BY JOYCE LOBECK

On the job three months, Yuma County’s new administrator is thrilled to be in Yuma and pleased with the position. “It’s great,” Susan Thorpe said with a warm smile. Settling back in her office she inherited from her predecessor, Robert Pickels, Thorpe spoke of how delighted she is to be back in Arizona and at the helm of Yuma County’s government.

Raised in Texas, where she most recently served as Corpus Christi assistant city manager, she acknowledged that she had missed Arizona – her “adopted” state after working in Peoria for seven years before moving to the Texas city.

“The desert is beautiful, the climate is good and there’s so much available,” she said of Arizona and the outdoor activities such as camping and horseback riding she and her husband, Jay, enjoy doing.

In her bid to return to Arizona, she first interviewed for the Glendale city manager position, then turned her attention to the Yuma County administrator position. She was approved unanimously by the Yuma County Board of Supervisors in November and moved into the office Feb. 1 after wrapping up her Corpus Christi duties.

Until now her career has been centered in city government, she said, and county government is a “new world.” Thorpe welcomes the challenge of applying her years of management experience to the position and believes it won’t be so different. “It’s still public service,” she said, “serving residents and their quality of life.”

There are, of course, some basic differences, she noted. “The city operates under a home rule charter and can do anything that isn’t prohibited by state government. Counties are created by the state and can only do what state law allows. We have a very different set of rules to follow. That restricts our ability to serve residents. But it also keeps us focused on core services (such as health, public works and maintaining roads).”

Another basic difference is that while department directors in city government are appointed by the city manager who reports to the Yuma City Council, in county government many department heads, among them sheriff, treasurer, recorder, assessor and court officials, are elected.

“So we really need a good working relationship with them,” Thorpe said, adding that she is benefitting from the legacy left by Pickels of having fostered those relationships.

In fact, she reached out to Pickels before interviewing for the position, she said, “and...
Fund Sweeps by the State Hurt You, Me, Everybody

BY JOHN COURTIS, Executive Director

There is a tremendous amount of angst and contentious debate lately over property taxes, threats of service cuts and other measures to get budgets passed. This time honored tradition of debating money and financial responsibility will go on, literally, forever. However, as we look deeper into some root causes, we might be able to assist in changing the conditions and feel like we can participate in the process.

Write letters to our State Elected Officials in Phoenix.

The idea of sweeping funds is not new, and the effects on our quality of life are very real. In 2009, when the legislature swept funds from the Arizona State Parks, it meant the closure of the Yuma Territorial Prison. Thanks to the work of the great people of Yuma headed by the Chain Gangs and the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area staff, we kept our prison open. In 2013, the legislature swept $50 million of mortgage assistance funds that should have gone to help families trying to recover from the mortgage crisis.

The idea of sweeping HURF (Highway User Revenue Funds) actually started in 2000. Since that time, according to the Arizona Sonora News Service, through the end of 2014 the total of HURF sweeps is over $860 Million. Remarkably, most of these sweeps (there are more) do not have the same affect in Maricopa County as they are exempt from many of them. Shared revenue ‘sweeps’ also hurt rural Arizona as they affect a variety of forms and budget line items.

These sweeps hurt rural Arizona. We can voice our opinions by writing letters to our elected officials. We need to let them know that the State Legislature balanced their budget on the backs of the hard working citizens of Yuma County, Cochise County, La Paz County and other rural counties. We need to let them know that when rural Arizona has to raise property taxes to pay for lost shared revenues from the State it hurts all of us. We need to let our State Elected Officials know that Economic Development in rural Arizona is stifled because raising property taxes is required to balance budgets driven by lost swept revenues by the State. We need to let them know that economic expansion needs to happen in rural Arizona, not just Maricopa County. We might also add that revenue sweeps, which started decades ago at the Federal level, may be legal, but they have the feel of re-distribution of wealth.

Some experts have reported that the State of Arizona is sitting on a $1 billion surplus, maybe more. With that knowledge, we know the State can stop sweeping funds, but they are not incented to do so. However, they would slow the process down if they heard from enough of us. We saved the Prison, so now we get to save our Cities and our County. Write a letter or e-mail today.

