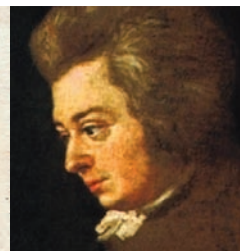




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Could it be another mega hit for Mozart?

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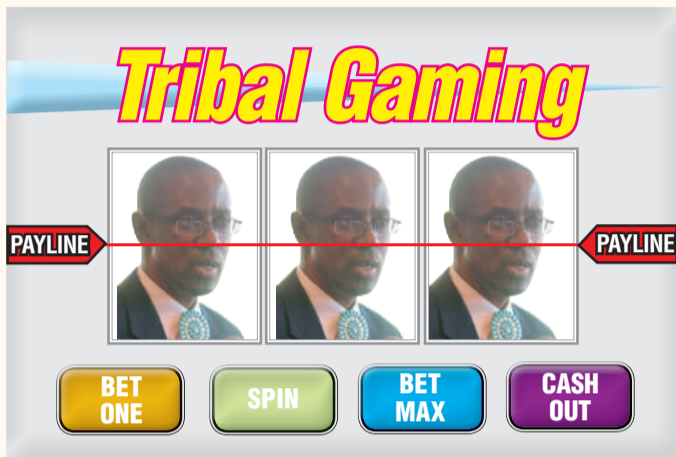
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Negotiating a jackpot of a deal

Maricopa man assists in intertribal slot machine agreement beneficial to Navajos, others

By ADAM GAUB
Staff Writer

A Maricopa man helped lead the negotiations that saw four American Indian tribes agree on the lease and usage of more than 1,000 slot machines this week. Eddie Lockett was hired by the Navajo Nation in 2005 to serve as its Gaming Regulatory Office's executive director, but his real role was much bigger than that. "I made a promise to them before I went to work with them that I would help them do this," said Lockett, who previously served in a similar role with the Ak-Chin Indian Community for more than a decade. "I wanted to do everything I could to help them get this off the ground." Lockett was tasked with heading negotiations between tribal communities that would be interested in leasing slot machines



Maricopan Eddie Lockett helped broker a lease agreement for surplus slot machines for three Arizona tribes on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

from the Navajo Nation under the provisions of the Arizona voter-approved 2003 Tribal State Gaming Compacts. The Navajo Nation, which is planning to open its first casino outside Gallup, N.M., on Nov. 14, had a surplus of licensed machines. The result, said Lewis & Roca attorney Steve Hart, was a deal that sent slot machines to the Gila River, Tohono O'odham and Fort McDowell Yavapai Apache tribes in exchange for nearly \$140 million combined over the next 17 years. "There will be a broad range of items that this money will be used for," said Hart, calling the agreement the largest of its kind since the compact was passed. "This will allow the process to be moved up to help bring jobs to the Navajo Nation." The Navajos will keep rights to 1,770 slot

— Slot machine, Page 15A

Vehicle disposal idea could be crushed

Appeal of city's decision to allow auto recycling operation at industrial park to be heard Monday

By HAROLD KITCHING
Staff Writer

Approval of a conditional use permit to allow an auto crushing operation in an industrial park north of Peters Road is being appealed, with a Casa Grande Board of Adjustment hearing scheduled for Monday.

The session, open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall, 510 E. Florence Blvd.

The operation, planned by Southwest Steel Processors, would be in the northeast corner of the Central Arizona Commerce Park, between Burriss and Thornton roads and about halfway between Peters Road and Gila Bend Highway.

A property owner on the west side of the industrial park, Mikron Industries, a plastics window frame company based in Washington state, opposed issuing the permit, contending dust and vibrations from the crusher would harm its equipment. Mikron, however, has built nothing on the property, and it was reported at an earlier meeting that all of its operations are for sale.

Planning and Development Director Rick Miller denied Mikron's appeal asking for a City Council hearing, citing city regulations limiting appeals to persons owning property within 150 feet of an operation. Miller said the crusher would not be within that limit. The Board of Adjustment hearing is to decide if that ruling is correct. If the board upholds Miller, Mikron's next move would have to be in court.

