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COYOTES REBOUND IN WIN OVER BLUES — PAGE 7

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TODAY'S

News-Herald

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GOOD MORNING!

65

TODAY'S FORECAST:

Mostly sunny, breezy and cool

46

SEE PAGE 14

INSIDE

NATION: TV celebrities and coaches face charges in college bribery scheme. Fifty people, including Hollywood stars Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin, were charged Tuesday in a scheme in which wealthy parents allegedly bribed college coaches and other insiders to get their children into some of the nation's most selective schools.

SEE PAGE 16

NATION: 2,200 quarantined over mumps outbreak at immigration centers. Over 2,200 people exposed to the mumps virus in at least two immigration detention facilities have been quarantined, authorities said Tuesday.

SEE PAGE 15

OBITUARIES

Carol Van Sickle, 81

Joann Van Bynen, 79

Margo Woodrum, 84

Isabelle Moyer, 73

SEE PAGE 5

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Today's News-Herald

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Volume 54, No. 72

WEEKDAY

Major work for Swanson Ave. planned



Major construction is planned for Swanson Avenue between Smoketree Avenue and Acoma Boulevard. A multi-use path and new bike lane are among changes.

TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

More road construction is being planned for a major Lake Havasu City roadway. The city plans to redevelop Swanson Avenue between Acoma Boulevard and Smoketree Avenue to allow for a multi-use path and a new bike lane. The change will eliminate parallel parking on the street, according to a city news release.

That stretch of Swanson is home to ASU Havasu and

The Views, a new senior living facility scheduled to open later this year, as well as several small businesses.

An open house to discuss the project is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Aquatic Center at 100 Park Ave.

It is expected to take approximately four months to complete once construction begins in early April. It comes amid a flurry of

See SWANSON, Page 6

SOAKING IN THE SEASON



Vehicles spray water on North Lake Havasu Avenue Tuesday morning as another soaking rain storm hit Lake Havasu City. The city received .79 inches of rain from the storm.

With unusually wet winter, Havasu is no longer considered to be in drought area

TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Wet enough for you? The rain that drenched Lake Havasu City Tuesday morning was the latest in a string of storms that have made for an unusually wet year. So wet, in fact, that Lake Havasu City has had more than three times the rain it had the previous year – and there are still more than 200 days left in the water year calendar.

On Tuesday alone, Havasu had .79 inches of rain according to the rain gauge at the Mohave County government building on College Drive.

“Last year, there was no real seasonal precipitation, at least not to the degree we’ve seen this year,” said Alex Boothe, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service’s Las Vegas office.

Boothe said the National Weather Service’s drought map shows Lake Havasu City is no longer listed as being in a drought area. “Since the beginning of March, the percentage of severe to moderate drought dropped to about 50 percent land coverage for Mohave County,” he said. “Havasu was in a D3 to D4 drought, which is extreme drought, but it’s been

completely eradicated due to this above-normal precipitation in a short amount of time.” He cautioned that the area could easily slip back into drought conditions if dry weather resumes.

Since Oct. 1, Havasu has had 4.8 inches of rain. For the entire 2017 water calendar year, which runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, the area had 1.26 inches. Most of this year’s total has been since Jan. 1, because of a string of low-pressure winter storms that have moved south far enough to grab tropical moisture and pull it inland,

See WET WEATHER, Page 6

Play like you mean it on public piano in Havasu’s downtown

By PAM ASHLEY

TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Spontaneity is at the heart of a new interactive art installation in downtown Lake Havasu City.

A colorful upright piano is being placed at the edge of Hodel Way, and everyone is invited to stop and play a tune or two. Chopsticks, the Beatles or Beethoven – anything goes.

Sonia Cunningham is a member of the seven-person group behind the public piano project. Called the James A. Dunham Organization, the nonprofit plans to dedicate the piano in its new



The 1903 Cable grand upright was painted by mother-daughter team Gloria Iverson and Cheryl Kiszczak. The public piano on Hodel Way in downtown Lake Havasu City will be dedicated Friday at 3 p.m.

Submitted

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John Locher/Associated Press

Lightning is seen over Lake Mead near Hoover Dam that impounds Colorado River water at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in 2014.

