

FIRST THINGS FIRST

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

April 25, 2013



FIRST THINGS FIRST

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Week of the Young Child, April 14-20, 2013

- * Proclamation readings by The Mohave County Board of Supervisors, The La Paz County Board of Supervisors, Quartzsite Town Council, and Lake Havasu City Mayor;
- * Radio interview with Regional Director Merritt Beckett on KGMN Super Country and KZKE Good Time Oldies on April 12;
- * Newspaper articles in The Standard, Bullhead Bee, and Quartzsite Desert Messenger.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Week of the Young Child

- * Family Literacy Night at Coyote Canyon Elementary, Tuesday, April 16.
- * Parents As Teachers bookmaking workshop at LHC Library, Thursday, April 18.
- * Desert Willow Elementary WPYC event in Kingman, Saturday, April 20.
- * Children's art displays at 10 locations in Bullhead City, Kingman, and Lake Havasu City.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Week of the Young Child Art Displays



FIRST THINGS FIRST

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

La Paz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation for Week of the Young Child

Supervisors King Clapperton, DL Wilson and Holly Irwin pictured with La Paz/Mohave Regional Director Merritt Beckett; La Paz/Mohave RPC member Jose Garcia; Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Director Ashley Pascual; and Colorado River Indian Tribes RPC member Rachel Garcia.

April 15, 2013



FIRST THINGS FIRST

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Week of the Young Child Proclamations

Lake Havasu City Mayor Mark Nexsen with La Paz/Mohave Regional Director Merritt Beckett, Regional Council Member Howard Weiske, and Arizona's Children Association Parents As Teachers Program Supervisor Shelley Fischer, with parents and kids.



April 18, 2013



FIRST THINGS FIRST

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Week of the Young Child Proclamations

Mohave County Board of Supervisors
April 1
Remarks by Lenore Knudtson



Quartzsite Town Council
April 9
Remarks by Merritt Beckett



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2013 Champion for Young Children



**Phyllis Leavitt, Principal
Beaver Dam Elementary**

**Award to be presented
at May 23, 2013 RPC
meeting in Littlefield**



FIRST THINGS FIRST

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

First Things First in the Media

Topock Preschool story featured in The Standard (Kingman, Golden Valley, Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City); Bullhead City Bee; Economic Journal of Mohave County; Mohave Daily News.

Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program/Milemarkers Therapy, Inc. story featured in The Standard; Bullhead Bee; Economic Journal of Mohave County.

Parents as Teachers playgroup picture and cutline in Kingman Daily Miner



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

First Things First in the Media

Week of the Young Child radio interview with Regional Director Merritt Beckett, aired 4/12/13 on KGMN 100.1 FM and KZKE 95.1 FM.

Week of the Young Child story in The Standard, Bullhead City Bee, Quartzsite Desert Messenger.

MEDIA HITS: **12**



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

First Things First in the Media



Volume 13

April 2013

Issue 2

HOME | Pg2 | Pg3 | Pg5 | Medical Professionals 1 & 2 & 3
Business Development 1 & 2 & 3 | Contact Us | Subscribe

Toddler defies doctors' expectations with help from First Things First in learning to talk

PEACH SPRINGS — Not many toddlers are learning two languages, especially ones whom doctors said would never learn how to talk, but for two-year old Joy, her family and First Things First were major factors in her learning how to verbally communicate, something doctors thought the youngster would never be able to do.

"We were told many things that Joy might not be able to do, and walking was one of them," her

Aunt Doris of Peach Springs said. "(Now), when my daughters sing native songs, Joy dances all around." Joy and her Aunt Doris were one of the first families to receive support through the Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program, which is funded through the First Things First Hualapai Tribe Regional Council. First Things First partners with parents and other caregivers to give them the information and support they need to help their children succeed

in kindergarten and beyond.

First Things First is a voter-created, statewide organization that funds early education and health programs to help kids be successful once they enter kindergarten. Decisions about how those funds are spent are made by local councils staffed by community volunteers.

The Maternal Child Health Program is a comprehensive intervention and home visitation program for the Hualapai Tribe that supports pregnant women and families with children five and younger in the region. With support from nurse Jennifer Pope, the program strives to give young children a more supportive relationship with their parents or caregivers through in-home services, and also connects parents and caregivers with community resources to help them better support their child's learning, development and health.

Joy was born full-term but spent most of her first year of life in and out of hospitals in Kingman, Phoenix and Las Vegas, Nev., due to a rare illness. Doris said she initially struggled to find help for Joy, making dozens of phone calls that resulted in either reaching the wrong department.

