



Wednesday, September 23, 2020 | Volume 130, Number 39

Education

Learning in progress: Employers offer options for working parents and their children

Red Feather Inn provides space for employees' children to utilize during online instruction

By Abigail Kessler
Williams-Grand Canyon News

GRAND CANYON, Ariz. — School is back in session for Grand Canyon students, although it looks a little different this year.

Last month, the Grand Canyon School Governing Board voted to start the year entirely online, in response to the ongoing pandemic.

Some families have looked for ways to help their children succeed in this new format, often while balancing work responsibilities.

See Red Feather, Page 2B

Governing board discusses challenges of online learning

By Abigail Kessler
Williams-Grand Canyon News

GRAND CANYON, Ariz. — On Sept. 16, the Grand Canyon School Governing Board held its regular meeting, mostly to discuss the current school year and the challenges and benefits of online distance learning.

Grand Canyon School Principal Matt Yost said the school is optimistic about the start of the school year and said staff has been able to adapt to the various and unique challenges associated with distance learning.

"I'm extremely proud of our team of teachers," Yost said. "I'm awestruck."

The school reported that attendance had been high with the online learning model in place and everyone in attendance was enthusiastic about

See Challenges, Page 2B



A Grand Connection

Zuni youth reminded about connection to Grand Canyon

Above: Six Zuni youth spent three days hiking and exploring their cultural ties and connections to the Grand Canyon through the Zuni Youth Enrichment Program. Below: Participants display the flag of the Zuni Tribe at the Bright Angel Campground during their overnight stay in the Grand Canyon in March. (Photos/Zuni Youth Enrichment Program)

By Loretta McKenney
Williams-Grand Canyon News
lmckenney@williamsnews.com

GRAND CANYON, Ariz. — Even though the Zuni tribe is more than 250 miles away from the Grand Canyon, the connection remains strong — this is the reminder that Zuni leaders want the youth of their nation to remember and to feel and experience.

Which is why, in March, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, six young adults, along with cultural advisors from the Zuni Youth Enrichment Program (ZYEP), spent several days hiking, exploring and reconnecting with the Grand Canyon.

During the trip, participants learned about the cultural significance of the Canyon to the Zuni

See Youth, Page 4B



Virus-related travel decline hits Maverick Helicopter tours

By Ed Komenda
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The plummeting of international travel in the wake of COVID-19 has put dozens of helicopter tour pilots and staffers out of work in southern Nevada.

Several companies known for scenic tour flights to the Las Vegas Strip and Grand Canyon have cut significant

slices of their staff to mirror business demand, according to documents filed with Nevada employment officials.

Bryan Kroten, Maverick Helicopters' vice president of marketing, said the pandemic has most impacted the number of flights the company makes to the Grand Canyon — bookings that almost entirely come from international travelers.

"There's a lot less travelers

visiting Vegas today than there was eight months ago," Kroten said. "The majority of our guests that fly to the Grand Canyon are international guests."

In a letter to state officials, Maverick revealed the company would have to lay off almost 75 employees — including 23 helicopter mechanics and 21 pilots.

"Initially, we were optimistic that once resorts were permitted to reopen and states began

to reopen, travel would resume and our business levels would increase," Maverick President John Buch wrote in the letter. "We could not possibly have foreseen the duration and severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, or its impact on our industry."

In August, Sundance Helicopters — one of the world's largest helicopter

See Tours, Page 2B

Grand Canyon Chocolate Factory offers candied apples, gelato, fudge and more

By V. Ronnie Tierney
Williams-Grand Canyon News

TUSAYAN, Ariz. — Sweet dreams do come true — just ask Patrick and Vikki Stickler, who recently opened the Grand Canyon Chocolate Factory in Tusayan.

"We have always dreamed of having a business at the gateway to the Grand Canyon," said Vikki Stickler. "We wanted something a little different from the normal souvenir or sandwich shop, a place where tourists and locals alike could enjoy."

The inspiration for the business derived from family getaways.

"During our family vacations we would always be on the lookout for little sweet shops and ice cream parlors," Patrick said. "That was special to us and I know families who pass through will feel the same way about our new venture."

The Stickler's three sons Tyler, 18, Connor, 16 and Logan, 10, also work the business.

"It's just a great idea," said Grand Canyon resident La Vonda Dale. "I've had their candy apple. It was covered with white chocolate and caramel. We also tried the rainbow and cinnamon popcorn and it

"I've always been one who loves to make other people smile and our vision has come true. Our motto is to make life's memories a bit sweeter."

~Vikki Stickler,
GRAND CANYON CHOCOLATE FACTORY

was really delicious. There's a huge variety of gelato which we hope to try next time."

Dale says she's already been there twice and plans to go back.

Tusayan Town Manager Charlie Gail Hendrix said the town is excited to welcome the factory and said it will make a fun addition to the community.

"My family has already visited the Grand Canyon Chocolate Factory twice," she said. "It is a wonderful experience for our visitors, but most importantly it is a new community-gathering place. We are so grateful that they have come home to us."

The rustic ranch style setting welcomes visitors with an ample size gelato and sorbetto counter featuring a colorful variety of flavors.

"We have 24 gelato flavors," Vikki said.

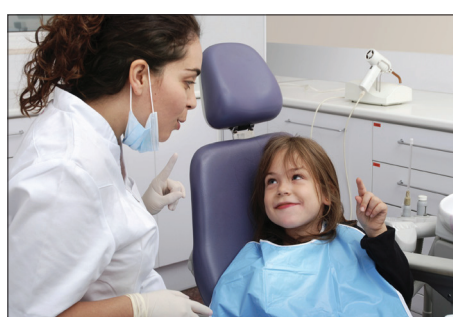


The biggest seller at the Grand Canyon Chocolate Factory is the Grand Canyon Crunch, a crispy treat perfect for traveling. Grand Canyon Chocolate Factory is located in Tusayan. (V. Ronnie Tierney/WGCM)

"Some of the most popular are Maple Roasted Butter Pecan and our Belgian Dark Chocolate which several people have said

is the best they've ever tasted."

See Factory, Page 4B



NOW OPEN at North Country HealthCare in Williams!

Family Dental Care

Comprehensive exams • Teeth cleanings • Digital x-rays
Fillings • Restorative care • and more!

NORTH COUNTRY
HealthCare

928.635.5810

Call for an appointment today!

