

Greater Yuma EDC Investors Making News



May 11, 2016 Issue

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Weather Station Online At Valley Horizon

Posted: Sunday, May 1, 2016 3:45 pm | Updated: 7:44 pm, Sun May 1, 2016.
By Amy Crawford, Sun Staff Writer

Now when it rains in the Yuma Valley (and not just at MCAS Yuma), the precipitation can call itself “official.”

That’s because Yuma’s second reporting weather station went live at about 6:15 Friday (April 22) evening after it was installed at Valley Horizon Elementary School. Reporting means that the weather data will be available to the public and to the various weather reporting agencies such as the National Weather Service through WeatherBug’s national database, said weather station installer Bill Angel, international field service representative for WeatherBug by Earth Networks.

“It’s going to be beneficial to a lot of people,” said local businessman Robert McNeece, of the McNeece Bros. petroleum company. McNeece donated the weather station, which cost more than \$6,000, to the Crane School District where his wife teaches at Mesquite Elementary School. Angel, a friend of McNeece, donated his time and labor to install the machine, cables and programming.

McNeece explained that Yuma County actually has lots of weather stations, especially among the irrigation districts. But they are privately owned, and supply their data only on the districts’ websites. Or the data is locked down, Angel said, and/or not connected to a publicly accessible network.

Weather Underground, which uses data from personal weather stations to give a more accurate forecast, shows about 25 weather stations in and around the Yuma region, including one at the University of Arizona Agriculture Station.

Most of Yuma’s “official” weather comes from the station at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Angel said.



Photo by

Amy
Crawford/Yuma Sun

Weather station

Bill Angel, California/International field services technician for WeatherBug, gets ready to mount the weather station at Valley Horizon Elementary School on Friday afternoon. The station, the second public reporting station in Yuma, will benefit not only the students at the school, but the whole community, said Robert McNeece, the Yuma businessman who donated the station to the school.

“The one at the air station is ... part of the National Weather Service. So it’s not that it’s the ‘official’ station’, but up until the one at Valley Horizon was operational, it was the only weather station where you could get weather information for Yuma.”

The weather station at Valley Horizon came about in a roundabout way. McNeece crossed paths with Angel while both were out searching for geocaches, a hobby the men have in common. The two became friends and started “caching” together. Angel, who lives in California, mentioned to McNeece that he’d always wanted to install a weather station in Yuma, and that his company, Earth Networks (which owns WeatherBug), had some cool educational tools. That conversation kept coming back to McNeece.

“It’s always been in the back of my mind that it would be kind of nice to have something here and when Bill told me about the education part, it was like, maybe we can find some sponsorship through this, maybe like a Rotary club or someone who might pick it up as a grant.”

Finding a sponsor or grantor didn’t pan out, so McNeece, along with his wife, just decided to have the company purchase the weather station. Crane Superintendent Robert Klee picked Valley Horizon for the weather station’s location, McNeece said.

Principal Michael Hoffman said the school is pleased to have it, and over the summer will develop a curriculum plan to incorporate the WeatherBug educational platform into science classroom lessons.

“I’m hoping that it goes all the way through K–6 because Mrs. (Elizabeth) Colton is a K–6 science specialist and we’re hoping that it involves everyone – in some way,” Hoffman said.



Photo by Amy Crawford/Yuma Sun

A learning opportunity

Valley Horizon Elementary students take a peak at the corner of their school as WeatherBug technician Bill Angel installs a weather station there as Y3K IT Services owner David Grinder explains what's going on to a student.

The weather station comes equipped with several data indicators, Angel said, including what's known as a "spark alert," which is a lightning detector. It senses and records lightning from the surrounding area. It can "see" lightning as much as 300 to 400 miles away, he noted.

"The Valley Horizon Elementary Weather station portion provides temperature, current humidity, rainfall for the day, the month and the year," Angel said. "And then there's some other calculations – dew point, heat index. That's all derived through calculations based on what temperature measurements and humidity measurements we get from the station."

Students will be able to graph calculations, compare charts, review data and fulfill other academic standards, Hoffman said.

