OUT OF THE OVEN PIZZA HUT GETS A NEW LOOK MONEY, A10

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SIERRA VISTA HERALD

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MARCH MADNESS

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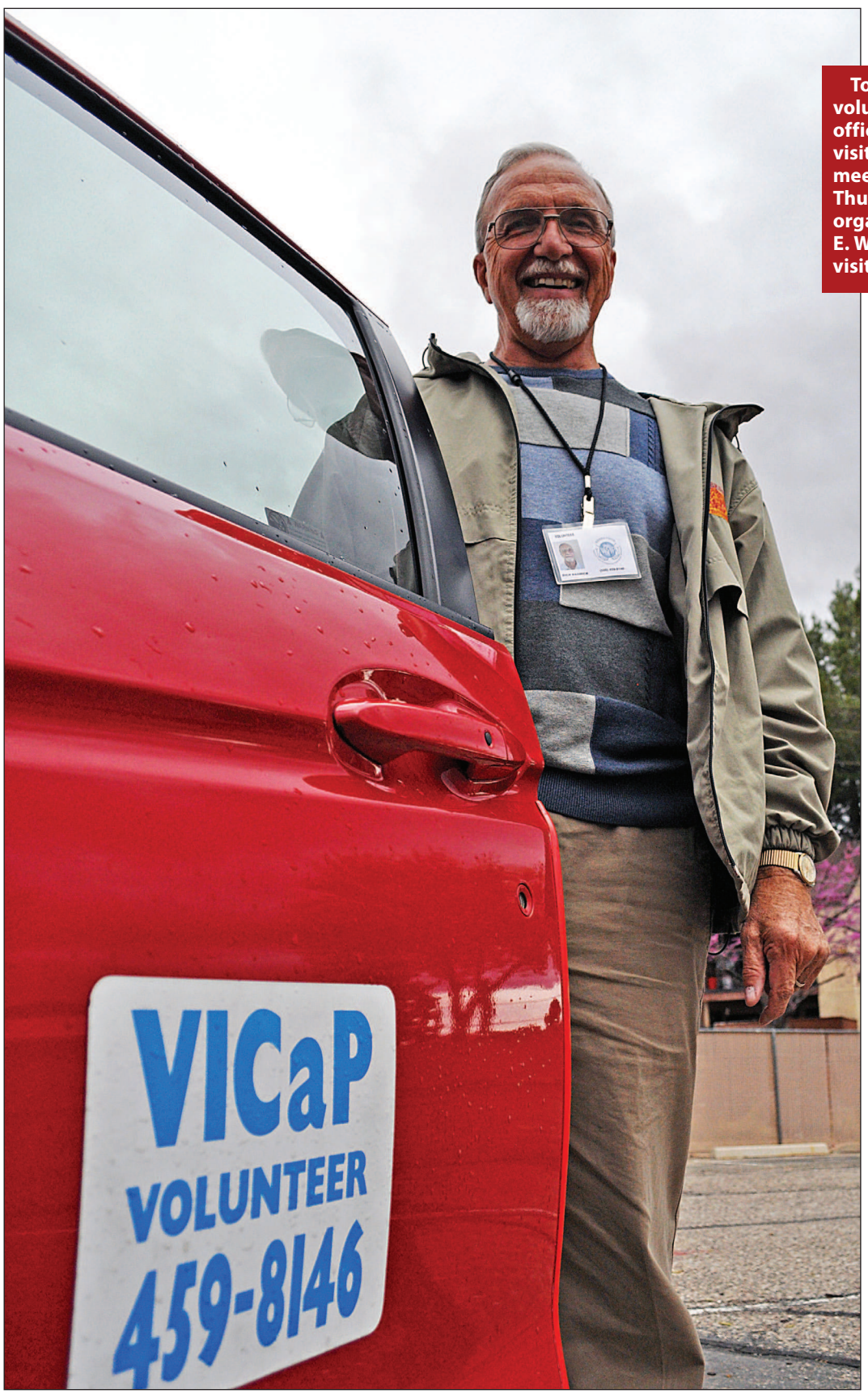
SPORTS, B1

HELPING HAND

Neighbors in need



To request service from or volunteer with VICaP, call the office at (520) 459-8146 or visit www.vicapsv.org. Board meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at the organization's office at 2797 E. Wilcox Dr. and are open to visitors.