Calif. agencies at odds over Colorado River drought plan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — A major Southern California water agency is trying to push the state through a final hurdle in joining a larger plan to preserve a key river in the U.S. West that serves 40 million people.

Most of the seven states that get water from the Colorado River have signed off on plans to keep the waterway from crashing amid a prolonged drought, climate change and increased demands. But California and Arizona have not, missing deadlines from the federal government.

Arizona has some work to do but nothing major holding it back. California, however, has two powerful water agencies fighting over how to get the drought contingency plan approved before U.S. officials possibly impose their own rules for water

See DROUGHT PLAN, Page 6

Student loan defaults down at MCC

By PAM ASHLEY

TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

The number of students who default on student loans has dropped significantly at Mohave Community College.

Interim MCC President Diana Stithem said the college’s cohort default rate has vastly improved from its record low about a decade ago.

“Over years of hard work, we are bringing it down,” Stithem said.

“Cohort default rate” is a term used by the U.S. Department of Education. Schools with high default rates may lose their eligibility to participate in federal student aid programs.

Currently, MCC’s rate is 14.74

See DEFAULTS, Page 3

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DROUGHT PLAN: CALIF. DIST. SEEKING SALTON SEA FUNDING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

going to California, Arizona and Nevada.

The Metropolitan Water District is positioning itself to shoulder nearly all of California's water contribution, with its board voting unanimously Tuesday to essentially write out of the drought plan another agency that gets more Colorado River water than any-

one else.

That agency, the Imperial Irrigation District, has said it won't approve the plan unless the federal government agrees to commit \$200 million to address the Salton Sea, a massive, briny lake southeast of Los Angeles that has become an environmental and health hazard in the Imperial and

Coachella valleys.

The Metropolitan Water District — a massive agency that supplies drinking water to 19 million people in Southern California — would have to provide what could be nearly 2 million acre-feet of water between 2020 and 2026. An acre-foot serves about one to two average households a year.

WET WEATHER: SUNNY SKIES ARE IN STORE FOR THE WEEKEND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Tristan Jandrew/Today's News-Herald

Teen Break 2019 opened Tuesday at Rotary Park despite concerns about weather. Despite the rainfall being heavier than normal for the area, Lake Havasu City's Parks and Recreation department still held the first day of Teen Break for the season. Janice Brown, an organizer for the event, was not sure what the estimated attendance would be for the day because of the weather. "We will continue to hold Teen Break tomorrow too," Brown said, understanding that some parents or teens might have been apprehensive about how the event would be impacted by the rain. Pictured are two Teen Break attendees, Emma Barker and Emma Gallagher, writing "thank you" notes to the sponsors and volunteers of the program.

Boothe said. Since Jan. 1, Havasu has had 3.24 inches of rain according to the gauge at the Lake Havasu City's airport, the Weather Service's measuring point for cli-

mate conditions in this area.

However, Tuesday's rain will likely be the last residents will see of rain for another week or so — sunny skies are in store

for this weekend.

"You'll get a break in the weather, and we haven't had many lengthy breaks this season," Boothe said.

That's good news

for event organizers in Havasu. The annual renaissance faire, a triathlon and a new Irish-themed event called PaddyFest are scheduled for this weekend.

PIANO: PASSERSBY ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE THEIR OWN MUSIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

outdoor home on Friday at 3 p.m. "We hope we can reach somebody that really loves to play," Cunningham said.

She said she was inspired to place a piano in a public space in Havasu after seeing a "Play me, I'm yours" open air piano while visiting New Hampshire last fall.

"I thought it was a great idea. Why can't we have one in Havasu?" she said. She came back home and got to work to make it happen.

"The high school donated the piano," which hadn't been used in years," she said of the 1903 Cable-Nelson grand upright. Jim Hart built a cover for the piano.

Mother-daughter team Gloria Iverson and Cheryl Kiszczak gave the piano its distinctive new graph-

ics using oil-based exterior paints. The design element — a lighthouse, palm tree and silhouette of a man — tie back to James Dunham, for whom the piano will be dedicated Friday.

Cunningham said Dunham fiercely loved music. He died unexpectedly about a year ago. Previously, Dunham was director of the Havasu Community Choir and music director at Grace Episcopal Church.

Public pianos have been around for almost a decade across the globe, mostly in larger cities.

