

SCHOOLNews

Mesa preservation board sponsors essay contest

The Mesa Historic Preservation Board is sponsoring a historical fiction writing contest for students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades living in Mesa.

The contest is open to students of public, private and charter schools as well as homeschooled students, according to a press release. It will task students with writing a fictional story based on a historic event in the city.

The essay should have real and imaginary characters and be based around Hohokam Indian culture or Mesa Grande Park. Mesa Historic Preservation Board members will judge the essays on historical accuracy, writing and creativity.

The contest is open until Feb. 12. Each essay must reflect the student's own research, writing and original thinking and be a maximum of 750 words typed or neatly written.

Essays can be sent to: John Wesley, Acting Historic Preservation Officer, City of Mesa, P.O. Box 1466, Mesa, AZ 85211. They can also be sent by e-mail to john.wesley@mesaaz.gov.

Every contestant will receive a certificate of participation. There will be cash awards for first-, second- and third-place winners. Results will be available in the spring and the top three writers will be recognized at a

Mesa City Council meeting.

For more information and to obtain an entry form, visit www.mesaaz.gov/planning/historicpreservation.aspx.

Community college students pack lunches for homeless

Honors students at Mesa Community College gathered Oct. 26 to make sandwiches, write inspirational notes and draw on lunch bags for the homeless.

Students and staff participated in the Hashtag Lunchbag program, which distributes lunches to area homeless, according to a press release.

"It's so easy to become absorbed in our own little problems and we forget how much we have until we see someone who has so little," student Fallon Spoelman said in the release. "This experience opened my eyes and inspires me to be vigilant to the needs of others."

The event was developed to give students an opportunity to serve the community as part of their curricular activity requirement. The project was organized by the Maricopa Center for Learning and Instruction with the cooperation of the Maricopa Community Colleges District Honors Council.

"Feeding the homeless was a very humbling experience," student Brian Vasher said in the release. "Seeing what little they had made me appreciate everything in my life."

For more information, visit www.mesaaz.gov.

Board of education selects AzMERIT to replace AIMS

The Arizona State Board of Education has selected the AzMERIT assessment to replace the AIMS test, according to a press release.

AzMERIT, Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching, will be given to students in third through eighth grades in English language arts and mathematics, according to the release.

At the high school level, it will be an end-of-course test in English in ninth through 11th grades and in algebra I and II and geometry.

Students will take AzMERIT for the first time in the spring, according to the release. Exact testing dates have not been set.

Total testing time is about seven hours per student, similar to AIMS, and the test can be taken on paper or computer, according to the release.

The test requires students to demonstrate their knowledge in a variety of formats. Results will allow the comparison of Arizona students' performance to students in 24 other states, according to the release.

For more information about the new assessment, visit www.azed.gov/assessment/azmerit.



Harmony Community Baptist Church

Dr. Tommy Foster, Pastor

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Sunday Evening Service 6 pm

10701 E. Boulder - (Signal Butte and Main) Mesa

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