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TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

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LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA | 75 CENTS | FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2016

Telesis ready to SHOK the system

Seniors Helping Our Kids program ready to help

By **WILLIAM WILCZEWSKI**
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

A few years ago, Poway Unified School District in the San Diego area had the top test scores in California.

They still might. One reason for that, according to Telesis Preparatory Academy School Board President Gary Powers, was its SHOK Program, which stands for Seniors Helping Our Kids. It's designed around senior citizen volunteers in

It's designed around senior citizen volunteers donating their time to act as tutors for students in the classroom and the library.

the community donating their time to act as tutors for students on a one-to-one basis in the classroom or library.

Powers has now brought that program to Telesis, where those volunteers will initially help first- through third-graders in math, reading and writing until the program expands to higher grade levels and subjects to include physical education.

But, first things, first. "It's a program that really might help teachers, too," Powers said. "If you get the basic down (as a student) ... you're going to succeed in fourth and fifth grade and beyond."

The impact should also be greater at Telesis than in larger schools, he said, because the academy already has smaller class sizes than those larger schools.

But "class management is a huge problem no matter where you are," Powers said, "so it's always a good idea to help along those lines."

Powers says in San Diego—where he learned of this program in the early 2000s before moving back to Havasu in 2012—having older tutors was an advantage because, "they look at us like parents and grandparents, so that helps."

One of the tutors already signed up for the program fits that bill to a tee, because former board member and teacher Marion Dietz, 84, has been in the education field for around 40 years, including teaching time at Telesis and in Lake Havasu Unified School District No. 1. For her, this program is just an extension of what she's already been doing most of her life.

"I just can't be without those little kids," said Dietz, who has worked as a substitute teacher since officially retiring her chalk and ruler. "I enjoy doing that."

Dietz also expects other volunteers to have the same experience she has.

"We're hoping to get several more because it helps the children but it also helps the teachers, too," she said. "This way, they don't have

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Medicare study unkind to regional hospitals

Havasu receives two out of five-star rating

By **BRANDON MESSICK**
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released the federal government's first national hospital quality ratings on Wednesday, and hospitals in the Havasu region did not fare well.

The study examined 3,617 hospitals throughout the U.S., rating each on a one-to-five-star scale. The ratings are based on 64 criteria that include patient

reviews, mortality rates and hospital re-admittance. Mohave County's three largest hospitals — Havasu Regional Medical Center, Kingman Regional Medical Center and Bullhead City's Western Arizona Regional Medical Center — each received a two-star rating.

The scores are based primarily upon HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) customer satisfaction surveys, which are required of all U.S. hospi-

