

Greater Yuma EDC Investors Making News



November 29, 2016 Issue

- **New Mayor, Council Members Take Office In Somerton**
- **Stratajet Partners With Million Air In U.S.**
- **City Seeks Applicants For Neighborhood Leadership**
- **2 YUHSD Schools Get \$2.3 Million Grant**
- **Pioneer Tile Agency**
- **2017 Committee Assignments**

NEW MAYOR, COUNCIL MEMBERS TAKE OFFICE IN SOMERTON

By Cesar Neyoy, Bajo El Sol Updated Nov 15, 2016

SOMERTON – Jose Yepez has taken office as this city's new mayor, pledging to move ahead with city's current development projects, among them new parks and a new City Hall building.

Yepez, a longtime Somerton resident and business owner, and newly elected Somerton City Council members Luis Galindo, Martha Garcia and Jesus Roldan were sworn into office by Yuma County Superior Court Judge John Paul Plante in a special ceremony on Monday.

Yepez, who himself had been serving as a councilman, was elected in the August primary election to finish the remaining two years of the term of Martin Porchas, who stepped down to run for a seat on the Yuma County Board of Supervisors.

Yepez said his goal over the next two years is to "move forward with (projects) we already have started." Those include the ongoing construction of a larger City Hall, which is being financed with a sales tax levied in the city, plus negotiations to purchase land for an athletic complex that city residents would share with students of a future Somerton high school.



Photo by Cesar Neyoy/Bajo El Sol

The mayor and new council members are sworn in in Somerton

Also among the city's plans that Yepez wants to see through to completion is a new city park to be located at the base of Somerton's water tower. Centennial Park is projected to be completed in time for the celebration of Somerton's 100th birthday as an Arizona city.

He said the city will do its part to improve on celebrations that already bring numerous visitors to Somerton, such as the Tamale Festival in December and the Somerton Corn Festival, which was celebrated for the second time earlier this month.

But apart from those activities, Yepez added, "there are things that we can do in the short term. With the council as a whole, we will determine what is possible according to the budget."

Also in the primary election, Galindo was re-elected to the council, while Garcia and Roldan were elected for the first time. All three will serve four-year terms.

Yepez said the city will benefit from the diversity of experience that each member brings to the city council

"I believe we are all very capable," he said. "Each one brings a different profile, and that's what helps us. Besides having the perspective of a woman, we have that of a (medical professional) and of an engineer. That will help us in all that we are working on right now."

Roldan joins the council after having once served as Somerton's parks and recreation director. "We will do our best to guide our city," he said.

Garcia heads U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva's Yuma County office. Assuming elective office for the first time, she said she's ready to work with the rest of the council and the city administration to help Somerton move forward.

The remaining members of the council are Carlos Gonzalez, Miguel Villalpando and Gerardo Anaya.



Photo by Cesar Neyoy/Bajo El Sol

Outgoing Somerton City Councilwoman Laura Camarillo gets a hug from Councilman Miguel Villalpando as Mayor Jose Yepez looks on. Camarillo, whose term expired this year, chose not to seek re-election.

STRATAJET PARTNERS WITH MILLION AIR IN U.S.

Angelos Restanis / 24 Nov 2016 11:04

www.traveldailynews.com

SANTA MONICA - Fully-automated private jet booking platform Stratajet has partnered with award-winning fixed based operator (FBO) **Million Air**.

Following its successful launch in the United States, Stratajet, the only platform in the world that can provide 100% accurate availability and costs of private jets in real-time, will allow its customers to choose from Million Air's network of luxury executive FBO terminals when making their booking. The partnership reinforces Stratajet's aim to revolutionize the private jet industry by giving the control back to the customer.

While passengers have traditionally relied on brokers to define their booking options, Stratajet is the only solution in the industry that uses sophisticated technology to give the customer control over every stage of the booking process. Once a customer has undertaken a flight search, finalized the itinerary and chosen an aircraft, the option to 'customize the service' is available.

With the support of an experienced customer service team, Stratajet can tailor every element of the trip to suit the passenger. One such option is the ability to choose a specific FBO and, with 23 locations in the United States (and a further two in the process of being built), Million Air is the perfect American partner to provide Stratajet customers with a range of services.



