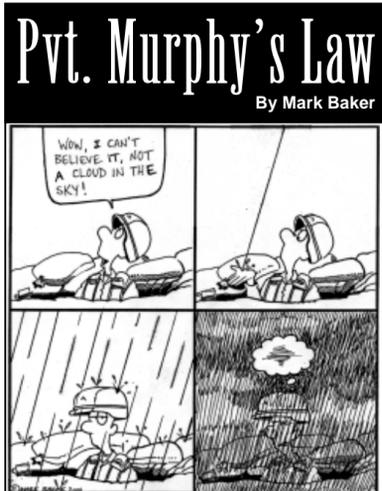


SCOUT Prime Out

The Fort Huachuca



Vol. 48, NO. 23 Published in the interest of Fort Huachuca personnel and their families June 13, 2002

Sports shorts

e-mail: thescout@hua.army.mil
website: huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

Swimming lessons

Swimming lessons for youth six months up to 18 years old will be held at Grierson Pool Wednesday and continuing through June 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$25.

Register now by calling 533-3858. Future lessons will be held throughout the summer from July 10-25 and another in August.

Sports physicals

Don't wait for summer to be over and get caught in the rush. Get your sports and school physicals now for all youths 15 and under at Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center. Call 533-9200 to schedule an appointment today.

Pet Fair

There will be a Pet Fair at the Vet Clinic at 10 a.m. June 22. There are multiple categories to enter your pet in for \$5 each. There will also be prizes, popcorn and soda for the kids. For more information or registration call Spc. Eric Lopez at 533-0481 or 533-2767.

Post softball players needed

Male softball C or D plus players interested in playing tournaments for the post team, Desert Thunder, can attend practice Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Pauly Field. Contact Sgt. Tony Espinoza at 533-3229 or 459-7263 for more info.

Basketball camp

Cochise College will have a camp available to junior hoopsters soon. Kids ages 7-18 may sign up now for the Cochise College Fundamentals Basketball Camp set for August 5-9 on the Douglas campus.

Hoopsters will develop their skills through instruction from college coaches and players, guest visitors, competitions and contests.

Hoopsters will be split into age groups. Session A is for 14- to 18-year-olds and takes place daily from 9-11 a.m. Session B is for 10- to 13-year-olds and takes place daily from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Session C is for 7- to 9-year-olds and takes place from 1-3 p.m. All sessions are co-ed and take place in the Apache Stronghold Gymnasium.

The \$50 cost of the camp includes a T-shirt. To sign up, contact Camp Director Jerry Carrillo, head men's basketball coach, at 417-4072 or 459-6638 for an application.

European adult volleyball

The Goodwill Ambassadors are currently accepting applications for the Adult Volleyball European Tour in December.

Each Goodwill team is limited to eight men and eight women per team. Players should be of an intermediate level or higher skill level.

Come join us playing volleyball in London, England; Paris, France; and Italy.

For additional information call (425) 255-8102 or email questions to info@sportsforyouth.com. Also, check out the website www.volleyballtours.com for more information.

Free Sidewinder's tickets

Tucson Electric Park is having a Military Appreciation Night Friday and is offering free tickets to a Sidewinder's baseball game for all military personnel. The baseball game begins at 7 p.m. against Salt Lake City.

Get your free tickets and further information at the MWR Box Office or call 533-2404.

36th Army Band kicks off Parks, Leisure Concerts in the Park summer series



Photos by Sgt. Sharron L. Stewart

Above: Chief Warrant Officer Gary Durrell, bandmaster for the 36th Army Band, directs the flow of the music during the first concert of the summer. Left: Sgt. Luigi R. Baccala, performs a melody on the alto saxophone during the performance.

