



The Daily Courier

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Raven's Watershed Wednesday presents Poets Perspectives on the River

Special to The Courier

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Local poets will offer a fresh perspective on threats to the Verde River in a night of creative expression Wednesday, Dec. 10.

A special "Watershed Wednesday" organized by The Center for Biological Diversity's Save the Verde campaign begins at 7 p.m. at The Raven Café, 142 N. Cortez.

Several invited poets will express their thoughts on the Verde, threatened by proposed pumping projects for the aquifer that feeds it.

An open mic session will follow to allow community members to share their words regarding Verde conservation.

The Center organizes such events to educate residents about the threats to the river from groundwater pumping, off-road vehicle damage, sludge pollution, and global warming.

The organization provides information at the events on Verde protection, including the importance of river habitat, wildlife inhabiting the upper Verde, and harm that will result from unsustainable pumping out of the Big Chino Sub-basin, believed by hydrologists to supply more than 80 percent of the Verde's base flow.

Audience members will have a chance to sign petitions urging decision-makers to enact an adequate, science-based habitat conservation and mitigation plan before pipeline construction begins.

Among poets participating are Megan Buchanan, Susie Bragg, Susan DeFreitas and Juanita Hull-Carlson.

Buchanan published her first poetry anthology, "Clothesline Religion," while pursuing a Masters degree at NAU.

Her work was selected to represent the university for both the 2005 and 2006 Association of Writers and Writing Program's new writer's award.

Bragg is an avid kayaker and conservationist. DeFreitas is a member of Mad Women Poets, has work published in "The Woman Beside You" anthology, and owns Green Elephant Marketing and Design.

Call Edie Dillon at 277-9155 to sign up to read or for more information.

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