

# White Elephant Trumpet

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THIRD QUARTER 2026

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## *The White Elephant Embraces A New Era With Card Payments!*

**By Daniel Esquivel, Executive Director**

Exciting changes are coming to The White Elephant Thrift Store in the coming months ahead! This long-time community favorite will begin accepting debit and credit card payments, marking a significant milestone in the store's continued evolution.



For years, The White Elephant has proudly operated as a cash-only business, serving generations of loyal shoppers. As consumer preferences and payment technologies continue to evolve, the store is embracing this modernization to provide an even better shopping experience while preserving the friendly atmosphere customers have come to know and love.

The addition of debit and credit card payments will make shopping more convenient than ever. Customers will

enjoy faster, more flexible checkout options and the ability to purchase larger or unexpected finds without needing to carry cash. Whether it's a one-of-a-kind furniture piece, a treasured antique, or a cart full of great bargains, shoppers will have greater purchasing flexibility.

This enhancement also helps The White Elephant welcome a broader range of customers, including younger shoppers and visitors who increasingly rely on digital payment methods. By offering the convenience of card transactions, the store is making it easier for everyone to discover the unique treasures and exceptional value that have made The White Elephant a community staple.

As The White Elephant looks to the future, this investment in modern payment options reflects its commitment to serving the community while adapting to changing customer needs. It's an exciting step forward that ensures the store remains both accessible and relevant for years to come.

The White Elephant will continue to accept cash and checks, but this added payment option has been a long time coming. We look forward to welcoming customers to enjoy an even more convenient shopping experience as this new payment option rolls out in the months ahead.

## A Message from Executive Director Daniel Esquivel

As we continue moving through another busy year at The White Elephant, I want to take a moment to share some of the progress we've made and thank each of you for the incredible work that makes it all possible.

One of our biggest successes has been in the Women's Clothing Department. Thanks to the tremendous effort of our volunteers during the clothing sorting event in May, we were able to reduce the overwhelming inventory of clothing to a much more manageable level. The event was a tremendous success, and because of that success, we will now hold a clothing sorting event every quarter. Our next sorting event is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19.



Keeping our inventory organized has allowed us to keep the sales floor stocked with quality merchandise while ensuring our clothing racks remain full and inviting for customers. This is a direct result of the dedication and teamwork of our volunteers, and I sincerely appreciate everything you have accomplished.

Another exciting advancement is our progress toward accepting credit and debit cards at The White Elephant. While we will always continue accepting cash, adding electronic payment options has been something our customers have requested for quite some time. This improvement will provide greater convenience for shoppers, allow for easier purchases of larger items, and modernize the shopping experience while helping us better serve our community.

We have already scheduled Cox Communications to install the connectivity equipment at the end of July. Once that work is complete, we will meet with several payment processing companies to evaluate which provider is the best fit for The White Elephant. If everything continues on schedule, we anticipate being ready to accept credit and debit cards before the start of next year.

We've also begun holding departmental meetings throughout the store. These meetings are an important part of strengthening communication, reviewing procedures, and ensuring everyone within each department is working toward the same goals.

Our first meeting with the Art Department was productive, and we will be following up to evaluate how our discussions have impacted both the department and the store. We also held a Book Department meeting that resulted in a reorganization of the book area on the sales floor. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with encouraging feedback from both volunteers and customers. Our Housewares Department meeting was also very productive, and we are looking forward to meeting with our Collectables Department on July 28.

I want everyone to understand the purpose of these meetings. They are not intended to magically solve every challenge within a department overnight. Instead, they allow us to introduce consistent procedures, better understand the strengths and concerns within each area, and ensure we are all moving in the same direction.

I don't have a magic wand that can instantly fix every department with a single wave. Real, lasting improvement takes time, patience, communication, and a willingness to work together. I can assure you, however, that we are making progress, and each step forward builds a stronger organization.

I also want every volunteer to remember why we are here. We all share the responsibility of carrying forward the mission of The White Elephant. Since 1964, this organization has served our community in remarkable ways, and that legacy continues because of the dedication of people like you.

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## CFWE Awards Five Scholarships in 2026

The Country Fair White Elephant (CFWE) Scholarship Foundation recently awarded five \$5,000 scholarships to Sahuarita and Walden Grove High Schools students. Scholarships are renewable for up to four years as long as the recipient remains in college.