The list of officials’ mailing addresses and e-mail addresses is on this page.
On March 8, 2016 Firehouse Subs received the National Restaurant Association Award for Outstanding Charitable Service. The Restaurant Neighborhood Award celebrates exceptional charitable service and philanthropy in the hospitality industry, emphasizing Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation’s mission of providing funding and lifesaving equipment to first responders and public safety organizations.

The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 to provide the funding stated above. The non-profit organization has provided $9 million to departments in 40 states and Puerto Rico. In 2014 the foundation donated more than $30K to the Yuma Fire Department.

Locally, each restaurant recycles leftover, five-gallon pickle buckets and sells them to guests for $2 each. Donation canisters on register counters explain the non-profit’s mission and collect spare change, while the “Round-Up Program” allows guests to round up their bill to the nearest dollar, the extra money being used for donations. All funds raised benefit the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation.

Brian Cypert, District Manager
1630 S Pacific Ave., #107
Yuma, AZ 85364
(928) 782-3460
www.firehousesubs.com
BY RANDY NELSON

We are all smart and can tell you the 2 ways to improve your bottom line is to increase your sales, and decrease your expenses. This is not an either or situation if you really want to be successful but a measure of efficiency. After all if you grow your sales but require a lot more resources or lower margins you can basically reduce your existing level of profit quite easily. If you cut back on your expenditures you may be sacrificing customer service or quality which can also lead to reduced sales. This is just basic business 101.

For many of you the third alternative is not quite as apparent. When a new owner starts I am always serious when I mention that a day, or week, or month is a luxury that may have to wait. Most of my clients stating a business are willing to sacrifice their time off because they are motivated to succeed or afraid of losing control. Every-

thing your business does needs your insight, training, and passion to succeed. I understand this because with my 1st business I worked 3 years before I got a day off.

Besides being a recipe for disaster the time away from your responsibilities can and should be a part of your business planning. Here are some things to do to allow you some time away;

Hire or train someone or some people to take over your responsibilities.

Communicate to your top vendors or customers how they can reach you if necessary.

Breakdown and get a smart phone or tablet to be checked only once per day.

Try a few afternoons or days off intermittently as practice.

Understand that you need to recharge yourself also.

Create list of things to keep your employees busy and out of trouble. This may help them prove to you they are capable of handling additional responsibility.

Look for cloud based options so you can check alarms, bookkeeping, in store cams, phone messages, scheduling calendars, and more.

What you will probably notice when you return is that your employees left watching the store may now be much more capable. You may also have new ideas on how to build sales or reduce expenses by being away from the daily grind. This can add up to future vacations and new opportunities if you just plan ahead a little and make yourself relax and recharge.
The Chamber helped celebrate the opening of another Cricket store in Yuma on Friday April 15th. This one is located at 1045 S 4th Avenue. Cricket Wireless is a prepaid wireless service provider in the United States of America. As of 2011, it provided prepaid wireless services to approximately 5 million subscribers in the United States. For more information on Cricket please visit the store or go to www.cricketwireless.com.

The new Sunset Community Health Center-North Yuma Family Healthcare Facility held its grand opening on Wednesday April 13th and the Chamber came out to show support. Sunset Community Health Center-North Yuma Family Healthcare Facility will provide the north area of Yuma with access to a variety of clinical services. Approximately 10,000 square feet in size, the new north clinic encompasses 16 exam rooms, Sunset CHC North is located on 675 S. Avenue B. At the clinic, family practice, pediatric, internal medicine, behavioral health, pharmacy, outreach and enrollment as well as patient advocacy, community health workers and support services can be accessed. Hours for the new site are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the clinic can be reached at 928-782-7242.

Cenpatico Integrated Care (CIC) held an open house to showcase its new office at 2285 S 4th Ave, Suite F. CIC offers whole person health care, providing both medical and behavioral services to people who have been designated as having a serious mental illness. Cenpatico Integrated Care firmly believes in recovery and that by treating the whole person, we empower members to improve their lives and be engaged in their community. Cenpatico's programs include support tools to identify and assist members on their road to recovery. This is a process unique to each member and members’ are given many choices and supported to create their own unique goals. Cenpatico listens to the voices of our members and the communities we serve to improve lives and help people get healthy. For more information on CIC call 1-866-495-6738 or visit www.cenpaticointegratedcareaz.com.
Yuma Airport’s highlights – A glimpse of the past

Yuma, Arizona: In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the Yuma County Airport Authority has compiled a collection of the airport’s highlights and memories over the decades to share with the community as a monthly publication. This month we’ve reached deep into the vault to share what is possibly the first record of an airshow in Yuma.

