

General Excellence ANA  
**SIERRA VISTA**  
**HERALD**

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**HER DOOR'S ALWAYS OPEN**

WOMAN STARTS GROUP HOME FOR LGBT FOSTER CHILDREN LIVING, A8

**Legacy grant drives SEAGO transit solutions**

BY DEREK JORDAN  
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An infusion of more than half a million dollars is helping the Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization and its partners to lay the foundations for several efforts that aim to improve access to medical-related trans-

portation for those who most need it.

Earlier this year, SEAGO was announced as one of several recipients of the Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona's first full strategic grant cycle. The agency was awarded \$600,000 to be dispersed over three years.

The first third of that

allocation was provided earlier this year, allowing SEAGO to begin working toward the four goals outlined in its grant application: expanding public transportation within Cochise County cities in order to give riders access to medical facilities in Sierra Vista, providing expansion support

for existing volunteer transportation services within the county, establishing a mini-grant program for non-profit transportation program, and exploring possible solutions for the transportation needs of Willcox.

"About four to five years ago, Northern Cochise Community

Hospital had a transportation program that provided almost 18,000 rides a year in that area. In late 2014, they discontinued that program, so the Willcox area was left with no transportation," said Chris Vertrees, transportation planner for SEAGO.

Residents requiring

non-emergency transportation to the hospital have since resorted to utilizing the Sunsites-Pearce Fire District's ambulances, straining that rural district's resources even further due to little chance of reimbursement from residents while also tak-

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**'Welcome home'**

Free lunch for vets coincides with national Vietnam War 50th Commemoration

BY LIZ MANNING  
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SIERRA VISTA — Two simple words echoed across the room full of Vietnam veterans on Saturday. "Welcome home," they said to one another during the Vietnam War 50th Commemoration free lunch held in the gym of the Sierra Vista United Methodist Church.

"This 'welcome home' thing was so delayed, and that should have never happened," said Burl Schultz, who served in Vietnam from June 1967 through June 1968 and would go on to be a counselor at Buena High School for 25 years. "Matter of fact, when Vietnam vets meet each other for the first time, it's typical to say 'Welcome home' to each other because we didn't hear it then. I'm so glad now that people coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan are received so much better. That's the way it always should be."

Saturday's lunch was sponsored by the Cochise chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America and featured state and national officials whose speeches offered words of appreciation for Vietnam veterans' service that, for some in the room, had been delayed for decades.

The event's keynote speaker, retired Army Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson, is the director of the na-



Vietnam veterans Gary Shreve, left, and Richard Ruiz warmly greet each other as they attend Saturday's 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War lunch at the Sierra Vista United Methodist Church. Both men served in Vietnam from 1965-66.

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**IF YOU GO**

Cochise County Veterans Resource Fair  
 Third annual StandDown event presented by Cochise Serving Veterans  
 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19  
 Rothery Educational Services Center (former Apache Middle School), 3305 E. Fry Blvd.  
 Free to-and-from transportation from Douglas, Bisbee, Hereford, points in Sierra Vista, Willcox, Benson, St. David and Huachuca City by calling Fred Cleere at 520-732-9321.

tional Vietnam War Commemoration. His 32 years of military service began in 1971, and he explained that nearly every person he trained under was

a Vietnam veteran who had a hand in repairing a broken organization and building the military that exists today. "The Vietnam vet-

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erans' legacy will be a varied one, because what you did is worthy of reporting, listening and remembering, and thanking you for service," Jackson said. "You came back and went to work, contributed to society. If you think about this legacy, your legacy will be continuation of an unbroken chain of ser-

vice to your country. The country walked away from you years ago, but you never left the country; that gap didn't appear. What you did years ago is needed more than ever today: selfless service to the country."

This was the second of 10 events to be held this year in communities across Arizona to commemorate the service of Vietnam veterans and reach

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**SV schools have 2 spots on board**

3 candidates have filed to serve in Tombstone

BY DANA COLE  
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SIERRA VISTA — The deadline to file all required paperwork to run as a school board candidate was Aug. 10. Both Sierra Vista and Tombstone Unified School districts have two seated board members that have not filed the necessary paperwork to continue serving on the board.

The Sierra Vista Unified School District governing board had three open seats, with longtime board member Connie Johnson as the only candidate who submitted paperwork to continue serving on the board, according to Cochise County School Superintendent Trudy Berry.

As of Friday, SVUSD board members Melissa Avant and Lori Silk had not filed the required paperwork.

"Therefore, we have two vacant seats," Berry noted in an email. "People can still come to my office and file as write-ins until 5 p.m. on Aug. 24."

Berry also said that if seats are still open after that date she will be appointing two people to fill the vacated board seats.

For the Tombstone Unified School District, there were three open four-year seats, and three people have filed the necessary paperwork to fill those seats.

The terms for Tombstone board members Joanne Coppola, James Dotson and Mike Hayhurst are expiring, with Hayhurst as the only seated board member

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**Ex-state official Raber enjoying life in Cochise County**

BY ERIC PETERMANN  
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David Raber has worked at the highest level of state government. His appointment by Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer in February 2014 to the top spot at the Department of Revenue culminated a more than 20-year career, serving in five different administrations.