Sahuarita High School winners are Karson Darre, Brooke Bowman, and Mia Giblin-Diaz. Winners from Walden Grove High School are Jazlene Dominguez and Vianai Peralta. Scholarships are available both for university or vocational education. All five of the 2025 winners will be attending college.



**Tom Cooke, Scholarship Foundation President**

This year the Foundation received 40 applications. The applications were reviewed in detail by Foundation members Tom Cooke, Judy Oestreich, and Chris Ashcraft. The 10 most promising applicants were interviewed in person. From those interviews, five students were awarded scholarships. Alternates are also named in the event a selectee is not able to attend college. They are Geneva Sparks and Jaylene Yanez.

“The quality of our applicants was very high and making the decisions as to which students to award scholarships to are very difficult,” said Tom Cooke, Scholarship Foundation President.

“We have confidence that the students we did select will do well and make us proud,” he added.



### Message from President Fred St. Jean

This morning I walked to the front of the store and noticed that the counters had been painted blue and there were new shiny counter tops. They looked great! What a difference ... thanks to Manny.

Some little and some not so little changes have been happening at the White Elephant. Change is a part of life.

One thing that hasn't changed is all the hard work that the volunteers continue to do each day. We have many new volunteers who have been with us for only a short time. Welcome to our team. We also have volunteers that have been here for 5, 10, 15, 20 and over 30 years. That is remarkable. When you are here long enough it feels like “family.”

Volunteers come from all around the country. They come with different backgrounds, careers and skills. That's what makes this place special. It is not luck that the White Elephant is highly respected and appreciated by all of Southern Arizona. It's you – of course.

The weather is hot and hopefully we will get rain. The monsoon night's thunder and lightning can be scary. It's a reminder that even though sometimes change can be scary; growth comes from change.



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## Sahuarita HS 2026 Scholarship Winners!



**Karson Darree, 18**

**Grade Point Average:** 4.27 **College:** Arizona State University

**Major:** Air Force ROTC FBI

**Year Graduating:** 2030

**Clubs, Organizations, Awards, Honors**

Captain Swim Team, Track & Field Manager, National Honor Society  
Battalion Commander Navy Jr. ROTC, Barrett, Honors College at ASU

**Volunteer Activities**

- Roadside Clean-ups, Reading to children, Color Guards

**Work Experience:**

Rancho Sahuarita Lifeguard and Events Staff

*"Scholarship will help achieve my long term goal in becoming a  
Special Investigations Officer in the Air Force."*

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**Grade Point Average:** 4.08 **College:** Arizona State University

**Major:** Nursing, RN **Year Graduating:** 2030

**Clubs, Organizations, Academic Honors, Awards**

National Honor Society, Manager Cross Country Track & Field,  
Gold Honor Roll, AP Scholar Award, Co- Captain softball team

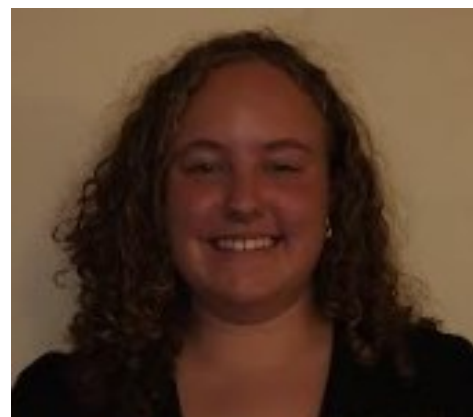
**Volunteer Activities**

- GV Concert Band, GVS Chamber Shred-a-thon, U of A Project WET  
Water Festival, President History Club and WET Makerspace

**Work Experience**

- Jojo's Playhouse staff

*"Nursing represents everything my journey has taught me:  
resilience after loss, discipline through challenge, leadership in service,  
and compassion rooted in responsibility."*



**Brooke Bowman, 17**



**Mia Giblin-Diaz, 18**

**Grade Point Average:** 4.0 **College:** Pima Community College

**Major:** Hospitality and Culinary

**Year Graduating:** 2030

**Clubs, Organizations, Academic Honors, Awards**

Manager on Swim Team

**Volunteer Activities**

- Roadside clean-up, Tutoring

**Work Experience** - Arizona Business Equipment—Custodian

*"Over the years, I learned how to fend for myself and care for others ... I hope  
to continue to complete my dream of being a first generation college graduate."*



