

# SIERRA VISTA HERALD

TUESDAY AUGUST 1, 2017 — \$1.00



**FOOD FIGHT**  
LOCAL DIETITIAN TACKLES UNHEALTHY EATING

LIVING, A8

NEWS AT WWW.SVHERALD.COM



Manuel Coppola

## Coppola named Wick director of legislative affairs

Jennifer Sorenson will take the helm as publisher

SIERRA VISTA — As long as newspapers keep publishing inconvenient truths about lawmakers, there will be schemes and legislation aimed against press freedoms and government transparency.

“In Arizona, not one legisla-

tive session has passed in the last dozen years without at least one bill being introduced to limit press freedoms, government access and curtail newspapers’ publication of public notices,” said Manuel C. Coppola who was named on Monday as director of legislative affairs for Wick Communications Co.

“Arizona is not alone,” he said. “In July, North Carolina,

another one of our Wick markets, Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed a bill that would have allowed the posting of public notices electronically instead of in printed newspapers. Tucked into a bill with legislation that the governor did support, it wound its way through the legislature but ultimately nixed by a man who understands the value of our watchdog role and the need

permanently preserve public records in an unalterable print state.”

In nixing the bill, Cooper said, “This legislation is another example of that misguided philosophy meant to specifically threaten and harm the media. Legislation that enacts retribution on the media threatens a free and

See COPPOLA, Page A6

## Rescue a greyhound



SIERRA VISTA HERALD STAFF PHOTOS BY MARK LEVY

Mike Bushnell, from AZgreyhounds, interacts with one of the dogs available for adoption last Saturday at the C-A-L Ranch Store. AZgreyhounds has greyhound adoptions at the C-A-L Ranch Store on the last Saturday of each month.

### Local organization finds homes for retired racers

BY DANA COLE  
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SIERRA VISTA — Shoppers at C-A-L Ranch were greeted by a group of greyhounds Saturday while they browsed through the Sierra Vista store.

Some were with human family members and others with their temporary foster families while waiting to be adopted through the efforts of AZgreyhounds, a local nonprofit organization that accepts retired racing greyhounds and finds homes for them.

“These are beautiful, gentle creatures,” said Charlotte Winters as she sat cross-legged on the floor next to “Toad,” a fawn-colored female whose amphibian alias does not fit her regal demeanor. “They really need to do something about her name. It’s a complete mismatch.”

Toad is one of two greyhounds that found an adoptive

family on Saturday. A male brindle named “Trekkie” is already with his new family, but Toad is still in foster care until her adopter can arrange to bring her home.

“He wants to take two weeks off work so they can get acquainted when he takes her to her new environment,” said Lilah Mooney, one of two AZgreyhounds adoption coordinators. “We also do home visits so we can see how the dogs are doing with the adoptive families. Trekkie was adopted by a family with children and they already have other dogs and a cat. He’s getting a lot of attention and is right at home. It’s a great fit and they’re thrilled with him.”

“Sunshine,” another female, is still waiting to be adopted. AZgreyhounds holds its adoption days at C-A-L Ranch on the last Saturday of the month from noon to 3 p.m.

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#### LEARN MORE

For information about AZgreyhounds, go to the website at azgreyhounds.com.

The organization’s two greyhound adoption coordinators are Lilah Mooney, who can be reached at 660-723-1460 and Mike Bushnell, 520-366-9833.

Those with questions about greyhound adoption can contact Wendy Breen at 520-508-3889.



SIERRA VISTA HERALD STAFF PHOTO BY MARK LEVY

Rebekah Claus-Walker, a sophomore at Valley Union High School, participates in last week’s GenCyber cybersecurity exploration camp at the University of Arizona Sierra Vista campus.

## Scouring, securing the infobahn

Cyber camp aids students, teachers

BY ERIC PETERMANN  
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SIERRA VISTA — Classrooms full of students and teachers spent last week learning what they can do to improve security online and protect both their own information and that of the computer networks they work with.

The GenCyber camp was held at the University of Arizona South campus in Sierra Vista and was funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Security Agency (NSA).

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## Three to stand trial for torture case

Fourth man still at large

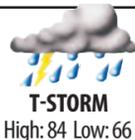
BY TERRI JO NEFF  
For the Herald/Review

SIERRA VISTA — The Sierra Vista Police Department is asking for the public’s help to identify a suspect in an April assault in which a man was tortured at his residence. SVPD Det. Justin Dannels said an unidentified “skinny white male” was involved in the April 24 attack along with Gary Hogan, Joshua Andrew Eason, and Anette Vlacanchich.