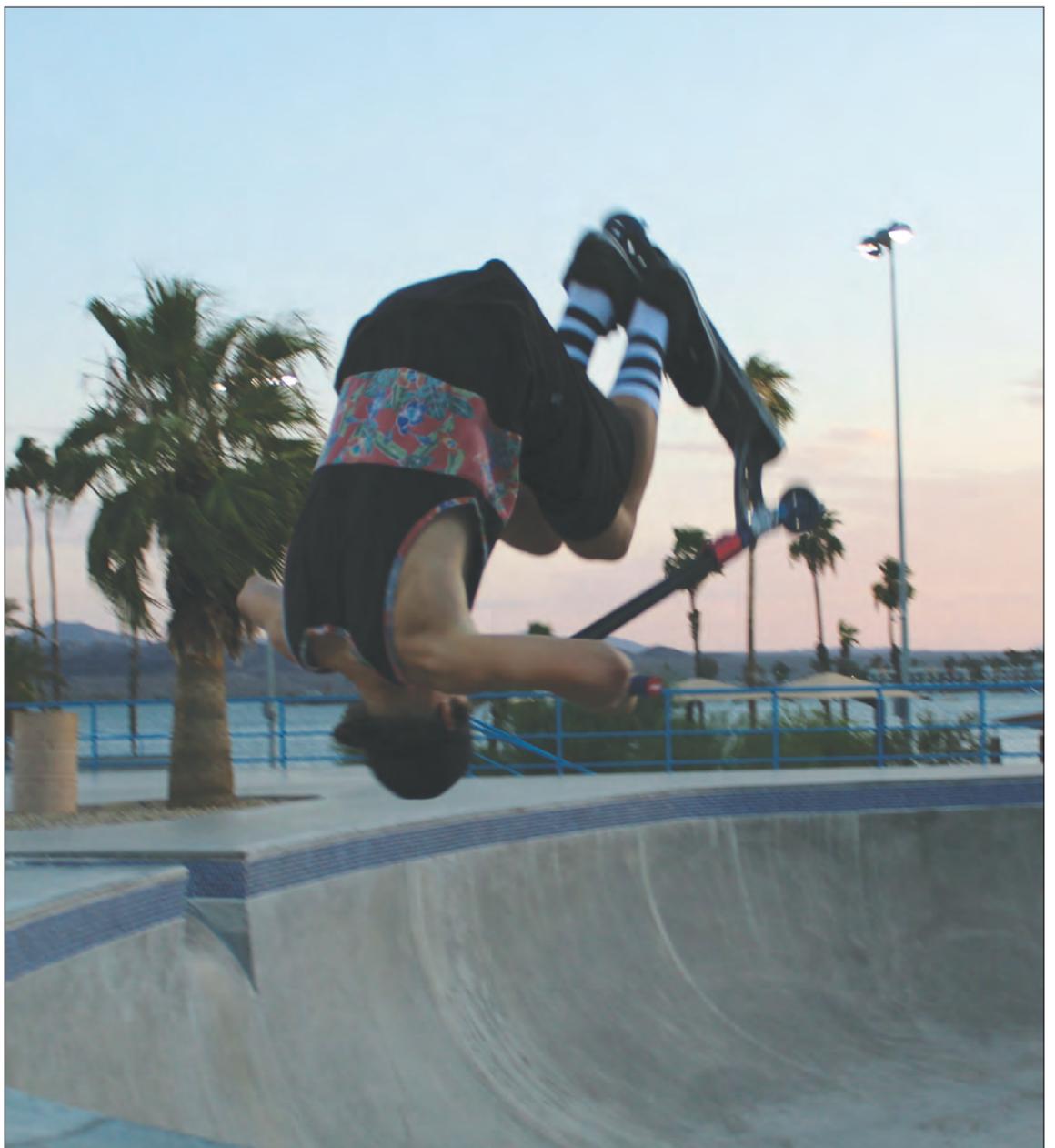
tals by Medicare's Clinical Center for Standards and Quality.

Havasu Regional Medical Center received ratings below the national average in re-admission rates, and "patient experience." The hospital was rated above the national average, however, in "effectiveness of care" and "timeliness of care."

Havasu Regional Medical Center spokeswoman Jeni Coke was disappointed with the two-star rating received by the hospital. Coke said that much of the data that factored into CMS's ratings

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SKATE PARK: THE AIR APPARENT



Jacob MacDonald lands a front flip on his scooter at the Patrick Tinnel Memorial Skate Complex at Rotary Park on Thursday. Marcel Louis-Jacques/News-Herald photo

Buoys make a brief appearance in Refuge

By **HALEY WALTERS**
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Boaters out on Wednesday may have noticed some new buoys in Havasu National Wildlife Refuge waters.

Boater Keith Schwiezer said he saw workers placing buoys "in the middle of the lake" on Wednesday morning.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had previously proposed a compatibility determination that would have allowed a two-mile no-wake zone in waters under Refuge jurisdiction.

A Fish and Wildlife Service spokesperson on Thursday said an "overzealous" maintenance worker placed the buoys in a potential gap area. The buoys were removed within 24 hours.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Clinton promises steady hand in dangerous world



Democratic vice presidential nominee Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton walk through the falling balloons during the final day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Thursday. J. Scott Applewhite/AP photo

By **JULIE PACE**
and **ROBERT FURLOW**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — 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 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.

She acknowledged those concerns briefly, saying "I get it that some people just don't know what to make of me." But her primary focus was persuading Americans to not be seduced by Trump's vague promises to restore economic security and fend

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OBITUARIES

There are no obituaries today

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