

Red Mountain Ranch Up Close

Bringing neighbors closer to their community

June 2014

PACINO'S CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY WITH STYLE

By Kim Phillips and Kimberly Searles

It's hard to believe Pacino's will celebrate its one-year anniversary on June 3.

Frank and Alicia would like to thank all their guests for a wonderful year. "Our guests have welcomed us into their hearts and homes," Frank stated. "It's been a blessing to become part of their familia."

To celebrate, Frank, Alicia and the entire Pacino's team will throw a grand party on Sunday, June 8, from noon to 3 p.m., at the restaurant, located at The Village at Las Sendas, 2831 N. Power Road, Suite 104.

"We want to thank all of Mesa for making us your restaurant of choice," said Frank. "For giving us the opportunity to share the love we have for Italian food."

The community is invited to come and celebrate, with free samples of Pacino's famous meatballs and hand-tossed pizza, and a pizza eating and pizza box folding contest. Everyone also will enjoy live music, and some cool classic cars will be on display. Prizes will be awarded, too.

In honor of all dads, Pacino's also plans another grand celebration, with a feast of all feasts, on Sunday, June 15. "It's Dad's turn," Frank stated. "What better way to show our love and appreciation than with an awesome meal?"

The Father's Day *Steak Out Celebration* will include a special menu, featuring choice New York strips, hanger steaks, filet mignon and prime rib. A complimentary glass of beer will be offered with all steak dinners. Kids can enjoy a hot diggity dog or a customized burger of their choice. To top it off, dads will receive a surprise gift from the Pacino's family.

With the warmer weather, Pacino's also will be rolling out its summer menu, featuring lighter, smaller plates to help you stay trim and healthy. For only \$35, from Sunday to Thursday, guests can enjoy a three-course meal, including a shared appetizer, two entrées and one decadent dessert.

If you are interested in a wine dinner, Pacino's will be offering four great courses paired with four delicious wines for only \$44 per person, on Wednesday, June 11, at 6 p.m. The menu will include stuffed mushroom

caps, strawberry fields, braised beef and crème brûlée for dessert. One lucky winner will receive a complimentary home wine tasting for up to 12 guests.

For the summertime blues, Pacino's has a new early-to-dine dinner menu, from 3 to 6 p.m. Guests also can enjoy lunch done right, starting at just \$7, as well as happy hour, from 3 p.m. to close. Pacino's offers catering for all occasions, too.

Whether it's lunch or dinner, Pacino's is a must. "After all," Frank said, "it's the only authentic Italian restaurant, owned and operated by real Italians." ■

Pacino's is located in The Village at Las Sendas, at 2831 N. Power Road. For information or take-out orders, call (480) 985-0114. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 10:30 a.m. to whenever, Friday and Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday. Visit them online at pacinosaz.com and on facebook.com/pacinosrealitalian.



Salt River Pirates Enjoy NATIONAL GET OUTDOORS DAY

Submitted by Salt River Tubing and Recreation

Ahoi ye Buccaneers! Grab your pirate hats, and celebrate the seventh annual *National Get Outdoors Day* (GO Day) event, at Salt River Tubing and Recreation, on Saturday, June 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Buccaneers can frolic in the pirate-themed merriment as costumed Salt River Tubing employees and pirate warships (shuttle buses) ferry the Salt River pirates to and from the river.

PIRATE TREASURES FOR BUCCANEERS

Salt River Tubing officials will tender free pirate bandanas to the first 1,000 buccaneers, during National Get Outdoors Day. As an added bonus, Salt River Tubing also will be giving pirate treasure bags to the first 500 groups upon tube rental return. Pirate treasure bags will be filled with pirate can koozies, pirate bandanas, public land brochures and other treasures. The company also will award free tubing passes to participants throughout the event for the best pirate tuber costumes.

Salt River Tubing's infamous pirate line-dancers will be performing hourly during the event. Live entertainment will be offered by 98 KUPD radio station, including water cannon battles, pirate coin grabbers, contests and free giveaways. Celebrate National Get Outdoors Day with a splash



and extra sizzle at Salt River Pirates *Yo Ho Ho* and a bottle of water.

This past April, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer issued an official Great Outdoors Month proclamation, which states, "*Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the partnership of federal, state and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries and recreationists, which make outdoor recreation opportunities available.*"

"The success of the Forest Service's *More Kids in the Woods* program encouraged a national partnership with the American Recreation Coalition (ARC) to create a special day in June (GO Day) to motivate people, especially the youth, to get outdoors and enjoy our nation's public lands, such as forests, parks and waterways," President and CEO of Salt River Tubing Henri Breault stated.