Still, Raber feels like he "won the lottery" when he was

named to a new position in Cochise County six months ago.

"I feel like I got a great job in a great part of Arizona," Raber said last week.

The former state executive is now in charge of finance, information technology and procurement after recent changes to the county's organizational structure. The changes reduced the number of departments and consolidated county functions under five

administrators.

"I'm pleased with the county. It's a very professionally run local government," Raber said.

Raber started in public service in 1995 and worked at five different state agencies, under five different governors, during his career. After graduating from Arizona State University and becoming a Certified Public Accountant, he worked for two private compa-

nies before taking a position in state government.

"I found my niche. I really like public service; it really resonates with me," Raber said.

Working under five different Arizona governors, including four Republicans and one Democrat, Raber said he learned a lot about the transitions and variations of state

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David Raber talks about his past and the first months at his new position with Cochise County.

This paper is published for valued subscriber James Bland of Sierra Vista and the rest of Cochise County.



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# Green Valley geochemist pushes research forward

BY KITTY BOTTEMILLER  
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A Green Valley man living unobtrusively near Madera Canyon is known widely in geology circles (just check out the Internet) for accolades the average Joe can only begin to fathom.

At 81, isotope geochemist Stanley Hart is still contributing to science and revered by his colleagues and students, several of whom have developed lifelong bonds with him and his wife, Pam. The couple also has good friends they socialize with; and at a recent get-together, the truth tumbled out.

It's not the kind of thing Professor Hart would mention, but Pam would. Neighbors Patricia and Bob Erickson were all ears when Hart's wife casually dropped the nugget that he's about to get an award, and it's a biggie.

Even after a lifetime of significant achievements studying the earth and educating others on how to save our planet, this news is rocking his world.

Although he's made "fundamental contributions in a huge range of earth sciences, mostly as a geochemist, he's most famous for research in volcanoes--where

they come from and how the earth works," said Pete Reiners, who heads the University of Arizona's Geosciences Department.

Most notably, Hart discovered the second-known active underwater volcano in modern times near Samoa. It's called Vailulu'u, meaning "(t)he sacred rain that attends the King's visit to his people" and named by high school students in Pago Pago.

Roughly the size of Mount Rainier, its top is still about 2,000 feet underwater. That little accomplishment happened by accident; more on that later.

## Highest honor

Come December, the Harts (and likely their three grown children) will attend the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco expected to draw about 24,000 attendees. Entering its 50th year, the event is considered the premier venue to present research, learn of the latest discoveries, trends and challenges in the field and for networking.

Hart will receive AGU's highest honor, the William Bowie Medal, awarded to one honoree for outstanding contributions in fundamental geophysics and



PHOTO BY HUBERT STAUDIGEL

Stan Hart before entering PISCES IV to dive into the summit crater of Vailulu'u volcano in March of 2005.

unselfish cooperation in research.

Much involves writing up the years of data he collected before retiring in 2007.

Over the years, he is or has been affiliated with dozens of professional and service activities and written a mind-boggling 250 scholarly papers. In 2008, he won the prestigious Arthur Day Prize and Lectureship from the National Academy of Sciences, an even bigger honor than the Bowie, Reiners said. Hart now serves on the UA Geosciences Department Advisory Board.

## Twist of fate

Funny story about

Hart's nomination for the Bowie.

It came from a Ph.D. student he'd advised years ago during his first year as a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with recommendations from three other colleagues. That student, Bruce Watson, has risen far in the field himself, Hart said.

"(Watson) always thanked me for one of the best courses he ever took — then ended up taking over the course," Hart said. "I've been a fan of his ever since, and I guess it turns out, I'm one of his."

Hart has lots of funny stories. His life and career has unfolded ran-

domly, like a pinball, he says. He once rebelled against attending MIT, his dad's alma mater. He'd enjoyed high school chemistry because of an enthusiastic teacher, but at MIT he found himself bored silly by his second year. So, he hit the hills with some fellow students who were into mountaineering. He loved the outdoors, so it didn't take long to get talked into geology. With a lingo of its own, "(i)t sounded so complicated, nobody would figure it out, so I couldn't fail," he said.

If he wasn't completely hooked, a summer working for a professor dating rocks carved his career, yes, in stone. Then it was off to Caltech for a master's and back to MIT for his Ph.D.

He became enamored with geochronology and the cool instrumentation of geology work, as well as the general field.

His early years were spent honing his rock-dating skills, a focus worthy of an avalanche of relationship jokes.

As a postdoc at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, he met others in related fields where dating methods could apply.

Much of his time was spent in the Canadian wilderness near Quebec "where I loved to fish, so that worked out," he

said, grinning.

Then Carnegie hired him, and he spent the next 15 years migrating through different fields of science, then leaped at a chance to return to MIT when a former director retired. He spent the next 14 years teaching earth, atmospheric and planetary sciences, adoring but eventually finding it overwhelming juggling classroom and research commitments.

