

community news

FOR BREAKING NEWS 24/7, VISIT MESA.INDEPENDENT.COM

We want your News

News items and photos for Community News can be submitted to the newspaper by sending them to emesanews@newszap.com.

LOCAL News

Mesa water quality report available online

Do you know where your drinking water comes from and what's in it? Mesa water users can read all about the quality of the water they are drinking in the 2014 Water Quality Report, which is now available online at <http://bit.ly/1Hg6oL8>. A hard copy is available by calling 480-644-6461.

This year's annual report, which is also known as the Consumer Confidence Report, reveals that Mesa met more than 100 state and federal drinking water standards in 2014. The report includes information on both regulated and non-regulated contaminants, according to a press release.

Since 1999, the Environmental Protection Agency has required community water systems to generate an annual report which includes information about the source of water and the level, or range of levels, of certain contaminants in drinking water. All community water systems must have their annual report available by July 1.

For more information about Mesa's water quality, call Ken Marshall, Water Quality Supervisor, at 480-644-3481.

Final report from Citizens for Pets task force delivered

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors on May 4 was presented with a final report and recommendations from the Citizens for Pets task force. The ad hoc committee was created by the board of supervisors in October and is comprised of nearly 30 citizens with a common goal – the care and well-being of homeless pets in the community, according to a press release.

The task force has spent the last six months reviewing several areas of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control and compiling a list of recommendations for the Board's consideration. According to MCACC Director Dr. Rodrigo Silva, approximately 50 percent of the Citizens for Pets task force recommendations are already being implemented.

The task force presented the board of supervisors with a total of 35 major recommendations and 108 strategies in the following areas: medical care, sanitation, behavior, adoptions, marketing and outreach and budget and funding. The task force recommendations included:

- Hiring of additional veterinary staff.
- Improvements to MCACC's dog-evaluation process.
- Enhancement of MCACC volunteer program and outreach.

The board will review of all of the task force's recommendations.

For a full copy of the report, visit www.CitizensforPets.org.

MESA Arts and Crafts Festival



Special to the Independent/Vern Mathern

Artworks by Raquel Atibagos Roberts that were at the April 18 Mesa Arts and Crafts Festival held October-April in downtown Mesa.

Artist Roberts selected festival favorite

By Vern Mathern
Special to the Independent

Artist Raquel Atibagos Roberts was selected the April 18 Mesa Arts and Crafts Festival favorite.

Ms. Roberts creates handmade jewelry that has been described as edgy, dazzling and whimsical. Her jewelry often features intricate wire sculptures adorned with a colorful array of beads and semi-precious stones. Each piece, whether for casual or formal wear, is one-of-a-kind and given detailed attention.

Ms. Roberts sees her pliers like the brushes of a painter and the beads and stones like paint on a canvas. Her favorite wire mediums are copper and brass due to their vintage character and wide applicability. In addition, Ms. Roberts enjoys challenging herself by utilizing non-traditional materials, such as recycled plastic melted into flowery shapes.

Ms. Roberts is originally from Manila, Philippines, and developed her skills largely through mentors and self-study with recognized artists in that country. She credits her imagination from an upbringing that

required resourcefulness. She recalls creating a favorite toy car from a used sardine can, battered rubber slipper, barbecue stick and string.

Ms. Roberts, an artisan based in the Phoenix area, has sold her jewelry and artwork at a variety of shows and galleries over the past decade. She appreciates MACFest and the Mesa Arts Center community for the many opportunities they offer. She joins craft fairs because she enjoys meeting people and because of the positive experiences she has with artists and customers. She especially enjoys collaborating with clients to create pieces that fit their specific taste.

Contact Ms. Roberts at rquaroberts@gmail.com or visit www.raquelaroberts.com.

MACFest events will resume with its eighth season in October. MACfest is held 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the first and third Saturdays from October to April on North MacDonald Street near the Natural History Museum. This is a free event to the public and all are welcome. Booth registration for MACFest is \$20 per event. If you are interested, contact the box office at 480-644-6500, at info@macfestmesa.com or visit <http://www.macfestmesa.com>.

Editor's note: Vern Mathern is the chairman of the Mesa Arts and Crafts Festival.



Raquel Roberts

LOOK Back



File photo

43 years ago

Forty-three years ago this week the top news stories for the May 18, 1972. *Apache Sentinel*, the precursor to the *Mesa Independent* newspaper, included: A 21-year-old Williams Air Force Base sergeant was found near First Water by Pinal County sheriff's deputies after he had been missing overnight in the Superstition Mountains. Also, a Mesa coroner's jury ruled that the death of a 17-year-old area youth was the result of a knife wound by another teenager.

MORE Online

More news can be found online at Mesaindependent.com

SOCIAL Media

The Mesa Independent newspaper is on Twitter:

[Twitter.com/MesaIndependent](https://twitter.com/MesaIndependent)

And also on Facebook at:

[MesaIndependent](https://www.facebook.com/MesaIndependent)



Use your cell phone to read the QR code and go to our Facebook page.