For more information about Salt River Tubing and the National Get Outdoors Day (GO Day) event, please visit the Web site at www.saltrivertubing.com or www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org, or call (480) 984-3305. Daily operating hours are 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and latest tube rental is 2 p.m., weather and water flow permitting. Salt River Tubing is open seven days a week. ■

Please visit www.saltrivertubing.com or vimeo.com/67967682 and vimeo.com/66610476 to view fun-filled Salt River Pirate videos on National Get Outdoors Day.

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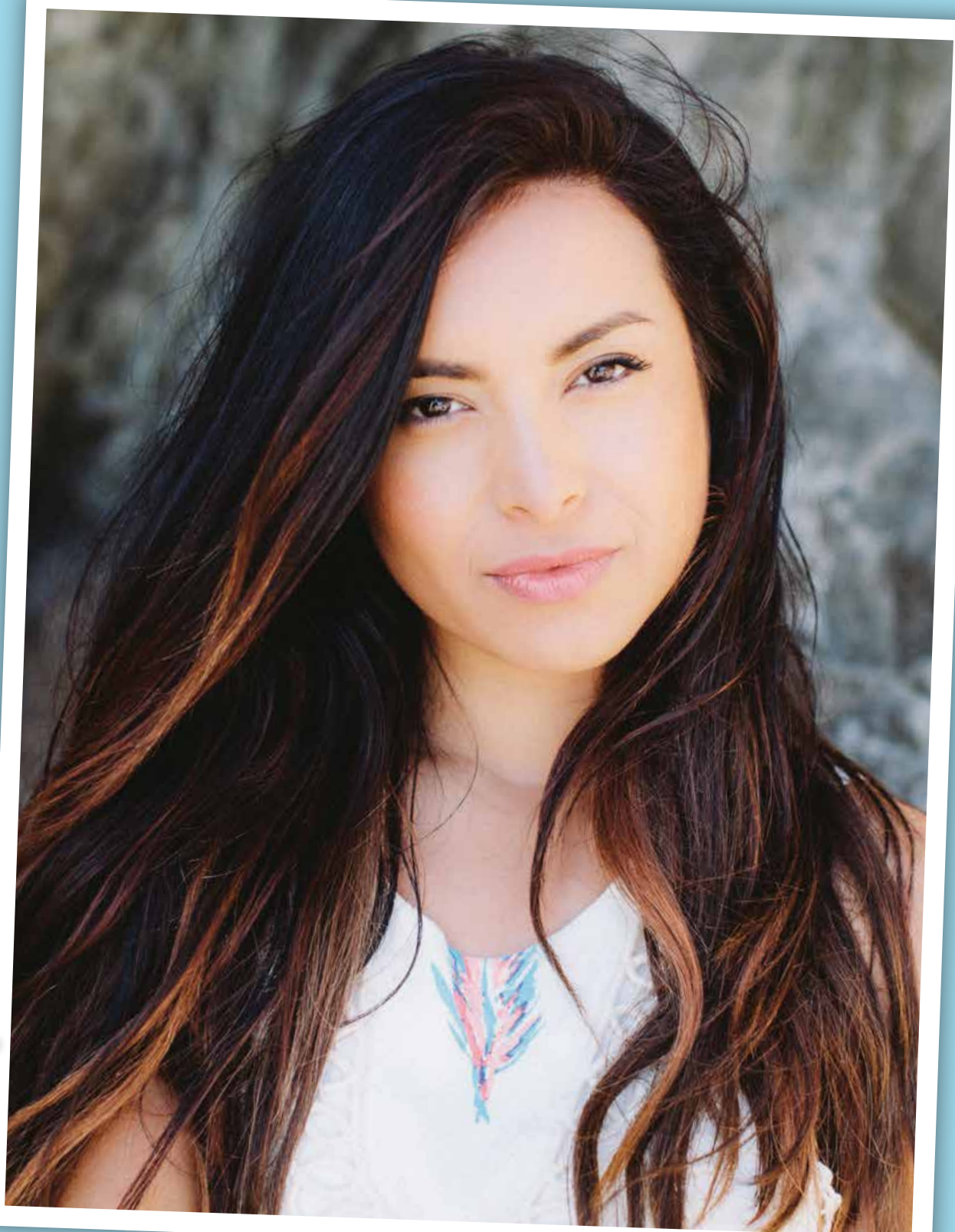
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Mesa Public Schools Receives Five A+ School of Excellence Awards

Story by Laurie Struna

Photo by Tim Hacker

Mesa Public Schools received five coveted A+ School of Excellence™ awards from the Arizona Educational Foundation.

Falcon Hill, Red Mountain Ranch and Zaharis elementary schools, Taylor Junior High School and Red Mountain High School received word of the selection in April. The award reflects the district's commitment to providing quality education, and maintaining high standards of academic achievement.

A RIGOROUS APPLICATION PROCESS

Administrators attest the application process is a significant undertaking. Schools are evaluated on student focus and support, school culture, active teaching and learning, curriculum, leadership, community and parent involvement, and assessment data. "Completing the A+ application, and hosting the visitation, was a great deal of work, but certainly worth it," stated Dr. Gerald Slemmer, principal at Red Mountain High School. "It validates all the hard work our students, teachers and administrators do every day to make Red Mountain the great school it is."

