

# The Roadrunner



News You Can Use From Around The Desert Hills Fire District

November 2013

## Sheriff to Address Community Association

### Last Meeting Discussed Electrical Safety

The next meeting of the Desert Hills Fire District Community Association will take place at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, November 5, 2012, in the Si Mock Building of Fire Station #1, London Bridge Road and Chenoweth Drive.

The speaker for the evening will be Mohave County Sheriff Thomas Sheehan, The sheriff has been asked to talk about his job and the job of the local sheriff's office. In addition, he has been asked to tell the residents about establishing a volunteer organization to help our local sheriff's office. Please come and hear the Sheriff this month and let us know what items about which you are concerned.

If you would like further information about the organization please call John Hayes, President at 764-3594 or Dee Moscou, Immediate Past President, 764-3871.

At the October meeting, Unisource Energy representative Julie McCoy conducted an excellent presentation on electrical safety. She explained the many facets of power production, transmission and distribution. She told the crowd that Unisource gets most of its energy from the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Generating Station in the west valley near Phoenix. That power is then transmitted through lines upward of 40,000 volts to local electrical substations. Then it's transmitted through other lines at a reduced voltage until it enters a transformer, voltage is again reduced until it enters your home.

Ms. McCoy went on to describe the many dangers of downed power lines and how you can be electrocuted even if you don't touch the line itself. She also explained the many things people should do when they encounter a downed line- the most important was to keep people away, notify 9-1-1 and isolate the area. She expressed the

importance of considering all downed power lines as active until they are determined dead by the power company. She also warned of the dangers of using generators on your house during power outages. She stated that many electrical workers have been shocked while working on a downed line that was unexpectedly charged by a homeowner powering his house and back-feeding the system. Home power generating equipment should have an isolation switch to ensure that there's no possibility of back-feeding a power grid and endangering the lives of linemen working to restore power. For more information on electrical safety, contact Unisource Energy.

The DHFD Community Association is an organization established to provide reports to our residents about activities in the Fire District. The organization has reports from our local Supervisor, the sheriff's department, road department, utilities, Federal Bureau of Land Management, the State Lands Dept. and, our subdivisions. BLM and State Lands are included because they control 88% of the land in our area. This meeting also provides time for the residents to voice their concerns about items not on the agenda.

The Fire District roughly goes from I-40 south to the Lake Havasu City limits and from the Wild

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Life Refuge to the LHC western limits. It is 72 square miles in size. The subdivisions include the businesses at I-40 and AZ 95, Havasu Heights, Crystal Beach, North Pointe, Pioneer's RV Park, Havasu Garden Mobile Home Estates, the London Bridge Road business district, Canterbury Estates, Valley Manor Mobile Home Park, Lakeridge Estates, Sun Lake Village, Lake Havasu Mobile Estates - Tracts 1077 & 1082 plus various other LHME Tracts. These areas provide the tax base for the Desert Hills Fire Department plus various county facilities and services.


### Fire Academy Still Kicking

The Desert Hills Fire Academy started on September 6<sup>th</sup> 2013 with a total of 20 students. 23 young men and women went through entrance testing which included an application with accreditations, a physical agility test, and an oral board. Out of the 23, 20 went on to be a part of the class. All 20 had strong potential for becoming fire fighters.

When class started, we lost 2 students due to personal reasons. One of the first things the cadets learned was how to implement the emergency management system followed by fire fighter safety and fire operations. The classes start at 5pm on Friday night and go until 10pm, followed by Saturday and Sunday classes starting at 6am with physical training, and going till 5pm both days. The fire dept has purchased weight vests for the academy so that the cadets can not only feel the fatigue of the physical activities that firefighters go through, but also feel the burden of added weight to simulate gear and equipment that fire fighters carry and deal with on any given emergency scene. The cadets use the weight vests at least one of the 2 days of P.T. and the

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locations of the training vary in location, some weeks the cadets will be in district, while other weeks they go to the London Bridge or the high school track. By week 2 the cadets were running up to 3 miles.

