always tried to do its best to train and gain the knowledge to serve its community and I know they will continue to strive to be the best.

At the end I want to say thank you to ever member of the fire department and community for the chance and honor to be the fire chief for the Tombstone fire department, and in my new position with the fire dept. at the rank of captain I will continue to give it a one hundred percent run to do the best for my community and the other members of the fire dept.

Once again congratulations to Fire Chief Jesse Grassman on his appointment as director for the Tombstone Fire Department.

Thank you very much. James E. Fought Jr. ,
Tombstone Fire Chief

December 1, 2006, *The Tombstone News*:

New Cheif Takes Charge of the Firefighters

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Dec 01, 2006

On November 21 Mayor Wright and the City Council appointed and voted in new administrative department heads for the City of Tombstone. Among the positions voted on was that of the Tombstone Fire Chief. Jesse Grassman, longtime Fire Department member and past chief, was voted in unanimously. The Tombstone News spoke to Mayor Wright as to why he chose Grassman to be the new Fire Chief. "I believe he will make a good leader," stated Mayor Wright, "He is knowledgeable, capable and able to delegate in order to get the job done."

Grassman was born and raised in Tombstone. In 1999 he married his wife Chris and has an adorable 3 year old daughter Makenzi. Grassman joined the fire department more than fifteen years ago. "Around that time Tombstone was experiencing a large amount of wildland fires," remembers Grassman, "The department needed help putting them out, I volunteered and found that I really enjoyed the experience." At that time Joe Perotti was the Fire Chief.##M (READMORE)##

Grassman joined and has not only been part of the department but has worked on getting his Fire Science degree and his wildland certifications. He has completed his Firefighter I and Firefighter II courses. Wildland firefighting is still something he enjoys and continues to do. His main area of expertise in wildland firefighting is as an engine boss, but he will go and perform whatever tasks are needed; he recently returned from Montana and Nevada on two separate fires, and last year he also assisted in Louisiana after hurricane Katrina.

Grassman's plans for the next two years are simple, "I would like to update our training, equipment and some of our vehicles," stated Grassman, "Some of our equipment and vehicles are getting pretty old, and I would like to have them be at least as new as 2000." As for training Grassman will continue Wednesday night training sessions and pushes for the firefighters to go to any educational classes that are offered. "The more they know the safer and more efficiently they can help the public.

The Tombstone News asked Grassman what he believes makes a good Fire Chief. "Of course knowledge and organization," stated Grassman, "But understanding people is 90% of being a success, if you can't relate to people you're lost."

— *The Tombstone News*

January 12, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IMPROVE



Left to Right EMS Coordinator David Fleury, EMT Linda Baker, and EMT Dick Baker

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jan 12, 2007

At Tuesday night's City Council meeting the council voted unanimously for Resolution #01-2007-Emergency Medical Services Supporting Service Agreement between the Tombstone Fire Department and the Sierra Vista Regional Health Center(SVRHC).##M(READMORE)##

So, what does this mean for Tombstone? According to the packet submitted to the City Council by the Tombstone Fire Department and SVRHC, "Medical Direction Authority or Medical Control is an emergency physician or nurse intermediary who is designated to render on-line medical supervision of EMS personnel. On-line supervision will be direct (conveyed between physician and EMS personnel via person-to-person, two way radio, or telephone conversation) or indirect (conveyed by an intermediary.)"

To help our readers understand what this means, The Tombstone News went to the Tombstone Fire Department EMS Coordinator, David Fleury.

Q. What is Medical Control?

A. What it does, is allows us to contact a physician at SVRHC when we are on a scene, we have access to a physician on the phone or on our radios. We can talk and they can give us further instruction or help us out in whatever situation we find ourselves in.

Q. Besides providing better health care to the community what will the fire department get out of Medical Control?

January 12, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

A. What it does, is allows us to contact a physician at SVRHC when we are on a scene, we have access to a physician on the phone or on our radios. We can talk and they can give us further instruction or help us out in whatever situation we find ourselves in.

Q. Besides providing better health care to the community what will the fire department get out of Medical Control?

A. It will provide the department with continuing education, the hospital will come to Tombstone and provide training sessions for us on a regular basis.

We will turn in our reports on each call to SVRHC, they will review them and if they see anything we might need a little extra help on or if we did a good job, then they will report back to us. It will help hone our skills and do a better job for the community and for each individual patient. It is nice to have a physician on the other end of the phone.

Q. Will you use the Medical Control on every call or only special calls?

A. We will contact them every time we go on a call to get any further instructions they may have for us.

We have two sets of protocol; offline protocol and online protocol. Offline are the instructions we get from the hospital which is written down and which we can do without specific instructions from the doctors. For example administering oxygen. Online protocol is exactly as it sounds, we call the hospital and they give us the instructions. Online would be if someone has some medications, we are able to administer some medications, but some we cannot give others without a Physician's say-so.

Q. Will Medical Control help during critical situations?

A. It will help during the Golden Hour, in a trauma situation we have an hour to get their ABC's stabilized, Airways, Breathing and Circulation and to get them to whichever trauma center or hospital they are going to be transported to. In addition, if they will need air transport that can be dispatched faster.

Q. What will this cost the community?

A. Nothing, All we want is to provide the community and patients with better care. Medical Control will begin immediately and the contract has no expiration date.

— *The Tombstone News*

January 19, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

Propane Heater Ignites Truck



Fire fighters Dick and Linda Baker put out the flames

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jan 19, 2007

On Monday January 15 at approximately 9:00am a tone went out for the Tombstone Fire Department to respond to a car fire on North Drive in Tombstone. A large plume of smoke could be seen from route 80 and Gleeson Road and brought out several curious onlookers. Two of the onlookers were the Munsons who were the owners of the truck that was in flames.##M (READMORE)##

According to a statement by Lorraine Munson to The Tombstone News, the fire began after they placed a propane tank under the truck to warm up the engine block. "The engine block does not warm up," stated Munson, "and the car will not start."

Tombstone Deputy JJ Norris was on scene prior to the Tombstone Fire Department and quickly removed the propane tank from under the truck and had the Munsons move their other vehicle. A short time later, Fire Chief Jesse Grassman and Firefighters Linda and Dick Baker arrived on scene, assessed the situation and immediately went to work putting out the fire. According to fire Captain Jon Allmon who was the engineer on scene, they used 50 gallons of water and a minimal amount of foam to put out the blaze.

Chief Grassman cautioned people against using flammable objects to heat objects that are frozen or cold.

— *The Tombstone News*

February 2, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Department Donation Scam In Tombstone

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Feb 02, 2007

We are all grateful for the job that policemen and firemen do to protect our lives and our property. So it is only natural that we respond generously when someone calls and asks for a donation to a police or fire charity. Scammers know this and will take advantage of your generosity. Apparently several Tombstone residents have become the latest targets of a phone scam that has been sweeping the United States. According to Tombstone Fire Chief Jesse Grassman, three separate residents have approached him stating that a supposed representative from the Tombstone Fire Department called them and tried to solicit donations over the phone. Concerned, Grassman asked that The Tombstone News let all residents know that though the fire department does accept donations, they never solicit donations over the phone.##M(READMORE)##

According to what Grassman was told, the caller identifies himself as a member of the Tombstone Fire Department and then asks the person on the other end for donations, up to \$100. Once the target agrees on an amount, the caller then asks for credit card information and, according to one target, the caller got very upset and pushy when he was not given the information.

Tombstone is not the only area to have this scam happen. A quick search on the internet found these scams being run from Boston to Hawaii. The City of Phoenix has issued a warning to Arizona citizens that phone solicitor's falsely representing firefighters across Arizona call trying to collect money. The callers say they are firefighters representing groups such as:

- Arizona Association of Firefighters
- Arizona Disable Firefighters Association
- Associated Firefighters of Arizona
- Association of Disabled Firefighters
- Disabled Firefighters of Arizona
- Fire and Paramedic News
- Firefighters Association of America
- Foundation for Disabled Firefighters
- Phoenix Firefighters
- Phoenix Firefighters Association
- Professional Firefighters Gazette
- Professional Firefighters of Arizona

Apparently some of these phone solicitors have told citizens that if they do not donate money, they will not receive Fire Department assistance when needed. These callers do not represent any legitimate Fire Department organizations, and money should not be donated to their causes. According to Tombstone Marshal Smith there is not much the police can do unless there is an actual suspect. According to Chief Grassman the caller's number was blocked. Chief Grassman contacted Qwest for their advice on the situation. "Qwest told me that the easiest and cheapest way to stop these calls is to ask the caller for a number which you can call back. If the number connects you to the appropriate place then make a donation if you choose." However Grassman wants all Tombstone citizens to know that the Tombstone Fire Department never solicits over the phone. "We do of course accept donations," stated Grassman, "but we never initiate calls over the phone."

Tombstone Marshal Jay Smith also warned that the public should never give personal information over the phone such as a credit card or Social Security Number." In order not to become a victim be cautious and when in doubt, call the organization to confirm they are the ones calling.

— *The Tombstone News*

June 8, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

Dave Fleury Named Fireman Of The Year



Fireman of the Year Dave Fleury with his wife Nova and his daughter Jennifer

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jun 08, 2007

The Tombstone Fire Department held its' 31st annual Fireman's Ball on Saturday night and announced the Firefighter of the Year. The evening started out with a wonderful buffet catered by Eve's Kitchen. After everyone had their fill, Mayor Aiton, donning his Mayor's top hat, began the evening by thanking the fire department for all of their hard work. ##M(READ MORE)##

Chief Grassman then introduced the fire department's new secretary, Nova Fleury. Fleury made a special presentation honoring Nellie Manriquez. Manriquez owns the Pioneer Home on Fremont Street in Tombstone. According to Fleury, the home was originally owned by Frank Garland, who was a member of the Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department at the same time as Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson. Manriquez and her late husband Eddie, who was also a firefighter, preserved much of the fire department's history at the Pioneer Home. Fleury felt it was important to honor Eddie and Nellie's hard work. "How many fire departments can say that they have over 125 years of volunteer service," stated Fleury, "as well as some of their founding members being Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson." Manriquez was presented with three plaques, all of which she assures will be hanging in a place of honor at the Pioneer Home.

2005 Firefighter of the Year Chris Littlejohn then announced the 2006 Firefighter of the Year, Dave Fleury. The moment was quite poignant as Fleury's daughter, who had been flown in as a surprise from California, presented him with his plaque.

Fleury joined the fire department in July of 2005. "I had been reading articles written by Larry Noyes about his adventures on the fire department," stated Fleury "and it seemed like something I would enjoy doing." Fleury went on to say that shortly after joining the department he went to school to become an EMT. "It was always something I had thought about, but it just cost too much". Larry then went to the council and got them to approve funds to send several people to EMT school. "After my first class I realized I was in the right place." Fleury is now the EMS Coordinator at the fire department. He was an active part in getting Tombstone medical control with Sierra Vista. As well as the fire department, Fleury works for Arizona Ambulance and is hoping to go to paramedic school in August.

The Tombstone News asked Fleury how he felt about being nominated as Firefighter of the Year. "I am just really proud of the whole department," stated Fleury. "We have had two more people get their EMT certification, and seven more just passed their Firefighter I & II course. Many have their Wild Land Certification and all of this is being done on their own time." Fleury went on to say that it isn't just about one person being Fire- fighter of the Year. "It is about twenty-five people who give selflessly of their time because they want to better the community."

Fleury's family is also very proud. His wife Nova stated, "I am so proud of him. Dave works hard for the department but he doesn't do it for recognition or to become Fire- fighter of the Year, he does it because of his love of the department and this town." Fleury's fellow firefighter's agreed. "Dave is willing to do things that others don't want to do," stated Josh Hawly a Firefighter/EMT. "He jumps in to help for the benefit of the town and the department."

After all the presentations, folks danced to the music of Nite Life and enjoyed friends and good food. Later in the evening, door prizes were handed out and many folks walked away with some lovely items donated by local businesses. Congratulations to the Tombstone Fire Department on another spectacular Fireman's Ball!

June 8, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

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Firefighters Attend Cochise College Classes

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jun 08, 2007

Seven Tombstone Firefighters successfully passed Cochise College's Firefighter I & II course this past month.

Wilber Aguilar, Dick Baker, Linda Baker, Dave Harnden, Josh Hawley, Chris Littlejohn and Dawn Palmieri started the course in August. The Firefighter I& II course teaches everything that the state of Arizona requires in order to become a certified firefighter. "This class is a great benefit for the community," stated Fire Chief Jesse Grassman. "It gives the members more confidence and knowledge when going on a scene." Firefighter Chris Littlejohn agrees, "The department meets once a week which is great, but much of what you learn is hands-on. This class enables us to be more prepared when we arrive on scene."##M(READ MORE)#

Dick Baker hopes to make a career out of firefighting. "If Tombstone goes full time, the classes would be a requirement and I want to be prepared." Baker and his wife Linda did double duty this year by not only taking the Firefighter I&II course, but they also took and successfully passed an EMT course.

With the obvious successes this year, Fire Chief Grassman plans to send more members to the course next year. "We will continue to work hard for the benefit of the community."

— *The Tombstone News*

June 29, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

Inmate Seriously Injured at City Pool

Larry Noyes • Fri, Jun 29, 2007

On Tuesday, June 26th, an inmate working with the City of Tombstone employees was seriously injured when the pool filter he was working on exploded in his face.##M(READMORE)##

The inmate, whose name is being withheld due to Arizona Department of Corrections regulations, along with another inmate, were assigned to the Department of Public Works employee Dewey King for the day. At approximately 12:50 pm, Lifeguard Jessica Bouyington reported a water leak in the filter room of the City's municipal pool. Director of Public Works Alex Gradillas responded to the pool and determined further assistance would be needed and asked King and his two inmates to assist at the pool.

At approximately 2:00 pm, the filter was deactivated and the cap was removed to examine it for possible leaks. The inmate then coated the cap of the filter with silicone, replaced the cap onto the filter and tightened it to ensure integrity. Director Gradillas inspected for leaks as did the inmate. Just as the switch was activated, the inmate, in attempt to further inspect for leaks, bent over the filter assembly, and as he did, the filter cap and valve exploded. The valve struck the inmate in the face causing several lacerations. Gradillas immediately called City Hall and asked for the Emergency Medical Technicians to be dispatched.

Upon arrival of the Tombstone Fire Department's EMT unit, the patient complained of severe pain in the left side of his face. After careful analysis of the patients condition, it was determined that he would need to be airlifted to Tucson for advanced medical care there.

Normally, helicopter evacuation teams consist of three members: the Pilot and two flight nurses. Once the patient is loaded onboard the aircraft, careful attention is made to the weight factor and other critical flight data. Under the circumstances in this particular incident, the patient, being an incarcerated individual and under the constant surveillance of an ADC officer, meant additional payload for the helicopter and a reevaluation of the flight plan. The Pilot immediately did some calculations and determined that due to the ambient air temperature and the additional weight being added, he would have to burn off some fuel to allow for proper flight conditions. This meant losing some weight in the way of burning of fuel.

The remaining crewmembers disembarked and remained with other emergency personnel at the Fire Department's landing zone. The Pilot then lifted off and began his plan to burn off fuel needed to ensure a safe flight for all to Tucson.

Within no time, the helicopter was back on the landing pad at the fire station. Medical staff then proceeded to load the inmate, the ADC officer, and the remaining crew members onto the aircraft. The man was then safely and swiftly airlifted to UMC in Tucson for further evaluation.

— *The Tombstone News*

July 6, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

Bust Your Britches At The Cold Iron Gym "Powerlifting Deadlifting Meet" Fundraiser For The Tombstone Fire Department

The fundraiser for the Tombstone Fire Department at the Cold Iron Gym is this Saturday July 7, 2007 starting at 11:00a.m. "The Bust Your Britches" Powerlifting Deadlifting Meet will be held at the Cold Iron Gym located on 7th and Allen Street. This is the gym's first USPF Rules Unsanctioned Meet. They have held one prior UPSF Sanctioned Single Deadlift Meet, and one fun meet, both which were huge successes.##M(READMORE)##

This year all monies from the meet including entry fees and any donations will go to the Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department in order to purchase a new brush truck. "Our Volunteers are on call 24/7. They have saved many lives and snuffed out many fires that could have devastated this historical town," stated Sheri, owner of the gym. "They have been there for us and now it is our turn to be there for them. The brush truck they currently have is old, run down and may not work if it is needed." Any and all donations of any size to the Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department will be greatly appreciated.

There will be cash awards for winning competitors furnished by the Cold Iron Gym. Cash Awards will include four \$350 1st place prizes, four \$100 2nd place prizes, and four \$50 3rd place prizes. Plus drawings for certificates good towards the Cold Iron Gym, Bunni's Boutique, Sadie Jo's Old West Photo Studio and many more for anyone 18 or older who wants to enter.

As well as the dead lift contest, the gym is also hosting a 100lb Bench Press Contest, the winner will be who ever can do the most reps. They are also having a team deadlift contest. The meet is open to men and women Open and Masters. Entry forms and all pertinent information are available at the Cold Iron Gym located at 7th and Allen Street or at www.coldirongym.com or call (520)457-3955. Jo Bannister of Sadie Jo's Old West Photo Studio will be there to take pictures and they are working to have the meet shown on Cox Cable. The public is encouraged to come to the meet to root the lifters on and to support our volunteer fire department.

July 20, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

Lightning Strikes, Rocks House & Ignites Tree



Larry Noyes • Fri, Jul 20, 2007

Last Friday's afternoon monsoon storm brought more than just a little rain for one Tombstone family. At about 6:30 in the evening, a typical mid summer monsoon storm rolled in from the south, bringing some much needed rain and a very dangerous situation for Emma Hughes and her family. Suddenly, a powerful bolt of lightning struck a palm tree that sits on the eastside of their home at 1004 Safford. The tree immediately burst into flames and with the wind gusting, made for a dangerous situation.##M(READMORE)##

When The Tombstone News arrived on the scene, flames were falling on the roof of the home and ambers were blowing in all directions. The Tombstone Fire Department arrived on the scene at approximately 6:40 P.M. and within 7 minutes had the fire out and under control. Just minutes after the 1st call went out, the Tombstone Fire Dept. received another dispatch and was notified by State Land officials of two more fires caused by lightning. Fire Chief Jesse Grassman quickly put together a team of Wild Land Firefighters and raced toward the vicinity of Ghost Town Trail and Portland Road. The Tombstone Fire Department often is called upon to assist in wild land fires throughout southeastern Arizona and beyond. A good number of the firefighters on the department have had extensive training and are certified to fight wild land fires.

As of July 14, 2007, 12 states were reporting large fires which totaled a number of 38 blazes and reflected a total of 784,739 acres involved. Arizona, being one of the twelve states, reported 4 large fires with a total of 48,855 acres involved. At press time, none of the fires in Arizona had been considered contained.

On Sunday, July 15th, a bolt of lightning started a fire in the Dragoon Mountains near Sheep's Head and was still burning as of early Monday morning. That fire has now been extinguished. The majority of the twelve states with active wild land fires report many of them are considered to be caused by lightning strikes. However, other fires reported are under investigation for possible human error or arson.

Over 1,000 people get struck by lightning every year in the United States, and over 100 of them die as a result of the strike. Lightning is not something to toy with.

If you are caught outside in a storm, always look for appropriate shelter. Do not take any chances-lightning can use you as a path to the earth just easily as it can use any other object. Appropriate shelter would be a building or a car. If you do not have anywhere to go, then you should avoid taking shelter under trees. Trees attract lightning. Put your feet as close together as possible and crouch down with your head as low as possible without touching the ground. Never lay down on the ground. After lightning strikes the ground, there is an electric potential that radiates outward from the point of contact. If your body is in this area, currents can flow through you. You never want the current to have the ability to pass through your body. This could cause cardiac arrest, not to mention other organ damage and burns.

If you are indoors, stay off the phone; if you call someone use a cordless phone or cell phone. If lightning strikes the phone line, the strike will travel to every phone on the line and potentially to you if you are on the phone.

With the monsoon season just beginning to get into full swing, lightning will be a clear and present danger. Use common sense; get to safety and out of the storm. Never ever approach a downed power line and call 911 for any type of emergency situation that you may encounter during and after a storm.

— The Tombstone News

July 26, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Codes A Concern On Allen Street

Larry Noyes • Fri, Jul 27, 2007

Recently, the Tombstone Fire Department has experienced an increase in calls pertaining to someone smelling or visually seeing smoke in the buildings on Allen Street.

The majority of these calls are coming from the older buildings on Allen Street and have employees and firefighters concerned.##M(READMORE)##

Last Saturday morning, firefighters were again dispatched to East Allen Street, when an employee working in one of the older buildings claimed to have smelled something burning and called 911.

When units arrived from the Tombstone Fire Department, they conducted a search of the building and found nothing burning or smoking. A team of firefighters made entry into the building. Upon completion of their initial investigation, they found no evidence of smoke or flames. However, after continuing the search, firefighters made special note of the wiring and its aging condition. Much of the old wiring is not in use and has been replaced. Older style porcelain insulators were also found, and this is an indicator of just how old and outdated the wiring could be in many of the older buildings in Tombstone. Porcelain was first used in electrical practices as far back as the early 1920's.

As far as Tombstone is concerned, it's a well known fact that this town, "The Town too Tough to Die," experienced two major fires. Once in 1881 and again in 1882. Now 125 years later, this threat still prevails and without education, regulations, and enforcement, it could realistically happen again.

Just recently Tombstone has adopted, and is in the process of implementing, the 2006 National Fire Protection Associations Uniform Fire Code. Fire Chief Jesse Grassman and Building Inspector Michael Hargis are working closely together to formulate a program that will serve business owners as more of an educational tool as well as help bring them come into compliance with the much need fire codes.

Mr. Hargis has just recently began a series of inspections that is concentrating on vacant buildings as well as abandoned vehicles. After the inspections are completed, a copy of repairs needed or items that need to be addressed will be given to the proprietor of either the building or the abandoned vehicle. Ample time will be given to make the corrections as well as recommendations on how to solve or repair the existing problem will be included.

Chief Grassman agrees that building inspections are long overdue. "The main purpose will be to educate the public and to help them understand the importance of building safety codes," said Grassman.

The scope of these future inspections includes inspections of permanent and temporary buildings, processes, equipment, systems, and other fire and related life safety situations. Both Grassman and Hargis will assist in reviewing design and construction plans, drawings and specifications for life safety systems, fire protection systems, access, water supplies, processes and hazardous materials and other fire and life safety issues. — *The Tombstone News*

August 3, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

Is Tombstone and It's Schools Prepared For An Emergency?

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Aug 03, 2007

On Sunday, July 29, 2007, a call came in for Tombstone deputies to respond to the area around Via Serrano Road. According to Marshal Smith the person reporting stated that they heard a loud "explosion" in the area. According to Smith deputies responded to the area but did not find anything. "It could have been almost anything," stated Smith. "But whatever it was we do not take this type of thing lightly."##M(READMORE)##

Preparing for serious violence in the city of Tombstone and at any of the Tombstone schools is a matter that the Tombstone Marshal's Department takes very seriously, particularly after the tragic school shootings and violence in other small cities.

According to Tombstone Marshal Smith, in order to prepare for any situation the deputies go through various scenarios. "We did a mock lockdown about four and a half months ago at both Walter J. Meyer and the new high school," stated Smith. "A lock down would take place at a school if there was a gunman or some sort of emergency situation." Smith went on to say a lockdown is exactly as it sounds. "We keep the kids in their classrooms until the entire area has been checked and we know it is safe."

This is just one of the scenarios that the Marshal prepares his deputies for. "The school is one of the only places we can have live practice," stated Smith. "For the rest, we meet and talk over different incidents that could happen and then we run through procedure." According to Smith, they discuss scenarios that have happened throughout the United States. "There have been many incidents in churches where groups have gone haywire and different emergency situations in businesses that we need to be prepared for," stated Smith. Smith then went on to say that he educates the deputies on incidents that he has been a part of and ones he has learned about at different seminars.

The Tombstone Fire Department also strives to be prepared for any type of emergency.

According to Fire Chief Jesse Grassman, the department is in the process of drawing up new contracts that will provide them access to various buildings in town where they can house people in emergency situations. "In the past we have worked with the city and the school district in order to use Schieffellin Hall and the various school buildings in case of an emergency," stated Grassman. "We also were able to use the school busses to evacuate people if necessary." Grassman went on to say that they also work hand in hand with the American Red Cross. "We have an American Red Cross credit card that we are able to use if we need to buy food, water or accommodations for people" stated Grassman.

According to the new superintendent of the Tombstone School District Karl Uterhardt, they also take these emergency matters very seriously. "We do monthly fire drills, conduct lockdowns and practice bus evacuations," stated Uterhardt. "I am also planning on inviting the local law enforcement and fire department and all the schools in the district to work with us." Uterhardt went on to say that his hope is that these people will be able to spot any problems or weaknesses within the school and then help the district correct them. "It today's world you have to take all of these situations very seriously," stated Uterhardt.

"People assume that nothing will happen in a small town," stated Smith. "However, here in Tombstone, we do have many illegal aliens from Ecuador, Argentina, Iraq and Iran that come through the border, so we have to be prepared for anything." According to Smith there is a lot the public can do to help the Marshal's Department. "This is a small town and people know when things are out of place," stated Smith. "But many times people don't call because they feel like they are bothering us. We would rather get the call and check it out than have something bad happen. The fact is we need them to help us by calling in anything suspicious."

