

Red Mountain Ranch Up Close

Bringing neighbors closer to their community

September 2013

AAA Gold Exchange Thriving THANKS TO LOYAL CUSTOMERS

By Kimberly Searles

The team at AAA Gold Exchange wants to thank their loyal customers for helping them weather the recent price fluctuations in gold, causing many other companies to close.

"We are grateful for our repeat customers, as well as those who refer us to family, friends and colleagues," said David Perlaza, marketing manager for AAA Gold Exchange. "Without our customers, AAA Gold Exchange would not be here today."

According to David, it's typical for gold and silver prices to trend downward during the summer months. He anticipates the prices for gold and silver soon will rise, noting AAA Gold Exchange continues to provide the highest payout in the industry.

AAA Gold Exchange only deals with cash for gold, silver and diamonds, unlike similar businesses. "We are not a side business tacked onto the back of an auto shop," David stated. "We know cash for gold well, because it is

the only thing we do. It's our solid relationships with the refineries that allow us to provide those higher payouts."

As Arizona's largest gold buyer, AAA buys jewelry in any condition, new or used. Their process is simple. You bring in your unwanted gold, silver or diamonds, and a specialist will test your items in front of you, while telling you how they evaluate the items. Once the items are appraised, you'll receive a quote.

"What sets us apart is that once we give a quote, it's up to the customer whether to sell," said David. "We value our customers, and we want them to make the decision that's best for them. We want them to know when they walk through our doors they will be treated fairly—without any games or gimmicks."

A fair deal is exactly what one can expect at AAA. An accredited business with the Better Business Bureau, there are several locations in Arizona, California and Hawaii.

After surviving the downward trend, the AAA staff looks to build on their success. They now feature a page on Facebook, and have plans to expand their social media efforts. As business continues to increase, AAA also is making plans to support a few local charities and fund-raisers.

"Our customers have been so good to us. So, we want to give back, and be involved in our community," noted David.

As the time gets closer, AAA plans to announce the charities and fund-raisers with which they will be working, through their Facebook page and social media efforts. ■

AAA Gold Exchange buys gold, silver, and loose diamonds. AAA also buys platinum. With four Valley-wide locations, you can find them in Northeast Mesa, at 1152 N. Power

Road, Suite 102. The hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit AAA Gold Exchange online at aaagoldexchangeaz.com, and on [Facebook.com/AAAGoldExchangeAZ](https://www.facebook.com/AAAGoldExchangeAZ).



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Poppy's Can Decorate Your CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

Submitted by Poppy's Home Décor

At Poppy's, we are getting ready for that time of year when you can put the sparkle back in your life with Christmas and all the merry and cheerfulness it brings to us all.

As little kids, we grow up having wonderful Christmas memories of decorating the tree. Now, as grownups, you will

be able to share those memories with your kids, grandkids and friends. Just come to Poppy's Christmas Open House, and we can either show you how to decorate or come to your home and do it for you. At Poppy's, we have all the things sure to make your holiday memories return.

Our Christmas Open House will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 5 to 8 p.m. We will have fabulously decorated Christmas trees, complete with all different themes. Perfect for entertaining. Our decorators can either come to your home to create that wonderland, or you can pick from our store items, which will complement your old or new Christmas decorations.

If you are interested in having your Christmas tree decorated and/or mantel, door or stairways decorated, please sign up now. Time is running out, and all spots soon will be filled. ■

Susan Haviland is the owner and designer of Poppy's Home Décor, located at 7143 E. Southern Ave., Suite 101. For more information, call (480) 325-4900. Visit the Web site at www.poppyshomedecoraz.com.



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EDUCATION

FAMILY SUPPORT SPECIALISTS Play Vital Role for Mesa Public Schools



Story by Laurie Struna
Photos by Erin Martinelli-O'Shea

The 2013-2014 school year marks the five-year anniversary for family support specialists, in many Mesa Public Schools.

Parental outreach is a main focus in the Mesa Public Schools District. Research shows parent involvement helps improve student behavior, attendance and achievement. The specialists help the district continue to build strong school-to-home partnerships and increase academic achievement. They also serve as liaisons between school personnel, parents and the community.

PARENT RESOURCE CENTERS

Family support specialists collaborate with teachers and Title I specialists to provide parent education and training relevant to student learning. Many specialists develop family resource rooms, or information centers—for all things related to parent involvement. "Our resource room is a place where families can find support and tools needed to help their child be successful at home and in school," explained Sherry Armentor, family support specialist at Fremont Junior High School. "Another

bonus is that we have computers for parents so they may access MyMPS, Parent Resource Lending Library and community resources."

CONNECTING PARENTS TO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

These networking dynamos connect parents to leadership and volunteer opportunities, making their schools stronger. An example is the Family Involvement Action Team, or FIAT. They help facilitate a team of school staff, parents and community members working together to develop school goals, implement plans and analyze data. The specialists help families transition elementary students to junior high or junior high students to high school. When schools are repurposed or reorganized, the family support specialist serves as a communication bridge within the schools to assist parents and insure a smooth transition process.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Family support specialists give a direct link to their child's school. "In the past, parents at the junior high level felt unsure if they were needed in the school," Sue Bartow, family support specialist at Smith Junior High, explained. "And that is no longer the case. Today, more than ever, parents are needed to volunteer on campus, visit the classroom, and eat lunch with the students." To provide parents with opportunities to voice their thoughts and concerns, many Mesa Public Schools offer a chat and chew, lunch or coffee with the principal. The laid-back meetings inform parents and community members of current events, curriculum and trends. Mesa Public Schools recognizes the parents' vital role in their child's education, and with the help of the family support specialist, will continue to build successful partnerships into the future. ■



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LOCAL BUSINESS

O'Neill's Place Ponders THE MOST INTERESTING MAN

Submitted by O'Neill's Place

Who really is the most interesting man in the world? Paul O'Neill believes it's him, but Mr. Dos Equis may feel differently.

Although O'Neill's Place offers a cold pint of Dos Equis, they do have an additional 19 other draft beers from which to choose, along with various bottled beers, spirits and wines to complement the great food. That's interesting...

Football is here. That's right, opening night is Thursday, Sept. 5, at 5:30 p.m. The Baltimore Ravens take on the Denver Broncos, and remember, Thursday is Monday. O'Neill's Place will be continuing Monday Madness on Thursday throughout the football season, with any burger and a pint of non-craft beer for \$8.

O'Neill's Place will be showing all the NFL games on more than 40 TVs. In addition, various specials will be offered throughout the season, such as \$3 Bloody Mary's and two dogs combined with a 16-ounce cold can of Miller Lite for just \$10. It's better at O'Neill's Place than at the stadium, and the bathrooms are closer. That's interesting, too...

Continuing all season is Prime Rib Saturday night, Open Mic on Saturday night and Monday Madness. Additionally, we have the A for Achievement program for all our wonderful children in school. So, kids, hold on to your report cards for your



Paul O'Neill

free kid's meal. How interesting... The O'Neills would like to thank all their patrons who survived the grueling summer heat here in Arizona, and they welcome you to come on down for a cold one, some fine food and to enjoy some football. Paul still dreams of the D-Backs taking the pennant—well, maybe the wild card now.

The first-place Diamondbacks? That would have been interesting...

But who really is the most interesting man in the world? Come in and let Paul know. ■

O'Neill's Place is located at 2855 N. Power Road, on the northeast corner of Power and McDowell roads, in The Village at Las Sendas. Come Thirsty, Come Hungry.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Local chef offers COOKING CLASSES



Submitted by The Chef's Table

Earning how to cook at a young age, Chef Kevin Frazier DeWitt has trained under the watchful eyes of many world class chefs.

