

[Article Search \(/search/node\)](#)

[View More Photos \(http://westvalleyview.smugmug.com/\)](http://westvalleyview.smugmug.com/)

[School Links \(/content/school-board-meetings-west-valley\)](/content/school-board-meetings-west-valley)

[About Us \(/content/your-community-newspaper\)](/content/your-community-newspaper)

[Start/Stop/Missed \(/content/delivery-startstop\)](/content/delivery-startstop)

[Helpful Links \(/content/helpful-links\)](/content/helpful-links) [Login \(/user/login\)](/user/login)



Litchfield Park, AZ
 62°F Clear
 WEATHER

- > [HOME \(/\)](#)
- > [CLASSIFIEDS \(/ARTICLES/2016/08/19/WEEKLY-CLASSIFIEDS\)](/ARTICLES/2016/08/19/WEEKLY-CLASSIFIEDS)
- > [EXTRAS \(HTTP://WWW.WESTVALLEYVIEW.COM\)](HTTP://WWW.WESTVALLEYVIEW.COM)
- > [9 DAYS CALENDAR \(/ARTICLES/2016/08/19/9-DAYS-CALENDAR\)](/ARTICLES/2016/08/19/9-DAYS-CALENDAR)
- > [EDITORIALS \(/ARTICLES/SPORTS-0\)](/ARTICLES/SPORTS-0)
- > [SOCIETY NOTES \(/ARTICLES/SOCIETY-NOTES\)](/ARTICLES/SOCIETY-NOTES)
- > [SPORTS \(/ARTICLES/SPORTS\)](/ARTICLES/SPORTS)
- > [NEWS \(/ARTICLES/NEWS\)](/ARTICLES/NEWS)

[Home \(/\)](#) > [News \(/articles/news\)](/articles/news) > On stage at EMCC >

West Valley View NOW HIRING
Click for more details

<http://westvalleyview.com/simpleads/redirect/50203>

On stage at EMCC

Submitted by Glenn Gullickson on Wed, 09/28/2016 - 12:00am



PAC in its first year as it fills void in West Valley arts scene

17

0

2 (#)

Like

G+

Share

As the Performing Arts Center at Estrella Mountain Community College marks its first year of operation, the man in charge of the building is turning to a new challenge.

“Last year, the focus was getting things on stage,” said Timothy Butterfield, coordinator of fine arts facilities at the college in Avondale. “The focus this year is more front of the house.”

That means promoting what’s happening in the building that’s filling a void in the West Valley with a main stage that offers a performance space for college and community events as well as a black box theater, dance studio and other instructional spaces.

“Last year was a whirlwind. It was an amazing challenge to get everything on stage,” Butterfield said. “Our next big challenge is to get butts in the seats.”

The goal is to bring awareness about the center to people who discover it with the reaction, “I didn’t know this was here,” Butterfield said.

Last November, audiences went to the theater for the official grand opening of the 30,000-square-foot building that cost \$12.4 million.

In its first year, the building also served as the stage for two college theater productions, two dance shows, a movie

EMCC

Performing Arts Center fall tentative schedule

Oct. 4: Storytelling concert

Oct. 13-15:

TheatrEstrella production of Undercurrents

Oct. 18-22: Noises Off presented by PebbleCreek Players and EMCC

Nov. 10: Shakespeare Festival Recruitment Event presented by EMCC and Southwest Shakespeare

Nov. 15: Storytelling concert

Nov. 17-19:

TheatrEstrella production of The Last Two Boxes

Dec. 2-3: DancEstrella production

Dec. 5: Storytelling concert

Dec. 6: Community choir performance

Dec. 7: Piano class recital

Dec. 8-10:

TheatrEstrella production of Interviewing Miss Daisy

Dec. 16-18: The Nutcracker presented

night, commencement ceremonies, voice recitals and a community band and choir concert.

by Southwest Ballet
Theatre and EMCC

There was also a comedy showcase sponsored by the city of Avondale that packed the 297-seat theater, Butterfield said.

Southwest Ballet Theatre staged its production of *The Nutcracker* at the theater during the holidays and *The Wizard of Oz* in the spring.

An arrangement that is the first of its kind for a Maricopa Community College made the Southwest Ballet shows “more of a co-production” with the college, which waived some fees and offered students free admission, Butterfield said.

Students were also cast in the shows and helped build sets, giving them opportunities that aren’t “academically based,” Butterfield said.

He said last year’s *Nutcracker* was so well attended that there may be additional performances when the holiday classic is staged at the theater again this year.

“It’s going to be quite a production,” Butterfield said.

In the spring, Southwest Ballet will stage *Tarzan* at the theater.

Another community collaboration this year involves the PebbleCreek Players, which will mount the British farce *Noises Off* at the college while the PebbleCreek stage is undergoing renovations.

