



# THE JOURNAL

## The Dawn of a New Day

A juniper frames a wintry view of the Sedona area's Chimney Rock in morning light. An easy hiking trail loops around this sandstone butte and provides good views of Red Rock Country. For more information, call the Coconino National Forest's Red Rock Ranger District at 928-203-2900 or visit [fs.usda.gov/coconino](https://fs.usda.gov/coconino).

📷 CANON EOS 5D MARK III, 1/5 SEC, F/20, ISO 100, 75 MM LENS

# Greater Roadrunner

KELLY VAUGHN

When it comes to desert birds, greater roadrunners (*Geococcyx californianus*) are among the most fascinating. Although they can fly, they rarely do, preferring instead to run — sometimes at speeds of up to 15 miles per hour. Long and lean, the birds grow to between 20 and 24 inches in length and subsist on a diet of lizards, snakes, smaller birds, rodents and invertebrates, as well as fruits and seeds. And because they're diurnal, hunting primarily during the day, they also rely on a very special skill: the ability to leap straight up to snatch flying prey right out of the air. Roadrunners are common in most of Arizona, with habitats in desert scrub and grasslands.



**ADDITIONAL READING:** To learn more about Arizona's wildlife, pick up a copy of the *Arizona Highways Wildlife Guide*, which features 125 of the state's native birds, mammals, reptiles and other animal species. To order online, visit [shoparizonahighways.com/wildlifeguide](http://shoparizonahighways.com/wildlifeguide).





City of Yuma picks up fuel from a speeding convertible during its record-setting 1949 flight.

## Yuma's Longest Flight

Although it's best known as the "winter lettuce capital of the world" and the home of Arizona's best bean-and-cheese burrito, Yuma has another distinction: It's the site of what then was the longest flight in history.

**KATHY MONTGOMERY**

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT when it comes to the imagination of Yuma's boosters. More than once, town fathers managed to turn even the weather of one of Arizona's hottest cities into a promotional campaign. And for a while, Yuma gave Las Vegas a run for the title of "Wedding Capital of the World," with a drive-in chapel and a plane painted with a cupid.

But that plane, the *Honeymoon Express*, was hardly Yuma's greatest aviation achievement. The city boasts a long and interesting aviation history, and one of its most interesting chapters is a record-setting endurance flight in 1949.

After World War II, Yuma's military air base and other training facilities closed. The local economy took a nosedive, but local Jaycees thought they knew how to rev it up again. Two pilots in California had recently broken an endurance record by keeping their single-engine plane flying continuously for 1,008 hours, and they were getting a lot of attention.

The manager of Yuma's radio station thought the city should launch its own attempt. Within three days, he found a plane and two former U.S. Navy pilots, Bob Woodhouse and Woody Jongeward, to fly it. They set 1,010 hours as the minimum goal, so 1010 became the pilots' call sign.

After two unsuccessful attempts, the plane,

an Aeronca Sedan christened *City of Yuma*, took off on August 24. Volunteers resupplied the plane from a 1948 Buick convertible racing down a runway, handing up gas and supplies while the plane flew alongside.

When the pilots broke the record on October 5, the town went dark for a minute. The fire department and city factories blasted their whistles, and horns erupted all over the city. But the plane stayed in the air until October 10 (or 10/10), setting the record at 1,124 hours. Businesses closed at noon and local schools let out early so residents could cheer the pilots when they landed. Eight Navy Hellcats flew over, and fireworks lit up the sky.

The record, which stood until two longer flights were conducted in the late 1950s, made national news. Shortly afterward, the U.S. Air Force named Yuma one of 10 possible sites for its academy. It reactivated the air base as a training facility on July 7, 1951.

In an interesting postscript, the Jaycees sponsored a second flight with a model plane one-sixth the size of the original: *City of Yuma Jr.*, which set a record for model airplanes on the third anniversary of the record-breaking flight. The original *City of Yuma* flew one last time to mark the flight's 50th anniversary and now hangs at City Hall.

### THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

- In January 1878, the first Phoenix newspaper, the *Salt River Herald*, started publication.
- On January 21, 1921, the Grand Canyon's Bright Angel Trail saw its first recorded serious accident. Three packhorses carrying supplies fell over a wall of the Canyon and were killed.
- On January 23, 1916, a levee broke on the Colorado River, causing Yuma to end up 4 feet underwater.
- On January 24, 1887, the first donation — \$5 from Helena Roseberry — was received to build the Mormon Temple in Mesa.
- Abraham Harlow Peeples, the prospector for whom Peeples Valley is named, died on January 28, 1892.

### 75 YEARS AGO IN ARIZONA HIGHWAYS



Our January 1946 issue covered Arizona's resources, with looks at agriculture, livestock and copper mining. A series of photographs from the Phoenix Open and the Tucson Open — Arizona's significant winter golf events, which attracted "America's golfing elite" and other public figures — was also featured.

**YUMA** Yuma Visitors Bureau, 928-783-0071, [visityuma.com](http://visityuma.com)

## Pangaea Bakery & Café

There are many reasons Pangaea has been a local favorite for more than 20 years. High on the list are specialty breads such as jalapeño with Cabot white cheddar and a dense sourdough rye that's developed a cult following among European customers.

**KATHY MONTGOMERY**

In January 2016, after more than 20 years in downtown Prescott, Nicole Marshall (pictured) told her customers that Pangaea Bakery & Café would be closing for a few months during construction at a new, larger facility. But because of a series of setbacks that included construction delays and Marshall's battle with an aggressive form of breast cancer, it took nearly four years before the bakery reopened in December 2019 at the Village at the Boulders shopping center. Prescott's residents rejoiced.

"I made one post on Facebook and said, 'I've turned on the "Open" sign,'" Marshall recalls. "Within an hour, we had a line out the door for two weeks. Old customers said it was the best Christmas present they could have had. I actually burst into tears."

Pangaea is the name given to the land-mass that existed before Earth's continents separated. For the bakery, the name is a play on words, marrying *pan*, meaning "bread" in many languages, with Gaea — mother, nurturer and giver of life.

Pangaea's crusty European-style breads are worthy of their place in Prescott's culinary pantheon. The bakery offers baguettes and sourdough loaves every day, with specialty breads on rotation in varieties such as jalapeño with Cabot white cheddar, nine-grain porridge bread and a dense sourdough rye that has developed a cult following among European customers. There's also a selection of croissants, pastries and desserts, all made fresh daily using premium organic flour and hormone-free butter.

"We make everything from scratch,

100 percent," Marshall says. "The bottom line for me is that the food is clean and nutritious. Because if you're going to eat croissants, there should still be nutritional value and they should be delicious."

Pangaea also serves sandwiches and salads made with high-quality meats and local produce, and daily quiche and soup selections. There's also Roman-style pan pizza by the slice, with a different fresh topping each day. Made with high-moisture, long-fermentation dough, it's tall, like focaccia, but crisp.

This time around, Marshall's pet project is a market featuring small-batch artisan chocolates, heirloom beans, Italian specialty pastas, and local organic produce and flowers. When the pandemic hit, Marshall removed the interior tables and expanded the market to include organic milk and eggs, dish soap and toilet paper. "My customers were so grateful," she says. "It has all the things you really require, so if you're vulnerable and don't want to go to a big-box store, you don't have to."

For the uninitiated, it's worth the drive. For the faithful, it was worth the wait.



**PRESCOTT** Pangaea Bakery & Café, 1260 Gail Gardner Way, 928-227-2791, [facebook.com/pangaeabakery](http://facebook.com/pangaeabakery)

## Camp Colley

As summer camps go, this one is relatively young, but its mission is the same as so many others: to introduce children to the beauty and mysteries of nature and wilderness. What's different about this camp is that it's geared toward kids from underserved communities.