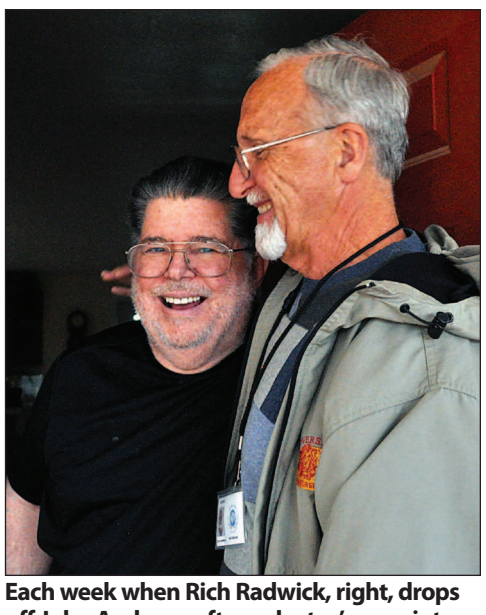
"I TRY TO TREAT EVERYONE WITH RESPECT. BECAUSE SOMEDAY, THAT WILL BE ME, AND IT WILL PROBABLY BE YOU, TOO.

— RICH RADWICK

PHOTOS BY LIZ.MANRING@SVHERALD.COM

Rich Radwick finishes his afternoon as a VICaP volunteer driver last Tuesday. Radwick volunteers to drive elderly, disabled and homebound community members to doctor's appointments and other important errands during the week.

Radwick, VICaP aim to improve quality of life for elderly, disabled and homebound



Each week when Rich Radwick, right, drops off John Andrews after a doctor's appointment, the two end their visit with a hug.

BY LIZ MANRING
liz.manring@svherald.com

SIERRA VISTA — Rich Radwick's bright red hatchback sedan has driven thousands of miles in the last five years, ensuring its Good Samaritan driver can swiftly pick up his neighbors, help them get the care they need, and bring them home again.

Radwick is one of 40 volunteers who provide assistance for the community's elderly, disabled and homebound through the Volunteer Interfaith Caregiver Program, also known as VICaP. Last year, volunteers like Radwick logged 6,000 hours of service and 88,000 miles helping 321 "neighbors" — those who use VICaP's services — get to doctor's appointments, the grocery store, the post office, and complete any other essential errand. In addition to driving, they help neighbors with taxes, household maintenance and emergency telephone setup.

And sometimes, these volunteers are just a friend to lean on or an ear to listen.

"You get to know their family members, a little bit of their life," said Radwick, a retired pharmacist with a thick and endearing New York accent who has lived in Sierra Vista since 1998 and driven for VICaP for the last five years. "Those are things that are very rewarding. I try to treat everyone

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Auctions net county $1.6M

BY AMANDA BAILLIE
For the Herald/Review

It may look like a pile of junk to some, but Cochise County's surplus equipment is proving to be a treasure trove for others.

Decades-old metal desks, fax machines, and other retro pieces, may have outstayed their welcome at the County, but buyers looking for a bargain often quickly snap them up.

And thanks to its regular online auctions, where all the used and unwanted items and vehicles can be purchased, $1.6 million has been returned to the County's coffers in the last decade.

"When you look at what we have available it's like going into a thrift store," said Terry Hudson, Procurement Director, whose department handles the auctions. "It's just amazing what people will buy."

Tucked away at the back of the County's Melody Lane complex, the procurement department is where

BY THE NUMBERS

1.6 – dollar amount in millions generated by the online auctions in the last 10 years

4 – number of staff at the procurement department, and average number of online auctions held each year

5 – the dollar amount you could pay for an office desk

650 – average number of purchase orders generated by the procurement department annually

1,000 – maximum dollar amount allowed for purchases within departments

160,000 – average dollar amount generated annually by online auctions

See **AUCTIONS**, Page **A7**

Residents want Washington to listen

Advice from packed meeting: Put Border Patrol on the Border

BY AINSLEE S. WITTIG
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More than 500 people attended a meeting Thursday evening in tiny Animas, N.M., located about 45 miles from the border of New and old Mexico. Among them were citizens concerned about the lack of safety and security living near the border and federal and state government and elected officials, looking to learn about the issues.

To sum up the problems the area faces, a video noted that in 2015, 1.6 million pounds of marijuana and cocaine were seized by U.S. Border Patrol. There were 17,500 agents in the Southwest area. About 331,000 Mexican citizens and 143,000 international (other than Mexican) citizens

See **BORDER**, Page **A6**

Men Who Cook, and have fun

BY CHRIS FISK
For the Herald/Review

SIERRA VISTA — These men know how to cook, and have a whole lot of fun while raising money for the Sierra Vista Symphony at the same time. Yet again the annual fundraiser "Men Who Cook" was held Saturday night at the Windemere, drawing in hundreds of people in support of local arts.

This year's event brought together 20 "Celebrity Chefs" and their sous chefs to compete for several awards at the principal fundraiser for the symphony. Members of local government, law enforcement, and community organizations participated, as did some men who simply enjoy a good time and a good cause. There were also several all-pro culinary teams in the mix as well.

The fare on offer ranged from haute cuisine to BBQ ribs and Greek stuffed grape leaves. There were even a few vegetarian available.

