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YUMA AND REGION

B
THURSDAY
MARCH 15, 2007

In Yuma:
Marines deploying
to Iraq
DETAILS/B3

► CORRECTION

In Wednesday's edition of The Sun, in the article titled "4 suspected in killing of Yuma woman," Lydia Correa's survivor was incorrectly identified. She is survived by a 20-year-old son. The Sun regrets the error.

► STATE IN BRIEF

Gila River Indians planning \$60 million casino
CHANDLER (AP) — The Gila River Indian Community plans to build a \$60 million casino on tribal land adjacent to south Chandler.

The site is less than three miles from residents in Gilbert and Sun Lakes and just across the street from south Chandler homes.

The 120,000-square-foot casino is expected to have up to 750 slot machines, a 750-seat bingo hall, two restaurants and a food court.

It's expected to open in fall 2008.

► LOTTERIES

Winning numbers selected Wednesday, March 14.

ARIZONA

Fantasy Five - 24,29,14,12,17
Pick 3 - 4,8,5
The Pick - 15,40,21,34,20,13
& Bonus Ball - 2

CALIFORNIA

Fantasy Five - 2,4,9,17,33
Afternoon Daily 3 - 9,3,8
Evening Daily 3 - 4,7,7
SuperLotto Plus -
4,15,17,20,35
& Megamillion - 23

POWERBALL

4,27,30,39,44
& Powerball - 18

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YUHSD appoints new superintendent

► Toni Badone will assume post when Foist retires in July

BY SARAH REYNOLDS
SUN STAFF WRITER

Yuma Union High School District will soon be led by one of its own.

The YUHSD governing board appointed Toni Badone, the current assistant superintendent of curriculum, to take over as

superintendent when Tim Foist retires July 1.

Badone has been with YUHSD for 23 years. She began her career there as an English and speech teacher at Kofa High School in 1984.

"I'm very excited, very honored that the board looked inside for internal candidates,"

Badone said.

She was chosen by the governing board at its regular meeting Wednesday night.

"This was an item the board took very seriously. We've debated and discussed a lot of points," said Phil Townsend, YUHSD board president. "Toni is extremely qualified. She's held most of the positions within the district and she's worked in partnership with other entities like Arizona Western College."

Townsend said the board still has to negotiate a contract with

Badone but there will not be any further outside search.

He added that Johnny Rico, assistant superintendent of human resources, was also considered for the position.

"It could have been a coin toss between them," Townsend said. "It was just splitting hairs."

When Foist was appointed in 2004, it came after months of searching for candidates outside Yuma. Foist was superintendent of Holbrook Unified School

SEE APPOINTS/B3

► "WE
NEED TO
DREAM BIG
AND SET
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GOALS
THAT CAN
ACHIEVE THAT DREAM FOR
ALL OUR STUDENTS."

— Toni Badone



TONI BADONE

The MAIN ST 100 S event

► City to celebrate reopening of Main Street

■ CONTINUING COVERAGE

BY JEFFREY GAUTREUX
SUN STAFF WRITER

A two-day celebration March 30-31 will mark the reopening of Main Street to traffic, concluding a construction project that began in July.

City of Yuma riverfront manager Charles Flynn said all work is expected to be completed and the road to be fully open in time for the event, which may include a classic car cruise. Flynn said the entertainment was still being worked out.

"I have a high degree of confidence that we'll be ready," he said. "The one item that may not be completed is the large fountain by the 224 (Main St.) Shops."

Desert Road Builders is the contractor on the project to replace aging utility lines and reopen the road to traffic. The initial schedule called for completion in November, but unexpected underground problems prolonged the project for months.

The contract with the city



MAIN STREET shoppers have been greeted with construction signs and fenced in sidewalks in front of many downtown businesses. All of the dirt and roadbuilding equipment is expected to be gone later this month when the street will reopen.

offered financial incentives for finishing early and penalties for finishing past deadlines. The city had previously moved the deadline to Dec. 18, 2006, due to the underground issues, and Flynn said the deadline was moved again to Jan. 18, 2007, for

the same reasons.

Flynn said city officials and the contractor have had "substantive discussions" on the contract and the issue of penalties, but he could not offer any details about them.

"I think the goal is to reach

some understanding before the end of the project," Flynn said. "We think we're making progress."

Under the \$3.8 million construction contract, the contractor is obligated to pay \$9,312 in penalties for every day that the project is not done past the completion date, according to a previous article in The Sun.

Traffic has been open on Main Street from 1st to 2nd streets and from 3rd Street to Giss Parkway for some time, but the center block has been closed basically since July. Merchants in the area have complained about the loss of their lucrative winter season, and some have signs in the window saying they are going out of business.

