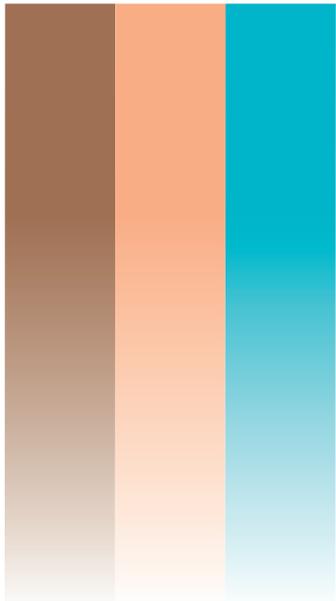




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THE NORTHERN ARIZONA
VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



arts • gram

A Daily
Production of the
National Veterans
Creative Arts
Festival

Thursday, October 18

A Living Testimonial to the Healing Forces of the Creative Arts Festival

by Susan Fishbein, Los Angeles, CA



Michael Cruse and his wife Leta, with his award winning artwork.

Michael Cruse believes in miracles. His wife Leta looks at Michael himself as a miracle. Both credit the 2000 National Creative Arts Festival as the seed that allowed Michael to grow into the person he once was...a person lost for some 30 years.

Cruse, a disabled Vietnam veteran who served in underwater demolitions, has lived most of his adult life in complete isolation due to his high level of PTSD. The isolation was so bad, that it even kept him from his family. He was a recluse. "I came home [from Vietnam] to protests...there were fights and it made me want to hide," Cruse said.

He suffers nerve deterioration related to Agent Orange exposure, major leg, back and neck impairments and a seizure disorder. He adds that he has such little feeling in his hands that his wife glues velcro to his hand so he can hold a paintbrush to paint his porcelain pieces. It is

through art that the biggest changes have come for Cruse. "I believe art...made it possible for me to join humans again," he said. "It has been better than anything in my life to make the changes come about."

Unbeknownst to Cruse, his wife entered his art piece into the Creative Arts competition last year and it won. He had a hard time getting on the plane to Washington D.C. for the Festival, but he went. He had some concerns since he wasn't used to being around people, too. In fact, for the first three days, Cruse hid out in his hotel room.

But something happened. He started meeting other veterans and a door opened up for him. "After I met them, darned if they weren't the same as me," he recalled. "There was magic medicine there... nothing else has ever moved me so much."

This year, Cruse won in his art category with a beautiful porcelain umbrella stand hand painted with wild pink roses, berries and small yellow birds. He finds art takes him away from a world he can't forget. "When I do this, it takes off the breaker switch for me. I actually hate to see it end sometimes," he added.

Like the delicate flower buds and wild roses he painted on his award-winning art piece, Michael's life has begun to bloom again. Wild roses are still alive in Michael Cruse.

Get to Know Old Prescott

Historic VA in Prescott:

The site, which the VA occupies here in Prescott, was originally established as Fort Whipple in 1864. Named after Brig. General Amiel W. Whipple who fell in the Battle of Chancellorsville during the Civil War, the fort had 124 men on duty in April of 1864. But gold fever caused many of the men to leave the military so that by October, only 24 men remained on duty. Still the Fort remained active.

Over the years, the fort was razed and rebuilt. In 1902, after the Whipple Barracks had been closed for 11 years, the post was regarrisoned and barracks reconstructed. Eleven two-story officer's quarters were built on Headquarters Hill—the same quarters that now house VA personnel. Fort Whipple was one of a 14 posts reconstructed or build after the Spanish-American War to house the nearly 30,000 troops stationed in the West.

The buildings now housing Nursing Education, the Canteen and Recreation Service were the old post headquarters, guardhouse and Post Exchange. The old barracks were recently used to house domiciliary patients, and the barracks hospital is now Building 28.

Music to Soothe the Soul

by Kate Carpenito, Prescott, AZ

The sounds from Albert Grayeagle's flute float across the room into the listener's soul. The Oklahoma City veteran continues to keep this music in its purest form and just as he was taught 40 years ago.