See Toddler, Page 11



Little Joy and her Aunt Doris were one of the first families to receive support through the Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program, funded through the First Things First Hualapai Tribe Regional Council. The youngster's Aunt Doris said the program helped two-year old Joy defy expectations of doctors who thought the youngster would never be able to talk. (Photo by Erin Taylor)

Johnson warns public of whooping cough outbreak

MOHAVE COUNTY — Mohave County Supervisor Buster Johnson (R-District III) is informing the public of an outbreak of pertussis in Mohave County.

A few cases have been confirmed in the Kingman, Bullhead City and Lake Havasu City area and there have been 114 confirmed cases in the Colorado City

area with 16 new cases within the last two weeks alone.

Pertussis, commonly known as Whooping Cough, is a highly contagious bacterial disease. "While pertussis can be annoying for adults, if not treated properly it can be deadly for children, especially newborns," said Johnson. "I would advise parents and grand-

See Cough, Page 12

Striving For Excellence!
Knowledge, Experience & Bedside Manner
Highest Patients' Satisfaction

Dr. Mohtaseb
Cancer Center & Blood Disorders

Kingman
1755 Airway Ave.
(928) 681-1234
Fax: (928) 681-1811

Fort Mohave
5225 Highway 95, Suite 6
Tel. (928) 770 - 4560
Fax: (928) 681-1811

Rise and Sit With Ease!



FIRST THINGS FIRST

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

First Things First in the Media

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

thestandard

3

A Quick Look at Upcoming Events in Our Community

CALENDAR WISE

Spaghetti dinner is Thursday

KINGMAN — The Kathryn Heidenreich Adult Center will host its monthly dinner Thursday, April 11 from 4 p.m. until the food is gone. The menu will be spaghetti and meat sauce, salad, bread, beverage and dessert. Proceeds help with programs at the center, located at 1776 Airway Ave. Call 928-757-2778 for information.

Railroad buffs meet Saturday

KINGMAN — Friends of the Railroad meets the second and fourth Saturday of each month at Golden Corral from 9 to 11 a.m. The meetings are open to railroad buffs and anyone interested in trains or train memorabilia. The next meeting will be Saturday, April 12. For information call Art, 928-892-7150.

Demolition Derby is April 13

LAUGHLIN, Nev. — There will be a Demolition Derby at the Special Event Area of the Avi Resort and Casino Saturday, April 13. Gates open at 3:30 p.m. and first heat starts at 5 a.m. Entry is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 7 to 15. Children under 6 are free. For more information, call Charlie Greer at 928-704-5728.

Time for Tea event slated

BULLHEAD CITY — The Bullhead City Chapter of the MCC Foundation presents its first springtime event "Time For Tea" at the Bullhead Chamber of Commerce Auditorium, Sunday, April 14 from 1 to 4 p.m.

"Time for Tea" includes live music with Kenny "Blick" Cooper, a fashion show displaying clothes from several local clothing stores, raffle and a silent "Purple Auction." A light lunch is included. Attendees will receive a gift bag filled with items and others from local businesses. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at the Bullhead Chamber of Commerce, 1251 Hwy 95, 928-754-1212. Doors open promptly at 12:45 p.m. Tables are still available for sponsors or groups.

For more information call Jacqui Mansfield 928-754-0429 or Chris Ellis 951-308-1864. Net proceeds will be used to help with scholarships and capital improvements at the MCC Bullhead campus.

Tax help for low income

KINGMAN — If you are 65 or older or have received Title 16 SSI payments (low income) in 2012 and do not file federal or Arizona state income tax, you may qualify for Arizona state tax credits. Help is available at the Kathryn Heidenreich Adult Center, 1776 Airway Ave. No appointment is needed. Just come by on Wednesdays or Fridays

Week of the Young Child celebrated

DAVE HAWKINS
THE STANDARD

Government proclamations and an array of activities aim to fortify public awareness of the importance of early childhood development as the First Things First (FTF) organization and its partners celebrate the Week of the Young Child April 14-20. FTF was established following 2006 voter approval of an 80-cent sign-with-park tax to prepare children up to five years of age for learning.

"We're a school readiness initiative," said Alberto Mendez, Director for the La Paz/Mohave Region for FTF. "What we do is partner with parents and families and other organizations to make sure that all kids come to school healthy and prepared to learn. So, definitely, the mission of the Week of the Young Child, drawing public attention to the importance of the early years, is very aligned with what we do."

Beckett said she is pleased that the Mohave and La Paz County Board of Supervisors, and at least five other municipalities, towns and tribal nations are honoring the Week of the Young Child with proclamations. Lenora Knudston, an attorney and original member of the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council, told Mo-



Parents As teachers hosted a play dough-making pay date for families Friday, March 22, at the Mohave County Library in Kingman. Parents as teachers is an evidence-based program that provides home visits to pregnant women and families with children under the age of 6. The PAT program is meant to reinforce the idea that a child's first teacher is their parent. Funds for services are provided by the First Things First La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council.

have County Supervisors during their April 1 Board meeting that FTF is locally distributing \$4.2 million to schools and other partners this fiscal year.