**BUILDING COMMUNITY**

For Taylor Junior High School, this award substantiates the importance of shared responsibility and embracing change. "When ninth-grade students moved to high school campuses, we embraced a middle school model that allows us to better meet the needs of our students," Principal Gina Piraino noted. "We successfully combined three school communities when Brimhall and Mesa junior high schools closed." With a twinkle in her eye, she added, "We are truly resilient, and I am so happy that staff is being recognized for their efforts."

WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION

Since 1983, the foundation has honored A+ Schools of Excellence™ to:

- identify and give recognition to outstanding public schools in Arizona.
- make available a comprehensive framework of key criteria for school effectiveness that can serve as a basis for participatory self-assessment and planning in schools.
- facilitate communication and sharing of best practices within and among schools, based on a common criteria related to success.

Award-winning schools receive \$500 and a banner designating it as an A+ School of Excellence™. All staff and faculty at winning schools are eligible for partial scholarships from Argosy University, Phoenix. "The recognition of five campuses as A+ School of Excellence™, by the Arizona Educational Foundation, is evidence of Mesa Public Schools' focus on providing unprecedented excellence in education for all learners. Each A+ school has uniquely and successfully fulfilled its commitment to student success, and has demonstrated the ability to sustain effective and efficient practices," said Holly Williams, east area superintendent.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The schools are busy celebrating their success—from hosting assemblies and campus events, to flying colorful banners, and students proudly sporting A+ school T-shirts. Dr. Joyce Cook, principal at Red Mountain Ranch Elementary School, attributes her school's success to community, collaboration and connection. "Community is at the heart of Red Mountain Ranch, and extends to our parents, volunteers and local businesses," she said. "We are proud to join the list of A+ schools in Arizona." ■



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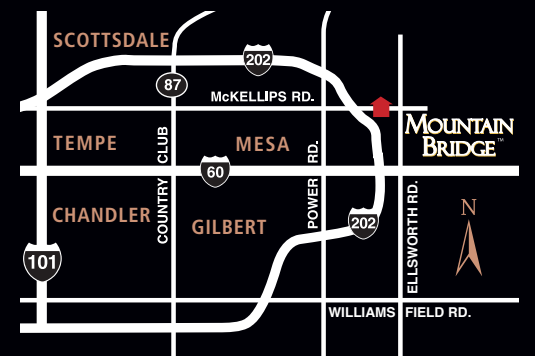
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LOCAL BUSINESS

Cool your pool IN THE HOT WEATHER

By Dawn Abbey

With the days getting hotter, your pool is cool and refreshing, but you know what's going to happen soon.

On some blistering hot afternoon, you'll feel like you can't take the heat one more minute. The backyard pool looks crystal clear and so inviting. You jump in and—ugh—it's like bath water.

"There is a way you actually can chill your pool water down 10 to 15 degrees," said Chris Quam, owner of Arizona Pool Guy, Inc. "The same technology used in the heat pump that heats and cools your home, is available to heat and cool your pool."

According to Chris, if you already have a pool heater that works for you, it is possible to get a device, which just cools your pool. It costs only pennies a day to operate, and runs on household current.

"Your pool is a big investment in family recreation," said Chris. "If you can't use it comfortably in summer and winter, you're missing out. I've been heating and cooling my pool, at home here in Northeast Mesa, for several years now." As a single dad of two active daughters, Chris admits he can't keep them out of the pool in any season.

Another benefit to lower pool temperatures is the fact cooler water uses less chlorine and other chemicals than warmer water, thus saving you money. "A 10-degree drop in water temperature



can result in a savings of 20 to 25 percent on chemical consumption," Chris claimed. And USA Swimming and the Mayo Clinic Web sites suggest water temperatures should be no higher than 86 to 88 degrees for safe exercising and lap swimming.

"Our units also provide digital controls that can be used with an existing wireless remote system," Chris said. "You can even heat your spa during the day, and then switch to cooling your pool at night when the air is cooler. It's very easy to operate," he continued. "Just think, several hours after your cooling system switches on, your pool will be way cooler and really refreshing."

An Arizona state licensed contractor, and designated a certified pool operator, Chris has 10 years experience in the pool business. Arizona Pool Guy, Inc. was just voted *Best Pool Company* in the Best of Mesa 2014 contest. "We're very honored that our neighbors took the effort to vote for us," Chris said.

"We're always happy to come out and give a free estimate for a heating and cooling system, or any type of pool service needed," he stated. ■

For more information about pool cooling and heating systems, variable speed pumps, or any pool services or repairs, contact Chris Quam, at Arizona Pool Guy, Inc. Call (480) 699-0607.

