



PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Agua Fria High School Art Students Partner with the City of Avondale on New Gateway Monument

(Avondale, Ariz. – Jan. 15, 2025) — On December 4, the City of Avondale, in partnership with Agua Fria High School and Smithcraft Signage, officially unveiled the new gateway monument sign at the cross between Dysart Road and MC 85. This landmark commemorates the partnership, hard work, and enduring legacy of the Avondale community.

The monument was brought to life by 13 exceptional art students under the guidance of Art Teacher Carla Mora as the team worked diligently to replace the old monument with the new vision. The monument features a metal wagon with vibrant flowers planted within its truck bed. A roadrunner stands to the left, while a barrel on the right symbolizes Avondale's historic trading heritage. The wagon rests on a beam inscribed with "Avondale," accompanied by a taller structure displaying the City of Avondale logo. On the reverse side of this structure, a plaque honors the partnership between the City Council, city management, and Agua Fria High School, celebrating the collaborative effort that made this project possible.

"Our exceptional Owl art students took on the challenge of imagining what defines the Avondale community. Drawing inspiration from Avondale's rich history, our students incorporated elements like the old town wagon, symbolizing transportation and trade, and the roadrunner, a spirited emblem of the community," said Principal Daniels. "Their journey was extraordinary. From brainstorming and sketching ideas, visiting monuments, and working hands-on, they embraced real-world learning at its finest.

The unveiling ceremony brought together community members, local officials, and special guests, celebrating a new chapter in honoring the history of Avondale. Speeches were given by Avondale Mayor Mike Pineda, Principal Autumn Daniels, Carla Mora, Assistant Director for the City's Development and Engineering Services Rick Carr, and Ayleen Barajas, an Agua Fria art student, speaking of their connection to and pride in the project.

Principal Daniels highlighted the lasting impact of the students' contributions, noting, "These students will always be able to look at this monument and proudly say they contributed to something meaningful for our community, a symbol of what we can achieve when passion meets partnership and education and community combine forces."

This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity allowed students to engage in real-world design while reconnecting the community with Avondale's roots. Their primary goal was to create a monument that reflects the city's history and culture—a goal that was achieved beautifully.

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Agua Fria Union High School District was established in 1955. Today, the district serves the communities of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, with six high schools: Agua Fria, Canyon View, Desert Edge, Millennium, Verrado and Agua Fria Online. Plus the District offers two alternative programs: Coldwater Academy and New Directions. More information can be found at aguafria.org



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El Distrito de Escuelas Secundarias Agua Fria Union se estableció en 1955. Hoy en día, el distrito sirve a las comunidades de Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, con seis escuelas secundarias: Agua Fría, Canyon View, Desert Edge, Millennium, Verrado y Agua Fría Online. Además, el distrito ofrece dos programas alternativos: Coldwater Academy y New Directions. Más información se puede encontrar en aguafria.org