

#TUHSDSTRONG NEWSLETTER

2023

March

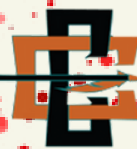


DO IT WITH PRIDE!



In this ISSUE:

2. TUHSD in the News
3. West Point Dragon Dance Team
4. Student Awards
5. FCCLA Fashion Forward
6. Employee Spotlight: Sky Janisse
7. Employee Spotlight: Lupe Flores
8. ASPAA Administrator of the Year
9. Wolverine Coming Home
10. Travel News
11. Say Hello to the Interns



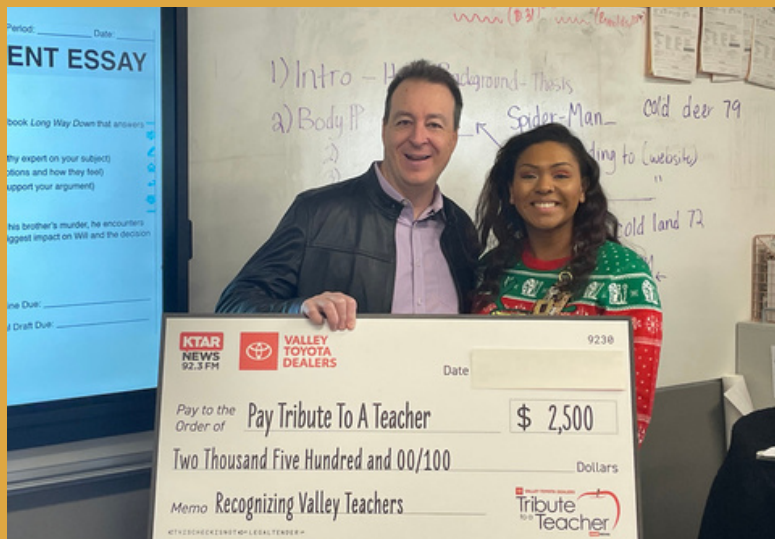
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READ ALL ABOUT IT!



WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER WINS GAYDOS AND CHAD'S TEACHER TRIBUTE

Sydni Ward, a teacher at West Point High School, was recognized as a KTAR News 92.3 FM's Gaydos and Chad Show's Pay Tribute to a Teacher. Her determination to empower students prompted one letter writer to nominate her for this honor, which granted her the \$2,500 prize. Ms. Ward has been teaching for eight years and has a strong bond with many of her students, some saying that she is someone they can talk to whenever they need to. Ms. Ward said she plans to use the money to purchase books her students would otherwise never get the chance to read.



TUHSD MEDIA PROGRAMS SHATTER RECORDS AT STATE CONFERENCE

The student media programs of Copper Canyon High School and La Joya Community High School set new school records and were recognized among the best in the state at the Arizona Interscholastic Press Association's high school journalism convention in the fall.

Copper Canyon's Aztec Media program earned a new record 45 state awards, while La Joya's Lobo Media came away with 46 state awards and an additional trophy for state advisor of the year, Ms. Heather Eaton. Awards were given for work on yearbooks, newspapers and video journalism, with both programs featured in all three areas. La Joya and Copper Canyon collected the most awards of any two district schools in the state. Both are also part of the Career & Technical Education media department in digital communications.



GLENDALE DUNKIN SQUAD

America may "run" on Dunkin, but the Copper Canyon Pom Squad "cheers" for Dunkin. For the Grand Opening of a new location on 83rd and Camelback, the Cheer team made an appearance. In return for their efforts, the team received free coffee, donuts, breakfast sandwiches and a donation to their program.

BREAKING NEWS

WEST POINT DANCING DRAGON



Students from the Chinese Dragon Dance Team at West Point High School were part of a story by ABC 15 on the Lunar New Year celebrations that took place a couple of weeks ago. The students were practicing twice a week leading up to their Lunar New Year performance.