BEAUTY

GIVE DAD A LITTLE Down Time for Father's Day

By Dawn Abbey

In our high-stress world, dads don't always have the time to experience those same luxuries women often take for granted.

Compared to men, women usually spend lots more time with skin care rituals, such as cleansing and hydrating. Women also are more likely to take better care of their hair and nails.

"If your dad is always busy, or works in a heavy duty job, or participates in rugged sports, he might appreciate a little down time, and the opportunity to be groomed and pampered," suggested Sandra Barbetta.

She and her husband, Cosmo, co-owners of Cosmos Salon and Day Spa, have created a few gift packages just right for any dad.

He can be **King for a Day** with a package, which includes a 50-minute custom facial, plus a 50-minute custom massage, all for \$120.

Father's Day of Pampering features a fantastic new haircut. And don't forget about those feet. With summer here, those rough, calloused heels look very unsightly in sandals or by the pool. A manicure and pedicure not only includes trimming and shaping of the nails and cuticles, but also removing rough skin from the

feet. Achieve a complete, sharp, professional appearance for only \$70.

Cosmos has a private area just for men, where they can feel at ease while having their nails and cuticles trimmed, or enjoy a relaxing massage. "Massages are always a great gift, whether your muscle soreness comes from physical exertion, the stress of being in a high-powered workforce, or you just want some time off to relax," Sandra said.

Other suggestions for pampering Dad are gift certificates for a new haircut, grey-coverage color, and a facial or peel to remove sun damage and lines for a more youthful appearance. With swim season upon us, gift certificates also are available for waxing to remove unwanted body hair. "We also can create a one-of-a-kind package just for your dad," Sandra said.

Any other salon services, or hair and skin-care products, also are available with gift certificates. "We'd be happy to help you choose something just right for Father's Day," Sandra said. ■



To find out more about personal services and gift certificates, call (480) 844-0707, or visit Cosmos Salon and Day Spa, at the northeast corner of Power and McDowell roads, in The Village at Las Sendas.

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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 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.

DINING

GOLF AND RESTAURANT SUMMER SIZZLER June 2 through August 31, 2014

Play golf for only \$30 plus tax, and receive a \$15 food and beverage voucher for The Grille at Las Sendas. Tee times can be made two days out, any time after 1 p.m., seven days a week. Food and beverage vouchers are good through Sept. 30, 2014.

WEEKLY SPECIALS AT THE PATIO AND THE GRILLE Starting June 3, 2014

MONDAY

Happy Hour All Day (Open to Close)

TUESDAY

\$19.95 Any Bottle of House Wine with a Daily Flatbread

WEDNESDAY

Wine Down Wednesdays

1/2 Price Bottles of Wine (Most Bottles)

THURSDAY

\$19.95 Full Prime Rib Dinner

Mashed Potatoes, Summer Vegetables

Add a Glass of Wine - \$3.00

FRIDAY

\$19.95 Summer Fish Special

Chefs Market Fish Dinner (Prepared weekly)

SATURDAY

\$14.95 House Fried Chicken

Mashed Potatoes, Buttermilk Biscuit with Honey Drizzle

SUNDAY

\$15.95/ Kids (6-12) \$8.95

Pasta Night - Weekly Pasta Specials

Includes Side Salad and Dessert

SUMMER HAPPY HOUR IS BACK!

Monday All Day Happy Hour

Tuesday through Sunday 2 to 8 p.m.

Hours of Operation 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Come in and try one of our specialty cocktails—Pineapple Cosmos, Bulldog Margarita, Moscow Mule, John Daly or

Strawberry Lemonade, all \$5 each. Enjoy our amazing \$5 Burger—comes with Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Pickle, Cheese and Chips.

Share some appetizers with friends—Bruschetta, Meatball Sliders, Pretzel Bites, Street Tacos and much more.

FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL

Come in and join us at The Grille at Las Sendas for our Father's Day Special on Sunday, June 15, 2014, starting at 4 p.m. Our special is only \$29.95 and includes:

- ♦ 14-ounce Rib Eye Steak Dinner
- ♦ Pickled Onion Rings
- ♦ Corn on the Cob
- ♦ Roasted Smoked Potatoes
- ♦ Draft Beer or Soft Drink

LAS SENDAS GOLF ACADEMY



Ever try to pull off a shot on the golf course with which you weren't comfortable, only to end up getting yourself in a worse situation?

Game management probably is the hardest thing to learn in golf. It takes a lot of time and experience to learn how to choose the correct shot to hit, and what, individually, you can and cannot do under pressure.

Jack Nicklaus once said, "Golf is a game of emotion and adjustments. It's the ability to read yourself, both physically and mentally, at any point in time, to give the best information to get the most out of your game."

There is a reason why those little voices inside your head tell you to be nervous of the water to the right when you have been slicing the ball all day. Listen to them. If you have been hitting the ball to the right on every shot, chances are the next one also is going to be to the right. So, play it! Don't try to hit a shot you know you can't hit.