— *The Tombstone News*

August 17, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

Horse Trapped In Well For Forty-Eight Hours



Stoney finally gets a breath of fresh air after 48 hours



Horse owner Burt Devere, Jesse Grassman and Robert Devere

Larry Noyes • Fri, Aug 17, 2007

Last Friday morning Mr. Burt Devere had almost given up hope on finding his horse Stoney. Devere had been searching for Stoney since Wednesday morning. On Friday morning he heard his dog barking continuously. In an attempt to find out just what his dog was so excited about, he found Stoney had broken through a covered abandoned well. Stoney apparently stepped on the hidden well and fell hind legs first, some 25 feet into it. Mr. Devere had no idea the well even existed there.

The well had a narrow opening, but at about 20 feet down opened into a chamber where Stoney managed to get wedged. He was in a standing position but unable to move for over 48 hours. ##M(READMORE)##

Immediately after his discovery, four key individuals showed up and relentlessly gave support. They were Devere's neighbor Dusty Escapule, Fire Chief Jesse Grassman, Bob "Smokey" Stober and Robert Devere.

Grassman and "Smokey," as he is known by everyone in Tombstone, immediately realized the rescue would be impossible without first digging out and around the shaft entrance. They both left and soon returned with a heavy backhoe and a large front-end loader. They soon began digging an entry way and an escape path. Escapule, meanwhile, gathered more help by bringing in Marty Lang, a hired hand from his ranch to help. Tombstone Deputy Marshal J.D. DaMatteo assisted as well and was injured when a rock fell on his finger. DaMatteo left the scene to seek medical attention. The men then began the painstaking efforts of saving the horse from almost certain death.

The efforts continued on for hours, well into the late afternoon, until Grassman and Smokey had a significant escape path cleared. Even after the digging had stopped, the horse still remained 4 to 6 feet out of sight under ground.

During the digging process the Fire Department was summoned and ordered to bring with them extrication equipment. By this time, word had gotten out and a rather large crowd had gathered at the Devere Ranch. Rescue efforts were hampered slightly when efforts to get a halter and rope around the horse failed. Grassman continued to crawl into the entrance of the well trying to reach the horse's neck. Finally, he secured a rope around the halter and tied it off. He then made his way back to his backhoe tractor and began an attempt to extricate the horse by raising the boom straight up. The rope broke almost immediately, with the horse's weight and his position in the hole being a big factor.

By now Stoney appeared extremely tired and struggled to move. Grassman again crawled down the opening and secured yet another rope around the horse. He made his way back to his tractor and extended the boom to its fullest point, lowered it into place, and awaited word from Smokey who was securing the rope to the beam. Once a good attachment was secured Grassman began his attempt once again.

Grassman, exhausted and becoming somewhat worried, started the tractor and proceeded again. This time the rope appeared to be holding. Suddenly the horse's head extended straight up and appeared from the well shaft. Then his full body came into sight. The crowd went silent and not a whisper could be heard as "Stoney" dangled motionless over his cavern of doom. Once Grassman realized the horse was clear of the hole and in a wide enough area to turn and rotate, he gently, and with the skills of a surgeon, operated the controls of the boom. It was like watching a surgeon perform. Slowly and safely he extracted the horse and lowered him to safe ground. The crowd then began to breathe and as if it had been rehearsed, and roared with applause.

For a brief moment "Stoney" laid motionless, barely breathing, and silence took over the scene again, but then suddenly, he caught his breath and scrambled to his feet. His eyes, full of surprise and looking at his rescuers as if to say, "Thank you so much for saving my life." Escapule, being somewhat of an expert on equestrian care, suggested to rescuers on how to keep Stoney cool and rehydrate him at the proper rate to maintain and improve his state of health in a safe and timely manner. He was then led out of the dangerous well area and taken to a small corral where he was surrounded by an army of well wishers, all with tears of joy streaming down their faces. Stoney suffered only slight lacerations and was extremely thirsty and hungry after his 48 hour ordeal. — *The Tombstone News*

August 17, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

Local Citizens Receive Commendations For Horse Rescue



"Smoky" Stober & Fire Chief Jesse Grassman

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Aug 17, 2007

The regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2007, began with a public hearing. The hearing was in regards to the annexation request of 351.8 acres of land north west of Tombstone. City Clerk Barnes stated that this was the next step in the annexation process. He went on to say that all land and utility owners should have been notified by mail and that three signs had been posted. After asking for any public comments the hearing was then closed.##M(READMORE)##

Mayor Aiton then opened the floor for Public Comments. Nova Fleury, Volunteer Secretary of the Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department, read a letter from Burt Devere which thanked and urged the Mayor and Council to honor five citizens that went above and beyond to help them with a horse that had fallen down the well. The five citizens were Fire Chief Jesse Grassman, "Smoky" Stober, Dustin Escapule, Marty Lange and Robert Devere.

Steve Goldstein was the next to approach the podium. He commended the Mayor and Council for the work done at the cemetery and offered to replace the trees which had been removed. He also thanked the Vigilantes for a successful weekend.

Terry Nicholas was the final public speaker of the evening; he addressed the council with his concerns regarding the new International Property Maintenance Code. Nicholas felt that the past ordinance they had was adequate but had not been enforced. He went on to say that the Code should be published in its entirety in the newspaper so the public knows all the details. He also asked whether or not the council had read the code in full.

Before moving to new business, Mayor Aiton read a letter of appreciation commending Fire Chief Jesse Grassman and "Smoky" Stover for their actions. They were then given copies of the letter of appreciation to a standing ovation.

September 14, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

Five Year Old Boy Wandered Into Desert, Found Safe



The Barney Family

Larry Noyes • Fri, Sep 14, 2007

For Colette Barney, a mother's nightmare came true when suddenly she discovered her 5 year old son was missing and nowhere to be found.##M(READMORE)##

Young Tristan Barney was playing outside in a fenced enclosure that is attached to the one end of the Barney home at 2377 Cortez Drive in Tombstone. At approximately 2:10 Wednesday afternoon Mrs. Barney peeked out the door to check on Tristan. To her surprise he and his little dog Scrappy were gone. Apparently, Tristan slipped through a small hole in the fence that Mrs. Barney thought had been repaired earlier. Upon her surprising discovery, she immediately jumped in her car and began searching the areas that they often walk together. She desperately drove up and down the roads and as time went on she became more and more frantic. After no success in sighting young Tristan, she went to the home of a close friend, J.J. Norris. Norris, who is a Deputy Marshal on the Tombstone Marshal's Department, immediately set the search in motion by calling for help.

Units from the Cochise County Sheriffs Office, the Cochise County Search and Rescue Team, the Sheriffs Volunteer Assist Team, the Tombstone Fire Department and a helicopter from the Arizona Department of Public Safety was also dispatched to the area.

Tombstone Firefighters Jesse Grassman, Chris Littlejohn, and J.C. Villa were among many rescue personnel who responded to the area. The three made a decision to start a foot search along the gas pipe trail that is relatively close to the Barney home. After just a short ways, the men found small footprints heading north and getting farther and farther away from the boy's home. After about 2 miles of walking the gas line path, suddenly Chief Grassman spotted the boy. Firefighter Littlejohn ran toward the boy and when he got close enough, called out the boy's name. The youngster stopped for a minute, turned around and waved at Littlejohn and ran off again. Littlejohn caught up to him and grabbed the boy. His companion Scrappy turned out to be the harder of the two to capture, but after about thirty minutes the little k-9 was cornered and caught.

Young Tristan and his little puppy were then turned over to Cochise County Sheriff's Officers and taken directly to his home where his entire family was patiently waiting. The happy family thanked all the responders and all gathered together for a photograph and even Scrappy had a smile on his little furry face.

— *The Tombstone News*

September 14, 2007, *The Tombstone News*:

Rollover Accidents Keep Fire Department Busy

Larry Noyes • Fri, Sep 14, 2007

Since Friday, September 7th, through Monday, September 10th, the Tombstone Fire Department had been dispatched on four separate roll-over accidents. All of the accidents were within five miles of Tombstone. Two of the accidents resulted in evacuating the patients by helicopter to Tucson hospitals.##M(READMORE)##

As reported in past issues of *The Tombstone News*, Charleston Road has seen its share of fatalities and accidents over the years. Two out of the four roll-overs this weekend happened on Charleston Road and the occupants of those vehicles appeared to have first hit the soft shoulder and then lost control of the vehicle.

One of the victims told first responders that she recalled blacking out and then regained consciousness only to find she had rolled over and found her vehicle resting on its roof in the culvert ditch. According to her statement to emergency personnel, she self-extracted herself before emergency personnel could arrive. She was attended to by EMT personnel from the Tombstone Fire Department and then by Paramedics from H.C.I. out of Benson. She was later taken to Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center for evaluation.

The latest roll-over happened at approximately 1:30 Monday afternoon. That victim was heading toward Tombstone and apparently lost control of her vehicle and also rolled over. The vehicle came to rest on a barbed wire fence. It landed on its wheels but had severe damage to the roof and driver's compartment area. She was airlifted by helicopter to a Tucson hospital.

Many times people overreact to their vehicle hitting the soft shoulder and they immediately panic and try to overcorrect the situation. This only enhances the possibility of a potential roll-over and often causes serious injuries and even death. Another factor in the number of fatalities and accidents on Charleston Road is speeding. It only takes a fraction of a second to lose control. A simple chore like adjusting your mirror or tuning your radio onto another station can result in tragedy. Pay attention to the road. At different times of the day, one's vision can be altered by either sunlight or even shadows appearing on the road.

Charleston Road has earned its reputation as 'A Trail of Tears.' Don't be the next fatality or statistic. Use common sense and slow down. If you should happen to witness someone driving erratic, stay far enough way and if the opportunity allows, notify the proper authorities.

— *The Tombstone News*

April 4, 2008, *The Tombstone News*:

Tombstone Fire Department Gears Up For Heavy Wildland Fire Season

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Apr 04, 2008

According to Fire Chief Jesse Grassman, as of the beginning of the year there have already been nine wildland fires in the state.##M(READMORE)##

"Wildland season does not usually start until May, but due to the low amount of rainfall over the last few years we are expecting it to be a bad season," stated Grassman. "This prediction is for the entire state, not just Southeast Arizona." A wildfire, also known as a wildland fire, forest fire, vegetation fire, grass fire, or hill fire, is an uncontrolled fire often occurring in wildland areas, but which can also consume houses or agricultural resources.

According to Grassman, wildland fires start for many different reasons. A lightning strike is the main natural cause, however most times these fires start due to human negligence. "Many people don't realize that simple actions can start very serious fires," stated Grassman. "We have seen many wildland fires start due to people throwing lit cigarettes out of a car window or onto the ground, vehicles dragging safety chains and mufflers as well as undocumented aliens starting fires to keep warm."

The most recent wildland fire was the 750-acre Moon Canyon Fire in Bisbee. According to the Sierra Vista Herald the fire threatened to move down the northern hillsides of the Mule Mountains and into residential areas of Old Bisbee. The fire started after a man who was issued a burn permit was burning wood and brush at his home when the wind velocity picked up the flames spread in Moon Canyon. Thankfully, the fire did not damage any structures or cause any injuries.

At this time Tombstone Fire Department has 12 Firefighters that are wildland certified. To become certified, firefighters must attend a five day course that goes in depth about the anatomy of wildland fires, at the end of the course there is a written and practical exam, this exam must be repeated yearly. Having a certified wildland crew in close proximity is extremely beneficial when homes are threatened. A fast response time can mean the difference between saving and losing your home.

According to Grassman there are things homeowners can do to protect their homes and ready it for the wildland season. "Property maintenance is one of the best deterrents," stated Grassman. Grassman recommends the following actions; reduce the density of surrounding vegetation, thin and prune trees and shrubs then dispose slash properly, prune branches to 10' above the ground, mow grass and weeds to a low height. Remove dead limbs, leaves, debris and other litter from the 35 feet perimeter around your house. Stack firewood away from structures; maintain 10' to 12' distance between tree crowns. Clean roof and gutters of debris, remove branches overhanging structures.

"If for any reason a fire is threatening your home there are actions you can take to minimize damage," stated Grassman. Shut off the gas at the outside meter of the propane tank. Place a ladder against the roof of the house on the opposite side of the approaching wildfire and place a garden hose near the ladder. Fill tubs, sinks and any other containers with water. Put portable pumps near water sources like pools and hot tubs. Remove lace, nylon or other light material drapes and curtains. Close your blinds and cover with heavy drapes and fire resistant window coverings. Park your car in the garage, facing out. Close the windows but do not lock the doors and leave the keys in the ignition. Close your garage door but keep it unlocked and disconnect your automatic garage door opener. Close all outside windows and doors but do not lock them, also close all inside doors.

"We don't expect wildland fires to reach the city limits, but being prepared is the best defense," stated Grassman.

— *The Tombstone News*

June 11, 2008, *The Tombstone News*:

Thanks from the Tombstone Fire Department and City of Tombstone

The Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department in conjunction with the City of Tombstone would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous donations which made this 4th of July the best to date: Tombstone Lion's Club, American Legion Post #24, Helldorado Inc., Tombstone Vigilettes and Tombstone Vigilantes.

Without their generous support, this year's spectacular fireworks celebration would not have been possible. Once again, your support is greatly valued and appreciated by the Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department and the City of Tombstone.

Sincerely

Tombstone Fire Chief

Jesse Grassman

June 13, 2008, *The Tombstone News*:

Suspicious RV Fire On Middle March Road



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jun 13, 2008

A thick funnel of black smoke could be seen for miles on the morning of June 6th. According to official reports at approximately 9:00am the Tombstone Fire Department was dispatched to a report of an RV on fire on Middle March Road at approximately mile marker number one.##M (READMORE)##

According to Fire personnel the Tombstone Marshal's units were first on scene and radioed that the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames and at the time it was unknown if any persons were inside. Tombstone Engine 1 was first on the scene followed by Tender 1. When fire personnel arrived two hose lines were pulled by firefighters Littlejohn and Baker. In order to put out the fire the two hose lines flanked the engulfed RV and the firefighters had the vehicle put out in under five minutes.

According to Tombstone Marshal Smith the fire is under investigation by the Cochise County Sheriff's Department. — *The Tombstone News*

2008

August 1, 2008, *The Tombstone News*:

Car Fire On Charleston And Main Chance Roads



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Aug 01, 2008

According to Tombstone Marshal Smith, on Sunday July 27th at approximately 10:44am Tombstone emergency personnel was toned out to respond to a car fire on mile marker 13 on Charleston Road.##M(READMORE)##

Marshal Smith stated that Jacqueline Escapule was traveling on Charleston Road when she saw smoke coming from the engine compartment of her vehicle. "When Escapule came up to the intersection of Charleston and Main Chance Roads she saw the smoke coming from the engine," stated Smith. "Escapule pulled over to the side of the road and at that time she saw that the hood of her car was bubbling. She backed the vehicle away from the cattle guard, got out of the vehicle and contacted 911."

Both the Tombstone Fire Department and Tombstone Marshal's Department responded to the car fire. It took the fire department six minutes from the time of dispatch to arrive on scene. Upon arriving fire personnel found the vehicle fully engulfed in flames. They pulled the hose, put out fire and then checked under the hood to make sure the fire was completely out.

According to Tombstone Marshal Smith, Escapule had recently had carburetor work done on her truck, "It was obviously not repaired," stated Smith.

— *The Tombstone News*

2008

August 8, 2008, *The Tombstone News*:

APS Donates Brush Truck To Tombstone Fire Department



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Aug 08, 2008

Though the main wild land season for Southern Arizona is almost over the threat of a brush fire is always possible in this area due to lightning strikes, tossed out cigarettes and sparks from passing vehicles.##M(READMORE)##

Recently, the Tombstone Fire Department acquired a Ford F550 4wd cab and chassis from the APS utility company. "The truck was donated by the APS," stated Grassman. "They usually auction off trucks they no longer use but they also donate to volunteer department who apply for it."

According to Grassman, the department will be putting a flat bed on the truck and a 400 gallon water tank. "It will be a Type 6 Brush Truck," stated Grassman. "With the 4wd, it will be very mobile and go almost anywhere."

— *The Tombstone News*

Mobile Home Fire On Colt Road



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Aug 08, 2008

On Friday August 1st, at approximately 2:30pm the Tombstone Fire Department was toned out to a structure fire on Colt Road in Holiday Estates.##M(READMORE)##

Smoke could be seen from miles away and many residents who live in the area stated they heard loud popping sounds coming from the fire.

According to Fire Chief Jesse Grassman when fire personnel arrived on scene a 1980's mobile home was in flames. "The property owner had just built a new home and were moving the mobile home across the property," stated Grassman. "They broke for lunch and when they returned they saw the structure smoking and by the time they realized what happened the entire structure was engulfed."

Grassman went on to say that the home owner asked that the building be left to burn. "It was empty of any furniture or items and was not hooked up to any utilities," stated Grassman. "The homeowner asked that the structure be allowed to burn so there would be less to clean up. We did as he asked and when it was almost completely burned we put out the remaining fire. The loud popping sound neighbors heard was from the tires exploding." According to Grassman there were no injuries or damage done except to the structure itself. Grassman stated that the cause of the fire is unknown but does not appear to be suspicious. — *The Tombstone News*

August 15, 2008, *The Tombstone News*:

Wrecks And Fights Keep Emergency Services Busy



Tombstone Trolley Hits Car

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Aug 15, 2008

According to Tombstone Marshal Smith, on Saturday August 9th the Tombstone Trolley was heading South on Fifth Street and was attempting to make a right hand turn onto Toughnut when the right rear bumper of the trolley caught the left front bumper of a 2006 Lexus.##M (READMORE)##

The Tombstone Fire Department was toned out by Cochise County Sheriff's Department to respond to the scene to try and unhook the two bumpers. As fire personnel arrived on scene the owner of the Lexus disengaged the two fenders. Smith stated that the trolley driver was cited by the Tombstone Marshal's Department for Failure to Control a Vehicle.

An afternoon of ATV riding for one local resident ended with a helicopter ride to Tucson.

According to Tombstone Marshal Smith on Sunday August 10th, 19 year old local resident Chris Ward was traveling on Cowan Ranch Road when he rolled his Yamaha Quad into a ditch and it landed on top of him. Ward was found injured by someone who worked on the ranch. Smith stated that Deputy Scott Behar was the first to arrive on scene. According to Smith a helicopter was originally launched by Deputy Behar, however prior to Health Care Innovations or Tombstone First Responders arriving on scene Behar cancelled the helicopter. When HCI received the specifics of the accident and the injuries sustained by Ward from the Tombstone Fire Department, HCI requested that the helicopter be re-launched. "Ward sustained fractured ribs and internal injuries," stated Smith. "Life Net landed at the scene of the accident and then transported Ward to Tucson." Smith went on to say that excessive speed was the explanation for the accident. "Apparently he was going too fast and lost control," stated Smith.

According to Tombstone Marshal Smith on Sunday August 10th Tombstone Deputy JD Demattio was dispatched to 255 N 9th Street for a disturbance in one of the apartments. "Apparently an individual, later found to be Jessie Smoaks, was fighting with someone and throwing things in one of the apartments," stated Smith. "When Deputy Demattio arrived on scene and approached Smoaks, Smoaks became violent and had to be subdued with a tazer gun." After Smoaks was restrained Demattio asked that Tombstone Fire Department and HCI be dispatched to the scene to examine the puncture wounds made by the Tazer. According to Smith, Smoaks had a warrant in Sierra Vista for Failure to Appear on several traffic violations and a non extraditable warrant in South Carolina. Deputy Demattio sustained no injuries. — *The Tombstone News*

October 10, 2008, *The Tombstone News*:

Tombstone Participates In Fire Prevention Week



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Oct 10, 2008

Tombstone Fire Department took part in National Fire Prevention Week by heading over to Walter J Meyer Elementary School to educate children on fire safety. ##M(READMORE)## Six Tombstone Fire Department members brought four fire trucks out for the kids to explore. Equipment was laid out on the ground for the students to see and of course the student's favorite thing was trying on the fire fighter's bunker gear. "This is something fire departments do nationally one time a year," stated Tombstone Fire Chief Jesse Grassman. "We come to the schools and talk with the kids about dialing 911, knowing two exits out of their home if there is a fire, not playing with fire and of course Stop Drop and Roll. It really seems to have done some good because we do not have many incidents of kids playing with fire."

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire; the tragic 1871 blaze killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

Those who survived the fire never forgot what they'd been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. But the fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally official over the years. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

Fire Prevention Week themes over the years include; Don't Give Fire a Place to Start, Fire Prevention is Your Job ...Too, Fire Hurts, Help Stop Fire, Things That Burn, Learn Not to Burn, Where There's Smoke...There Should Be a Smoke Alarm, You Are Not Alone! Partners in Fire Prevention, EDITH (Exit Drills in the Home), Join the Fire Prevention Team, Fire Drills Save Lives at Home at School at Work! Play It Safe...Plan Your Escape, A Sound You Can Live With: Test Your Smoke Detector, Big Fires Start Small: Keep Matches and Lighters in the Right Hands, Keep Your Place Fire safe: Hunt for Home Hazards, Fire Won't Wait...Plan Your Escape, Test Your Detector - It's Sound Advice! Get Out, Stay Out: Your Fire Safe Response, Test Your Detector For Life, Watch What You Heat: Prevent Home Fires! Let's Hear It For Fire Safety: Test Your Detectors! Know When to Go: React Fast to Fire, Fire Drills: The Great Escape! Cover the Bases & Strike Out Fire Team Up for Fire Safety, When Fire Strikes: Get Out! Stay Out! Use Candles With Care, Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat, Practice Your Escape Plan and Prevent Home Fires.

While the kids do get to enjoy seeing the equipment and sitting in the fire trucks the information they get truly has a good message and will hopefully save many lives.

— *The Tombstone News*

January 16, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

Council Votes For Tombstone To Have 24 Hour Dispatch Service

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jan 16, 2009

The main topic of discussion during January's Board of Police Commissioners Meeting was twenty-four hour dispatch service for the Tombstone Marshal's Department and all Tombstone Emergency Services. ##M(READMORE)##

The Commission's Co-Chairman Marshal Talvy began the discussion. "I would like to hire two more full time Dispatchers and three part time dispatchers which would give the city twenty-four hour continuous coverage," stated Talvy. According to Marshal Talvy, the five new hires would cost the department \$66,861.

Talvy then stated that the Marshal's Department has one unfilled deputy position at this time and if they held off on hiring for that position for one year that would only put the city over budget by \$20,682. However since the City of Tombstone currently pays \$38,000 for dispatching services with Cochise County, in the end the city would annually save \$17,130. Marshal Talvy then assured the board that even being short one deputy he is able to give the city twenty-four hour coverage and that twenty-four hour dispatching would benefit the community immensely. "By having the twenty-four hour dispatch we would improve accuracy and response times," stated Talvy. "There have been times when our deputies or firefighters have not been acknowledged during their response. There have been occasions when deputies are on traffic stops and were prevented from obtaining valuable information to either check status or criminal status placing them in an unsafe condition because county has placed them on hold due to high radio traffic." Talvy went on to say that at times, deputies are not given calls that come through county for up to twenty minutes.

Fire Chief Jesse Grassman then addressed the board. "This has been an ongoing problem that has slowly been getting worse," stated Grassman. "The county's dispatch times are off fifteen to twenty minutes which makes us look bad. When we respond we will call in and county will answer, but when we respond on scene and clear they won't answer. We have started calling them on our cell phones so we can update them." As well as the concerns Grassman had with the county's response time he also stated that when they started out with this dispatching agreement with the county the amount was \$12,000 and now it is \$38,000 and the service is only getting worse.

According to Marshal Talvy, since the county currently handles all 911 calls, Tombstone will have a system set up by Qwest for Tombstone at no cost. "Instead of going through county all calls will be one stop to our dispatch," stated Talvy.

Commissioner Hause then asked Marshal Talvy how many more 911 calls the city would receive. "At this time we generate around 60 calls per day," stated Marshal Talvy. "With the 911 calls we will likely get more emergency calls but at this time I cannot say exactly how many."

Chairman Escapule then asked Marshal Talvy to give the time frame for getting everything in place. "I want to have it up and running by March 1st by the latest," stated Marshal Talvy. "We have to run ads in the newspaper and give thirty days notice to the county and train the people who are hired. If it is approved I would like to begin hiring the part-timers immediately."

According to Talvy, Head Dispatcher Dee Jackson is certified to train all new hires.

Chairman Escapule then asked for a motion for the item to be passed and voted on by the City Council. The Commission passed the item unanimously with no further discussion.

Also discussed at the Board of Police Commissioners meeting by Marshal Talvy were the statistics for the month. According to Talvy there were 147 calls between 12/19/08 and 1/12/09. "We have seen an increase in animal problems and deceased persons," stated Talvy.

"We have had basic reports with no investigating. We are also investigating previous cases and have submitted reports on several investigations to the County Attorney's office."

Marshal Talvy then addressed the incident with the missing woman who was found dead outside Tombstone City limits. "We had great help from the Tombstone Fire Department, Cochise County Sheriff's Office and Border Patrol," stated Talvy. "We did unfortunately find the woman deceased but the other department's cooperation was much appreciated."

Another incident addressed by Marshal Talvy was the accident that occurred on Yellow Jacket Way and Highway 80 last week. "We are thankful we haven't had more accidents in that area," stated Talvy. "We will be monitoring Yellow Jacket Way, 8th Street and Camino San Rafael." Commissioner Troncale then asked Marshal Talvy what the status was on Deputy Dematteo who is currently on administrative leave for tasing an individual last week. "The situation is currently under investigation by the Cochise County Sheriff's Department and our department," stated Talvy. "We should have a final answer by the end of this week or mid next week."