The cadets have also gone through confined space training and black out drills, which simulate a smoke filled environment where your vision is limited and you have to safely escape and or rescue a downed fire fighter or victim.

The cadets had a heavy task in front of them on one class week with vehicle extrication. The cadets were tasked with learning and then utilizing extrication tools such as the Jaws of Life, stabilization poles, airbags, and cribbing. Classroom time consisted of tutorials on new car technology such as hybrids, electric cars, and safety restraint systems, things that cadets will run into in real world scenarios when trying to disentangle trapped victims safely and efficiently. The cadets performed beyond our expectations, doing an excellent job in utilizing the skills taught to them and initiating them in the extrication process. All of this would have been a chore if it weren't for car donations from Quality Towing, and Bulldog Recycling, which were very much appreciated!

Other skills the fire cadets have been learning since the beginning of class include ropes and knots, fire extinguishers, building construction, hose lays, and many more skills utilized in the fire service. Class will be wrapped up on December 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year and the cadets that pass the class, the state test, and the State Fire Marshal practicals, will earn a Fire Fighter 1 & 2 certificate which is an I.F.S.A.C. accredited coarse certificate where as the cadets will be able to work anywhere in the country as fire fighters.

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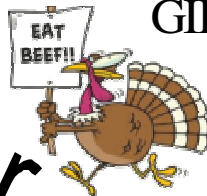
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**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2013**

**Hosted by:** *The Alzheimer's/Dementia Connection of Havasu, as a program of the AFA.*

**Where:** Prestige Assisted Living  
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**When:** 9:00am to 4:00pm

**For an appointment call after October 14th:  
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### Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The Desert Hills Fire Department Auxiliary has announced that they are kicking off their 2013 annual food drive beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>. Collection boxes will be distributed throughout the community including the following locations: Desert Hills Market, Desert Hills Post Office, DJ's RV Park, Colorado River Adventures, Havasu Falls RV Resort, Havasu Garden Estates Mobile Home Park, Havasu RV Park, Hilltop Market, Janice's Beauty Salon, Lakeridge Estates, Prospector's RV Resort, Valley Manor Mobile Home Park, Fire Station Terrible Herbst (all 3 stations).

Non-perishable items and age appropriate toys will be collected for the less fortunate families within the fire district. The Auxiliary will be adding some fresh items such as milk, bread, meat and potatoes to the food boxes. The boxes will be delivered in December, just in time for Christmas.... Anyone wishing to make a food donation or even a cash donation toward the cause can stop by either of the Desert Hills' fire stations.

### Fires Keep Departments Hopping

Desert Hills Fire Chief Mathew Espinoza reports that the fire department was busy during the past month. While most calls were for medical emergencies, the fire department did respond to a few significant calls.

In late September, the fire department responded to a vehicle vs. burro collision near the intersection of Highway 95 and Havasu Heights Road. The family of four was not seriously injured in the collision but the two

children in the back seat were shaken up. The burro was killed in the collision.

A few hours later, another burro was struck just south of the interstate. That burro fled into the desert. The vehicle was damaged and when the driver attempted to drive it home, it became disabled on the bridge spanning the Colorado River. DPS officers were forced to provide traffic control until the vehicle was towed from the bridge.

Late in September, a patrolling deputy spotted a fire amongst the homes more than a mile away. He arrived on scene to find flames shooting from the back of the home and residents evacuating the structure. Firefighters arrived on scene and quickly extended firehoses through the garage to battle a fully involved Arizona room fire. Flames were leaping 10-15 feet above the roof. Damage to the living area of the home was minimal but the Arizona room, a pool table and a hot tub were destroyed. The fire was determined to have started in the hot tub. The Lake Havasu City Fire Department assisted the Desert Hills Fire Department with mutual aid at this fire.