The city, with the support of some downtown merchants, chose to eliminate the pedestrian mall that had covered Main Street to reopen the area to two-way traffic as a way to revitalize it and increase visibility and business in the area.

Jeffrey Gautreaux can be reached at
jgautreaux@yumasun.com or 539-6868.

CASTING CALL INFO

- When: 8 a.m. Sunday until complete
- Where: Clarion Suites, 2600 S. 4th Ave.
- Needed: Actors and actresses between ages 20 and 65

MORE INFO

- Call: 1-520-559-6532
- Send e-mail to:
lawless.roads@gmail.com

Yuma-based movie crew plans first film

► Both local performers and locations needed for original story about only prisoner of war

BY DARIN FENGER
SUN STAFF WRITER

Some young movie-makers from here are planning their first film, and they want the people and places of Yuma County to be the stars.

Yuma-based Airborne Productions Inc. plans to start filming next month on "The Lawless Roads," the true story of Sgt. Keith Matthew Maupin, the only American prisoner of war to date from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Casting director Susan Boisture said the feature-length project needs both performers and locations for filming.

"Right now, we're pretty much just getting the ball rolling," Boisture said. "We're in

the advertising process, trying to get all of our performers together."

She said "The Lawless Roads" will feature 40 actors and one actress, although a few roles could be rewritten for female talent. All performers will be from Yuma, too. No professionals from outside of town will be included in the project. The five starring roles range from Army Reserve members and private contractors to Iraqi fighters.

"We plan on getting a lot of our actors from Arizona Western College," Boisture said.

The first casting call for the movie is slated for Sunday, starting at 8 a.m. at the Clarion Suites hotel, 2600 S. 4th Ave.

Airborne Productions Inc. is led by executive producer James

► "WE ARE A START-UP
COMPANY AND ALTHOUGH WE
HAVE A LOT OF GOOD PEOPLE
BEHIND US, WE COULD ALWAYS
USE MORE."

— James Bretney, a local Iraq
veteran

Bretney, a local veteran of the Iraq war. Boisture said that Bretney, a contract engineer at Yuma Proving Ground, wrote the screenplay for "The Lawless Roads"; the film's director, James Austin, is an employee of KYMA-TV; and Boisture describes herself as "just a stay-at-home mom."

"We're all just Yuma people involved in this," she said.

Bretney wrote the piece with the help of Silver Star and Purple Heart recipients Jeremy Church and Jarob Walsh, members of Sgt. Matthew Maupin's

unit who were decorated for their actions on the day Maupin disappeared.

The production company is also looking for people and businesses willing to offer their buildings and land for use in the movie. Boisture said several locations near Dateland have already been selected.

"We need locations that could look like a motor pool inside and out, plus desert scenes that could look like Iraq. We also need places that could be barracks rooms or mess halls."

SEE FILM/B3

Talks moving forward in Gadsden

► Teachers to get retroactive raises

BY SARAH REYNOLDS
SUN STAFF WRITER

The Gadsden Elementary School District has begun to reverse damage to the district caused by an announcement in early February that it was facing a \$500,000 deficit.

The teachers will be given retroactive raises for the 2006-07 school year, and they have been promised another pay increase for next year.

And classrooms should start returning to normal, after district officials put a freeze on substitute teachers.

The governing board and district officials announced the measures at its regular meeting Tuesday. Roughly 75 school employees and parents marched down the street of San Luis to the board meeting. They were protesting the change in the administration. The board voted to increase the district's budget capacity by \$500,000 thanks to emergency funds granted by the state.

After a month of this controversy between administrators and teachers, both sides say they are wary; but hopeful for a resolution after the recent board meeting.

Board president Luis Marquez said they would try to open a dialogue with the Arizona Education Association - a teacher advocacy organization - and its Gadsden branch.

"The district is willing to talk and the district is willing to listen to them," Marquez said. "We're working in the right direction."

Gail Smith, president of the Gadsden Education Association, said she has not been personally contacted by the board of administration. However, she said she

SEE GADSDEN/B3

Legislature launches new cable TV system

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — The Arizona Legislature may be on a television set near you, either now or in the near future.

The Legislature on Wednesday launched Arizona Capitol TV, a new service initially being shown on cable channel 123 on Cox Communications' digital system in the Phoenix area.

Cox said it is offering the service to other Arizona cable TV providers for free and that discussions are under way with two of them, Comcast and CableOne.

Programming includes House and Senate floor sessions and committee hearings, either live or tape-delayed, as well as shows provided by schools, state agencies and other organizations.

Senate President Tim Wicker and House Speaker Jim Weiers said the new service would help Arizonans better track what their lawmakers are doing.