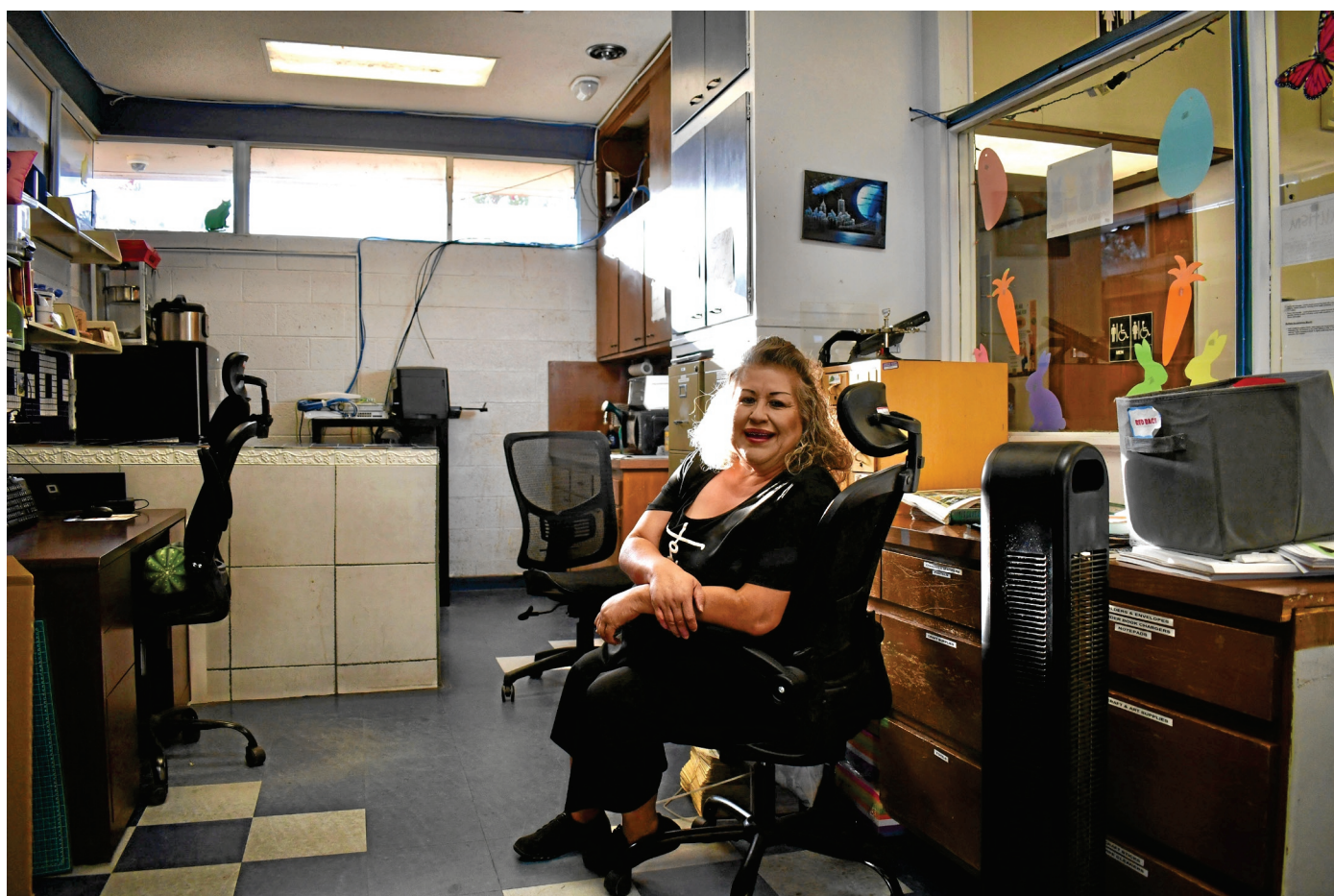




Arizona Daily Star

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026 | tucson.com



SARAH HENRY PHOTOS, ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Bea Bejarano, who has worked at the Hayden Public Library for the last seven years, remembers a time when Hayden was a bustling mining town.

Copper mining could revive AZ town

SARAH HENRY
Arizona Republic

HAYDEN — Down Velasco Avenue, past Town Hall, the volunteer fire department, a dozen ramshackle bungalows and an empty community pool, stands a 1,000-foot-tall smelter stack — dormant and casting an unwavering shadow over town.

For a nearly century, the American Smelting and Refining Company operated the smelter in Hayden, providing jobs to over 600 people in its heyday. But with ASARCO's nearby Ray Mine, it has consistently ranked among the most prolific emitters of toxic pollutants, like arsenic and lead, in the country.