During the course of his 17 years in the food and service industry, he graduated from the Art Institute in Phoenix and went on to become the chef at four separate private golf clubs and resorts. Some time into his culinary career, he saw a way to help people by teaching them to cook in their own home.

"I have friends that always ask me how to make certain dishes, and the thought occurred to me, 'Why not just show them how?'" said Kevin from his Las Sendas home.

Thus, the idea for The Chef's Table was born. "I truly enjoy teaching people to cook," Kevin explained, "and to see their faces when they see what they created. It's just a fun time to relax, mingle with

friends and learn how to make spectacular food."

When you contact The Chef's Table, Chef Kevin will first set up an appointment with you and together, you will decide on a menu built to your recommendations. Then, you buy the ingredients in advance, and Kevin will bring the heat (i.e., the cookware). "We will cook a three course meal in two hours with up to six guests," Kevin said. "Everyone gets to join in the fun, participating in the chopping, sautéing, plating and of course, eating."

In addition to the variety of time slots to choose from, The Chef's Table is currently running a special. New clients will receive a 10 percent discount. "I would love to bring my services to the neighborhood," commented Kevin. "Anyone can do it!" ■



For more information, contact The Chef's Table at www.homechefcooking.net, or call (928) 951-0789.

Chef Kevin Frazier DeWitt



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A Closer Look at

LAS SENDAS GOLF CLUB

Features Entertainment, Dining & Golf



A Closer Look, Las Sendas Golf Club... is a new monthly column written for the Up Close Publication by Las Sendas Golf Club. In this column, you will get an in-depth look at upcoming entertainment, dining and golf events. Our brand is our mission—to reach out to the community with entertainment, dining and golf events as your pathway to fun, recreation and a pleasurable lifestyle.

ENTERTAINMENT

LIVE... AT LAS SENDAS

Las Sendas Golf Club is very excited about our new program—**LIVE... AT LAS SENDAS**, an evening of dining followed by amazing world class entertainment, including music, comedy and theatre.

Each event is hosted in our new Vistas Pavilion, and features our Chef's Grand Buffet. Our calendar is below, and you can purchase individual tickets for \$60 or a table of eight for \$400 (a \$10 per person discount).

For those of you who missed last month's event, Las Sendas hosted Dueling Pianos, with Jeff Wilson and Scott Dunlap. The two recently performed at New York-New York Hotel and Casino, in Las Vegas.

Our event planned for this month, on Thursday, Sept. 26, is *A Tribute to the Beatles*, featuring *Apple*, the country's top Beatles sound-a-likes. From *Love Me Do* to *Let It Be*, *Apple* takes you on a grand rollercoaster ride of classic Beatles hits. The cast members of *Apple* have traveled the world recreating the Beatles *Live in Concert*. See four lads with *mop top* haircuts and thin black ties transform into *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, and close the show with a stroll down *Abbey Road*.

The Chef's Grand Buffet is from 6 to 8 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person or a table of eight for \$400. Only 200 tickets will be sold. To purchase tickets or a table, please contact egomez@lassendas.com, or call Erica at (480) 396-4000.

Hold the Date**

Please hold the following dates in your calendar for our 2013-2014 **LIVE... AT LAS SENDAS** calendar of events:

- Sept. 26—The Beatles Tribute Band
- Nov. 14—A Night with Andrew Johns (Musical Comedy)
- Jan. 16—A Night of Comedy
- Feb. 20—Dinner Theatre
- April 17—Dueling Pianos
- May 29—Show Band
- July 17—Dinner Theatre

**Dates are firm, entertainment subject to change



Open House

Wednesday, Sept. 4, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Drop by the Vistas Pavilion on Wednesday, Sept. 4, from 6 to 8 p.m., for our Open House. We will be featuring all our services, including weddings, banquets and corporate events. Join us for our extraordinary gourmet popcorn station and a glass of wine.

DINING

Arizona Restaurant Week

The most edible time of the year, *Fall Arizona Restaurant Week*, is making its annual return on Saturday, Sept. 21 through Sunday, Sept. 29, sending diners on a nine-day tasting tour throughout the state. It's when eateries offer a prix-fixe dinner for \$30 or \$40 per person or per couple, giving locals and visitors the chance to channel their inner foodie, and finally try that restaurant on their wish list.

The Grille, Patio and Bogey's at Las Sendas Golf Club will be offering a three-course dinner for \$30, featuring items from our new fall menu. We are well known for our exceptional cuisine. Please plan to come by for an amazing culinary explosion during Restaurant Week.

Arizona Restaurant Week Menu

- Roasted Beet Salad or Baby Spinach and Belgian Endive Salad
- Seared Pork Tenderloin, Apple Smoked Bacon Wrapped Halibut or Root Beer Braised Short Rib
- Chocolate Lava Cake or Strawberry Shortcake
- \$30 includes choice of two (3 oz.) pours of Canyon Road House Wine



FOOTBALL IS BACK—and we have the NFL Sunday Ticket!

Join us every Sunday, starting on Sept. 8, and watch your favorite NFL team on one of our 12 HD flat screen televisions. Come early and enjoy breakfast and our amazing \$5 Bloody Mary Bar, starting at 9 a.m. Great snacks are on, with \$5 appetizers, 50 cent wings and buckets of beer until 3 p.m. Cool off and join us for Happy Hour until 7 p.m., and a Pasta Buffet, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Monday Night Football kicks off on Sept. 9, with an extended Happy Hour, from 3 to 9 p.m., including drink specials, beer specials and appetizer specials. Don't miss the football fun and excitement every Sunday and Monday.

Our daily specials include Monday, all day Happy Hour; Tuesday, Wine and Flatbread \$19.95; Wednesday, half-price wine; Thursday, Prime Rib \$19.95; Saturday, Fried Chicken Dinner \$13.95; and Sunday, all you can eat Pasta Bar \$13.95.

PACKAGES AND PROMOTIONS



Fall Wedding Package

The Vistas Wedding Pavilion at Las Sendas is pleased to offer the following Fall Wedding Package for events booked and hosted in the months of October, November and December 2013. The total cost is \$6,495 (does not include tax and gratuity) and includes the following items:

Ceremony

- White garden chairs
- Unity table

A CLOSER LOOK AT LAS SENDAS GOLF CLUB (CONTINUED)

- Gift table and limeade station
- Setup and teardown of the ceremony and reception space
- Champagne with fruit and cheese platter in Bridal Changing Room

Reception

- 12-by-12-foot dance floor
- White, black or ivory tablecloths
- White, black or ivory napkins
- Votive candles on tables
- Cordless microphone with sound system for speeches and toasts
- Projector and screen for slideshow
- Complimentary cake cutting
- Wedding coordinator—will assist bride and groom with menu selections, ceremony and reception setup details, and ceremony rehearsal. Wedding coordinator will be single point of contact and on-site coordinator during ceremony and reception.
- Plated dinner menu, champagne and non-alcohol beverage package



GOLF SALE

Las Sendas Golf Club will host the annual Labor Day Golf Shop Sale, from Aug. 30 through Sept. 2, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Look for savings of up to 60 percent off as we head into the new golf season. It is not too early to think about holiday gifts.

FREE GOLF

Check out our summer special. Purchase a \$30 food and beverage voucher for use in Bogey's or The Grille, Monday through Thursday, and get a free round of golf after 1 p.m.



Local Resident—Director of Golf

Jeff Sorkness has taken the position of PGA Director of Golf for Las Sendas Golf Club. Prior to joining Las Sendas, Jeff worked for Troon Golf for 18 years. The last 11 were at Talking Stick Golf Club, where he was Head Golf Professional, Teaching Professional, Director

of Instruction and, for the last eight years, Director of Golf.

