

Greater Yuma EDC Investors Making News



January 22, 2016 Issue

- **Congrats To Yuma International Airport**
- **Castle Dome Principal Wins Rodel Honor**
- **APS: Thanks For Powering Yuma's Economic Future**
- **YRMC Hits Heart Surgery Milestone With New Procedure**



Congrats to Yuma International Airport

Posted: Sunday, January 17, 2016 1:00 am | Updated: 9:52 am, Mon Jan 18, 2016.

By Darin Fenger, features editor

Congrats to Yuma International Airport on choosing a local contractor, DPE Construction, Inc. for a \$2.1 million project to rehabilitate an asphalt apron.

Note: I had to look up “asphalt apron,” which is the part of the airport where aircraft are typically parked, unloaded or loaded, refueled, or boarded. (Now we all know).

This particular area is part of the airport’s Defense Contractor Complex. It’s adjacent to Taxiway F and the airport’s jet blast deflector.

The project, which has a total cost of \$2.4 million, has been under design since early summer of last year.

The project amounts to be an important one because the current combination of concrete and asphalt has crumbled over the year, leading to bits of foreign matter that can hazardous to airplanes.

Work begins next month.

CASTLE DOME PRINCIPAL WINS RODEL HONOR



Photo by Amy Crawford/Yuma Sun

Castle Dome Middle School Principal Lori Sheffield has been named a Rodel Exemplary Principal for 2016.

"It's exciting," she said during an interview with the Yuma Sun. "I'm kind of a little star-struck because I know some of the other people who have been exemplary principals or have been nominated, and I think that's a wow factor for me."

Yuma District One Superintendent Darwin Stiffler said, "I am glad that the entire state will know what Castle Dome already knows, Lori Sheffield is an exemplary principal."

Posted: Monday, January 11, 2016 10:23 pm | Updated: 10:24 pm, Mon Jan 11, 2016.

By Amy Crawford Sun Staff Writer
ACrawford

Posted on Jan 11, 2016 by Amy Crawford

"Principal Sheffield performs heroic unsung work every day," Stiffler continued. "I can't imagine a more deserving or appropriate principal for this prestigious award."

Sheffield, whose education career spans 17 years, is one of eight Rodel Exemplary Principals for 2016 across the state of Arizona.

A New York native, Sheffield has worked as a classroom teacher/counselor for three years; eight years as a counselor; one year as a regional summer school principal; two years as an assistant principal; and five years as a principal. She has degrees in psychology/creative art therapy (dual major), with a concentration in music from Russell Sage College; a Master of Science in rehabilitation counseling/school counseling (dual major) from Syracuse University; and a Master of Arts in educational leadership from St. Lawrence University.

"Rodel Exemplary Principals represent some of the best school leaders that Arizona has to offer," said Howard Paley, Rodel chief operating officer.

"Exemplary principals mentor Aspiring Principals over a two-year period and participate in Rodel-led seminars that help them develop the strategies and tactics needed to lead an effective school in Arizona, while also providing them with the opportunity to build and maintain a network of similarly qualified leaders that can provide support and guidance throughout their careers," according to the Rodel Foundation of Arizona web site.

Continue next page ...

CASTLE DOME
PRINCIPAL WINS RODEL
HONOR



The principals were chosen from schools in “high-need communities,” according to a news release from the Rodel Foundation, and how they demonstrated their abilities to “inspire their staff to contribute to school-wide success and the development of a campus that is high achieving, safe, orderly and welcoming.”

“One of the many reasons Lori is so deserving of this award is her demonstrated ability to mentor aspiring principals,” Stiffler said.

One such person who Sheffield inspired is Woodard Junior High Principal Daniel Acosta, who last year was assistant principal at Castle Dome Middle working under Sheffield.

“Her work ethic inspires and calls for others to give more of themselves for the good of the whole. She supports an environment where people are unafraid to ‘fail forward,’ learn from errors, and improve,” Acosta said in an email interview.

“Students respond to her in a positive way because they know that she truly believes in them as individuals and that her ultimate priority at Castle Dome is the welfare of all that walk through her hallways. ... She is committed in developing leaders, within children and adults, that will continue to keep Castle Dome the exceptional place that it is today. All of this carries over to my efforts at Woodard Jr. High School. I share her philosophy of taking into consideration the development of the whole child; emotionally, academically, and socially.”