# Walden Grove HS 2026 Scholarship Winners!

**Grade Point Average:** 4.359 - **College:** Arizona State University

**Major:** Emergency Management & Homeland Security

**Year Graduating:** 2030

## Clubs, Organizations, Awards, Honors

Tennis, Law & Public Safety, Dual Enrollment Classes,  
Sahuarita Internet Club, National Honor Society

## Volunteer Activities

Volunteer at Banner Medical Center Tucson Cancer Center

## Work Experience

- Fast food cashier, Maracana Lil' Kickers

*"I'd like to get into the public safety field because I'm passionate about protecting the community's most vulnerable."*



**Jazlene Domingues, 18**

**Grade Point Average:** 3.57 **College:** University of New Mexico

**Major:** Physical Therapy **Year Graduating:** 2030

## Clubs, Organizations, Awards, Honors

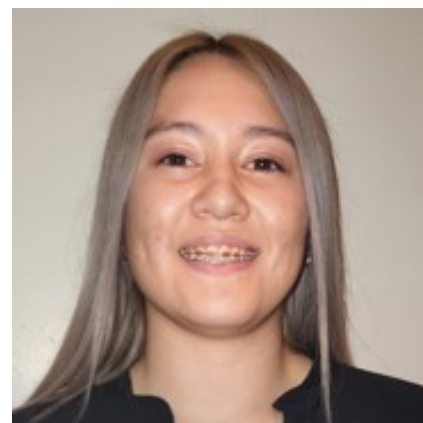
All Star Cheer and School Cheer Teams, Basketball Team Manager,  
Treasurer Pima JTED HOSA Club, Student of the Month 3 times

## Volunteer Activities

Nogales Cheer with Nogales Lions, Counseling Dept.,  
HOSA Future  
Health Professionals

**Work Experience-** Pinnacle Athletics—Facility Sanitation

*"I want to continue my education because I like helping people in need. I know there's many different types of careers that help people—I am sure I could help them by becoming a physical therapist."*



**Martina Salazar, 17**



## Scholarship Donation Containers Totals

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Donations for April | \$ 725.00     |
| Donations for May   | - \$ 421.50   |
| Donations for June  | - \$ 364.00   |
| Total for 2Q26      | - \$ 1,510.50 |
| Total for 1Q26      | - \$ 2,756.00 |
| Total YTD           | - \$ 4,266.50 |

## *It was a busy Spring for Contributions and Scholarship Committees*



Contributions Committee members visited 15 organizations that received grants from the White Elephant in 2025. Maureen McCarthy, Gary Giovanelli and Joan Fischer visited Helmet Peak Volunteer Fire Department Chief Kenneth Schultz.

They also met with Wrightson Ridge Principal Shelly Lizardi (who recently retired) seen here at the school's tortoise enclosure.

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White Elephant Scholarship Foundation Committee member Judy Oestreich had the honor of presenting scholarships at this year's award ceremonies. Sahuarita High School winners are (from left) Brooke Bowman, Mia Giblin-Diaz and Karson Darre. Winners from Walden Grove High School are Jazlene Dominguez and Viannai Peralta.

Each will receive \$5,000 which is renewable for four years as long as they stay in school.

Continued on pages 4 and 5 for further details about each student.



## Message from Daniel Esquivel... Continued from Page 2

Our surrounding communities depend on the White Elephant. Our volunteers depend on The White Elephant. Together, we have the privilege and responsibility of ensuring this organization continues to thrive for future generations.

As Executive Director, I remain committed to serving our mission and leading our organization through thoughtful improvements. Some changes may be difficult. Some may take time to adjust to. Change is rarely easy, but it is often necessary to ensure we continue growing while honoring the traditions that have made the White Elephant such a special place.

At the heart of everything we do is one simple truth: we are a team. We care deeply about our volunteers, our customers, our community, and the legacy we have inherited. Working together, I am confident we will continue building on that legacy for many years to come.

Thank you for your dedication, your hard work, and the countless hours you generously give each day. Your commitment is what makes the White Elephant successful, and I am grateful to serve alongside each of you.