"Playing the flute is very therapeutic," Grayeagle said. "Flute playing began as a way to court a woman, but now playing is more of a prayer." He often plays in the backyard and the neighbors come out to listen. Even the birds respond and try to outdo him. Performing for children's cancer groups is one of his greatest pleasures as well as playing for patients in hospitals and nursing homes.

At the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center, Grayeagle is a member of the Native American Warriors Therapy Group designed to help veterans with PTSD and/or alcohol rehabilitation. It's made up of veterans from 17 different tribes. It was the art therapist at the VAMC that encouraged him to enter the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival this year.

"When I first heard that I had won, I was really scared," he explained. "I was only used to performing locally." What he found here is something quite special. "I found a sharing of spirit and a feeling of harmony that I will take home with me. God has put his hand over all of us this week."

Nosey Notes

by Spilzie Beans

Hey everyone! You didn't think Spilzie would forget you did you??? I'm a little late because I've been taking in the sites of beautiful Prescott. Now let's get down to the nitty gritty...gossip:

Some folks woke up yesterday thinking they had taken a wrong turn and ended up in Scotland. It seems that the hauntingly beautiful sounds of bagpipes were heard in the wee hours. What a lovely way to greet the morning. Maybe James Smith of Cottage Grove, Minn., can tell us what they really wear under kilts.

My spies in the rehearsal hall are telling me the new show director, Paul Dieke, is a taskmaster! "He's really tough," one unnamed source told me. But, before you start to feel bad Paul, the other half of what my source said is that it's because you're tough that the performers are feeling inspired and their performances are reaching an even higher level than before. They think you're great!

Dave Hercules of Tomah, Wisconsin is not living up to his name and strangling this unidentified man. He's really getting ready to rehearse his dance number "Soul Man" with his life-size puppet.



You've Got to Have Heart

By Laura Bishop, Tomah, Wisconsin

There are many lists at this year's Festival – lists of participants, lists of team leaders and teams and lists of tour groups. One veteran, Paul Price of Prescott's "Geritol Hipsters," is on a list that one would call unenviable at best.

This jazzy coronet player is on a heart transplant list. He is under strict doctor's orders to only perform in the Hipster's rendition of "Just a Closer Walk with Thee." Paul isn't even allowed to be in any of the chorus numbers during the stage show on Sunday. In fact, Sunday's show will be Paul's last performance until he receives his new heart which could be anywhere from one to four years.

Playing the coronet for fifty years, Paul now tires so easily that after a few rehearsals of the band's song, he needs to go home to sleep. He can no longer drive, as his heart doesn't pump enough oxygen to his brain to allow him to react quickly if needed.

"We wanted to give something of ourselves to other veterans," said Paul of himself and the band. But while he is concentrating on giving something to all of us, he waits for the ultimate gift himself—a donor's heart. In the meantime, we all give thanks to have Paul with us this week.

Workshop helps make Digital Transition

The 2002 Creative Arts Festival will be featuring a brand new category, Digital Art. This new category is designed for artwork created digitally with the use of a computer.

To help artists interested in this new category and medium, a workshop will be presented tonight at 6:30pm in

Show Notes from the Director's Chair

By Paul Dieke

I know you usually hear about the S. & P. Index in the world of stocks. but for our Festival show, the S. & P. Index measures how well you are doing in terms of Showmanship and Pizzazz!

Showmanship

Showmanship means understanding the rules of performing. Some basics include: being on time for every rehearsal, memorizing everything involved with your performance, getting plenty of rest, and practicing the suggestions you get from your directors.

Showmanship also means "taking stage." That is, moving on stage with assurance; smiling at the audience; having good posture; accepting applause smoothly and gracefully; and exiting with a big smile, still looking at the audience. Showmanship means you understand the responsibility to do everything in your power to make a strong, polished performance.

Pizzazz

Pizzazz means being sparkling on stage. That's one of the main reasons you were chosen for our show. You either had performance vitality, or could add to this vigor to your performance. We want you to give the audience everything you can so they will enjoy your act.

the Verde Room (Media Room). The workshop will consist of discussions and demonstrations of software and tools available to the artist, followed by a question and answer period.

Get a head start in a medium that promises to blow the doors of your creativity wide open!