The Tombstone News spoke with Marshal Talvy after the meeting to find out when 911 calls will begin coming through TMO instead of county. "The current 911 system will stay intact at this time," stated Marshal Talvy. "I want to get twenty four hour dispatch coverage in order to provide safety and timely responses and see how smoothly the system runs and then I will submit the cost of the 911 system which can run up to \$400,000 to the state, which will cover cost of the new equipment." — *The Tombstone News*

January 30, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

Restaurant Owner Calls Emergency Services For Slow Death Of Business

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jan 30, 2009

According to Carol Capas Information Officer for the Cochise County Sheriff's Department, on Saturday January 24th at 5:09pm Sylvia Prysant owner of the Lamplight Room Restaurant called 911 and requested that the dispatcher send over a Deputy because she was dying a slow death.

Tombstone Marshal's Deputy JJ Norris was the deputy who responded to call. "When I arrived at the business Prysant told me that she had called to file a complaint because the Marshal no longer allowed businesses to distribute handbills to tourists on Allen Street. Prysant stated that, that one act was going to have her business dying a slow death," stated Norris.##M (READMORE)##

When Prysant called dispatchers at county, as is procedure in medical situations the dispatcher toned out the Tombstone Deputies, Tombstone EMT's and HCI. According to Tombstone Fire Chief Jesse Grassman, when fire personnel or EMT's are toned out to a scene they usually respond from their homes. "The volunteers leave their homes, travel as rapidly and safely as they can to the fire department, get on their gear and then in this case they ran code (lights and sirens) down Fremont Street to Fourth Street to the Lamplight Room," stated Grassman. Grassman went on to say that when the fire department arrived they were told they were not needed and left. Though they did not treat the supposed victim in this case, each fire fighter/EMT who responded to the call will receive their standard ten dollars in pay, which they receive for most calls they respond to.

The Tombstone News contacted Sylvia Prysant regarding the incident. "I believe I have gotten caught in the crossfire between Steve Goldstein, Mike Caraffa, and Kim Herrig," stated Prysant. "They are all at each other's throats and because of that the new Marshal is enforcing the handbill ordinance, which the past Marshal did not enforce because there are conflicting handbill ordinances." Prysant went on to say that she purchased the restaurant with the understanding that in order to make it a success she had to hand out flyers on Allen Street. "I have come to believe anyone with an off Allen Street business must advertise on Allen Street in order to survive," stated Prysant. "And not being able to hand out my flyers it is killing my business." Prysant went on to say that she is the only off Allen Street business that cannot point to the actual location. "Heldorado Town, the Mine Tour and the trolley can all point to a specific location. I am too far off of Allen Street to point to my business so the flyer is the only tactile thing I can give people."

Prysant then stated because she was not allowed to distribute handbills this past weekend she did half the business she normally would have done. "I struggle everyday to keep this historic location alive," stated Prysant. "I am told all the time by people that they never would have found my business unless I had shown them the way. They also tell me that I am the first decent meal they have had while in town. I was extremely frustrated and wanted a deputy to document what the ordinance enforcement was doing to my business so I called the Marshal's Department and was connected to a dispatcher. I told them I needed to talk to the marshal or a deputy to document the slow death of my business," stated Prysant. The Tombstone News spoke to CCSIO Carol Capas who stated that Prysant had dialed 911 and had made no mention of the business dying a slow death. Prysant responded to this by stating that she had been very upset and did not recall her exact words, "I know that I did not dial 911 but the local Marshal's number," stated Prysant. "And then suddenly there were paramedics and deputies at my business."

According to Tombstone Marshal Larry Talvy, they will not cite Prysant. "Even though she called I do not believe that she meant to cause trouble," stated Marshal Talvy. "I believe she was frustrated, this type of thing does not happen very often."

According to Prysant she does not feel she has any recourse with the city. However, according to Tombstone City Hall, Prysant has been given a special permit application with which she can request the Mayor and Council for a variance to be allowed to hand out flyers on the street. Prysant needs to fill out the application, attach a letter as to why she needs the variance and a letter from the business which she wants to stand in front of stating that the Allen Street Merchant will grant her permission to hand out flyers within 15 feet in front of the business. According to Prysant, she has not had the time yet to fill out and return the application. "I got the application but I have been so stressed out over the situation and busy with work that I have not been able to do it yet," stated Prysant.

Prysant then stated that she has filed official complaints with the Marshal that the Longhorn Restaurant and Crystal Palace are violating city ordinance 2-1-9 by having too many signs on their business. DESIGN AND SIGNAGE GUIDELINES states that no more than two signs may be displayed per business or residence in the historic district, except that a third sign may be hung from a building overhang or porch, if applicable. Variance on the number of signs per business or residence may be sought under extraordinary circumstances, by special application to the board.

"If they are going to enforce ordinances then they have to enforce them on everyone who is out of compliance," stated Prysant. "I am tired of being in the middle of the crossfire. If I'm going to get pushed, I'm going to push back." — *The Tombstone News*

February 6, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

Fleeing Vehicle On Highway 80 Results In Rollover



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Feb 06, 2009

According to Joy Craig, Information Officer for the Department of Public Safety, a two vehicle minor injury collision on February 1st, 2009 ended with one driver fleeing the scene on foot.##M(READMORE)##

The vehicle accident occurred on State Route 80 at 9:22 p.m. at mile marker 309 which is several miles past the Border Patrol Check Point at SR 80 and 82. According to Craig, a 2001 Volkswagen Jetta was traveling at a high rate of speed and attempted to pass a 2001 Kia Van as they both traveled northbound. The Volkswagen sideswiped the Kia causing the Volkswagen to go off the road and roll one time. After the car stopped the driver of the Volkswagen pulled herself out of the vehicle and fled the scene on foot. The Kia van came to a stop on the shoulder of the roadway.

The Department of Public Safety, Border Patrol, Tombstone Fire Department, Health Care Innovations and St. David Fire responded to the scene. DPS and Border Patrol searched for the Volkswagen driver who fled the scene while Tombstone Fire Department and Health Care Innovations attended to the family of four in the KIA Van including two small children in car seats. According to Craig, no serious injuries were sustained. "One of the adult occupants in the van received a bump to the head during the collision, but refused transport to the hospital" stated Craig. "And the investigation is continuing."

The Tombstone News

March 6, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Devastates Local Family



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Mar 06, 2009

According to Tombstone Fire Chief Jesse Grassman, on Saturday February 28, 2009 at 8:08 p.m. the Tombstone Fire was dispatched to a structure fire on Old Charleston Road.

The fire was called in by a neighbor who informed Cochise County dispatcher that there were possibly children inside the home. Tombstone Fire Department Captains Jeff Fought and Christopher Littlejohn were the first to arrive on scene in Engine 1 at 8:16 p.m. and were immediately followed by Firefighters/EMT's Dick and Linda Baker and Chief Grassman.##M (READMORE)##

"Immediately upon arriving on scene I talked with the home owner to find out if anyone was inside," stated Grassman. While Grassman was talking to the homeowner the other firefighters on scene secured the utilities and then pulled the hose line. According to Grassman, two rooms were engulfed and the windows had already busted out due to the fire. "Firefighters Baker and Littlejohn attacked the fire through the open window until I was able to ascertain that no one was in the house," stated Grassman. "When we had conformation that the house was empty, Baker and Littlejohn went through the front door and put out the fire."

According to Grassman, they only used 250 gallons of water to put out the fire and 500 gallons during mop up. "Mop up is when we make sure that the fire is 100% out," stated Grassman. "Many times there can be embers smoldering that are not visible."

After the fire had been put out Chief Grassman called Fry Fire Department Investigator Mike Lebreque. Lebreque was unable to arrive until the next morning. In order to preserve the scene, Tombstone Fire personnel took shifts watching the house throughout the night. "We are unable to discuss the cause of the fire until all the reports have been submitted to the insurance company," stated Grassman. "However I can say that it is considered an accident."

The home belonged to the Maldonado family. longtime Tombstone residents.

The Maldonado family has an account set up at the Tombstone Federal Credit Union under Lori Maldonado, account number 7100 if you would like to make a donation. There will also be a benifit dance at Ringo's Bar on March 14th.

— *The Tombstone News*

2009

March 13, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

Tombstone Loses Local Fireman And City Employee



Robin Silverman

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Mar 13, 2009

Tombstone lost one of its finest and bravest this week with the sudden passing of Robin Silverman. Better known as K-9 around town. Robin moved to Tombstone from Boca Raton, Florida with his wife then Ruth in 1996 with the intention of opening a Bed and Breakfast named "Cowboy Bunkhouse." ##M(READMORE)##

Robin is most well known for his time as Tombstone's K-9 officer and as a Tombstone Fire Fighter. Robin was the Tombstone Animal Control Officer with the Marshal's Office from December 1998 until 2005; during this time he held various positions with the Marshal's Office which included Special Projects Coordinator, Firearms Instructor, Firearms Armorer and Range Master. In 2005, Robin went to a retired status and took a two year break. When his former college friend Larry Talvy was appointed Marshal, Robin came back as a part time animal control officer and to of course keep an eye on Marshal Talvy.

"Robin was the Animal Control Officer when I was Mayor in 2000 to 2004," stated Mayor Escapule. He was always a dedicated employee and good friend."

In 2003 Robin also became involved with the Tombstone Fire Department and continued to serve as a Volunteer until his passing. During his time on the department Robin worked as an Engineer, responded to numerous calls and would train new recruits on equipment and department procedure. "Robin was a vital part of the department," stated Tombstone Fire Chief Jesse Grassman. "He took it upon himself to train and educate new members and was always there if we needed a helping hand. As well as being an important part of the department he was also a friend and he will be missed."

March 13, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

Robin was a man of many hidden talents and enjoyed many pastimes. "Robin was a world class craftsman," stated longtime friend and fire department colleague Chris Townsend. "His designs were incredible. He was working to convert his two story home into a six to eight room bed and breakfast and it was almost finished. The work he did in that home was absolutely amazing and he did it all on his own." As well as being a craftsman, Robin also enjoyed being outdoors, hiking the Dragoon Mountains and looking for rocks for his collection which he would polish to bring out their natural beauty. Plus like any good Tombstonian Robin collected guns and pistols and frequented gun shows. Robin was also a scuba diver and became an instructor while living in Boca Raton, Florida. "I loved to watch his eyes light up when he was talking about diving and wishing he could still do it," stated Laura Jones friend and City of Tombstone employee. Robin was also an exceptional Chef; he was the backup griller at the fire station and was famous for his chili. "Once you tasted his cooking there was no surprise that Robin wanted to open a bed and breakfast," stated Chris Townsend. "He was an extremely talented chef."

During his time in Tombstone, Robin left an impact on those who were fortunate enough to know him. Perhaps one of the first things to draw people in was his deep, rumbling, slow as molasses baritone voice. "I asked him once why he talked so slow," stated Dee Jackson friend and TMO Dispatcher. "He told me that, that was how he was taught to speak." There was never any doubt who was on the radio when Robin signed in, T...M...O this is K...9. Though his voice was unforgettable it was his kindheartedness, generous spirit and sense of humor which his friends will remember.

"Robin used to scold me anytime I used foul language in front of Linda one of the other firefighters," stated Chris Littlejohn, friend and fire department colleague. "He said we weren't supposed to cuss in front of a lady. We always used to tell him Linda wasn't a lady but one of the guys. But the funniest thing was when Jeff Fought ran the meetings at the fire station, Jeff would come out with tons of paper work to go over and Robin would sit on the back passenger side of Engine 1, he would sit back and cross his arms, one second he would be awake and the next, his eyes would be closed he'd have a bit of drool coming down and he would start snoring. He did everything we wanted to do.

Those who knew Robin agree that he was generous and kind but also expressed how he felt about topics he was passionate about. "Robin was very opinionated about the politics of the town," stated Jesse Grassman. "You never had to guess how Robin felt about someone. Robin would say things just to get a reaction out of you and then five minutes later you would be laughing about it. You knew he was doing it because he had a certain look in his eyes."

"Robin and I were on the department for six years together and one of my favorite memories was going out for our monthly dinners," stated friend and firefighter Jon Allmon. "Robin was straight forward and didn't believe in beating around the bush, but he would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it and if he didn't have it to give, he would find it."

"Robin was always concerned about the safety of his colleagues," stated Marshal Talvy. "There were many times when he would come out on his own time to watch the other deputy's backs while they were on a scene just to be another set of eyes. This is a very difficult time for me as Robin stood by me threw thick and thin throughout my career as an employee here. He was very dependable and he would have given the ultimate sacrifice for me. He was an exceptional friend and a big part of my family."

Those who knew Robin will remember his slow smile, quick sneaky wit and his never ending generosity. Though Robin was taken from us far too soon his spirit and memory will live on in his friend's hearts and spirits. So until we meet again on the other side and hear your gravelly voice saying 'Ya et eeh my brother' we will miss you may you rest in peace.

There will be a walk down held for Robin on March 23rd beginning at 10 a.m.; lineup will begin at 9:30 a.m. The walk down will be followed at 11:15 a.m. by a memorial service held at Schieffelin Hall with a lunch served after. — *The Tombstone News*

March 27, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

Memorial For Firefighter/Animal Control Officer Robin Silverman



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Mar 27, 2009

Tombstone paid its last respects to Firefighter/Animal Control Officer Robin Silverman on Monday March 23, 2009 with a traditional procession down historic Allen Street followed by a moving memorial service at Schieffelin Hall. [##M\(READMORE\)##](#)

Silverman passed away suddenly March 7, 2009 from a heart attack while visiting friends in Texas. To honor his memory the Tombstone Fire Department invited a number of fire department's and law enforcement agencies throughout Cochise County to participate in the procession. Firefighter funerals are full of traditions one of which is sending department representatives to the funeral of a firefighter in a neighboring community. The tradition is done to show respect towards fellow firefighters in the fire service.

The fire departments and law enforcement agencies that were represented in the procession were; Bisbee Fire Department, Benson Fire Department, Douglas Fire Department, Fry Fire Department, Huachuca City Fire Department, Mescal Fire Department, Sunnyside Fire Department, Tombstone Fire Department, Whetstone Fire Department, , Cochise County Sheriff's Department, Patagonia Police Department, and Tombstone Marshal's Department. Two helicopters also flew above the procession, Lifeline 3 and Life net 6. There were also ambulances from Health Care Innovations and Arizona Ambulance. Also present were Douglas Honor Guard, the Cochise County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard and Border Patrol sent a representative to play the bagpipes. The tradition of bagpipes played at fire department funerals in the United States goes back over one hundred fifty years. Those who have been to funerals when bagpipes play know how haunting and mournful the sound of the pipes can be. The bagpipes added a special air and dignity to the solemn occasion. Also in the procession were the Tombstone Vigilettes, other locals and the Tombstone American Legion Riders who wanted to pay tribute to Silverman.

The memorial service at Schieffelin Hall was presided over by Reverend Tim Ferrick. Mayor Escapule, Marshal Talvy, Chief Grassman and friends of Silverman spoke to the crowd about their memories of Robin. The final and most touching moment of the service was the last call. Cochise County Dispatchers called out Silverman's Tombstone Fire Department number three times and ended by saying "Rest in Peace, you will be missed." — *The Tombstone News*

May 1, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

MAN INJURED IN MOTOR HOME FIRE



Photo courtesy of Richard Yates

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, May 01, 2009

According to Tombstone Marshal Talvy, what began as an RV repair ended up as a structure fire with one person being flown to St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson. ##M(READMORE)##

On Monday April 27, 2009 at 3:00pm a call came into the Marshal's Department that an RV was on fire at 117 Toughnut Street. Tombstone dispatchers immediately toned out Tombstone Fire Department and all available Marshals' Deputies responded to the scene. "T-12 (K-9 Officer Everett's) was the first on scene, and he helped the gentleman who was burned away from the fire and went to see if anyone else was inside," stated Marshal Talvy. "As I was responding I asked if any other structures were on fire. At first Officer Everett's said no, but almost immediately he came back and said that the house adjacent to the RV had caught on fire."

According to Tombstone Fire Chief Grassman, Tombstone Fire Department arrived on the scene eight minutes after the original tone out. "First on scene were Captain's Chris Littlejohn and Jeff Fought who arrived in Engine 1," stated Grassman. "Next were myself and JD Dotson in Tender. About thirty minutes later Mike Casillas, Adam Casillas and Oscar Alvarado arrived in Brush 3." Fire personnel immediately began to put out the RV and the house. "The RV was a total loss, nothing was salvageable," stated Grassman. "Fortunately we were able to contain the fire in the house to one bedroom and some attic space, plus some water and minor smoke damage."

Grassman went on to thank those citizens who helped on scene. "We were short handed and are very grateful to everyone outside the department who helped," stated Grassman.

According to Marshal Talvy, the fire began when Shay Scott was repairing the RV. "He (Scott) was attempting to start the RV and it was not starting so he took a plastic gas can and fed the gas through a tube into the carburetor," stated Marshal Talvy. "It backfired and caught the hose on fire. Scott dragged the gas can out of the motor home and the fire followed and burned his hands just a bit past his wrists." Scott was transported to Tombstone Fire Station where a helicopter flew him to St. Mary's Hospital. Thankfully this was the only injury.

Marshal Talvy expressed his concern regarding the citizens who helped with the fire. "Citizens came over with a hose to help put out the fire. These people were not properly attired or trained to fight a fire," stated Marshal Talvy. "At one point a propane tank blew which could have hurt someone." Marshal Talvy also asked that people not call dispatcher for information, "We had people calling the dispatcher and asking them what was going on," stated Marshal Talvy. "And the dispatchers were busy trying to communicate with emergency personnel on scene."

In order to make sure there were no flare ups after the fire had been put out, fire personnel stayed on scene for another six hours. According to Marshal Talvy, because the fire was on private property at this time no citations will be written.

— *The Tombstone News*

May 29, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Department Builds New Brush Truck Just In Time For Wildfire Season



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, May 29, 2009

In August of 2008, Arizona Public Service utility company donated a Ford F550 4wd cab and chase to the Tombstone Fire Department. According to Tombstone Fire Chief Jesse Grassman, through the generosity of other donations; including toolboxes donated by Huachuca City Fire Department and a 400 gallon water tank from another source, they have outfitted the truck. "The only thing the department had to buy was the bed for the truck," stated Grassman.##M (READMORE)##

With the addition of the new type 6 brush truck now on the fire department vehicle roster, Chief Grassman stated that one of the current brush trucks will be retired from state contract. "Being under state contract just means that when the truck responds to a wildland fire, the truck gets paid for its time out of the city," stated Grassman. "The state prefers to have newer trucks under contract and the new F550 is a 2001, plus with the 4wd, it will be very mobile and go almost anywhere."

According to Grassman, since the beginning of the year, Tombstone Fire Department trucks and members have responded to eighteen wildland fires in Cochise County, seven of which burned more than three hundred acres.

Though wildland fires can start naturally by lightning strikes, according to Chief Grassman, ninety percent of the Wildland Fires this year and in year's past have been started by human error. Human error wildland fires can begin with still burning cigarette butts being thrown out of vehicles, trucks dragging unsecured chains along the roadway; illegal campfires and refuse burning, illegal aliens will also start fires to distract law enforcement and emergency personnel. "Most wildland fires start when someone is burning brush and it gets away from them," stated Grassman.

This was the case last year in Old Bisbee when 64 year old James Charles Ray started a brush fire on his property on March 20, 2008. The blaze was named the Moon Canyon fire and burned more than 800 acres of natural wild lands and threatened structures. Ray claims he had a burn permit and will be going to trial in October of 2009.

At this time Chief Grassman is not issuing burn permits for Tombstone residents and the surrounding county area. "It is not possible for me to give an exact time when I can start issuing permits again; it mainly depends on when the rains starts," stated Grassman.

Though forecasters are predicting an early monsoon season this year, according to Grassman, the best defense against wildfires is preparing your home. Grassman suggests clearing leaves, trash and other combustible materials away from underneath sun decks and porches and creating safety zones around your home of at least thirty feet. "All vegetation is fuel for a wildfire, though some trees and shrubs are more flammable than others," stated Grassman. "To reduce the risk, you should change or remove brush, trees and other vegetation near your home. The greater the distance is between your home and the vegetation, the greater the protection." For more information on protecting your home from wildland fires go to www.fema.gov/hazard/wildfire/wf_prepare.shtm.

— *The Tombstone News*

June 5, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

24 HOUR AMBULANCE SERVICE COMING TO TOMBSTONE

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jun 05, 2009

For the past several years, Tombstone residents have been requesting from their elected officials that 24 hour ambulance service be provided for the town and its surrounding areas. However, due to funding issues that service has not been possible until Mayor Escapule, Tombstone Fire Chief Grassman and Health Care Innovations (HCI) General Manager Dorothy Porter sat down and found a solution which would benefit the entire community, as well as being cost effective. ##M(READMORE)##

"We will be housing an HCI ambulance in Tombstone and the EMT's who run it will be HCI employees that are scheduled and called out on a paid on-call basis," stated Porter. According to Porter, the idea came to fruition after a series of meetings between HCI, Grassman and Mayor Escapule. "We met with Jesse (Chief Grassman) and discussed the feasibility of the idea and then with Mayor Escapule," stated Porter. "We all want to provide the residents of Tombstone with the best healthcare service possible."

Porter stated that on-call staffing differs from purely volunteer staffing as the EMT's that are on-call must respond no matter what they are doing, whereas volunteers may not be able to respond because of other conflicts. "The EMT's can stand-by at the station but it will not be required, however, because they are scheduled there will always be someone to respond in a speedy manner," stated Porter.

The Tombstone ambulance will be running under HCI's Certificate of Necessity, and will provide the same service that would be provided by any BLS ambulance. BLS or Basic Life Support units are staffed with two licensed EMT's. These EMT's will be able to treat patients under specific guidelines, transport patients to the hospital of their choice, call for helicopters and landing zones, as well as having medical direction from St. Joseph's Hospital in Tucson. Medical Direction allows EMT's to consult with hospital doctors on various issues including; administering certain medications or to ascertain the doctor's opinion if a patient refuses and EMT's feel they should be transported. "We will still be sending out an ALS ambulance out on serious calls," stated Porter. ALS or Advanced Life Support units are staffed with at least one paramedic and one EMT.

Prior to even knowing that this type of service was an option, HCI Paramedic K.D. Corcoran had been teaching an EMT class at the Tombstone Fire Station. "K.D. taught this class for free during her own spare time to improve the knowledge of the fire department staff," stated Porter. "As for the Tombstone ambulance staff, we are leaving it up to Chief Grassman to do the hiring but I believe we will, depending on test scores, be hiring a majority of the staff from this class." The cost to the residents to have the ambulance housed and staffed on the paid on-call basis is zero. "We will be providing the ambulance, supplies, and paying the staff," stated Porter. "The citizens of Tombstone said they wanted an ambulance and we want to do what is best for the Tombstone community and provide the best service possible."

According to Porter they have a target date of July 1, 2009 to have the ambulance service up and running. Porter and Grassman both stated that if there were non-fire department persons interested in being part of the paid on-call staff that they should contact Chief Grassman at 457-3742.

— *The Tombstone News*

June 26, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

Four Minors Involved In A Roll Over On Middle March Road



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jun 26, 2009

According to Cochise County Public Information Officer Carol Capas, on Saturday June 13, 2009, at approximately 5 p.m., Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to mile marker six on Middle March Road for a vehicle roll over.##M(READMORE)##

"Matthew Freeman was driving his Kia Sedona east bound on Middle March Road when he lost control of the vehicle and it struck an embankment on the east side of the road," stated Capas. "The vehicle was estimated to have rolled two times before landing in a culvert."

Freeman was not alone in the vehicle. According to Capas, there were five passengers, in the minivan, including four minors. "There was an eleven year old boy, a nine year old boy, a six year old boy and a ten year old girl as well as an adult male passenger," stated Capas. Capas went on to say that the eleven year old boy and ten year old girl were treated at the scene by Tombstone Fire Personnel and Health Care Innovations for minor cuts and bruises. Transport to the local hospital was refused.

According to Capas over the past year there have been six vehicular accidents on Middle March Road.

— *The Tombstone News*

July 3, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

Tombstone EMT'S Await Federal Certifications For Ambulance

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jul 03, 2009

Although the target date of July 1, 2009 to have the on call 24-hour ambulance service operational in Tombstone has passed. Tombstone Fire Chief Jesse Grassman stated that the ambulance is still coming; it will just take a bit more time.##M(READMORE)##

"There are still a number of people who are waiting to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians exam," stated Grassman. "The waiting list is unbelievable long." Grassman went on to say in the meantime people who will be working for HCI are already obtaining their Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Certificate.

The idea of the ambulance came about after a series of meetings between Health Care Innovations (HCI) General Manager Dorothy Porter, Chief Grassman and Mayor Escapule. In order to serve the community without burdening the city's budget, it was decided that HCI will house an ambulance in Tombstone and the EMT's who run it will be HCI employees that are scheduled and called out on a paid on-call basis. The Tombstone ambulance will be running under HCI's Certificate of Necessity, and will provide the same service that would be provided by any BLS ambulance. The cost to the residents to have the ambulance housed and staffed on the paid on-call basis is zero. "We will be providing the ambulance, supplies and paying the staff," stated Porter.