Tuesday, April 22, 1919 was more than just another beautiful and sunny day in Yuma. There was a buzz of eagerness and excitement in the air as folks of all ages from Yuma, Somerton and Gadsden prepared for one of the first air circus performances in our region - ‘thanks to Uncle Sam and his skymen’.

Lt. Gene Cobbery was in command of the squadron and explained their performance was to encourage recruitment for the air service. Lt. Cobbery made sure to point out sharing the rapid growth of the air service will be like that of the automobile, and the man who learns the game now is going to be a valuable personage in the future for in a comparatively short number of years. Lt. Cobbery knew that flying will become a common mode or a viable means of travel.

All businesses, houses and schools of Yuma and Somerton closed in time to see the fun. The circus started promptly at 2 pm on April 22, 1919 and the ‘flying machines’ left the field in the presence of one of the largest crowds to gather in the area. The four ‘flyers’ circled the field and then over the town, breaking into several formations and showing their capacity for dipping and mounting. Later, the fancy stunts were shown taking advantage of the clear sky with the machines looping the loop, dropping into tall spins and flying on their sides. The crowd watched and cheered as each demonstration was made and as the circus concluded their acts which lasted over an hour.

As the aircraft were coming in to land on the south side of the field, one of the speeding ‘flying machines’ clipped the top of a mesquite tree just enough to throw it off its course and send it to the ground with a crash. Luckily, it had only a few feet to fall and the aviator was not injured. The great crowd of Yuma, Somerton and Gadsden were more than sorry the accident occurred but were overwhelmed with excitement by the air stunts. The community had nothing but praise and admiration for the men who performed in the circus.

The Yuma County community’s fascination and support of aviation and our military continues to strengthen every year. We have many articles spanning from April 1978-1980 about the planning and preservation efforts made by our City and County officials in support and protection of expansion and growth of Yuma International Airport as well as MCAS Yuma.

If you are interested in scheduling a tour of airport to learn more about Yuma’s rich aviation history, please give our office a call at (928) 726-5882 and ask for Gen Grosse.

Military Family Information Fair
Saturday, May 21, 2016, 9am - 1pm

Yuma Readiness Center
24th St. & Araby Rd. Yuma, Az

This FREE event will help our currently serving military personnel and veterans, along with their spouses that have, or will be TRANSITIONING into civilian life. This event will help them better understand benefits, options and job opportunities throughout Yuma.

Get signed up now! We are able to accommodate only 36 businesses or informational organizations.

FREE Vendor Space is very limited.
All spaces are 10’ x 10’.
Tables, chairs, or drapes will not be provided.

Yes, I want my business, _______________________________________
to have space at the Military Family Information Fair of May 21, 2016
Name _____________________________________________ Date ____________
E-Mail address:_________________________________________
I understand I will not be able to sell anything. This Fair is for information only.
YPG continues to test and refine Army personnel parachute

BY MARK SCHAUER

Mass combat jumps of paratroopers have taken place in virtually every large-scale deployment of American forces since World War II.

Useful for seizing isolated air fields deep behind enemy lines, which can then be used to receive and deploy more troops and armaments, the tactic was used successfully by American forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

As the decades have passed, the personnel parachutes American Soldiers use have advanced to meet modern requirements of design and function. The current T-11 parachute offers jumpers a slow and stable descent, especially in high winds, and can support more weight than previous parachutes, a crucial advantage for warfighters who carry robust, but heavy gear. Also, since the T-11’s canopy deploys slowly and further away from the aircraft than preceding parachutes, the Army was able to increase the gross cargo weight of a C-17 aircraft by 15,000 pounds, which allows the aircraft to safely carry more fuel or cargo. A decade ago, the T-11 underwent extensive developmental testing at YPG that proved it extraordinarily capable.