In Late October, the fire department responded to a report of smoke in the garage at a home in Sunlake Village. Firefighters arrived to find the home puffing smoke from the vents and the homeowners standing in front of their house claiming that there was a fire in the garage. Firefighters used a chainsaw to cut the steel garage door into pieces. Firefighters then extended hoses into the garage and doused the fire. It was determined that a battery charger had overheated and started the fire. Damage from the fire was not extensive but the entire



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garage was blackened by smoke. A car parked in the garage suffered minor damage. There was only minimal smoke intrusion to the interior of the home. The Lake Havasu City Fire Department assisted the Desert Hills Fire Department with mutual aid at this fire.

Immediately after that fire, rescuers were dispatched to respond to a report of a vehicle accident on Highway 95 after a sheriff's deputy was clipped by another vehicle while talking to a driver he had pulled over. The passing van crossed the fog line and drove well onto the shoulder of the roadway where the deputy was struck by the extended mirror on the van. Fortunately, the deputy was not seriously injured and was able to walk away from the incident. He did go to the hospital for an exam. The driver of the van was not arrested, but was checked for a medical condition. Arizona DPS is investigating this accident. This incident serves as a big reminder to slow down or move over when you see vehicles with flashing lights pulled to the side of the roadway. This includes disabled vehicles, emergency vehicles, tow trucks and road maintenance crews.

During the past month, the fire department has also assisted the Lake Havasu City Fire Department by providing mutual aid as the city fire department has been very busy fighting residential structure fires.

### Spaghetti for Everybody

The Desert Hills Fire Department Auxiliary will once again be hosting their semi-annual spaghetti dinner. Hungry guests will be served a delicious dinner of

spaghetti with homemade meat sauce, salad, a drink and homemade dessert. The cost for dinner is a very affordable \$5 per person. The dinner will be held on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7 pm at the fire station located at the corner of Chenoweth Drive and London Bridge Road in downtown Desert Hills. There will also be a silent auction for a variety of goods donated by local merchants. All proceeds from the Dinner will be used to benefit the fire department by providing much needed emergency equipment.

### Speaking of the Auxiliary

The Desert Hills Fire Department Auxiliary held the second meeting of the year on Tuesday, October 15, in the Si Mock Building of Fire Station #1.

The Auxiliary again take part in the London Bridge Days Parade, this year celebrating Lake Havasu's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Any members wanting to ride in the Department's pick-up truck, driven by Jeanne Kentch, please meet near the auto parts store in the Ross parking lot about 8:45, on October 26. Jeanne will pick-up everyone their in the truck and drive them to Smith's parking lot, the parade organizing area. The parade ends close to where the members' cars will be parked.

The next Pancake Breakfast will be Saturday, November 2. Set-up will be at 10:00 AN, Friday, the first.

The first Spaghetti Dinner of the year will be Saturday, November 16. Set-up will be at 10:00 AM that day. A Silent Auction will again be held, with Lake

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# Spaghetti Dinner

## \$5



Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>

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4 pm to 7 pm

dinner includes salad, drink, garlic toast and plate of  
spaghetti with red sauce

All proceeds to benefit the Desert Hills Fire Department

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Havasu City businesses being asked for November. The Mall and other local businesses will be asked for the March 15 dinner.

Everyone wanting to volunteer for any of these activities will be most welcome.

The Christmas Project, helping those less fortunate families in our area, will start on October 28, when President Dee will contact Sterilite for laundry baskets and Allied Waste for collection boxes that may be needed. Any members wanting to help decorate the collection boxes are welcome to come on October 30. The Department will deliver the boxes to the various locations on November 1 and will pick-up filled boxes until December 19, when members will sort and box non-perishables. Perishable items will be purchased on December 19 and will be sorted and boxed on December 20. The Department will deliver on December 20, with Santa Claus's help.

The dates were set for the two (2) potluck dinners - Christmas potluck, Saturday, December 14, Installation potluck, Saturday, April 12, 2014.

The next Auxiliary meeting will be on Tuesday, November 19.