"Sell it!" It's a term often heard in theatre. It's about making everything bigger than life, smile big; make big gestures; move in a strong, big way; sing with a big voice; speak with authority; dance with dynamic enthusiasm. Try doing your number as "big" as you can — go ahead, go overboard!

Need to Know...

Medical Room: The Festival medical room is located in room 326/328. If you need medical attention, call one of the nurses there at 273-1354.

Lost & Found: Located in the Host Room (Verde B)

Hospitality Room: Hungry for a snack or some company? Go to the Hospitality Room located in room 219/221. The wonderful volunteers will take good care of you there from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Today's entrees include cold sandwiches, a hot chicken dish and hot wings.

If you want another denim event shirt, they will be for sale for \$20.

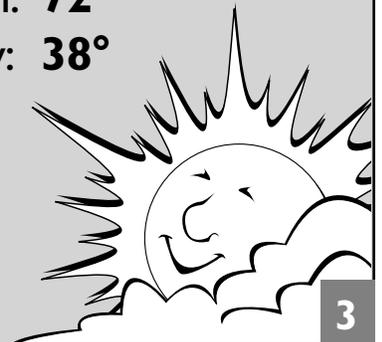
Weather Corner

Today:

Sunny, Partly Cloudy

High: 72°

Low: 38°



National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Schedule Thursday, October 18

Performer's Schedule	6am	Artist's Schedule
7-8:30am Breakfast-Cottonwood/Sedona Rooms	7	7-8:30am Breakfast-Cottonwood/Sedona Rooms
8:30-9am Team Leaders meet with performers	8	8am Team leaders meet with national art chairperson-Clarkdale Room
9-10am Chorus rehearsals - Everyone-Granite Mountain Rm	9	8:30am Team leaders meet with participants
10-10:30am Auditions for Soloists, Narrators-Granite Mt. Rm	10	9am - 11:30 Teams 8 & 9
10:30am-11am "Cabaret" Act-Granite Mountain Room	11	Weaving Workshop Completion, VA Bldg. #14
10:30am-Noon Rehearsals/Pracice solo acts, help if needed PCR*	Noon	Teams 6 & 7 Drawing Workshop at Phippen Museum
11-11:30am "Light My Fire" Act-Granite Mountain Room	1pm	12Noon Lunch at hotel-Cottonwood/Sedona Rooms
11:30am-Noon "Still I Rise," "Humor is Best Medicine"Acts"-GMR*	2	12:45pm Artists rehearse line-up with show director Granite Mountain Room
Noon Lunch at hotel-Cottonwood/Sedona Rooms	3	1:30-5pm All artists, Monoprint Workshop-Clarkdale Rm
1-2pm High Voices rehearse chorus numbers-PCR*	4	
1:30-5:30pm Individual acts continue rehearsals-GMR*	5	
2-3pm Middle Voices rehearse chorus numbers-PCR*	6	5:30-6:30pm Dinner at hotel-Cottonwood/Sedona Rooms
3-4pm High Voices rehearse chorus numbers-PCR*	7	6:30-7:30pm Introduction to Digital Art-Verde A Room
4-5pm Optional Chorus and Solo Rehearsals-PCR*	8	7pm "Fun Crafts" for all and social time at hotel Karaoke, HHV "Whirly-Gig" Kit Workshop Clarkdale/Cottonwood Rooms
	9	
	10	
	11	

* GMR = Granite Mountain Room
PCR = Prescott/Cino Rooms

Today's Menu



Lunch

Soup
Chipolte Chicken
Tuna Salad
Potato w/fixins
Fruit Salad
Green Salad w/dressing
Rolls & butter
Beverages

Dinner

Antipasto Tray
Meat Lasagna or Chicken Cacciatora
Fettuccini Alfredo or Pasta
with Marinara
Tortelli & Artichoke Salad
Marinated Vegetable Salad
Ceasar Salad
Assorted Desserts
Beverages

Tomorrow's Breakfast

Breakfast Burrito
Scrambled Eggs
Breakfast Meats
Breakfast Breads
Cereal
Milk or Juice
Hot Beverages