

In brief:

Navy recruiter to visit interested students at Shadow Ridge

Admiral Brendan McLane who commands the U.S. Naval Recruiting Center will visit Shadow Ridge High School, 10909 N. Perryville Road, 12:10 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12 and 7:15 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 13 in the auditorium. The presentation is open to any students interested in the naval recruitment process or military pathway and what that looks like. He will go over requirements, steps needed to be taken freshman through senior year and will end with an Q&A session.

Presentation will be open to all students ninth through 12th grade. Students who are interested will be released from class but are responsible for any work that they miss.

SING YOUR LIFE Cimmaron Springs to hold choir rehearsals

Cimmaron Springs Elementary School, 17032 W Surprise Farms Loop S., is holding choir rehearsals for third through fifth grades 7:40 a.m. Monday, Aug. 19 and Monday, Aug. 26.

Grades sixth through eighth go at 7:40 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20 and Tuesday, Aug. 27 in Music Room 305.

Ms. Abarquez is facilitating the rehearsals.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT Kingswood to host pizza night

Kingswood Elementary School, 15150 W. Mondell Road, is hosting a PTSA Peter Piper Pizza Back to School family night 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 14. at Peter Piper Pizza, 12851

EDUCATION

To report news or suggest story ideas, email WVnews@newszap.com

SCHOOL FUNDING



Arizona Charter Academy, 16025 N. Dysart Road, was awarded \$40,000 by A For Arizona, a statewide organization that invests significant resources into expansion of high-performing low-income public schools. [Jason Stone/Independent Newsmedia]

ACA awarded grant for expansion

\$40,000 heads to Surprise charter school

By Jennifer Jimenez
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT

Arizona Charter Academy, 16025 N. Dysart Road, was awarded \$40,000 by A For Arizona, a statewide organization that invests significant resources into expansion

of high-performing low-income public schools. The privately funded grant program selected six deserving applicants who seek to expand and grow their impact.

Arizona Charter Academy plans to use the grant funds to add a 12,000-square-foot expansion at the K-8 school.

Construction is set to be complete next summer, with the addition of 250 students.

With 200 to 300 students on a waiting list in the past, this grant creates more opportunity for students.

“We saw there was a real need in the community for more sports and we were full in terms of facilities, and with this grant we will be able to have five classes

at each grade level,” said Arizona Charter Academy CEO Melissa Holdaway. “The expansion includes another building on our campus — two-stories with 12 additional classrooms.”

Ms. Holdaway said this is about impacting the community and students and giving them exceptional education opportunities

» See Grant on page 13

TO PARTICIPATE
What: Congressional App Challenge
When: Registration open now through Sunday, Sept. 15
Who: Open to middle and high school students in Arizona’s 8th District
Where: Online at congressionalappchallenge.us

U.S. app contest open to students

The Congressional App Challenge for middle and high school students in Arizona’s 8th District has launched.

“The Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Math (STEM) fields play a critical role in the 21st century,” said

Congresswoman Debbie Lesko, who represents Arizona’s 8th Congressional District. “That is why I am pleased to announce that my congressional office will be participating in this year’s Congressional App Challenge. I look forward to seeing creative apps from students from across the Eighth District.”

The Congressional App Challenge is a nationwide event that allows students from across the country to compete by creating and exhibiting a software application, or app, for tablet, mobile or computer devices on a platform of their choice.

It is open to all middle school and high school students, regardless of coding experience, in the 8th Congressional District of Arizona, and students may participate individually or in teams of up to four.

» See App on page 13

GALLERY



Teaching the new teachers

Luke Elementary School teacher Jaime Estrada participates in the Dysart Unified School District’s new teacher orientation program July 25 at Valley Vista High School, 15550 N. Parkview Place. New teachers learned about the district, classroom management and preparing for the first day of school. The 2019-2020 school year began Aug. 6. [Courtesy of DUSD]

» See Education on page 13

Seniors

» From page 11

9:30 a.m. - Pool Tournament
11 a.m. - SilverSneakers
11 a.m. - Pinochle
1 p.m. - Open Game Time
1 p.m. - Wii Games

10 a.m. - Morning Stretch
11 a.m. - Fitzi with Mitzi Exercise
1 p.m. - Creative Crafts
1 p.m. - Poker Showdown

Lunch: Meat Lasagna

TUESDAY

8:30 a.m. - Open Game Time
10 a.m. - Morning Stretch
10:15 a.m. - Pokeno
11 a.m. - Pinochle
11 a.m. - Silversneakers
1 p.m. - Open Game Time
1 p.m. - Art Class