One recent Friday afternoon, Angel, McNeece, Crane Maintenance and Grounds Director Fred Verdugo and local IT expert David Grinder were on hand to help with the installation. Angel started in the morning on the servers, installing software. The total installation time was about 12.5 hours, he said.

"Not only is it geeky and fun, but it benefits a lot of people – and the kids," Grinder said.

As school let out that afternoon, Angel was on the roof, and kids and their parents were watching with rapt curiosity as he made some final adjustments.

The weather station went live about 6:15 p.m. that Friday evening, McNeece said. It has a battery backup in case of electrical failure and will continue to collect data for two weeks.

Having the data instrument at their doorstep is great for Valley Horizon, the principal said.

"I was really surprised, and I was so grateful," Hoffman said. "It fits perfectly with our focus with our STEM and with (Mrs. Colton's) STEM background. So we're very happy with the donation. It's great to have it."

To get the WeatherBug app, go to the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. You can also download it for your desk top or find it in the Chrome store.

Tucson Spanish Channel Spotlight Crane Schools

Posted: Friday, April 29, 2016 3:50 pm
From Staff Reports

KUVE Univision Tucson recently highlighted two Crane District schools.

The Spanish-language television station, which has an affiliate in Tucson, filmed footage at two Crane schools, Salida del Sol and Gary Knox.

The station's visit was two-fold, said Trina Siegfried, spokeswoman and grant writer for the school district.

The filming coincided with the district's visit from Apple executives Eddie Cue and Lisa Jackson, who have adopted Crane District schools as part of the Apple ConnectED grant. The station filmed a piece about the Apple grant the school district received.

The station was also working on a news piece about Internet accessibility for Hispanic families, Siegfried said.

"Apparently 50 percent of our Hispanic homes (in the state) don't have access to the Internet at home," she said, and Univision was filming in Crane to show how the district has helped bridge that gap.

Teachers and parent and grandparent volunteers took part in the interviews, Siegfried said. "It was awesome of them to come and showcase some of our programs," she said.



YRMC Launches New Award For Nurses

Posted: Sunday, May 8, 2016 3:56 pm | Updated: 8:27 am, Mon May 9, 2016.

By Rachel Twoguns, @RTwoguns

For her compassion toward an end-of-life patient, Marybel Gonzalez was awarded with Yuma Regional Medical Center's very first DAISY Award for outstanding nurses.

YRMC has recently partnered with the national program, the DAISY Award, to honor their nurses on a monthly basis. In total, about 17 nurses were nominated for the first month at YRMC and the first award took place on Friday as part of a kickoff to National Nurses Week.

According to YRMC's website, the DAISY Foundation was established in 1999 by the family of J. Patrick Barnes who passed away after complications of the auto-immune disease, Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia Purpura, at the age of 33.

DAISY, as it explains on the hospital's site, is an acronym for disease attacking the immune system and during Barnes' eight weeks of hospitalization, his family was "awestruck by the care and compassion his nurses provided, not only to Patrick, but to everyone in his family."

It also states on YRMC's site that one of the goals the Barnes' family set in establishing a foundation in Barnes' memory was to "recognize extraordinary nurses everywhere who make an enormous difference in the lives of so many people by the superhuman work they do every day."

Jennifer Stanton, administrative director of clinical operations at YRMC, read the nomination for Gonzalez at the award ceremony. "This nurse demonstrates quality commitment and compassion with each and every one of her patients."



Rachel Twoguns/Yuma Sun

Compassionate care

As part of a kickoff to National Nurses Week, Yuma Regional Medical Center recently partnered with a national program, the DAISY Award, and will recognize their nurses on a monthly basis. From left: Jennifer Stanton, Marybel Gonzalez (first DAISY Award recipient) and Jenni Welch.

Continue next page ...

The nomination also recounted a time when Gonzalez showed kindness to a patient. “On one occasion while routing with her (Gonzalez) to see if she needed help, I observed her go into an isolation room and I followed her and asked her if she needed help. She explained to me that the patient was an end-of-life, actively dying and had no family in Yuma. She was in there to place eye drops in patient’s eyes in order to help with dryness and this nurse explained that the patient did not like the eye drops.”