### Women's Dept Before

- Over 200 full bags of clothing were donated to Gospel Rescue Mission
- Over 50 volunteers showed up May 20 to do a "Power Sort" to price, hang and distribute inventory in the store.

### Women's Dept After

- Leadership is actively reviewing department workflow to streamline sorting, pricing, processing and stocking procedures.



### Book Dept Update

- The in-store book department recently went through a space utilization review due to inconsistent shelving and overcrowding in certain areas.
- The book inventory was rearranged, and magazines, CD's DVD's, and videos were relocated to the book department creating more space for other products in the store.

## Scholarship Recipients Volunteered At CFWE This Summer

Probably the biggest reason most people volunteer at the White Elephant is a desire to “give back to the community.” Two very special young ladies, however, decided to become store volunteers this summer for a very different reason – they wanted to “give back to the White Elephant!”

That’s because both of these sisters are full-time college students and currently are receiving academic scholarships from the White Elephant Scholarship Foundation.

Graduates of Sahuarita High School, Megan Davis was awarded a scholarship in 2024 and Rylee Davis received her scholarship in 2025. Megan, 20, is attending Northern Arizona University, majoring in Advertising, and Rylee, 19, is enrolled at Arizona State University, majoring in Forensic Psychology.



**Megan Clark, 20**

“I wanted to give back to the White Elephant and our community for helping me through college,” said Megan. “I also wanted to thank you for giving me this opportunity by allowing me to volunteer,” she added.

Rylee, agreed with her sister. “I wanted to give back to the community and to the establishment that is helping me be able to go to the college I fell in love with,” she explained.

They will be returning to college in August, but while on summer vacation they worked on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Women’s Clothing Department. Rylee also helped in the Christmas (Holiday) Department. They admitted they got as much as they gave by working in the store.

“What I liked most is seeing new faces and making new connections,” Megan pointed out. “My biggest challenge is that I always try to make sure everyone is having a good time!”



**Megan Clark (2nd from left)  
received her scholarship in 2024**



**Rylee Clark received her  
scholarship in 2025**



**Rylee Clark, 19**

Rylee feels the same way. “I liked working at the White Elephant because I like working with people and doing new things.” Her biggest challenge, she explained was “trying to juggle so many things.” Being challenged comes easy for Rylee and she has a very interesting reason for pursuing her major. “I would like to work interviewing criminals or working on a police force as an investigator. Knowing why criminals do what they do has been an interest of mine for a long time.”

Megan, on the other hand, is taking a very different approach. “I would like to write scripts for advertisements for things that matter, for example, public health.

It truly has been a honor for the White Elephant that these scholarship recipients chose to volunteer their time giving back to the store, and by doing so, giving back to the community. They appreciate the opportunities their scholarships are providing them, and are very thankful for the opportunity to volunteer here!



# Get your “happy back” as a White Elephant Volunteer!

Being a CFWE volunteer is an easy path to all three kinds of happiness – especially “meaning.”

*We have welcomed 51 new volunteers since January 2026!*

The following article is re-printed from the 1Q22 *Trumpet*, and is a good reminder for us all!

One secret to living longer healthier lives is being “happy.” How happy we are and for how long depends upon how “engaged” we are in life. At least that’s what Bill McCreery thinks. He retired in 2022 as the Executive Director of Posada Life Community Services.

McCreery says there are three kinds of happiness: pleasure, flow, and meaning.

## PLEASURE

“Pleasure” occurs when we do something that brings us joy. Like eating ice cream, going to a movie, or buying a pair of shoes. Pleasure is very short term. We enjoy it in the moment, but once it’s over – it’s over. To make us happy again, we have to come up with something new.

## FLOW

The happiness we get with “flow,” is the joy we experience in our daily routine. We are content because we are comfortable with our schedules, jobs, friends, lives. It lasts a lot longer than pleasure. Unfortunately, we sometimes do not even realize we are

happy until that flow is interrupted, like losing a spouse, changing jobs, becoming ill, or retiring. Those things can interrupt flow and create unhappiness.

For most people, flow definitely was suspended when COVID-19 hit and nearly everything in our lives changed. Yes, we eventually created a new flow by finding ways to virtually volunteer, go to work, school, meetings, and social settings. We learned to live with quarantining, masks, social distancing and constant hand washing. But now, with vaccines available, we contemplate a more complete return to “normal,” another change in flow makes some people anxious. The new term for that is FOGO (fear of going out.)