Jeff married Kim in 1996, and, in 1998, they were given the opportunity to travel up to Colorado, their second home, to co-manage Troon Golf Schools, and oversee golf operations at Fox Acres Country Club, Troon's first private golf club. Both are graduates of Arizona State University, with degrees in kinesiology and

sports psychology. Jeff and Kim Sorkness are in charge of golf operations at Las Sendas Golf Club. Together, they will co-manage, with Jeff's leadership of day-to-day golf operations, and Kim's focus on retail sales. They will ensure excellence and quality of service, as well as exceed expectations in all golf events and client relations. Las Sendas is a fabulous golf club, and the Sorkness team is a great asset to the continued reputation of a world-class golf destination in the Valley.



Local Resident—Director of Golf Instruction

Mike Malaska has joined Las Sendas Golf Club as our Director of Instruction. Mike's philosophy and knowledge of the golf swing, as well as his expertise at incorporating physical fitness programs into his golf instruction, have made him one of the most sought-after instructors in the game today. He will lead the Las Sendas Golf Academy current staff of PGA and LPGA instructors by developing programs for all levels of golfer.

Mike's career has spanned over 38 years of instruction and playing experience, and he has received the highest honor of PGA *National Teacher of The Year in 2011*. Most recently, he has been awarded a spot on the *2013 Edwin Watts Golf Top Teachers in America* list, and as a *2012 GRAA Top 50 Growth of the Game Teaching Professional*. Mike also was named *2011 Senior Player of the Year* and *2010 Teacher of the Year* for the PGA Southwest Section. Since 2000, Mike has ranked among *Golf Digest's America's 50 Greatest Teachers*, and currently is listed as No. 24 in the nation. Mike also has been selected as one of *Golf Magazine's Top 100 Teachers in America* since 1995.

Mike's philosophy is simple. "There is no individual that is willing to practice, no matter what their physical limitations are, that I cannot teach to achieve their highest potential in the game of golf," Mike said. He has published a new book—*I Feel Your Pain*, which is available in the Pro Shop. Mike will be doing a book signing in November. His book would make a great gift. Mike lives on our ninth hole.

"We are very excited to have Mike and Jeff join our team at Las Sendas, and create one of the best golf experiences in the Valley," said Lloyd McBean, Executive Director and Managing Partner of Las Sendas Golf Club. "Mike and Jeff's vast experience, philosophies and tactics fit very well into the directions where we are taking our club, and we are proud to have them on board." ■



Holiday Season Parties

We are offering an extraordinary buffet or plated dinner package this year for your holiday party. You can book a large party of 50 or more people or take advantage of our shared venue option on Thursday, Dec. 5 for smaller groups less than 50. Your package comes with a buffet, band and dance floor. Each group will have its own assigned section. Both the large group and shared group packages come with host or cash bar options.

CHEF'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH



Trio of Deviled Eggs from Chef Jason

Poach 12 eggs in boiling salted water for 10 minutes. Remove eggs and place in an ice bath until chilled. Shell all eggs, and cut in half. Remove and reserve the yolks. Divide eggs into thirds on a sheet pan and chill.

Egg Yolk Base

- Cooked Yolks
- 2 Tbsp. Mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. Celery Salt
- 1 tsp. White Pepper
- ½ tsp. Turmeric
- 1 tsp. Ground Mustard
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire Sauce

Mix together in a mixing bowl, and divide into thirds.

Lorraine Style

- ½ Egg Yolk Base
- ½ Tbsp. Crispy Apple Smoked Bacon Bits
- ½ Tbsp. Caramelized Onions
- 1 tsp. Parmesan Cheese
- 1 tsp. Chopped Chives

Mix together gently and reserve. Using a medium star tip in a pastry bag, pipe the mixture into one-third of the eggs.

Sriracha

- ½ Egg Yolk Base
- 2 Tbsp. Sriracha Sauce
- 1 Tbsp. Paprika
- 1 tsp. Lime Zest

Mix together and reserve. Using a medium star tip in a pastry bag, pipe the mixture into 1/3 of the eggs.

Basil Pesto & Goat Cheese

- ½ Egg Yolk Base
- 2 Tbsp. Basil Pesto
- 1 Tbsp. Goat Cheese Crumble

Mix together gently and reserve. Using a medium star tip in a pastry bag, pipe the mixture into one-third of the eggs. Garnish with Daikon Sprouts.

Basil Pesto

- 4 Oz. Fresh Basil
- 2 Tbsp. Parmesan Cheese
- 1 Tbsp. Toasted Pine Nuts
- 2 Garlic Cloves
- ½ C. Canola/Olive Blend Oil
- 1 Oz. Fresh Spinach

Place all ingredients, except oil, in a blender, and puree ingredients together. Drizzle in the oil to emulsify. Finish with salt and pepper to taste.

HEALTH

CARDIOVERSION IS ELECTRICAL SHOCK TREATMENT OF ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

By Dr. Afroze Ahmad, Las Sendas Cardiology, PC
This is the fourth and final article in the four-article series on atrial fibrillation. In the previous three articles, we had discussed introduction to atrial fibrillation and several treatment options. This article deals with the electrical shock treatment of atrial fibrillation, also called cardioversion.



This resetting of the electrical circuit of the heart is called cardioversion.

TYPES OF CARDIOVERSION

Cardioversion, or resetting of the electrical circuit of the heart, can be done both medically and electrically.
Medical cardioversion can be done with several medications on the market. It can be done in the office or in the hospital, depending on the type of medication used.
Electrical cardioversion, on the other hand, is always done in the hospital. A low energy shock is given, which triggers the heart to reset itself into the normal rhythm. Often, the doctor has to give more than one shock to restore the regular rhythm.

CONCERNS WITH CARDIOVERSION

As we know from the previous articles, in atrial fibrillation, the heart does not pump, squeeze or contract adequately or completely. The heart quivers or fibrillates. When it quivers or fibrillates, it no longer empties completely. This remaining stagnant blood in the heart has a propensity to form clots. And it is the presence of these clots that increases the risk for stroke.
As the heart is shocked with current and reset, there is a chance blood clots residing in the heart may dislodge and travel to the brain. This, in turn, increases the risk for stroke. Therefore, generally, the cardiologist will provide adequate blood thinning medications for three to six weeks prior to the cardioversion.
At times, the cardiologist may also elect to look at your heart by having you swallow a soft flexible tube with a camera attached to it. The camera, from

the stomach, may help the cardiologist look for blood clots prior to the cardioversion itself. This procedure is called a TEE. If clots are noted, the cardioversion is postponed for three to six weeks until the patient is adequately anticoagulated.

A DAY AT THE BEACH

For cardioversion, the person prepares by not eating for approximately six to eight hours before the procedure. An intravenous tubing line is placed to give medications. The medications given include something that would make the person drowsy and fall asleep. Medication is given to allay any anxiety, which is both natural and expected. Once the person is well sedated, the cardiologist applies the shock to reset the heart. The patient wakes up with no recollection of the shock or events leading up to the shock.

The only evidence of the shock is the redness of the skin at the point of shock. This redness, which is not unlike sunburn, is something that would occur when spending a day at the beach. The person is monitored for a few hours, and then, generally, discharged to go home.

OUTCOME OF CARDIOVERSION

Cardioversion is well tolerated, and the complications, though present, are rare. The success rate of restoring a regular rhythm initially may exceed 70 percent. Many people may have to undergo repeat procedures. Generally, after two repeat procedures, the doctor and the patient sit down to discuss other options.