Located on streets, in public parks, markets and train stations, the pianos are available for everyone to play and enjoy. Remarkably, a public piano changes the dynam-

ic of the environment it's in. People stop to play it or stop to listen. The pianos spark accidental bonding.

Havasu's first street piano won't be its last, Cunningham said. She's optimistic that by this time next year, a second public piano can be installed under the London Bridge.

In the meantime, Havasu's downtown area piano will reside near the street and passersby are encouraged to play. To urge them on, there's a Havasu-style message painted inside the keyboard cover. It says "Play like you mean it."

Contact the non-profit James A. Dunham Organization at 619-993-9262 or 928-854-4799.

Pam Ashley can be reached at 928-453-4237, ext. 230 or pashley@havasunews.com.

Council approves \$1.1M contract for chip sealing work

By SCOTT SHINDLEDECKER
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Lake Havasu City Council unanimously approved a \$1.1 million contract for chip sealing of about 28 miles of several city byways at its bi-monthly meeting Tuesday evening.

Cholla Pavement Maintenance, Inc., of Apache Junction, will perform the work. It outbid Cactus Asphalt (\$1.28 million) and VSS International (\$1.21 million).

City Transportation and Maintenance Superintendent Ken Porosky said since 2012, 68 percent of the city's streets had been chip sealed. He discussed the costs and amount of years that chip sealing provides as opposed to slurry sealing, pointing out that chip sealing is nearly half the cost and offers at least double the duration.

Vice Mayor David Lane said "he hated chip sealing" but acknowledged that "this makes everyone's dollars go further."

When Lane asked Porosky about micro sealing, he said it would be done on a limited basis near some of the city's schools. "We gotta get more federal funding," Lane added.

Council's next regular meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 26. Also, council will hold a budget/CIP overview work session at 9 a.m., Thursday, April 25.

Chip sealing work planned

The following are scheduled for chip sealing:

- Acoma Blvd., from Gem Lane to Mesquite Ave.;
- Amberwood Ave., from Ponchartrain Drive to Palo Verde Blvd.;

- Arabian Drive, from Simitan Drive to Desert View Drive;
- Caliente Drive, from Ironwood Drive to Leawood Drive;
- Cardinal Drive, from Kiowa Avenue to Cactus Wren Drive;
- Chiricahua Drive, from Princess Drive to Buena Vista Ave.;
- Cisco Drive North, from Smoketree Avenue to El Dorado Ave.;
- Clover Lawn Drive, from Sandwood Drive to Catalina Drive;
- Crestview Drive, from Maverick Drive to Rustler Drive;
- Crestwind Drive, from Iroquois Drive to Maverick Drive;
- Daytona Ave., from Sunchaser Lane to Acoma Blvd.;
- Desert View Drive, from Kiowa Blvd.;
- El Dorado Ave., from Jamaica Blvd. to McCullough Blvd.;
- Fremont Drive, from Cataract Drive to Acoma Blvd.;
- Green Drive, from Jones Drive to Acoma Blvd.;
- Hidden Valley Drive, from Palo Verde Drive to Briarcrest Drive;
- Jamaica Blvd., from Pena Lane to Putt Lane;
- Lake Havasu Ave., from Palo Verde Blvd. to Alley 23;
- Lake Havasu Ave., from Sunflower Drive to Mulberry Ave.;
- Linda Drive, from Cactus Wren Drive to Kiowa Ave.;
- London Bridge Road, from Countryside/Wash to 35-foot Lane Northbound;

- Maracaibo Drive, from Maverick Drive to Mica Drive;
- Maricopa Ave., from Mockingbird Wash to Oro Grande Blvd.;
- Moccasin Drive, from Thunderbolt Avenue to Rolling Hills Drive;

- Oak Drive, from Cypress Drive to Chip Drive;
- Oro Grande Blvd., from Vaquero Drive to 3456 Oro Grande Blvd.;