“It’s a complex system with a large canopy and a lot of components, and we rigged many, many malfunctions into them during developmental testing and could not make the parachute fail,” recalled Keith Allen, team lead in the Aviation Systems and Electronic Test Division who has also served as an Army paratrooper. “We tied the hem shut, and it still inflated through corner vents. We put different reefing lines throughout the canopy and tried to restrict airflow inside, and it still inflated.”

There is always room for improvement, however, and recently the T-11 has returned to YPG for testing of different packing configurations of both the main canopy and the reserve canopy Soldiers depend on if the main fails.

“The purpose of the test is to evaluate packing configuration changes that will ease the burden on riggers as well as improve performance,” said Allen.

For nearly a year, YPG testers conducted mannequin drops several times, gathering performance data on each of the newly proposed packing configurations and comparing the results to data gathered when the current configuration of the T-11 underwent developmental testing at the proving ground in 2005. Since there is no physical instrumentation on the parachutes themselves during these tests, evaluators depend on ground-based tracking instruments for video and data of each configuration’s deployment, particularly its critically important first seconds of flight. The testers used strain link systems installed on the parachute’s risers to measure its peak opening force.

Currently, similar testing is being performed on the T-11’s reserve canopy that could eventually result in changes to its components and packing configuration.

YPG is home to all manner of parachute testing, with spacious and instrumented ranges large enough to accommodate even the world’s largest cargo parachutes. Rigorously testing personnel parachutes like the T-11 seen here is a one-stop shop for customers. (US Army photo)
Join us for a free seminar about advances in orthopedics and joint replacement procedures.

Wed., May 11
at 5:30 p.m.
Yuma Regional Medical Center
Medical Plaza Conference Room
1501 W. 24th Street

For more information or to register for the seminar call
(928)336-BONE
(2663)
Committee Updates

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
Next Meeting,
Monday, May 9th, Noon
Old City Hall Conference Room
Please RSVP for lunch

• The airport continues to discuss alternate routes, more information will be available in their next newsletter
• YPG had a visit from a dozen or so Congressional Staffers
• The construction contract for 4th Ave and 16th Street was awarded to Cemex
• Council approved the applying for a grant for body cams for police officers, a maximum of 50 at a maximum of $1,500 a piece, the camera is not expensive it is the server and the storage of video feed

HAVING THE YUMA SUN DELIVERED TO YOUR BUSINESS MAKES SENSE

The Yuma Sun is full of news and ads. Perfect to keep up on what affects your business community.

Call (928) 783-3333 to Start Delivery

The City is applying for a Tiger Grant again for the Multi-Modal Transportation Station at the old Hotel del Sol

• Council approved the Preliminary Budget for fiscal year 2016-2017, this sets the cap at a $4 million increase over last year, retaining police officers seems to be the main issue
• Dan White from the City’s Attorney’s Office gave a legislative recap, he went on to say that the Governor seems to be holding out on signing anything until his budget is looked at
• Randy Nelson stated the next meeting of AWC’s Governing Board will be April 28th at a time to be determined, it is then that a property tax rate increase would be discussed if necessary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Next Meeting,
Tuesday, May 17th, 3PM
Old City Hall Conference Room
Members Welcome

• Summer Works in Yuma was discussed, we have seen a lot of interest from teachers, but we really need businesses to post jobs they may have available over the summer (June & July)

AMBASSARDS
Next Meeting,
Wednesday, May 25th, 11:30AM
Old City Hall Conference Room
Members Welcome

• We welcomed new Ambassador David Alegria from Hoppstetter's Office Products
• The Ambassadors discussed upcoming events including the Mixer at Academy Mortgage, the GMY sponsored by Amberly's Place, and Ribbon Cuttings at Sunset Community Health, Keller Williams, and Re/Max Territory
• Tawnee Miller, Esther Markle, Shirley Epke, and Rita Megui agreed to act as Navigators under the Ambassadors
• The ABWA Women’s Expo is April 9th and the Somerton Business Expo is May 7th, membership with the Somerton Chamber is only $100 per Rita Megui

TRANSPORTATION
Next Meeting,
Thursday, May 26th, 10:30AM
Chamber Office, 180 W. 1st St., Ste A

• GYPA has agreed to renew its Chamber membership
• YPG is currently using 36 vRide vans and they hope to be at 40 by the end of the year
• There is a detour out by YPG as they work on building the bridge over the Fortuna Wash
• YMPO has 4 studies on its work plan and they will be presenting the final draft of the safety plan on March 31st
• YMPO has agreed to renew its Chamber membership
• YMPO is working on a lot of long range planning
• YMPO is installing wifi for a penetration study at the border, they should have analytical data by the end of the year
• The City, County, and ADOT continue to work collaboratively on some road projects and independent on others

MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (MAC)
Next Meeting,
Wednesday, May 25th, 7AM
American Legion Post 19, 2575 S. Virginia Ave.

