

CHRONICLES

Small Town, Big Sound

We pay tribute to the decades of local talent that have gifted us with unforgettable memories. As you reminisce about special occasions or high school dances, you may recall a particular song or venue where one of these orchestras or bands performed.

A heartfelt thank you to Henry Marquez for sharing his YouTube video, which showcases even more local groups!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_bny9kRPi8

Los Mariachis de Los Gallos de Morenci (1955-1965)



Group members: Top Left: Alby Rodela, (Pygmy) Raymond Uribes, Joe Espinoza, Trinidad (Trini) Garcia, Richard Espinoza. Bottom left: Ignacio (Nacho) Ponce, David Perez, Maco (El Salvador) Espinoza. Not pictured is another Richard Espinoza who played the guitaron.

Southbound 76 (1975)



Band Members: Jim Conant, John Conant, TC Finch, Bub Barry front center

Chapo's Orchestra later known as Herb Aguilar's Orchestra (1955-1965)



Band members: Andres Onate, (Chapo), Herb Aguilar Sr., Fillmore Tellez, Charlie Guerrero, Murri Hair, Earl Ridlon



The Blue Moon Orchestra (1948 - 1950)



Orchestra members: Rasalio (Chalio) Provencio, Leader; Ramon Valdez (trumpet); Francisco (Kiko) Chavarria (guitar); Ramon Arias (percussion); Gustavo Provencio (saxophone); unknown (saxophone)



New Italian Band of Morenci

The Girls



Rosemary Martinez & sister, Ernestine Dominguez and Virgie Ogas



The Flares



Pico Dominguez, Freddy Garcia, Julio Coronado, Poli Dominguez, Rick Alvidrez, "Cat" Nabor, Manuel "Dragon" Pendragon, David "Cheeky" Baray

The Stingrays



Mike & Steve Guzzo, JoJo & Jeannie Hernandez, Albert Chavarria, Pete Trottier and Rudy Sanchez

The Runaways



Gilbert Segovia, Mike Esparza, Robert "Bongos" Rodriguez, Horace Xochihua

Venues

Oasis, CYO, Coronado Inn, Morenci Club (old and new), Morenci and Clifton pools, Clifton Social Club, Clifton and Morenci high school gyms, Clifton Eastside tennis courts, American Legion, Blue Moon Dance Hall, Three-Way Drive-In, Elks Club, El Rey, Wagon Wheel, Mine Mill Union Hall, Shannon Hill corrals, Apache Grove, El Puente bar, The Cave



Larry McDaniels, Marshall McLean, Darwin King, Terry Cluff and George Sloan

2025 GCHS Scholarship Recipients

Duncan High School

Abigail Harris



Abie embodies the quintessential all-American girl. She has a passion for horseback riding, enjoys spending time with her friends, and is motivated to earn money.

During the weekdays, she commutes to her job in Lordsburg, New Mexico, approximately 35 miles from her home. Rising early, she catches the GIFT van to Eastern Arizona College at 6:00 a.m. to pursue her healthcare classes. Upon the van's return to Duncan High School at 10:00 a.m., she begins her academic day. Abie consistently manages her schoolwork while maintaining a cheerful demeanor; even when fatigued, her positivity remains evident.

For the upcoming fall semester, she is enrolled at Eastern Arizona College to further her nursing career.



**GREENLEE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Morenci High School

Noah Chavez



Noah Chavez was born in Safford, Arizona, and is the son of Jenna Navarrete and Steven Chavez. He is a Morenci High School Class of 2025 graduate, and a fourth generation Morenci Wildcat. Noah is a 4-year Varsity Letterman of Morenci High School Basketball, and has received 2A South Region Defensive Player of the Year, and 2A 2nd Team All Conference. Noah was inducted into the National Honor Society in 2023 and continues to participate in community events under this chapter. He has also been part of MHS Student Council serving as Student Body Historian, Class Vice-President and Class Representative, keeping him actively connected to student activities.

Another great part of Noah's high school experience has been Holy Cross Life Teen, a Catholic student organization. He has helped wrap gifts during the holidays, read during the Good Friday walk, and decorated both Holy Cross and Sacred Heart churches for Christmas. Noah will be completing his second year in the Electrical Engineering GIFT program, obtaining certification in Instrumentation. He will be continuing his education at Hastings College in Nebraska, committing to playing basketball for the Broncos



2024 Holiday Scavenger Hunt Fun!!!



This year's programming featured a variety of activities designed to entice visitors of all ages to explore our museum and its numerous exhibits. The introduction of holiday scavenger hunts has proven successful in attracting families eager to uncover local history.



Early Newspaper Survives Today



Office of the Clifton Clarion, North Clifton. GCHS Archives.

Newspapers were the main source of information in the early days. The county had several including the Morenci Leader, Duncan Arizonian, Duncan Valley News, and the Copper Era. The Clifton Clarion which was published from 1883 – 1889, was moved to Solomonville by I. E. Solomon and the name changed to the Valley Bulletin. The paper changed titles and editors over the years and today is published as the Eastern Arizona Courier.



Did You Know?

When Greenlee County was created in 1909, the discussion on its name was highly contested. The Morenci delegation wanted the name to be Douglas after James Douglas, the president of the Detroit Copper Company. The committee from Clifton wanted it to be Colquhoun, after James Colquhoun, president of the Arizona Copper Company. After a debate and backroom deals, the honor came to Mason Greenlee, an early gold miner who was highly respected.



Greenlee's grave, Clifton Cemetery. Photo courtesy of Alicia Guerra.