Dr. Afroze Ahmad is a multiple board certified cardiologist practicing at Las Sendas Cardiology, PC, located at 3514 N. Power Road. For information, or to make an appointment, call (480) 361-9949.

SKIP THE ER WAITING ROOM

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Dr. Ahmad is a highly experienced cardiologist. She holds numerous board certifications and is fellowship trained:

- American Board of Internal Medicine
- American Board of Cardiovascular Disease
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LOCAL BUSINESS

Gear Up for the Holiday Season WITH COCO MILANO'S



By Kimberly Searles

While temperatures still are triple digits, the holidays may seem far away, but the season sneaks up on us every year, and we scurry at the last minute to find that perfect item for someone special. “Now is a great time to begin planning for the holidays,” said Denise Milano, co-owner of CoCo Milano’s, in The Village at Las Sendas. “One way to make it easier is to start a gift closet or a gift drawer.” Nearly everyone has been shopping and spots something perfect for a family member or a friend. Then, you realize Christmas isn’t for another six months, and her birthday was just three weeks ago. “Chances are, you won’t find that item later. Instead of waiting, make that purchase, and put it in the gift closet,” suggested Denise. “Eventually, amass enough gifts to cover the whole spectrum—holidays, birthdays and other gift-giving occasions.”

A hidden gem, celebrating eight years in November, CoCo Milano’s offers a treasure trove of great gift ideas. Denise and co-owner Cathi Sabin recently returned from market with an assortment of beautiful, new items. “We receive new items daily, and we think our customers will love what they see,” Cathi stated with confidence. Holiday preparations go beyond gifts at CoCo Milano’s. In fact, their cleverly creative interior design experts can have your home dazzling with stylish flair. As leaders in the latest trends, Denise, Cathi and their capable team can transform your home into a tasteful holiday wonderland, along with creating beautiful wreaths and florals to complement the style. If you expect over-night guests during the holidays, CoCo Milano’s is on hand to design a beautiful spare room, window dressing and much more. “Our monthly classes also are a great way to get ready for the holidays,” said Denise. Topics for the classes range from floral design and crafts, to cooking lessons and jewelry. Limited to just 25 attendees, the classes feature a take-home project with a local expert or artist, a delectable dinner and drinks. It also gives attendees the opportunity to browse the store at their leisure, in a private setting. Upcoming classes include making a dessert pedestal with Sweet-Stops, in September, and a no sew-sew apron with the Sew Sew Princess, Jen Koselke, in October. As a testament to their popularity, September’s class is already full. Customers can RSVP for the classes via e-mail. Save the date for Coco Milano’s annual Spectacular Christmas Party, on Nov. 9. The event includes live music, food and great holiday shopping. Denise and Cathi suggest checking out their Web site and Facebook page, where

more information will be posted. To reserve your place, send an e-mail to the address below. ■

CoCo Milano’s is located in The Village at Las Sendas, 2837 N. Power Road. For more information about the interior design service, events or private parties, call (480) 641-2626. You also can visit their Web site at www.cocomilanos.com, or send an e-mail to info@cocomilanos.com.



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COMMUNITY

Social Club Members ENJOY BREAKFAST MEETING

By Jay Williamson
Social Club Publicity

Thursday, Aug. 8, was the date of the monthly social club meeting at the Red Mountain Ranch Country Club. The meeting was well attended considering we are now in the middle of a hot Arizona summer. We did not have a speaker, but we did enjoy a breakfast meeting, as many members are away on vacations. One couple is visiting Russia. The meeting was brought to order by our president, Betty Day. She asked if anyone is celebrating anniversaries or birthdays in August. A total of three couples had anniversaries and seven individuals had birthdays in August. We had a short business meeting, which included a treasurer and publicity report, as well as reports of future social events and meetings.

The Country Club waiters took our orders for a wonderful breakfast. Our breakfast meeting was held in The Grille, affording us a beautiful view of the golf course.

Terry Durr, the new country club food and beverage director, along with his assistant and beverage supervisor Jessica Turner and Shawn McFarland, prepared a special breakfast just for our members. We also could order from the menu. We want to thank Terry for allowing us to have this

breakfast meeting earlier than they usually open the kitchen. He called his staff to come in early just for us.

Our next social club meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 12. Our speaker, Holly Yzquierdo, will be doing a cooking presentation on healthy eating. She will tell us her story about why she now is a vegetarian.

"I think we should focus on healthy eating, not vegetarianism," Holly said. "Even dyed-in-the-wool meat eaters can enjoy vegetable dishes."

The Red Mountain Ranch Social Club meets on the second Thursday of the month, except in December. We meet at 9:30 a.m., at the country club, and we would like to invite you as our guest to the Sept. 12 meeting. You do not need to be a member to attend. Hope to see you in September. ■

For more information about the Red Mountain Ranch Social Club, send an e-mail to Jay Williamson at jaynwilliamson57@yahoo.com.



COMMUNITY

United Food Bank Hosts Family Volunteer Day

Submitted by United Food Bank

United Food Bank is hosting a Family Volunteer Day as a part of its Kids Club program on Saturday, Sept. 7.

This event will give parents with younger children the opportunity to teach them about the issue of hunger and how to give back to the community. Families will get a fun, firsthand look at how United Food Bank (UFB) fights hunger, with a tour and a safe food sorting activity.

The event also will include several creative activities, which coincide with September's Hunger Action Month, when the Feeding America nationwide network of food banks unites to urge individuals to take action in their communities.

Families attending the event are encouraged to participate in the event's Go Orange for Hunger Spirit Contest, by dressing up in orange clothing. There also will be an art contest, allowing children to express themselves and their thoughts on hunger. A winning drawing will be featured on several new UFB materials.

United Food Bank invites families throughout the Valley and Eastern Arizona to attend its Volunteer Day and learn more about hunger. Hopefully, all attending will have fun getting involved with the food bank and giving back.

The Family Volunteer Day is open



to families with children ages 5 to 12. Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. The event will be held at 245 S. Nina Drive, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Children who are not yet members of United Food Bank's Kids Club will be able to sign up at the event. ■

To register for Family Volunteer Day, parents can go to <http://unitedfoodbank.org/family-volunteer-day-sign-up/>, or call (480) 398-4462.

EVENT

Annual Community Garage Sale SET FOR NOVEMBER

By Jay Williamson
Social Club Publicity

Well, it is now September, and the annual Red Mountain Ranch Community Garage Sale is fast approaching—scheduled for Friday, Nov. 8 and Saturday, Nov. 9.

Take time now while you are thinking about the garage sale to fill out the coupon listed at the bottom of this article. Please send the completed coupon and a \$15 check to the address listed on the coupon.

You do not want to miss this opportunity to sell, for hard cash, those items you no longer use and are taking space in your garage or closet. It is also a time to visit and get to know your neighbors in Red Mountain Ranch. Your home must be in Red Mountain Ranch to sell items at this garage sale.

Our community garage sale is one of the largest in the Phoenix area. We had 176 homes signed up to sell last year, which was an all-time record. We hope to have more sellers this year. This means you will have lots of customers buying your items.

Our garage sale brings thousands of customers to Red Mountain Ranch. The roads in Red Mountain Ranch were filled with buyers' cars and trucks last year. Buyers love the bargains they find. We do all the work to provide buyers for your items for sale.