Every day is a new day, and your swing is going to feel different than yesterday. One day you may be hitting the ball low, and the next day you may be hitting every shot to the left. How you manage that is what's going to keep you out of the desert and into the fairway.

Junior Golf Stick Summer Program

Join in on the fun. Junior Golf group lessons are offered as follows:

7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

- June 4 and 5
- June 11 and 12
- June 18 and 19

7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

- July 16 and 17
- July 23 and 24
- July 30 and 31

Registration forms are available in the Las Sendas Golf Shop or by sending an e-mail to tberman@lassendas.com. Pick the days or weeks your junior golfer would like to attend. Basic fundamentals, games, drills, rules, etiquette and on-course play are offered. Join any time throughout the summer.

THE VISTAS PAVILION

Summer discounts for birthdays, anniversaries or any special occasion you wish to celebrate

Plan your special event in June, July or August, and receive summer discounts on food and beverage selections. Small events can be hosted in our intimate Bogey's Private Dining Room, or book The Vistas Pavilion for groups with more than 40 guests.

Las Sendas—Major Charity Donor

This past April, Las Sendas Golf Club hosted a charity dinner and golf tournament, raising more than \$300,000 for Alice Cooper's Solid Rock Organization. The charity dinner included a silent auction, live auction and an amazing live concert, featuring Alice Cooper, Dash Cooper, Tommy Thayer, Garry Muledeer, Don Felder and Andrew Johns. Sheryl Cooper hosted a sold-out fashion and trunk show, which was enjoyed by 160 ladies from our community. We truly are proud of this contribution and amazing event, which is planned again for next year.



Weddings at The Vistas Pavilion

After one full year of operation, The Vistas Pavilion has become one of Mesa's premier venues for wedding ceremonies and receptions. We now are booking well into 2015. Please feel free to book a site visit, and tour at your convenience. Call (480) 396-4000, or send an e-mail to egomez@lassendas.com.



A CLOSER LOOK AT LAS SENDAS GOLF CLUB (CONTINUED)

Summer Wedding Special - \$4,500

The Vistas Pavilion is offering our amazing summer special. Book and host your wedding in June, July, August or September, for only \$4,500. Your complete package, for 50 to 100 guests, includes ceremony, reception, tray-passed hors d'oeuvres, plated dinner, with salad and entrée, rolls, butter, coffee and tea. Champagne toast and non-alcoholic beverages are also included in the package.

November Wedding Special - \$6,500

If you are interested in a wedding in November, book and host your wedding between the dates of Nov. 21 through 30, for only \$6,500. Your package, for 50 to 100 guests, includes ceremony, reception, tray-passed hors d'oeuvres, plated dinner, with salad and entrée, rolls, butter, coffee and tea.

GOLF SHOP

Headed to the pool this summer? You can get some of your pool essentials right here at the Las Sendas Golf Shop. We have an assortment of Aloe Up Sunblock, men's flip flops, straw hats for ladies and men, visors and more. We also carry Oakley and Sundog sunglasses. Want to look great for your next tennis match, or just for hanging out? Check out our Lifestyle Apparel, and remember, you don't need to play golf to find what you are looking for right here at the club.



CLEARANCE SALE

Come in and check out all the great deals in the Las Sendas Golf Shop this summer. Prices are as much as 50 percent off. We are clearing out last season's gear, apparel and equipment, and making room for our fall line of new and exciting merchandise. So, if you come out to play, and take advantage of the low golf rates, or even if you're just out to have a bite to eat at The Grille, stop in the shop and check it out. You are sure to find a bargain.

JUNE GOLF SPECIALS

- 18 holes—Monday through Friday—\$39 plus tax
- 18 holes—Saturday and Sunday—\$49 plus tax
- 36 holes—\$59 plus tax—seven days a week
- After 11 a.m.—\$29 plus tax—seven days a week
- After 1 p.m.—\$30 plus tax—seven days a week.

Includes \$15 food and beverage voucher.

Be sure to check your e-mails for summer resident specials. If you are not on our e-mail list, just call the Golf Shop, at (480) 396-0440, to get your e-mail address on our list to receive fabulous specials on golf, merchandise and more.

