

HOME+LIFE

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022 | tucson.com | SECTION E



MAMTA POPAT PHOTOS, ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Mark Flint of Friends of the Santa Catalina Trails is a former trail designer for Pima County and a former trail design contractor. He volunteers time to work on Pima and Finger Rock Trail.

LENDING A HELPING HAND

Restoring Tucson's Catalinas is focus of volunteer group

CINDY COFFER CHOJNACKY
Special to the Arizona Daily Star

A group of volunteers is creating a nonprofit to recruit, coordinate and possibly help fund trail restoration efforts in the Santa Catalina Mountains north of Tucson.

Friends of the Santa Catalina Trails hope to help the Forest Service implement a comprehensive plan to manage, re-purpose and possibly extend a 250-mile trail system.

"The Forest Service has not had funds for a regular trail crew in decades," said Piers Ingram, a Friends board member.

By contrast, neighboring Saguaro National Park has a seasonal trail crew of 25-26 people.

Ingram said the Forest Service depends on "sporadic grants, service days by organizations and the work of individual volunteers. Getting more help from the community is central to the plan."

Many parts of the Catalinas trails system, originally designed and maintained for access on horse-



A counter installed by Pima County about a half-mile up Pima Canyon Trail recorded 8,000 visits for one month – nearly 270 hikers a day.

back (stock), now has steep drop offs instead of mellow switchbacks, overgrowth of Mexican locust and other post-fire vegetation, along with dangerous eroded sections.

The 2003 Aspen Fire impacted the trail following the rugged ridgeline from Pima Canyon to Mount Lemmon as well as trails on the mountain. The Bighorn Fire, which

burned almost 120,000 acres in the summer of 2020, damaged more than 200 miles of trails which were temporarily closed by the Forest Service.

Many trails have been reopened, but two years later, some trails on the northwest end of the mountains are damaged beyond reasonable repair without major trail reconstruction.

Heavily used front range trails also have dangerous sections.

Board member Mark Flint said a hiker fell just above Pima Springs in Pima Canyon last year, broke her leg and had to be med-evacuated out of the canyon. The upper trail section is closed by the Forest Service because of hazardous slopes "and because people get lost."

Please see **CATALINAS**, Page E4

VIEW: See a photo gallery of Pima Canyon Trail in the Santa Catalina Mountains through the years. Point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**

BOOKMARKS

From lab coats to literature for kids

BILL FINLEY
Special to the Arizona Daily Star

You would not need Nancy Drew to learn that nothing about Elaine Powers' professional career was kids' stuff. She wore a white lab coat to work, lived in a world of culture dishes and space-age equipment, and searched for compounds that would neutralize newly emerging diseases.

She was an investigative biologist for Sanofi in Oro Valley. It was serious business.

But a fun and funny thing has happened to Powers since she retired from Sanofi in 2016. Everything about her life is now kids' stuff. Last month, in fact, she self-published her 27th picture book ... all of them written to make science fun for kids and

educational for the rest of us.

Powers' latest is "Guam: Return of the Songs." Like most of her books, it promotes the importance of conservation. In this case, she looks at Guam's efforts to control the population of brown tree snakes – which have radically changed the island's ecosystem since they came as cargo-ship stowaways during World War II.

Among other things, their presence led to the gradual disappearance of tropical songbirds.

A project originally suggested by friends at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the book was five years in the making. For a variety of reasons, one of them the pandemic, Powers needed to enlist two editors, two illustrators and two translators to help her com-

plete the effort.

The text is presented both in English and the Guamanian language of Chamorro. It was released May 17 and is now available on Amazon.

Powers has become a familiar face in literary circles around Tucson. She is the current president of the Tucson Poetry Society. She belongs to several local writing groups.

Since she markets all her books personally, she is on a first-name basis with a number of local booksellers, too.

Some are surprised to learn Powers was a full-on scientist, but don't let the lab coat fool you. Before moving to Tucson, she spent



BILL FINLEY

Elaine Powers holds her latest book, "Guam: Return of the Songs," while standing in front of some of her other titles at Tohono Chul.