In 2020, the smelter went on hiatus after a series of pollution penalties, Environmental Protection Agency settlements and worker strikes. Eventually, it was named an EPA Superfund Alternative site, mandating company-led clean-up of the town.

Now, it could be getting a chance at resurrection.

ASARCO's parent company, mining giant Grupo Mexico, floated plans during a January earnings call to reopen and expand the facility, hopeful to double production in the United States under recent policies giving domestic copper production new vigor.

Please see **COPPER**, Page A2



Peggy Plews looks out her dining room window of her Miami home, where Freeport-McMoRan owns the only operating copper smelter in the state.

Please see **IRAN**, Page A4

Bid for US, Iran deal persists

STEVE HOLLAND, ARIBA SHAHID
AND PARISA HAFEZI
Reuters

WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD/DUBAI — Work has not halted to bridge gaps between the United States and Iran, sources from mediator Pakistan said, despite the failure of face-to-face diplomacy after President Donald Trump called off a trip by his envoys over the weekend.

Iranian sources disclosed Tehran's latest proposal on Monday, which would set aside discussion of Iran's nuclear program until the war is ended and disputes over shipping from the Gulf are resolved. That is unlikely to satisfy Washington, which says nuclear issues must be dealt with from the outset.

Hopes of reviving peace efforts have receded since the U.S. president scrapped a visit on Saturday by his envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner to Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, where Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi shuttled in and out twice over the weekend.

Araqchi also visited Oman over the weekend and went to Russia on Monday, where he met President Vladimir Putin and received words of support from a longstanding ally.

With the warring sides still seemingly far apart on issues including Iran's nuclear ambitions and access through the crucial Strait of Hormuz, oil prices resumed their upward march when trade reopened on Monday. Brent crude was up around 2.5% at around \$108 a barrel.

"If they want to talk, they can come to us, or they can call us. You know, there is a telephone. We have nice, secure lines," Trump told "The Sunday Briefing" on Fox News.

SCOTUS skips gender-identity case

ANDREW CHUNG
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court declined on Monday to hear another bid by parents to sue a public school district over actions by teachers and officials to support the gender identity of students by not disclosing name or pronoun changes to parents without the child's consent.

The justices turned away an appeal by the parents of a student who had self-identified as nonbinary while attending a middle school in Florida's capital city Tallahassee after a lower court threw out their lawsuit. The justices turned away a similar case from Massachusetts last week.

The plaintiffs had claimed officials treated their child as nonbinary and hid this information from them in violation of their fundamental parental rights as protected by the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment promise of due process.

Disputes over efforts to support and protect the privacy of transgender and gender non-conforming students continue to play out across the United States. The court also previously turned away similar challenges in Wisconsin and Maryland.

The Supreme Court in March blocked measures in California that could limit the sharing of information with parents about the gender identity of transgender public school students without the child's permission.

Acting on an emergency request by Christian parents to reinstate a judge's ruling in their favor, the court's 6-3

Please see **SCOTUS**, Page A4

Tucson brew lauded in world beer competition

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A beer by Tucson's Barrio Brewing Co. won a gold medal in the World Beer Cup, the world's largest professional beer competition.

A porter by Barrio Brewing, 800 E. 16th St., was awarded gold: Nolan's Porter, the competition announced in its list of winners.

"Thirty years in, the World Beer Cup remains a powerful reflection of how far global brewing has come — and where it's headed," said Chris Williams, World Beer Cup competition director, in a news release. "Even in a

year that challenged beverage alcohol producers to evolve, this year's winners demonstrated that innovation, precision, and passion for craft are stronger than ever."

The awards are organized by the Brewers Association, a non-profit organization that represents small craft breweries. Organizers said 1,644 breweries from 50 countries submitted 8,166 entries for the competition. Of them, 273 breweries won awards.

The competition awarded the best beer and cider in 118 categories during an April 22 ceremony at the Pennsylvania



MAMTA POPAT, ARIZONA DAILY STAR, FILE 2025

A beer by Barrio Brewing Co. in Tucson won gold medal at the World Beer Cup.

Convention Center. Another Arizona brew, in Chandler, won the silver medal for Day Drinker Light Lager from Pedal Haus Brewery

Subscriber Benefits

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to see all the benefits of being a Star subscriber.



INSIDE TODAY'S STAR

Business	A10	Obituaries	B3
TV	B2	Comics	B5
Bridge	B3	Weather	C6

LEE ENTERPRISES

For home delivery, call 1-800-695-4492 email: circulation@tucson.com