By Sgt. Sharron L. Stewart
Scout News Editor

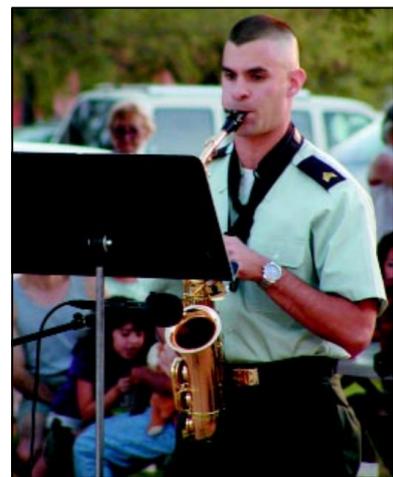
Under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer Gary Dorrell, the 36th Army Band kicked off the Sierra Vista Parks and Leisure Summer Concert series at the Veteran's Memorial Park, June 6.

Hundreds of Sierra Vista community members attended the event.

During their performance the band was joined by guest conductor, retired Chief Warrant Officer Dick Zoller, a former Army bandmaster, the day before his 87th birthday.

The 36th Army Band has a Big Band concert scheduled for 7 p.m., tonight at Sierra Vista Veteran's Memorial Park.

Friday they will perform at 8 a.m. for Company C, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion on Brown Parade Field and at 6:15 p.m. for the Military Appreciation Night at Tucson Electric Park.



Retired Chief Warrant Officer Dick Zoller, a former Army bandmaster, performed as guest conductor the day before his 87th birthday.

36th Army Band's scheduled summer performances

June

Tonight, 7 p.m. Concert in the Park, Sierra Vista Veterans Memorial Park

Friday, 8 p.m., Company C, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion, Brown Parade Field.

Friday, 6:15 p.m., Military Appreciation Night, Tucson Electric Park.

June 20, 9 a.m., Moving Wall opening ceremony- Sierra Vista Veterans Memorial Park

June 26, 2 p.m., building rededication, to be announced.

June 26, 3 p.m., Moving Wall closing ceremony, Sierra Vista Veterans Memorial Park.

June 26, time to be announced, troop arrival at Cochise Theater.

June 27, 4:30 p.m., B Troop demonstration.

June 28, 7 a.m., change of command, U.S. Army Garrison, Brown Parade Field.

June 28, 8:30 a.m., change of command reception, Military Intelligence Museum.

June 28, 10 a.m., MI Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Alvarado Hall.

June 28, 2 p.m., MI Village rededication, MI Village.

July

July 4, 7 p.m., July 4th celebration Sierra Vista Stone Field.

July 10, 8 a.m., change of command 309th MI Bn., Chaffee Field.

July 16, 8 a.m., change of command, Dental Activity Command, Brown Parade Field gazebo.

July 24, 10 a.m. (T), Volunteer recognition brunch - Sierra Vista Hospital.

July 25, 8 a.m. (T), change of command, 40th Signal Battalion, Brown Parade Field.

July 25, 6 p.m., 504th Military Intelligence Battalion, Dining-in, La Hacienda.

July 26, 7:30 a.m., Installation Retirement Ceremony, Chaffee Field.

July 26, 10 a.m., change of command 504th MI Bn., Brown Parade Field.

July 31, 7:30 a.m., change of command, 111th MI Bde., Brown Parade Field.

August

August 1, 7:30 a.m., change of command, 112th MI Bde., Brown Parade Field.

August 6, 8 a.m., change of command Electronic Proving Grounds, Brown Parade Field

August 8, time to be announced, change of command 11th Sig. Bde., Brown Parade Field.

(T) = Tentative



In the Spotlight

See your MWR activity highlighted in The Fort Huachuca Scout, call 538-0836.

LakeSide offers He-Man buffet

MWR release

The LakeSide Activity Centre is preparing a He-Man buffet for Father's Day Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$14.95 for adults, \$7.95 for children ages 5-10. Children four and under may dine free.

The traditional carving station features savory steamship round. The bountiful buffet is complete with grilled barbecued salmon, tasty turkey legs, blackened chicken breast, zesty smoked pork ribs, vegetable especial, au gratin potatoes, LakeSide benedicts, hearty pancakes, breakfast potatoes, sausage and bacon, fresh fruits, assorted pastries, croissants, breads and a delicious salad bar.