• Matt Molenar is designing some pages inside the Chamber’s website specifically for MAC news and events
• Matt Molenar is also creating armedforcespark.com to locate plaques at the park by name
• The Military Family Information Fair planning is underway, 15 of the 36 free booths are spoken for
Officer Juan Salcido was honored at the April 5, 2016 meeting of the Wellton Town Council for his actions during an incident that occurred on March 12th.

At approximately 3:12am, a wrong way driver going westbound in the eastbound lanes of Interstate 8 was reported to the Yuma County Sheriff’s Office Dispatch Center. No Arizona Department of Public Safety troopers were near the area, nor were any Yuma County deputies. The dispatcher notified Officer Salcido, who immediately began searching for the vehicle creating an extremely dangerous situation on the interstate.

Officer Salcido located the vehicle within 8 minutes of receiving the call. Using excellent forethought, Officer Salcido told the dispatcher to contact the Border Patrol and ask them to close the checkpoint on the eastbound lanes of traffic to avoid a potentially fatal collision from vehicles traveling into the path of the wrong way driver.

Officer Salcido was able to overtake the wrong way vehicle in the westbound lanes far enough ahead of it to allow him to find a cross over that would allow him to access the eastbound lanes. He was able to do so just prior to where the wrong way driver would have begun entering the Telegraph Pass area, which would have been extremely dangerous considering the blind curves and darkness at that time of the morning. Officer Salcido was able to stop the vehicle prior to it entering the pass.

After getting the vehicle stopped, agents of the Border Patrol and deputies from the Yuma County Sheriff’s Office arrived to assist. Due to Officer Salcido’s efforts, “He no doubt saved the lives of unsuspecting motorists on the interstate that morning,” said Wellton Chief of Police Donald Jones during the presentation at the Wellton Town Council meeting.

Jones stated, “Over the last few years, several peace officers and many motorists have lost their lives due to wrong way driver incidents. It is an extremely dangerous and hazardous incident for law enforcement to handle and often ends in fatal collisions. Officer Salcido demonstrated his commitment to the safety of the citizens of the Town and those that pass through, and his ability to think and act under pressure to make good decisions that saved lives.”

Officer Salcido, being awarded by Wellton Chief of Police Donald Jones during a presentation at the April 5, 2016 Wellton Town Council meeting.
What are Soft Skills?

Whether your employees work directly or indirectly with customers, they need good soft skills. These are the communication, problem-solving, interpersonal and leadership skills that help employees deliver their work efficiently and effectively.

WHAT ARE SOFT SKILLS?
Soft skills is a term often associated with a person’s Emotional Intelligence, the cluster of personality traits, social graces, communication, language, personal habits, interpersonal skills, managing people, leadership, etc. that characterize relationships with other people.

ASSESSING YOUR SOFT-SKILLS TRAINING NEEDS
You’ll most often recognize the need for soft skills when they’re absent. You may experience a variety of problems—unhappy customers, low productivity, high turnover, interpersonal conflicts or other issues that can threaten your business.

Fortunately, universal demand for these skills has set off a soft-skills training boom that targets employees at all levels:
- Experienced employees whose effectiveness is limited by deficient leadership, supervisory, or communication skills
- Younger employees who are tech-savvy but need training in proper email etiquette, customer service, and other areas
- Individuals who require basic work-readiness skills, reading and math skills, or assistance with English language skills

LOOKING FOR SOFT SKILLS TRAINING OPTIONS?
Explore CareerOneStop’s “Find Local Training Options” at www.careeronestop.org/businesscenter/ to find programs in your area. Can’t find a specific program? Contact your Business Service Representative at your Local One-Stop Career Center to see what is available.

Another option is to connect with a customized training provider to develop a program that meets your specific requirements.