## MEANING

Overcoming FOGO and increasing in-person interactions can result in renewed “meaning” in our lives: the happiness we realize when we do things of significance outside of ourselves.

It is how we feel when we do something of consequence – something that makes a difference, often in the lives of others. That level of happiness lasts for an exceptionally long time, maybe even forever. We can plug into it whenever we need it. In other words, the easiest way to lasting happiness in our own lives is to bring joy into others’ lives.

All three kinds of happiness overlap and intercept each other regularly. We can increase happiness (pleasure, flow and meaning) by becoming more intentional about what we do and how we spend our time.

## CFWE VOLUNTEERS ARE HAPPY

Being a White Elephant volunteer is a quick and easy path to all three kinds of happiness – especially “meaning.”

So, if you are experiencing FOGO or want to “get your happy back,” keep volunteering. Even just a little time spent volunteering will bring you pleasure, improve your flow, and provide meaning that can last a lifetime!

## 2026 Grant Applications Mailed June 8—Are Due Back Sept. 15

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The Country Fair White Elephant Contributions Committee invited 125 organizations in June to apply for grant contributions from the White Elephant. Grant categories include Schools (Public, Private and Other,) Youth Organizations, National Disease, Fire Districts, Adult/Child Assistance, Area and Nature Study, and Community Arts.

Organizations and schools should be located and/or serve clientele in the I-19 corridor of the Santa Cruz Valley. These invitations do not guarantee organizations will receive a contribution from the White Elephant, even if they do meet contribution guidelines provided by the Board of Directors.

Applications with the highest level of priority include those that:

- Aid youth of the area (either through school sponsored or other programs,)
- Care for physically, mentally or financially distressed individuals,
- Are medical clinics, hospices, hospitals, and other health oriented organizations (particularly those which cater to the disadvantaged,)
- Aid the elderly,
- Are social service organizations.

The lower priorities would be historical investigations oriented toward local history and assistance to animals. We do not consider contributions to major building programs, startup businesses for profit, organizations with annual dues or fees and organizations which duplicate services provided by other organizations in same area.

Applicants have until September 15 to return their completed applications which must include a copy of their 501(c)3 letter from the IRS stating they are exempt from federal income tax and that donors may deduct contributions made to their organization. In addition to providing a current financial statement, applicants also must provide a Mission Statement and what they would use the funds for if issued a grant.

Members of this year's Contributions Committee are Maureen McCarthy (chair) Joan Fischer, Cene Backus, Fred St. Jean, DiAnn Bresina, Gary Giovanelli and Beverly Haney. They recently visited 15 organizations who received contributions in 2025.

### Shoppers in 2Q26

Shoppers in April - 21,749  
 Shoppers in May - 18,600  
 Shoppers in June - 17,716  
 Total Shoppers in 2Q26 – 58,065  
 Total Shoppers in 1Q26 - 68,369  
 Total Shoppers 2026 YTD - 126,434

### Income 2Q26 Totals

Income in April - \$ 210,000  
 Income in May - \$ 175,000  
 Income in June - \$ 159,433  
 Total Income in 2Q26 - \$544,433  
 Total Income in 1Q26 - \$586,026  
 Total Income 2026 YTD - \$1,130,459

***Recently Provided an Update On How the White Elephant Serves Our Community!***

Dear White Elephant - Thank you very much for your support of local programming for children with cancer with the grant you provided. (They received a \$13,00 grant from the White Elephant in 2025.) We wish to provide event updates throughout the year to let you know how grateful we are for your support of our programming.



Candlelighters 21st Annual Dream Night Prom for teens with cancer was April 25, with your help we hosted 68 teens, and a record 15 newly diagnosed teens in the prom court. One of the attendees from Green Valley missed his senior prom due to cancer treatment and he was so grateful to have the 2nd chance of a life milestone.

Due to our engagement with families from Nogales, we hosted half a dozen teens from Santa Cruz County and were also able to provide overnight accommodation with a hotel room for their families. The teens and their parents expressed much gratitude for this opportunity. Dream Night Prom affords a magical and healing experience for the teens who participate.

