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Packed house for first forum

Council candidates disagree on student housing and water

SUZANNE ADAMS-OCKRASSA AND CORINA VANEK
 Sun Staff Reporters

The first Flagstaff City Council and mayoral candidate forum of the campaign was packed Thursday night.

Nearly 120 people crammed into the commons area at Flagstaff High School to sit in eight groups and ask questions of rotating candidates – six for council and two for mayor.

The forum was hosted by Friends of Flagstaff's Future. Each group came up with its

own questions and not all of the candidates received the same questions.

Reconciling the Flagstaff Regional Plan with the city Zoning Code was a big topic for some residents at the forum. They cited the large number of high-occupancy apartment complexes geared toward college students looming in the city's future.

Council candidate Charlie Odegaard said he'd be willing to open up both codes to find a way to mesh the two better.

"I think we need to better identify areas for high occupancy housing without affecting the neighborhoods," he said.

The city needs a long-range

plan for development that takes in that kind of growth as well as planning for business and residential growth, he said.

Council candidate Jim McCarthy said he thought that high occupancy housing was needed in the city, but there were certain areas, such as the city's historic neighborhoods, where that type of development was not appropriate.

Mayoral candidate Coral Evans said that the Regional Plan and Zoning Code should be in one document so there was one source of information that developers, staff and the public could go to.

Mayor Jerry Nabours pointed

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JAKE BACON/ARIZONA DAILY SUN
 Flagstaff City Council candidate Jamie Whelan answers a question Thursday evening during a roundtable forum at Flagstaff High School.

HAPPY JACK HANDFUL



EMERY COWAN

From left, Ben Hardesty, engineering technician at Lowell Observatory, Peter Rosenthal, the observatory's archival restoration specialist, Frank Cornelius, site engineer and Jeff Gehring, Lowell lead instrument maker, examine the Discovery Channel Telescope's newly refinished surface. The mirror was re-coated with vaporized aluminum.

New Lowell telescope mirror gets refinished in Happy Jack

Painstaking process sharpens focus with no need to ship out

EMERY COWAN
 Sun Staff Reporter

It's 14 feet across, weighs 6,700 pounds and just like anything else, it needs to be cleaned. Or, more specifically refinished.

Five years after Lowell Observatory installed the Discovery Channel Telescope mirror at its facility in the Happy Jack area, this summer marked the time to resurface the massive piece of glass with a fresh coating of aluminum.

After two weeks spent disassembling the telescope, cleaning the mirror and re-coating it, Lowell engineers saw the fin-

ished product for the first time on Tuesday. And from their initial analysis, Lowell's engineers have deemed the process a success.

The refinishing takes place right next door to the Discovery Channel Telescope dome in a high tech vacuum chamber where aluminum, heated to the point that it vaporizes, rains down on the mirror from dozens of tiny coils.

It's a standard maintenance procedure that will be done to the mirror about every five years, said Frank Cornelius, site engineer at Lowell.

It takes a multitude of steps and an overabundance of caution to handle an object so enormous and also so delicate. The mirror is custom made and painstakingly shaped, costing about \$7 million

and taking about five years to create, said Ben Hardesty, an engineering technician at Lowell.

A team of 15 people has been planning the refinishing operation since November, Hardesty said. To start, the bottom half of the Discovery Channel Telescope was disassembled, a process that required taking apart hundreds of connections and a complex instrument cube, then removing the 28,000-pound circular cell that holds the donut-shaped mirror in perfect place. A crane permanently installed inside the dome raised and lowered the cell from its second-floor

Please see **Mirror**, Page A6

■ **ON THE WEB:** For a video of the mirror cleaning, visit this story at azdailysun.com.

Clinton pledges steady hand in volatile world

Democrat stresses role of unifier and inclusive politics

JULIE PACE AND ROBERT FURLOW
 Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Promising Americans a steady hand, Hillary Clinton cast herself Thursday night as a unifier for divided times, an experienced leader steeled for a volatile world. She aggressively challenged Republican Donald Trump's ability to do the same.

"Imagine him in the Oval Office facing a real crisis," Clinton said as she accepted the Democratic nomination for president. "A man you can bait with a tweet is not a man we can trust with nuclear weapons."

Clinton took the stage to roaring applause from flag-waving delegates on the final night of the Democratic convention, relishing



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hillary Clinton

her nomination as the first woman to lead a major U.S. political party. But her real audience was the millions of voters watching at home, many of whom may welcome her experience as secretary of state, senator and first lady, but question her character.

Please see **Clinton**, Page A8

Weapons conviction just first of charges

Evan Creech also accused of assault, burglary in shooting

MICHELLE MCMANIMON
 Sun Staff Reporter

The final defendant in an unusual shooting in Flagstaff's Sunnyside neighborhood has been convicted of weapons misconduct but could face a second trial on more serious charges.

A Coconino County Superior Court jury last week convicted Evan Creech, 34, of possessing a



Creech

shotgun when he was a prohibited possessor during a confrontation at the door of a house in the 1900 block of East Arrowhead Avenue on Sept. 22, 2014.

At the trial, prosecutor Ammon Barker told the jury Creech's friend Joshua Palmer, 32, drove Creech to the home to confront Joshua Alicea, 32, because Palmer

Please see **Charges**, Page A8

DISCOVER DIGITAL **CONNECT me LOCAL** Video from the cleaning of the Discovery Channel Telescope mirror **AT AZDAILYSUN.COM**

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