Look at what your \$15 affords you. We provide a \$1 million liability insurance policy, newspaper and e-mail advertising, as well as banners at the three entrances to Red Mountain Ranch and signs on the main roads in our community. In addition, participants

receive an information packet, including instructions on *How to Do a Garage Sale*. Signs and stakes are included. A vendor at Red Rock Park, off Recker Road, will sell hot dogs, drinks and pulled pork sandwiches. A hotline will be available to answer your questions.

Our HOA has approved and reserved Nov. 8 and 9 for our Garage Sale. Please do not have an individual

sale without paying the \$15 during our sale weekend.

You can pick up your Garage Sale Information Packet at 6455 E. Raft River St., between 5 and 7 p.m., on Wednesday, Nov. 6 and Thursday, Nov. 7. This is the same location as last year. You also can pay at that time if you have not already sent in your \$15 check.

The Red Mountain Ranch Social Club sponsors our garage sale. The social club meets on the second Thursday of each month, except December, at 9:30 a.m., at the Red Mountain Ranch Country Clubhouse, to hear interesting speakers and presentations. The social club also has many social events, such as the spring and fall cocktail parties, and trips to see plays, etc. You are invited to attend the meetings as a guest. You do not have to be a member to attend.

Please fill out and send in the coupon below:



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Jay Williamson
Garage Sale Chairman
6508 E. Star Valley St.
Mesa, AZ 85215
E-mail address:
jaynwilliamson57@yahoo.com

REAL ESTATE

YOU WILL NOT FIND YOUR Next Home on the Internet

By John Karadsheh
Did I get your attention? Good! While the title of this article is not completely true, it does have some merit.

Research has shown that more than 90 percent of buyers start their home search online. Sites like Zillow.com, Trulia.com, Realtor.com and Homes.com are the some of the most visited sites. So, what's the problem with looking for a home on one of these sites? It all comes down to two inherent problems with how these sites procure their information. They are Internet Data Exchange (IDX) and Garbage In, Garbage Out.

Let's start by looking at IDX. Internet Data Exchange is an automated data feed provided by the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) to a Web site. The MLS decides what data in a home listing it will feed to a home search Web site. This information contains the basic information about a home (i.e. list price, square footage, number of bedrooms and baths, etc.). It is supposed to only feed active listings to these sites, but ARMLS decided many years ago to create a separate category for listing status called Under Contract—Accepting Backups (UCB). These listings also are fed to home search sites.

UCB listings are listings in which an executed contract is in place. Therefore, any subsequent contracts would only be in back-up position. This is a way for a seller and his agent to continue to market a property even though it already has an accepted contract. Typically, homes remain in UCB during the inspection period, or until all contin-



gencies have been removed. Homes should then move to pending status in the MLS, and, at that point, no longer get fed to home search sites via IDX.

This all translates to frustration. There's frustration for buyers who spend hours online looking at properties only to find out from their agent that those properties are already under contract. There's also frustration for agents who have to tell their clients the home of their dreams is not available (and more than likely hasn't been available as long as they have been searching).

Now, let's talk about Garbage In, Garbage Out. Most good listing agents create virtual tours or videos for their properties. These virtual tours are uploaded to the Internet, and are syndicated all over the Internet to home search sites. This is fantastic for sellers because their property quickly is promoted worldwide. But buyers can't always rely

on these home search sites simply because the information is often out of date.

Unfortunately, listing agents often forget to mark a virtual tour as sold once the property is no longer available. Months or even years can go by with this virtual tour living on the Internet as an active listing. Sometimes, the home may still be available, but the price has changed. Again, the information available about the property isn't always correct because it does not function in real time, which is moving very fast in our current market.

So, what is the best way to find a home? That is easy. Find a reputable Realtor, and trust him with your real estate search. He can very easily set you up with a customized search on the MLS. A portal will be created for you, which will show you all of the homes that fit your criteria, no matter how specific or general your requirements. If you want a search as broad as all single family homes in Mesa, or one, which narrows it down to a specific neighborhood, size, and price, a good Realtor can find you your dream home.

What you see in that portal will be as accurate a search as we, as agents, use. Then, trust your agent to help you understand the market, as well as the comps, and the pros and cons of the property. Stop wasting your time, and stop getting frustrated. Use a Realtor to help you find your next home, and make the process fun. ■



John Karadsheh is a licensed REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker, Trails and Paths Premier Properties. He is also an Associate Broker, Accredited Buyers Representative and a Certified Residential Specialist. He was voted in the Top 10 Residential Real Estate Agents in Arizona for 2012 and 2013 by Ranking Arizona, the Best of Arizona Business. You can contact John with any of your real estate questions. Call him at (602) 615-0843, or go to his Web site at www.BuyAndSellAZ.com.

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Red Mountain Ranch Area Market Report

Sales for the Month of July 2013



Address	Square Feet	Sold Price	Short Sale or REO*
4038 N. Olympic Cir.	1,521	\$235,000	
4157 N. Signal Cir.	1,521	\$244,777	
6142 E. Virginia St.	2,175	\$249,900	
3632 N. Katmai	1,971	\$255,000	
6532 E. Sierra Morena St.	2,031	\$285,000	
3441 N. Platina Cir.	2,834	\$334,000	
6144 E. Riverdale St.	2,911	\$335,000	
6030 E. Selkirk Cir.	2,948	\$344,000	
6149 E. Star Valley St.	2,328	\$350,000	
6134 E. Saddleback St.	2,523	\$365,000	
4055 N. Recker Rd. #104	3,216	\$435,000	X

ONLY ONE DISTRESSED SALE IN JULY!

Information gathered from the Arizona Regional Multiple Listing Service is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Sales Information Provided By John Karadsheh, ABR, CRS, ASSOCIATE BROKER, Coldwell Banker Trails & Paths Premier Properties. www.BuyAndSellAZ.com

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Taylor Morrison Offers Something SPECIAL IN NORTH MESA



Submitted by Taylor Morrison

Taylor Morrison is known by Valley residents for building neighborhoods that capture the imagination of homebuyers and the attention of those looking for not just a home, but also a community.

Nowhere is the idea of community more obvious than in the Arizona homebuilder's enclave of homes nestled along the northern border of Mesa's prestigious orange grove corridor, Lehi Crossing.

Lehi Crossing offers convenient access to the Mesa, Tempe and Scottsdale employment and shopping hubs, while still maintaining a suburban feel. With award-winning schools nearby and some of Taylor Morrison's latest floor plans, Lehi Crossing has become the destination for East Valley homebuyers.

Lehi Crossing showcases the Passage Collection from Taylor Morrison, which features floor plans ranging in size from 2,478 to 3,958 square feet. Prices start in the mid \$300,000s.

"The North Mesa community is home to a more recent collection of floor plans from the builder," said Bob Thompson, vice president of sales and marketing for Taylor Morrison's Arizona division.

"It's a collection of homes that buyers have told us they're looking for in Arizona," he said. "We have options for casitas, larger four- and five-car garage configurations and additional bedroom space."

The Passage Collection offers both single and two-story floor plans, with up to five bedrooms and 3.5 baths. The Adelaide and Bradshaw floor plans offer spacious single-story living with garages that will accommodate up to five cars.

A total of four different two-story plans (Plymouth, Cottonwood, Hampton and Powell) also are available, offering up to five bedrooms, 3.5 baths and four-car garages plus storage.

Taylor Morrison's new connected living technology, the Interactive Home™, also is available at Lehi Crossing.

The Interactive Home™ system—which incorporates a variety of connected home solutions, including innovative Legrand products—offers many options, including a front door video monitoring system, LCD command center, whole house audio system (with more than 70,000 Internet stations and iTunes integration), Selective Call Intercom and camera monitoring. The available options and true customization of the system allow homebuyers to create connected living experiences matching and reflecting their lifestyles.