MONDAY

8:30 a.m. - Puzzle and Color Social
9 a.m. - Creative Crafts

Lunch: Salmon in Wine

1:30 p.m. - Quilting Club

Lunch: Orange Glazed Salmon

WEDNESDAY

10 a.m. - BUNCO
10:15 a.m. - LCR
11 a.m. - Fitzi with Mitzi Exercise
12:30 p.m. - Bridge
12:45 p.m. - Mah-Jongg
1 p.m. - Shuffleboard Bowling Tournament
1:30 p.m. - Needlecraft Social

Lunch: Mediterranean Chicken



Bryan R. Updegraff M.D.



Updegraff Clinic

For Allergy and Dermatology

Your Local Skin Cancer and Allergy Specialist
Allergy Lab Open 6 Days Per Week
Accepting New Patients

AUGUST SPECIAL
Dermaplaning \$75

Same Day Appointments Available

2 Locations

13000 N. 103rd Ave. Ste. 60, Sun City • 623-933-3107

14506 W. Granite Valley Dr., Ste. 110, Sun City West

623-975-4244

www.updegraffclinic.com

App

» From page 12

All apps from the 8th District will be evaluated and a winner will be chosen by a panel of local judges who work within the academic, software and entrepreneurial fields.

The winning app from each congressional district which hosted a Challenge will be featured on the U.S. House of Representatives' website and displayed in a U.S. Capitol exhibit.

Students must register online by Sunday, Sept. 15. All apps must be submitted by Friday, Nov. 1.

Interested students, educators, parents, or guardians may contact Congresswoman Lesko's office at 623-776-7911. Information, including the official rules and entry guidelines, is available at congressionalappchallenge.us.

Interested students, educators, parents, or guardians may contact Congresswoman Lesko's office at 623-776-7911. Information, including the official rules and entry guidelines, is available at congressionalappchallenge.us.

Education

» From page 12

W. Bell Road #20. Visit the school's website at dysart.org.

FIRST LOOK Paradise Honors hosts its latest curriculum night

Paradise Honors High School, 12775 N. 175th Ave., hosts its annual curriculum night 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21.

The event will start with an opportunity to greet the student's counselor and learn about the services provided from the school's counseling team.

The student will then learn about his or her individual schedule, course curriculum and grading and evaluation practices.

Visit paradiseshools.org.

SAY HELLO OUAZ to visit Shadow Ridge for orientation

Jeff Penzone, a senior enrollment adviser at Ottawa University Arizona, will be on the campus at Shadow Ridge High School Thursday, Aug. 22

for any senior students interested in attending OUAZ after graduation.

Mr. Penzone will discuss OUAZ's vision and mission, application requirements, student life, athletics, important dates and more.

Any senior students interested in attending the one-hour orientation must sign up with Ms. Falandys in the counseling department. Students will be released third hour to go to the media center classroom for this presentation.



Grant

» From page 12

and the grant allows them to do so. She also said the grant allows them to develop other programs such as the arts and music and health.

"We are honored to be recognized by A for Arizona and are grateful for the opportunity to provide our services to more students in the community," Ms. Holdaway said.

A For Arizona Director Emily Ann Gullickson said the excitement of this grant is serving more kids within the community.

"The public schools we partner with are really already closing the achievement gap, and they know they need to grow and thrive and serve more students," Ms. Gullickson said. "The grants are providing access to seed funding that will accelerate growth plans to best benefit the kids and families in their communities."

Ms. Gullickson said they are truly excited for Arizona Charter Academy as they are a true community school and actively recruit their

own graduates knowing they are fully prepared and ready to thrive.

"Knowing kids are stuck on a wait list for school and understanding this grant will really open up doors for them is great," Ms. Gullickson said. "This can accelerate the ability to serve more kids to get access they know will unleash their full potential instead of being stuck on a wait list."

Right now, 900 Surprise students from kindergarten through eighth grade are thriving, and Ms. Gullickson said knowing 250 students and families can benefit is rewarding.

The \$300,000 grant was divided between Dysart and the Vail School District, Academy of Math and Science, Nogales Unified School District and Mexicayotl Academy and Somerset Academy.

The initial application was followed by school data and an in-person visit.

Grants are funded through direct support from A for Arizona's local philanthropic partners such as The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation and the Burton Family Foundation.



Melissa Holdaway



Emily Ann Gullickson