CHEF MATTHEW'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Roasted Cauliflower Curry Soup

- 1 tablespoon butter or olive oil
- 1 to 2 large leeks, thinly sliced
- 3 or 4 cloves crushed garlic
- 2 teaspoons freshly grated ginger
- 1 head of cauliflower
- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and cubed
- 3 teaspoons cumin
- 3 teaspoons coriander
- 2 teaspoons turmeric
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- Cayenne, to taste (add by the 1/2 teaspoon up to desired spiciness)
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 cup cooked wild rice blend
- 1 can 2 percent evaporated milk
- 1/2 cup packed shredded Swiss cheese



Preparation

Start by first cutting up the cauliflower, then coating it with olive oil and sea salt, and roasting it in a 400-degree oven for about 30 minutes. Remove after 20 minutes to flip the browned sides. Once the cauliflower is nearly finished roasting, begin heating the butter/oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the leeks, garlic and ginger, and sauté until the leeks and garlic are softened, about 5 minutes. Add the roasted cauliflower and cubed sweet potato, and all the spices. Continue to stir the ingredients for another 5 to 10 minutes to let the sweet potato start to cook. Once the ingredients cook down a bit, add 4 cups vegetable stock, and let simmer for about 25 to 30 minutes. Once the sweet potatoes are fully cooked through and softened, whip out the immersion blender and blend the soup until velvety smooth. At this point, the consistency may still be a bit thick, so add more vegetable stock, then the evaporated milk and cheese, and finally the cooked quinoa. Leave the soup on low for a few more minutes to allow the flavors to meld.



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Vouchers good through September 30, 2014

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Summer

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\$5 Burgers

\$3 Craft Draft, \$3.50 Glass House Wine, \$5 Specialty Cocktails





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There is a Cure for the Summertime Blues

REAL ESTATE

New Ryland Homes Set For Las Sendas

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

Ryland Homes has broken ground on its new community, located in Las Sendas, on the corner of McDowell Road and Ridgecrest Drive.



They hope to have the models built and ready for sale by October. These homes are designed for a low maintenance, easy living lifestyle, and are a cross between a townhouse and a traditional home. They are detached homes but have no backyard. Instead, they have the garage at the rear of the home, which is accessed by a side street. The yard is at the side of the house, and each side yard is only 10 feet wide, which allows the homes to be built very close together. As the road is at the back of the homes, to access the garages, the front of the homes will have a foot path for entrance through the front.



three main floor plans, from Ryland's 600 Series. There also will be some larger homes from their 900 Series. The size of these homes is up to 2,500 square feet. At this time, however, Ryland Homes was not sure how many of these would be available. If no changes are made to the current site map, it looks as though there will be 40 of these larger homes built.

All the homes are two-story, with a two-car garage and a 10-foot side yard. The floor plans offer a great room design with no formal dining or living room. Ryland Homes have utilized the space very well, offering a spacious family/dining room and large kitchen. There is a half bath downstairs, and the utility room is upstairs. The optional disappearing sliding glass walls, from the great room, leading out to the side yard, really open up the living area. These will be great starter or second homes, or for the homeowner who wants more of a lock-up-and-go home with very low maintenance.

Floor Plans

- 612 Plan—Two-story, 2,089 square feet, four bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths and two-car garage.
- 611 Plan—Two-story, 1,992 square feet, three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and two-car garage.
- 610 Plan—Two-story, 1,688 square feet, three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and two-car garage.

Pricing

Ryland Homes will not release any prices until approximately one week before they are ready to start selling. The *Phoenix Business Journal* reported in September 2013 the average base price was in the range of \$275,000. I will continue to meet with Ryland Homes and if they release the prices earlier, I will post them on my Web site.

Homeowners Association

The community will not be gated, and will have its own pool and children's playground. At the time of writing this article, neither Ryland Homes nor Las Sendas Homeowners Association (HOA) had any information as

to whether these new homes would have their own HOA, or be part of Las Sendas. This is still under review. ■

The Ryland Web site does not yet have any information on this community. Therefore, I have added it to my Web site. For a site map, pictures and videos of the models and floor plans, please visit my Web site at www.Homes2SellAZ.com, under the Blog/Statistics tab. If you would like to be kept current, and receive updated information as it becomes available, please e-mail me your contact information at Lorraine@Homes2SellAZ.com. Disclaimer: This information comes directly from Ryland Homes. Until the models are built, however, it is all subject to change.

Pathfinder Charter School is Relocating to the Area

The new charter school, located next to Ryland Homes on Red Mountain Road, is well underway. Pathfinder Academy has been a charter school for the past 16 years, and is relocating to this 34,000-square-foot campus. It has received both Excelling and A+ academic ratings from the Department of Education.

The school offers kindergarten through eighth grade, with a free full-day and half-day kindergarten, as well as a four-day school week, Monday through Thursday. (My kids would love this.) It is based on a back-to-basics teaching approach. As many as 225 students are projected this year, with class sizes of 20 to 25 students.

For more information, contact Pathfinder Academy at (480) 986-7071.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Charlie's Salon and Spa PRESENTS A FAMILY ATMOSPHERE

By Kimberly Searles

Have you ever walked into a salon and spa, only to feel as though you didn't belong there?

That's not the way you will feel when you walk into the recently opened Charlie's Salon and Spa. In fact, owners Pam Innes-Smith and Debra Bond want you to feel like you are part of the family.