"Our buyers love the options Lehi Crossing offers them, and they love having a community where their children can play safely and attend quality schools while they have an easy commute to work," Bob said. "It makes it easier to focus on the things that matter. In the end, that's what it's all about." ■

For more information about Lehi Crossing, please visit www.taylormorrison.com.

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EVENT

HAWAIIAN MEGA HULA EVENT SURE TO BE FUN

Submitted by Salt River Tubing

If you are looking for a Hawaiian luau adventure, don a grass skirt, grab your coconuts and beach comber straw hat, and head to Salt River Tubing's Hawaiian Mega Hula event, Saturday, Sept. 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on the Lower Salt River in beautiful Tonto National Forest.

In addition to the free leis, hula gals and limbo music pulsating on the beach, the *More Kids in the Woods* event will showcase the Salt River Tubing grass-shaking hula line dancers, limbo and hula hoop contests. Invited exhibitors also will be featured, including the College Times Street Team, Nawgan Beverage Co. and Vitamin Water.

Salt River Tubing will award free tube rental passes and limited edition Hawaiian Mega Hula T-shirts for the best Hawaiian tuber costumes. Passes are valid on a return visit. Hawaiian shuttle buses will transport guests to the Lower Salt River for fun in the sun on the mountain stream rocking rapids.

"Our Hawaiian Mega Hula event is the icing on the cake for summertime fun on the Lower Salt River," said Salt River Tubing's President and Chief Executive Officer Henri Breault. "September is the perfect month for the Hawaiian *More Kids in the Woods* event. The event is an attention-grabber for teens and families to encourage them to venture into the great outdoors," he continued. "High schools and universities are in full swing, and students need an outdoor break in which to revive and energize. The water flow is usually great, and it's the perfect time to enjoy a floating picnic on the Lower Salt River."



The Hawaiian Mega Hula event, co-sponsored by 98 KUPD Radio and Salt River Tubing, is aligned with the USDA Forest Service's *More Kids in the Woods* commitment in meeting the challenge of reduced youth involvement in outdoor activities. The program was expressly designed to encourage efforts to get kids and teens outdoors.

LABOR DAY FUN

Celebrate Labor Day weekend at Salt River Tubing, and participate in the award-winning *Take Pride in America* event, from Saturday, Aug. 31, through Monday, Sept. 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During this event, floaters will be encouraged to participate in the Salt River *Heroes = Litter Zero* event by *stashing and bagging* their picnic trash in Tommy Tuber litter bags to help keep the Salt River clean and beautiful. To date, 640 tons of trash have been stashed and bagged on holiday weekends.

FUN AND SAFETY WITH SALT RIVER TUBING

Salt River Tubing is open weekends only (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) until Sept. 29. The cost of tube rental is \$17 per person/tube (includes sales tax), and includes inner tube rental and shuttle bus service. Children must be 8 years or older and at least 4 feet tall for tube rental and shuttle bus service. Children, non-swimmers and inexperienced swimmers should wear life vests.

Glass containers are prohibited by law in the Lower Salt River Recreational Area and will be confiscated. Ice chests and coolers will be inspected for glass containers before boarding shuttle buses. Have a great time by responsibly appointing a designated driver before beginning your tubing adventure.

Daily operating hours are 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The latest tube rental is 3:30 p.m., weather and water flow conditions permitting. The last shuttle bus pickup is 6:30 p.m.

Salt River Tubing is located in Tonto National Forest, just seven minutes from Highway 202 East, on Power Road, operating under permit by the USDA Forest Service. ■

For more information about Salt River Tubing and past event photos and videos, visit the Web site at www.saltrivertubing.com. For more information, call (480) 984-3305.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Eagle Air Conditioning Addresses SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

Submitted by Eagle Services

It is fall again in Arizona, which gradually brings an end to the very hot temperatures in our state.

September usually signals the end of the monsoon season, bringing lower humidity levels. There still are dust storms, which not only make a mess around our homes, but also cover our air conditioning systems with dirt. Whether your system is on the roof or on the ground, it is important to clean your outdoor coils of the summer monsoon dust and dirt.

No matter the season, a dirty condenser coil will make your air conditioning system work harder than it should, which also causes consumers' electrical bills to increase. Cleaning is included with every preventative maintenance service we provide at Eagle Services.

It is also important to remember your indoor coil should always be clean to assure maximum efficiency throughout the year. Most consumers forget to change their filters every month as needed. During the summer months, this is crucial also for proper operation of your air conditioning system. At Eagle Services, inspection of your indoor coil and your filters also is part of the preventative maintenance service we provide.

In addition, Eagle Services provides full plumbing and electrical services to residential and commercial customers seven days a week, 24 hours a day. ■

Eagle Services, located at 1245 N. McQueen Road, in Gilbert, offers free estimates. Call (480) 659-4942.



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9/6 – 9/8	9/13 – 9/15
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OPEN UNTIL SEPT 29
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LOCAL BUSINESS

Prepare for winter storms BY TRIMMING TREES

By Kimberly Searles

Soon, the weather will start to cool, warning us of impending winter storms. While the severity of some seasons varies, at least one storm wreaks havoc on those manicured lawns and trees.

If not properly prepared for the coming storms, mesquites, Palo Verde trees and other native desert trees could suffer irreparable damage. As a result, homeowners can be left with an unsightly mess in their yards, not to mention lost money in their investments.

"A little preventative maintenance goes a long way in helping your trees weather the winter storms," said Dennis Kirby, of All Pro Trees and Landscaping. "Ultimately, it can save the cost of replacing a tree, or years of reshaping to get it back to its pre-storm glory."

For nearly 10 years, tree expert Dennis and his wife, Sue, have been operating All Pro Trees and Landscaping in the North Mesa area. As Arizona natives, they understand the different challenges desert climate brings to trees, which is a huge benefit to their clients.

"Arizona trees need a lot of trimming," Dennis stated. "Because irrigated trees grow fast in this

area, frequent trimming is a must."

"Tree trimming is an art that requires a deep understanding of not only the trees, but also the environment in which we live," Dennis continued. "Our priority is to give clients the best service possible, but we also want to do what's best for the tree, so that the homeowner's investment lasts a long time."

Special trees thrive on expert care. The experts at All Pro understand the nuances of the different tree species here, and use the appropriate professional equipment to get the job done right.

"We are a family-owned company, and can handle all residential, HOA and commercial needs," stated Dennis.

All Pro Trees and Landscaping provides all evaluations at no cost to the client. In fact, you pay only after you are fully satisfied with their work.

"Our main priority is making our customers happy, and helping them save money in the long run," said Sue. "There is no greater compliment for the work we do than when our customers refer us to their friends and family."

Not only does All Pro provide sculpting



The Kirby Family

and trimming, but the company also offers deep root fertilization, full yard cleanup and much more.

"We know big trees bring tremendous value to a property and are a considerable investment. Now is the time to weatherproof them," said Dennis.

Always neat and always clean are the hallmarks of All Pro's work. "The only sign that we were ever in your yard is that it's more beautiful than when we first arrived," said the tree artist with a chuckle. ■

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EDUCATION

Red Mountain High School Introduces NEW WELDING TEACHER

By Sharon Wozny

Dan Hurst has a passion for welding, and this fall, Red Mountain High School students will catch his fever.

"I have been a welder all my life," Dan said. "It started when I was 8 years old, with my father teaching me." His experience is extensive. Many of his 35 years of welding experience include working on planes for the U.S. Air Force, along with commercial and cargo planes as an employee of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

For 13 years, Dan, who is a Las Sendas resident, was a senior advisor for Vern Lewis Welding, where he would help troubleshoot for companies. He has taught industrial classes for school districts in the Valley. In addition, Dan brings all this expertise to his students at Mesa Community College.

