



# The Daily Courier

*Yavapai County's News and Information Center Since 1882*

## Local café hosts 'refrigerator' poems for Verde

### Special to the Courier

**Monday, November 10, 2008**

The Raven Café in Prescott will be the scene of an interactive performance Wednesday incorporating poetry and activism for the Verde River.

"Let It Flow: The Magnetic Poetry Approach to Letting Your Elected Officials Know What You Think," is a local take on the popular refrigerator-magnet poetry series.

This form of poetry involves the artful arrangement of words printed on those little white magnetic rectangles on a refrigerator to create short, eloquent poems.

The Center for Biological Diversity's Save the Verde campaign staff created this event to demonstrate how easy it can be to write letters to elected officials expressing concern over threats to the health of the Verde River.

For this show, center staff created a mock-up of a magnetic poetry set with descriptive words specific to the Verde River, which originates near Paulden and flows down toward Phoenix.

Audience members will choose words to express their poetic appreciation for the river and then follow an easy letter-writing format.

The letters to elected officials will emphasize key aspects of Verde protection, including the importance of river habitat and the harm to the upper Verde that will result from pumping water out of the Big Chino aquifer without an adequate habitat conservation plan and scientifically based mitigation plan.

Scientists generally agree that the Big Chino Sub-basin supplies more than 80 percent of the base flow for the Upper Verde River, which depends almost entirely on that water during the dry seasons.

The "Let it Flow" magnetic-poetry and letter-writing event is one of a monthly series of Verde-focused evenings at the Raven. The center is sponsoring the events to educate local citizens about the threats to the Verde River that include groundwater pumping, off-road vehicle damage, pollution from sludge dumping and global warming.

The Dec. 10 Watershed Wednesday will include an open-mic poetry reading featuring both well-known and newer local poets.

In January, members of the Sacred Earth Endurance Co-op will present a visual and musical account of the annual Hopi water run. The run, recently opened to non-Hopi people, follows the path that water takes from rain on the mesas to the springs below. Participating runners embody the reality that water is life.

Watershed Wednesdays take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at The Raven Café, 142 N. Cortez St. in Prescott.

For more information about Watershed Wednesday or Verde River issues, call Edie Dillon at 277-9155.

## Related Links

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