The LakeSide Omelet Bar will be available for cooked-to-order omelets. A special fruit and cheese display and healthy juice bar are available for refreshing additions to the meal. The Dessert Bar offers a slice of heaven to end this dining experience.

Call 533-2194 for reservations or information.

LakeSide
ACTIVITY CENTRE



Only nine days left to showtime!

MGD Army Concert Tour

MWR release

The annual MGD Army Concert Tour will feature Styx, Evan and Jaron plus Dishwalla June 22 at the Libby Army Airfield.

Admission prices are \$20 in advance or \$30 at the gate. The gates will open at 6:30 p.m. with showtime at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at MWR Box Office, MWR Rents, Desert Lanes and the Ozone, as well as area Safeway Stores off post.

A concert bash is scheduled for Friday from 4-6 p.m. at Famous Sam's in Sierra Vista. The public is invited for an evening of fun with K101 live remote. Recreation Services Division will have give-aways of CDs, T-shirts, Styx memorabilia and even free concert tickets. Tickets will be on sale at the event for the advance price. MWR invites all to this warm-up event to the hottest entertainment in the desert.

All advance ticket holders are invited to a pre-concert party. These patrons will be allowed entrance to the party zone area on Libby Army Airfield at 3 p.m. Food and drinks will be available and K101 will offer a live remote from the concert grounds as a warm-up to the hottest entertainment in the desert. Pa-

trons are reminded to bring sunblock and their party attitudes.

Dishwalla will air a live studio session June 21 from KZPT 104.1 *The Point* early morning show and KGUN 9 will be there in promotion of Dishwalla's new CD, *Opaline*.

The route to the concert has been simplified for the public's convenience. Entrance through the East Gate at the intersection of Highways 90 and 92 bypass will bring drivers right to the concert gate. Access to the concert will be controlled, but well marked and swift. Patrons are reminded that weapons, pets, videos and audio recorders, photography, coolers or ice chests, cans or glass containers are not allowed on the concert site.

Vendors are needed for this popular event. Spaces of 20' by 10' are available to rent for \$350 each. Applications may be picked up at the Recreation Services Division office located inside MWR Rents at Irwin and Hunter streets. Call 538-1690 for information.

Persons interested in volunteering for this big concert event may call Jo Richter, Installation Volunteer Coordinator, at 533-4823. Active duty soldiers may accumulate hours toward earning a Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.



Courtesy photos

Hot entertainment: Left, Styx; Above, Evan and Jaron; Inset, Dishwalla.

Concert starts at 8 p.m., Libby Army Airfield



Fort Huachuca Directorate of Community Activities Updates

The Directorate of Community Activities is responsible for content appearing on the MWR page in The Fort Huachuca Scout. Questions about this section should be directed to MWR Marketing Director, Paula German at 538-0836 or send an e-mail to germanp@hua.army.mil.



Facility closures for MGD Army Concert

MWR Rents will close at noon on June 22 in support of the Miller Genuine Draft Army Concert Tour. Desert Lanes will close at 3 p.m. and Jeannie's Diner will close at 4 p.m. Buffalo Corral will close at 1 p.m. to participate in concert set-up. Eifler Fitness Center will close at 8 p.m. and Barnes Field House will close at 2 p.m.

Hooah 2-0 bottled water on sale from DCA

The Directorate of Community Activities now has MWR's own brand of bottled water. A 20 oz. bottle of Hooah 2-0 water may be purchased for only \$1. When patrons "recharge with the spirit of Hooah," they contribute to the MWR fund raising effort in support of all MWR activities and facilities. Hooah 2-0 water may be purchased at Barnes Field House, Ozone, Jeannie's Diner, Lil' Skeeters, Buffalo Corral and the 19th Hole. When you've been all you can be and given all you can give, recharge with the spirit of hooah!

