

West Valley View

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

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February 27, 2013

2/19/2013

School Notes: February 19, 2013

West Valley cheer teams win statewide honors

Cheer teams from six West Valley high schools won various honors during a statewide competition in Prescott Valley.

The state championships for the spirit, all-girl pom, coed pom, coed cheer and partner stunt squads were sponsored by the Arizona Interscholastic Association.

Awards were won by competitors from Westview High School in Avondale, Verrado High School in Buckeye, Desert Edge, Estrella Foothills and Millennium high schools in Goodyear, and Tolleson Union High School in Tolleson.

The cheer competition was held Feb. 2 at Tim's Toyota Center, a \$36 million multipurpose facility in Yavapai County.

Nominations sought for crossing guard award

To honor outstanding crossing guards in Maricopa and Pima counties, AAA Arizona is calling for nominations for its sixth annual Crossing Guard of the Year award. The deadline for nominations is March 12.

Students, parents, administrators, faculty, staff and community members can nominate candidates who they believe deserve the designation. Self-nominations will also be accepted.

The auto club's traffic safety staff will evaluate nominations to select finalists for the award based on dedication, friendliness, professionalism and safety.

The award will then be awarded to two honorees, one from Maricopa County and one from Pima County, who demonstrate the best example of the procedures and responsibilities outlined in AAA's Handbook for Adult Crossing Guards.

Winners will be announced on April 26, Crossing Guard Appreciation Day, and they will receive a recognition plaque and a \$100 Target gift card, courtesy of AAA Arizona.

Nomination forms are available at all Maricopa County and Pima County school district offices or can be downloaded at www.az.aaa.com.

Completed forms can be mailed to AAA Arizona, Attn: Public Affairs, 2375 E. Camelback Road, Suite 500, Phoenix, AZ 85016, faxed to 602-266-1736 or emailed to publicrelations@arizona.aaa.com.

Applications available for Traditional Academy

Applications for the Litchfield Traditional Academy will be available on the district's website and at the district office through the March 15 deadline.

They can be dropped off or mailed to the district office, or faxed to 623-535-6037. Applications will be time-stamped.

The Traditional Academy will continue at Scott L. Libby Elementary with grades K-5. In addition, the program will expand to Litchfield Elementary with grades K-6.

There will also be a self-contained sixth-grade classroom at Verrado Middle School.

All current students in the academy will have first priority enrollment at all sites for the 2013-14 school year. After the March 15 priority deadline, remaining openings will be filled in each school with qualified applicants.

For information, call 623-535-6005.

Tolleson teacher given Rodel Exemplary award

Brenda Thomas, a preschool teacher in the Tolleson Elementary School District, has been named a Rodel Exemplary Teacher of Early Childhood.

Thomas is the first teacher in Arizona to receive exemplary recognition in early childhood. She is also a national board certified special education teacher for birth through age 18.

The Rodel Exemplary Teacher Initiative recognizes extraordinary teachers for their outstanding pupil achievement in high-needs schools, their ability to mentor new teachers, and recommendations from their principal or administrator and Rodel's observation team.

Avondale resident placed on Cornell Dean's List

Avondale resident Sarah Kim has been placed on the Dean's List of Cornell University's College of Arts and Sciences for excellence in scholarship for the fall 2012 semester.

Avondale resident named to Beloit Dean's List

Avondale resident Kristina Erickson has been named to Beloit College's Dean's List for the 2012 fall semester. Erickson is a senior.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must carry a semester grade point average of 3.4 or higher and take a minimum of three letter-graded units for the term.

Buckeye resident named to Baylor Dean's List

Buckeye resident Francesca Elizabeth Acton has been named to the Baylor University Dean's Academic Honor List for the 2012 fall semester.

Acton is in the College of Arts and Sciences.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be an undergraduate with a minimum grade point average of 3.7 while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Goodyear resident named to university's dean's List

Goodyear resident Kirby Duncan Craft has been named to the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford's fall Dean's list.

Dean's list status is awarded to full-time students who have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Craft is a senior majoring in athletic training.

Tonopah resident named to Iowa State Dean's List

Tonopah resident Sarah G'Lynn Edwards has been named to the 2012 fall semester Dean's List for Iowa State University.

Students named to the Dean's List must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Edwards is majoring in dairy science.

Millennium student to attend media conference

Aitana Yvette Mallari, a student at Millennium High School in Goodyear, has been selected to represent Arizona as a National Youth Correspondent to the 2013 Washington Journalism and Media Conference at George Mason University.

Mallari was chosen based on academic accomplishments and a demonstrated interest and excellence in journalism and media studies.

The Washington Journalism and Media Conference will be held July 7-12



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Buckeye Elem. wrestlers take home medals at state

The Buckeye Elementary District wrestling team finished in fifth place among school teams and 12th place among school teams and club teams at the Arizona Junior High Wrestling State Championships in Tempe.

Josh Vigh added state champion to his accomplishments and improved his record to 26-1 in the 142-pound weight class. Other medalists for the team included Robert Cangas, fourth place at the 180-pound weight class; James Dean, fourth place in the 200-pound weight class; and Desmond Bowers, fifth place in the 88-pound weight class.

Avondale resident makes Gonzaga President's List

Avondale resident Andrew Cropper earned placement on the Gonzaga University President's List for the fall 2012 semester. Students must earn a 3.7 to 4.0 grade point average to be listed.

Region 5 spelling bee winners move on to state

The Maricopa County Region 5 Spelling Bee was held Feb. 9 in the Youngker High School auditorium.

The winner was Adrian Cracolici, an eighth-grader from Litchfield Elementary. First runner-up was Jevin Carbonell, a sixth-grader from Union Elementary.

Both pupils will represent Region 5 at the State Spelling Bee at 1 p.m. March 23 in downtown Phoenix.

Alex Murray, an eighth-grader from Litchfield Elementary, tied for third place.

A total of 32 participants represented 23 school districts, charter and private schools from the Southwest Valley.

EMCC faculty receive awards

The winners of Estrella Mountain Community College's National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development awards were recently announced.

This year's recipients include Nikol Price, librarian and chair of Information Resources; Jennifer Damron, mathematics faculty; and Jim Cervan, administration of justice faculty.

They were nominated by peers who felt they demonstrate the NISOD values for teaching and leadership excellence in higher education. Nominees were selected through the Academic Issues Team, and will be traveling to Austin, Texas, in May for a conference, where their accomplishments will be celebrated.

Additionally, Maricopa County Community College District Adjunct Faculty Association recognizes and awards outstanding adjunct faculty each year.

The 2012 recipients at EMCC are Cary Peskin, computer information systems; Timothy Ramsey, reading; and Andrea Simpkins, psychology.

Reader Comments

Posted: Thursday, February 21, 2013

Article comment by: **Marisa Valenzuela**

How do I nominate a teacher for teacher of the week? Thank you

Article Comment Submission Form

Please feel free to submit your comments.

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