The Columbian Hall, which caters a range of affairs from the

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Via Elegante chef Jeremy Montoya torches a chocolate creme brulee during Saturday's 9th annual Men Who Cook event to benefit the Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra at the Windemere Hotel and Conference Center.

This paper is published for valued subscriber **Evelyn Beggs** of **Sierra Vista** and the rest of Cochise County.

SUNNY
High: 74 Low: 44

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VICAP: *Office is open to visitors*

FROM PAGE A1

with respect. Because someday, that will be me, and it will probably be you, too."

Radwick's routine with all his neighbors is to call a day or two in advance to confirm their pickup appointment and ask whether they'll need to run any additional errands that day. If he estimates the time between pickup and dropoff back at home should take about two hours, he plans for four — just in case. Radwick is the kind of volunteer who goes into the waiting room with his neighbors, just to make sure they're not there alone for too long if the doctor is behind schedule.

A regular in Radwick's car is John Andrews, who suffered brain damage in 1976 that has left him permanently disabled and prone to seizures, the latter of which prevents him from driving.

"Some people volunteer for themselves, but Rich volunteers for the people, and that makes all the difference in the world," Andrews said. "The innateness of a person, who they are, comes out in how they help another person who needs help. I don't mean to impose theology on you, but I think it has its roots in a person's spiritual life."

When Radwick and Andrews are in the car, driving just a few miles from Andrews' home on the east end of town to his doctor on the south end every Tuesday, the pair's conversations know no bounds — they discuss music, theology, history, health. In the last couple of years, Radwick has seen Andrews come out of depression and his wheelchair; he's now also able to walk without the use of a walker or cane, and it's been two months since he's had a seizure. Two weeks ago, the two set a goal of getting together regularly for walks at Tompkins Park.

"It's little things," Andrews said. "Like when I get out of the car, Rich takes my hand because I'm wobbly. I'm getting my balance. All it takes is five seconds."

Radwick is quick to interject with a slight correction: "Not even that long, John. It's just a second to stabilize and take that first step."

"And if I start to wobble, his hand is on me immediately," continues Andrews. "That makes all the difference, because it's humiliating to have been a professional person and not be able to function anymore."

Radwick smiles. "But now you can function."

Cindy Fulbright, VICaP's executive director, and her staff take hundreds of calls each month from neighbors scheduling appointments to locations all over Sierra Vista, as well as hospitals and clinics in Tucson. Then, they reach out to their volunteers to fill those appointment requests.

"Rich is so kind, patient, a great listener, and he's one of those guys involved in a few other things but I can always call on him in a pinch. He embodies the kinds of volunteers we have and the ones we want more of," Fulbright said. "He and John have established a great rapport. They talk spiritually and have deep conversations about those things. You don't have to be well rounded to be a volunteer, but it helps because of all the different people we come across."

Most volunteers are based in Sierra Vista, but more from Douglas and Bisbee have started to get involved, which has helped VICaP expand its services to people in need across the county.

"One of the biggest things I tell potential volunteers is they can give as much or as little as they'd like to give — I have those who do one ride a week or one a month, and I have those who drive five times a week every week," Fulbright said. "A lot of folks are retirees and have a lot of other activities going on, now that they have time to join clubs, so they've stretched themselves thinner now than when they were working. Some folks, though, are a little bored, reach out to us and we give them an outlet to reach back to the community."

Radwick is not only a volunteer, but also an advocate for the program. He regularly mans the VICaP booth at community service fairs and encourages people to simply try it out — "Most say 'Well, I haven't got the time.' Do you have four hours in the next five days? 'I think I do.'"

Radwick said beginning with a ridealong with a current driver is a good first step. It doesn't cost anything out of pocket — except time — for a volunteer to drive neighbors because they submit mileage each month and get gift cards to reimburse their gas. Neighbors that Radwick helps have asked him to help opening and sorting their mail, doing a little painting in a house, and resetting the thermostat from summer to winter.

"It's a matter of helping each other out, respecting that quality of life. The only thing they can't do is drive, or see very well," Radwick said. "It's time for me to pay it forward. I'm physically able to do this. I'm sure you can think of someone in your family who needs help. They can't drive, their husband or wife died. How do they get their groceries? How do they get their garbage in and out of their driveway? When was the last time you knocked on their door to see if they're OK?"

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Man shot to death in Tucson trailer park

TUCSON (AP) — Police say a man was found shot to death in a Tucson trailer park.

The shooting happened just before 6:30 a.m. Sunday.

Police say officers responded to the area of Park Avenue and Bilby Road after hearing a report of shots fired.

The officers located a man with clear signs of gunshot trauma and pronounced him dead at the scene.

Investigators say multiple people were in the area when the shooting occurred and several vehicles were spotted leaving immediately after.