As a school administrator, Sheffield said she’s been in good company with her peers.

“I know some of the other people that have been nominated are better than I am... they’re outstanding so it’s humbling to be put with them.”

One person whom Sheffield immediately relayed the good news to was one of her teachers who is terminally ill.

“... I did call her and let her know already, because she’s been a huge influence on me. She’s an amazing teacher who’s dying of cancer. She needed to know... Her influence on me in making me just a better person, I think that that’s why this is happening.

Continue next page...

CASTLE DOME PRINCIPAL WINS RODEL HONOR

"You know you have that one person in life that can ... call you out on anything? That can be brutally honest when you need them to be? That's Judy Ling for me. She is terminal, so I was able to share that with her today and that was fun. I think that's my bigger celebrations. I was able to share it with Judy before she passed away. That's exciting."

"It's amazing" Sheffield said of being named an Exemplary Principal. "It's just awesome for my school and all the teachers and all the staff and all the kids and families. They've worked really, really hard."

Sheffield said when she first started working at Castle Dome seven years ago, the school was known locally as "Castle Doom." But the turnaround has been fast – and with a plus.

"They've just changed so many things for the better and for the positive," she said.

"It's really cool that the whole school will get some attention for everything that they've worked so hard for."



APS: Thanks For Powering Yuma's Economic Future

Posted: Sunday, January 3, 2016 12:30 am
By Anna Chaulk

Welcome to a new year and new beginnings! If you're like me, you're looking ahead at 2016 with great optimism because of the challenges and opportunities that are ahead.

One of the challenges I am really excited about is serving on the board of the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce.

As you know, the goal of the Chamber is to promote and grow local businesses. This is something that has been important to me since a small business opportunity brought my family to Yuma in the early 1980s.

Since then, I've seen many positive changes in our community. Among them is continued rejuvenation of the downtown area. In fact, Main Street is one of my favorite places in Yuma. I love the quaint shops and the locally-owned restaurants — some of the few in Yuma that still offer al fresco dining. Each time there is a festival or block party on Main, I make it a point to enjoy the celebration, then pop in to visit the local business owners and buy a thing or two.

According to the city of Yuma, every dollar spent locally generates 1.7 cents in sales tax for the city. Of every \$20 spent at a locally owned shop, \$6 will stay in the local economy and will be circulated three to four times.

That is only one of the many reasons I'm excited to apply to my board service at the Chamber. I know the importance of supporting and growing local business. Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation, Yuma Private Industry Council, Goodwill, and United for Yuma are among the organizations that Arizona Public Service is proud to support because they share that same idea, and they work to connect a home-grown job force to local companies.

In addition to being a long-time Yuma resident coming from a small-business family, I am also bringing my perspective to the board as an APS employee. As one of the state's oldest and largest home-grown businesses, APS understands how working together with the communities we serve can develop long-term economic success for everyone.

When my tenure on the Chamber's board begins Jan. 30, I will be one of about 300 APS employees serving on boards throughout the state. At APS, we believe that our success goes hand-in-hand with the growth of our communities. That is one of the reasons why APS is also so supportive of employee volunteerism.

In fact, last year was the second year in a row in which the Phoenix Business Journal recognized APS as having one of the top corporate volunteer programs in the valley.

Additionally, the program was recognized by St. Vincent de Paul with the Volunteer Service Award for "demonstrating excellence and inspiring others."

I am proud to work for a company that places such value on service to Arizona's wonderful communities, and I look forward to all the new beginnings 2016 has in store.

Have a very happy and healthy new year!

Anna Chaulk is the community affairs manager for APS. She can be reached at anna.chaulk@aps.com.



YRMC Hits Heart Surgery Milestone With New Procedure

Posted: Saturday, January 16, 2016 3:12 pm | Updated: 9:39 pm, Sat Jan 16, 2016.
By Blake Herzog, @BlakeHerzog



Loaned photo/Vincent Czyzewski

Evren Kaynak

Dr. Evren Kaynak is one of a team of five physicians at Yuma Regional Medical Center that perform the TAVR surgical procedure.

Yuma Regional Medical Center has reached a milestone in the world of cardiology, having completed 100 of a new type of heart surgery which eliminates the need for open-heart procedures.