The Tombstone News will continue to update our readers on the on-call ambulance. — *The Tombstone News*

July 10, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

CAR FIRE SPARKS A FIST FIGHT



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jul 10, 2009

On the afternoon of July 9, 2009, Tombstone Fire Department and Marshal's Deputies were toned out to respond to a car that was on fire in front of Nellie Cashman's Restaurant on Fifth and Toughnut Streets.##M(READMORE)##

According to Marshal Talvy a 2002 Ford Expedition owned by St David resident Stephen Fairfield caught on fire while parked on Fifth Street. "No one was in the vehicle at the time the fire started," stated Marshal Talvy. "Though we are still investigating, it is more than likely that the fire was due to faulty electrical wiring." Talvy went on to say that many 2002 Ford Expeditions have been recalled for that reason.

Though the Tombstone Fire Department quickly got the blaze under control, a second situation was simmering and about to erupt. According to Marshal Talvy, when the fire was first spotted a local resident went over to Peanut's Barber Shop which is located next to Nellie Cashman's on Fifth Street and told the owner Bryan Ornsby that his Corvette was parked behind the burning Expedition and that he should move his vehicle so it did not catch on fire. "Ornsby was on his way to move the vehicle when Matt Carrafa told Ornsby he needed to move his car or it was going to burn," stated Marshal Talvy. "Apparently there was a verbal exchange and Ornsby said he would talk to Matt after he moved his vehicle." According to Talvy they are investigating what happened next. "Deputy Olivas was dealing with the car fire; he turned around and saw two guys fighting in front of Six Gun City. Olivas had to refocus off the car to deal with the fight. At this time we are still investigating who assaulted who first, however both men were cited at the scene for Disorderly Conduct and I believe more charges will be filed," stated Marshal Talvy. As for the Ford Expedition, Tombstone Fire Department had an outstanding response time of eight minutes, they were able to save the vehicle's body but inside the engine compartment was burned. — *The Tombstone News*

August 28, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

Two Motorcycles Crash At The Same Time On Charleston Road

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Aug 28, 2009

According to Cochise County Sheriff's Department Public Information Officer Carol Capas, on the evening of August 26th two motorcyclists who were traveling west on Charleston Road lost control, crashed and had to be airlifted to Tucson. ##M(READMORE)##

"The two bikes were heading around the S curve at approximately mile marker fourteen point two when one of the bikes went off the road, down a ravine and through a fence," stated Capas. "The second biker lost control near the first one and he slid along the asphalt for several hundred yards."

The 911 call was responded to by Cochise County Sheriff's Deputies, Tombstone Marshal's Deputies as well as Tombstone Fire Department. Charleston Road was closed in both directions for approximately one hour and traffic control was done by Tombstone Marshal's and Tombstone Fire.

When Tombstone medics arrived on scene they immediately gave Health Care Innovations status reports on both patients. At that time Health Care Innovations launched two helicopters to the scene. Life net 6 arrived and landed on Charleston Road directed by Tombstone Fire Department Captain Jon Allmon. Life net 12 also landed on Charleston Road after Life net 6 was airborne. Both men were flown to Tucson.

According to Capas, due to the seriousness of their injuries, Sheriff's Deputies were unable to interview the patients; however, speed does appear to be a factor in the crashes. — *The Tombstone News*

October 23, 2009 *The Tombstone News*:

Truck Intended For Transporting Illegal Immigrants Burns



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Oct 23, 2009

A truck which was possibly going to be used to transport illegal immigrants caught fire in front of the Boothill Trading Post Gift shop. ##M(READMORE)##

According to Tombstone Marshal Larry Talvy, on Friday October 16, 2009, a Ford Pick Up truck driven by a 19 year old man was coming into Tombstone when the vehicle began leaking transmission fluid and fuel. "The fluid began dripping onto the exhaust pipe and the engine block causing the fire," stated Marshal Talvy. "The young man pulled the truck into the parking lot in front of Boothill Trading Post." Boothill Trading Post is directly across the parking lot from Boothill Cemetery. "The employee at the business called 911 and when I arrived I saw flames coming out of the bottom of the truck," stated Marshal Talvy. "The fire department arrived in a very timely manner but the truck was already fully engulfed and a total loss."

After the fire was put out and everyone was cleared from the scene, the Marshal's Department received a tip, "A man who had been on the scene overheard the driver say something about the vehicle being used to pick up illegal immigrants. By the time the tip came in the driver was already gone" stated Marshal Talvy. Marshal Talvy went on to say that the information about the registered owner of the vehicle has been passed on to Immigration Customs Enforcement to be looked into.

Thankfully, no persons or businesses were harmed by the vehicle fire.

— *The Tombstone News*

January 8, 2010 *The Tombstone News*:

Family Loses Roof In New Years Day Fire



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jan 08, 2010

According to Tombstone Fire Department Captain Jon Allmon, on Friday January 1, 2010 at approximately 3:18 PM a tone came out for a structure fire on Mesa Circle. The home is owned by Robert and Jeanie Bristow.##M(READMORE)##

Allmon stated that he and fire fighter Mike Carrafa Jr. arrived on scene at 3:30pm and saw white smoke coming from the vents. "White smoke means that a fire is in the starting stage," stated Allmon. Allmon then stated that he told the fire fighter to get the ladder from the truck. Cochise County Deputy JC Villa, who arrived on scene earlier was on the roof when the Tombstone Fire Department arrived, at that point Caffafa went on the roof and could see smoke coming out of a small hole. "They got axes and ventilated the roof and the fire was put out within four minutes," stated Allmon.

Due to it being a holiday, seven fire fighters rushed back into the city to help with mop up. According to Allmon, the mop up stage is when the department checks the roof for any live embers or hot spots. Several hot spots ended up being found and the department had to cut a large hole in the roof.

According to Allmon, they finished checking the house for hot spots and cleaning up at 6 PM. As to the cause of the fire, Allmon stated that there was no arson but the actual cause of the fire is undetermined.

There was no harm to any of the family members or their pets.

Robert and Jeanie Bristow would like to thank J C Villa for his quick response and his immediate action before the fire department arrived and all of the fire personel for their quick response and the proffessional way they handled the situation. "They saved our home " sated Jeanie Bristow. We also want to thank all of our friends and neighbors for their help during this hard time for us.

— The Tombstone News

January 15, 2010 *The Tombstone News*:

Driver Hits Gas Line Causing Evacuation Of Two Homes

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jan 15, 2010

According to Tombstone Marshal Talvy, on January 12, 2010 at approximately 9:30 pm a vehicle drove into a gas meter breaking the line and causing natural gas to escape.##M(READMORE)##

"An individual drove in an area where a vehicle should not be driven," stated Marshal Talvy. "It was not an area that should have been accessed by a vehicle and the person was driving in the dark."

As soon as the gas line was hit, Tombstone Fire Department was toned out. According to Fire Chief Grassman the line was broken just about ground level and you could hear the gas coming out. "Tombstone Fire Department evacuated two households consisting of four people," stated Chief Grassman. "We then secured and patrolled the area to make sure the fumes were not affecting other residences." Chief Grassman went on to say that a breeze coming out of the southeast helped dissipate the gas fumes.

The fire department continued to secure the scene and to check the homes until the Southwest Gas Construction Crew and a service tech from Whetstone arrived which took a total of 45 minutes. "After the line was dug up and they stopped the leak they took over the scene and that is when the fire department left," stated Grassman.

According to Marshal Talvy, they will not know all the details until they talk to the suspect; however, the incidence does look suspicious and they will charge the individual accordingly.

— The Tombstone News

January 15, 2010 *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Department Offers Service Agreement To Areas Outside The City

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jan 15, 2010

The Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department has been a central part of the community for the past 128 years. The dedicated men and women on the department give their time in order to protect the citizens of Tombstone.##M(READMORE)##

However, as the area outside of the city limits has grown, so has the area which the Tombstone Fire Department has had to protect.

Growth and numerous calls outside the city limits, which the city government and residents of Tombstone are financially responsible, are the main reasons that the city council adopted Ordinance 2010-01 an amendment to Title 6, Chapter 1, of the Tombstone City Code authorizing the Fire Department to execute on behalf of the City of Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department a Subscription Service Agreement for those who reside in the County area outside of Tombstone. The Service Subscription Agreement is available to residential owners who want to protect their houses, mobile homes, garages and other structures on their residential property at a cost of \$250 a year. County residents with commercial businesses on their property can also purchase the Service Subscription Agreement for \$500 per year.

The fire department will still respond to calls at the city airport, Schieffelin Monument, garbage dump and City water storage areas as well as unincorporated areas within Cochise County not covered by other fire districts. All other businesses and home owners who want emergency and fire protection will need to purchase the service agreement.

By purchasing the Service Subscription Agreement the Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department will provide fire protection services to the property that was listed on the property owner's contract. The agreement goes on to say the services will be provided subject to the availability of the resources of the fire department as determined by the sole discretion of the Tombstone Fire Chief or a designated senior member, based upon the personnel and equipment that are available at that time.

Under the agreement the fire department will also respond to medical emergencies and provide any needed care within the training and scope of practice of the responding members. The contract goes on to say that the fire department does not provide ambulance service or other transportation in medical emergencies. The Certificate of Necessity for ambulance service is currently held by Health Care Innovations and only they are authorized by the Arizona Department of Health Services to provide emergency transportation. The service agreement does not cover the expense of any services provided by Health Care Innovations, or any other third party provider. Tombstone Fire Department will provide appropriate care to stabilize and comfort the patient and remain with the patient until they are no longer needed or until the patients care can be transferred to another agency which will provide an equal or higher level of care.

According to the agreement, the fire department will not provide services in conditions that will expose its responder to hazardous materials or that in the opinion of the lead responding officer, pose any special dangers to the responders. It will be the responsibility of the property owner at their own expense to properly remove and dispose of any hazardous materials as defined by either state or federal law.

It is an annual agreement which must be paid in advance. In the event of any sale or transfer of the property protected by the agreement, the home will be protected until the end of the agreement term. It is then the responsibility of the new homeowner to renew the contract. The agreement also states that Tombstone Fire Department employees will endeavor to provide the property owner with the same level of services that are provided to the residents of the City of Tombstone.

The Tombstone News spoke to Fire Chief Grassman regarding the new Subscription Service Agreement according to Grassman, emergency calls out in the county have been growing and the cost is being covered by the city government and Tombstone residents. This cost was growing so large that it was either have Subscription Service Agreement or the department would have to stop responding to the county all together. Grassman also stated that a department representative would be going door to door to all the homes and businesses in the county area to let them know about the service agreement and to let them know what the costs will be per hour if the department responds to a home or business that does NOT have a Subscription Service Agreement.

— *The Tombstone News*

February 5, 2010 *The Tombstone News*:

Attempted Arson At The Crystal Palace Under Investigation

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Feb 05, 2010

According to Tombstone Marshal Talvy, the Marshal's Department is currently investigating a incident which occurred at the Crystal Palace on Saturday January 31, 2010. "An individual attempted to start a fire at the Crystal Palace," stated Marshal Talvy. ##M(READMORE)## "We are currently reviewing evidence and following up on investigative leads and with witnesses. Marshal Talvy went on to say that there are many rumors circulating throughout town, however, they cannot confirm or deny anything because it could compromise the investigation. "All I can say is that someone did try to start a fire at the Crystal Palace and that we are going to do everything in our power to catch the individual," stated Marshal Talvy. Tombstone is no stranger to fire; a relative lack of water and dry wood led to several serious blazes throughout its history. In June of 1881 a fire destroyed most of the eastern half of Tombstone's business district. A second fire took place in May of 1882 and ruined most of the western half of the business district, including the O.K. Corral. Because the town recovered from these devastating fires is one of the reasons why Tombstone is called "The Town Too Tough To Die", however, in these difficult economic times, it is uncertain whether Tombstone would recover from another destructive fire in the business district.

— The Tombstone News

February 19, 2010 *The Tombstone News*:

Chief Grassman Says Fire Department Training Exercise Saves Lives



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Feb 19, 2010

Training, education and experience are three of the best weapons that fire personnel have when it comes to dealing with the dangerous situations they encounter on the job. Since Tombstone does not have numerous fires to contend with on a daily basis, they have to create their own fires in order to train new members of the department. This week Tombstone fire personnel put their skills to the test by training in a live fire exercise. ##M(READMORE)##

The live burn took place on Wednesday evening during the department's normal meeting time on the property of Tombstone Materials storage site, which is owned by Dale Turner and is being loaned to the fire department specifically for these training exercises.

The fire is lit by a senior member of the department and then each person is put in a situation which simulates a real fire environment. "It gets hot and it gets smokey and it is a limited visibility environment. There is no way to explain what it is like to someone who has never been in a fire, the only way they can understand is to experience it first hand," stated Fire Chief Grassman.

Senior members then attempt to recreate as many scenarios as possible which personnel may encounter in a real fire. Examples include search and rescue of homeowners, mayday situations which is where a firefighter goes down and basic firefighting techniques for structure fires. "We also give non officers a chance to command a working structure fire," stated Chief Grassman. Grassman went on to say that because it is a volunteer department non officers may find themselves in a command situation.

After everyone is given an opportunity to train and put out the fire, the entire department does an 'after action review' where they talk about what was good, bad and could be improved upon. "These training exercises not only help save the lives of our firefighters but will make us more effective out in the real world," stated Chief Grassman.

— The Tombstone News

March 19, 2010, *The Tombstone News*:

Tombstone Extends Mutual Aid For Fire In Huachuca City



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Mar 19, 2010

A fire on the property of Huachuca City's former Mayor George Nerham became critical enough that several fire departments were needed to fight the blaze.##M(READMORE)##
The fire which was located just off of Highway 90 in Huachuca City began in a mobile home. Huachuca City's volunteer department was first to respond, the fire spread to several structures and vehicles and the department asked for Mutual Aid. Tombstone Fire Department along with Sierra Vista and Whetstone helped with all facets of the incident, as did the Huachuca City Police Department, Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Border Patrol and DPS.
The smoke from the incident was bad enough that Highway 90 was closed completely for more than an hour.

At this time the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

— *The Tombstone News*

March 26, 2010, *The Tombstone News*:

Truck Spills Diesel Fuel; Hazmat Team Steps In

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Mar 26, 2010

According to Tombstone Fire Chief Grassman, on the afternoon of Saturday March 20, 2010 a pick-up truck parked in the dirt lot located on Allen and Second Street across from the American Legion accidentally spilled between 40 and 70 gallons of diesel fuel.##M(READMORE)##

"Apparently when this individual parked their vehicle they accidentally left the pump on, on their fuel storage tank," stated Grassman. "The Tombstone Marshal's Department was the first to be called and they in turn contacted us."

Grassman went on to say that when they arrived and saw the amount of fuel which had been dropped the fire department immediately dispatched Fry Fire Department's Hazmat team. "After Fry Fire came, looked at the scene and said that the residences, businesses and area surrounding the spill were safe, a decision was made between myself, Mayor Escapule and Fry Fire to barricade the area until Monday," stated Grassman. According to Grassman, on Monday morning Public Work's employee Pat Kelly contacted Blue Stake and the contaminated two foot by twenty three foot area was dug up several feet and new dirt was laid down. Grassman stated that they decided to wait to clean the spill until Monday because had they cleaned it up on Saturday the city would have had to hire a private contractor which had been extremely expensive.

"I want to extend my appreciation to Fry Fire Department's Hazmat team for coming out to help us," stated Grassman. "Everyone did a great job helping out."

— *The Tombstone News*

April 2, 2010, *The Tombstone News*:

Individual Posing As Fire Department Personnel Robs Home

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Apr 02, 2010

According to Marshal Talvy, on March 26, 2010 at 8pm a local resident received a knock on the door, when she opened the door the person on the other side identified themselves as Angela Martinez, a member of the Tombstone Fire Department. "The female said she was with the department and said that she was checking on a gas leak," stated Marshal Talvy.##M (READMORE)##

"The woman told the resident to take her dog and go into the backyard while she checked the home for a leak." Marshal Talvy went on to say that at that point the fraudulent individual went through the home, got a hold of the resident's purse and took out cash. "The individual then calmly went out to the gas meter and told the homeowner that she was on the phone with the fire chief. When she got off the phone she told the resident that she was cleared to go back inside her home," stated Marshal Talvy. "When the homeowner went into the house she noticed her purse on the floor, she looked through it and saw money was missing and contacted the Marshal's Department."

When the Marshal's Department arrived they checked for footprints, tire tracks and fingerprints and at this time the incident is still under investigation. The fraudulent individual introduced herself as Angela Martinez and is described as a Hispanic female with large build, black hair, mid to late 30's.

Due to the serious nature of the incident Tombstone Fire Chief Jesse Grassman also released a statement. "It has come to my attention that recently someone posing as Tombstone Fire Department personnel has been burglarizing under the pretense of mandatory evacuation. If there is an actual emergency requiring evacuations there will be Tombstone Fire Department vehicles and possibly a Tombstone Marshal's Department vehicle responding.

If someone comes to your residence business, etc and states that you must evacuate please make sure that at least one of the above vehicles is visible in the area. If you do not see a Fire or Marshal's Department vehicle please call the Tombstone Marshal's office at 457-2244 or 911 for verification," Stated Chief Grassman. "It is of great concern and very disappointing that someone would willingly impersonate emergency service personnel in order to rob a fellow community member. When caught and convicted of impersonating emergency service personnel, there could be hefty fines and or jail time in addition to the burglary charges," stated Grassman.

Marshal Talvy also asked the public that if they have any information on the incident or meet someone using the name Angela Martinez that they contact the Tombstone Marshal's Department.

— *The Tombstone News*

May 7, 2010, *The Tombstone News*:

Completion of Ambulance Facility Underway

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, May 07, 2010

Though it has been a battle of permits and red tape, the Health Care Innovations building, which is going to house the twenty four hour ambulance coverage for Tombstone, is almost ready to be occupied.##M(READMORE)##

The structure, located adjacent to the Tombstone Fire Department off of San Diego Street, was built in 2004. The city gave HCI a 50 year lease on the property. The building was constructed in accordance with HCI taking over Tombstone's Certificate of Necessity (CON). The holder of the CON is the only one who can transport patients.

In June of 2009 Mayor Escapule, Tombstone Fire Chief Grassman and HCI working together made an arrangement to house an on call EMT staff. Unlike the current volunteer EMT's with the Tombstone Fire Department that the town currently relies upon to be first responders, the Tombstone ambulance on-call staff must respond no matter what they are doing whereas the volunteers may not be able to respond because of other conflicts. Under the agreement the Tombstone ambulance will be running under HCI's Certificate of Necessity, and will provide the same service that would be provided by any BLS ambulance. BLS or Basic Life Support units are staffed with two licensed EMT's. Running under HCI's Certificate of Necessity also means that the Tombstone ambulance can transport people to hospitals.

In order to make the building livable Wentz and Patrick Construction is digging a septic system, and electric, phone and water are being put in. According to Chief Grassman, the reason it has taken so long is due to the fact that all the old permits were either lost or out of date. "Getting these types of permits from the County just takes time," stated Grassman. "Though things have taken some time we still have a good working relationship with HCI."

The cost to the residents to have the ambulance housed and staffed on the paid on-call basis is zero. HCI will be providing the ambulance, supplies, and paying the staff. — *The Tombstone News*

July 2, 2010, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Destroys Home And Injures Fire Chief



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jul 02, 2010

According to Marshal Talvy, on June 28, 2010 at approximately 9:14pm the Tombstone Marshal's Department received a call that there was a fire by the Tombstone Credit Union, no further information was available.##M(READMORE)##

"When Deputy Williams arrived in the area he saw a house fully engulfed in flames," stated Marshal Talvy. "He called it in and at that time dispatch was receiving numerous calls about the fire." The Tombstone Fire Department was toned out and arrived on scene eight minutes later. "Prior to the fire department arriving Deputy Williams went up to the house to make sure there was no one inside," stated Marshal Talvy. "He found the home owner's son Ben Valenzuela standing in the doorway of the house, which was fully engulfed in flames, attempting to put the fire out with a garden hose." Marshal Talvy then stated that Deputy Williams advised Valenzuela and his wife Debbie to move away from the home. "Minutes after he had them move there was a cave in," stated Marshal Talvy. "What we do not understand is why the home owners did not report the fire and instead attempted to put it out with the hose."

According to Tombstone Fire Department Captain JC Villa, Brush 3, Engine 1, Command and the Tender were taken out on the first alarm. The Tender was used as a water supply because there were no hydrants close by. "Brush 5 with three department members was on a Wildland call when the tone went out and they responded as soon as they were back in town which was about 10pm. All but one department member was on that fire" stated Villa.

When Tombstone Fire Department initially arrived on scene the structure was fully involved as was the brush surrounding the house. "We had to lay a wet line down prior to even hitting the structure," stated Captain Villa. "If we drag and lay our hoses across the ground when it is on fire the hoses will burn up." Captain Villa went on to say that as well as the home other structures on the property also burned. "Thankfully the wind was not too bad and the fire did not jump to the desert," stated Villa. The house was powered completely by electric and APS was called and responded about forty-five minutes later to turn it off, which according to Villa, is an average response time for the utility company in these situations.

According to Captain Villa, with the help of mutual aid from Whetstone Fire Department who sent a Tender and two people to help, the fire was out and mop up was complete, which means there are absolutely no hotspots, was done by 4am. The animals on the property, including a horse, were safely removed. Tombstone Fire Department Chief Jesse Grassman did sustain an injury during fire suppression efforts. Grassman was treated for a dislocated knee at Sierra Vista Regional Health Center and was released. The home was unfortunately a total loss. According to Captain Villa, the roof had already collapsed and the house was too far gone prior to the fire department arriving.

July 2, 2010, *The Tombstone News*:

The area was secured and Deputy Williams remained on scene until Fry Fire Investigators Captains Mike McCartney and William Seamen's were able to investigate later that morning. "At this time the cause of the fire is still under investigation," stated Captain Villa. Tombstone Marshal Talvy commended his deputies and the Tombstone Fire Department for their efforts on this fire. "I have heard people say that it took them fifteen minutes to respond and that is false," stated Marshal Talvy. "Unfortunately the house was on fire for sometime before 911 was called. People were calling each other instead of us. When we did receive the call Deputy Williams was there in minutes and the fire department arrived eight minutes after the tone out. Everyone did an outstanding job on putting out the fire and not letting it get more out of control."

Captain Villa also address the response time. "I know people want to criticize our response times but the residents have to realize that these volunteers are not paid to be on call and that the response times will vary depending on what department members are doing when the tone goes out. Many are home asleep and have to get dressed and drive to the station. While driving to the station they are bound by the same traffic laws as everyone else. There have been fires in the past where there has been a thirty to forty five minute response times. On nights when we have meetings or are at the station our response times dramatically fall and can be from a couple of seconds to a few minutes. If people feel that our response was not adequate then they need to speak to their elected officials about getting the city full time coverage," stated Villa.

— *The Tombstone News*

August 6, 2010, *The Tombstone News*:

Fatal Accident on State Route 80

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Aug 06, 2010

According to Tombstone Marshal Talvy, on August 2, 2010 at approximately 3:50pm a two vehicle rollover accident took place on State Route 80 at Mile marker 309. "There was a fatality," stated Marshal Talvy.##M(READMORE)##

Tombstone Fire Captain JC Villa also stated that a second subject was transported by ambulance to the hospital because helicopters were not available due to the inclement weather. DPS was in charge of the incident but was assisted by the Cochise County Sheriff's Department, Tombstone Marshal's Office and Tombstone Fire Department. The two lane highway was shut down to one lane and at times closed all together. According to the Department of Public Safety, "this collision involved a pickup truck and a passenger car and resulted in one fatality. The deceased driver has been identified as Daniel Gregory Kekipi, a 37 year old male from Saint David, Arizona. The other driver involved was transported to a local area hospital for injuries sustained in the collision. The cause of the collision is unknown to this office at this time."

— *The Tombstone News*

October 8, 2010, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Prevention Week

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Oct 08, 2010

Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" is the National Fire Prevention Associations official theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week. This year's campaign is designed to educate people about the importance of smoke alarms and encourages everyone to take the steps necessary to update and maintain their home smoke alarm protection.

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres.

Tombstone Fire Department is taking part in Fire Prevention Week by going to Walter J. Meyer to talk to kids about not only Smoke Alarms, but fire safety and prevention. "Fire Prevention week not only gives us the opportunity to meet the kids and talk to them about the different ways they can stay safe during a fire, but it also makes them feel safer with fire department members which is important if they are ever in a fire situation," stated Grassman.

Though smoke alarms can be found in most homes across the country currently more than half of the smoke alarms found in reported fires and two thirds of the alarms found in homes with fire deaths were powered by batteries only. In fires considered large enough to activate a smoke alarm, hard-wired alarms operated 91% of the time; battery-powered smoke alarms operated 75% of the time. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of someone dying in a reported fire in half. The hope of the Fire Department is that by going to the schools they will educate students who will in turn bring their newfound knowledge home.

— *The Tombstone News*

November 19, 2010, *The Tombstone News*:

Colorado Man Loses Everything In Motor Home Fire



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Nov 19, 2010

A visitor from Colorado who was staying in his RV watched his dwelling go up in flames this past week.

According to Jon Allmon a Captain with the Tombstone Fire Department, on Wednesday November 17, 2010 at approximately 3:45pm, a call came out that a motor home was on fire at the Tombstone RV Park, located on Highway 80.

When the first tone went out, no members of the Tombstone Fire Department were available to immediately respond. Members of the Tombstone Marshal's Deputies and Cochise County Sheriff's Department arrived and secured the scene.

Fire Department members arrived on scene with eight members as well as Engine 1, Tender, Brush 3 and the Command Vehicle. "It was an older model with a camper on the back and was burnt to the frame within the first ten minutes, so it was a total loss by the time we arrived," stated Captain Allmon.