The partnership reinforces Stratajet's aim to revolutionise the private jet industry by giving the control back to the customer.

Photo by traveldailynews

With over 30 years of experience, Million Air is an award-winning network of full-service FBOs, with quick turn-around times, luxury facilities and the best customer service staff in the business. Headquartered in Houston, Million Air has been named Best Large FBO Chain for the past five years and is renowned for delivering genuine care and exceptional service to aircraft owners, pilots and their distinguished guests. As well as FBO services, Million Air provides aircraft charter, maintenance, management and sales.

Jonny Nicol, Founder & CEO of Stratajet, said: “For over three decades, Million Air has boasted an exemplary reputation across the industry and is a perfect partner to give our customers the freedom of choice they deserve as part of their private jet experience. Alongside our cutting-edge proprietary pricing engine and our industry-leading customer service, Stratajet is continuing to broaden the range of services available to its customers. We are delighted to have Million Air’s FBOs available through our platform as an extension of our efforts to remove the hassle of private jet travel.”

Roger Woolsey, CEO of Million Air, added: “I am personally very excited about Stratajet and their choice to partner with Million Air as the ‘front door’ for building first and lasting impressions for their valued customers. Stratajet has invested heavily in building a 21st century platform that promises to bring new entrants to the Private Aviation Space! We are proud to be a part of this broadening effort to increase the pie for everyone in our industry by attracting those never before reached charter customers! Bluer skies ahead...”



The partnership reinforces Stratajet’s aim to revolutionise the private jet industry by giving the control back to the customer.

Photo by traveldailynews



City Seeks Applicants For Neighborhood Leadership

City of Yuma residents are invited to apply for a once-a-week, in-depth course about different City functions, departments, services and facilities.

The City is now accepting applications for the [2017 Neighborhood Leadership Academy \(NLA\)](#). Applications are available [here](#) or on the [neighborhood involvement page](#) of the City's website, www.yumaaz.gov, (click on "Departments," then "Community Development" and look for "Neighborhood Involvement," or simply search for "Neighborhood Leadership" from the home page).

There is no fee to apply or attend. The first deadline for applications is Dec. 16; however, class size is limited, so prospective applicants are encouraged to apply early.

Academy participants will meet this year for three-hour sessions on Thursday evenings every week from Jan. 12 through April 20, culminating with a graduation event April 27. A maximum number of 25 Yuma residents are selected for a single academy from the group of applicants.

The NLA is an effort to ensure that the goals of the City are shared at the neighborhood level and neighborhood issues are at the forefront of policy decisions considered by the City Council. The NLA supports the formation of neighborhood associations and empowers residents in a neighborhood to seek a better quality of life that is citizen-driven and focused.

In a creative learning environment, the NLA brings together some of the City of Yuma's leading representatives to equip participants with valuable insight and direction about understanding the City Charter, roles and responsibilities of City Council and City administration, an understanding of how City government works and its role in community affairs.

Graduates from the Neighborhood Leadership Academy are prepared for appointments to official City boards and commissions and are ready to serve if asked to work with City staff and Council on ad-hoc committees focusing on special issues and topics, and on community events.

Past graduates have reported that they leave better informed and prepared to participate in community boards and commissions and neighborhood associations.

NLA also prepares individuals to serve in elected City offices. Current Councilmembers Edward Thomas and Jacob Miller, for examples, are NLA graduates.

For additional information on the Neighborhood Leadership Academy or questions regarding the application, call City of Yuma Neighborhood Services at 928-373-5187.

2 YUHSD SCHOOLS GET \$2.3 MILLION GRANT

By Amy Crawford, Sun Staff Writer Updated Nov 10, 2016
Yumasun.com

The Yuma Union High School District governing board accepted a \$2.3 million grant for school improvements at its meeting Wednesday evening.

Jessica Mickish, coordinator of federal programs for the district, gave the board an overview of the five-year grant early in the meeting before the board gave its blessing by accepting it.

Mickish said that the district was notified by the Arizona Department of Education at the end of May that two of its schools were eligible for a school improvement grant.