What is welding? In a nutshell, it is the bonding of two metal parts. Most everything has some form of welding. Dan brings his expertise to Red Mountain High School this year as a full-time welding teacher. He will teach beginner to advanced students in yearlong classes.

Knowing what it takes to be a welder in the real world, Dan's goal is to create "...well rounded students who know the industry standards and represent themselves as the skilled professionals they are." His enthusiasm is contagious. Dan has some advice for his future students, "Get ready, hang on," Dan advised. "We are going on a ride."

Welding falls under Career and Technical Education (CTE), which is led by Ed Loney. Mesa Public Schools has a supportive CTE department. There are two literacy coaches and two math coaches who help teachers incorporate the common

core standards with the welding standards. Some of the projects on which students work include welding tables for TIG welding and making sets of frames for worktables to sit on. In addition, students bring in items from home that need welding, such as a flatbed trailer. Students also bring their own creativity and inspiration to their projects.

Dan has goals for his program at Red Mountain High School. He knows he can't do it alone. Ed, the director of CTE, together with the other CTE teachers, is a key person in growing and sustaining the program. Dan is well aware of the fact wonderful things can happen when the community is involved. For starters, he wants to expand the welding contests, which have already begun. Those contests had the support of parents and the industry.

The students loved bringing their ideas to life. This summer, there was the Welding Boot Camp, held at Westwood High School. It was a two-week intensive program for future welders. Hopefully, next year, it will be even bigger and better. Dan would love to have a welding club where the parents are involved with their children. The sky's the limit when you have Dan's passion and drive.

Bringing in industry experts to teach is just another way that Mesa Public Schools is meeting the needs of their diverse population, while giving every student a chance to shine and find his niche. With Dan Hurst at the helm, watch out. It will be a ride! "Welding has been really good to me," said Dan. "Now, it's my time to give back to the community." ■

For more information on the welding classes, contact Dan Hurst at Red Mountain High School at www.mpsaz.org. You also can contact Ed Loney at celoney@mpsaz.org, or call him at (480) 472-0392.



Dan Hurst

COMMUNITY

BOY SCOUTS WILL Host Garage Sale

Local Boy Scout Troop 653 will host a garage sale on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Central Christian Church, 933 N. Lindsay Road, in Mesa.

The boy scouts are currently accepting donations, including furniture, appliances, campers, boats, RVs, cars and more. Pick up is available by calling Chris Schneck at (480) 924-7964, or e-mail chris.troop653@gmail.com.

Funds from the garage sale will help supplement the rising cost of scouting, supplies, park fees, merit badges and other scouting items. ■





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REAL ESTATE

Housing Market Report OFFERS ANSWERS

By Lorraine Ryall, Realtor,
CDPE, CSSN
Coldwell Banker Trails and
Paths

What is really happening in the real estate market today, and where are we headed?

The answer usually depends on whom you listen to, which news channel you watch, or what data source is used. While everybody has their own opinion, the best way to really find out what is going on is to look at the numbers—the data of the current market compared to previous years.

Supply and demand is one of the best indicators. If there is an abundance of homes on the market, such as there was in 2010, it's a buyer's market, and prices will decline. However, if there is a supply shortage, as in today's market, it becomes a seller's market, and prices will increase.

My clients, friends and family always ask me two questions. "Are home prices still going up?" and "Is the inventory still low?" To help answer these questions and indicate where the market is today, I have created three charts, which will be featured in this article each month. The charts are the *Median Price*, *Inventory* and *Supply vs. Demand vs. Median Price*. The *Median Price* and *Inventory* charts are for Mesa only, and the *Supply vs. Demand vs. Median Price* is for the Phoenix Metro



Lorraine Ryall

Area.

The statistics used for these charts will be taken from the most reliable of sources, the Arizona's Multiple Listing Service (MLS), The Cromford Report and CoreLogic.

What is happening in our market today? Home prices still continue to climb albeit at a slower pace than previous months. The median price increase from January 2012 to July 2012 was 26 percent. For this year, it's 16 percent. The slower pace is to be expected after the median sales price has soared. With a 52 percent increase in the past 18 months, demand is lower, and inventory is slightly higher.

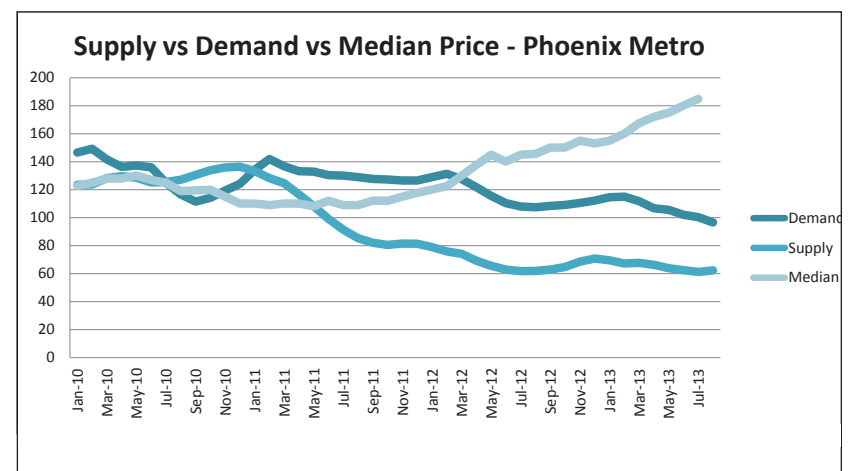
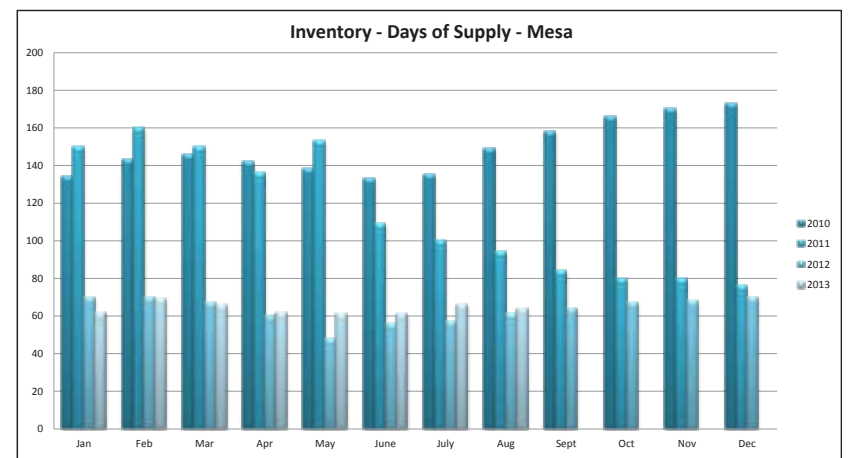
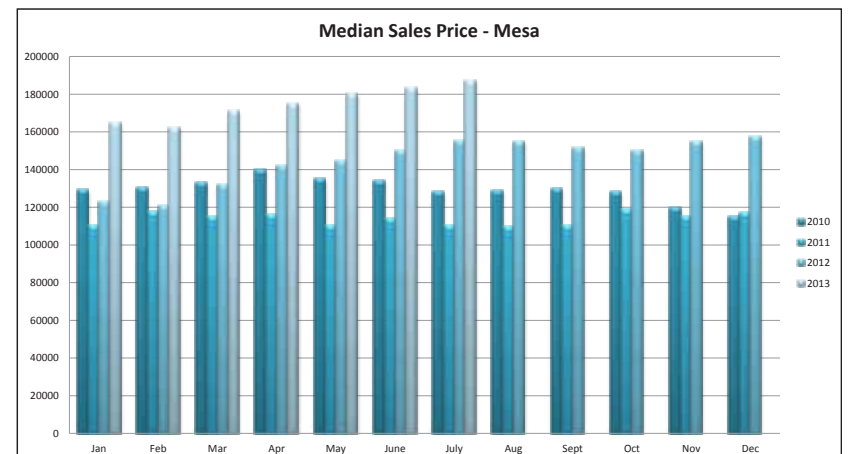
July median sales price increased 2.2 percent from the previous month, and 20.8 percent from July 2012.

