

ARIZONA BUSINESS GAZETTE

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'They're not going to break our heart'

Mobile home evictions moving forward following council vote

Juliette Rihl and Taylor Seely
Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

At the end of an emotional, six-hour marathon meeting on March 22, Phoenix City Council members shot down three of four proposals intended to protect residents facing eviction at three mobile home parks, ultimately siding with city staff who said the actions would put the city in legal and financial jeopardy.

The council opted not to approve a zoning change or an 18-month development moratorium for the three parks, two actions that residents and community activists had pleaded with council members to take. It also did not move forward with pursuing a study of mobile home parks throughout the city.

Instead, the council allocated \$2.5 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds toward helping the affected families find new housing and asked city staff to research a dozen solutions that staff first proposed in November.

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Should canals in Arizona get covered with solar panels?

Ryan Randazzo
Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

Arizona residents often suggest — to their utilities, the media, their neighbors — that the canals that deliver water from the Salt and Colorado rivers to the big cities ought to get covered with solar panels.

The idea just seems like a natural fit for a place with nearly 300 days a year of sunshine and crisscrossed by wide, uncovered canals carrying precious water that can evaporate under the hot sun.

Utilities have mostly balked at the idea, saying that coverings of any kind on the canals would hinder maintenance on the ditches, and that solar is cheaper and easier to build over solid land. First responders also regularly need to get in those waterways to rescue people and animals.

Salt River Project, which operates most of the canals in metro Phoenix, also has shared concern over installing expensive and potentially dangerous power-generating equipment along canals that are open to the public. Most large solar plants are fenced off.

But the tide might be shifting. The public utility is partnering with Arizona State University to collect data from two sites along its canals to determine how much electricity they might generate and how much evaporation installing solar panels over the water might prevent.

See **CANALS**, Page 4

Phoenix company helps people understand health care



Helping clients better understand what their health care providers are discussing and their care plans are among the services provided by Your Patient's Advocate. Here, advocate Rondo Smith joins her client on a physician's visit.

Georgann Yara
Special to Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two traumatizing events changed Janie Dalrymple's life in a way the registered nurse could not have imagined.

In the span of a year, Dalrymple's husband died by suicide and her mother's illness put her on a ventilator. While it could've sent her into an irreversible tailspin, Dalrymple used the events as motivation and inspiration to start Your Patient's Advocate. The Phoenix-based company launched in 2018 offers clients guidance, support and other assistance with the goal of obtaining the best health care possible.

Dalrymple and her team of advocates, the majority of whom are nurses, review medications and records, attend physician appointments and assist with transition from hospital care to home or a facility, if needed.

Breaking down complicated termin-

What: Your Patient's Advocate

Where: Phoenix

Employees: 15

Factoid: There are more than 71,668 patient advocates currently employed in the United States, according to Zippia.

Details: 480-800-0111, yourpatientsadvocate.com

ology and doctor speak while making sure a patient's multiple physicians are on the same page are also part of the work. Most of her clients need someone to help them make crucial healthcare decisions and ask the right questions, Dalrymple said. Sometimes, this means going over something two or three times over the course of an hour.

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Janie Dalrymple is the founder of Your Patient's Advocate, her Phoenix-based company that offers clients guidance, support and other assistance needed for them to get the best health care possible.

YOUR PATIENT'S ADVOCATE

'Green' cobalt processing facility planned for Yuma County town

Sarah Lapidus
Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

A small town in Yuma County will be the new home of the only cobalt processing facility in North America and will bring hundreds of jobs to the county.

Evelution Energy plans to develop a solar-powered, carbon-neutral facility to process cobalt sulfate for electric vehicle batteries. Construction is expected to begin next year with completion projected in 2025 or 2026.

On March 6, the Yuma County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a special-use permit for the company to develop its facility on a 138-acre-lot in Tacna.