“The way ADE ran it this year was a competitive grant process,” Mickish said, “so we started the application process in June. We submitted it in, I think, the second week of July. We had two teams working on that. And at the end of July we were notified that we received \$2.3 million over five years, and that is huge.”

Superintendent Toni Badone noted that the grant had many requirements, including choosing a method of reform, of which there were five choices.

Mickish noted that the district had chosen the whole school reform model.

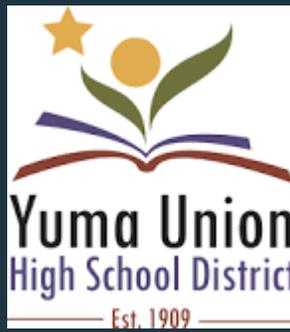
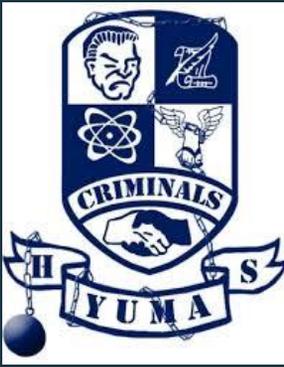
The whole school reform model “requires we have a coordinated effort in six areas: improve student academic achievement; work with school leadership; student non-academic support; focus on one academic content area (math or reading); implemented for all students; and to increase family and community engagement,” Mickish explained.

Right now, the team is doing research on whole school reform models, starting a needs assessment at Yuma High and Vista and for the district, planning coaching sessions for principals and professional development for teachers, she said.

The grant will be implemented at Yuma High and Vista next school year because the timeline on getting the grant was so short, Mickish said. The district is also looking to hire a project manager for the grant, a family and community engagement community project manager, and four student support specialists (two in reading and two in math).

“We don’t want to add to the principals’ plates. We want to support them in this process,” she said.

YUMA
HIGH
SCHOOL



VISTA
HIGH
SCHOOL



“Both schools have rich heritage and rich legacies and we want to bring people in and we want their input,” Mickish said. “We also know that having outside input helps us create citizens for our future. All of our kids are growing up, we want them to be huge parts of our community.”

Board members also heard a report on the district’s solar energy usage from Bart Edwards, key accounts manager for the southwest division of the Arizona Public Service.

APS operates three solar sites in the district, while Solar City operates another three and Climatec services the district offices. Edwards’ report excluded the district office usage.

Edwards cautioned that his analysis was based on estimates in demand; did not include taxes and fees; used current APS adjustors for calculations; and only covered usage through June 2016.

“A school from one year to the next does not necessarily operate the same,” he said, as behavior and school utilization change over time.

The estimated savings from APS solar panels, which went up in 2013, is about \$17,441, Edwards said.

Several factors affect the savings at each campus, Edwards said, as some sites saw higher savings than others. That’s based on what rate the site is on, how much solar is installed and the difference between what is generated and what is bought from APS.

Solar produced from the APS panels goes straight to its electrical grid, and the school pays a discounted price for each kilowatt generated, Edwards said. For the non-APS panels, the solar energy goes directly to the schools and whatever is unused is sent back to the electrical grid in exchange for a retail credit.

Edwards estimated that at the three sites using non-APS solar saved about \$76,127 since installation. Between APS and the third party vendors, the total estimated savings is about \$93,569.

“So you are seeing some savings,” he said.

Two certified staff members were also recognized at the board meeting.

Kofa’s Kathy Hoover was selected as one of the top 10 finalists for the Arizona Education Foundation Teacher of the Year award. An awards luncheon will be next week in Phoenix.

Cibola Principal Tim Brienza was honored by Grand Canyon University for his efforts in creating science, technology, engineering and math pathways at the school.



A real estate purchase may be one of the most expensive, long-term financial commitments that any of us will make. Many of us buy and sell real estate only a few times during our lifetime, while others may invest for the future by owning many pieces of property.

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Yuma Main
105 West 16th Street
Yuma , AZ 85364

Phone: (928) 819-0099 Fax: (855) 474-9037
Email: pioneercentral@ptaaz.com

<http://www.pioneertitleagency.com>

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Rep. Cobb
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