Grierson and Irwin revamp summer hours

Irwin Pool is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Their operating hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday through Sunday and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Mondays. Grierson Pool is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. Their operating hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays; 9 a.m.-7 p.m. on Fridays; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Put Prevention into Action Class

A Put Prevention into Action Class will be offered June 26 for Family Readiness Groups at Murr Community Center. This class is specifically geared to family members. Since many Fort Huachuca soldiers are deployed, family members are discovering they may have a need for the "over-the-counter card." By attending this class, family members may obtain the laminated card for over-the-counter medications as well as an excellent self-care book. Due to the nature of the class, children are not allowed. Childcare will not be provided at this event. To register or obtain information, call Army Community Service at 533-2330.

Summer Trap League

The Sportsman's Center is sponsoring a nine week Summer Trap League on Wednesday evenings. League play begins Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. Participants will shoot 50 birds per night and rotate between singles, handicap and doubles. The cost is \$10 per week and shooter must provide or purchase their own shells. Call 533-7085 for information.

FRG Training scheduled

An Advanced Family Readiness Group Training is scheduled for 9 a.m.-noon Saturday at the Army Community Service Building 50010, located on Smith Street near the traffic circle. The training covers personality types, conflict management, group dynamics and guidelines for commercial sponsorship and fundraising. To register, call 533-2330.

Buffalo Corral activities

A children's horseback riding camp is offered now through July 26. The camp is available to youth ages 7-17 from 8 a.m.-noon on Monday through Friday for a fee of \$95 per week. Registrations are due one week in advance and may be made at Oscar Yrun Community Center. Children must wear hard soled shoes or boots, a hat and long pants and will need to bring

a water bottle. Classes will be held at the Buffalo Corral Riding Stables. For information call Buffalo Corral at 533-5220 or the Oscar Yrun Community Center at 458-7922.

Desert Lanes events

Desert Lanes is having a summer blow-out sale. All in-stock merchandise at the Pro Shop is offered at great savings. This sale continues only while supplies last.

Desert Lanes hours are now: Sunday noon to 7 p.m.; Monday noon to 9 p.m.; Tuesday 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Wednesday noon to 10 p.m.; Thursday 4 p.m.-10 p.m.; Friday noon to 11 p.m.; and Saturday 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

A mixed doubles tournament will be held June 29. There is a shift at noon and another at 3:30 p.m. Bowlers roll five games across ten lanes. The entry for this tournament is \$30. Call 533-2849 for information.

Desert Lanes joins Army bowling centers worldwide, offering a Mystery Bowl Program through August 31. Authorized patrons may obtain an entry form each time they purchase a game of bowling or snack bar item, buy an item from the Pro Shop or simply request an entry form when they visit the facility. There will be a new drawing each week from the weekly entries. The weekly winner at each location may select one of 12 mystery prize slots and receive the prize uncovered in that slot.

In addition to the weekly drawings, there will be an online promotion to win a Mystery Trip. With each weekly drawing, a new clue to the trip destination will be revealed and will be posted at Desert Lanes. The same clue will be posted on the website two to three days later. Participants must log on to www.armymwr.com to enter the Mystery Trip contest. Patrons will need to enter online to guess the destination. The first patron (worldwide) to correctly guess the destination, wins the trip package. Participants must be authorized MWR patrons.

AFTB classes offered

An Army Family Team Building leadership seminar series will be held on June 25 and 27 at Murr Community Center from 5:30-9 p.m. Beverages will be provided. This seminar is designed for leaders, organization representatives and anyone desiring to enhance their leadership skills. Subjects cover effective leadership, communication, and conflict management. Pre-registration is required. Contact 533-3686 or 533-2330.

Youth Services Summer Program

Youth Services is taking registrations for the Middle-School and Teen Summer Program. This program is designed for youth in grades 6-9 as of school year 2001-02 to participate in recreational and social activities during the summer. This program offers activities including bowling, swimming, arts and crafts, computer lab and field trips. Cost of the program is \$20 per week. Participants may sign up for as many weeks as desired; however, daily participation is not available.

Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Participants must be registered members of Child & Youth Services and may register through the Central Registration Office by contacting 533-0738. For more information, contact Youth Services at 533-3205.

Youth Strength/Cardiovascular Training

Barnes Field House offers a free Summer Youth Strength and Cardiovascular Training Program beginning Monday. The classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30-4 p.m.

This program is open to youth 13-17 years old. The program builds core strength, cardio endurance, increases stamina, agility and overall health. The program includes strength and weight training, circuit training, plyometrics, interval cardio and agility/motor skills training. Youth must have a release of liability statement signed by a parent before entering the program. The sessions are taught by Kathy Gray, certified personal trainer and fitness coordinator. Call 533-3180 or 533-5031 for information.

FCC Provider of the Quarter announced

Fort Huachuca Family Child Care is pleased to announce the selection of Andrea Wagener as Provider of the Quarter for third quarter. The parents of children in her care nominated Wagener. These parents cited Wagener's "around the clock" care as essential to their military career. Wagener's commitment to the military community has been evident throughout the nine years of her service in providing quality care to young children. Wagener volunteers as a Fort Huachuca Girl Scout service unit manager and troop leader. She also volunteers as a health and safety instructor and babysitter trainer for the American Red Cross. Wagener is a CCD teacher for Fort Huachuca Main Post Chapel and is an FRG leader for Company E, 309th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Wagener is married to Derek Wagener of Company E, 309th MI Bn. They have three children; Katharina, Jonathan and Abigail. Parents who desire to nominate their child's FCC Provider for this honor may contact the program director by email at syrella.storey@hua.army.mil or at 533-2494. Nominations are now being accepted for fourth quarter.

First Steps Program seeks volunteers

The First Steps/New Parent Support Program at Army Community Service is looking for volunteers. Volunteers visit new parents in the hospital after the birth, offer parenting information, emotional support and community resources. The training session for new volunteers will be June 23, noon-5 p.m. at Army Community Service, Building 50010. Military and their family members are entitled to ten hours of approved childcare per week while volunteering with the First Steps Program. For information, call 533-6877.

First Steps sponsors a Moms Meeting Moms group. This class meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Blake Foundation. The group is open to all first-time mothers. Call 533-6877 or 533-2330 for information on this program or new parent support.

First Steps offers free classes for new parents. The classes are open to all military and civilians in the community. Upcoming classes are: June 19, Breastfeeding Your Newborn; June 26 - The First Year of Life; July 17 - Caring for Your Newborn; and July 31 - The First Year of Life. Classes are held at ACS from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For information, call 533-6877.

Chicken Chipotle Poppers at Lil' Skeeters

A hot blaze of flavor awaits patrons at Lil' Skeeters. Lil' Skeeters is now offering Chicken Chipotle (pronounced chipotle-lee) Poppers. They are fire-roasted red jalapeños stuffed with chicken, Monterey Jack and Mozzarella cheeses, onions, tomatos, Chipotle Peppers and garlic. These tasty treats are offered for a limited time for only \$4.95.

Lunch is served Monday through Friday 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Dinner is served Wednesday through Thursday 3:30-7:30 p.m. and Fridays 3:30-8 p.m. Lil' Skeeters is closed Monday and Tuesday evenings, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Call 533-3837 or 533-3876 for information.

Step back World Cup

Youth soccer camp is on a roll

By Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Time Out Editor

Five-day Soccer Camps, provided to Fort Huachuca by Genesis Soccer Camps, teach children 8-15 how to play just like the international heroes seen at the World Cup.

Barry Morris, coach licensed by the English Soccer Federation, time tests the children to

receive soccer star patches, while relating their game to world-renown players.

The summer sessions have begun and will continue throughout the month of July. There are two sessions, one running from 10 a.m. to noon, the other from 1 to 3 p.m.

There are also advanced and goalkeeper camps available.