According to Captain Allmon, the cause of the fire potentially began when the motor home's owner was working on the vehicle and was revving the motor over and over again.

The motor home was a total loss and the two motor homes parked adjacent had cosmetic damage and one had a broken window.

The motor home's owner was not injured; however a neighbor who was helping put the fire out was treated by Health Care Innovations for smoke inhalation.

Since the motor home was a total loss, the Red Cross was called to help get the owner a new place to stay, clothing and a bit of money.

— *The Tombstone News*

2010

December 9, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Tombstone bar burns down despite firefighters' efforts

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Restaurant owner Mike Carrafa, center with cowboy hat, talks to Tombstone firefighters in front of his Six Gun City Restaurant and Bar, which burned down Wednesday morning.

December 09, 2010 12:00 am

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In the town too tough to die, a Tombstone bar and restaurant was no match for roaring flames.

Forty firefighters from at least three departments battled flames at the Six Gun City Restaurant and Bar Wednesday morning.

Tombstone Town Marshal Billy Cloud said firefighters were able to keep the fire confined to the restaurant.

There is some smoke damage to adjacent buildings.

Arson investigators from the Sierra Vista Fire Department will be looking for the cause.

The restaurant's website boasts of a 40-foot-long bar and daily "gunfights" on the streets of Tombstone.

December 10, 2010, *The Tombstone News*:

SIX GUN CITY DESTROYED BY BLAZE



Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Dec 10, 2010

Though it was the early morning hours of December 8, 2010 several local citizens witnessed the blaze that leveled Six Gun City.

According to an early morning delivery person; she was traveling down Skyline Drive and did not see anything. When she went behind the drug store she heard a loud 'boom' and saw flames go up '60 feet into the air. By the time she made her way onto Allen Street flames were belching out of the alley way between the Tombstone Photo Shop and old Spur Western Wear store and it was so hot she could not get near it.

Another resident who lives in the alley way next to Six Gun City stated that she went to bed about 1:30am. At 3am her dog got up and started barking. The dog seemed to be reacting to a weird sound so she looked out to see if someone was there. She didn't see anything but at about that time she received a call from a friend who had heard on the scanner that there was a possible fire by the Tombstone Pharmacy. She went outside to look and saw an orange glow. She went outside and was facing the Pharmacy, when she turned around she saw that 'Six Gun City was a fire ball in the sky'. When she heard the huge 'boom' she took off to gather her clothes and dog and to get out of the area.

At that time Tombstone Deputy JJ Norris arrived and called dispatch to get the Tombstone Fire Department on scene. According to Tombstone Fire Department Captain JC Villa, the tone went out at 3:30am and Tombstone Engine's 1 and 2 arrived fourteen minutes later, with the Tender arriving one minute later and Brush 3 arriving ten minutes later.

"When we arrived Six Gun City was fully involved as was the shed behind it," stated Captain Villa. "We got lines going but because Six Gun was already gone and the fire was starting to move towards the Longhorn Restaurant, the apartments and it was pushing east. We focused on getting a perimeter around the area and then we worked on putting out Six Gun." Captain Villa went on to say that they had the entire fire knocked down in thirty minutes.

When the call first went out over the radio Tombstone Fire Chief Grassman asked for mutual aid from Whetstone and Huachuca City. Whetstone arrived with eight personnel and two engines, Huachuca City arrived with one engine, a brush truck and five personnel.

Six Gun City was totally destroyed, the Longhorn Restaurant lost the storage shed in the back of the restaurant, it had smoke and water damage in the back office and lost power because the APS boxes were melted. The power was restored by the end of the day; however, the restaurant had to close for several days because food was lost from the refrigerators and freezers during the power outage. Café Margarita. Peanuts Barbershop and the Cochise Trading Post across 5th

December 10, 2010, *The Tombstone News*:

Street all sustained broken glass from the heat of the fire. A fire fighter who has an apartment behind Six Gun City had his truck burned and lost most of his possessions in his apartment as did another person who resided in a separate apartment. Thankfully no one was injured during the fire.

Except for a six and a half hour break between 12am and 6:30am, firefighters have remained on scene round the clock. According to Chief Grassman, a safety fence is up but they will continue to stay on scene until the investigators are completed with their scene.

According to Fire Chief Grassman, the long day was made easier by some help from the community. "Steve and Gloria Goldstein provided free coffee and food from their restaurant for all the fire fighters, Councilman Jim Doherty organized things at the Senior Center, Moe Sinsley and Border Patrol provided a light tower during the dark hours and Sammy Martinez assisted with fire operations. Finally, I want to thank all the citizens who were there to lend a hand and support us," stated Chief Grassman.

The charred remains of the building have left a hole in the community. Mayor Henderson responded with these words. "Last night we had a tragic fire in our little city. That's the bad news. The good news is that the extraordinary efforts of the Tombstone, Huachuca City and Whetstone Fire Departments prevented what could have been a catastrophe rivaling the Tombstone fires in our early days. God was on our side last night, and on the shoulders of the brave folks who came to our aid. Their efforts were brilliant. Our water system delivered all that was required. Our city forces were mobilized. We cannot thank all these people enough. Now we turn our thoughts to the business owners and employees of Six Gun City who lost pretty much all they had in just a few hours. I know this city can be a pretty rough place at times, but this is not one of them. It is said that when one door closes another opens. We pray this is true," stated Mayor Henderson.

The fire is under investigation by Fire Investigators Paul Camino out of Sierra Vista and Jon Vonaccorsi from Whetstone. At press time sources say a K-9 Fire Unit from Tucson was also assisting with the investigation.

Numerous employees lost their livelihood in the blaze. The town is rallying together to help ease their burden. You can mail checks or cash to; Lynn Barnes for Employee Relief Fund, PO Box 1361 Tombstone AZ, 85638 or you can find donation cans located in businesses throughout town. There will be a shoot out on Toughnut Street involving the Six Gun City performers, Helldorado Performers and Vigilantes to benefit the employees on December 18th from noon to 4pm. The Food Bank of Tombstone would like to let employees of Six Gun City know that they are offering emergency food boxes on Thursday & Friday 9-5 and Saturday 10-3 call 457-3697 with any questions.

The Old Firehouse Senior Center is also accepting donations for Six Gun City employees Mon-Fri from 9am to 5pm.

There will also be a package deal fund-raiser with Big Nose Kate's and the Good Enough Mine Tour December 12th, stop in for more information. — *The Tombstone News*

December 24, 2010, *The Tombstone News*:

Dragoon Saloon/Good Enough Mine Hosting "1st Annual Burning Down The House Bash Benefit"

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Dec 24, 2010

"The Fire Department gives so much to the town, they are always on the spot during fires, they do the annual Light Parade, host Santa in the Park and are always there when we need them so this is our way of honoring them," stated Shirley Dejournett.

Dejournett was talking about the first annual "Burning Down the House Bash Benefit" the proceeds of which will be going to the Tombstone Fire Department. According to Dejournett, they have been planning this benefit for three months and during that time a lot has happened.

"It has been an eventful time for the Fire Department in regards to the Six Gun City fire. The fire department did an awesome job and many people don't realize how close we were to losing the epicenter of our town. The fire department did everything right," stated Dejournett.

The benefit will be held on New Year's Day and will have a mix of the old and new. "We are going to hold a Fire of Remembrance by burning an effigy," stated Dejournett. "I spoke with Chief Grassman and after every fire they have to get rid of the wood left behind, so this year we will be burning the wood from Six Gun City. We have an amphitheatre built, fire fighters will be present and unless there are high winds we will have the fire.

According to Dejournett, she is from Santa Fe where each year they honor the Zozobra Tradition. Each year The Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe stages the burning of Will Shuster's Zozobra, kicking off the annual Fiestas de Santa Fe on the weekend following Labor Day. Zozobra centers on the ritual burning of the effigy of Old Man Gloom, or Zozobra, to dispel the hardships and travails of the past year.

"This is going to be our way to honor the Fire Department and cast away the negativities of the year," stated Dejournett.

The benefit will be multi faceted. There will be vendors whose vendor fee will be going to the Fire Department. Eight to ten bands will be donating their time to honor the department. There will be a motorcycle show and their entry fee will also go to the department. On top of that there will be a silent auction, raffles and donation boxes all through the event. "All the money taken in will go to the department, none is going to pay for the event itself," stated Dejournett. Music begins at 1pm but other events will be starting earlier. Make sure to stop on by the Dragoon Saloon/Good Enough Mine Tour to help honor the men and women of the Tombstone Fire Department and to bring in the New Year in an upbeat way.

For more information call Shirley at 520-255-5553 or 208-610-4724.

— *The Tombstone News*

January 7, 2011, *The Tombstone News*:

Burning Down The House Bash Benefit Draws Hundreds

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jan 07, 2011

The cold weather did not keep more than three hundred people from coming out to support the local fire department during the 1st Annual Dragoon Saloon "Burning Down the House Bash Benefit."

The benefit was put on by local Dragoon Saloon and Good Enough Mine Tour owners Shirley and Andree Dejournett who wanted to do something to thank the local Tombstone Fire Department for their continuous work for the people and city of Tombstone.

Numerous bands, vendors, a motorcycle show, silent auction, along with good food, drinks and friends all helped to make the event a huge success.

"We just want to thank Shirley, Andree and Greg for all of their support and hard work," stated Tombstone Fire Chief Jesse Grassman. "The support has been overwhelming, not only from those who showed up at the benefit but from all the businesses who donated as well."

Donations are still being accepted by Shirley and Andree this week and can be dropped off at the Good Enough Mine or Dragoon Saloon located on Toughnut and 5th Streets.

— *The Tombstone News*

February 25, 2011, *The Tombstone News*:

Deputy and Tombstone Fire Respond To Small Fire On First Street

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Feb 25, 2011

According to Tombstone Marshal Cloud, on Friday February 19, 2011 at approximately 5:10pm Tombstone Deputy Norris responded to 1st Street in reference to a possible brush or structure fire.

When Deputy Norris arrived on scene he observed a fire between two residences on First Street.

"A minor male resident was in the front yard and advised that there was no one in the house and that the fire was on the north side of the house," stated Deputy Norris in his written report.

"I entered the residence, clearing it, and then exited through a backdoor into the back yard." Deputy Norris stated that he then observed another female resident using a water hose to put out the fire and at that point most of the fire was already out.

"I assisted the female resident by attempting to get the hose on the spigot, as it was not sealed properly," stated Deputy Norris. Tombstone Fire Department was also on scene to make sure the fire was completely out.

According to Deputy Norris, he took a statement from the minor male resident about the fire.

"The minor stated he had been playing in the front yard and gone around the side (of the house) to try to find his football. He stated that he then observed the fire to be already going and had not seen anyone else leave the area or near the area. The minor stated that he then ran inside, told his mom (the female resident) and then called the Marshal's Office. The minor stated that there was a bottle of lighter fluid and some matches near where the fire was," stated Deputy Norris.

April 8, 2011, *The Tombstone News*:

Vandals Set Fire In Public Restrooms

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Apr 08, 2011

The Third and Allen Street and Sixth and Allen Street public restrooms have had their share of vandalism and damage over the years and according to Tombstone Marshal Cloud, a newest incident of defacement took place sometime between Saturday night (April 2nd) and early Sunday morning (April 3rd).

"Vandals piled up garbage under the toilet roll dispenser in the woman's restroom and lit it on fire," stated Marshal Cloud.

The damage was discovered by a Public Works employee who came to clean the restrooms on Sunday morning. "There was major smoke damage and the toilet paper holder has to be replaced," stated Marshal Cloud.

The Tombstone News also spoke to Public Works Director Phil Korte who stated that the men's restroom also had to be closed due to electrical issues. "I have the electrician coming out later this week and then the restroom will be painted," stated Korte. "My hope is to have them opened by the weekend because it is a major inconvenience for people having the restrooms closed."

Over the years the city department responsible for locking up the bathrooms at night has changed. Originally the responsibility was given to the Tombstone Marshal's Department; the job was then turned over to Public Works who closed the restrooms at 5pm. According to Korte, the city received numerous complaints from business owners that tourists were being inconvenienced about the early closure so the job was turned back over to the Marshal's Department who now locks the doors at 10pm.

Marshal Cloud stated that Saturday night the deputy on duty forgot to lock the bathroom doors, however, in the past even when the restrooms have been locked there has been damage done to both sets of restrooms at different times.

In 2009 a similar fire was started in the restrooms, in 2008 there was feces smeared all over the restroom walls and floors leading out to the sidewalk. Also in 2008 graffiti was found inside both public restrooms.

Anyone with information on the fire is urged to contact the Tombstone Marshal's Department, 520-457-2244 or 2245.

Marshal Cloud also reported to The Tombstone News that there was a theft at the city gravel pit at San Rafael and Gleeson. "Three tons of gravel were stolen from the area," stated Marshal Cloud. "They loaded the gravel onto their vehicle by taking apart the cable lock on the front end loader." Marshal Cloud stated that the gravel is worth seventy five dollars per ton for a loss of \$225.

According to Marshal Cloud, the Marshal's Department is prepared for any issues that may arise during the 1st Annual Red, White & Blues fundraiser present by the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club/Tucson and being held at the Dragoon Saloon April 9th and 10th. "They have the right to be here, and have events and local law enforcement is ready for any problems that may come up," stated Marshal Cloud. "My hope is for a smooth weekend where everyone enjoys themselves with no issues, but you will see an increased law enforcement presence in town," stated Marshal Cloud.

— *The Tombstone News*

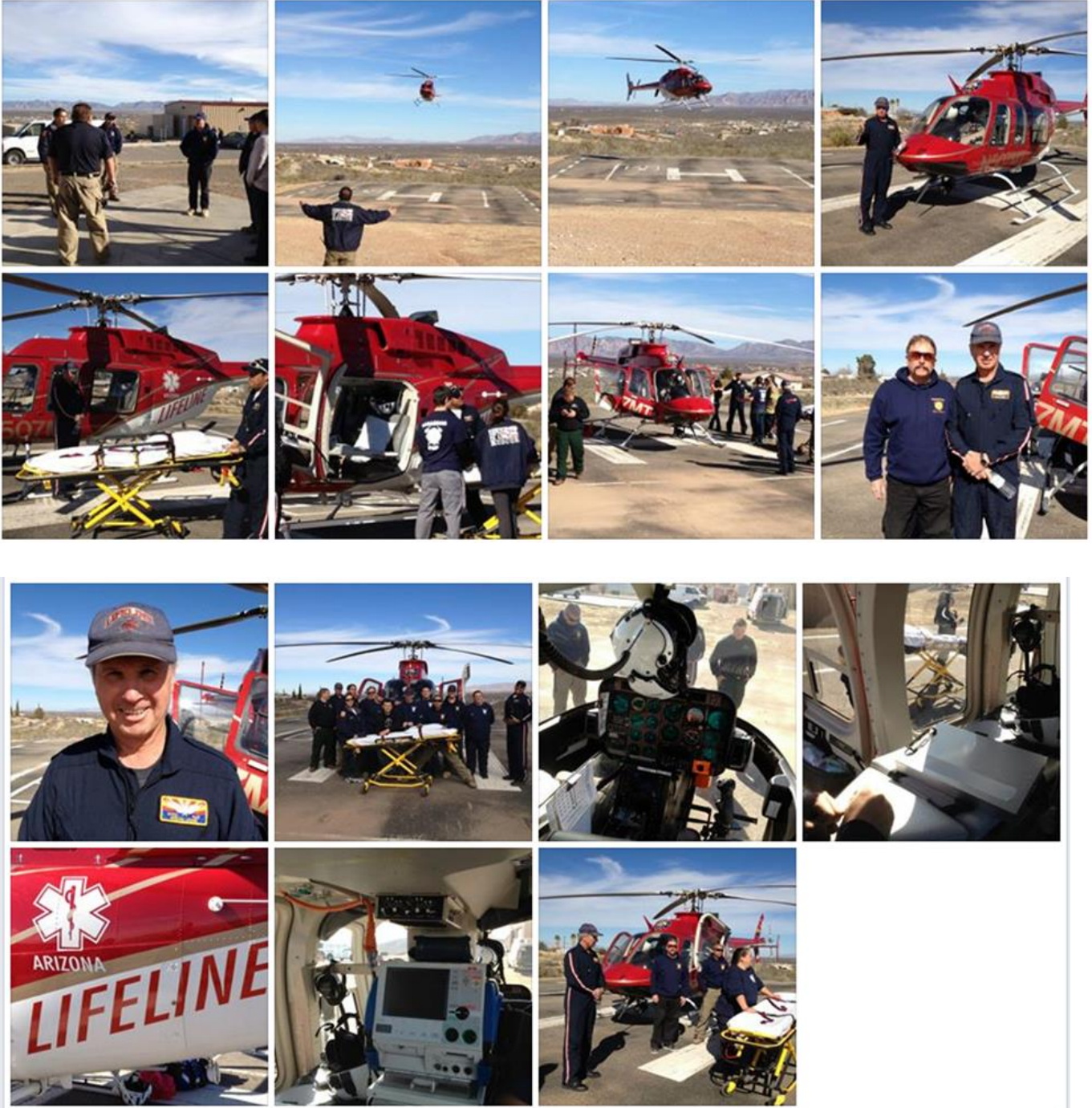
2012

February 2012, Tombstone Fire Department Facebook:

Lifeline Helicopter Training Feb. 2012

Updated over a year ago

Lifeline Helicopter Training



2012

February 2012, Tombstone Fire Department Facebook:

Training session with Lifeline Helicopter. (Feb. 2012)



2012

February 10, 2012, Tombstone Fire Department:

Unknown date of photos:



Engine 2



Engine 3, 1975 Ford



Engine 3 in the old firehouse on Fremont next to the old Tombstone City Hall



Old spinning type siren on Engine 3



Engine 3 is a classic



2012

February 10, 2012, Tombstone Fire Department:

Unknown date of photos:



Engine 3, 1975 Ford



Engine 1

2012

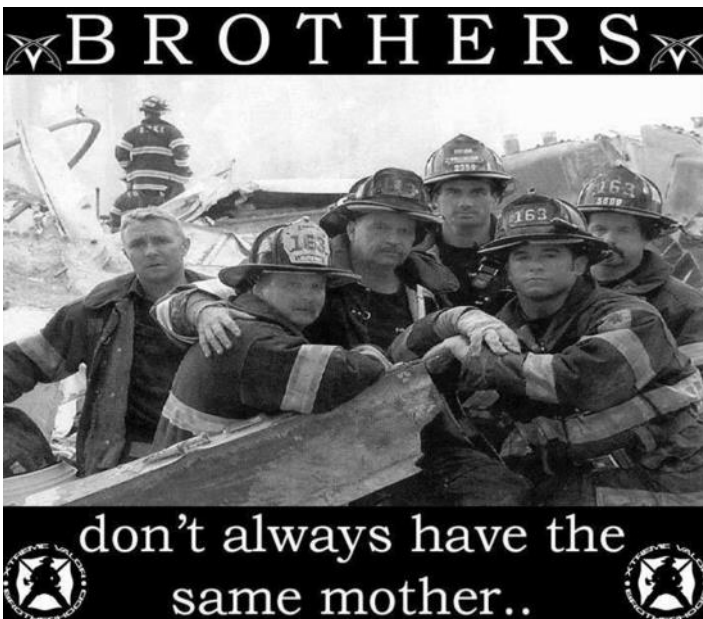
February 10, 2012, Tombstone Fire Department:

Unknown date of photos:



The Tombstone Fire Department hosted a fun Halloween night in the city park. We we cooked up and served over 400 hot dogs, gave always lots of candy to the kids and provided some fun and challenging games! Thanks for all your support everyone!

Halloween in the city park before the crowds arrived!



2012

February 10, 2012, Tombstone Fire Department:

Unknown date of photos:



Terry "Ike" Clanton T-99 Firefighter



Engine 3 is a classic



Damian Austin T-84 Firefighter/EMT

2012

February 10, 2012, Tombstone Fire Department:

Unknown date of photos:



J. D. Dotson T-92 Firefighter



**Lifeline Helicopter Training-with Lawrence Rowe
and Damian Austin**

July 1, 2012, *The Tombstone News*:

Human Caused Fire Destroys Two Structures

Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Jun 01, 2012

According to Tombstone Fire Department Captain JC Villa, on Tuesday May 29th a call came in for a structure fire on Middlemarch Road.

The fire was on Peaceful Drive closer to the Dragoon Mountain area. "The fire was human caused when a guy had a malfunction on his water vehicle. The fire ended up destroying two structures, they were both out buildings," said Villa.

Villa went on to say that Tombstone Fire Department handled it with three sources. Huachuca City also assisted by bringing a fire truck. The fire was fully put out in approximately five hours, and nobody was injured.

Right now with the dry conditions among us, there are a few steps you can take to keep your home safe from fire.

According to Arizona Interagency Wildfire Prevention, pausing or parking a car or truck in tall grass or over shrubs can start fires. This not only may damage your vehicle but may also start a quickly moving fire. Do not park where vegetation is touching the underside of your vehicle. Also be sure that all vehicles and tires are in excellent working order; chains or other recreational trailer equipment must not drag or dangle from the truck; secure all recreational equipment when traveling, these can get hot or create sparks causing not just one but multiple wildfires. Look behind you as your driving to make sure all is well. It's always a good idea to carry a fire extinguisher.

Cigarettes are made to burn long and slowly and can start fires even hours after being dropped or thrown away. Never walk off and leave a burning cigarette and be aware of all smoking restrictions when recreating on public lands.

Sparks from fireworks can cause wildfires in dry vegetation. Many cities and towns in Arizona have regulations that restrict the use of fireworks. Some towns and cities are including fireworks displays as part of their holiday celebrations. Please check your local newspaper for times and locations.

Use spark arresters; refrain from welding and use of spark-creating machines when fire danger is high. Follow fire restrictions and closures--in some areas chainsaws are not allowed.

To a wildfire your house or cabin in the country, if built of flammable materials, is only fuel.

Wildfires do not discriminate between trees and cabins--if it is flammable it will burn. You can take steps to protect your home from a wildfire's flames by taking some simple steps to create defensible space, an area around your building that discourages fire from coming too near.

Slope, vegetation types, planting design, location of outbuildings all affect a wildfire's ability to reach your home. Defensible space can be created in many ways.

— *The Tombstone News*

July 6, 2012, *The Tombstone News*:

A Look at Your Local Fire Department

Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Jul 06, 2012

The Tombstone Fire Department was established in 1800, one of the oldest in the state. Since then, the men and women on the Fire Department have dedicated their much needed service to the citizens of Tombstone.

The Department currently has 19 members and 2 cadets. In 2011, the Fire Department had responded to 589 calls.

According to Fire Chief Jesse Grassman, when the Fire Department started paid shifts on 7/15/11, they had 56.9% more calls during the paid shift time.

The fire Department currently has two part time EMT's on staff 7 days a week, 8 hours a day. This is a good thing for Tombstone given that our Ambulance service comes from St. David, AZ. Although the EMT's do not have the ability to transport, they do have the ability to respond to calls much faster and assist those in need.

"The Fire Department is currently doing fire hydrant testing, hose testing, getting numerous things up to code and have a lot of ongoing education training with St. Josephs Hospital for Medical Control," said Grassman.

"The town is very lucky to have a Volunteer Fire Department as good as ours. They care and are exceptionally fast on response time for Fires as well as for Medical Emergencies, and they have staff members that are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). They are not required to be the first responders for Medical Emergencies, but they do, and for that the Fire Department should be applauded for their service to the community. They do a wonderful job for what they have for resources," said Mayor Schmidt.

If you see one of our local Fire Fighters on the street, be sure to thank them for the excellence they have provided to the City of Tombstone.

August 10, 2012, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Department Receives Award from 100 Club of Arizona

On May 11th 2012 the Tombstone Fire Department submitted an application to the 100 Club of Arizona for certified Structural Personal Protective Equipment. On July 13th 2012 the 100 Club of Arizona was pleased to announce that the Tombstone Fire Department was a selected recipient of a 100 Club of Arizona Safety Enhancement Stipend Award for the 2nd quarter of 2012.

The award was not to exceed \$6,062.62 for the purchase of 3-Certified Structural Personal Protective Equipment.

According to the National Fire Protection Act, structural firefighting equipment is required to meet or exceed NFPA 1971 standards on protective ensemble for structural firefighting pertaining to (P.P.E). With the ability to purchase 3 new sets of P.P.E the Tombstone Fire Department is able to enhance the safety and well-being of its personnel with brand new certified personal protective equipment.

The Tombstone Fire Department is greatly appreciative of the 100 Club of Arizona for their continuous support and funding as well as all who have donated to help our department and its members.

About the 100 Club: When tragedy strikes, the effects are swift and devastating. The 100 Club of Arizona recognizes the need to respond immediately with support and understanding. Whatever the need – financial, advisory or moral support, the 100 Club of Arizona is there to ease the pain of the family of those in fire, public safety or law enforcement who are injured or killed in the line-of-duty.

The concept of the "100 Club" was born in Detroit in 1952, following the fatal shooting of a young Detroit officer. Moved by the situation, William M. Packer, who was the largest Pontiac Dealer in the nation and a friend of the police commissioner, wrote to 100 of his friends encouraging them to donate to a fund for the fallen officer. He received a 100 percent response rate. Packer and the commissioner met with the expectant widow, reviewed her finances and arranged to pay off the mortgage on their recently purchased home, pay all the bills, set up an education account for the yet unborn child and deposited \$7,000 in the widow's checking account.