The fall’s student productions will involve staging three one-act plays with themes of new beginnings.

The first of the one-acts, *Undercurrents*, will have its Arizona premiere when it is staged at 7 p.m. Oct. 13 and 3 and 7 p.m. Oct. 14 and 15 in the black box theater.

The play by Elaine Romero follows Adela, who has lost her beloved grandmother and recently become blind, as she negotiates a future that honors her ancestors and herself.

The one acts will be balanced by a spring production of what Butterfield called a “big name show” directed by theater faculty member George Loperccio.

Also on the schedule are dance productions developed from a program led by DancEstrella's Janaea Lyn McAlee that includes ballet, Latin, ballroom, jazz, hip-hop and modern dance instruction.

The campus storytelling program has a home in the building's black box theater, where storytelling events are done in a space that has flexible seating for up to 90.

Butterfield said among the "tweaks" still being done to the building is installing black box theater risers, a project made possible by a donation from a local Kiwanis Club.

Butterfield said the center's music room was recently outfitted with 16 digital pianos, which have been used by a piano class for children.

Piano classes will be offered to college students for the first time this fall, he said.

The music room also provides space for voice and guitar lessons and community choir rehearsals.

The building also includes two recording rooms.

It took more than 10 years for the Performing Arts Center to become a reality on the campus, which opened in 1992 and serves about 15,000 students as one of the 11 colleges in the Maricopa Community College system.

Even better than expected, the building has served as a recruitment tool to attract students interested in the arts, Butterfield said.

"We opened, and we shot straight up" in enrollments, Butterfield said.

Two theater classes offered in the fall had waiting lists of students wanting to get in, he said.

Looking ahead, Butterfield would like to find more uses for the building during the summer and eventually see the establishment of a film program, he said.

"As the theater program grows, there's more interest in film," he said.

Butterfield has had help from part-time student workers, but to keep up with the demands for using the facility, a second full-time staffer was added this spring.

That will allow Butterfield more time to work on marketing the center by launching a new website, email lists and social media campaigns.

A campus entrepreneurial group will help with box office functions, he said.

Butterfield indicated that students of the arts aren't the only ones who are being provided an education by the new center.

Butterfield said there are lessons to be learned about the demands on the building and what's involved in staging a show.

"It's a learning process for all of us involved," he said. "We have to grow incrementally. We can't do everything."

Glenn Gullickson can be reached at ggullickson@westvalleyview.com (<mailto:ggullickson@westvalleyview.com>).



Rate this article:



No votes yet

CAPTCHA

This question is for testing whether or not you are a human visitor and to prevent automated spam submissions.

Math question *

5 + 0 =

Solve this simple math problem and enter the result. E.g. for 1+3, enter 4.

[Log in \(/user/login?destination=node/51468%23comment-form\)](/user/login?destination=node/51468%23comment-form) or [register \(/user/register?destination=node/51468%23comment-form\)](/user/register?destination=node/51468%23comment-form) to post comments

Related articles

- [Body found in Buckeye canal identified as Surprise woman](/articles/2016/09/29/body-found-buckeye-canal-identified-surprise-woman)
- [Masked teens arrested in connection to armed robberies in west Phoenix](/articles/2016/09/29/masked-teens-arrested-connection-armed-robberies-west-phoenix)

- **UPDATE: Missing Buckeye teen found safe**
[\(/articles/2016/09/29/update-missing-buckeye-teen-found-safe\)](/articles/2016/09/29/update-missing-buckeye-teen-found-safe)
 - **Avondale boy, 5, dies from accidental gunshot wound**
[\(/articles/2016/09/29/avondale-boy-5-dies-accidental-gunshot-wound\)](/articles/2016/09/29/avondale-boy-5-dies-accidental-gunshot-wound)
 - **Goodyear man sentenced to 6 months for dog killing**
[\(/articles/2016/09/29/goodyear-man-sentenced-6-months-dog-killing\)](/articles/2016/09/29/goodyear-man-sentenced-6-months-dog-killing)
-



<http://westvalleyview.com/simpleads/redirect/50112>



ATTN: West Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council needs you to join in the fight to stop child abuse!

All community members can join. For information on how to join the West Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council, please call 623.240.6160.



<http://westvalleyview.com/simpleads/redirect/51484>

Local Advertisers

This Week's Circulars

Microsoft intel DIGITAL DEALS SEPT 29 - OCT 14, 2016
Featuring Intel® Core™ processors.