**KELLY VAUGHN**

For so many American children, a pilgrimage to summer camp is a rite of passage. The smell of the campfire; the gooey, sticky sweetness of roasted marshmallows; and making new friends under a blanket of stars, far removed from screens, school and the stresses of everyday kid-dom. But not every child has that opportunity. And that's something Camp Colley hopes to change.

Established in 1999 and operating continually ever since, the camp — named for James Colley, the longtime leader of Phoenix's parks and recreation programs, and located near Happy Jack on the Mogollon Rim — enables children from underserved communities in the Phoenix area to experience the beauty and mysteries of nature and wilderness, often for the first time in their lives.

"We see so much change happen when these kids step off the bus and sit in a circle out in the wilderness for the first time," says Richard Berg, executive director of the Camp Colley Foundation, which oversees the funding and operation of the camp. "Initially, there's a genuine discomfort, but by the end of the week, the kids are rolling around in the grass. It's a wonderful

thing — to watch them transition, open up and build an affinity for nature."

Initially, the city of Phoenix funded and operated the program, which is geared toward students ages 8 to 14. The foundation's role was to raise funds for camp improvements and projects such as building a dining hall and other structures. Because of city budget cuts in 2008, the foundation stepped in to cover operating expenses while the city continued to physically operate the camp. Since then, the foundation has taken over operations as well, relying on support from private and corporate sponsors and a staff of 26 people from across the country. To date, more than 4,000 children have attended Camp Colley for free, through scholarships provided by the foundation.

The COVID-19 pandemic scrapped in-person camp for 2020, but campers were treated to an online curriculum instead. And the foundation is already looking forward to this summer.

"For most of our campers, this will be the first time they'll spend a few nights away from home," Berg says. "The hope is that the experience expands their world-

view. The children are exposed to horses, to canoes, to a ropes course. Camp pushes them to step outside of their comfort zone and really embrace being a kid. There's a lot of positive impact from the social and emotional perspectives, and so many benefits to environmental learning."

Indeed, studies by the Children and Nature Network have suggested that school-age children who experience an outdoors education often see increased test scores and enhanced attendance, attentiveness and achievement. While those things aren't



**ABOVE:** Children from the Phoenix area have been enjoying nature at Camp Colley since 1999.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** The ponderosa pines of the Mogollon Rim shade one of the camp's buildings at sunrise.

directly related to classes held outdoors, there's no doubt that spending five days in nature — beginning in 2021, Camp Colley will offer nine five-day sessions during the summer — has holistic benefit for children. Some reports also indicate an alleviation of symptoms of anxiety and ADHD.

"The kids learn to care about the environment, too," Berg says. "They learn that they need to do right by the

environment and help protect it."

Last fall, Camp Colley expanded beyond summer programming to offer a monthly program on the third Thursday of every month. If students complete six of the eight sessions, they're offered a complimentary spot in summer camp. But the camp is also open to children who don't attend those sessions.

"If people have a child or a niece or nephew or a friend's child that they think might be interested in getting out and learning to love the environment, we have community enrollment, too," Berg says. "Not only will that benefit their own loved one, but it might have a ripple effect on other children as well."

**MOGOLLON RIM** Camp Colley, 602-262-4872, campcolley.org



## Peak Scents

As a longtime river runner, DeeAnn Tracy knows what it's like to be battered by the sun. And she knows the effects of chemical sunscreens. So, she created a line of plant-based products that she says are "skin care for the wild-hearted."

**AMEEMA AHMED**

PEOPLE WHO SPEND A LOT OF TIME OUTDOORS in Arizona will tell you it can do a number on your skin — especially if that time is spent in the wilderness. That's why DeeAnn Tracy (pictured) created a line of products for those who need to protect themselves while hiking, biking or running a river.

Tracy, who founded Peak Scents 27 years ago, used to be a rafting guide on the Colorado River. The time she spent there left her skin damaged, and the products she and her friends used were doing more harm than good. "We were using chemical sunscreen, which was causing reactions," she says. "We would have rashes, and our skin was just trashed."