The victim's name has not been released pending notification of next of kin.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police.

AMANDA BAILLIE PHOTO

Cochise County's Procurement Director Terry Hudson (seated) and Property Manager Mike Clark are always amazed at what people will buy at the organization's online auctions, which have added $1.6 million to the coffers in 10 years.

AUCTION: *Next auction to start on March 18*

FROM PAGE A1

all items that have outworn their usefulness end up — with the exception of vehicles and heavy equipment, which remain stored at the fleet department — before being sold to the highest bidder.

A large pile of office desks, chairs, filing cabinets, printers, computers, and more, sits directly in front of the offices of the four-person department, waiting to be collected by their new owners.

The online auctions, which are open to the public, are held around four times a year and can attract bidders from across the country.

"We have our regulars, and we have some buyers from all over the nation," said Property Manager Mike Clark, who once had a bidder fly in from New York to pick up a batch of used cell phones.

A department move, or remodel, often triggers the need to update outdated equipment, and nothing is ever just thrown away, Clark emphasizes.

"If something doesn't sell then I just keep relisting it until it goes, even if it's for 50 cents," he said, adding that he places reserves on some items, but equipment like desks or chairs can usually be snagged for as little as $5.

County staff can also drop by the storage facility to look for equipment they may be in need of, and so items are also repurposed whenever possible.

Up until 2006, the County was holding its sales on site, with the help of an auctioneer, which only attracted a handful of local bidders.

Clark, who arrived at the department 10 years ago, decided to modernize the process by placing the auction items, complete which photographs and descriptions, on PublicSurplus.com, a website used by government agencies and other organizations.

Anyone, no matter where they are, can now go online and bid for items, but they must be able to travel to Melody Lane to pick up their purchases.

The process has widened the net of potential buyers and helped bring monies into the County's general fund — cash from the sale of vehicles and heavy equipment goes back to the fleet department.

And while office equipment is probably the most common thing you will find, some more unusual objects can make their way onto the list.

"We once sold a set of fishing rods to a guy from Big Lake. He wanted to give them to retirees," recalls Clark, who adds the rods were originally used by juvenile detention as part of a rehabilitation program.

Adds Hudson, "We also had someone buy about 15 really beat up metal filing cabinets. I didn't think anyone would want them, but the buyer said he sold them for scrap metal. You never know what is going to appeal to someone, so if we think it will sell we'll put it in an auction."

The next auction will start on March 18, at 1 p.m. and is due to end on March 28, also around 1 p.m.

Anyone interested in bidding on items must first register at www.PublicSurplus.com.

Notifications of upcoming auctions are usually published in the Arizona Range News or on the County's website www.cochise.az.gov.

WHAT ELSE DOES THE PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT DO?

When a Cochise County department needs to make a purchase of more than $1,000 it is the procurement department that takes care of it.

On items of up to around $2,500, quotes are requested from a handful of known suppliers, but the process becomes more formal as the dollar amount increases, explained Procurement Director Terry Hudson.

"We advertise through the newspaper and a procurement website and we request sealed bids," he said.

Purchases of more than $50,000 must be approved by the Board of Supervisors, and when it comes to choosing a vendor, the County looks to local suppliers first.

And it is always the department's job, said Hudson, to get the biggest bang for the taxpayers' bucks.

"If someone were to ask me who my boss is, I could say it's the County Administrator or the Board of Supervisors, but really it's the taxpayers," he said.

Vendors interested in doing business with the County must register at PublicPurchase.com, and give information about which goods or services they can provide.

Emails are then sent out to the appropriate vendors when the County needs quotes.

The process used to be more costly and less time efficient when the vendor list was managed in-house and postcards were mailed out asking for bids.

"It was virtually impossible to keep the list up-to-date," explained Hudson, who joined the department eight years ago after two decades with the City of Phoenix. "Businesses would move or close, or the contact person changed, and we wouldn't be informed, and we'd often get postcards returned to us. The online system means it's up to the vendor to keep their information current. It also gives us a much broader market."

Lottery to decide adoption frenzy over mini-donkeys

PHOENIX (AP) — A Cave Creek horse rescue is getting an overwhelming response to a Facebook ad for 20 miniature donkeys that need forever homes.

Triple R Horse Rescue will use a lottery open to Arizona residents to handle the adoption frenzy. People can enter by filling out an adoption application at the rescue's website, according to the Arizona Republic.

"The application will act as your ticket in the lottery," said Community outreach director Michele Schafer.

"We are having an overwhelming response," she said.

The rescue has agreed to take in another 10 of the fuzzy animals, bringing the number of adoptable donkeys to 30.

"They're full of cuteness," Schafer said. "They're great companion animals, too."

None of the 30 donkeys are the animal featured in the Facebook ad that generated the massive interest, Schafer said.