Please see **BOOKMARKS**, Page E4

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

ANSWERS / E2

A MONUMENTAL CENTENNIAL

BY DANIEL BODILY AND JEFF CHEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Daniel Bodily, of Woodbury, Minn., is an R&D robotics engineer. Jeff Chen, of Seattle, is a professional writer and crossword constructor. Dan started making puzzles three years ago. "Every once in a while I pick a 'mammoth goal' — something way out of my comfort zone," and in 2019 that was to have a crossword published in The Times. This is his second (and his first Sunday). Jeff Chen has been a frequent contributor since 2010. — W.S.

ACROSS

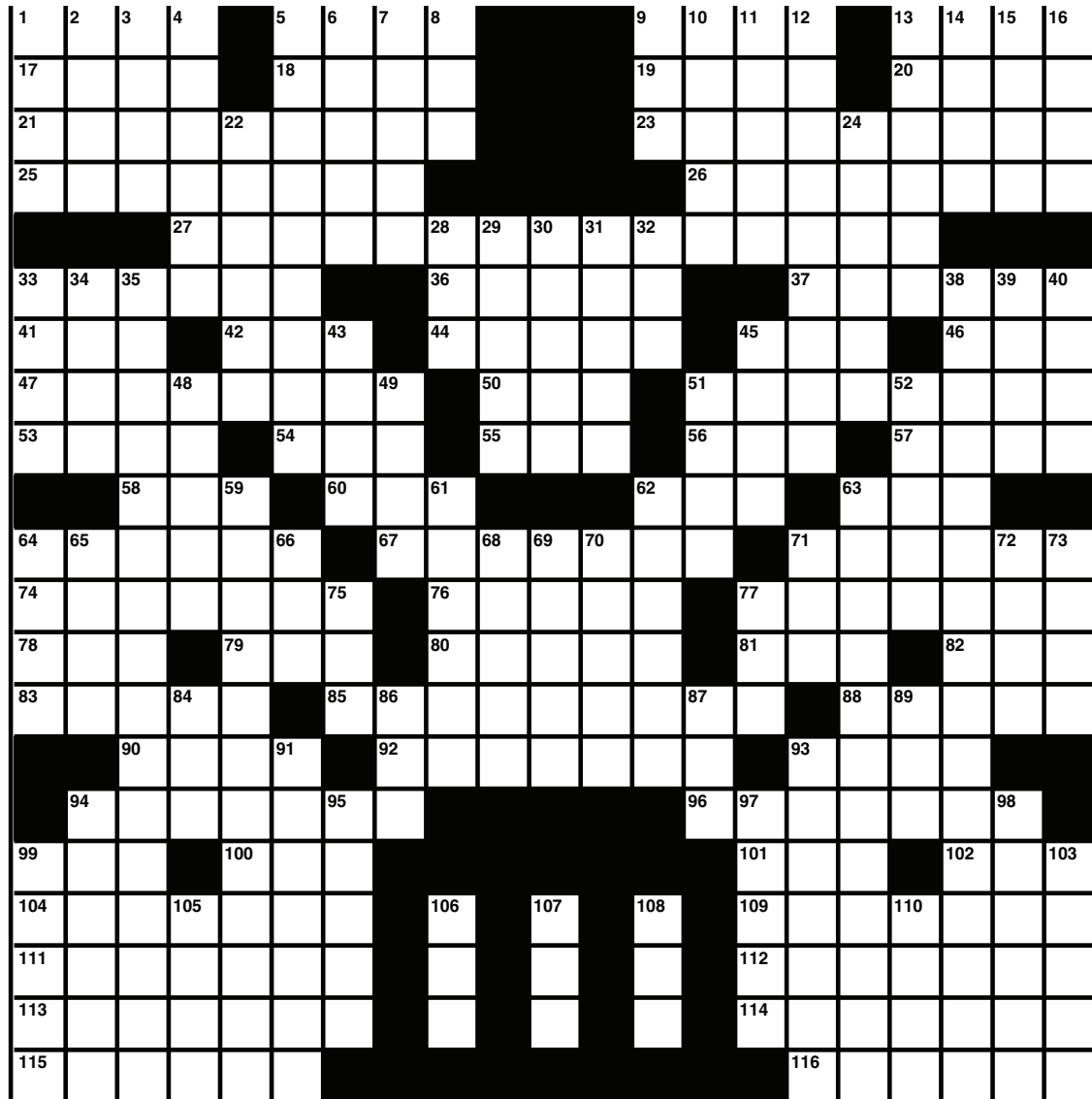
- 1 Part of a big media campaign
- 5 About 200 feet, for a Boeing 777
- 9 Artist Vincent van ___
- 13 Tiara go-with
- 17 Kind of spider commonly found near train tracks
- 18 Held on to
- 19 Slacks, say, in slang
- 20 Apparel in many a Degas painting
- 21 With 23-Across, what this puzzle's subject promised in his most famous address
- 23 See 21-Across
- 25 Premium flight amenity
- 26 Piercing-free bijouterie
- 27 Landmark dedicated on 5/30/1922
- 33 Raymond ___, Best Actor nominee for portraying this puzzle's subject (1940)
- 36 Hades' collection
- 37 Rough and uneven
- 41 Actress Green of "Casino Royale"
- 42 They watch what you eat, for short
- 44 Order of doughnuts
- 45 It's in, then it's out
- 46 "Norma ___"
- 47 Pining away
- 50 Suitcase
- 51 He played Ferris Bueller's droning economics teacher
- 53 Something easily snapped
- 54 Pay-___click (advertising model)
- 55 Place for an ace
- 56 Wish to take back
- 57 Composer Zimmer
- 58 N.H.L. great Bobby
- 60 PDF alternative