Cobalt is a highly sought-after mineral used in ion-lithium batteries. About 70% of the world's cobalt is produced by the Democratic Republic of Congo. The cobalt is then sent abroad and processed

See **COBALT**, Page 3



Evelution Energy is planning a cobalt processing facility in Yuma County, the only cobalt processing facility in North America. EVELUTIONENERGY.COM

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BUSINESS NEWS

LG will spend \$5.5 billion on Queen Creek battery plant

Russ Wiles
Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

LG Energy Solution said it will quadruple its initial budget for a battery manufacturing plant in Queen Creek and now plans to spend \$5.5 billion for the project, which will create thousands of jobs and could become the largest stand-alone battery complex in North America.

The South Korean company's lithium-ion batteries power electric vehicles, mobility devices, information technology services and energy-storage services. The complex will consist of two manufacturing facilities — one for cylindrical batteries for electric vehicles and another for lithium iron phosphate batteries for energy storage systems. Production is expected to start in 2025. (Lithium ion and lithium iron phosphate are two distinct types of batteries.)

LG Energy Solution said demand for batteries is surging, and the company expects its 2023 revenue to increase by 25% to 30%. The company attributed the demand increase in part to federal tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act, which was passed by Congress last year.

The announcement didn't specify the number of jobs, types of positions or when hiring will start, but Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs said the investment will mark Arizona as the "battery manufacturing capital of the country," cementing the state's reputation as "an innovation hub for renewable energy."

The \$5.5 billion figure is nearly four times LG's initial announcement of a \$1.4



An artist's rendering shows some of the buildings planned at LG Energy Solution's battery manufacturing plant in Queen Creek. COURTESY OF WARE MALCOMB

billion investment for the Queen Creek complex, disclosed last April. The company plans to invest \$3.2 billion for EV batteries and \$2.3 billion for "pouch type" lithium iron phosphate batteries for energy storage systems.

LG's electric vehicle customers include Tesla and Lucid, which builds its vehicles in Casa Grande.

Arizona developing battery focus

The expansion is the latest in a string of

battery announcements in Arizona.

In February, Ecobat said it would build a lithium-iron battery recycling facility in Casa Grande. In December, American Battery Factory said it would invest \$1.2 billion to build a lithium-ion battery manufacturing facility in Tucson, creating 1,000 jobs. Also in Tucson, Sion Power said it would expand its battery-manufacturing operations there, creating over 150 jobs.

Queen Creek Mayor Julia Wheatley said the complex in her town "will create a positive ripple effect for the region and the

state, bringing local jobs, infrastructure and capital investment," with LG Energy Solution breaking ground along an advanced manufacturing corridor.

LG's new manufacturing facilities will utilize a state-of-the-art smart factory system in which decisions will be made using machine-produced data. This process is designed to enhance product quality, improve the manufacturing process and boost productivity.

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Cobalt

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into cobalt sulfate for electric vehicle batteries, with more than 70% percent of cobalt sulfate refined in China and most of the remainder processed in Finland and Indonesia.

The newly formed Yuma-based company wants to bring battery-grade cobalt processing stateside.

"We want to bring this product to America ... and process it here and sell it to North American electric vehicle battery manufacturers and carmakers," Navaid Alam, Evelution Energy's co-founder, president and CEO, said.