The TAVR -- transcatheter aortic valve replacement -- procedure inserts a collapsible device which replaces the aortic valve in patients with severe aortic valve stenosis, or narrowing of the valve to the main artery carrying blood from the heart.

The device is inserted via catheter through either an artery in the groin or an opening between the ribs, then expanded with a tiny balloon when it reaches the aortic valve. It expands to open the aorta up and function as an artificial valve, which otherwise would have been inserted by cracking open the patient's chest.

"Over the last two years, it's kind of gotten hold of the cardiac world. In the United States, it's getting more and more popular because it's a minimally invasive procedure, patients go home after 48 hours and they feel great, and they don't have to go through open-heart surgery, which is a scary thing to hear," said Dr. Evren Kaynak, one of a team of five physicians at YRMC which performs the surgery.

The procedure for now is primarily performed on patients with a high risk of complications from the more invasive surgery. "These are frail, elderly people, which are actually a big proportion of Yuma's population, and they benefit significantly," he said.

YRMC Hits Heart Surgery Milestone With New Procedure

Later this year, he said, the team will start performing TAVR surgeries on "medium-risk" patients, and it could replace all open-heart valve procedures by 2018.

Hospital recovery time is generally about two to five days after the surgery, versus seven to 10 for open-heart surgery. Patients return to normal levels of activity one to two weeks later, versus six weeks for the traditional surgery.

"It just has all the advantages, because they don't have to have their chest cut open, and they don't have to stay in the hospital seven to 10 days or even longer. The second thing is the risk of dying from heart disease is zero right after the procedure. And they report a tremendous increase in exercise, activity levels in a week. I've had patients go back on the golf course within five days," Kaynak said.

According to the website operated by Edwards Lifesciences, the manufacturer of the TAVR heart valve, its patients do face a higher risk of stroke than those treated through open-heart surgery and other conventional methods.

TAVR is a labor-intensive surgery, performed at YRMC by a team of 19 surgeons, cardiologists, anesthesiologists, nurses, radiology technologists and surgical scrub techs who monitor the high-tech instruments used.

The hospital's heart team, led by Dr. James Moon, underwent rigorous training and other preparations before doing their first TAVR surgeries, less than two years ago, to ensure successfully completing the difficult procedure.

"You're actually kind of traveling upstream, through the femoral artery, up into the heart, so you're kind of driving up the highway or going upstream, to exactly place that TAVR where it needs to be. So to have that level of expertise in Yuma is phenomenal," said Rick Plummer, YRMC marketing director.

YRMC is one of just six facilities in Arizona that offer the procedure, and about a quarter of heart hospitals nationwide that have it. Kaynak said that number isn't expected to grow very quickly to keep the teams that have that expertise intact and successful.

Continue next page ...

YRMC Hits Heart Surgery Milestone With New Procedure

Kanyak said the YRMC team has had a 98 percent success rate with TAVR, while the remaining two percent died from other pre-existing medical conditions.

He said having done 100 surgeries will gain the hospital additional recognition for offering the procedure on websites providing information about the surgery, and could indirectly benefit other cardiac surgery patients at YRMC.

"It opens the door to other procedures, to all other minimally invasive heart procedures or surgeries, because this is just the beginning. We just closed our first hole in a heart a couple of weeks ago," Kaynak said. "And that's going to evolve over the next couple of months to more and more high-tech surgeries, so this is just the beginning."

Peni Grabowski, 77, who has homes in Yuma and Carlsbad, Calif., became YRMC's 100th TAVR patient on Jan. 6. She said Friday she is "doing about as well as can be expected," following the procedure and a three-day hospital stay.

"I was happy to be able to have the operation, and not have to go through your chest and break your bones, stuff like that," she said.

She did take some comfort in knowing she had been the 100th person treated at YRMC with a TAVR valve. "I was just glad I was there. Well, at least 100 means they know what they're doing. And my doctors were outstanding."

Though she was seeing Yuma cardiologist Dr. Khidir Osman in Yuma, she said she was inclined to have the surgery at hospitals in San Diego where she's undergone other surgeries, until she toured the YRMC facilities. "I was amazed at how modern and new, and how everything was really exceptional there at the heart center. Everything is new, and the nurses are outstanding, you get really good care there," she said.



YUMA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Caring for the growing needs of our communities