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School Notes: March 20, 2012

Estrella Foothills holding 2nd annual Math Bonanza event April 7

The Estrella Foothills Pythagorean Society is holding its second annual Middlementary Math Bonanza. The competition is for fourth- through eighth-graders, and is scheduled for April 7.

For information, email khoffman@buhsd.org.

Montessori in the Park seeks players for golf tournament

Montessori in the Park, a private nonprofit preschool and elementary school in Goodyear, is seeking players and sponsors for an April 14 golf tournament fundraiser at the Wigwam in Litchfield Park. For information, call 623-536-5770, Ext. 105, or email jon@mipschool.org.

Agua Fria theater students place 7th at state 1-act play festival

Agua Fria High School received a rating of superior and placed seventh in the state one-act play festival held Feb. 17-18 in Tucson.

The play, Asylum, allows for interpretation by the performers, technical crew and director. Most of the plays competing at the state level are under the direction of high school theater teachers. However, this play was directed by Agua Fria senior Alexandria Evans.

Desert Star School pupils read millions of words through program

Two pupils at Desert Star School have read 2 million words for the school's Accelerated Reader $\label{program.program.program.program.program.program.} Fifth-grader\ {\tt Caleb\ DeShazer\ and\ eighth-grader\ Josh\ Heinz\ accomplished\ the\ feat.}$

Five pupils, Myles Herman, seventh grade, Derrick McBride, seventh grade, Mikayla O'Brien, fifth grade, Ethan Kuespert, seventh grade and Alvin Locke, seventh grade, each read 1 million words.

The program is for pupils in kindergarten through eighth grade, and encourages them to read a variety of books and then test their comprehension skills with a quiz. Pupils are given a test to determine where they feel comfortable reading at the beginning of the school year, and then they move up reading grade levels based on the quizzes they take. The program counts their words read per book.

Agua Fria student to represent state at journalism conference

Elena Salinas, a student at Aqua Fria High School in Avondale, has been nominated to represent Arizona as a National Youth Correspondent to the 2012 Washington Journalism and Media Conference in July at George Mason University.

She has been awarded the opportunity to join a group of 250 students from across the country to participate in an intensive week-long study of journalism and media. She was chosen based on academic accomplishments and a demonstrated interest and excellence in journalism and media

Tolleson High School Marine Corps JROTC does charity run

Tolleson High School's Marine Corps Junior ROTC cadets participated in a charity run Feb. 25 in Tempe for the American Heart Association. Thirty-two cadets raised \$2,410 in less than three weeks, ranking in the top 25 of donations across the Valley. The cadets ran the entire 5-kilometer course, singing Marine Corps cadences.

Millennium FFA wins awards at state spring conference March 2

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The Millennium High School FFA took 32 students to the University of Arizona in Tucson March 2 to compete in the Arizona FFA Spring Conference. Millennium was one of 76 high schools around Arizona that attended. Following are the results:

- Dairy Evaluation state champions: Lacey Peterson (third place overall individual), Lilly Webb (sixth place overall individual, Mallory Mejia (seventh place overall individual) and Joey Handley.
- Forestry state champions: Maggie Van Dop (state champion individual), Katarena Matos (third place overall individual), Alexia Peterson (fourth place overall individual) and Mike Smock (10th place overall individual).
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- Livestock Evaluation state champions: Austin Smith (second place overall individual), Summer Miller (third place overall individual), Bailey Mahan and Josh Fisher.
- Agriculture Business fourth place: Ali Schindler, Brittani Brogdon, Brittany Mixer and Auburn Osborne.
- Wildlife Management ninth place: Monique Vermillion, Michael Morris, Zaid Ramirez and Denny Dao
- Agriculture Mechanics 10th place: Wyatt Collier (sixth place overall individual), Alec Anderson, Kyle Boss and Taylor Hill.
- Aquaculture 11th place: Daniel Emerson and George Ibrahim.
- Horse Evaluation 11th place: Moriah Jacobs, Jordan Parks, Katy Rios and Shelby Collier.
- Job Interview individual only contest: Taylor Hulsebusch and Leah Thimgan.

Local McDonald's stores raise \$13k for West Valley elementary schools

Goodyear, Litchfield Park and Buckeye McDonald's restaurants, owned by Don, Dorothy, Derrick and Darian Mellon, raised \$13,300 for West Valley elementary schools last month.

The restaurants hosted a month-long McTeacher's Night Challenge in February for 29 West Valley schools.

The Odyssey Preparatory Academy Buckeye campus won the challenge by raising the most money with its fundraiser, and received a \$1,000 prize.

EMCC students appointed to 2012 All-Arizona Academic Team

Two students at Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale were selected and appointed to the 2012 All-Arizona Academic Team, which recognizes the top community college students in the state.

Julia Kilduff and Kodiak Darling will each receive a full, two-year scholarship and tuition waiver to any of Arizona's three state universities as a result of a rigorous application process sponsored by the National Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, international honor society and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Kilduff was named to Team 1, placing her in the top 20 Arizona community college students. Her major is speech and language pathology and she plans to attend Northern Arizona University. She was home schooled from kindergarten through eighth grade, and then attended Cornerstone Charter School in Phoenix. She is also a volunteer for Muscular Dystrophy Association as a summer camp counselor.

Darling was named to Team 3 and plans to attend Arizona State University, with a goal of becoming a bioengineer specializing in the research and development of prosthetic limbs. As a graduate of Millennium High School in Goodyear, he chose to attend Estrella Mountain Community College since it was close to home. His research on stars has been published in the "Journal of Double Star Observations." He also served as president of the EMCC student government.

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