

Behind the Mask



PASH GALBAVY works with Clark Borjon to create a porcelain replica of his hand at Sedona Red Rock High School (above). Galbavy was a guest artist working with students on the concept of identity. Javier Diaz puts a porcelain mask on Marissa Laso's face in the Spanish classroom as part of the four-day workshop with Galbavy (right).

Photos by Jordan Reece/
Larson Newspapers



SCAM: Threatened arrest for 'missing' jury duty

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reported receiving similar calls, Ann said the scammer never got to the point when he demanded money. Even though she said he mentioned something about there being a \$1,495 fine for not appearing.

"Even though he never asked directly for money, you could tell he was trying to get there," she said of the 10 to 15 minute call that originated from Winslow according to her caller ID. "He wasn't very clear and was

or pay for anything over the phone. No matter what he said, he wasn't going to get anything from me."

That said, she added, "But I can see how some people would be concerned when you get a call from the sheriff's office. That's enough to worry anyone. At first, he did catch me off guard."

The CCSO provided the following tips in helping to avoid being a victim of a scam:

- Keep your financial information to yourself. Never give out credit

as it is not difficult for someone with this data to draft money from your account.

- Ask the caller to send you information about their product or services. Legitimate companies are often happy to mail you a pamphlet or brochure about what they sell.

- Place your name on the national Do Not Call List.

- Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

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FIXES: Committee had not allocated all funds

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\$253,900 in requests for the categories of arts and culture, community building and economic stimulation. The grants committee recommended distributing just \$128,400 of the budgeted \$150,000. The report states that the chairman of the work group vetted the grant applications for completeness, reproduced and distributed the applicants to the reviewers, led the evaluation process, scheduled the applicant interviews and summarized committee recommendations for grant awards to the city.

In a subsequent meeting, council allocated the remaining \$21,600, mostly to those organizations that were slated to receive no funding.

"This year things were a little bit different," Assistant City Manager Karen Osburn said. "This year's citizen committee was very focused on that funding criteria established by council several years ago. They deliberated over it, trying to find a consensus amongst them as to how to interpret that criteria. And they used that interpretation to make their funding decisions."

"But when funding decisions and corresponding rationale came back to council, there was no consensus among the council that they got the interpretations right in terms of how it was interpreted or applied to those funding recommendations."

Direction from council to staff at the Dec. 13 meeting was that the city will no longer restrict grant applications to the three categories listed above. Instead, the city will entertain applications for programs, projects or activities done by non-profits that can demonstrate benefit to the community.

Council said that eligible programs, activities or events should:

- Promote public health, safety, general welfare, prosperity or contentment.
- Significantly impact the well-being and prosperity of Sedona residents in the areas of arts and culture, community building or economic stimulation.
- Demonstrate that city funding is essential to the success of the program or service.
- Directly benefit city of Sedona residents and preferably occur within the city limits.
- Strive for programs that are innovative and distinctive.
- Provide documented benefits directly to city of Sedona residents.

The council also does not want the existence of a building fund to necessarily exclude anyone from receiving funding and they don't want to have a practice of automatically weaning grantees after a certain amount of time. But, their ability to demonstrate financial need vs. self sustainability will continue to be a factor in making funding decisions. Finally, council said organizations can't double dip and get grant funds if they are getting city funding through other mechanisms.

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CITY: SB 1350 negates ban on vacation rentals

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justification for the requirement that emergency contact information be posted — and in light of the alternative requirement that emergency contact information be provided by alternate, less intrusive means — it is recommended that the posting requirement at issue be removed, Pickels said.

Instead, the owner's contact information will be posted on the inside of the house and will be available at city hall and with the Sedona Fire District.

The ordinance states that those renting their homes will be required to obtain a city business license as well as obtain a transaction privilege taxes license with the state. However, online companies like Airbnb handle the TPT and business license as long as the customer continues working through them. If the owner decides to rent his home on his own, he must file TPT with the state and obtain a city business license.

In addition to the posting of contact information, those who do rent their homes for less than 30 days will be obligated to obtain a TPT through the Arizona Department of Revenue. Tax must be collected and remitted by individual property owners or by online lodging businesses such as Airbnb.

Pickels has previously said some of the important facts to remember include:

- SB 1350 renders Sedona's ordinance prohibiting short-term rental invalid.

- Any new regulations must demonstrate a health, safety and welfare issue and must be consistent with regulations applied to other residential uses.

- SB 1350 authorizes the city to require an emergency contact for a rental property, which could prove a valuable mechanism to track short-term rental activity.

- It remains unclear if rental activity will proliferate or whether the activity will cause negative impacts greater than those experienced with other residential uses.

- SB 1350 contemplates collection of sales tax.

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