"We want everyone who comes to Charlie's to feel comfortable and relaxed," said Debra. "That starts by having a professional staff that's comfortable with, and supportive of, each other."

It's a vision shared and supported by Pam. They welcome and encourage camaraderie with their staff of 20, often getting together after hours. As Debra puts it, "What better job is there than to get paid to work with your friends?"

As new business owners, the pair is excited about all the new possibilities at Charlie's, located in the Red Mountain Gateway Shopping Center, at the northeast corner of Power and McKellips roads.

From the beautiful lobby and state-of-the-art spa equipment, as well as their Euro-style shampoo bowls and the wonderful styling products they use and sell, everything inside Charlie's is brand new. It is all part of their twist on the salon and spa concept both Debra and Pam want to establish. In fact, Charlie's walls feature artwork from local artists, which is available for sale.

"We didn't want to have your typical salon artwork," stated Pam. "Instead, we wanted to create an environment that allows us to showcase the talent of our staff, as well as local artists in our community."

Charlie's Salon and Spa provides a full range of beautiful hair and nail services. Also featured are the finest quality of spa treatments, including massage, body treatments, facials and skincare. All of this is accomplished in a modern, classy, at-home atmosphere. The salon serves men, women

and children, executing styles ranging from classy to contemporary, and conservative to fashion forward.

"Our skilled staff provides the latest in all aspects of your beauty and wellness needs," Pam said. "We're proud to offer new and innovative techniques to enhance our customers' appearance and well-being."

Charlie's uses products from some of the best names in the business, including Goldwell, Pureology, Moroccan Oil, PCA Skin, and Brazilian Blowout. Because they believe in the quality and integrity of these products, they also make them available for sale. Therefore, clients can continue that beautiful salon look at home.

"Making our clients and our friends look and feel great is what we do best," said Pam. "We are truly grateful for the hundreds of loyal clients who have followed us through the years, and now to our own unique salon."

If you want the experience of walking into a salon, where everybody knows you, you feel welcome, and you know you will receive great service, give the all-new Charlie's Salon and Spa a try. ■

Charlie's Salon and Spa is located at 2031 N. Power Road, Suite 110. They are open Monday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-in appointments are welcome, or to make an appointment, you can call (480) 634-7167. Be sure to visit their beautiful Web site at www.CharliesSalonSpa.com.



ORGANIZING

MAKING DECISIONS can be difficult for some

By Nancy Nemitz

While many people really don't like making decisions, they do prefer, instead, to wait until someone else decides, and then yell at them when things don't turn out.

Barry Schwartz, psychologist and author of the book *Paradox of Choice*, points out we avoid making choices when we have an overwhelming variety of things from which to choose, such as cereal, menu items and clothes. We become paralyzed by too many choices, so we avoid making decisions. Once we actually do make a decision, we often are disappointed because we wonder if one of the other choices would have been better.

When I am assisting clients in making decisions about what to keep, this overabundance of things is exactly what makes choosing more difficult. Life was easier when you had fewer clothes and fewer entertainment options, as well as fewer things to clean and maintain.

Who is responsible for this mass accumulation of things? You are. No one forces you to buy all those toys to keep your children occupied. No one is forcing you to stuff your closets full of clothes you don't wear. It isn't good for you to have too much. ■

Nancy Nemitz, professional organizer and speaker, can help you decide. Call (480) 223-8939, visit createthespace.com, or send an e-mail to nancy@createthespace.com.



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COMMUNITY

SOCIAL CLUB HOSTS TEA PARTY

By Pat Favier
Photographer and Co-Secretary

Little girls dressing up, wearing party clothes and hats, feel, oh, so special when they sip tea, nibble on little finger sandwiches and sweet, tasty delights at a tea party.

Well, grown-up ladies love a tea party, too. The ladies of Red Mountain Ranch Social Club (RMRSC) enjoyed such a party recently at the RMR Country Club.

The club's Overlook Room was cheerfully decorated with garlands, baskets and bouquets of colorful spring flowers, elegant tea services, cozy tea pots and fine tableware.

Upon entering, the ladies were greeted and photographed. Each attendee was then given a ticket for a drawing to win one of the lovely centerpieces, consisting of wonderful tea pots filled with delightfully colored spring bouquets.

Everyone in attendance dined on dainty finger sandwiches, sweet desserts, as well as aromatic teas, coffee or lemonade, served by the capable Country Club staff. They heard talks given by two members of the Assistance League of Scottsdale. These ladies presented

the focus of their fund-raising effort for 2014. Specifically, the league provides school uniforms to students who might otherwise not be able to afford them. The league also operates a thrift shop, where gently used clothing and accessories can be purchased for a fraction of their original prices.

Another pair of guest speakers came from the Dillard's Superstition Springs store. They offered tips and trends in fashion and accessories, along with a cosmetic demonstration. One RMRSC lady was chosen to receive a makeover in front of the tea party group. She walked away looking ready for a night on the town.

