

SPRING 2026

Brown Bag Lectures

FREE

The Brown Bag Lecture Series is a FREE event open to the public. The lectures are held on Wednesdays during the spring and fall terms from 12 - 1 p.m. at the Downtown Center, Room G106, located at 2600 E. Wilcox Drive in Sierra Vista. Feel free to bring lunch.

Wednesday, Feb 11

Bright, Safe and Efficient: Bringing electricity to Bisbee, rural Cochise County, and Hidalgo County

By Mike Anderson, Historian

Before electricity was harnessed to provide a practical source of light and power, mining towns such as Bisbee were plagued by frequent catastrophic fires caused by kerosene lamps. Bisbee historian Mike Anderson will shed light on the ways by which local businessmen brought electric power to the Warren Mining District in the early 20th century, and will also explain how the federal government later did the same through the Rural Electrification Administration for farms, ranches and small communities throughout southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico, changing the lives of urban and rural residents for the better in many ways.

Wednesday, Feb 18

Preserving the Past, Sustaining the Present: The Story and Future of Camp Naco

By Jeremy Fricke & Becky Orozco

Step into the remarkable story of Camp Naco, a century-old adobe military post on the Arizona-Sonora border that once housed Buffalo Soldiers and later became home to local families. This lecture traces the site's transformation from a place of defense during the Mexican Revolution to a living symbol of resilience and cultural exchange in the borderlands. Explore how preservation efforts, community partnerships, and educational programs are bringing new life to Camp Naco as a hub for commemoration, creativity, and connection. Through visuals and discussion, we will consider how historic preservation can serve as a catalyst for storytelling, cross-border collaboration, and sustainable community development.

Wednesday, Feb 25

The Soldier in Territorial Arizona

By Christopher T. DeMille, Fort Huachuca Museum Educator

Step back in time to the Arizona frontier and discover the life of the U.S. soldier during the Territorial period. This lecture explores the challenges and realities of military service in the "Wild West," including the arms and equipment soldiers carried, the food they ate, and how and where they were deployed across the rugged landscape. Gain insight into the daily routines, hardships, and adaptations that defined life on remote outposts and in the field. From survival strategies to the human side of frontier duty, this presentation offers a vivid look at the men who helped shape Arizona's early history.

Wednesday, Mar 4

Dementia Prevention: Small Changes, Big Impact

By Trinity Ribbing, Cochise County Health Department

Discover practical, evidence-based strategies to boost your cognitive health and build habits that can help slow or reduce the risk of Dementia and Alzheimer's disease. While many believe these conditions are mostly determined by genetics, research shows that lifestyle and daily habits are just as important. Through simple, practical self-care tools, we will explore ways to maintain and protect your brain function. From nutrition and physical activity to daily routines that support overall well-being, join us as we explore how intentional lifestyle choices support long-term brain health and help reduce the risk of cognitive decline.

Wednesday, Mar 11

Just Who Was St. Patrick?

By Mary Coyle

It's mid-March, and that means St. Patrick's Day to millions across the globe! Ever wonder why all the shamrocks and shenanigans on March 17th? Why all the green? Just who is the man behind these celebrations? Come and explore how a 5th-century Catholic bishop who was not from Ireland became the patron saint of Ireland with his own feast day and an iconic symbol of all things Irish, both sacred and profane. Join us and illuminate your St. Patrick's Day celebration this year!





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Wednesday, Mar 18

Arizona Boots and Burgers: A Guide for Hungry Hikers

By Roger Naylor, Author

Join acclaimed travel writer Roger Naylor for a lively journey through Arizona's most scenic trails and tastiest eateries. In *Arizona Boots and Burgers: A Guide for Hungry Hikers*, Roger blends his love of hiking and hamburgers to showcase 70 unforgettable hikes paired with nearby local restaurants. From the Grand Canyon to Tucson, discover stunning landscapes and mouthwatering meals from burgers, Sonoran hot dogs, Indian tacos, and more, with vegetarian options too. Packed with humor, storytelling, and over 100 vibrant photos, this talk is a delicious celebration of Arizona's natural beauty and culinary gems. Come hungry for adventure!

Wednesday, Mar 25

Beyond the Literal: Unpacking Idioms and Phrases

By Glenn Minuth

You have heard them all your life and may have said them, but how did they originate? We will examine some idioms, phrases, colloquialisms, expressions, jargon, locutions, mottos, and slogans. These sayings can be quite confusing on their face values, but they are entertaining to learn about and help you sound like a native speaker. Some are funny enough to evoke a snicker while some are just bizarre! To take an example: An idiom is a phrase or expression that has a figurative meaning, which is different from its literal meaning. They are often used to make jokes or to lighten the mood in a conversation. "The ball is in your court" to attend this brown bag session so come out to "chew the fat" and we will "hit the ground running."

Wednesday, Apr 1

Catching Cancer Early: What Every Family Should Know

By Dr. Sriman Swarup

Cancer touches nearly every family, but early detection can save lives. In this talk, Dr. Sriman Swarup, a board-certified oncologist practicing in Cochise County, explains what warning signs to watch for, which screenings really matter, and how to navigate local healthcare options. Dr. Swarup will share real stories from his practice and practical steps you and your loved ones can take to protect your health. Bring your questions, your curiosity, and even your lunch. It's time to make cancer prevention part of our community conversation.

Wednesday, Apr 8

Ramsey Canyon Preserve History and Nature

By Taylor Hanson

Did you know there's a world-class nature preserve right here in our local area? As Ramsey Canyon Preserve surpasses 50 years of preservation, join us to learn about the history that led to the creation of the preserve and the nature protected in this unique habitat. Whether you are a lifelong resident or new to the area, this lecture will inspire you to appreciate and support the natural treasures in our own backyard!