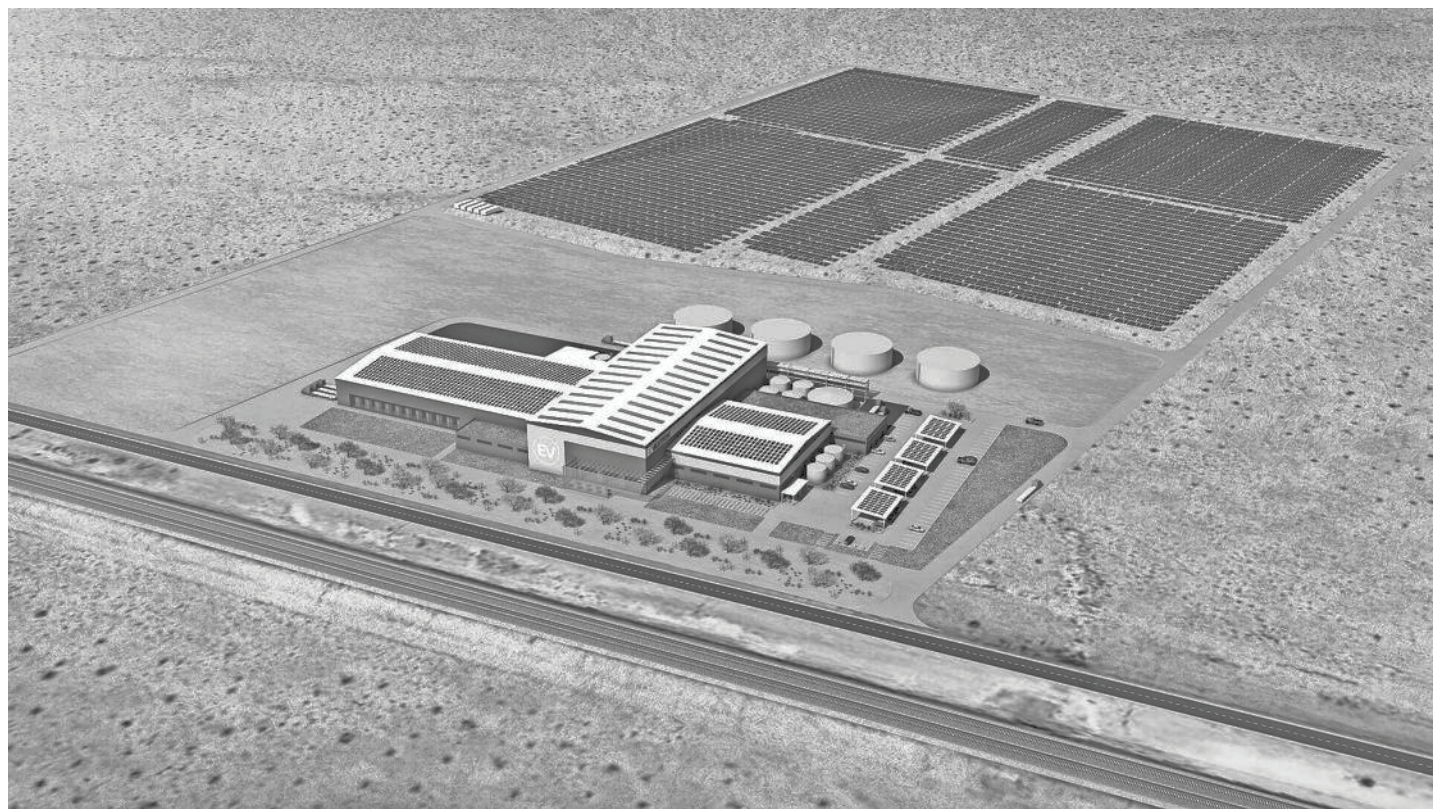
According to an economic impact assessment published by the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation, Evelution Energy is estimated to generate \$330 million in positive economic impact in the county related to the development of the facility, from construction to road improvements and labor.

In addition, the company will create 60 jobs and generate \$3.6 million annually in payroll, as well as an average of \$2.5 million in local and state taxes per year. The company will bring 300 additional jobs to the area including trucking and supplier jobs, as well as other jobs needed to support the plant.

Construction of the facility is estimated to bring in over 1,229 jobs and \$55 million in income.

The site where Evelution Energy will build its plant is located between Tacna and Dateland.

Evelution Energy expects to produce 33,000 metric tons of electric vehicle bat-



Evelution Energy is planning to develop a cobalt processing facility in Yuma County, the only cobalt processing facility in North America. EVELUTION ENERGY

tery grade cobalt sulfate per year to support the domestic production of approximately 470,000 electric vehicles annually, according to a company press release.

Gil Michel-Garcia, the company's co-founder executive vice president and general counsel, said their product will have a smaller carbon footprint than cobalt sulfate imported from other countries.

Whereas much of the world's cobalt is

exported from Africa for processing in China before being sold in the U.S., cobalt used by Evelution Energy will be sent from Africa straight to Ensenada, Mexico, before being trucked three and a half hours to the Yuma processing facility.

To process cobalt sulfate, the company plans to use 74 million gallons of water per month, sourced from groundwater wells, according to a Yuma County staff report about the project. However, it is

estimated that 70% of the water used in production will be recycled and reused.