- 62 Get the ___
- 63 Situated
- 64 Office
- 67 Big money maker
- 71 Italicize or underline
- 74 It's all about me
- 76 Feature first recommended to this puzzle's subject by an 11-year-old girl
- 77 Extendable recording device
- 78 Rivendell resident, in "The Lord of the Rings"
- 79 Drink (up)
- 80 "You with me?"
- 81 ___ Offroad Fury (2000s video game series)
- 82 Cable news anchor Cabrera
- 83 Stuffed pockets
- 85 Nickname for this puzzle's subject
- 88 Eponymous physicist Mach
- 90 Have ___ (be able to jump high, in slang)
- 92 Ulysses S. Grant, e.g.
- 93 Bit of "deets"
- 94 Locales in a winery tour, perhaps
- 96 Bikini's place
- 99 "Crazy Rich Asians" director Jon M. ___
- 100 IV site, for short
- 101 Choose
- 102 When repeated, cheer accessory
- 104 Stretches
- 109 Trattoria staple
- 111 Takes part in a pilot program?
- 112 Sanskrit for "great soul"
- 113 Sent a letter
- 114 Govt. aid for a mom-and-pop store
- 115 Some titles with tildes

116 Backs

DOWN

- 1 Some Asian cuisine
- 2 Skiing star Lindsey
- 3 Partner of aid
- 4 Pieces included with Ikea furniture
- 5 Barely get wet?
- 6 Writer Georges whose 300-page novel "A Void" completely avoided the letter E
- 7 Is ___ (probably will)
- 8 Utmost
- 9 Classic Pontiac
- 10 Title role in a Monteverdi opera
- 11 Win at life
- 12 One-eyed giant?
- 13 McCartney of fashion
- 14 Maker of the Q7 and Q8
- 15 Cry from one being tickled, maybe
- 16 Runs well
- 22 Snug-fitting underwear
- 24 Greetings sent with a click
- 28 Tab inits.
- 29 Unlikely winners in Fortnite, say
- 30 Earful in an elevator
- 31 Dead lines?
- 32 I.S.P. alternative to 84-Down
- 33 Diner order
- 34 Say outright
- 35 One epithet for this puzzle's subject
- 38 Another epithet for this puzzle's subject
- 39 "Buy low, sell high" outcome
- 40 Aches (for)
- 43 Nailed
- 45 Ongoing quarrel
- 48 Cousin of a bittern
- 49 Ray of McDonald's fame
- 51 Arched body part
- 52 Utility bill unit



