

West Valley View

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

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January 22, 2013

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Community Notes: January 22, 2013

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Goodyear council members appointed to NLC

Four members of the Goodyear City Council have won appointment to four committees of the National League of Cities, a nationwide policy group.

Vice Mayor Joanne Osborne will serve on the Council on Youth, Families and Education, Goodyear officials said.

Council members Bill Stipp and Sheri Lauritano have been selected to the Public Safety and Crime Prevention Steering Committee, officials said.

Wally Campbell was named to the Transportation Infrastructure and Services Steering Committee and the Military Communities Council.

The league, which is based in Washington, D.C., serves as a resource and advocate for more than 19,000 cities, towns and villages nationwide.

Volunteers needed for trail work at county park

The West Valley Trail Alliance, a volunteer group, is seeking help for a trail-improvement project at **Estrella Mountain** Regional Park in Goodyear.

The work is set for 8 a.m. Saturday at the park, 14805 S. Vineyard Ave., south of the Gila River and east of **Estrella** Parkway.

Specifically, volunteers will rebuild trails to the south of Phoenix International Raceway, which is a few miles east of the park entrance.

Prescribed burns set by BLM along Gila River

From the balance of January through March 1, there will be a series of prescribed burns along the Gila River.

The burn operation will be about two miles south of Palo Verde, a **community** west of State Route 85, according to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Piles of cut salt cedar will be ignited over a 300-acre area, said Pamela Mathis, an agency

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The actual days for the burn will be determined when weather conditions and air quality allow for safe burning, Mathis said. Smoke may be visible in the area during the burn operation.

The effort is intended to reduce the occurrence and intensity of wildfires and restore native vegetation from encroaching salt cedars, Mathis said.

Free tax assistance will start Feb. 2 in Avondale

An Avondale program that offers free income tax assistance for qualifying households will begin next month.

The start of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, or VITA, will be at 9 a.m. Feb. 2 at Care1st Avondale Resource & Housing Center, 328 W. Western Ave., Avondale.

VITA will continue from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays until April 13.

For information, call 623-333-2703.

Volunteers needed for homeless people count

Volunteers are needed in the West Valley and throughout Maricopa County for a count of homeless families and individuals.

Workers will fan out throughout the county on Jan. 30 for a one-day street count to determine the number of people who are without homes.

The Point in Time Street Count is mandated by federal officials and must be conducted in communities across the nation using specific guidelines.

Maricopa County is leading the survey. To volunteer for the project, go online to <http://www.azceh.org/events?eventId=590250&EventViewMode=EventDetails>.

Class on writing grants set in Avondale

Grants to You, a national nonprofit group based in Prescott, will offer instruction on how to apply for grants on behalf of the designated nonprofit of your choice.

The two-session class is set for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 2 and 9 at the Southwest Skill Center at **Estrella Mountain Community College**, 3000 N. Dysart Road, Avondale.

The goal of both classes is to provide various nonprofit agencies with volunteers who are well trained in grant research and writing skills.

Since its inception in 2001, Grants to You chapters have graduated more than 835 volunteers who have helped to win more than \$2 million for their favorite local nonprofit charities.

The class costs \$35.

To register for the class, call the **college** at 623-935-8888 and then register at www.grantstoyou.org. Be sure to have the name and contact information of the nonprofit you have chosen to help.

Tickets on sale for culinary extravaganza

The Avondale Youth Advisory Commission is selling tickets for Flavors of the West, described by the group as an extravaganza for "West Valley foodies."

The event is set for noon to 6 p.m. Feb. 17 in downtown Litchfield Park, according to organizers.

Proceeds will be used to help send commission members to a National League of Cities Conference set for March in Washington, D.C.



Tickets may be purchased until Feb. 14 during business hours Monday through Thursday at Avondale City Hall, Recreation Services Counter, 11465 W. Civic Center Drive.

The \$45 ticket price includes unlimited food from more than 25 West Valley restaurants and 10 drink tickets.

For information, go to <http://www.flavorsaz.com>.

Nominations announced for statewide arts awards

A group of Arizona artists, including two from the Southwest Valley, have been nominated for the 32nd annual Governor's Arts Awards.

There are a total of 62 nominations in six categories, officials said. Among those named are Monica Saldana of Goodyear and Nichole Newman-Colter of Litchfield Park.

Winners will be announced March 6 during a ceremony at the Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St., in downtown Phoenix.

The annual awards are presented by Arizona Citizens in Action for the Arts in Partnership with the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Office of the Arizona Governor.

For information, go to www.governorsartawards.org.

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