



# Goffsgram



Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association  
Goffs Schoolhouse

#2025-02 | 27 February 2026  
Goffsgram Editor: Laura Misajet

## Another Travel Show Films at Goffs



*Photo includes Laura Misajet next to Peter Greenberg along with his film crew.*

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**Goffs is getting a lot of attention this year as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Route 66.** On February 9th, 2026 we had another TV crew come to Goffs to film a travel

show with Peter Greenberg, also known as the “Travel Detective.” He produces and hosts The Travel Detective TV series on public television stations, and will feature Goffs and Route 66 in an upcoming episode on PBS and Amazon Prime. We will let you know when it’s available for viewing.

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## Goffs Schoolhouse Featured on PBS



*Samantha Brown and her film crew at Goffs after the shoot on April 12, 2025.*

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**On April 12, 2025, Samantha Brown came to Goffs to film an episode for her show Samantha Brown’s Places to Love.** The latest season covers her adventures along the entire length of Route 66. The last episode, which first aired on January 9, 2026, begins in Goffs. You can watch it anytime by going to [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) and search Samantha Brown’s Places to Love, Route 66 in California. The show is now available on [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org).

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## New Roof for the Route 66 House



**Top left:** Bill Slutter installing the new roof on the Route 66 House. Photo by Scooter Wall.  
**Top-right:** Monday's work crew on the Route 66 House roof installation. "Selfie" by Darin Hochberg. From left: Paul Renner, Chris Wirth, in the air is Bill Slutter, Darin Hochberg.  
**Bottom-left:** Back, or East side of the Route 66 House with new roof panels. Photo by Bill Slutter. **Bottom-right:** "Selfie" by Scooter Wall installing Route 66 Roof over President's Weekend.

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Thanks to the generous support from Groundworks Grants we at MDHCA began installation of the much needed new roof on the Route 66 House over President's Weekend. We were fortunate the strong winds held off until later in the week so that an amazing amount of progress could be made in just one weekend. Only a tiny bit is left to complete. And a big thank you goes out to Bill Slutter for doing the bulk of the aerial acrobatics, and the rest of the crew, Chris Wirth, Scooter Wall, Paul Renner and Darin Hochberg.

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## New Solar Installation for the North Meter



**Top-left:** Chris Wirth operating our backhoe while Bill Slutter positions the heavy iron rail into place to serve as ballast overtop of the coal bed to secure the metal framework. **Top-right:** Here at MDHCA we use all the materials at hand, in this case rail and coal from our Bone Yard. **Bottom-left:** Bill Slutter and Chris Wirth securing the first solar panels to the frame. **Bottom-right:** The completed solar panel installation. **Below:** A job well done boys! Three rows of panels installed. Next job is to install the battery storage and connect to the grid for backup for those rare cloudy days. **Left to Right:** Bill Slutter and Chris Wirth. All photos by Laura Misajet.

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**Our new north solar farm is thanks to the generosity of the Equinox Gold Corporation.** They sponsored our south solar installation in 2023. Implementing solar and battery systems allows nonprofits like the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association (MDHCA) to reduce operational costs, enhance energy resilience, and advance sustainability goals. It is important to us to lower our electricity bills while protecting against rising energy rates, and provide critical backup power for operations, such as maintaining the climate controlled Archives, and running firefighting well pumps. When the power goes out, the well pumps stop working.

The two solar configurations at MDHCA are very different.

- The first solar array (South solar farm) is attached to one of two electrical meters at the East side of the Bunkhouse – it does not have a battery backup. The grant funds could not cover batteries. An additional feature of the South solar farm is that it allows SCE to buy excess power from MDHCA at wholesale prices and sell it back at retail prices - there is a fixed cost for this capability that is an unfortunate burden. We will attempt to modify it with a battery backup soon.
- The North solar farm will have the Solar and battery system that will not sell the electricity to SCE but will remain attached to the grid for backup when there are excessive, sequential cloudy days. The North solar farm will not have the overhead burden that keeps track of electricity pushed on to the SCE grid. The backup power will provide immediate power during grid outages, ensuring essential services remain operational.

Installing a solar & battery system signals our commitment to environmental responsibility while boosting our reputation among donors, partners, and especially our members who prioritize sustainability.

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## Our Old Route 66 Sign Gets a Second Life



*Anna Conte busy at work breathing new life into our old Route 66 Roadside Attraction sign.  
And Tada! The finished product!*

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**What a nice surprise to have MDHCA member Anna Conte appear and stay with us for a few days this month.** Anna happens to be an amazing artist and, lucky for us, a talented sign painter. So of course, being that 2026 is the Centennial of Route 66 and our sign at the front of the Schoolhouse yard was peeling and looking rather sad, Anna got right to work. Thank you, Anna, for bringing our Route 66 Roadside Attraction sign back to life. We are ready to greet all our Route 66 adventurers.

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## "Patton Stove" Donated to MDHCA



*Tim, Leslie and Allen Young with the "Patton Stove"*

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**Tim, Leslie and Allen Young kindly donated and delivered this stove called the "Patton Stove" to MDHCA for our WWII exhibit.** They obtained it from Chiriaco, General Patton Memorial Museum, after it was deemed too large to be on display inside their museum. The Coleman Company had exclusive rights to high-quality steel to produce these from 1941 to 1957, and pure enough quality as not to melt or warp under extreme conditions. It was first pressed into service during WWII, with General Patton getting the very first prototype model for his Desert Training Center tent. It runs off compressed fuel and is used as an oven as well as a heater and will run on any type of fuel, diesel, kerosene, aviation, etc., but a skilled operator had to set the pressure.