Knudston said an annual allocation of \$400,000 has established a highly successful infant/toddler mental health grant team that serves as a model in Arizona. She said an FTF-funded pre school program in Topock has doubled the number of students monitoring literacy benchmarks when they start kindergarten there.

"Our La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

also funds preschool programs and scholarships in some of the more rural areas where no other regulated learning for children exists," Knudston said.

Arizona's 4th graders are not reading at a 4th grade level, so as a state, we're in crisis and the La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council has diverted a tremendous amount of resources, as FTF has across the state, to address that crisis. In conjunction with the Week of the Young Child, the Bullhead City Elementary School District is hosting a family literacy night at

Crook Canyon Elementary School on April 16. A Parents As Teachers book-making workshop is scheduled April 18 at the Mohave County District Library in Lake Havasu City. Games and activities bring children and parents together for a family fun day April 20 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) at Desert Willow Elementary School in Kingman. Beckett said interested citizens can call the FTF office in Lake Havasu City (928-864-8122) for more information on Week of the Young Child events, and visit www.ftf.org for more information about FTF.

MILITARY NEWS

Damien Tran



Training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The warrior completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and attitudes, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare

principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn five credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Beckett is the son of David Beckett of Lake Havasu City.

Saturdays
@MCC

Half Day Non-Credit



FIRST THINGS FIRST

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

First Things First in the Media



FIRST THINGS FIRST

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

First Things First in the Media

EXPECT MORE EXCELLENCE TOUR [Map](#) [About](#) [Building Blocks](#) [Browse Stories](#) [Submit](#)

Introduction

The Expect More Excellence Tour spotlights what Arizonans are doing today to make progress toward world-class education, and celebrates the kind of excellence we expect and believe must be available to all students. The goal is to elevate our aspirations to expect more and commit to making excellence for all a reality. If you know of an example of excellence that is delivering the kind of results that move us closer to world-class excellence for all Arizona students, submit your story today!

[The deadline for award eligibility has passed.](#)

[Submit Story](#)

Get on Board

Keep up with Excellence Tour stories, dates, voting and general information on Expect More Arizona with updates sent to your inbox.

Top Stories [View All](#)

 172,132 Votes	 161,867 Votes	 66,802 Votes
---	--	---

Spread the Word

- [Tweet About the Tour](#)
- [Like the Tour](#) [Like](#) 314
- [Email Someone About the Tour](#)

Topock Preschool Funded by First Things First Exceeds Expectations

Topock, AZ
Submitted by Erin Taylor



[Recommend](#) [Tweet](#) [Pin It](#) [Email](#) 1 Vote [Vote Now](#)

Teachers and administrators at Topock Elementary are seeing the dramatic results of the school's preschool program firsthand. Four years ago, kids were coming into kindergarten not knowing their letters. Now, the preschool program has doubled the number of students entering kindergarten meeting literacy benchmarks. "That speaks volumes," Superintendent John Warren said. "Those kids are prepared when they get to kindergarten." The First Things First La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council began funding the Topock preschool program four years ago. Increasing early learning opportunities is one of the council's top priorities. It recently funded two more preschool programs in the region, for a total of nine for 2013-2014 school year. Warren said that without funding from First Things First, Topock's preschool program wouldn't exist. The district of 150 students has seen a decrease of 28 percent in state funding, and before FTF, a preschool program just wasn't in



FIRST THINGS FIRST

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

First Things First in the Community

Salome Health and Wellness EXPO, Feb. 22; Quartzsite Health Fair, March 27 – Low turnouts, but gives us a presence in smaller communities.

Parker Health and Wellness EXPO, April 5 – 170 attendees

Fort Mojave Boys and Girls Club Child Abuse Awareness Event, April 17 – 250 kids and their parents



FIRST THINGS FIRST

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

First Things First in the Community

Desert Willow Week of the Young Child event in Kingman,
April 20 – 250 kids

La Paz County Attorney Domestic Violence event in Parker,
April 23



FIRST THINGS FIRST

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

First Things First in the Community



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

First Things First in the Community



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Child Abuse Awareness Event
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
Boys and Girls Club
April 17, 2013

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

First Things First in the Works

- * Parents As Teachers profile of young Lake Havasu City couple in program;
- * Story on Champion for Young Children 2013 Winner, Beaver Dam Elementary School Principal Phyllis Leavitt;
- * Havasu Stick 'Em in Lake Havasu City, May 4; at least 250 kids expected;
- * Kids Health Fair in Kingman, June 1; at least 300 kids expected;
- * 2012 Regional Annual Report submitted.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

THANK YOU!



FIRST THINGS FIRST