In August, supply was down slightly—3 percent from the previous month, but up 4.9 percent from 2012. Just to show what a crazy housing market this has been, today's inventory is a staggering 82 percent from the peak supply of June 2008 when we had 352 days of supply.

Visit my Web site to view the Local Market Report video. Go to www.Homes2SellAZ.com.

Call me at (602) 571-6799, or send an e-mail to Lorraine@Homes2SellAZ.com. Visit the Web site at www.Homes2SellAZ.com.

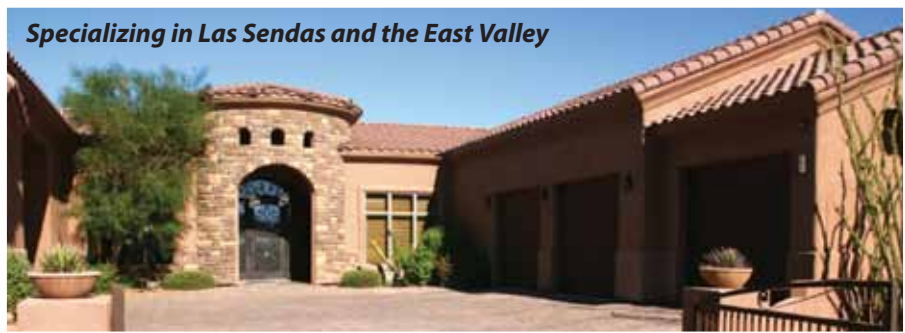
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EDUCATION

Fall Semester Offers Opportunities FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Submitted by New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning

If you have an interest in learning about everything from Beethoven to quantum mechanics, join New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning.

Fall semester learning opportunities include 79 classes, with topics such as clogging, birds, Chihully, Route 66, China and the Amazon River. There also is a definition of happiness, as well as classes on Internet security, scams and identity theft, steps to better health, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, genealogy, numerology, Spanish, ceramics and much more.

New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning, sponsored by Mesa Community College (MCC), is a peer-led organization, offering the opportunity to expand your learning and increase your social resources. The program also provides opportunities to volunteer for the college and in the community.

After paying \$80 per year or \$60 per semester upon joining, people can sign up for as many classes as their schedules will allow. Classes meet at the three MCC campuses at Southern Ave. and Dobson Road; Downtown, at 165 N. Centennial Way; and Red Mountain, at McKellips and Power roads. Classes also are offered at East Valley Adult Resource Centers, located at 247 N. Macdonald St. and 7550 E. Adobe Road, as well as many other locations in Mesa.

To learn more about New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning and to join, attend the open house on Friday, Sept. 20, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the MCC Downtown Center, 145 N. Centennial Way, on the fourth floor. Park in the parking garage on the second and third floors, and take the steps or elevator to the fourth floor.

Registration for classes will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 24, from 9 a.m. on. Registration will be by computer only. Those who don't have a computer or access to one, or a friend who can help, can go to the second floor of the Downtown campus. People will be there to help with registration. ■

For more information about New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning, visit the new Web site at newfrontiers.mesacc.edu. You also can write for information. Send all correspondence to New Frontiers, 165 N. Centennial Way, Suite 208, Mesa, AZ 85201.



EDUCATION

Mesa Resident Soars AT SPACE CAMP

Submitted by Maureen Jackson

Las Sendas resident Cole Jackson recently attended Aviation Challenge at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, home of Space Camp and NASA's official Visitor Information Center for Marshall Space Flight Center. The weeklong educational program promotes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), while training students and adults with hands-on activities and missions based on teamwork, leadership and decision-making.

Cole attends Red Mountain High School, where he is a sophomore enrolled in the new Cambridge/STEM Move on When Ready (MOWR) program initiated at Red Mountain High last year. This was Cole's fifth year participating in Space Camp. Cole's sister, Robin, an eighth-grader at Fremont Junior High School, attended Space Academy in June for the first time.

Cole was part of the Aviation Challenge Mach III Program, a program specifically designed for trainees who have an interest in military aviation and the mechanics of flight. He spent the week training with a team that flew a simulated F/A-18 fighter jet. The crew learned critical land and water survival skills, and mastered Top Gun flying maneuvers. Cole and crew returned to land in time to graduate with honors.

Aviation Challenge crew trainers who lead each 16-member team must have at least a year of college, and 67 percent of the 2011 staff are college graduates. Aviation Challenge operates year-round

in Huntsville, Ala., and uses fighter pilot training techniques to engage trainees in real-world applications of STEM subjects. Students sleep in barracks designed to resemble military bays.

More than 600,000 trainees have graduated from Space Camp since its opening in Huntsville, in 1982, including STS-131 astronaut Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger. Last year, children and teachers from all 50 states and 58 international locations attended Space Camp. ■

For more information about Aviation Challenge, call (800) 63-SPACE (637-7223). Visit the Web site at www.aviationchallenge.com.





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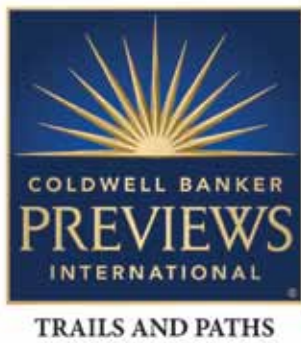
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UNDER CONTRACT

3,081 sq. ft. 5BR, 3BA, 4G. Granite counters, new paint & carpeting, epoxy garage floor, & a fenced pool.



\$850,000

3,826 sq. ft. 4BR, 3.5BA, 3G. 1.5 acre cul-de-sac lot w/Red Mtn & city light views, pool w/waterfall.



\$889,000

3,682 sq. ft. 3BR plus office, 2.5BA, 3G. Knotty alder cabinetry, wrap-around covered patio w/Red Mtn views



UNDER CONTRACT

UNDER CONTRACT

1,571 sq. ft. 3BR, 2BA, 2G. Cul-de-sac lot backs to wash area, granite counters, Pebble Tec® pool & spa.



\$395,000

2,732 sq. ft. 5BR, 3BA, 3G. Granite counters, SS appliances, high efficiency 16 seer HVAC system & pool.



\$195,000

1,254 sq. ft. 2BR, 2BA, 2G. 2 master suites, granite counters, SS appliances, 'Bittersweet Chocolate' cabinets.

KELLY ZITLOW
NMLS #164330 AZ BK#0904024

480.398.4908

www.kellyzitlow.com

CHERRY CREEK
MORTGAGE CO., INC.
CCMC NMLS #3001

17015 N Scottsdale Rd
Suite 130
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Some loan products may not be available outside of AZ.



\$228,000

1,531 sq. ft. 3BR, 2BA, 2G. Cul-de-sac lot, SS appliances, granite counters & sauttillo tile flooring.



\$319,900

2,451 sq. ft. 4BR plus a loft, 3BA, 3G. Granite counters, balcony w/ spiral staircase, built-in BBQ.