The first Pancake/Biscuit & Gravy Breakfast of the new year was a successful one. There were 186 people served, with T-shirts and sweat shirts sold and sixteen (16) loaves of banana bread sold. The last named was baked and donated by Bill Dewey. His wife, Janice, with Auxiliary VP, Judy Moore, spent the time from 4:30 AM to 11:00 AM making the gravy and warming the biscuits. We thank these three (3) every day.

In addition, the following members of the Auxiliary helped: Maggie Hickson ((brand new member & treasurer) and Dena Scofield sold tickets and counted heads and money. Karen Berger and Barbara Erickson (another new member & mother of Lieut./EMT Ryan Erickson) served biscuit and gravy and helped clean up. Secretary Peg Haynes and Louise Hagan cleaned and re-set tables as needed and helped with the final clean-up. One of the three (3) men Auxiliary members, Hal Ries did a great job of selling the T-shirts and sweat shirts.

The following Friends of the Department helped: Bud Hans (we apologize for misspelling his name for years) served the pancakes. Angie Stafford and her sister JoAnne Saculla again served cold drinks. Carol Jackson kept the table coffee pots filled. Bill Dewey flipped pancakes the whole 2 ½ hours. Janette, replaced Department treasurer, her sister, Jeanne Kentch, placing two (2) link sausages on each pancake plate and then did a yeoman's job of clean-up in the kitchen.

The following Department members helped : Chief Mat Espinoza flipped pancakes most of the time. Lieut./Paramedic Chris VanderJagt, Firefighters/EMT's Nick Ryan, Susan Smith and, Ryan Talavera along with

# LANDSCAPE ESCAPE

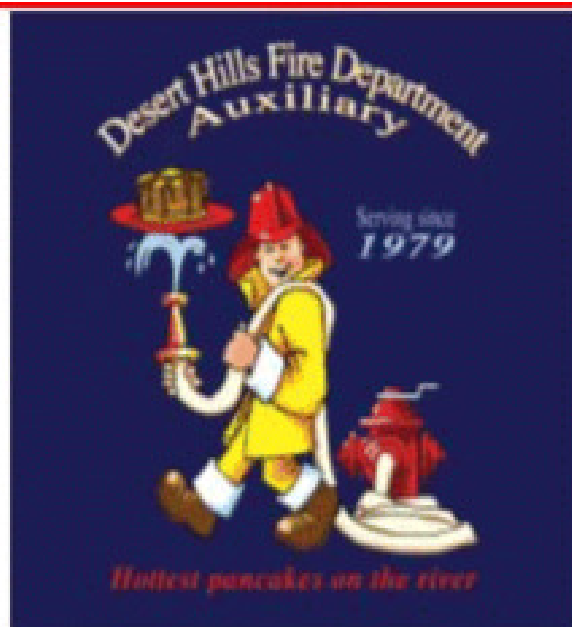
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## DESERT HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY

### CALENDAR FOR 2013-2014

NOTE: All meetings and moneyraising functions are located at Fire Station #1, London Bridge Road and Chenoweth Drive.

MEETINGS: 2:00 PM, Third Tuesday, as follows:

<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
September 17	January 21
October 15	February 18
November 19	March 18

### MONEY RAISING FUNCTIONS

1. Pan/Biscuits & Gravy Breakfasts – 8:00-10:30 AM, First Saturday, Oct. thru April, as follows:

<u>2013</u>		<u>2014</u>	
<u>Set-Up – 10:00 AM Fri.</u>	<u>Serve</u>	<u>Set-Up – 10:00 AM Fri.</u>	<u>Serve</u>
October 4	Oct. 5	January 3	Jan. 4
November 1	Nov. 2	January 31	Feb. 1
December 6	Dec. 7	February 28	Mar. 1
		April 4	Apr. 5
Cost: \$5.00/adult    \$3.00/child or ½ orders			

2. Spaghetti Dinners – 4:00-7:00 PM, Third Saturday, as follows:

Set-Up – 10:00 AM, Day of Dinner			
<u>2013</u>		<u>2014</u>	
<u>Set-Up</u>	<u>Serve</u>	<u>Set-Up</u>	<u>Serve</u>
November 16	Nov. 16	March 15	Mar. 15
Cost \$5.00/person			

### COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT – CHRISTMAS BASKETS

1. Contact local Collection Box Locations – October 28
2. Fax Sterilite for laundry basket donations – October 28
3. Contact Allied Waste Services for collection boxes – October 28
4. Prepare Collection Boxes – October 30; Department will deliver boxes.
5. Purchase, Sort and, Bag Toys – December 16-18
6. Buy Perishable Items – December 19
7. Sort & Box non-perishables – December 19
8. Sort & Box perishables AND DELIVER – December 20

### POTLUCK DINNER AND LUNCHEONS

Christmas Potluck: Dec. 14

Installation: April 12, 2014





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all members of the Fire Academy – Paul Anderson, Ronald Baldwin, Jr., Gregory Cobb, Scott Ferrara, Justyn Ferris, Steven Hollimon, Samuel Johsson, Garrett Kemp, Javen Lambertson, Guy Lawrence, David Meraz, David Mowry, Jeff Spencer and, Dakota Steffen. These people mixed pancake batter and helped everywhere else they were needed.

The following people did all the set-up on Friday morning: Fire Department members who moved the equipment off the floor, mopped, and set up all the tables and chairs: Lieut./Paramedic Chris VanderJagt, Firefighters/EMT's Nick Ryan, Susan Smith and, Ryan Talavera.

Auxiliary members cleaning tables, chairs and, setting-up were: new member Barbara Erickson, Secretary Peg Haynes, Karen Barger. Treas. Maggie Hickson, Louise Hagan, Dena Scofield and, one of the three (3) men members Bob Scofield.

The Department friend who helped was Carol Jackson. We thank all of the above for their hard work and enthusiasm.

### My Backyard

by mathew espinoza

I live in the desert and the desert is my backyard.....

I recently told my daughter that we should go get a Frosty from the Wendy's near I-40. After a long silence, she agreed that a delicious frozen treat sounded like a good idea. She suggested that instead of climbing into the car, and comfortably driving while listening to the radio and having a thoughtful conversation, we should fire up the ATV, buzz down to the corner, hop over the flood control levy and bump our way

through the desert. Not one to miss out on spending time with my kids, I took her up on the offer. We put on our riding clothes which mostly consist of jeans, old shoes and our least favorite shirts, topped by a good helmet and pair of goggles and set out on our journey.

As soon as the tires hit the dusty path, I began to feel the exhilaration that I have come to enjoy every time I slip into the desert. My eyes opened wide, my nostrils flared and all the things that had been troubling me during the week quickly fell into the dirt behind me. We wound our way along the fence line separating the open public land from the closed national wildlife refuge until we dropped into Blankenship Valley a few miles north of Crystal Beach.

As the trail descended into the wash below, I couldn't help but slow to admire the vistas before me. The sharp-rising Needle Mountains towered directly ahead, their rugged, saw-tooth peaks displaying a sharp contrast with the brilliant blue sky set as a backdrop. The peaks of the mountains fell with great haste to the valley below creating many sheer-faced cliffs. Near the bottom of these cliffs lay giant piles of boulders, remnants of the mountain that had fallen from above, perhaps thousands of years ago. I could not help but envision these boulders, perched high on the peaks, as an unnoticeable part of the terrain as it had been since rising from the seas millions of years ago. Suddenly, they fall with a thunderous

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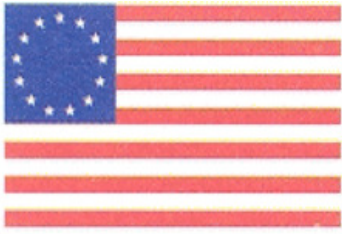
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*Desert Hills*

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roar and a tremendous cloud of dust, stones of all sizes flying in every direction. The impact on the valley far below registering with tremors that can be felt for miles away. As the dust settled, a new landscape emerged bearing a scar that will last for a million years or more or until the rest of the mountains either fall or the seas rise up to swallow the desert again.