Having studied herbal apothecary at the Southwest School of Botanical Medicine, Tracy was inspired to create creams and lotions that would help heal and protect the skin. "I started making prod-

ucts and giving them to fellow guides," she says. "It worked really well. People's skin issues calmed down."

Tracy and her team create the entire line of Peak Scents products, all of which are plant-based. The products are focused on a single theme, Tracy says: "If you can't eat it, then don't put it on your skin."

All of the Peak Scents products are free of alcohol and artificial fragrances, and are not tested on animals. The team researches ingredients that have been tested and used in labs, then uses that data to create its own unique blends. "[The human body's] response to plants is incredibly fast and healing," Tracy says. "I think once you try products with



plants, you'll never go back, because you'll notice the change in how your skin looks and feels."

The handcrafted products go through a somewhat lengthy process in order to be most effective. Tracy says the herbs are soaked in oil for 30 days to create a strong enough concoction, which then is hand-blended and poured. "A lot of the recipes we use are traditional, ancient recipes," Tracy says. "We have the 'people's pharmacy' behind us."

Products such as the Power Repair face cream are popular among customers who spend a lot of time outdoors. "A lot of our products are for reversing and delaying sun damage," Tracy says. "People get a healthier glow, and their skin has a more even appearance." In essence, she says, it's "skin care for the wild-hearted."

The skin care line has been a hit with customers, and Peak Scents has built a loyal following. "We have die-hard customers that, 27 years later, won't use anything else," Tracy says. "It means the world to me to help my fellow community."

In addition to creating wholesome skin care products, Tracy is passionate about giving back to the place that originally gave her the idea for her company: the Colorado River. Thus, her partnership with American Rivers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting rivers and conserving clean water. "Water is life, and it is our lifeblood of the desert Southwest," she says. "It is very important to me to give back to conserving and protecting future water use for Arizona."

Peak Scents is located inside the Winter Sun Trading Co. store in downtown Flagstaff, but the company's products can be purchased online from anywhere in the world.

### LOCAL FIRST ARIZONA

To learn more about independent, locally owned businesses, please contact Local First Arizona, which represents nearly 3,000 locally owned businesses and supports a sustainable Arizona economy by educating citizens about local business ownership, social equity, cultural diversity, environmental kinship and collaboration. For more information: [localfirstaz.com](http://localfirstaz.com) or 602-956-0909.

**MORE ONLINE:** Learn about how Peak Scents creates its unique skin care products in a video at [arizonahighways.com/localfavorites](http://arizonahighways.com/localfavorites).

**FLAGSTAFF** Peak Scents, 107 N. San Francisco Street, Suite 1, 928-556-9499, [peakscents.com](http://peakscents.com)



## Q&A: Joel Grimes

JEFF KIDA, PHOTO EDITOR

**JK: How did this photo come together?**

**JG:** I've done a lot of portrait photography in my career, but usually it's with a single subject. This time, I had the idea of photographing a cowboy — in this case, Greg Wildman — with a horse. I always tell people that the technical part of photography is the easy part. The challenge is putting everything together in preparation for the shoot. I spent two weeks scouting, securing the horse and dealing with other logistics.

**JK: What are some of the challenges?**

**JG:** Horses often don't like to stand still. You get a horse in the position you want, and then it wants to move again. It's a constant dance of trying to get the horse and the cowboy in the right spots. I would have Greg walk the horse in a 40-foot loop and come back to their spots, and then I would make a few photos before the horse got restless again. I also used a strobe with a medium softbox, which can sometimes startle a horse.

**JK: Tell me more about your use of strobes.**

**JG:** It's just part of my comfort zone. By directing light at the subject's face, I'm able to control the quality of the light and also knock down the background. With only natural light, the background would be

much brighter. This way, I'm able to draw the viewer's attention to right where I want it. Arizona generally has very harsh sunlight, and my job is to work around that harshness and build a little drama, much like a landscape photographer looks for dramatic light or weather when composing a photograph.

**JK: Is this a single exposure?**

**JG:** It is, but I wanted a little more texture to the sky, so I added some wispy clouds later. It's so subtle that it barely shows, but I think it adds a lot to the photo.