“At this time the patient no longer expressed herself or was able to communicate,” the nomination explained. “The nurse leaned over to the patient, held her hand, calling the patient’s name and telling the patient ‘I am here with you and you are not alone.’“

Throughout the whole encounter, the nomination showed that Gonzalez continuously comforted the patient while attending to her dry mouth and lips. “My heart was moved, she demonstrated altruistic compassion for this patient in the end-of-life.”

Gonzalez, who said she has been a nurse going on two years, stated that she believes there are many nurses at YRMC that merit the recognition. “I feel great but a little unworthy. I feel like there are so many great nurses here that deserve the same award. I love the people I work with and I think it’s such a great team.”

For more information on the DAISY Award and to find out how to nominate a nurse, visit <http://www.yumaregional.org/body.cfm?id=1180>.



DAISY Award winner

Marybel Gonzalez was nominated for the DAISY Award for the compassion she showed to an end-of-life patient. She was given daisies along with other items such as a trophy as part of the award.

Rachel Twoguns/Yuma Sun

Comings and Goings: Groundwork Laid At New Health Center

Posted: Sunday, May 1, 2016 1:45 am | Updated: 7:54 am, Mon May 2, 2016.

By Matt Harding, Yuma Sun staff writer

More than two years ago, a Yuma Sun article, “After years, tribes anticipate new health center,” detailed the new Fort Yuma Health Care Center, which will serve the Cocopah and Quechan tribes.

A January article in the Sun provided an in-depth look at the future facility and its meaning to the tribes, which were present for a groundbreaking ceremony.

Now, Pilkington Construction Company is laying the groundwork for the project, which is being built on the Quechan Reservation just northwest Paradise Casino on a former RV park, surrounded by Quechan Drive, Agnes Road, Indian Hill Road and Picacho Road.



Photo by Randy Hoeft/Yuma Sun

Gathering for groundbreaking (from Jan 27, 2016)

Sherry Cordova (left), Chairwoman of the Cocopah Tribal Council, and Mike Jackson Sr. (right), president of the Quechan Tribal Council, pose for photos together during Wednesday morning's groundbreaking ceremony for the Fort Yuma Health Care Facility at Quechan Drive and Agnes Road on the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation.

The current Fort Yuma Health Center, at 1 Indian Hill Rd., includes some of the oldest buildings on the federal Indian Health Service inventory. The administration building was constructed in 1852, and the main clinic was built in 1936.

Stay tuned for a detailed construction update in about a month or so.

Xponential 2016: K-MAX Set for USMC Demonstration Role

Huw Williams, New Orleans - IHS Jane's Defence Weekly
05 May 2016

Lockheed Martin is set to move its two K-MAX rotary-wing unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) to the Yuma Proving Grounds in Arizona.

Speaking to IHS Jane's at AUVSI's Xponential 2016 conference and exhibition, Lockheed Martin's Jon McMillen said that the systems will act as testbed aircraft for the US Marine Corps (USMC) when they are deployed this summer.

The aircraft were previously operational with the USMC in Afghanistan where they provided a cargo resupply capability. Following their return from theatre, the K-MAX systems were maintained by Lockheed Martin at their Owego, New York facilities.

McMillen said that at Yuma, the aircraft will be operated by USMC personnel with maintenance and sustainment support from Lockheed Martin. The aircraft will be used as test assets for a range of payloads and projected mission sets that the USMC envisages for unmanned systems in the future.

The USMC will be examining the K-MAX as multi-mission UAS and is set to integrate a variety of systems on the platform, including intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) equipment, and a high-bandwidth satellite communications system.

McMillen described the platform as a "flying hardpoint", and noted that the integration plan has been driven in part from lessons learned in Afghanistan and feedback from operators as to potential applications for the aircraft.

During its deployment in theatre, a number of capabilities were introduced beyond those of its cargo UAS role, including the use of a beacon with optical diodes that can be placed in a drop zone and then detected by a sensor on the aircraft that can correct its course to deliver cargo wherever the beacon is located.

The aircraft will also be used to study how marines on the ground inter-operate with UAS.



The K-MAX successfully operated as a cargo delivery asset in Afghanistan. Source: USMC