While authorities search for the man at large, the three known suspects were in Cochise County Superior Court last week to find out they go on trial

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This paper is published for valued subscriber **George Hunt of Bisbee** and the rest of Cochise County.



**T-STORM**  
High: 84 Low: 66

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# GREYHOUNDS

FROM PAGE A1

Greyhound owners bring their own dogs to the adoption events and answer questions about how the dogs do as household pets and family members. Prospective adopters are invited to take the dogs on walks throughout the store, or “hang-out” with them while they lounge on blankets.

The three dogs needing to be adopted on Saturday came through a company called Hemopet out of Garden Grove, California. All three had been raced before going to Hemopet, a company that uses the dogs as plasma donors, supplying plasma for veterinary hospitals across the country.

“Hemopet keeps the dogs between 12 and 18 months, then places them in homes or with organizations like AZgreyhounds so they can be adopted,” said Wendy Breen, whose now-deceased husband, Dave Breen founded AZgreyhounds in 1998. All of the dogs that come through Hemopet are rescued from racetracks.



SIERRA VISTA HERALD STAFF PHOTO BY MARK LEVY

**A couple of gentle greyhounds wait at the C-A-L Ranch Store to in hopes of being adopted.**

“These dogs are loving companions and are gentle and kind,” said Wendy, who has three greyhounds of her own. “Most of them are great with families and other pets, but we do require home checks so we can see how the dogs get along with their new families.”

When her husband formed AZgreyhounds in 1998, he recognized a need for greyhound rescue efforts na-

tionwide, Breen said. Greyhound tracks had terrible reputations when it came to the animals’ living conditions and treatment. At one time, reports of mass graves and abuses in areas where tracks were located gave the racing industry a black eye and sparked the creation of greyhound rescue groups all over the country.

When Tucson Greyhound Park was closed to live dog racing in June 2016,

it marked the last of four greyhound racetracks that once operated in Arizona. The Tucson track opened in 1944 and ran its dog racing operation for 72 years before Gov. Doug Ducey signed legislation that ended live dog racing in Arizona in May 2016. Tracks in Phoenix, Yuma and Apache Junction had already closed years before Tucson.

Mike Bushnell, another AZgreyhounds adoption coordinator, worked with greyhound rescue efforts for 30 years, both in California and Arizona.

“I got involved with greyhound rescue in 1985 after a greyhound walked into my driveway while I was living in California,” he said. “We tried to find his owner, then ended adopting him. That’s when I got hooked on greyhounds. I love their quiet, easy-going nature. I have five of my own and I’m fostering one.”

While in California, Bushnell said he volunteered for several greyhound rescue groups, and even started one.

“I knew Dave Breen while he was a volunteer

for the Greyhound Adoption League (GAL) out of Tucson before he started AZgreyhounds here in Sierra Vista,” he said. “Dave started an excellent program here in Sierra Vista. He was extremely passionate about helping these dogs.”

Greyhound tracks throughout the country are slowly going away, Bushnell said.

“And that’s a good thing. The track in Tucson was horrific. It was dirty and shabby and the kennels were in disrepair. One of Dave’s dreams was to see that track shut-down,” he said. “I’m so glad he lived to see that happen.”

Dave and Wendy Breen rescued the last two dogs out of Tucson Greyhound Park when that track closed.

“Seeing that track close to live dog racing was high on Dave’s bucket list,” Wendy said. “He passed away on Aug. 4, 2016, about seven weeks after that track closed.”

Since its start in 1998, more than 400 greyhounds have been rescued through AZgreyhounds, Breen said.



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SIERRA VISTA HERALD STAFF PHOTOS BY MARK LEVY

**High schoolers from all over Cochise County joined last week’s GenCyber exploration camp in Sierra Vista. The hands-on workshop was funded by grants from the National Security Agency (NSA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).**

# CYBER

FROM PAGE A1

The five-day camp offered classes to high school students and their teachers in the field of cybersecurity.

“This is a really unique camp,” said Eric Case, lecturer and information security “evangelist” at the Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona. “This is a rapidly expanding field where there are lots of good employment opportunities.”

Case said cybersecurity “has negative unemployment” nationwide, with the industry in need of about 1.8 million trained professionals in the next five years. The Phoenix area has about 10,000 openings, Case said, and there may be as many as 1,500 openings in Cochise County.

Case and Dr. John DeLalla, director of continuing education for UA South, said the local camp was well attended and included several area teachers.

Eirynne Mayer, a geography middle school teacher at the Center for Academic Success in Sierra Vista, said the camp was both personally helpful and will be valuable to her students.

“I found it to be really useful, just in understanding the



**University of Arizona Eller College of Business Management Information Systems (MIS) lecturer Eric Case talks to GenCyber campers at the Sierra Vista campus of the University of Arizona.**

simple things that can be done to prevent cybersecurity issues,” Mayer said.