The numbers painted on the side of this particular Coleman stove indicate it's from Exercise Desert Strike in 1962, a training exercise in the East Mojave Desert of California and Nevada, one of the largest military maneuvers in the continental United States since World War II involving tens of thousands of troops. This stove is still in working condition and now part of our display here at Goffs. Many thanks to the Young family for their generosity.

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**Route 66 Fair in Needles, CA**



*Top-left: Needles Mayor Janet Jernigan, San Bernardino County Rep. Steve Reyes, MDHCA Rep. Laura Misajet at the Needles Route 66 Fair. Top-right: Mona Daniel from the BLM with Laura Misajet at the Route 66 Fair in Needles CA. Bottom: Laura Misajet and Jennifer Wirth at the Route 66 Fair in Needles CA.*

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**Mayor Janet Jernigan put on a super successful Route 66 Fair and Car Show in Needles on February 14, 2026.**

Jennifer Wirth and Laura Misajet represented Goffs Schoolhouse at our table. We signed up a few new members, sold some books, and promoted the East Mojave Trek (speaking of

which, be sure to sign up via the flyer at the bottom of this Goffsgram).

We reconnected with some old community partners and made some new connections and made plans for centennial events such as a Poker Run now scheduled for early November (the exact date TBD). Our partners will be The Barn in Newberry Springs, Ludlow, Amboy, the Roadrunner Cafe and finish up with a big party at, you guessed it, Goffs! Keep watching for details as we finalize with our partners.

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## Sahara Mustard Invasion



**Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) has spread rapidly across the Mojave Desert** causing desert land managers and others to wonder whether anything can be done to stem its rapidly expanding range. A specimen was first collected in 1927 from Southern California's Coachella Valley, that was probably inadvertently introduced hitching a ride along with palm trees imported from Northern Africa when the Coachella Valley's now thriving date industry was just beginning. The first specimen of Sahara mustard collected near Tucson, Arizona was found in 1978 and was considered rare until 1991 and then abundant by 2005, and now appears likely to remain a part of the desert landscape.

According to Dr. Cameron Barrows, Conservation Ecologist Emeritus at the Center for Conservation Biology at the University of California Riverside, mustard germination and growth is enhanced when there are early season rains - like there were this year. When the onset of rain is later, say after January, then fewer mustard germinate - but the seeds are still there in the soil waiting for another year. Seeds can sit in the soil for years, even decades, before conditions are right for germination.

If control efforts occur before seeds mature then pulling and piling in place can work. If the seeds are anywhere close to maturing, creating plump green seed pods, then leaving the plants in piles in place is just leaving seeds for future infestations. So bagging at least the

seed stalks is a critical step. Then bringing the bags to either a landfill, or better a composting facility, is a necessary final step. Control efforts require multiple years, even decades, for real success. However, pulling and piling/bagging does have the immediate effect of opening up space for the native plants to occupy and grow, and so any effort has a positive impact.

This year we have a plethora of Sahara mustard all over our Goffs compound reaching all the way out to the Old Miner's Campground. For any volunteers visiting Goffs looking for a project, grab a bag and a trowel or shovel and start digging. This year is a particularly bad year for weeds with all the rain and it's been difficult to keep up, so we hope to see you all at Spring Encampment!

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## April Is Right Around the Corner Don't Forget These Important Dates

### **CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS INTERESTED IN ARCHIVAL WORK**

On Wednesday April 15, the day prior to Spring Encampment, several archive assessment professionals will be working with our existing inventories and conducting a day of training in our MDHCA archives. If you are comfortable working in the archives and would like to help out, we could use two or three volunteers, that will be assigned specific tasks. If this floats your boat contact Laura Misajet at [lhmisajet@themojaveroad.org](mailto:lhmisajet@themojaveroad.org).

### **SPRING ENCAMPMENT APRIL 14 - 19**

Yes, it's a work weekend, but you'll be amongst friends and fellow members and volunteers and have fun while you're weeding, sanding, and painting. And don't forget to bring your potluck. We will send out a detailed reminder as we get closer.

### **EAST MOJAVE TREK APRIL 23 - 26**

See the flyer below and don't miss this opportunity. Use the QR code to register. You must be a MDHCA member to participate and since you just received this Goffsgram, most likely you are a members, so you're halfway there already. See you in April!

# EAST MOJAVE TREK 2026

Experience a Weekend of Overland Desert Adventure! Stay in a Living Museum — Perfect for First-Timers and Veteran Explorers alike!

JOIN US FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL EAST MOJAVE TREK

**April 23–26, 2026**

Camp at the Historic Goffs Schoolhouse nestled on iconic Route 66. Enjoy comfortable bathrooms, showers, and delicious catered breakfasts and dinners.

Discover the vast beauty of the Mojave Desert — from sand dunes and caverns to petroglyphs and historic mine sites, there's something for everyone.

Scenic four wheel drive runs including the East Mojave Heritage Trail. Suitable for all levels of four wheel drive and overlanding enthusiasts.

**Join us for this epic adventure!**

For more details and registration, visit [cal4wheel.com/events/east-mojave-trek](http://cal4wheel.com/events/east-mojave-trek) or scan the QR code.

Sponsored by Cal4Wheel and the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association.



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### **Physical Address**

37198 Lanfair Rd., Goffs, California  
(At the intersection of Lanfair and Goffs Roads)  
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East Mojave Heritage Trail Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/559278615161496](https://facebook.com/groups/559278615161496)

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