In 1965, a young Phoenix officer was killed in the line-of-duty. Several acquaintances with knowledge of the Detroit 100 Club got together and started the Phoenix 100 Club, and became an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1968. One of the earliest members was Frank Haze Burch. Frank's father was the first Phoenix police officer killed in the line-of-duty in 1924, when Frank was just five years old.

In addition, the 100 Club has also added new benefit programs to enhance the safety and welfare of public safety personnel, agencies and families. Programs include the Peer 100 program, H.E.R.O.S., Safety Enhancement Stipends and the Scholarship Program. For more information about the 100 Club, visit <http://100club.org>.

October 5, 2012, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Department Holds Fire Prevention Day at Walter J. Meyer



On October 3, 2012 the Tombstone Fire Department held Fire Prevention Day at Walter J. Meyer School for approximately seventy seven kids.

Firefighter Robert Austin discussed the importance of fire prevention with each group of students, and stressed the importance of knowing two escape routes out of their homes in case of an emergency. This information is very important for not only the student's safety, but they can also share it at home with family members. Information packets including a safety checklist and how to establish their escape routes were given to each student to take home. He also discussed stop drop and roll, checking smoke detectors, how they work and techniques on exiting a fire.

The greatest benefit is teaching student's young so they can be well educated and have the knowledge on what to do if and when a situation occurs. Students were very excited to go through the fire trucks and sit inside Arizona LIFELINE 1 out of Douglas AZ. Tombstone Fire Department would like to give a special thanks to Walter J. Myer for letting us come out and teach this program, as well as Arizona LIFELINE for helping us enlarge this year's Fire Prevention Day.

The Tombstone Fire Department currently has 19 members and 2 cadets. In 2011, the Fire Department had responded to 589 calls. The Department currently has two part time EMT's on staff 3 days a week, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Back in July, Mayor Schmidt told The Tombstone News that the town is very lucky to have a Volunteer Fire Department as good as ours. They care and are exceptionally fast on response time for Fires as well as for Medical Emergencies, and they have staff members that are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). They are not required to be the first responders for Medical Emergencies, but they do, and for that the Fire Department should be applauded for their service to the community. They do a wonderful job for what they have for resources.

November 16, 2012, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Department Toy Drive Scheduled for December 1st

Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Nov 16, 2012

According to the Tombstone Fire Department, the Annual Toy Drive is scheduled for Saturday December 1st between 6th and 5th on Allen Street.

Every year the Tombstone Fire Department and the Tombstone Vigilette's hold the toy drive to benefit the children in need for the holidays. The Tombstone Vigilette's then distribute the toys to those in need. "We help hold this event because we like to give back to the community as much as possible. We would like to see all the families in the community have an enjoyable Christmas and see to it that the children have some new toys to play with," said Damian Austin of the Tombstone Fire Department.

All the toys collected on December 1st will be going to the Vigilette's in which they take applications for families in need and distribute them, only parents can sign up their children.

"We generally ask for new children's toys of all sorts and/or money donations in which is used to purchase toys. We also like to see toys or games come in that involve physical activity to keep the kids exercising and active."

Austin went on to say that we are also helping the Tombstone Cowboy church raise money so that they can buy toys for distribution on December 15th when the kids come to see Santa at the Park. "We like to do this to help out the community and put some Christmas spirit into the town and make sure all the children have a nice Christmas," said Tombstone Vigilette Bonnie Darlington.

If you are interested in donating a new toy, please go to 5th and 6th on Allen Street on December 1st from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

If you would like to sign up your children, visit Frontier Floral & Finery on the corner of 4th and Safford Streets to pick up the forms. You can also call (520) 457-9060 for more information.

— *The Tombstone News*

January 11, 2013, *The Tombstone News*:

Cause of House Fire under Investigation

Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Jan 11, 2013

According to Tombstone Marshal Cloud, on Sunday January 6th 2013, there was a house fire reported at 145 Bruce Street in Tombstone.

The occupant of the house was longtime Tombstone Resident Elizabeth Campbell, age 83.

"Campbell's body has been sent to the Medical Examiner's Office in Pima County to determine the cause of death, there is no foul play suspected in the case," said Marshal Cloud.

"An officer responded to the call very quickly, he broke down doors looking for the occupant, when he found her she wasn't responsive. At that time, the house was fully engulfed in flames," said Cloud.

Cloud went on to say that the Tombstone Fire Department responded and they also requested Whetstone Fire and Huachuca City Fire Departments to respond to make sure the fire didn't spread to any other houses in the area. A Fire Investigator is conducting an investigation to determine the cause of the fire. The information on what caused the fire will not be released until the Investigators report is complete.

"We were toned out at 0717 hours for a structure fire at 145 Bruce Street. Sometime shortly after that a Tombstone Marshal responded to the scene and advised there was smoke and flames showing in the back of the house. We know that we used our strategies and tactics well; we had four active fire fighters and didn't have a lot of hands. It took us 13 minutes to arrive on scene and we had the fire under control within ten minutes. Everyone did a very good job on scene. The Tombstone Fire Department and Mike Kerns from Public Works boarded up the residence after the fire which was a voluntarily action to help out the Cochise County Public Fiduciary's Office secure the property," said Damian Austin of the Tombstone Fire Department. According to Cloud, Campbell has no known next of kin to notify.

— *The Tombstone News*

January 25, 2013, *The Tombstone News*:

Tombstone Fire Fighters Pass Whetstone Fire 1&2 Academy



Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Jan 25, 2013

Brothers Robert Austin and Damian Austin successfully completed the 2012 Whetstone Fire 1&2 Academy. The academy was an extensive four month 460 hour course. This academy also consisted of two state finals at the end and a practical test and a written exam. The two passed both of the courses which are mandatory to become certified as Arizona State FF1&2.

"Robert and I and only two other members have this certification on the roster. This certification isn't so much a personal achievement as it is a department wide achievement because it adds so many more training possibilities that we with the knowledge and skills and experience, can teach to the newer members of the Tombstone Fire Department and allow them to be safer in the field," said Damian Austin.

Damian joined the Tombstone Fire Department in 2010 and Robert in 2011. Robert has been on the Benson Fire Department for four years, both are Benson High School Graduates and nationally certified EMT's.

The Austin brothers stated that their goals are to continue working hard to give back to the community in their time of need. We don't do this job for the money, we do it because it's what we love doing and we are here to help others.

"We also want to use the knowledge that others have taught us to train the other members to keep them safe and able to have a good understanding of what they're doing. We have a good working team and family at the department right know that are dedicated and willing to learn. We do not let politics and rumors stop us from doing what we love and will continue to do what it takes to help out our members and the City of Tombstone."

— *The Tombstone News*

February 15, 2013, *The Tombstone News*:

Tombstone Woman Died of Smoke Inhalation in January House Fire

Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Feb 15, 2013

According to Tombstone Marshal Cloud, the investigation into the house fire that took place on Sunday January 6th has been completed. "It was determined that the fire was started due to a lit cigarette burning on the arm of a chair."

The occupant of the house was longtime Tombstone Resident Elizabeth Campbell, age 83.

Cloud told *The Tombstone News* that the Pima County Medical Examiner finished their report on Campbell this past week. The Medical Examiner determined that Campbell's cause of death was smoke inhalation.

On Sunday January 6th 2013, there was a house fire reported at 145 Bruce Street in Tombstone.

"An officer responded to the call very quickly, he broke down doors looking for the occupant, when he found her she wasn't responsive. At that time, the house was fully engulfed in flames," said Cloud.

Cloud went on to say that the Tombstone Fire Department responded and they also requested Whetstone Fire and Huachuca City Fire Departments to respond to make sure the fire didn't spread to any other houses in the area.

"We were toned out at 0717 hours for a structure fire at 145 Bruce Street. Sometime shortly after that a Tombstone Marshal responded to the scene and advised there was smoke and flames showing in the back of the house. We know that we used our strategies and tactics well; we had four active fire fighters and didn't have a lot of hands. It took us 13 minutes to arrive on scene and we had the fire under control within ten minutes. Everyone did a very good job on scene. The Tombstone Fire Department and Mike Kerns from Public Works boarded up the residence after the fire which was a voluntarily action to help out the Cochise County Public Fiduciary's Office secure the property," said Damian Austin of the Tombstone Fire Department. Cloud stated they may have found a family member of Campbell's back east and will be getting in touch.

— *The Tombstone News*

April 5, 2013, *The Tombstone News*:

Tombstone Fire Department Assists With Structure Fire In St. David

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Apr 05, 2013

Tombstone Fire Department responded to a mutual aid structure fire call in St. David on Monday April 1st.

Mutual aid is an agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries. This may occur due to an emergency that exceeds local resources. Like Tombstone, St. David is an all volunteer Fire Department. According to Assistant Tombstone Fire Chief Damien Fought, the call for mutual was toned out by the Tombstone Marshal's Department at 2:45pm.

"The call was for a fully involved structure fire in St. David," stated Fought.

Tombstone Fire Fighters Damien Fought, Eric C. Spangler and JD Dotson immediately responded to the fire in Engine 311.

"When we are arrived at the scene we found a manufactured home and shed fully involved," stated Fought.

Benson, Mescal and St. David had already responded and were putting out the fire. Water availability was becoming low so Tombstone responded by sending its Tender Engine which holds approximately 1000 gallons of water.

Apparently the fire had started in the grass, spread to the shed and under the house.

Unfortunately because of the wind, nothing could be saved.

— *The Tombstone News*

November 22, 2013, *The Tombstone News*:

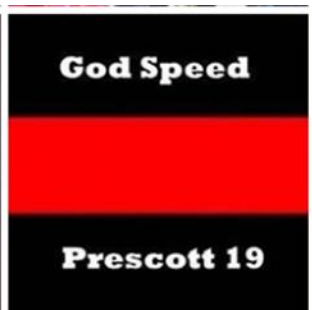
The Tombstone News asked Fleury how he felt about being nominated as Firefighter of the Year. "I am just really proud of the whole department," stated Fleury. "We have had two more people get their EMT certification, and seven more just passed their Firefighter I & II course. Many have their Wild Land Certification and all of this is being done on their own time." Fleury went on to say that it isn't just about one person being Fire- fighter of the Year. "It is about twenty-five people who give selflessly of their time because they want to better the community."

Fleury's family is also very proud. His wife Nova stated, "I am so proud of him. Dave works hard for the department but he doesn't do it for recognition or to become Fire- fighter of the Year, he does it because of his love of the department and this town." Fleury's fellow firefighter's agreed. "Dave is willing to do things that others don't want to do," stated Josh Hawly a Firefighter/EMT. "He jumps in to help for the benefit of the town and the department."

After all the presentations, folks danced to the music of Nite Life and enjoyed friends and good food. Later in the evening, door prizes were handed out and many folks walked away with some lovely items donated by local businesses. Congratulations to the Tombstone Fire Department on another spectacular Fireman's Ball!

2013

2013, Tombstone Face Book:



April 10, 2014, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Tombstone gunfight studio, apartment burns down

APRIL 10, 2014 8:15 PM • BY CARMEN DUARTE

A Tombstone gunfight theater and apartment were destroyed in a fire Thursday, but firefighters prevented the blaze from spreading through the historic town.

The blaze broke out shortly after 4 p.m. — about 10 minutes after the final show at the Old West Theatre studio ended, said Tombstone Marshal Jeff Mitchell.

"The fire wiped a business off the map. There is significant damage — in the thousands of dollars — but we are glad no one was injured," Mitchell said. "The bleachers, facades for the shows and the stage areas are gone."

Some 50 firefighters battled the blaze and did mop-up work into the night at the corner of Fifth and Toughnut streets. It's the same spot where Six Gun City burned down four years ago, said Mitchell. Six Gun City housed a restaurant and also operated gunfight shows.

Arson investigators were expected to work through the night to determine the cause of Thursday's fire, Mitchell said.

April 11, 2014, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Tombstone business destroyed by fire

A Tombstone gunfight theater and apartment were destroyed in a fire Thursday, but firefighters prevented the blaze from spreading through the historic town.

The blaze broke out shortly after 4 p.m., about 10 minutes after the final show at the Old West Theatre studio ended, said Tombstone Marshal Jeff Mitchell.

"The fire wiped a business off the map. There is significant damage — in the thousands of dollars — but we are glad no one was injured," Mitchell said.

Some 50 firefighters battled the blaze at the corner of Fifth and Toughnut streets. It's the same spot where Six Gun City, which housed a restaurant and also operated gunfight shows, burned down four years ago, said Mitchell.

Investigators were expected to work through the night to determine the cause of Thursday's fire.

April 18, 2014, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Destroys Gunfight Set for Second Time



Cheri Escapule • Fri, Apr 18, 2014

Old West Studios and the attached apartments located at 5th and Toughnut Streets caught fire in the late afternoon hours of April 10th. The fire destroyed the Old West Studio set and caused approximately \$50,000 worth of damage to the apartment building.

On April 10, 2014 at 4:01 PM a 911 call was made to report the fire. At 4:04 PM a second call was made directly to the Tombstone Marshal's Department dispatcher. At 4:07 PM the dispatcher toned out the fire department for a structure fire on Fifth and Toughnut Streets. There was no response. Dispatch toned out a second request for fire personnel to respond to the fire at 4:12 PM. Fire Engine One called en route and at 4:17 PM, four fire fighters arrived on scene. At 5:24 PM the fire department notified the dispatcher that the fire was extinguished. According to onsite witnesses, when the fire fighters arrived at Old West Studios they attempted several times to hook up to the hydrant with no luck. One witness went on to say that thankfully, several former Tombstone fire fighters happened to be downtown and were able to assist. "There was also an issue on providing enough water and how to properly pull a hose," stated one witness who wished to remain anonymous. "I know that the fire fighters who arrived on scene did everything they could and I respect them for having the guts to show up and fight that fire but it really seems that their training was lacking."

Whetstone Fire Department as well as several other departments responded to the scene as mutual aid. "The fire, thanks to the former Tombstone fire fighters helping the current department members, was not out but it was under control, basically it wasn't going to spread out to any other businesses when Whetstone Fire Department arrived." Another witness went on to say that the scene was turned over to Chief Biden of the Whetstone Fire Department. "This is not the usual protocol. It should be the first on scene unless they do not have the experience to handle taking control of a scene," stated the witness.

Although local residents and business owners are grateful that the fire did not spread past the gunfight set and apartments, concerns have been raised regarding the training provided to fire department members by their superiors.

The number of citizens that stepped up to control the fire and attempt to extinguish it was remarkable. The owner of the apartment building that partially burned was standing on the roof of his apartments with a garden hose keeping the fire from spreading north towards Allen Street. Other citizens were using garden hoses from the Senior Center, the Hunley residence and the apartments. The Hunley's boat located approximately thirty feet from the blaze was pulled out of the area by two citizens that were also fighting the fire with garden hoses. Two

April 18, 2014, *The Tombstone News*:

other citizens helped the Marshal and a deputy remove propane cylinders from the Hunley's patio area.

At the time the fire truck arrived someone noticed a small brush fire that had been started by flying embers on South 7th Street, east of the middle parking lot near the last house. Four citizens grabbed shovels and extinguished the fire before it could spread out of control.

On Monday April 14th, the Tombstone News contacted a captain on the Tombstone Fire Department to ask about the current training schedule for fire department members. After asking several questions The Tombstone News was told by the captain that he did not like the line of questioning and that we would have to talk to the chief. As of press time the Fire Chief Fought had not responded.

The following information is the press release sent to The Tombstone News from the Tombstone Fire Department. The press release is verbatim and has not been altered in any way.

ON APRIL 10TH 2014 SHORTLY AFTER 4 PM THE TOMBSTONE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE MARSHAL'S OFFICE WAS DISPATCHED TO 128 S. 5TH STREET FOR A STRUCTURE FIRE.

MUTUAL AID WAS IMMEDIATELY REQUESTED FROM HUCHUCA CITY FIRE, WHETSTONE FIRE

DISTRICT, AND ST. DAVID FIRE DISTRICT. TOMBSTONE FIRE WAS ABLE TO HAVE A FULL

STAFFED ENGINE COMPANY ON SCENE MINUTES AFTER THE TONE OUT. CREWS WORKED

QUICKLY TO KNOCK DOWN THE FULLY INVOLVED STRUCTURE FIRE WHICH INCLUDED THE

WILD WEST SET, BLEACHERS, AND THE WOODEN FENCE AROUND THE BACK SIDE OF THE

PROPERTY. UNFORTUNATELY THE STRUCTURE WAS A COMPLETE LOSS. CREWS WERE

HOWEVER ABLE TO STOP THE SPREAD TO NEARBY STRUCTURES WITH MINIMAL DAMAGE TO

THE NEAREST APARTMENT. WE HAD OVER 20 FIREFIGHTERS ON SCENE WHO ASSISTED WITH

FIRE CONTROL, SEARCHING STRUCTURES, ETC...

TWO FIRE INVESTIGATORS WERE REQUESTED TO THE SCENE, ONE INVESTIGATOR FROM

WHETSTONE FIRE AND ONE FROM SIERRA VISTA FIRE. WHETSTONE FIRE WAS ABLE TO GET

AN INVESTIGATOR THERE THAT NIGHT BUT DECIDED IT WOULD BE BEST TO WAIT TILL

MORNING. SCENE WAS SECURED OVER NIGHT BY TOMBSTONE OFFICIALS. BOTH

INVESTIGATORS WERE ABLE TO ARRIVE ON SCENE EARLY FRIDAY MORNING TO CONTINUE

AND FINISH A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. INVESTIGATORS FINISHED THEIR INVESTIGATION

FRIDAY AFTERNOON. IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THERE WAS NO SIGNS OF SUSPICIOUS OR

FOUL PLAY AND THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE IS UNDETERMINED. SCENE HAS SINCE BEEN

RELEASED TO INSURANCE COMPAY AND PROPERTY OWNER.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Cheri Escapule, Editor and Chief and Dusty Escapule Managing Editor of The Tombstone News were on scene at 4:08 PM and personally witnessed the events described in this article.

— *The Tombstone News*

Fire sweeps Tombstone site in district that has been called a 'tinderbox'

By Arizona Sonora News Service on Apr 11, 2014 | Comments Off on Fire sweeps Tombstone site in district that has been called a 'tinderbox'

Fire swept through Old West Studio, a gunfight-reenactment attraction in the historic downtown section of Tombstone late Thursday afternoon. The wood-fenced business at 5th and Toughnut Sts., was destroyed. The Tombstone Fire Department said that crews from St. Davis, Huachuca City and Whetstone also responded and helped keep the fire from spreading.

Water availability was not evidently an issue. Formerly known as Six Gun City, the complex had been rebuilt after being burned down in a previous fire, on Dec. 8, 2010. [Link](#).

In 2012, as Tombstone remained at odds with the federal government over access to U.S. Forest Service land to make repairs on the town's antiquated water system, the earlier Six Gun City fire was cited by the Goldwater Institute [in a court filing](#) supporting Tombstone's bid to force the Forest Service to allow the town to make emergency water-pipeline repairs using heavy equipment on protected land.

April 25, 2014, *The Tombstone News*:

Tombstone Citizens Help In Fire Fight



Deputy Norris helping business owner Hal Cloughly

Paula Jean Reed • Fri, Apr 25, 2014

During the fire on April 10th, there were a number of local residents that responded to the aid of the people that may have been in danger because of the fire. One lady in particular, Barbara Gatton, went on and beyond the normal of a person in a situation like this and hooked her truck up to our pontoon boat and moved it out of harms way and then continued to fight the fire with a garden hose.

Also, as indicated in the photo, Hal Cloughly was desperately trying to stop the fire from traveling further north into his Apartment buildings and possibly keeping the fire from traveling to Allen Street, however, Deputy Norris and the Tombstone Marshals Office saw the potential danger for Hal and physically removed him from the roof.

A Thank you to Barbara Gatton, Hal Cloughly and Deputy Norris and all the other citizens that helped keep the fire from spreading into our property.

Thank you!

— *The Tombstone News*

2014

June 9, 2014, <http://www.fireapparatusmagazine.com/photogalleries/photo-of-the-day/2014/06/pg07.html>

Tombstone (AZ) Fire Department Fire Apparatus Fleet

06/09/2014



The Tombstone (AZ) Fire Department's fleet includes (left to right): a 2005 Ford F-550 rescue truck; a 2005 Ford F-550 rescue/wildland apparatus with a 500-gallon tank, 1,000-gpm pump, and 10 gallons of Class A foam; and a 2005 Freightliner engine with a 1,000-gallon tank and 1,250-gpm pump. *Photo courtesy of Caleb King.*

June 13, 2014, *The Tombstone News*:

Brush Fire Causes Power Outage in Tombstone

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Jun 13, 2014

According to Tombstone Marshal Jeff Mitchell, in the early morning hours of Thursday July 12th a fire started on Gleeson Road and caught a APS power poll to catch fire and caused a power outage, several fire crews are on scene along with Tombstone Marshals Office Deputies, APS, Sulpher Springs and Tombstone Fire.

According to APS, the power outage took place at 9:30am and caused 1,000 people to be without power due to an issue with the main line.

As of press time, the fire had consumed 5 acres and 100% contained.

Due to extremely dry conditions, On Thursday, June 5, the Bureau of Land Management put fire restrictions in place statewide.

The following are prohibited until further notice: Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove including fires in developed campgrounds or improved sites, smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, discharging a firearm except while engaged in a lawful hunt pursuant to state, federal, or tribal laws and regulations, operating any internal combustion engine, except operating motorized vehicles on designated roads so long as you park in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway, welding, or operating acetylene or other torches with an open flame, using an explosive and fireworks are always prohibited year-round on federal lands.

Violation of restrictions on federal lands is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, which includes a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual and up to \$10,000 for organizations and possible imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or both. Violators may also be held personally responsible for reimbursement of fire suppression costs. Arizona and New Mexico state laws carry similar penalties.

Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters possessing shut-off devices are allowed.

When using a portable stove, make sure the area is clear of grasses and other fine fuels.

Prevent stoves from tipping and starting a fire.

Never park a vehicle over dead grass; the catalytic converter can ignite the vegetation. Maintain vehicle brakes, keep tires properly inflated, and shorten tow chains to prevent sparks. One less spark means one less wildfire.

Fire conditions as well as localized closures and restrictions are subject to change. Because tribal, federal, state, and local mandates are different, they may have some differences in their restriction notices. For a more detailed explanation concerning agency restrictions and fire information in general, please contact the nearest land management agency office where you plan to work or play, visit <http://wildlandfire.az.gov> or call the toll-free Southwest Fire Restrictions Hotline at 1-877-864-6985.

— *The Tombstone News*

September 5, 2014, *The Tombstone News*:

Killer Bee Hive Removed By TMO & Tombstone Fire Department

Meredith Littlejohn • Fri, Sep 05, 2014

Africanized honey bees, (also dubbed killer bees) are a result of breeding bees from southern Africa with local Brazilian honey bees. After their spread through South America, Africanized honey bees entered the United States via the southern region of Texas in the early 1990's. Colonies of Africanized honey bees then swarmed to other areas of the United States such as California. Today, Africanized honey bees have spread to many states in the Southern United States, including Arizona. This past week, On August 28, 2014, at the end of Fremont St, the Marshal's Office and Fire Department assisted with the removal of a bee hive, which was determined to contain killer bees. According to the specialist removing the bees it was a very aggressive hive and two volunteers who were standing 50 ft away were stung.

The Marshal's Department is asking that if anyone sees a swarm or a hive, to leave it alone and contact the Marshal's Office or Tombstone Fire Department.

So, what is the difference between regular bees and killer bees? European and Africanized honey bees resemble one another but their habits and behaviors are very different: the Africanized honey bee is more aggressive than its European counterpart and has earned the popular nickname "killer bee." They are known to respond to slight disturbances within a wide range of their hives. They swarm around their nests, attack in large numbers when threatened and have been known to chase perceived enemies for over a mile. Africanized honey bees are highly adaptive and can nest in varying locations, including places where humans reside. When natural nesting locations are unavailable they will nest in empty boxes, containers, old vehicles and tires, trees, garages, underground and outside of buildings.

— *The Tombstone News*

December 12, 2014, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Department Receives Helpful Donation

Meredith Stahler • Fri, Dec 12, 2014

Thanks to a generous donation from the historic O.K. Corral, new members of The Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department will be receiving much needed training.

"We are training on all aspects of the job. They are learning to run the trucks and pump water," stated newly appointed TFD Chief Perotti. They are also learning where all the fire hydrants are and we are discussing pre-fire planning so we know how to deal with issues that may arise,"

This weekend three of the fire department members will be out of town at a motor vehicle extrication class. "We are extremely grateful to the OK Corral for their generous donation," stated Perotti. "Donations like this will help ensure proper training and equipment for the members which means better service for the town."