The camps are \$25 per participant and include a T-shirt and soccer ball.

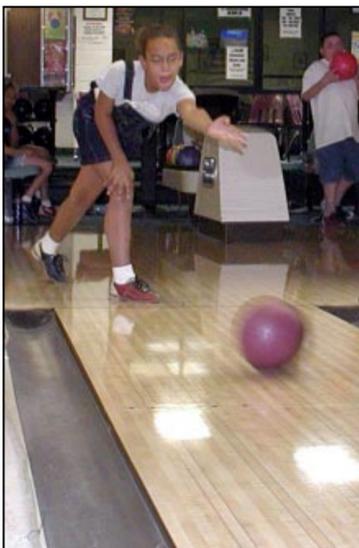
The camps take place on Foster Field across from the Child Development Center.

To register your child call 533-3205.



Photos by Sgt. Jessica Inigo

(Above) Ciarra Simpson, 10, who has been bowling for three years, enjoyed her field trip Monday. She said she enjoys bowling because her father enjoys it as well. (Below) Jeanine Whitehead, 10, has also been bowling for about three years and has also been in a bowling league, which brought back many memories during the



Striking up fun

By Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Time Out Editor

Children involved in the Youth Services Summer Program cooled off and had some fun at the Desert Lanes Bowling Alley. Field trips are just the beginning of the variety available to children in the program, according to Richard Brown, director.

Also available to children involved in the summer program are arts and crafts, a recreation area with multiple games, music, a science area, and physical education.

Registration for the Middle School and Teen Summer Program is ongoing and designed for youth in grades 6-9 as of the 2001-02 school year. The program costs \$20 per week.

For more information or to get your child involved call 533-3205.



Photos by Sgt. Jessica Inigo

Coach Barry Morris explains the fundamentals to Andrew McBain, 8.



Jessica Nielson, 11, takes a jump toward better soccer goals.



Grass drills turn children into soccer stars.

CSFA to reunite Arizona gridiron greats

CSFA release

PHOENIX - The Copper State Football Association, formed in April of 2002 by a group of semi-pro football players and coaches, will bring former local heroes back to the gridiron beginning in January.

The CSFA was formed to provide affordable exciting football while preparing players, coaches, and officials for competition at higher levels. The CSFA will kick off its inaugural season in January of 2003. Games will be held at Arizona high school and college stadiums and feature former high school standouts and college players from Arizona and all over the country.

Tryouts to be held June 22

The CSFA has partnered with the Arizona Rattlers to hold a free agent combine at the Arizona Rattlers Training facility in Tempe on June 22. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and timed drills and tryouts begin at 8 a.m. Athletes over the age of 18 with prior football experience are welcome to contact the CSFA for pre-registration forms.

"The level of competition will be high, but I believe there is a vast talent pool that has no idea that a league like this exists," said Tim Schaefer, Chairmen of the CSFA.

"There are a lot of college and high school players that be-

lieve their playing days are over, we are going to give them another chance to do what they love."

Arizona high schools to benefit

The CSFA has recognized the growing cost of high school athletics and is taking action to help. The CSFA will play all games at an Arizona high school stadium and in return will donate all proceeds from concessions to the high school athletic program that held the games.

"We recognize that the growing cost of high school athletics has driven young athletes away from the fields and courts. Kids are being asked to do a lot today, with fundraising, academics, training and practice," said a high school coach involved with the CSFA. "There are just too many demands on kids time, an organization who realizes this and wants to give back is always appreciated."

Spots filling fast

The CSFA plans to kick off 2003 with ten teams, six to eight from the valley and two to four out-state. Teams will consist of 35 to 50 players and a full coaching staff, trainer, and cheerleaders. If you have an interest in joining the Copper State Football Association as a player, coach, administrator, cheerleader, or game day operations, call the CSFA office at (480) 688-9996 for more details.

Health officials urge public to take precautions against virus

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome Q&A

AZ Department of Health Services release

What is hantavirus?