- Palisades Drive, from Catalina Drive to Avalon Ave.;
- Palisades Court, from Palisades Drive to cul de sac;
- Paso Drive, from Acoma Blvd. to Fremont Drive;
- Penny Drive, from Cliffwood Drive to Ascot Drive;
- Rustler Drive, from 3287 Rustler Drive to Crestview Drive;
- Silverado Drive, from Rustler Drive to Crestview Drive;
- Simitan Drive, from Arabian Drive to Desert View Drive;
- Sombrero Drive, from Sand Dab Drive to Desert View Drive;
- Sombrero Drive, from Palo Verde Blvd. to Sand Dab Drive;
- Spruce Drive, from Walnut Drive to Oak Drive;
- Sloop Drive, from McCullough Blvd. to Chesapeake Blvd.;
- Sunflower Drive, from Lake Havasu Ave. to Smoketree Avenue;

- Sunken Tree Drive, from Empress Drive to Beverly Glen Drive;
- Swordfish Drive, from Jamaica Blvd. to McCullough Blvd.;
- Talisman Drive, from Viejo Drive to Viejo Drive;
- Walnut Drive, from Lake Havasu Ave. to Chip Drive.

Two parking lots are also scheduled for work, including the east end of one at April Lane, and the upper lot of site six at the fishing docks.

Others to be sealed include the following:

- Atlantic Ave., Avalon Avenue;
- Atlantic Drive, from Neptune Drive to Avalon Ave.;
- Avalon Ave., from Lake Havasu Avenue to Anita Ave.;
- Inverness Drive, from Palo Verde Blvd. to Avalon Ave.;
- Inverness Drive, from Daniel Drive to Glengarry Drive;
- Fisherman Drive, from Privateer Drive to Catamaran Drive;
- Flagship Drive, from Atlantic Drive to Riverbelle Drive;
- Outrigger Drive, from Avalon Ave. to Lake Havasu Ave.;
- Pebble Drive, from Anita Ave. to Avalon Ave.;
- Privateer Drive, from Avalon Ave. to Catamaran Drive;
- Riverbelle Drive, from Atlantic Drive to Malahini Drive;
- Alibi Drive, from Oakridge Drive to Anita Ave.;
- Alibi Drive, from Anita Ave. to Bentley Blvd.;
- Alley 3, from Bentley Blvd. to Alibi Drive;
- Appletree Drive, from Bentley Blvd. to Milan Drive;
- Appletree Drive, from East end to Bentley Blvd.;
- Corral Drive, from Alibi Drive to Oakridge Drive;
- Curtis Drive, from Milan Drive to Bentley Blvd.;
- Janet Drive, from Bentley Blvd. to Norris Drive;
- Milan Drive, from Curtis Drive to Palo Verde Blvd.;
- Milan Court, from Milan Drive to cul de sac;
- Norris Drive, from North End to Janet Drive;
- Oakridge Drive, from West End to Appletree Drive;
- Briar Way, from Tarpon Drive to Mission Drive;
- Cattail Drive, from Yonder Drive to Mission Drive;
- Cherrytree Drive, from McCullough Blvd. to Mission Drive;
- El Toro Drive, from Tarpon Drive to Jamaica Blvd.;
- Mission Drive, from McCullough Blvd. to Chesapeake Blvd.;
- Mission Way, from Mission Drive South to Sloop Drive;
- Pelican Drive, from Tarpon Drive to Swordfish Drive;
- Tarpon Drive, from McCullough Blvd. to Indian Peak Drive;
- Yonder Drive, from McCullough Blvd to Tarpon Drive.

SWANSON: CONSTRUCTION EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN EARLY APRIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

road construction on Lake Havasu Avenue, where the city is widening the street and adding medians. City officials say the Lake Havasu Avenue project is scheduled to be completed by Memorial Day.

City officials say the planned changes were prompted by several studies completed over the years, including 2007's R/UDAT Report, 2012's PARA Study, 2015's Vision 20/20 Revitalization Plan and last year's Bicycle and Pedestrian Implementation Plan.

The project is funded using mostly federal funds and is being managed by the Arizona Department of Transportation.

ASU Havasu campus director Raymond Van Der

Riet said he didn't expect the road work and elimination of street parking to pose any immediate problems for the college, but said it could have a longer-term impact as the campus approaches capacity.

"However, that would be at least 10 years-plus out," he said in an email. "Even then, we should have several options internal to the campus that could address these pressures--maximizing our space to include more parking," he said.

The project is funded primarily with Federal-aid funds (94.3%) and managed by ADOT. The project is anticipated to take approximately four months to complete, once construction begins in early April.

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