Mikron's attorneys contend that the crusher company would lease rather than own property in the commerce park, therefore the 150-foot limit should be from the west park border. They also contend that during an earlier Planning and Zoning Commission hearing, the crusher site plan was changed to make it look like the location was more than 150 feet from Mikron's property.

Other allegations by the attorneys are that prior to approval of the conditional use permit no noise or vibration requirements were listed, the dust and other debris control plan is inadequate, opponents were not given the opportunity to rebut testimony from a noise and pollution specialist, railroad spur traffic would be increased, and that the city ignored petitions signed by 480 people, including 48 from what the attorneys say are nearby business owners.

The Board of Adjustment hearing is to rule on the appeal denial. It is not known if all of the other arguments may be repeated.

Joining in the appeal are Michael and Nancy Jackson, owners of The Property Conference Center on Gila Bend Highway, and Claude Gipson, who also has a Gila Bend Highway address west of The Property.

That sets up another argument. The section of the city zoning ordinance in question says: "A written appeal shall be taken to the City Council by the applicant or any person, firm, corporation, group or association owning real property within 150 feet of the conditional use applicant's property, aggrieved or affected by the decision ..."

— Auto crusher, Page 15A

Don't know much about science books

Poor high school AIMS scores show need for better instruction, governor says

By MARIA KONOPKEN
Cronkite News Service

PHOENIX — A 62 percent failure rate among high school students on the science portion of the AIMS test shows the need for Arizona schools to improve their teaching of the subject, Gov. Janet Napolitano says.

"I think the scores validate what we have been saying, which is our kids need more science. And now it's our responsibility to help them get it," Napolitano said during her weekly media availability on Wednesday.

This past spring was the first time that science was a part of AIMS, Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards. High school students must pass the reading, writing and math portions of AIMS to graduate, but the science portion isn't required for graduation.

Napolitano said Arizona students must have a strong understanding of science to succeed.

"That is what they are going to need; that's why we need more science teachers," Napolitano said.

The governor pointed to a new state-level STEM Education Center, which focuses on helping students get the science, technology, engineering and math skills they need to compete in the global economy.

The science portion of AIMS includes questions on life sciences and the nature of science. The results from all sections of the test are used by the federal government to measure if schools are meeting the standards of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Tom Home, Arizona's superintendent of public

— Science education, Page 15A



"I think the scores validate what we have been saying, which is our kids need more science."

— Gov. Janet Napolitano

How high? How far?



Oscar Perez/Dispatch photos

Above, Kyle Johnson, 12, participates in the NFL Pepsi Punt, Pass and Kick competition at Carr McNatt Park on Tuesday evening. At right, Zamir Valentin, 13, demonstrates his place-kicking ability. The competition was open to boys and girls ages 8 to 15. Winners in each age group will move on to sectionals.



What it has come to

In poor economy, tent cities cropping up across the country — from Seattle to Athens, Ga.

By EVELYN NIEVES
Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — A few tents cropped up hard by the railroad tracks, pitched by men left with nowhere to go once the emergency winter shelter closed for the summer.

Then others appeared — people who had lost their jobs to the ailing economy, or newcomers who had moved to Reno for work and discovered no one was hiring.

Within weeks, more than 150 people

were living in tents big and small, barely a foot apart in a patch of dirt slated to be a parking lot for a campus of shelters Reno is building for its homeless population. Like many other cities, Reno has found itself with a "tent city" — an encampment of people who had nowhere else to go.

From Seattle to Athens, Ga., homeless advocacy groups and city agencies are reporting the most visible rise in homeless encampments in a generation.

Nearly 61 percent of local and state

homeless coalitions say they've experienced a rise in homelessness since the foreclosure crisis began in 2007, according to a report by the National Coalition for the Homeless. The group says the problem has worsened since the report's release in April, with foreclosures mounting, gas and food prices rising and the job market

tightening.

"It's clear that poverty and homelessness have increased," said Michael Stoops, acting executive director of the coalition. "The economy is in chaos, we're in an unofficial recession and Americans are

— Tent cities, Page 20A

Mack Martinez, 19, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, smokes in front of his tent at the tent city that sprung up next to the homeless shelter in downtown Reno, Nev., back in June.



Scott Sady/Associated Press