The students indicated that they all learned how to work as a team and that the opportunity was exciting. As a result of the story airing on local television, organizers of another Chinese Lunar New Year celebration in Mesa also reached out to West Point High School about the students performing at their event as well.



[Phoenix Chinese Week prepares for the first Lunar New Year festival since the pandemic](#)

Copper Canyon High School Teacher-Student duo makes history

We are happy and proud to announce that the teacher/student team of Samantha Ness and Aiden Kerbs from Copper Canyon High School have been selected to represent Arizona at a great civic event in Hawaii this summer.

National History Day, which includes the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum and the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum at Pearl Harbor amongst others, selected sixteen teacher-student high school teams to participate in the "Sacrifice for Freedom: World War II in the Pacific Student and Teacher Institute".

This is an all-expense paid program that offers an exceptional opportunity to study World War II history in Hawaii. The program provides an opportunity for each teacher/student team to research the context of World War II in the Pacific. The team also researches the life of a local "Silent Hero" who died during World War II and is buried in or memorialized at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. The teacher-student team will then share a "eulogy" of their Silent Hero graveside at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.



CONGRATULATIONS MS. NESS AND AIDEN!

STUDENT AWARDS



We want to share information on our Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students and the wonderful success they had recently as TUHSD schools attended the Region 4 FBLA Conference at ASU's Main Campus in Tempe. Our students performed extremely well and brought back many well-deserved accolades and awards.

Copper Canyon High School FBLA Business and Media students competed and won three medals.

La Joya students brought home 13 medals in areas such as Business Ethics, Entrepreneurship and public speaking.

Sierra Linda High School students brought home 11 medals in areas such as Health Care Administration and Computer Applications.

Tolleson Union High School FBLA students received nine medals in areas such as Organizational Leadership and Website Design.

West Point students brought home a total of 27 medals in areas as diverse as Journalism, Data Analysis and Digital Animation.

The FBLA State Championships take place in April. Congratulations students and instructors!



FCCLA: FASHION FORWARD



Westview High School's annual fashion gallery is an event that was created to showcase students' work over the course of the semester. Students research global topics and incorporate them into an original fashion line or a repurpose and redesign fashion line. Their goal is to bring awareness to these global concerns in hope of bringing change. Alongside FCCA, culinary and Early Childhood Education (ECE) join the event to show off their craft.

Culinary prepares and serves food to the people attending the event while ECE works on their interpersonal skills and social-emotional development. Students gain more experience and are better prepared to enter the workforce or college because of these co-curricular hands-on opportunities.

This year the gallery had over 100 guests, a beautiful setup, and a clear goal to achieve what they wanted.



SKY JANISSE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



In this month's employee spotlight, we welcome Sky Janisse, the new Administrative Assistant at the Tolleson Union High School District Office, working with Mr. Jeremy Calles, Chief Financial Officer.

Still new to Arizona, Ms. Janisse moved here three years ago from Southern California. A fun fact is that her first apartment was a few miles from Disneyland! While she currently lives in Goodyear, she is having her first home built in Buckeye.

Ms. Janisse worked as an Administrative and Executive Assistant for six years, but this is her first time in the education sector.

"I always enjoyed school growing up," said Janisse. "In college, I would take extra courses each semester for fun. I am excited for the opportunity to help contribute to educating future generations."

Ms. Janisse has an Anatolian Shepherd named Babz. In her free time, Ms. Janisse enjoys off-roading, ice skating, watching hockey and going to the movies.

WELCOME MS. JANISSE!

LUPE FLORES

IT Tech I - Help Desk



Another employee spotlight this month is Lupe Flores.

Ms. Lupe Flores is originally from Oceanside, California, and resides in Buckeye, Arizona. She has worked for the district for over four and a half years. She started her journey at La Joya Community High School as an In-School Support Specialist - Behavior Specialist. However, she came to the district office to work in the IT department. Other jobs have included working at Crumbl, to get over her addiction to their cookies, as she puts it.