The challenge for a child diagnosed with cancer is multifaceted, and for a teenager, the experience is far more personal. The treatments frequently induce hair loss, weight loss and other physical challenges. Months of hospitalizations can disrupt the usual social activities, and important milestones are often missed. Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation of Southern Arizona is a small local affiliate whose mission is to educate, support, and advocate on behalf of families of children and adolescents with cancer and other blood disorders, bereaved families and survivors of childhood cancer.

Our programs and services are designed to offer normalcy for our families in an otherwise hectic and stressful time in their lives. We do not charge our families any fees to attend our events. We are a 501(c) 3 local non-profit organization. Candlelighters is also recognized as a Qualifying Charitable Organization as a tax credit for the State of Arizona. QCO code 20980.

Thank you again for your kindness. Please feel free to contact our offices at 520-777-4911.

***Sincerely, Beverley Tidwell, Program Director 520-609-8953 - cell***



## Meet summer student store workers and new truck driver



**Melanie Jacques**

This is Melanie Jacques's second year as a student summer worker at the White Elephant. Sixteen years old, she is a junior at Sahuarita High School.

Melanie is grateful for the opportunity to gain work experience and earn a little cash along the way! During her shifts on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, Melanie helped out as a cashier, bagger, sorter and "floater."

"I like that I am learning to work in retail," Melanie said. "I am happy to have this opportunity. It's hard to get jobs these days." Her other

Ramon Orozco said he wanted to work at the White Elephant this summer to "stay busy and help out as much as I could." He kept very busy in Receiving and Customer Pick-up during his shifts on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

His favorite thing about working at the White Elephant was the "people I worked with," Ramon said. In his junior year at Sahuarita High School, the 16-year-old loves film classes and being on the track and field team.

Moving furniture back and forth in the store certainly helped keep him in shape for the upcoming school year!



**Ramon Orozco**



**Jasmine Jacques**

Jasmine Jacques is 17-years-old and a senior at Sahuarita High School. She said she was motivated to work at the White Elephant this summer to "get out of the house and be busy all the time." She ended up making many new friends!

"I'm happy I took this chance to do something new this year and to make lots of new memories," Jasmine shared. She values her experience as a cashier, bagger, sorter and floater during her shifts on Monday, Wednesday Friday and Saturday.

Art and culinary are Melanie's favorite subjects at school and she also enjoys music, videos and cosmetology.

Ethan Clark joined the White Elephant staff as a truck driver and support person in the Pick-up and Receiving Departments in early May. A native of Arizona, he has lived in the Green Valley-Sahuarita area for 15 years.

Even though he is a little shy, Ethan said his favorite part of the job is "the people" and the hardest part is all of the "heavy items." He certainly is a welcome addition at the White Elephant as sales of furniture and other large items significantly contribute to our bottom line. All the more we have to contribute to schools and non-profit organizations in our community!



**Ethan Clark**

# Around the White Elephant ...

## June's Volunteer "Guessing Game" ended in a tie!



Janet Gerdes



White Elephant 3Q26 Quarterly  
Volunteer Appreciation Contest  
*How many corks are in the container?*  
**Only ONE guess per person**  
Top two guesses (without going over the amount)  
will receive a \$30 gift certificate to the  
White Elephant Thrift Store  
**Deadline is Tuesday, June 30, at Noon**



Lisa Diaz

There were 120 Corks in the bucket. Both volunteers won a \$30 gift certificate to the White Elephant Thrift Store!



The White Elephant celebrated the Month of July in style!



Eventually, Elvis left the building!





## Around the White Elephant ...

Continued from Page 11



**Monday, September 7**



## WHITE ELEPHANT THRIFT SHOP

601 N. La Canada

Green Valley, AZ 85614

520-625-4119

<https://gvwhiteelephant.com>

Country Fair White Elephant  
is a 501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization



## Serving Southern Arizona Since 1964

Clothing, Furniture, Electronics, Home Décor and More!

Store Hours – Monday through Saturday 9am – Noon

Donation Hours Tuesdays – Wednesdays – Thursdays and Saturdays 8am-Noon

Donation Drop Off Not Available During Rain Conditions

Customer Pickup Monday – Saturday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Credit and Debit cards are not accepted. Cash or personal check with proper I.D. are accepted.



Tips for future *Trumpet* issues? Send your ideas to [maureenmccarthyaz@gmail.com](mailto:maureenmccarthyaz@gmail.com)