Next destination: hooey. That's WHOI, short for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Worried he'd jumped in the deep end hiring on at an outfit financed by "soft money," he soon saw it as a boon.

Among other WHOI highlights, it was a team from there who located the Titanic (although that was before Hart's time); and while fantastic notoriety for the institute, he thought it boring compared to dating rocks.

## BUENA JROTC CAR WASH SATURDAY

Buena High School JROTC is having its annual car wash Saturday, Aug. 20, from 8 a.m. to noon at Prestige Assisted Living, located at 4400 Avenida Cochise in Sierra Vista. Tickets are \$10 for a quality car wash and a drink.

## WELCOME

# Marge Butler, M.D., F.A.C.S. General Surgeon

Sierra Vista Medical Group is pleased to announce that Dr. Marge Butler, general surgeon, has joined its group of providers.

Marge Butler earned her medical degree from the University of Arizona College of Medicine in Tucson, AZ and completed her surgical residency and internship at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ. She is Board Certified and a Fellow with the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Butler is Advanced Trauma Life Support Certified and Advanced Cardiac and Basic Life Support Certified. She is specifically trained in general surgery procedures including bowel surgery, breast surgery, thyroid and parathyroid surgery, laparoscopic surgeries, inguinal, ventral and incisional hernias, and melanoma excisions.

Appointments may be made by calling 520-452-0144



**Sierra Vista  
Medical Group**

Medical Office Building 1 - 75 Colonia de Salud, Suite 100C - Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 - svmedicalgroup.org

## RABER:

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agencies witnessing a wide range of politics play out at the Capital.

"It was really under the Brewer administration that I was offered excellent opportunities to move out of middle management to executive leadership," Raber said.

After less than six months as the Deputy Director of the Department of Administration, Gov. Brewer appointed Raber to head the agency in 2011. The DOA is considered the "hub" of state government, managing more than 500 employees and handling a \$1.1 billion budget. It pro-

vides oversight on human resources, employee benefits, information services, procurement and other vital state government functions.

In October 2013, Gov. Brewer again tapped Raber for a leadership position, following the death of John Greene, the director of the DOR. Raber became the acting director and later was appointed by the governor to the director position. The Department of Revenue is the state's primary tax collection agency, handling more than \$13 billion in annual revenue collections and managing more than 800 employees.

In October 2015, following the election of Gov. Doug Ducey, Raber was replaced at

the revenue department by a new appointee.

"What happened to me is no secret. I was at the level where I served at the pleasure of the governor," Raber said. "I knew going into a new administration that there was the chance that I could be replaced."

After working for Gov. Ducey for about nine months and "enjoying the experience," he said eventually the new governor decided to appoint a new director.

"I found myself in the job market for the first time in two decades, 'cause I hadn't really pursued any of those opportunities that were available when I was working in state government."

After accepting the position in Cochise County, Raber said he wanted to take at least six months to learn his new job and assess how the local government functions. Although he hasn't made significant changes, Raber pointed to the recent filling of two vacant positions as important.

"I would say there are some opportunities for process improvements and to simplify the way we do business," he said. "I'm looking forward to working closely with that team to implement some of those improvements."

The hirings include Lynette Nowlan, who has started as the Finance Director, and Joe Casey, as the Chief

Technology Officer.

Nowlan has almost 30 years of accounting and finance experience, spending a majority of her career in executive-level positions at the Arizona Department of Revenue, most recently as the Assistant Director for Process Administration.

Casey is a longtime Cochise County resident, working in the private sector. He started his career in the Army and has spent the past decade with Engility, TASC and Northrop Grumman.

"We're forming a really strong team and looking forward to be able to offer the support that other departments need to provide their services," Raber said.

## GRANT:

FROM PAGE A1

ing an ambulance out of service for other needs while in transport.

"That was one of the driving factors to get us into that area and try to find solutions that stop those type of uses of public resources," Vertrees said.

Over the past several months, SEAGO has

begun meeting with partnering groups like the University of Arizona South, Cochise County Health and Social services, and others in order to come up with a solution.

"We've made very good progress in terms of laying a foundation. We've identified four potential programs to provide services in that area. Now, what we're working on is developing a community trans-

portation services into Cochise County.

Personnel from several local municipalities and transportation groups have formed a transportation advisory committee to help guide the use of money in their respective cities as part of SEAGO's Legacy-funded effort to establish transportation to Sierra Vista for those in need of access to the medical services available there.

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The next step is for a feasibility study to explore options in both Douglas and Benson, the first phase of which should be completed in October, Vertrees said. Once completed, the data from these studies will help these cities apply for grants from the Federal Transportation Administration, which SEAGO's Legacy grant money can support by providing matching funds.

"The partnership with the Legacy Foundation has been a great opportunity. We developed a regional coordination plan and update it every day, which identifies needs and gaps in service; and we've never really had the ability to find solutions because of the lack of funding. This really provides an opportunity for us to attack some of the gaps that we recognize," Vertrees said.