Need help with soft skills training or other workforce issues? Contact your Business Service Representative at 928-329-0990 or visit http://www.careeronestop.org/businesscenter/.

Information obtained from http://www.careeronestop.org/businesscenter/
**Intersection improvements project will help all of Yuma**

If crossing the 16th Street and 4th Avenue intersection is not part of your normal commute, well, consider yourself lucky for about the next 10 months.

It's Yuma's busiest intersection, and the work being done there will be an inconvenience not just for drivers who must pass that area, but to those who use neighboring through streets that will surely see additional traffic as a result of this project.

Once complete, however, the project will ease the congestion and frustration that mark that intersection's current best days. This construction will add dedicated right-turn lanes and dual left-turn lanes in all corners of the intersection, plus expand 16th Street in preparation for that future day when it will eventually have three lanes of through traffic to match the traffic lanes it already has just east of Arizona Avenue down to Pacific Avenue. Bike lanes, as identified within the transportation element of the voter-approved General Plan, will be constructed.

Business access will be maintained through the course of the project. Yumans who frequent the area will be encouraged to continue to do so; just plan ahead to stay on schedule.

The City’s water transmission system will see some upgrades as part of this project as well. Existing waterlines of various sizes will be replaced with one single 16-inch water main. A section of 10-inch waterline on 4th Avenue between 16th Street and 17th Street will be replaced with a 12-inch waterline. However, some customers may notice a decrease in water pressure during certain phases of this project.

“Think of it as the pain before a very big gain,” said Deputy City Administrator Ricky Rinehart. “All of us, when driving through there, need to think about what's it's going to be like when it's all finished.”

Easing congestion at the intersection will allow for a freer flow of goods through Yuma, will improve access to retail and dining destinations in the vicinity and beyond, and will increase the opportunity for businesses to locate at two of Yuma’s busiest commercial streets. Already there are plans to name the now-empty lands around the intersection “Center Pointe,” and the rumor mill is hot with anticipation over the stores that have been discussed for the area.

“There is a possibility of a business or two that Yumans have asked about for a long time,” Rinehart said.

As of this writing, though, some sticking points remained. One piece of property necessary to the project was still tied up in court, and one utility company had not yet completed the relocation of its facility necessary for the project to begin.

Currently, the City expects the project to start sometime in May. Once under way, the contract calls for 300 calendar days, taking the project into the spring of 2017.

Driver behavior is going to be important in making those 300 days go smoothly. To that end, the Yuma Police Department offers the following recommendations.

Leave early, perhaps as many as 15 minute early, if you plan on driving through the construction zone.

Identify an alternate route – but again, leave early, as these routes are likely to see traffic exceeding their usual levels.

Obey all traffic control devices. If there is a sign indicating, for example, “no left turns,” violating this sign is not only illegal, it creates much longer backups behind the violator.

If using a residential side street to avoid the construction zone, respect the 25 mph residential speed limit and all school zones. The neighborhoods on both sides of 16th Street see a lot of pedestrian traffic with children heading to and from area schools. Pedestrians will be outside of school zones, so obeying the residential speed limits is a “must” for child safety.

Avoid following vehicles too closely. Yes, traffic will be slow. But especially at first, while motorists adjust to the new traffic control patterns, give yourself plenty of space to react to other drivers’ mistakes.
Just plug in that two-digit number. Or hit the “down arrow” button on your thermostat. At APS, that is how easy we want it to be to keep your homes and businesses cool during the summer.

However, I’ve been a Yuma resident much longer than I’ve been an APS employee, so I am still fascinated by the intense work and planning that occurs all year long to prepare for this season. There are a number of important elements to make sure your power is as reliable as it can be when our temperatures are peaking:

**ENOUGH ELECTRICITY**

Every year, APS forecasts how much electricity our customers will need on the hottest day of the year. We take a closer look at different regions in our service territory as well. For example, here in Yuma, we are projecting that our load (the amount of electricity our customers are using) will grow two percent by next summer—that’s right, even before this summer begins, we are already preparing for next summer.