Since moving to the state of Arizona, Lupe has called the Tolleson Union High School District her home ever since.

She likes to spend her time reading self-growth books, going to the gym, hiking, and doing outdoor activities. Through her generosity and open heart, she shares her home with her Active-Duty Air Force Husband, her two dogs, a maltipoo named Sonny and a chihuahua named Pancho. She also has a chinchilla and a turtle. During the holidays, her and her husband "adopt" Airmen that may feel alone or need company during those times.

Her inspiration has always been the students. "They never cease to amaze me," said Lupe. "They are willing to rise to the occasion. Just sprinkle some belief in them. They have so much potential."

CONGRATS MS. FLORES



Arizona School Personnel Administrators Association | Est. 1970



Mr. Juan Ceja

ASPAA Administrator of the Year

Mr. Juan Ceja, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, was recently named the Arizona School Personnel Administrators Association (ASPAA) Administrator of the Year! He was thoroughly surprised to see his family in attendance as he was announced as this year's recipient of the award.

The ASPAA Administrator of the Year award is given to an active participant of the organization who has distinguished themselves as a current HR administrator by making a positive and productive impact on their school district; by having a significant impact on public education; and by sharing best practices and innovative ideas with colleagues in the human resources field.

"I am humbled by the recognition from the Arizona School Personnel Administrators Association," said Mr. Ceja. "I feel fortunate and I am grateful to work for the best school district in Arizona. We have the most talented students, the most effective staff, and the most supportive community. I share this award with them and with my HR team."

"My sincerest congratulations to Mr. Ceja for this outstanding award. I cannot think of anyone more qualified or more deserving of this recognition," said Superintendent Nora Gutierrez.

Wolverine returns home!



Christine Devine, a Fox News anchor from L.A., who's a former Tolleson Union High School grad, visited the school right before Winter Break. Ms. Devine expressed interest in visiting her alma mater to talk to students about staying in school and going on to college. While on campus, Ms. Devine marveled at the wonderful changes that have occurred on campus, including new buildings and a state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center.

"Find your passion, your place to contribute, your place to shine." Christine Devine, 2022.



TRAVEL NEWS

Effective January 9, 2023, the State of Arizona approved new maximum reimbursement rates. These include an increase in mileage reimbursement to **62.5 cents per mile**.

An updated Travel Claim Form with the new mileage rate is posted in the S drive.

S:\District Office \Purchasing \Travel Reimbursement \1. Travel Claim

[SAAM Topic 50 Section 95 - Maximum Mileage, Lodging, Meal, Parking and Incidental Expense Reimbursement Rates](#)

It is important to review these rates before booking travel. For example, lodging should not exceed the amount listed by the state. Although, you may stay at the conference hotel, if a conference rate is provided. Before you travel, please feel free to contact Accounts Payable with any questions about your trip. We will be happy to provide the reimbursement rates specific to your trip and answer any questions.

Accounts Payable
ap@tuhsd.org
Annette Caudle Ext. 4069
Sara Hartley Ext. 4006

Say hello to the interns:



Hello! My name is DeAsiah Ball, and I am a junior at Arizona State University. I am currently a junior at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University majoring in Journalism and Mass Communication where I will be graduating this Fall. I am born and raised in West Phoenix, Arizona, and currently reside in Tolleson. I am a former La Joya graduate- class of 2020! It is a wonderful opportunity to return back home and see all my former teachers. After college, I aspire to travel around the world, reporting on cultures and religions.

Hi, my name is Elias Johnson, and I am currently a senior at the Walter Cronkite School, studying Journalism and Mass communication with a minor in African American Studies. I graduate in May and I want to start my own podcast company one day, talking about anything in the world. I am born and raised in West Phoenix and I am the youngest of 5. I like to listen to music, write and hang out with my friends.



Editor: Joseph Ortiz, Director of Public Relations and Marketing
Interns: DeAsiah Ball and Elias Johnson

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