



Net vet

Hawks' Ehrig named Player of the Year/D1

Today's high: 90°

Details on C8



Council takes on Highway 95 funding cut

Roadway might not receive \$20 million previously promised

BY JOYCE LOBECK
SUN STAFF WRITER

A proposal by the Arizona Department of Transportation to eliminate \$20 million previously dedicated to a roadway project in Yuma County will come under fire when the Yuma City Council meets this week.

The funding was to have been for long-awaited improvements to U.S. Highway 95 from Avenue 9E to Aberdeen Road, a heavily

traveled corridor for north-south travel and the main route for workers at Yuma Proving Ground and the General Motors hot weather test complex.

The project was to include reconstruction of the Fortuna Wash bridge and Avenue 11E intersection and widening of the roadway. A big concern is that when it rains the wash sometimes becomes impassable, requiring a long detour to get to YPG, said Councilman Paul Johnson.

Therefore, the project is seen as critical to support YPG, he said.

However, ADOT through the 2011-2014 State Transportation Improvement Program has proposed diverting the funding to other state roadway projects. The agency also is proposing diverting \$5 million in funding from the San Luis II Port of Entry.

In protest, the city council will consider a resolution during Wednesday's meeting stating its opposition to the elimination of these previously dedicated funds to Yuma County and their diversion to other Arizona jurisdictions.

The meeting will be held at 5:30

p.m. Wednesday in the council chambers of Yuma City Hall, One City Plaza.

Also, the council will consider a motion to authorize an off-track betting license to Turf Paradise to operate at Yuma Landing, 195 S. 4th Ave., from September 2011 through May 2012. The owners of the Yuma Landing have expressed their support for the off-track betting operation, according to the city staff report.

Upon city council approval, the request will be forwarded to the Arizona Department of Racing for final processing.

In addition to Wednesday's meeting, the city council will

hold a worksession at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the council chambers.

During that meeting, officials from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma will provide a briefing on an upcoming Weapons and Tactics Instructor exercise in the city.

Agendas for the meetings and a meeting packet are available online at the city's website at yumasun.com. Click on meeting agendas.

Unable to attend the meetings? Watch them on Time Warner Cable Channel 73 or live streamed on your computer.

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'A new perspective'

LOANED PHOTO
THE TEAM TURNED ON THE WATER in the village and "everyone had to touch it to believe it," Brad Sackrider said.



PHOTO BY MARA KNAUB/YUMA SUN
BRAD SACKRIDER, a member of the Fort Yuma Rotary Club, talks about his experiences in Sierra Leone. The club sponsored six water tanks in a water project, giving access to clean drinking water to a remote village.

Yuma Rotarian participates in humanitarian trip to provide water in Sierra Leone

BY MARA KNAUB
SUN STAFF WRITER

During Brad Sackrider's first trip to Africa, he hoped to document the progress of a Sierra Leone water project the Fort Yuma Rotary Club had helped sponsor.

But on the way to the remote village of Mo Charles, the bus broke down five times in one day. One of those times, the passengers were stranded in a rural area for six hours.

This day turned out to be one of Sackrider's most memorable moments of the entire trip. The local kids came out and

played with them. Sackrider, 34, got a crash cooking course from the local people, cooking over an open fire in an outdoor kitchen.

However, Sackrider has plenty of unforgettable moments of a trip conceived to help the people of Sierra Leone. The Fort Yuma Rotary Club raised nearly \$7,000 in donations toward the water project.

Rotarian John Bornt learned of the project from former Yuman Chad Courtney, who now lives in Africa with his wife and three kids. Bornt suggested the

SEE WATER/A5

Yuma reps oppose three bills targeting immigrants

BY CESAR NEYOY
BAJO EL SOL

Yuma's two state representatives, Lynne Pancrazi and Russ Jones, say they will vote against three immigration bills should the measures make it to the House of Representatives.

Pancrazi called the measures unconstitutional, and both she and Jones predicted the legislation would hamper Arizona's economic recovery.

Jones and Pancrazi were referring to Senate Bills 1611, 1308 and 1309, all of which got yes votes from Yuma County's other lawmaker, Sen. Don Shooter, when they were approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee in February.

SB 1611 would ban illegal immigrants from attending the state's community colleges and universities, while SB 1308 and 1309 would deny citizenship to children born in this country to parents who are in the country illegally.

SB 1611 also would require schools to report parents who do not furnish a U.S. birth certificate, U.S. passport or similar documentation for children when they enroll in school, and would require the city to evict public housing tenants who could not prove legal presence in the country. It also would put teeth into a 2007 law allowing judges to suspend or revoke licenses of businesses found guilty of knowingly hiring undocumented workers.

"What the state spends on undocumented immigrants is little, and these bills are going against businesses and put at risk our economic recovery," said Jones, a Yuma Republican.

Pancrazi said the state Legislature has no power to pass these types of measures, introduced by state Senate president, Sen. Russell Pearce, R-Mesa.

"The Supreme Court has already declared them unconstitutional, and attorneys for the state Senate have already stated the possibility that they are unconstitutional," the Yuma Democrat said. "These measures from Senator Pearce are part of his agenda to keep business owners and their employees in a state of fear."

Pancrazi said the bills are scaring away investors who otherwise want to come to Arizona, and paint the state as being racist — "which is very far from reality."

Jones said the cost to the state of children born in Arizona to parents without legal residency is not as high as backers of SB 1308 and 1309 contend.

Pancrazi said the state is feeling adverse effects of the bills even before they have become law.

"The Arizona Chamber of Commerce has come out against these bills, because every company they have tried to (bring to



LYNNE PANCRAZI



RUSS JONES

Woodard cheerleading team wins 13th state title

Squad wins show category by a whopping 32 points

BY SARAH WOMER
SUN STAFF WRITER

Cheerleaders from Woodard Junior High School won first place in the show cheer category at the 2011 Arizona State Championship competition, marking the 13th state cheer title for the school.

Roadrunner Cheer Coach Patty Quiroz explained that they actually won by 32 points in this category. That is saying something, she said, noting that during a past competition they barely won by half of a point.

The girls also placed third in the POM category and fourth in the all-girls stunt group, where five girls perform continuous stunts for a minute and a half. Quiroz, who also teaches Spanish and AVID at Woodard, added that the girls actually missed third place in the stunt category by half a point.

Quiroz said that their team comprised 15 girls this year, including seven sixth-graders, two seventh-graders and six eighth-graders.

Typically, the school has more upperclassman on the team, she said, but this year there was a lot of younger talent.

"I think it was a great weekend that really shows the true athleticism of cheerleading because I think it definitely gets the wrong image sometimes," she

SEE CHEER/A5



LOANED PHOTO

THE WOODARD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CHEER SQUAD won first place in the show cheer category at the 2011 Arizona State Championship — the team's 13th state title. Back row (left to right): Head Coach Patty Quiroz, Kayliana Salas, Brisa Gonzalez, Tumbling Coach Matt Graef, Asst. Coach Jessica Perez. Middle Row: Veronica Trevino, Jovita Macias, Liz Williams, Aylin Gastelum, Steacy Gonzalez, Fayth Hawk, Danielle Grosch, Julia White, Asst. Coach Lexi Siqueiros. Front Row: Kristin Lobeck, Aryssa Guerrero and Kelsey Moreno.