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### Sonoran artist

A former Mesa Community College teacher will display her metal sculptures at a studio show this month.

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### Hot topics in east Mesa

Do you know what east Mesa residents are talking about at arizona.newszap.com? Look inside, then log on and let your voice be heard.

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# New home for endangered pupfish

## Conservation a priority at Mesa Community College refuge pond

By Richard H. Dyer  
 Independent Newspapers

An outdoor-laboratory cienega for Mesa Community College at Red Mountain now has 307 endangered native desert pupfish in a refuge pond.

The introduction of the fish is part of a partnership with the college at 7110 E. McKellips Road, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Phoenix Zoo and the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center.

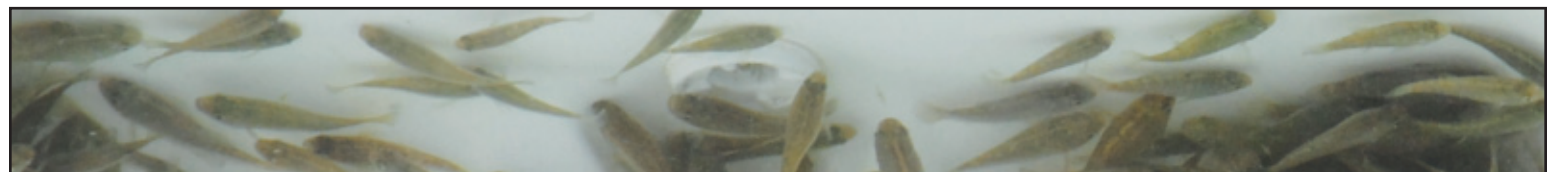
On the morning of Nov. 4, MCC officials, professors and officials from the partner agencies took turns to gently add a bucket of the fish to the pond in a walled courtyard between the Palo Verde, Mesquite and Desert Willow buildings.

Students at Mesa Community College at Red Mountain Campus will assist the Arizona Game and Fish Department in managing the

Independent Newspapers/Richard H. Dyer

Above, from left, are Dalia Valenzuela, a temporary lab employee at Mesa Community College, preparing to snap a photo; Darrell Woolf, an MCC lab tech and exhibit curator; and Elizabeth Csikar, MCC assistant department chairwoman of life sciences, as she pours desert pupfish from a bucket into a refuge pond at MCC's Red Mountain campus, 7110 E. McKellips Road. Below are pupfish in a cooler before being transferred to the pond.

See **Pupfish** — Page 4



### 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'

The East Valley Children's Theatre will present the comedy based on the best-selling book in December at the Mesa Arts Center.

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### We want your photos

The Independent continues a new feature highlighting the wildlife and beauty of the community.

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