



A New, New Season

A Visit with Activities Director Rose Hilgedick

By Dale Dauten

Get out the calendar – it’s time to start filling in dates for the new season. The 2026-27 Ticket Order Form and Seating Charts are here. (You’ll find downloadable copies in this issue.)

This isn’t just a new season, but new-new because so many of the featured entertainers will be coming to The Resort for the first time. I sat down with the park’s AD, Rose Hilgedick, to learn more. This will be her third season as head of the Activities team and she explained how she took a new approach to how the entertainment lineup for this season’s ticketed events was created:

“There's an association of activity directors, and Judie Bricker [Assistant AD] and I went to their annual preview of entertainment. It was just phenomenal to see the local entertainment that we have available in this city. The event was all day and it was just such an eye opener for me - the talent in this city is amazing. So we have almost all new acts, everything except that park favorites, Gordy and Debbie, will be back, along with the brothers from our last New Years Eve event, the Massengales – they were such a hit that people begged me to have them back. The other people we’ll bring in for the concerts and shows will mostly be new.”



Activities Director Rose Hilgedick,

We asked Rose which of those acts she was most excited for residents to discover:

“Mountain Highway. That’s two young ladies in their early 20s who sing and play fiddles. The talent just blew my socks off. It was so good, I had to get them here. And the same with Nicole Pesce. She's a pianist but it wasn't your typical piano concert. She would take a request from the audience and go off on a story, playing the piano and telling a story at the same time. She got a standing ovation -- the only one at this event that got the standing ovation. The hard part now is how do you let people know: if you say ‘she's a pianist,’ well, how many people are going to be interested? So I got to figure out a way to talk about her a little bit.”

She just did, right? And we asked about other acts to watch for: “We have a ventriloquist from Branson that's coming. And Trevor and Lorena do comedy and magic -- they do magic and they joke the whole time, and the audience was just in stitches laughing at them. And our Western Week is truly all-western this year. We've got Gordy and Debbie doing a concert on Tuesday night, and the Massengales singing at our the dance on Friday night, and a new guy is doing the Friday noon. It's truly all-western.”

So lots to look forward to, and those are just the ticketed events, a small fraction of the park’s social life. We asked Rose to turn her thoughts away from the upcoming season and reflect back on the prior one. Was there, we asked, one event that best captured the spirit of The Resort. She thought a moment and replied, “I would have to say that for last year it was Ladies Day. We put on a Breakfast at Tiffany's event that was so well received. People dressed the part *[as we can see in the photo below featuring some of the park’s leadership team]*, and the food and the beverages were all Breakfast at Tiffany's. It was just magical. This year we're

doing a Guys Day -- we switch between ladies and men every year. So this year we'll do our guys and it will be hard to beat – we have to come up with a plan for that one.”



Left to right: Judie Bricker, Rose Hilgedick, Susan York, Debbie Ramey

There are, of course, countless activities at the park besides the events, and we asked Rose if there was one activities that was a sleeper, one that doesn't get the attention it deserves. "That would probably be the Silversmithing. They put out such incredible things and I think people don't realize these guys will teach them what they need to know. You can go in there not knowing anything. My husband did it when we first came -- he'd never touched silversmithing or making jewelry and he made some incredible pieces. So I would say silversmithing would be one that could be called an unspoken hero."

Finally, we asked Rose her thoughts on those people who will be coming to the park for the first time this year. What does she suggest as the best activities for newcomers to get involved?

“I wouldn’t say specific activities, but it seems like our meals are the best place to meet people. The Thursday night meal, the Friday noon and Saturday breakfast: It’s people sitting with other people because you have to sit somewhere to eat a meal, and you just sit down with someone and get to know them. I’ve seen more friendships pop up that way. Also, volunteering. I don’t think the park would be what it is without the volunteers -- I mean we have volunteers for everything a person might be interested in. Plus, it’s got a special place for me because it’s how we got started at the park: when my husband and I came here, we immediately volunteered as a way to get to know other people.”

Thanks to Rose for her patience with all the questions, and below you’ll find the Ticket Order Form and the Seating Charts.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

If you’d like to volunteer to be the subject of an article, or have someone you’d like to learn more about, please let me know.

Dale Dauten, Editor

Email: ddauten@gmail.com

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2026-2027

Entertainment Ticket Order

Early Ticket Purchase – **RESERVED SEATING**

Name: _____ Lot Number: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Veterans Day Lunch (Veterans Eat Free) \$12.00

November 11 Lunch following the ceremony 11:00 am # of free tickets _____
of paid tickets _____ Total \$ _____

New Year's Eve – Dance & Dessert \$37.00

Seat #'s

December 31 The Massengale Brothers 8:30 pm–12:30 am # of tickets _____ Total \$ _____

Concerts and Shows

January 5 Cactus Keys Dueling Pianos 7:00 pm \$10 # of tickets _____ Total \$ _____

January 19 Mountain Highway 7:00 pm \$27 # of tickets _____ Total \$ _____
(If Soul Train & Hee Haw had a love child, it'd be Mountain Highway)

February 2 Nicole Pesce (Pianist) 7:00 pm \$15 # of tickets _____ Total \$ _____
(From "Bach" to "Lady Gaga")

February 9 Jim Barber (Ventriloquist) 7:00 pm \$15 # of tickets _____ Total \$ _____

February 23 Gordy & Debbie 7:00 pm \$27 # of tickets _____ Total \$ _____

March 6 Trevor & Lorena (Comedy & Magic) 7:00 pm \$27 # of tickets _____ Total \$ _____

March 7 The Resort Talent Show 2:00 pm \$10 # of tickets _____ Total \$ _____
7:00 pm \$10 # of tickets _____ Total \$ _____

March 23 Diva Legends 7:00 pm \$27 # of tickets _____ Total \$ _____
(The greatest female singers of all time)

Grand Total of Purchase \$ _____

All tickets are non-refundable. **PAYMENT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH ORDER.** Envelopes will be opened on October 1 based on the postmark or delivery date. Mail order form with payment (US funds only - CHECK OR CREDIT CARD) to:

PLEASE REFER TO ATTACHED SEATING
CHARTS AND CHOOSE YOUR SEATS!
ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER
15 TO BE PROCESSED EARLY!!!

The Resort
Attn: Activity Office
1101 S. Ellsworth Rd.
Mesa, AZ 85208

STAGE

1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12
13	14
15	16

Seating
for
Dances

25	26	27 Band
28	29	30
31	32	33
34	35	36
37	38	39
40	41	42
43	44	45
46	47	48
49	50	51

17	19	21	23
18	20	22	24 Staff

Ticket Taker

Stage for Concerts and Shows

RESERVED SEATING