NO. 0605

- 59 Campaign nickname that reflected the rustic upbringing of this puzzle's subject
- 61 Beachside locale
- 62 Loving turnaround
- 63 Accessory in which this puzzle's subject stashed important documents
- 64 [Outta my way, slowpoke!]
- 65 Wrinkly fruit
- 66 Home to about 75% of the world's tornadoes
- 68 Rocker Bob
- 69 More than unpleasant
- 70 Island whose capital and largest city is Iraklion
- 71 Habitual drinker
- 72 Subject of the seven-letter mnemonic PALE GAS
- 73 "Zip-a-dee-doo-dah," e.g.
- 75 Fastball stat
- 77 Hon
- 84 I.S.P. alternative to 32-Down
- 86 Biting remarks?
- 87 ___ on over (go somewhere, in slang)
- 89 Court figure, informally
- 91 Perfumed pouches
- 93 Symbols of rebirth in ancient Egypt
- 94 Goat's milk cheese
- 95 Anthony or Joe who directed "Avengers: Endgame"
- 97 Makeup set?
- 98 One making a racket?
- 99 Some arcade machine mechanisms
- 103 Spooky sounds
- 105 One chased by un perro
- 106 Lead-in to historic
- 107 ___ the Kid, rhyming N.H.L. nickname
- 108 Otolaryngologist, for short
- 110 This really blows

Catalinas

From E1

On a recent hike up Pima Canyon, Flint pointed out work done by the group. On a steep climb before the trail descends into the canyon, volunteers have removed major rocks and built walkways around steep drop-offs. Flint has built "pans," trenches that remove run-off to prevent the trail from washing out when it rains.

Flint, formerly a trail designer for Pima County and trail design contractor, volunteers time to work on Pima and Finger Rock Trail.

He hopes to design a "Friends" portal like one used by the Arizona Trail Association where people can sign up for given trail projects.

Flint added, "Every time we are out here working, we get asked by hikers, 'how can I help?'" He said he refers volunteers to Gregg Sasek, Santa Catalina Ranger District dispersed recreation manager. But Sasek is often in the field "and in no position to coordinate massive volunteer efforts."

Front range trails are heavily used, especially from winter through spring by locals and snowbirds, Ingram said. A counter installed by Pima County on the Coronado National Forest - county border, about half a mile up Pima Canyon Trail, recorded 8,000 visits for one month — nearly 270 hikers a day.

What is the Forest Service's reaction to the offer? Charles Woodard, District Ranger, said the "Friends" proposal is in its infancy. He said he will have an official reaction once the group has met with the Forest Service to discuss how they best can work together to serve the public.

Thus far, the group has a five-member board of directors — all who work on trails to aid the underfunded and understaffed Santa Catalina Ranger District, which administers lands in the



MAMTA POPAT, ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Tim Hawthorne hikes along the Pima Canyon Trail in Tucson. Hawthorne says he hikes the trail three times a week.

Catalinas. They are writing bylaws and articles of incorporation, Ingram said.

Room to grow

The Coronado National Forest, parent to the ranger district, recently released a Public Engagement Report based on feedback and comments on the Catalinas trail system. From November 2021 to April 2022 an interactive "story map" allowed citizens to give feedback on specific areas. The project elicited 861 comments and engaged 73 organizations.

The most frequent comment was a call for more trails (39%) while others wanted more connecting trails (23%), loop trails (14%), beginner trails (10%) a bike park (7%) and more downhill trails (6%). The largest number of comments came from mountain bikers. With increasing recreation uses, "the public wants us to grow

the system but is concerned about our ability to maintain it," said Adam Milnor, Coronado recreation staff officer who has led the trails planning effort.

Some commenters suggested the Forest Service adopt other trails not in the system such as Milagrosa Canyon, a mountain bike trail in the Redington Pass area that begins in a private neighborhood. Another concern is the 50-Year Trail, which originates in Catalina State Park (and other access points on state lands), and crosses state trust and private lands with 20 miles on national forest. No one public entity controls the trail, and access could easily be blocked by new private development.

The Forest Service is also evaluating specific needs like trailhead parking on the Mount Lemmon highway, connections between trails and options for more beginner trails — for mountain bikers

and hikers — on top of Mount Lemmon or other flatter spots. Most of the Catalinas are very steep.

The Forest Service secured a \$100,000 grant from the National Forest Foundation to rebuild the damaged Romero Canyon Trail from the pools to Romero Pass, Milnor said. Another \$250,000 in post-fire recovery funds will help restore damaged trails in Pusch Ridge Wilderness.