~~\$329~~ **\$499** Dell Inspiron 15 5559

HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

Microsoft

MATTRESS FIRM HOLIDAY MON-FRI 9AM-10PM SAT 10AM-8PM SUN 12PM-6PM MON 10AM-6PM

1 WEEK SALE **SAVE UP TO \$500**

WITH COLUMBUS DAY SAVINGS

HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

MATTRESS FIRM

Pep Boys

INSTORE SAVINGS

PRICES AND OFFERS VALID OCTOBER 2-9, 2016

DIY Oil Filter

1999 Pennzoil Valvoline or Castrol GTX Conventional and Purulotor Classic Filter

2299 Pennzoil Valvoline or Castrol High Mileage and Purulotor Classic Filter

HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

Pep Boys

FAMILY DOLLAR

SALE! \$5 Xtra Liquid Bleach

SALE! \$4.50 Angel Soft Bath Tissue 12 Rolls

SALE! 2 \$5 Lay's 10.5oz Snacks

SALE! 3 \$10 Paper Products 12 Cans

HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

FAMILY DOLLAR My family, my handy dollar.

Powered by *flipp*

Adobe

SIMPLE. POWERFUL. FUN.

Get pro-quality images on the go with Adobe Photoshop Lightroom. [Learn how >](#)

Adobe Creative Cloud Photography plan

[Jump back to navigation \(#page\)](#)



[_ \(http://twitter.com/share?url=http://www.westvalleyview.com/articles/2016/09/28/stage-emcc&text=On stage at EMCC http://www.westvalleyview.com/articles/2016/09/28/stage-emcc via @westvalleyview\)](http://twitter.com/share?url=http://www.westvalleyview.com/articles/2016/09/28/stage-emcc&text=On stage at EMCC http://www.westvalleyview.com/articles/2016/09/28/stage-emcc via @westvalleyview)



[_ \(http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://www.westvalleyview.com/articles/2016/09/28/stage-emcc&t=On stage at EMCC\)](http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://www.westvalleyview.com/articles/2016/09/28/stage-emcc&t=On stage at EMCC)



[_ \(http://www.google.com/bookmarks/mark?op=add&bkmk=http://www.westvalleyview.com/articles/2016/09/28/stage-emcc&title=On stage at EMCC\)](http://www.google.com/bookmarks/mark?op=add&bkmk=http://www.westvalleyview.com/articles/2016/09/28/stage-emcc&title=On stage at EMCC)



[_ \(http://www.stumbleupon.com/submit?url=http://www.westvalleyview.com/articles/2016/09/28/stage-emcc&title=On stage at EMCC\)](http://www.stumbleupon.com/submit?url=http://www.westvalleyview.com/articles/2016/09/28/stage-emcc&title=On stage at EMCC)

West Valley View

1050 E. Riley Dr.
Avondale, AZ 85323
(623) 535-VIEW • FAX (623) 935-2103
www.westvalleyview.com
(<http://www.westvalleyview.com>)

Subscriber Links

- [Article Search \(/search/node\)](/search/node)
- ▶ [View More Photos \(http://westvalleyview.smugmug.com/\)](http://westvalleyview.smugmug.com/)
- ▶ [School Links \(/content/school-board-meetings-west-valley\)](/content/school-board-meetings-west-valley)
- ▶ [About Us \(/content/your-community-newspaper\)](/content/your-community-newspaper)
- ▶ [Start/Stop/Missed \(/content/delivery-startstop\)](/content/delivery-startstop)
- ▶ [Helpful Links \(/content/helpful-links\)](/content/helpful-links)
- [Login \(/user/login\)](/user/login)

Site Links

- [Home \(/\)](/)
- ▶ [Classifieds \(/articles/2016/08/19/weekly-](/articles/2016/08/19/weekly-)

[classifieds](#))

▶ **Extras**

<http://www.westvalleyview.com>)

▪ **9 Days Calendar**

</articles/2016/08/19/9-days-calendar>)

▼ **Editorials (</articles/sports-0>)**

▪ **Letters to the Editor**

</articles/letters-editor>)

▪ **Guest**

Commentaries

</articles/guest-commentaries>)

▪ **Society Notes**

</articles/society-notes>)

▼ **Sports (</articles/sports>)**

▪ **Weekly High School**

Pick 'Em

<http://www.westvalleyview.com/pickem/>)

▼ **News (</articles/news>)**

▪ **Military Notes**

</articles/military-notes>)

▪ **Business News**

</articles/business-news>)

▪ **School Notes**

</articles/school-notes>)

▪ **Community Notes**

</articles/community-notes>)

▪ **Obituaries**

</articles/obituaries>)



http://www.securitymetrics.com/site_certificate?



[id=1003875&tk=ca77da20c6d5151fd6b47e879f38174d](#))

http://www.securitymetrics.com/site_certificate?

[id=1003875&tk=ca77da20c6d5151fd6b47e879f38174d](#))

Copyright 2015 | West Valley View | All Rights Reserved