My daughter and I continued our journey north, winding our way through the twisted washes that flow from the hills. We soon found a car that had been half buried in the wash long ago. I figured the car to be an early 70's model Chrysler Newport. How the car got that far into the desert has to be a remarkable story in its own. It was farther into the desert than any two wheel drive car should have ever been, especially a car almost as huge as a battleship. The car was full of holes, evidence that many shooters had had the opportunity to put their two cents into the decrepit vehicle. The front seat area of the car (there was no real seat any more), was full of

spiny bits of Cholla cactus. A few minutes of pondering made me come to the realization that a kangaroo rat had established a thriving residence under the dashboard near the steering wheel. The rat had dragged bits and pieces of the cactus home in order to keep predators – and people wanting their picture sitting in the front seat of the car- from invading their territory. Despite the rat's efforts, I was able to slip a quick picture. After pulling quite a few cacti from my riding pants, posing for a few more pictures, and climbing back onto the quad, we set forth on our journey, with a hankering for a soft serve frozen treat.... The Frosty!

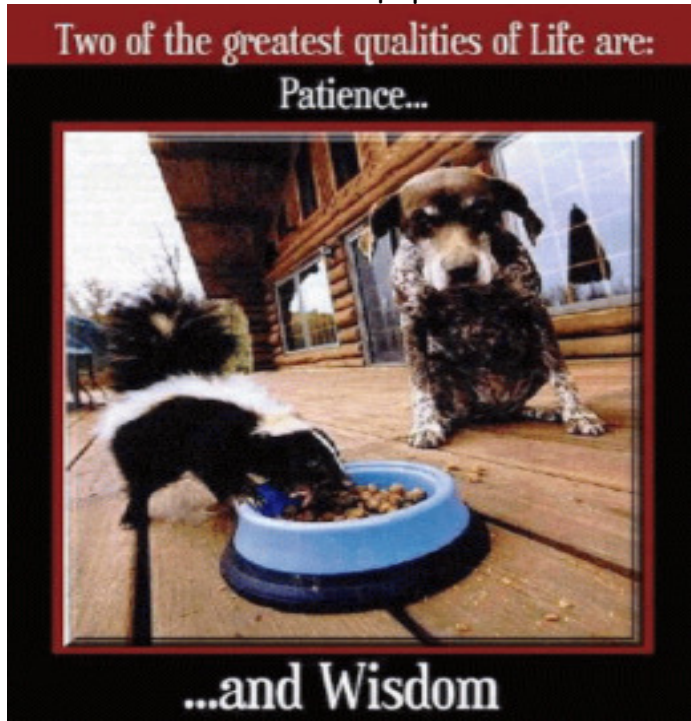
To be continued next month....

**Pancakes are Delicious...**

**So Are Biscuits and Gravy**

The Desert Hills Fire Department Auxiliary will be hosting its next the November 2<sup>nd</sup> pancake breakfast at the fire station on London Bridge Road and Chenoweth Drive in

downtown Desert Hills from 8 - 10:30 am. The cost is a very affordable \$5 per person and includes 4 pancakes, 2 sausage links, a cup of orange juice and coffee or milk. If pancakes aren't your style, you can also have biscuits and gravy instead of the pancakes or sausage. All proceeds from the breakfasts are used to benefit the fire department to purchase much needed fire and rescue equipment.



#### Advice from an Old Farmer

- Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.
- Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.
- Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
- A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.
- Words that soak into your ears are whispered... not yelled.
- Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.
- Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.
- Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.
- It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

- You cannot unsay a cruel word.
- Every path has a few puddles. When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.
- The best sermons are lived, not preached.
- Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.
- Don't judge folks by their relatives.
- Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- Live a good, honorable life... Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.
- Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none.
- Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a Rain dance.
- If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
- Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.
- The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.
- If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around..
- Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.
- Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.
- Most times, it just gets down to common sense.

And have a Happy Thanksgiving....



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# Desert Hills Fire Department Auxiliary



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8 to 10:30 am

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in Desert Hills

\$5.00 for adults    \$3.00    for kids