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome is a disease that usually begins with flu-like symptoms, and may rapidly progress to respiratory failure when the lungs fill with fluid. Patients usually develop symptoms within a few days to six weeks; difficulty in breathing tends to occur approximately two to six days after onset of symptoms.

How do you get hantavirus?

Hantavirus is spread by the deer mouse and other closely-related species of wild mice, which excrete the virus in their urine, droppings and saliva. People can become infected by inhaling particles of the virus, which may become airborne when rodent droppings or nests are disturbed. Anyone that is cleaning rodent nests or areas where rodents have been including homes, workplace, and especially cabins, garages, and barns in rural areas should use precautions.

What is the incubation period?

It usually takes one to six weeks for incubation. This means that once a person is exposed to the virus, it can take from one to six weeks to develop the disease.

How common is hantavirus?

Since 1993, when hantavirus was first identified in the southwest, there have been 35 cases of hantavirus in Arizona.

Is it fatal?

Hantavirus can be fatal. Approximately one-third of those with the disease die. Of the 35 cases that have been reported in Arizona since 1993, nine people have died.

Is it transmissible person-to-person?

No. A person is infected only by inhaling particles of the virus, which may become airborne when rodent droppings or nests are disturbed.

Is this something to worry about?

Hantavirus occurs wherever the deer mouse and closely related species are present, which is generally in rural areas. The public is advised to avoid contact with rodents, their nests and droppings. Other rodents, such as roof rats, have not been shown to pose a threat of hantavirus.

What can I do to protect myself?

Proper clean-up methods: When rodent droppings or nests are found in and around the home, spray them liberally with a household disinfectant and allow them to soak for at least 15 minutes. Use disinfectants that kill viruses, or a solution of one-part household bleach mixed with nine parts water. After disinfecting, wear rubber gloves and clean up the droppings with disposable materials. Seal all materials, droppings or nests in double plastic bags and dispose of them in the trash. Rodent-proof your home by preventing rodents from entering the home by plugging or sealing all holes and gaps to the outside greater than 1/4-inch in diameter with steel wool, thick wire screen, metal flashing or cement.

For more information about HPS, contact the ADHS Vector-Borne & Zoonotic Disease Section at (602) 230-5932.

First hantavirus case for 2002 in Maricopa County

Maricopa County release

A Maricopa County resident is recovering from the year's first case of hantavirus. Only one case of hantavirus was reported in Arizona during 2001.

Thirty-five cases have been reported since 1993. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome is an often deadly disease that usually begins with flu-like symptoms and may rapidly progress to respiratory failure when the lungs fill with fluid. Breathing difficulties can occur approximately two to six days after the onset of symptoms. Deer mice and certain other wild mice spread hantavirus. The mice excrete the virus in their urine, droppings and saliva. People can become infected by inhaling virus particles that may become airborne when rodent droppings or nests are disturbed. The virus is not spread from person to person.

This is the time of year when people are opening summer cabins and cleaning out barns, garages and storage units. Hantavirus can occur wherever deer mice are present, which includes most rural areas.

The Cochise County Health Department and the Arizona Department of Health Services urge rural residents to take precautions when opening up or cleaning rural structures.

Cochise County Health Department Director Diane Carper advises, "Use caution when you open or first enter a cabin or other rural structure that has been closed for a period of time. Check carefully for signs of rodent infestation, and be sure to disinfect rodent droppings or nests before you disturb them."

If possible, air out the structure before entering it. If you find droppings or nests in or around the structure you should spray them liberally with a household disinfectant and allow the area sprayed to soak for at least 15 minutes. You can use a disinfectant that kills viruses or you can make your own solution of one-part household bleach mixed with nine parts water.

Wear rubber gloves and use disposable materials to pick up the droppings after disinfection. Put everything in two plastic bags and ensure both bags are sealed. Dispose of them in the trash. Do not clean by sweeping, brushing or vacuuming since this stirs up dust, and increases the chance of inhalation.