**JK: What do you like about this particular shot?**

**JG:** I made some shots of Greg when he was facing the camera, and they looked a little staged. When he and the horse both looked away, Greg's jawline and the harshness of his face stood out, and I knew that was the shot. Because of my use of strobes, my work is contrived, in a way, but you wait for that moment when it doesn't look contrived — the subject relaxes, or they turn or lean a certain way. This was the one. I printed this one and hung it above my fireplace, and if a photographer does that with their own work, you know they must like it a lot.



### PHOTO WORKSHOP

#### Kofa Mountains

January 29-31, Western Arizona

Jagged peaks, native palms, steep canyons and desert bighorn sheep are among the subjects of this workshop at one of Arizona's most distinctive mountain ranges.

It's led by frequent *Arizona Highways* contributor Laurence Parent.

Information: 888-790-7042 or [ahps.org](http://ahps.org)

To learn more about photography, visit [arizonahighways.com/photography](http://arizonahighways.com/photography).

## Ball-Paylore House

In a state with a long list of unique lodging experiences, this 1,200-square-foot, hexagon-based home in Tucson might be the most idiosyncratic — it's modern and modest, beautiful and expressive.

**NOAH AUSTIN**

From the street, the Ball-Paylore House doesn't stand out. It's smaller than most of the houses in Tucson's Catalina Vista neighborhood, and mature mesquite trees obscure much of its modest facade. But behind its red-brick walls is a time capsule of desert life in the 1950s — along with an innovative example of midcentury modern architecture.

"When you walk in, you're instantly transported into a completely different architectural environment," says Demion Clinco, CEO of the Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation, which acquired the house in 2019. "In some ways, it's very modern and modest, and in others, it's very beautiful and expressive. And it's one of a kind."

Phyllis Ball and Patricia Paylore, two librarians at the nearby University of Arizona, commissioned the 1,200-square-foot house in 1952. Their architect was Arthur T. Brown, a Missouri native who'd made a name for himself in Chicago before arriving in Arizona. In the years following World War II, Brown flourished along with Tucson, designing buildings that harmonized with the harsh desert environment.

The librarians, Brown recalled, wanted something "different, simple in plan, low in cost and free from things." And Brown delivered, creating a hexagon-based dwelling with dramatic angles in every room. From the fireplace and chimney at the house's center, exposed roof beams

radiate through the living room, kitchen and dining area. Two small bedrooms, their low ceilings a nod to the librarians' short stature, flank the common areas. Built-in furniture, from the bedroom desks to the living room bookcases, is frozen in time.

But the house's defining feature might be its "revolving terrace," a crescent-shaped backyard patio with two sunshades that roll on a track attached to the house. Those innovations allowed Ball and Paylore to have shade wherever they needed it. And the back of the house, all floor-to-ceiling windows and sliding doors, is curved, keeping direct sunlight out of the living spaces in summer. In winter, when the sun is lower in the sky, light on the house's concrete floor creates heat that's absorbed and retained by the dark paint on the walls. In short, it's sustainable — from a time before "sustainability" was a buzzword.

After Paylore, the last of the librarians, died, she left the house to friend Phyllis Koffler, the wife of former UA President Henry Koffler. The couple used it as a guest house and to host scholars visiting the university. The THPF then worked with the Kofflers' estate to buy the house and protect it from possible redevelopment. The foundation has employed experts to restore the original furniture and paint colors; added new gas lines, an updated air conditioning system and high-speed internet; and repaired plumbing and electrical work.

The house is now available for overnight stays of three nights or longer, and tours are planned once the threat of COVID-19 has passed. All proceeds from those efforts fund further restoration and preservation work at the property, and Clinco hopes people will come and immerse themselves in this unique architectural response to desert life. "It's really distinctive to the American Southwest," he says, "and it's beautifully conceived."



**TUCSON** Ball-Paylore House (via Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation), [preservetucson.org/ball-paylore-house](http://preservetucson.org/ball-paylore-house)