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Prescott leads list of magazine's 'Top Western Towns'

The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT - After making appearances on the True West magazine's "Top Western Towns" roundup in past years, Prescott finally tops the list.

For the seventh year, True West magazine rates the U.S. Western towns that "made an important contribution to preserving their pasts and to sharing their town's historical relevance to our nation."

After being third on the list this past year, Prescott is number one in True West's February 2012 issue.

Local historian - and historic figure - Sharlot Mabridth Hall's long-ago exhortation that "There is something better than making a living - making a life" leads off the magazine's feature on Prescott.

The article chronicles Hall's 1911 trip into Arizona, as well as the efforts of another historian, who - nearly a century later - also left her mark on Prescott's history.

"We don't doubt that Sharlot's heart would have been warmed by the fact that, 100 years after statehood, Prescott owes much of the past decade's effort to preserve the town's history to yet another woman: Nancy Burgess," states the article.

Burgess, who served as the Prescott Historic Preservation Specialist for more than two decades from the late 1980s through 2009, was responsible for documenting hundreds of local historic buildings, and for the historic marker program.

Along with noting the value of Prescott's four museums (Sharlot Hall, Smoki, Phippen and Fort Whipple), [Whiskey Row](#) and the [World's Oldest Rodeo](#), a press release also points out, "There is a distinct quality and appreciation of life in this community that is evidenced by the large number of organizations and volunteers who work unstintingly to make Prescott a welcoming place."

The magazine also lists 10 areas of Prescott that visitors should not miss, including the Palace Saloon on Whiskey Row; Pearl's Place Café; the Prescott Brewing Company; the courthouse plaza in Prescott; the "antique row" along Cortez Street; the Hassayampa Inn; the newly renovated Elks Opera House; the Arizona Women's Heritage Trail; [Sharlot Hall Museum](#); and the Iron Springs Café.

The story concludes: "Surveyor Robert Groom would be proud of how the town square he platted in 1864 still remains such a busy center of business and pleasure."