



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS

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SEA LIFE AQUARIUM

Tempe City Council recently approved a plan by Merlin Entertainments Group to build a \$15 million Sea Life Aquarium in the Arizona Mills mall. Work will begin next month, with a goal to open the new attraction late spring 2010. The company is behind iconic brands such as Madame Tussauds, The London Eye and the LEGOLAND theme parks. UK-based Merlin is the number two visitor attraction operator in the world, second only to Disney, entertaining 35 million people in 2008. Merlin is also the world's biggest aquarium operator, with 31 Sea Life attractions throughout Europe. Its first Sea Life centre in the US opened two years ago alongside LEGOLAND in California. The Tempe Sea Life Aquarium will be a 26,000 square feet development with 12 different habitat zones housing over 30 separate display tanks. The new attraction is anticipated to draw 400,000 visitors. It is hoped that visitors will not only enjoy their time at the aquarium, but will also shop, dine and stay in Tempe. www.merlinentertainments.biz/

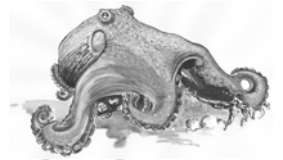


COOL SCHOOLS

Sierra Magazine ranked the nation's top 20 schools for their efforts to stop global warming and operate sustainably. Arizona State University was No. 13 on the list. ASU is home to the nation's first School of Sustainability. Some reasons behind the nod: a purchasing program that thinks green. Energy-efficiency upgrades that have saved ASU an estimated 33 million kilowatt and 70 million pounds of carbon dioxide annually, making it one of the largest university solar initiatives in the country. University of Colorado at Boulder topped the chart. The complete list is available online at www.sierraclub.org/coolschools.

In Cool Schools:

- The top 20
- The full list
- Students write about their winning schools
- Universities that got extra credit
- 3 that failed
- Community colleges
- Kicking coal off campus
- How about the sport's programs?
- What's next: green jobs



digg

Tempe continues to be a lively place for social media. According to the Arizona Republic, social media aficionados invaded Tempe last week with Social Media for Business at the MADCAP Theater, sponsored by Tempe Community Development, and DiggNation www.diggnation.com/, hosted at the Tempe Center for the Arts. DiggNation is a live show that takes a light look at topics that received the most 'digg's' on the popular website. Sponsored by Tempe company GoDaddy, the event had people waiting in lines for hours before the show started. Social Media for Business brought together some of Arizona's finest tech and marketing companies for a day of insight into the most prevalent, free marketing tools. Sheri Wakefield-Saenz spoke on how to start your business in Tempe while Off Madison Avenue, Sacks PR, Sitewire and others led discussions. #smaz or www.socialmediaaz.org



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theBAG Fall 2009 Schedule

- Wednesday 23 September -- Dr. Amy Douglass, Tempe History Museum Administrator - Museum Renovation
- Wednesday 21 October -- Matthew Bilsbarrow + Darlene Justus, Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation - The Pink Elephant in the Park: Saving the Eisendrath House
- November [date TBA] -- Ann Patterson Tempe HPC / Author - Scandanavia: Arts, Culture + Architecture
- Wednesday 16 December -- Chris Salomone Community Development Manager + Mark Vinson City Architect - The Great Northwest: Architecture + Urban Design

Unless noted otherwise, all Bags will occur at 12:00 noon in the Orchid 2 Conference Room [2nd floor of the OrchidHouse Building, 21 E 6th ST, 2nd floor, across from Community Development]. Bring your own bag.



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