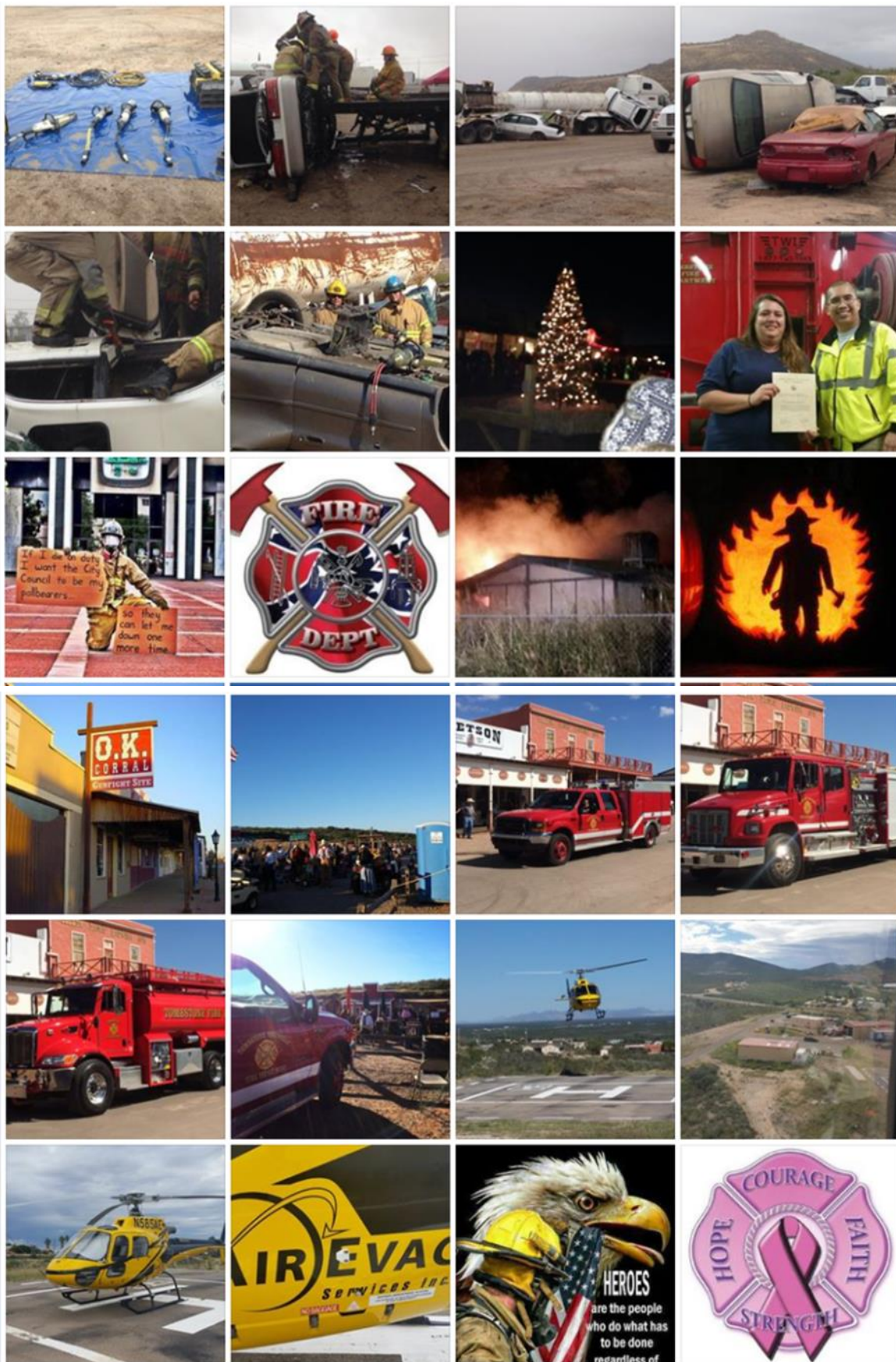
As important as training is to the department, having three members out of town leaves just two members in town. "This is an ongoing issue. A large majority of people on the department work and live out of town. We are in need of new members," stated Chief Perotti. "We are looking for people in town who are interested in joining."

Men and women interested in joining the department are asked to stop by the Fire Department on Wednesday evenings. "Come and sit in on one of the meetings and see what we're all about. If it feels like a good fit then people can pick up an application down at City Hall," said Perotti.

— *The Tombstone News*

2014

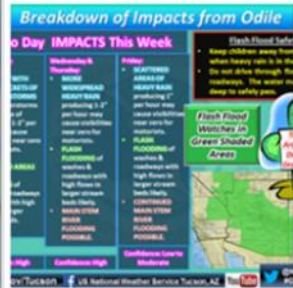
2014, Tombstone Face Book:



2014, Tombstone Face Book:

La Vista Fire Department
75 · 🌐

First Aid certification? Call 3 (675 Giulio Cesare Ave) is Saturday, October 11. Register at the station, \$50 fee, credit card accepted.



Fire Prevention drexel.edu/green

Defend Your Home from Wildfire

- ▶ Eliminate fire fuels within 30 ft. of any structure
- ▶ Keep vegetation around the home low and green.
- ▶ Remove anything under decks, porches or patios.
- ▶ Prune trees back by 10 ft. above the ground.

30 ft. OR MORE

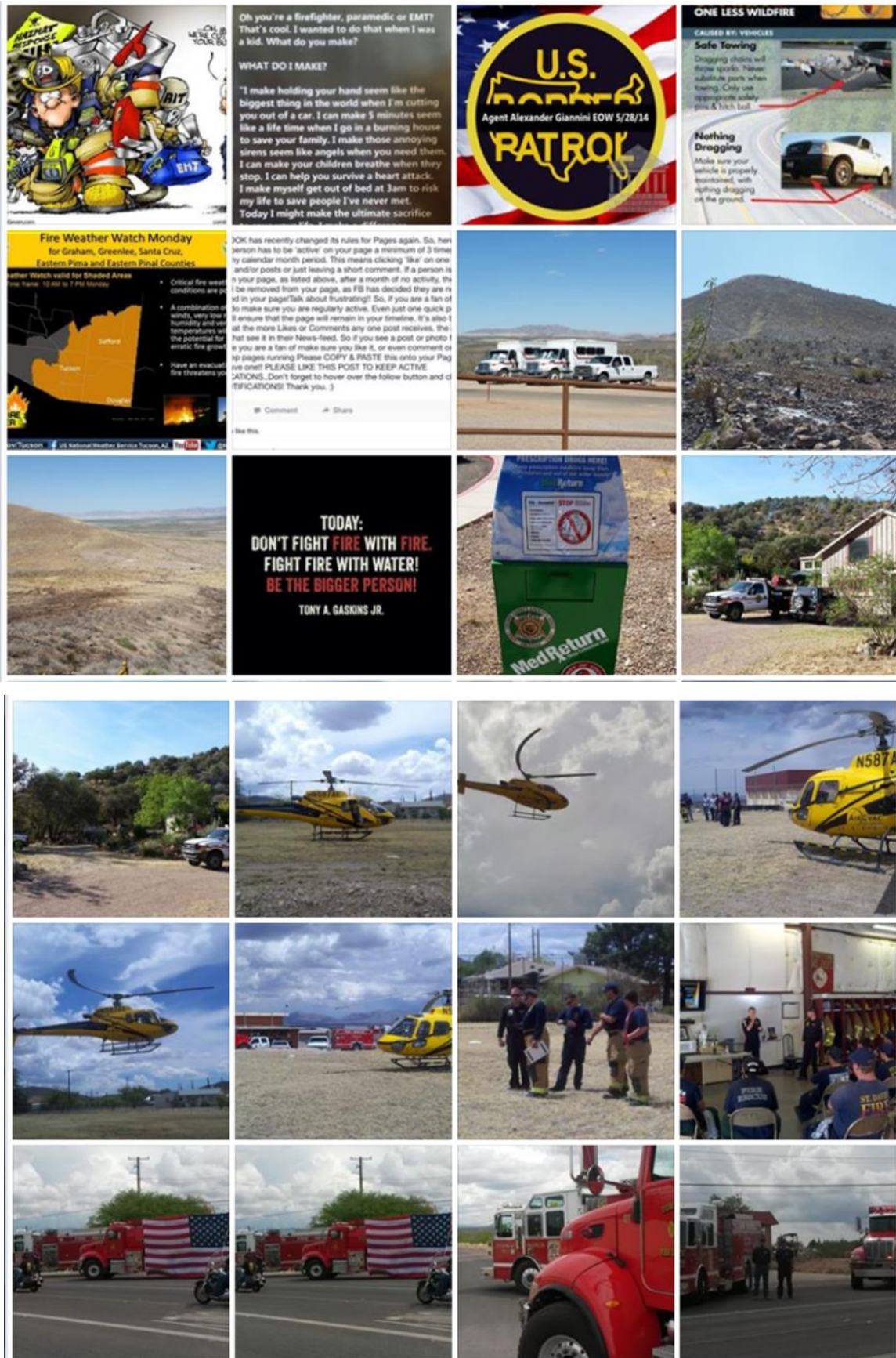
REPORT A FIRE 1-800-562-6010 #noWILDFIRE

Crews from Arizona saved several homes @ the snag fire. DNR communications manager Janet Pearce said early Sunday that a firefighting team from Arizona that had been staged in the Goldenendale area was pulled Saturday night to help fight the Snag Canyon Fire.

Fist bumps for our Arizona Teams!



2014, Tombstone Face Book:



2014, Tombstone Face Book:



January 23, 2015, *The Tombstone News*:

Tombstone House Fire Considered Suspicious



Photo courtesy of Tombstone News photographer John Harriman

Meredith Stahler • Fri, Jan 23, 2015

It isn't everyday that the City's fire chief is not only the first on scene but is also the person reporting the fire but that is exactly what happened this past week in Tombstone. According to Tombstone Fire Chief Joe Perrotti, while driving home on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 he saw smoke at home on Bruce and 6th Street.

"I pulled up and there was smoke all over," stated Perrotti. "I don't know how the neighbors didn't smell it or see it and call it in."

Perrotti went on to say that the home is owned by local hotelier Ron Arco and is currently vacant. "It is an all wood structure, there are no utilities turned on, all the doors and windows were locked and the fire had been smoldering for three to four hours before I got there," stated Perrotti.

According to Perrotti, two rookie fire fighters, Anthony Palma (19) and James Milligan (21) fought the fire and rookie engineer Caleb King (18) helped run the truck. "This was everyone's first fire and they did an outstanding job," stated Perrotti. "Palma and Milligan went into the structure and that is the only reason it is still standing and King, who is the youngest on the department, did a great job running the truck."

When Perrotti took over the department just a few months ago, most of the department walked out leaving him to start over with a fairly new crew. "We have done lots of training and this just shows how well that training has worked," stated Perrotti.

According to Perrotti, there is cause for suspicion due to the circumstances of the fire and a fire investigator has been called in to investigate. At this time, State Fire Marshal Paul Cimino is investigating the scene and is working with Tombstone Marshal Houser. The Tombstone News will update you on the matter when the info becomes available to us.

— *The Tombstone News*

January 23, 2015, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Hose Cart Makes its Way to Old Fire House



Meredith Stahler • Fri, Jan 23, 2015

Many years ago, former City Councilwoman Anna Salcido purchased an old time fire hose cart for the Tombstone Fire Department to use in competition races.

Over the years, the cart sat and didn't get much attention. This prompted Salcido to have it restored to its original condition.

According to Fire Chief Perotti, the cart was in pieces behind the fire station when Anna said she would take it and have it restored. At that point, Fire Chief Joe Perotti, Anthony Palma, Caleb King, JD Dotson and other members of the fire department took the pieces into the station and cleaned, scraped, sanded, painted and restored the cart back to its original shape splendor. The cart is on display at the Fire Station No. 1, (Senior Center) and will be used at the next Tombstone at Twilight to help raise money for the Fire Department by selling t-shirts and other items.

The City of Tombstone would like to thank Anna Salcido and the members of the Tombstone Fire Department for their hard work on the cart.

If you can offer any help to the Fire Department it would be greatly appreciated. Fire Chief Perotti is looking for volunteers. Please inquire at the Fire Department or call (520) 457-3742.

— *The Tombstone News*

January 30, 2015, *The Tombstone News*:

Tombstone Fire Department Tackles Two House Fires in One Week

Meredith Stahler • Fri, Jan 30, 2015

According to Tombstone Fire Chief Joe Perotti, the fire was the result of a homeowner burning on his property without a burn permit.

"The fire was in Tombstone Territorial Estates," stated Chief Perotti. "The home owner was burning weeds on his property which is not allowed without a burn permit."

Perotti went on to say that the homeowner informed fire personnel that he had permission from the fire chief to burn whenever he wanted. "I never gave him permission so that is obviously not true," stated Perotti.

While burning weeds, the wind picked up sending the fire across the yard near the home, then down into the wash toward several other homes. Fire Chief Perotti told *The Tombstone News* that the inside of the home did not have any damage but the outside of the home did. "It ruined three fourths of the skirting around the home, melted the gas meter, melted electrical lines running to the home and ruined various gardening tools in the yard."

"Thankfully, no other homes were damaged and no one was hurt. The public needs to be aware that burn permits must be obtained from me."

"Our crew responded, Caleb King, James Milligan and David Brewster," stated Chief Perotti.

"They did a great job." King and Milligan were both on the fire that totaled a house on Bruce Street just one week ago. That was their first structure fire.

Perotti went on to say that he will personally come out and inspect the property for safety and then give the rules that must be followed and the time constraints that the burn must take place under. If someone is in need of a burn permit they can call City Hall at 520-457-2202.

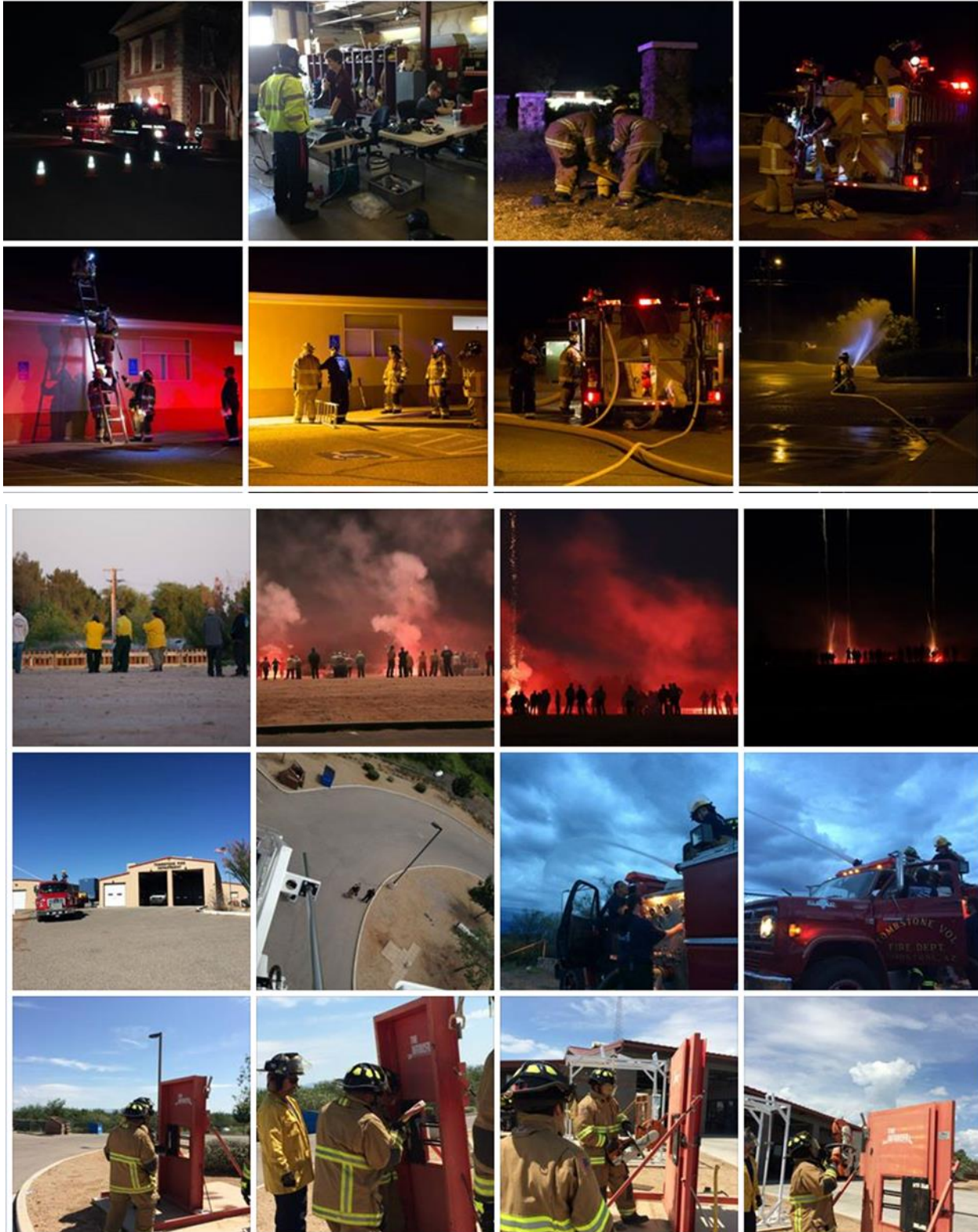
— *The Tombstone News*

2015

February 26, 2015, Tombstone Fire Department Facebook:

Training 2015

Updated about 4 months ago



2015

February 26, 2015, Tombstone Fire Department Facebook:



March 20, 2015, *The Tombstone News*:

Donations For Emergency Medical Equipment and Training Needed

Meredith Stahler • Fri, Mar 20, 2015

In emergency medicine, the golden hour refers to a time period lasting for one hour following a traumatic injury such as a car accident or heart attack. During this one hour time period there is the highest likelihood that prompt medical treatment will prevent death.

In a small town such as Tombstone where the nearest medical center is 19 miles away and all first responders are volunteers, time can definitely be an issue however, with the right equipment and training those same volunteers can turn the tide and save countless lives. With that in mind Norma Sullivan and Penny Lescard of The Cameo Ladies have teamed up with the Tombstone Senior Volunteers in an effort to raise funds to provide training and equipment for the first responders of Tombstone.

The project was announced January 31st at a dinner between the Cameo Ladies and the Tombstone Senior Volunteers. The project has received approval from the Mayor, Council Members, Marshal and Fire Chief with great encouragement.

All funds raised will be used to purchase Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AED's) and other lifesaving equipment; funds will also be used for training costs for first responders. All donations are tax deductible and will assist in helping safeguard residents and visitors of Tombstone.

Donations can be made directly to any Cameo Lady of Tombstone or by check payable to: Tombstone Senior Volunteer-31. Checks can be mailed to P. Lescard, PO Box 1787 Tombstone, AZ 85638.

— *The Tombstone News*

April 24, 2015, *The Tombstone News*:

City Moves Forward With Fire Hydrant Replacements & Repairs

Meredith Stahler • Fri, Apr 24, 2015

On April 10, 2015 the City of Tombstone put out its Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking bids for the City's fire hydrant replacement, repair and removal. Bids were to be submitted by April 17, 2015 and were voted on at a Special Council Meeting held April 22, 2015.

According to the City Code, the Mayor is the only one who is authorized to call a special Council Meeting. Due to a family emergency, Mayor Escapule had to leave the state but instructed Mayor Pro-Tem Bill Barlow to call a Special Council Meeting to approve and award the bid. According to Tombstone Building Inspector Michael "Mac" McMillan, many of the current hydrants are from the 1920's and older while the stand pipes (tall skinny hydrants around town) are from the late 1880's and early 1900's. "Many are in disrepair and will not properly function during an emergency. Other hydrants are so old that the parts just can't be replaced," explained McMillan.

According to Public Works Director Alex Gradillas, over the years, when the old hydrants began to leak, the main water valve to that hydrant was shut off. "This becomes an issue when the fire department goes to hook up to the hydrant and nothing happens," stated Gradillas.

The Tombstone News spoke to Tombstone Mayor Pro-Tem Bill Barlow regarding the importance of the project. "Thanks to the bond issue, I am thankful that the City can address some of our water infrastructure problems, mainly replacing some of our water hydrants and some of the water lines. With our existing hydrants we can have a real problem if we had a major fire since so many of them aren't currently working. They could affect the insurance rate for all of the people in the City of Tombstone as the rating bureau ISO could raise the fire class to a higher classification, resulting in much higher fire insurance premiums".

To ensure the safety of the community, Mayor Escapule and the City Council want to make sure work on the hydrant takes place quickly and accurately. Prior to any physical work taking place the contractor will survey the existing water system's components, review existing engineering reports, develop and present options for phasing and management of construction work and submit a pre-construction report.

Once the preliminary work takes place, the contractor will then remove and replace 28 existing fire hydrants/standpipes. They will install valves and waterlines along with any coordination of valve operations, any excavation, shoring paving and landscape restoration work that might be needed. They will also install six gate valves at each fire hydrant location as well as installing new wet taps with gate valve on the existing water main.

The company awarded the bid was KE&G Construction, Inc. According to their website, KE&G has been a licensed General Contractor in the State of Arizona since 1972. The corporate headquarters are located in Sierra Vista, AZ and they also have an office in Tucson, AZ. KE&G is an employee-owned heavy/civil construction company with over 41 years of experience constructing projects for public and private entities. Their construction expertise ranges from installation, repair, maintenance and rehabilitation of wastewater conveyance systems, lift stations, pump stations, to intersection improvements, asphalt paving, concrete paving, bridges, drainage structures, infrastructure development, traffic signalization, roadway excavation, site concrete, structural concrete, drainage systems, water mains, landscaping and more.

According to the RFP, all the work on the fire hydrants should be completed by August 30, 2015.

— *The Tombstone News*

2015

May 4, 2015, Tombstone Fire Department Facebook:

Special Events

Updated about 7 months ago · Taken at Tombstone Fire Station No. 1



Unknown date:



June 12, 2015, *The Tombstone News*:

Dave Bruster Sworn in as Tombstone Fire Chief



Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Jun 12, 2015

At the June 2015 Council Meeting, the Mayor and Council approved the appointment of Dave Bruster as the new Fire Chief of Tombstone.

Joseph Perotti submitted a letter of resignation last week. Perotti was holding the position of Fire Chief temporarily until he found someone fit for the job. Mayor Escapule thanked Perotti for his dedication and extremely hard work to get the Fire Department back into shape.

Included in Perotti's resignation was a recommendation to appoint Dave Bruster as the Fire Chief. Mayor Escapule swore in Bruster last week and the city council ratified his appointment unanimously at Tuesday's council meeting.

"I have been working close with Chief Bruster over the past weeks and I fully agree with Joe Perotti's recommendation, I feel he is an asset to the Tombstone Fire Department and the community as a whole," stated Mayor Escapule.

Fire Chief Dave Bruster moved to Tombstone from Iowa in 2012. He spent four years as a volunteer fire fighter in Iowa, is Firefighter One certified, trained in multiple classes including rope rescue, search and rescue, swift water rescue and specializes in motor vehicle accident rescue.

Bruster is a military veteran with overseas combat experience and spent 10 years in the U.S. Army.

After 9/11, the Governor of Iowa chose Bruster to be the armed National Guardsman for the Eastern Iowa Airport, located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He was chosen many times to do special transportation assignments driving from Iowa to almost every part of the country. Bruster is planning to enroll in EMT courses in the near future. He is married and is a father of four children, his youngest being only 13 months old.

Fire Chief Bruster is looking for volunteer firemen. If you are interested in joining the Fire Department, please stop by the Tombstone Fire Department on San Diego St. on Wednesdays at 6:30pm for the weekly meeting. If you wish to speak to Fire Chief Bruster, please call City Hall at (520) 457-2202 and leave him a message.

— *The Tombstone News*

2015

June, 2015—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkixMwYEeCU>



2015

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2015

June, 2015—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkixMwYEeCU>



2015

August 26, 2015, Tombstone Fire Department Facebook:



Congratulations FF/EMT R. Kandil on her promotion to Capt. last night, 8/26/2015.

September 11, 2015, *The Tombstone News*:

Historic Tombstone Building Wall Collapses from Rainwater

Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Sep 11, 2015

David Bales, owner of the building that houses the "Tombstone Oil 'n' Vinegar Shop", received a dreadful phone call around 11:30 p.m. Friday night, September 4th, from the Marshals Office notifying him that the wall collapsed in the building.

"When I received that phone call I was extremely devastated," said Bales.

"When I arrived that night, the Marshals Department, Fire Department and the Building Inspector were all already there assessing the damage. That night, the damage looked really bad and they were worried about the front of the building collapsing as well."

Cochise County had been slammed with a storm that lasted for nearly 3 days, something that is unusual for this area. Due to the extreme amount of water running down the 100-year-old adobe, the wall gave in. Unfortunately, the next day, Saturday September 5th was the start of the Annual Showdown in Tombstone weekend event, which hurt the owners of the Tombstone Oil n Vinegar Shop.

"On Saturday September 5th, numerous people showed up to help with the situation. The Mayor showed up and gave me some history about the building because he had owned it before I did over 10 years ago. We hired the city's Architectural Engineer George Lounsbury who was a huge help. The Building Inspector Mac McMillan, Mayor Escapule and the contractor Mr. Fixit all helped get the building back up and running. The owners of the shop were able to re-open by Sunday afternoon," said Bales.

"It was amazing to see everyone coming together to help get us get the place opened back up."

"I would like to thank everyone who took time out of their day to help assist us with the situation, Mayor Escapule, Mac McMillan, George Lounsbury, Tombstone Marshals Office, Tombstone Fire Department and anyone else I may have not mentioned," said Bales.

History states that the building was first built in 1881 and housed the Tivoli Saloon, Bowl & Shoot.

Bales has owned the building for 10 years and now leases it to the owners of the Tombstone Oil 'n' Vinegar Shop and Danmar Gems. Before Bales owned it, it was owned by Mayor Dusty Escapule and his wife Cheri Escapule. They had the Tombstone Candy Shop in the building for several years and also sold tickets for Cheri's stagecoach company Old Tombstone Tours.

Bales also told The Tombstone News that their insurance will not cover the damages and they are selling the historic adobe bricks to help pay for the damages. The bricks are over 100 years old and have seen a considerable amount of history throughout the years. Bales has already sold some of the blocks, so if you are interested, get yours before it's too late by calling (520) 220-7407.