Trail priorities include Cathedral Rock/crest Trail, upper Finger Rock and upper Pima Canyon and the upper end of Esperero Trail (which links Sabino Canyon to Cathedral Rock Trail.) Milnor said some closures on upper trails will be lifted once trails are safe to use. The Santa Catalina Ranger District also hired two seasonal trail people, the first time in 15 years, Milnor said. He said the Outdoor Recreation Act of 2021 and more post-fire money will also help fund trail work.

Volunteers provide an estimated \$3.2 million of work a year forest-wide and work together well, Milnor said. He said "Friends" members have worked on Catalina trails for years. Observing the booming recreation demand, he said, "they are willing to step up and do more."

A possible model for Friends of the Santa Catalina Trails could be Friends of Sabino Canyon, a nonprofit established in 1993 to focus on Sabino Canyon recreation and public education. It has raised more than a \$1 million to fund trail maintenance and repairs, facilities enhancements, water wells, interpretive exhibits, restoration, educational activities, and invasive species management, according to its website, sabinocanyon.org.

To learn more about the Friends of Santa Catalina Trails, email Mark Flint at markflint@dakotacom.net.

Bookmarks

From E1

her personal time performing in community theater, writing stage plays and dabbling in poetry.

She also has a deep, lifelong love of nature — especially creatures of the reptile persuasion. Need proof? Her current roommates include seven iguanas, 12 tortoises, two box turtles and one red tegu.

Stir all those passions together, and you become one of the most prolific authors in Arizona. She has published 27 books in the last eight years. Top that, James Patterson!

Powers began down the road toward self-publishing in 2013, shortly after moving to Tucson. She had developed a story about a curly-tailed lizard she met in the Bahamas. She needed an editor. She needed a plan.

Fortunately, Powers met a locally-based literary consultant named Nora Miller, and together they started down a path Elaine still walks today.

"In my case, there were a couple of reasons self-publishing made the most sense," Powers said. "For one thing, most of my books have niche audiences. They are set in the Bahamas, the Caymans and Tucson. The big publishers would rather see themes that will sell everywhere. The biggest reason, though, is that publishers discourage bright illustrations and rhyming text. I like bright illustrations and rhyming text. They make the story fun, and I wanted my first books to be my books."

At the time, an Amazon platform called CreateSpace Publishing was beginning to popularize print-on-demand books. The self-published book boom

was about to begin, and Powers helped light the fuse. "Curtis Curly-tail and the Ship of Sneakers" was released in 2014 and now is available both in Spanish and French.

The curly-tail series has sold well in the Bahamas, primarily in museums, bookshops and souvenir stores. Her second series, featuring Cayman iguanas, became popular in resort destinations such as George Town, West Bay and Bodden Town.

More recently, she has developed a series of stories about creatures we know here in Tucson. "Don't Tackle Me Rattle," "Don't Call Me Turtle," and "Don't Make Me Fly" feature rattlesnakes, tortoises and roadrunners.

"Queen of the Night," published three years ago, will always be timely in June. It features the desert flower that blooms only one night a year. A watch party

will be held at Tohono Chul in the appropriate evening ... sometime in the next two weeks.

Word is out among Tucsonans now exploring their own self-publishing projects. The Pima County Public Library's current Writer in Residence, Lori Alexander, has pointed several first-time authors to Powers to learn about the good, bad and exhausting of self-publishing.

"It's a lot of fun, but it's a lot of work, too," Powers said. "You're not just the author, you're the publicist, distributor and sales director, too. If somebody is ready for all that, they should go for it!"

Footnotes

■ Powers' books can usually be found at Mostly Books, Antigone, Tohono Chul and the Sabino Canyon Visitors Center.

■ Another poet, Robert Frost, overcame initial resistance from

publishers by running his first significant poem in the newspaper. "My Butterfly," appeared in the New York Independent on Nov. 8, 1894. CreateSpace wasn't an option then.

■ A more contemporary success story is "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova. Unable to find an acceptable offer, she self-published "Still Alice" in 2007. Released later by Simon and Schuster, it was on The New York Times bestseller list for 40 weeks. At last count, it had been published in 20 languages.

■ Several weeks ago, Pima County Public Library announced that the Martha Cooper Branch would close this month, making way for a yearlong construction project. Last week, the branch regulars received a temporary reprieve. The library will remain open at least through the end of the summer.