She said she plans to include several of the lessons learned at the weeklong camp in her curriculum this fall.

Case said the management information systems department at the UA’s Eller College conducted the camp in several locations around the state and determined that Sierra Vista would be an ideal spot based on local awareness of the importance of cybersecurity. He said more than 130 GenCyber camps are being held throughout the U.S. and 16 of which are “combined,” offering instruction for both teachers and students.

Case said guest speakers at the week-

long camp featured a variety of industries that share the responsibility of cybersecurity.

“Tuesday we hosted John Woodward, the director of Information Security and Cyber Readiness at American Express and later in the week we hosted Abe Rubio, director of Information Technology for the City of Sierra Vista,” Case said.

He said the variety of presenters offered students and teachers an insight on the variety of applications where cybersecurity is important.

“This was about making an early outreach to create awareness of this field and the very real need for more professionals to consider it for a career,” Case said.

# TRIAL

FROM PAGE A1

together Dec. 12.

Hogan, Eason, and Vlacancich appeared July 24 before judge James Conlogue. Each is charged with 21 felony counts stemming from an hour-long incident in which the 41-year-old victim was stripped, restrained and assaulted with several items.

According to court records, two of the attackers were hiding in a bedroom when the victim and his girlfriend entered the residence. The victim’s girlfriend — as well as a friend who stopped by later — was forced into another room with Vlacancich.

Dannels’ probable cause statement notes the victim was brutalized with a chain, machete, meat thermometer, and a heated barbecue fork. He suffered burns to his face, multiple stab wounds to his legs, and various other injuries.

The assailants also cut a ring off the victim’s finger, and stole his clothing and other personal items. The other two people in the home at the time were not injured.

The victim told police that during the attack Hogan stated someone paid to have the attack take place. At another point, Eason said they were there because the victim stole someone’s computer.

At the time of the assault, Hogan was on probation and Eason was facing criminal charges for drug possession and criminal damage. Vlacancich was the subject of an arrest warrant for a 2016 drug case.

The charges in this case are Class 2 or Class 3 felonies which have been designated as dangerous crimes, allowing for longer prison sentences. Vlacancich is out of custody after posting \$55,000 appearance bond; Hogan and Eason are at the county jail in lieu of bail.

It is possible the third man recorded all or part of the assault on a

cellphone. Anyone with information about the suspect who remains at large can contact Dannels at 520-452-7500.

## Gary David Hogan

On April 3, Hogan was sentenced to supervised probation out

of Sierra Vista Justice Court after pleading guilty to one count of aggravated assault for a September 2016 incident.

On May 3 the Cochise County Adult Probation Office filed a petition to revoke probation and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Hogan was taken into custody July 20 by the Apache County Sheriff’s Office after deputies responded to a disturbance call at a home in Vernon. He was transported back to Cochise County by SVPD.

On July 31, Hogan was in court again, this time for a hearing on the outstanding petition to revoke probation. The matter was continued to Aug. 21 at the request of his attorney who was not appointed to the case until July 28.

## Joshua Andrew Eason

Two weeks before the torture, SVPD arrested Eason for an attack on his

roommate after a dispute about dining arrangements. Eason admitted striking

the roommate several times in the head and face. Minutes later,

the roommate

accepted a plea deal in that case, which calls for her to serve three years in prison. She must also pay \$4,800 in restitution and a \$1,000 fine.

Vlacancich, 51, is scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 11, the day before the joint trial begins. She faces one additional charge for meth found during a search related to the April 24 assault.



Hogan



Eason

Eason, 24, posted a video about what he had done, as the victim lay on the floor. He posted another video justifying the attack.

Eason was charged with misdemeanor assault, but failed to appear for two court hearings which prompted issuance of an arrest warrant. He was taken into custody on the warrant March 20 and on April 12 accepted a plea deal for one count of disorderly conduct. He was sentenced to 22 days in jail, the amount of days he had been in jail since his arrest.

He is facing separate drug charges related his March arrest and criminal damage charges for an incident at the Regency Inn Apartments where he forced his way into a room, causing more than \$1000 damage to a door.

## Anette Vlacancich

When Vlacancich was arrested by SVPD in the torture case

she already faced charges of possession of methamphetamine from April 2016. Last week she

accepted a plea deal in that case, which calls for her to serve three years in prison. She must also pay \$4,800 in restitution and a \$1,000 fine.

Vlacancich, 51, is scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 11, the day before the joint trial begins. She faces one additional charge for meth found during a search related to the April 24 assault.



Vlacancich

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