The company also aims to have a carbon-neutral facility.

Coverage of southern Arizona on azcentral.com and in *The Arizona Republic* is funded by the nonprofit Report for America in association with *The Republic*.

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Health

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"We help lay out all those options. Often, healthcare providers don't have the time to do this," she said. "We're just there to educate you on all of your options, so you can map the decision that's best for you and your life."

Most clients are older and find it difficult to talk with multiple physicians, who usually don't communicate with each other to coordinate a patient's treatment. Your Patient's Advocate keeps track of records, notes and medications in an online patient portal to keep everyone in the loop. This has helped patients streamline prescription medications.

Sometimes, clients call while hospitalized and are overwhelmed by a flurry of complicated medical terminology doctors hurl at them in the few minutes they can spend before zipping off to the next patient.

"When you use those technical words, it can be scary. We explain what they mean. We bridge that gap between the client and the healthcare team," Dalrymple said.

In its first year, Your Patient's Advocate served five clients with Dalrymple doing it all. Today, she and her team serve 20 clients throughout the Valley and Tucson. It also provides ALS care

via virtual visits nationwide.

"Patients feel as if they've taken more control of their healthcare," she said.

How the advocates serve patients

Dalrymple's team is among the more than 71,668 patient advocates currently employed in the United States, according to Zippia.

Some clients find Dalrymple through their adult children, who are concerned about their parents and whether they are getting appropriate care. In these cases, she keeps the family informed.

This is how Gary and Nancy Dodd connected with Dalrymple, who was contacted by their daughters not long after the company launched.

Nancy has had three back surgeries. After her second, their daughters were concerned about how their parents, both in their 80s, were dealing with all of the information and medications, Gary said.

After meeting Dalrymple, they all clicked right away.

"For me personally, Janie has become a life preserver. I was way in over my head in helping Nan with her healthcare," Gary said. "The support she's given us has given us confidence in the decisions we are making."

Dalrymple goes to most of Nancy's doctor appointments as well as some sessions with her physical therapist, dermatologist and pain management

specialists. She has gone on interviews with aftercare and rehab facilities following Nancy's surgery. She explains what's happening in a way the Mesa couple understands.

Today, she is considered a family friend as well as a patient advocate.

Nancy said she appreciates the time Dalrymple spends answering her questions and the encouragement over the years, for both her and Gary.

"It just brings so much comfort and so much peace of mind," Nancy said. "I'm in a much better place with her than if I didn't have her."

Life experience led to business idea

Originally from Fort Wayne, Indiana, Dalrymple pursued studies in corporate management in college with her sights set on the C-suite level. Her first economics class, however, dissuaded her. She dropped out.

Ten years later, she was working as an office manager at a hospice. Dalrymple saw the empathy, caring and compassion of nurses there. She realized her calling.

"Hearing how they were so fulfilled convinced me to go to nursing school in my late 20s," she said.

Dalrymple would spend 20 years as a registered nurse and also the ALS clinic coordinator at the Mayo Clinic. In 2017, her husband died and she took time off.

Her husband never achieved his dream of starting his own business, so Dalrymple decided to take that on for herself. She got certified as a legal nurse consultant and planned to build her business around that. But the following year, her chronically ill mother went into acute respiratory failure and Dalrymple went home to Indiana to visit her in the hospital.

When the nurse came in to check on her mother, she would ask her if she was in pain. Because she was on a ventilator, she could not verbally respond. The nurse never made eye contact with her mother. Her mother also didn't eat for five days due to a communication breakdown with the medical team.

Situations like these were the catalyst for Dalrymple's business. She knew what questions to ask because she was in the medical field. But those who were not, would be lost.

"I advocated for my mom. I came home and realized so many would need someone to advocate for them," said Dalrymple, whose mother has since died.

She got her certification in patient advocacy, and Your Patient's Advocate was born.

"The most rewarding thing is the fact that nearly every client tells us how incredibly thankful they are for us spending time with them and being the voice they need to be but were afraid of being that voice," Dalrymple said. "It's a need that is out there."