One of the neat things about the power that will be keeping your home or business cool this summer is that it will be cleaner than ever before, thanks to a number of sources:

- **Continued support from the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station** – this plant has been the nation’s largest power producer for 24 years running and it provides 80 percent of Arizona’s carbon-free energy.
- **More natural gas, less coal** – after closing a coal unit last fall, APS will be using more electricity resources from natural gas, which is cleaner while still being affordable, thanks to low natural gas prices.
- **A growing renewable energy system** – we now have around 1,300 megawatts of renewable energy on the APS system. Solar plants like our Yuma Foothills Solar Plant are especially helpful; with panels that track the sun, they operate around 80 percent of their full capacity when we hit our peak on those late summer afternoons. This compares to rooftop solar, which was operating around 30 percent capacity during our peak last year.

**RELIABLE INFRASTRUCTURE**

Months ago, extra reliability crews from other APS locations traveled to Yuma to support local maintenance personnel. While there, the crews collectively performed upgrades and preventive maintenance on wires and poles, conducted ground inspections and replaced power poles as needed. An APS predictive maintenance team also spent time in Yuma County and used an infrared camera to locate “hot spots” on the APS system, which can be indicative of infrastructure wearing out. Local APS crews further inspected the equipment and replaced components as needed.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Unfortunately, storms and wildfires are a fact of life. But at APS, we prepare to mitigate their impact on customers. For example, we have been “hardening” our system to strengthen it against monsoon storms. One way we do this is by installing more steel poles as “stopper poles.” This helps prevent longer stretches of poles coming down during high monsoon winds.

Summer may just be a season, but for APS employees, preparing for this season truly happens all year long. We do this because we know how crucial reliable power is for our customers, especially when that power allows them to control the buttons to their air conditioning.

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**Celebrating all the reasons we’re proud to call Arizona “home”**

We believe that life in Arizona is worth celebrating. That’s why we have a long-standing history of supporting the arts and the diverse cultures across our state – from festivals and performances to exhibits, local events and more. The arts are a big part of why we all love living here. We’re proud of these efforts that have helped enriched our communities and create a culture as unique and diverse as our landscape.

aps.com
The New VisitYuma.com has Arrived!

Last month, the Yuma Visitors Bureau teased the reveal of its completely redesigned website and, as of late last month, we are proud to have successfully debuted the new look to the world.

The benefits, however, go beyond the surface of the site's design with new additions which make planning a visit to Yuma incredibly easy and fun! We invite everyone, residents and travelers alike, to go to VisitYuma.com to explore the Itinerary Builder which allows users to customize their assortment of stops at Yuma's top spots. Need to take your itinerary to-go? Save or print your customized agenda to have your trip at the ready, wherever you are!

Also new to the site is a revamped event calendar, providing an exciting list of year-around activities for all ages and interests. Want to know what's going on just for the weekend, or perhaps one specific week in December? Save time scrolling through a year's worth of events with the ability to now pick the dates which matter to you!

Of course, there is so much more to the new VisitYuma.com that we would love to share; but, how about experiencing it for yourself? Check out our new digs in cyberspace and let us know what you think with feedback being accepted at Communications@VisitYuma.com. Yuma Visitors Bureau thanks the city's own MGM Design for its services.

The Freedom Library, Inc.
2750 S. Pacific Ave, Ste B • Yuma, AZ 85365
Phone: (928) 246-2327 • Fax: (928) 726-1105
Email: info@freedomlibrary.org • Website: www.freedomlibrary.org

Support Activity United Way of Yuma County

Wine Tasting
Thursday, May 12, 2016 • 5-9 PM
at
251 S. Main Street, Yuma, AZ 85364

Come have a great time socializing with friends and making new ones to celebrate Liberty.

An opportunity to bid on bottles of wine with the Bill of Rights label and western art.

All proceeds go to The Freedom Library Education and Scholarship Program.
The Freedom Library is a 501 C 3 educational organization under the guidelines of the Internal Revenue Service.

Supported Activity United Way of Yuma County
An Exciting Technology For The Treatment of Glaucoma

The world’s smallest medical device to lower eye pressure can help eliminate your need for daily eyedrops. Add this step to your cataract surgery today.

We Care About Eye Care... You’ll See!

Aiello Eye Institute
Two Offices To Serve Your Needs
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11551 S. Fortuna Rd., Suite E
928-782-1980
www.yumaeyedoctor.com
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