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History states that the building was first built in 1881 and housed the Tivoli Saloon, Bowl & Shoot.

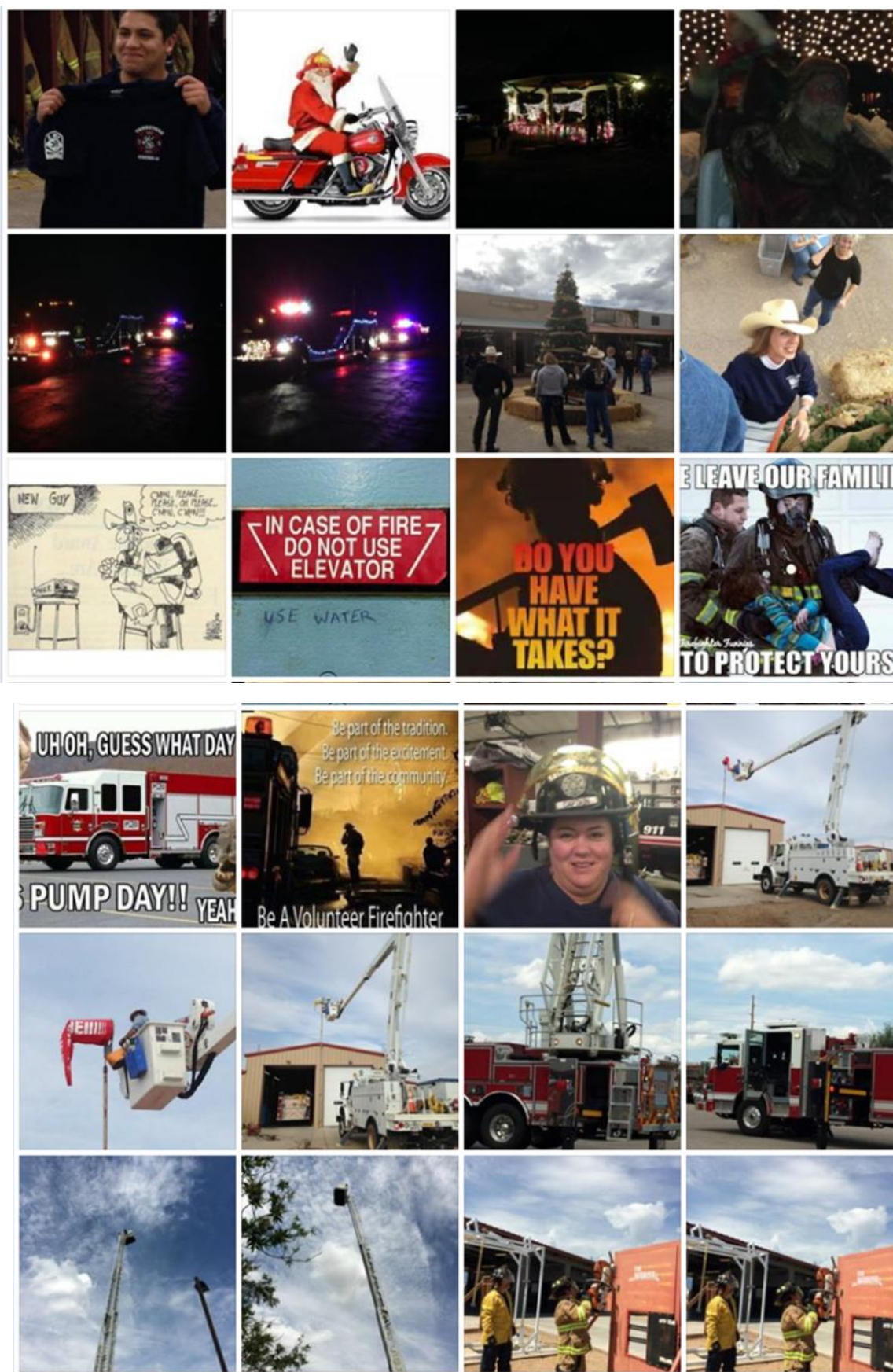
Bales has owned the building for 10 years and now leases it to the owners of the Tombstone Oil 'n' Vinegar Shop and Danmar Gems. Before Bales owned it, it was owned by Mayor Dusty Escapule and his wife Cheri Escapule. They had the Tombstone Candy Shop in the building for several years and also sold tickets for Cheri's stagecoach company Old Tombstone Tours.

Bales also told The Tombstone News that their insurance will not cover the damages and they are selling the historic adobe bricks to help pay for the damages. The bricks are over 100 years old and have seen a considerable amount of history throughout the years. Bales has already sold some of the blocks, so if you are interested, get yours before it's too late by calling (520) 220-7407.

— *The Tombstone News*

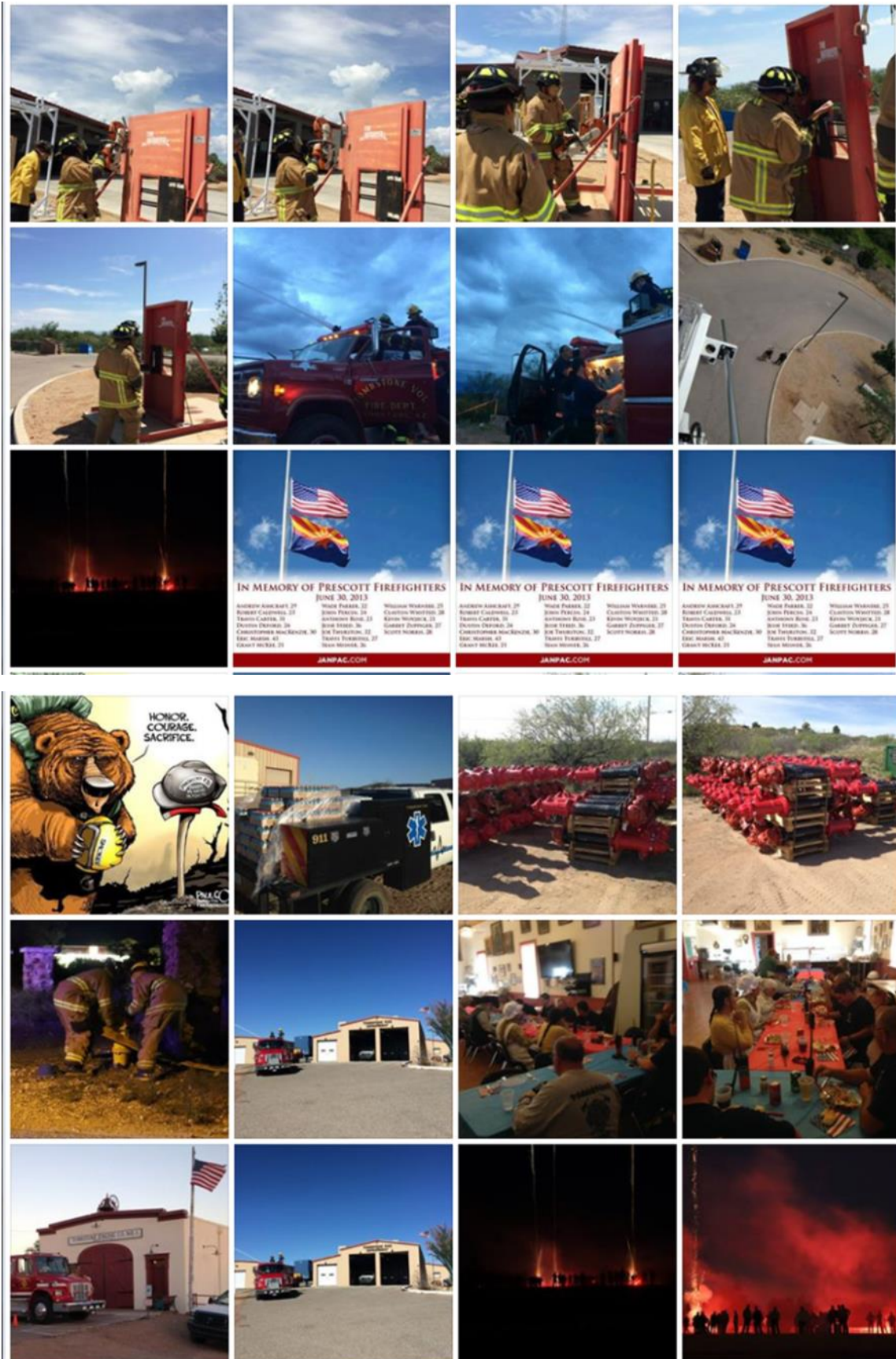
2015

2015, Tombstone Face Book:



2015

2015, Tombstone Face Book:



2015

2015, Tombstone Face Book:



2015, Tombstone Face Book:



February 5, 2016, *The Tombstone News*:

Travel Trailer Fire Under Investigation



Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Feb 05, 2016

According to Tombstone Fire Chief Dave Bruster, the Tombstone Fire Department was toned out to a 5th wheel trailer fire at approximately 9:15am on Wednesday February 3, 2016 at the Tombstone RV Park on Highway 80.

According to the Tombstone Marshals Office, two deputies arrived on scene before the Fire Department and immediately evacuated all the occupants of the 5th Wheel and surrounding trailers.

During the evacuation, the deputies discovered that the trailer contained 3000 rounds of live ammunition and several firearms. As the fire grew, the ammunition began exploding, resulting in two bystanders getting struck by bullets, fortunately neither bystander was seriously injured. The Tombstone Fire Department had the trailer fully extinguished within 90 minutes of arriving on scene. However, the trailer which was owned and lived in by Tombstone residents, was a total loss. According to the Marshals Office, the adjoining travel trailers sustained smoke and heat damage and may also be a total loss as well.

The occupants of the trailer were treated on scene and transported to the Benson Hospital. One of the Tombstone Marshals Deputies was treated for smoke inhalation.

"I had four guys that responded to the fire and they all did an awesome job knocking the fire out in a timely manner. They all worked really hard and one of them even left work to come and assist us," said Bruster.

Deputies were able to remove 13 firearms from the trailer and store them for the owner.

As of press time, the fire is still under investigation and is considered suspicious. The Cochise County Sheriff's Office is also assisting with the investigation. The Tombstone News will update you on the matter when more information is released.

— *The Tombstone News*

March 4, 2016, *The Tombstone News*:

Tombstone Family Safe After House Fire

Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Mar 04, 2016

On Wednesday March 2nd at approximately 9:00pm, The Tombstone Fire Department was toned out to a house fire at Dusty & Cheri Escapule's Ranch on the west end of Allen Street. According to Escapule, what could have been a major tragedy, turned into just a loss of property. The home was lived in by stagecoach driver Thomas Clark and his wife Alice Clark. They also have one dog and one cat that made it out of the fire safe. Thom and Alice Clark stated that, "I want to thank all of my friends that stepped forward to help us during this difficult time, I want to especially thank the Tombstone Fire Department for their timely response. They were able to control the fire and keep it from spreading to other structures near the trailer."

The Fire appears to have been an electrical fire.

The Tombstone Fire Department had the fire under control in approximately 30 minutes and spent a considerable amount of time mopping up and putting out hot spots.

"I want to thank The Tombstone Fire Department for their professional actions taken during the fire. It could have been much worse, the Fire Department kept the fire from spreading to other areas on the property. I also want to recognize the Tombstone Marshals Office for their involvement in helping the Fire Department during the most important part of the battle against the fire," said Mayor Escapule.

Two Firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation, one being transported to the Tucson Hospital where he was examined and released.

"I would like to let the citizens of Tombstone know that the Tombstone Fire Department is a Volunteer Fire Department and at this time there is a small amount of individuals that are willing to step up and become part of the department. When an incident like this happens, it makes you realize that the department is in dire need of volunteers. I would ask that anyone that is physically able to be a volunteer Fire Fighter in Tombstone, please go to the Fire Department and sign up," said Escapule.

The Red Cross assisted the Clarks in order to purchase the immediate necessities. They lost everything they had. If you would like to help the Clark Family, please contact The Tombstone News at (520) 457-3086.

— *The Tombstone News*

2016, Tombstone Fire Department Facebook, Training photos:



June 10, 2016, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Department Gets Thermal Imaging Camera

Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Jun 10, 2016

On Wednesday June 8th, Tombstone Fire Chief Dave Bruster did a presentation at the Fire House with the new thermal imaging camera they obtained.

According to Bruster, this new piece of equipment is something that other Fire Departments around the U.S. have been using for years.

The camera can be used in a number of ways. Bruster stated that the camera has the capability to show firefighters if a person or animal is still inside of a burning building.

"We used the new camera for the first time on May 26th during an electrical fire. The camera can also record and be used as evidence if a fire is suspected of being suspicious in nature," said Bruster.

Bruster also stated that the camera can be used for car accidents as well if needed to locate a person that has been thrown from a vehicle and isn't visible to the naked eye.

The Fire Department used funds from their T-shirt donation fund to purchase the new camera.

"We obtained it from FDC in Phoenix. It was their floor model so we got an extremely good deal on it," said Bruster.

While they are expensive pieces of equipment, their popularity and adoption by firefighters in the United States is increasing markedly due to the increased availability of government equipment grants following the September 11 attacks in 2001. Thermal imaging cameras pick up body heat, and they are normally used in cases where people are trapped where rescuers cannot find them. Since thermal imaging cameras can "see" through darkness or smoke, they allow firefighters to quickly find the seat of a structure fire, or see the heat signature of visually obscured victims. They can be used to search for victims outdoors on a cool night, spot smoldering fires inside a wall or detect overheating electrical wiring. Thermal imaging cameras were credited with saving multiple lives per year through victim identification and removal from low visibility conditions as early as 1999.

— *The Tombstone News*

2016

June 10, 2016, Courtesy Al Ring:



July 1, 2016, *The Tombstone News*:

Horse Trailer Catches Fire on Charleston Road



Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Jul 01, 2016

On Tuesday June 26th, a horse trailer caught fire on Charleston Road, luckily, there were no horses in the trailer and nobody was injured.

According to Tombstone Fire Chief Dave Bruster, the call came in at approximately 11:30am Tuesday.

"Cochise County Deputies and the Sierra Vista Fire Department also responded to the scene. SVFD along with the Tombstone Fire Department were able to extinguish the fire in a matter of minutes," said Bruster.

Bruster also stated that several folks from the Cochise County Road Crew were a big help in assisting with traffic control.

"The fire started in the area of the passenger side rear tire, unfortunately, the trailer was a total loss", said Bruster.

Luckily there was only minor surface damage to the road and the fire did not spread to any adjacent vehicles or brush.

Fire Chief Bruster would like to remind everyone to please remember to pull over for emergency vehicles and always yield.

If you need to report a fire, please call 9-1-1 immediately! Our desert is very dry and fire restrictions remain in effect.

— *The Tombstone News*

2016

August 27, 2016, *The Tombstone News*:

Crash shuts highway near Tombstone



The driver of a tractor-trailer was injured Friday when his rig rolled over while he tried to make a sharp turn near Tombstone, the state Department of Public Safety said. Arizona 80 was closed for several hours. Information about the driver's condition was not immediately available Friday. Tombstone is located about 70 miles southeast of Tucson.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

September 23, 2016, *The Tombstone News*:

Saturday's Tombstone at Twilight Salute to First Responders

Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Sep 23, 2016

The monthly Tombstone at Twilight event will take place on Saturday September 24th and will be a Salute to First Responders! This Tombstone at Twilight is the 3rd Anniversary of the Tombstone at Twilight events, according to Gordon Anderson, President of Tombstone Forward.

According to Anderson, the event will also be honoring the Arizona Rangers since their Tombstone Arizona Rangers Museum will be opening that evening. The museum is located on 4th Street behind the Tombstone Chamber of Commerce building.

Mayor Escapule, Marshal Randall and the Tombstone Fire Chief will be in attendance to speak.

As usual, the event will kick-off on the corner of 4th and Allen Streets in front of the Tombstone Visitors Center at 5:00pm with the National Anthem.

Three gunfight shows will be taking place on Allen Street at 5:45pm, 6:30pm and 7:00pm. Door prizes will be given away during Twilight. Tickets can be picked up at participating stores.

Music Buskers will also be on Allen Street throughout the evening.

"All first responders, paramedics, firemen and police are welcome to this event," said Gordon Anderson.

Anderson continued, "We would like to thank all of the Tombstone merchants who keep their doors open late for these events. We are also thankful for everyone who donates and helps out."

Tombstone Forward is a 501(c)(3) non-profit group of Tombstone citizens and merchants who dedicate their time to bringing more business to Tombstone. Their mission is to Market and Promote Tombstone Arizona to a new and wider audience while also enhancing the Tombstone experience to the benefit of the visitors and businesses. Tombstone Forward Board of Directors includes Gordon Anderson, President. Sunny Quatchon, Vice President. April Hinton, Treasurer. Maureen Jenkins, Secretary. Robert Hofmeister, Board Member. Linda Webber, Board Member.

Tombstone Forward will be putting on "Halloween in Tombstone" this year. Check our newspapers event section for more information.

— *The Tombstone News*

September 30, 2016, *The Tombstone News*:

Fire Department Receives \$447,700 Grant for Equipment

Samantha Nicholas • Fri, Sep 30, 2016

Fire Chief David Bruster received exciting news this week regarding a grant for the Fire Department. According to Bruster, the Tombstone Fire Department was given a \$447,700.00 grant this week from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

"The foundation contacted me last week and asked me to send them a wish list of items we are in need of at the Fire Department. Fortunately, we were given the grant so now we can obtain numerous items we need," said Bruster.

The Fire Department has been in desperate need of SCBA Systems for all of the fire fighters. SCBA Systems, short for self-contained breathing apparatus, is a device worn by fire fighters to provide breathable air in a dangerous atmosphere. These systems are extremely costly.

According to Bruster, the funds will provide the fire fighters with the SCBA systems, masks, packs and tanks. It will also provide new coats, pants, boots, gloves, helmet lights and a new brush truck, something that the Fire Department has desperately needed for some time.

"I am very excited and grateful for this grant from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. My greatest concern every day is the safety of my firefighters. Our current masks are over 20 years old and mine recently broke during exercises and fire school."

"I have been trying to find a way to replace all of this equipment at once. Now that we received this money, there has been a huge weight lifted off of my shoulders," said Bruster.

Bruster also told The Tombstone News that they have 6 firefighters going to Structure Fire 1 & 2 Classes over the next three months. "This is a fair number of firefighters, but we are still in need of people that may be interested in running medical calls and becoming EMT's. There is funds available to help with EMT Classes."

Mayor Escapule stated, "this is another positive step for Tombstone's citizens. The Tombstone Volunteer Fire Department is one of a few volunteer fire departments left in Arizona and I am proud to say that our fire department is one of the best. I want to thank Chief Bruster for his persistence in looking for and obtaining a grant from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. The safety of our fire fighters is of utmost importance and this will guarantee their safety.

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation was established in 1999 in IL and NE and was founded by Howard G. Buffett, son of Warren Buffett. Howard G. Buffett has been active in business, politics, agriculture, conservation, photography and philanthropy.

Additionally, he has written more than half a dozen books on conservation, wildlife, and the human condition, including articles and opinion pieces for The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post. He operates an 840-acre farm in central Illinois. In 2006, his father, Warren Buffett, founder of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., pledged a portion of his Berkshire-Hathaway, Inc. stock to the foundation to be paid out over time. In 2012, Warren Buffett decided to significantly increase the amount of stock he gives to the foundation, ultimately amounting to about \$2.1 billion. Warren Buffett has committed to The Giving Pledge, and has pledged to give away at least half of his wealth to philanthropy.

— *The Tombstone News*

October 2016, *The Journal of Arizona History*, autumn 2016—"If You Go, You Must Dress Up" Social Life in a Frontier Mining Town—Tombstone, Arizona 18790-1882, by Lonnie E. Underhill.

The Tombstone Fire Department played a conspicuous role in holiday celebrations. A large contingent of the red-shirted Tombstone Engine Company led the Thanksgiving Day parade down Allen Street prior to a uniformed dance at Schieffelin Hall. At 8 p.m., a delegation marched with the Tombstone Brass Band to the Hook, Rescue, and Ladder Company Fire House. The blue-shirted Hooks then joined the celebration. The Hooks reciprocated by sponsoring the New Year's Eve festivities, starting with a

[304]



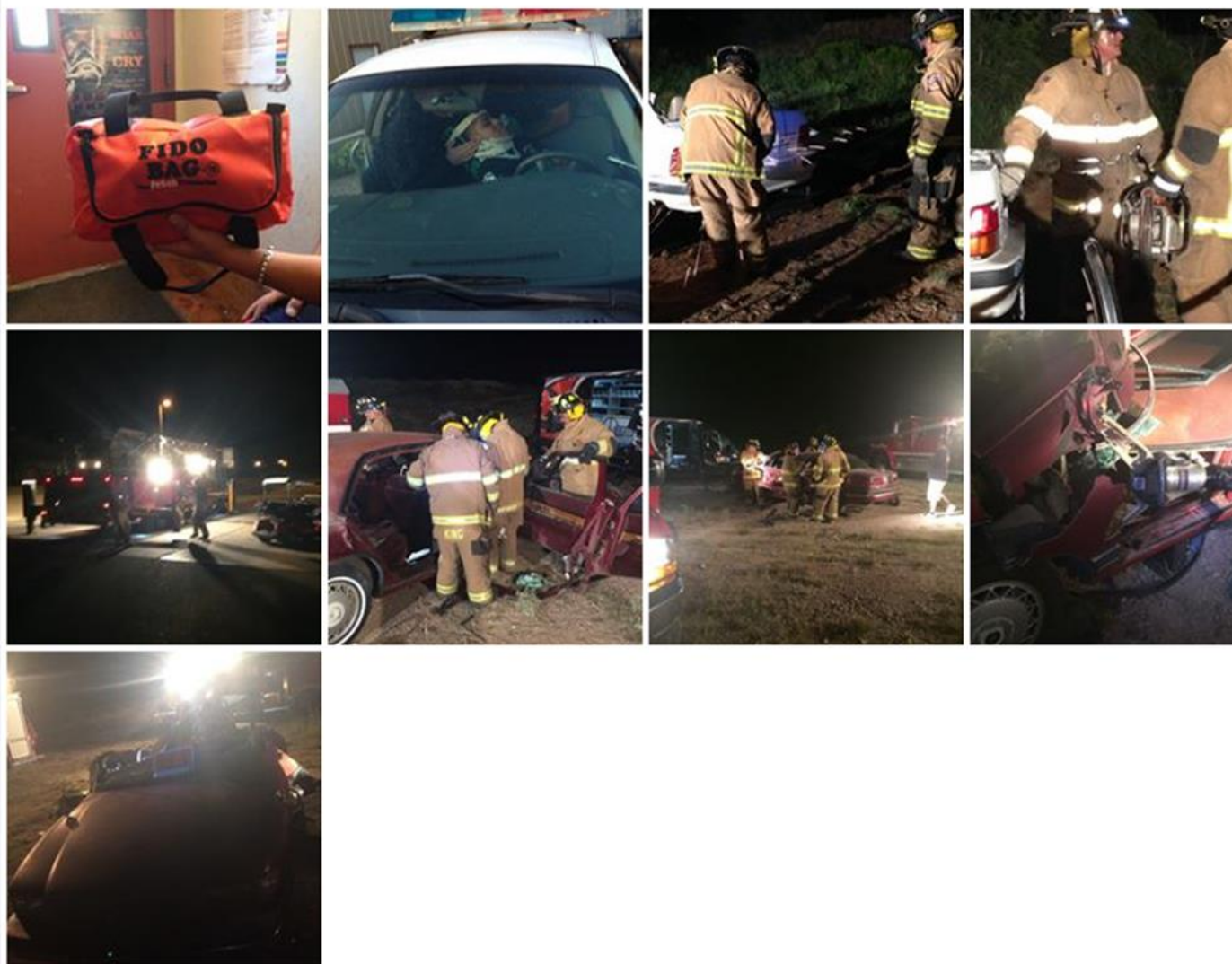
Tombstone Engine Company No. 1. #27,673.

parade down Allen Street and ending with food, drink, and dancing into the "wee-hours."⁴⁹

49. *Tombstone Epitaph*, 1880, passim. Bailey, *A Tenderfoot in Tombstone*, pp. 48, 52, 53, 56, 61–63, 66, 74, 166, 198, 207; and *Tombstone from a Woman's Point of View*, pp. 24, 27.

2016

October 2016, *TFD* Facebook, 2016 Training



49. *Tombstone Epitaph*, 1880, *passim*. Bailey, *A Tenderfoot in Tombstone*, pp. 48, 52, 53, 56, 61–63, 66, 74, 166, 198, 207; and *Tombstone from a Woman's Point of View*, pp. 24, 27.

Greater Tucson Fire Foundation

Thank you for taking an interest in Tucson Fire Department history —

This is one of many sections that contain information, documents, letters, newspaper articles, pictures, etc. They have been collected and arranged in chronological order or by a subject. These items were collected, organized and entered into a computerized database by Dave Ridings retired Assistant Chief Tucson Fire Department, Al Ring friend of the department, Greater Tucson Fire Foundation and with the help of many friends and fellow firefighters.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles. This also applies to other items such as documents, letters, etc.

Credit to the source of the documents, photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. The *Arizona Daily Star*, The *Tucson Citizen* and the *Tucson Daily Citizen*, for which we want to give a special thanks.

Please use this information as a reference tool only. If the reader uses any of the information for any purpose other than a reference tool, they should get permission from the source.

Should the reader have additional information on the above subject we would appreciate you sharing it with us. Please see the names and contact information on the 1st. TFD Archives page right below this paragraph.

