



# West Valley VIEW

*The community newspaper of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park & Tolleson, AZ*  
Phone (623) 535-8439

Friday, January 29, 2010

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### EMCC instructor wins state photo award

Estrella Mountain Community College photography instructor Richard Gross was awarded second prize in a juried digital photography show hosted by Paradise Valley Community College.

The exhibit features artwork by students and members of the community. Only 40 works were chosen from approximately 300 submissions. Judges based their selections on the use of light, composition and the story told by the image.

Gross' photo, titled "Homage to Muqi," is a black-and-white panoramic view of a mountain and sky scene that he constructed from five different photos of torn paper and plastic wrap. The title is a tribute to the Chinese landscapes that were painted during the Song Dynasty as a statement of who the artist was and where he was located.

Gross said he was interested in creating a type of photograph that he hadn't seen before, a trait he hopes to pass on to his students at EMCC.

The digital photography exhibit is available for viewing from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Performing Arts Center at Paradise Valley Community College until Feb. 7.

### American Legion seeks donations for homeless students

The Crandall-Palmer American Legion Auxiliary Unit 61, Children and Youth Chairman Awanda Gaines, American Legion Auxiliary Department Americanism Chairman Sherry Hall, in conjunction with Robyn Jacobs, special project manager of the Agua Fria Union High School District and Helen Swartz, owner of Unique Fountains, have joined forces to help the homeless children of the Agua Fria District.

They are donating and asking for donations of hygiene products, lip balm, bandages, toothpaste, toothbrushes and holders, deodorant, dental floss, petroleum jelly, body wash, shampoo and conditioner, packs of tissue and cotton swabs.

Donations can be dropped off at Crandall-Palmer American Legion Hall, 35 N. Eighth St. in Avondale.

The Phoenix Suns donated more than 100 Phoenix Suns drawstring backpacks to put the hygiene products in.

Cash donations are also accepted to get the \$1,200 needed to provide caps and gowns for the students' 2010 graduation.

Monetary donations are tax deductible.

Contact Jacobs at 623-932-7106 for information.

Contact Swartz at 623-203-8606, Hall at 623-330-3431 and Gaines at 623-444-6869 for information on how to donate hygiene products.

### **Avondale circulator bus study ends Jan. 31**

Residents, businesses owners, students, senior citizens and other potential riders are encouraged to take part in an "Avondale Local Circulator Study," which introduces a new kind of bus transit service to Avondale.

The study will evaluate and use public input to design and assess the feasibility of implementing circulator services in key areas of the city. The survey is available online at [www.avondale.org](http://www.avondale.org) through Jan. 31.

Input collected from public surveys will be used to help determine the transportation needs within Avondale, the areas of the communities to be served, and the most appropriate type of service.

Circulators are community-based, locally oriented bus transit services that bridge the gap between the larger bus routes and residential, commercial, or workplace destinations. They can also be used to travel around the community or between communities. The city is currently studying whether operating a transit circulator, or "community-based shuttle," within Avondale city limits would benefit residents.

For information, call Transit Services Management Assistant Kristen Sexton at 623-333-1030.

### **Jerry Kerr named CAP squad commander**

Jerry Kerr, 1st Lt. CAP, has assumed the position of squadron commander of the Goodyear 313th Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol.

Kerr is a former Air Force KC-135 aerial refueling pilot and a current search and rescue mission pilot with the Arizona Wing of CAP.

He is replacing Lt. Col. Layne Slapper, who has accepted the position of director of operations for the Arizona Wing CAP.

The 313th Squadron is a component of the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol and is composed of about 30 members dedicated to serving the community, the state, and the country in support of search and rescue, homeland security, communications, reconnaissance, disaster relief, and counter drug operations.

The Squadron meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of every month at the Goodyear Police Station on West Van Buren Street in Goodyear.

You need not be a pilot to join.

Men and women of diverse skills and interests, to include aircraft maintenance, communications, logistics, aerospace education, photography, computers and administration, are welcome to join.

Call 602-620-0194 for information.

### **Children can participate in run Feb. 13**

Goodyear In ACTION, a 501(c)(3) organization, is organizing a Fit Kids One Mile Fun Run in conjunction with The IMS Arizona Marathon Expo on Feb. 13.

It will be held at 10 a.m. at Western Sky Middle School.

All participants receive medals. The first 200 also get shirts.

Entry is \$5. The first 50 to sign up with Goodyear In ACTION get free entry.

Contact [GoodyearInACTION.com](http://GoodyearInACTION.com) or [GoodyearInACTION@live.com](mailto:GoodyearInACTION@live.com).

### **Preparedness classes offered in February**

Avondale Fire-Rescue's Community Services Division is offering a free series of classes designed to prepare people to handle a variety of emergencies.

From natural disasters such as weather-related events to large scale man-made emergencies, Avondale Fire-Rescue personnel will teach ways to help family, friends and neighbors until professional help can arrive.

The first class is Feb. 25.

C.E.R.T. stands for Community Emergency Response Team and is a national initiative aimed at training members of the community in basic disaster preparedness, first aid, and light search and rescue.

The training series consists of seven sessions on Thursday nights.

A mock disaster drill will be held on the final evening.

Sessions are held from 6 to 10 p.m. at Avondale Fire Station 172, 1825 N. 107th Ave., in Avondale.

Registration is required.

This program is open to both residents and non-residents in the community. Participants must be 18 or older.

Graduates of the course will receive a fully equipped C.E.R.T. preparedness bag, complete with items such as reflective vest, helmet, flashlight, safety glasses, dust mask, and work gloves.

For information and to register, call Avondale Fire-Rescue at 623-333-6112.

### **Volunteers needed for river cleanup**

It's spring cleaning time down on the Tres Rios River.

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office, cities of Avondale and Goodyear, Arizona Game & Fish and Wildlife for Tomorrow Foundation will host a cleanup of the river banks in preparation for the Tres Rios Nature & Earth Festival.

Volunteers need to take water, gloves, sunscreen, sunglasses and hats, and wear old work clothes and dress for the weather.

The cleanup begins at 7 a.m. Feb. 20. and should last until about 11 a.m.

River cleanup volunteers are asked to meet at the northern most parking lot of Phoenix International Raceway in Avondale, five miles south of Interstate 10 on Avondale Boulevard.

For information or to register a group, call Avondale Recreation Services at 623-333-2416 or e-mail [cunderhill@avondale.org](mailto:cunderhill@avondale.org).

For directions visit [www.tresriosnaturefestival.com/directions.htm](http://www.tresriosnaturefestival.com/directions.htm).

### **New president named to historical society**

The Three Rivers Historical Society on Jan. 19 electetd Bill Arnold president. He replaces former president Gloria King.

Joann Gongaware is the first vice president, Ed King is the second vice president, Peggy Jones is treasurer and Sally Kiko is secretary.

Residents are invited to attend the monthly meetings of the Three Rivers Historical Society.

The 3 p.m. meetings are at the Goodyear Financial Center in Room 117 A new guest speaker is featured each month.

## **Related Links**