Various attendees were honored for their longstanding loyalty and hard work on behalf of the Social Club. Honorees were Char Underwood, club founder, as well as Anne King, Roz Capon and Edith Pitts. They were applauded for their years of service in making events, such as the Tea Party, Western Night and Oktoberfest, among the reasons our club is so popular with its members.

President Betty Day also acknowledged her team for the Tea Party. Those recognized were Wanda Wimp, Shirley Bender, Gloria LeViness, Mary Becker and the Dillards Superstition Springs representatives, Sally Lawrence and Christy Esparza. All of the aforementioned were responsible for a lovely and entertaining afternoon. All the ladies in attendance agreed they should do another Tea Party in the future. ■

For more information about the Red Mountain Ranch Social Club, check out our Web site at www.RedMountainRanchSocialClub.com.



LOCAL BUSINESS

True Essence Salon and Spa WINS BEST OF MESA

By Dawn Abbey

True Essence Salon and Spa was voted first place as the Best of Mesa 2014 Hair Salon in the East Valley Tribune's annual contest.

"We are so excited and grateful to all who voted for us. It is such an honor," said owner Maytee Green.

This year's event was broken out by cities, so Mesa, Gilbert and Chandler all have their own Best of 2014 winners. Winners are chosen solely by votes on the newspaper's Web site, eastvalleytribune.com. So, residents had to make the time and effort to cast votes for their favorites.

The Web site described True Essence Salon this way: "Whether they're glamming up your nails or working out the pressure in your back, True Essence Salon and Spa puts you at ease with every appointment. The Aveda concept salon and spa offers a wide menu of services, from facials and perfecting plant peels to hair care, nail care and foot care."

When asked why she thought her salon was voted best, Maytee was thoughtful. "There are so many excellent stylists, colorists, aestheticians, massage therapists and nail techs in our area to choose from, and ours are top rate, too," she said. "But I think part of the reason is that True Essence is an Aveda Concept Salon, and we use only Aveda natural and effective plant-based products. People who really care about choosing naturally derived color, hair care and skin and facial



products come to us for that reason, also, and they are very adamant in their choice."

Aveda is an international leader in promoting environmental and social causes worldwide. "Last month, Aveda salons raised funds to provide clean water projects around the world, including right here in Arizona,"

Maytee stated. "Aveda also supports small cooperatives where women cultivate and extract argan oil for Aveda products. They promote organic cultivation. Aveda uses 100 percent wind energy in its manufacturing plants and plant-based plastics for its bottles," she continued. "Aveda is more than just a salon and products. It is a lifestyle choice that is fast becoming more obvious to aware consumers."

Maytee is very proud to be associated with Aveda and its philosophy. "All else being equal, consumers are looking for healthy, natural alternatives, and a company whose profits go to improve our world instead of amassing greedy profits," she said. "There's a lot of information on Aveda's Web site, aveda.com, about its mission and projects, if someone is interested in learning more, or they can call our salon, or just drop in to see what we're about." ■

True Essence Salon and Spa is located at 2910 N. Power Road, in the Bashas' shopping center. For more information, or to make an appointment, call (480) 396-3112. For more information about Aveda, its mission and products, visit aveda.com.

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6041 E. Sierra Morena St.	2,094	\$240,500
6552 E. Sugarloaf St.	2,033	\$259,900
3641 N. Santiago Cir.	1,729	\$260,000
6453 E. Sierra Morena St.	2,030	\$275,900
6017 E. Sanford Cir.	2,222	\$280,000
3959 N. San Gabriel	2,723	\$287,000
3938 N. Sapphire	2,480	\$292,500
6142 E. Star Valley St.	2,328	\$295,000
3647 N. Santiago Cir.	2,114	\$300,000
6046 E. Selkirk Cir.	2,222	\$305,000
3820 N. Sawtooth Cir.	2,472	\$313,000
6525 E. Viewmont Dr.	2,146	\$327,000
4130 N. Lomond St.	3,205	\$342,000
6647 E. Venue Cir.	2,349	\$350,000
6750 E. Villeroy Cir.	2,607	\$350,000
4055 N. Recker Rd. #70	3,447	\$446,000

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.BuyAndSellIAZ.com



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Lehi Crossing

The community of Lehi Crossing is now selling the new Summit Collection, which offers 2,811 to 4,675 sq ft. of luxurious space. A gated community situated along the Northern border of the prestigious orange grove corridor of East Mesa, Arizona, Lehi Crossing offers residents excellent schools and convenient access to shopping, entertainment and virtually all major employment hubs in the Mesa, Tempe & Scottsdale area.



Trovita Estates

Trovita Estates is now selling the all new Capstone Collection ranging from 3,295 to 4,400 sq. ft. This desert refuge offers a way of achieving fulfillment, turning everyday living into inspired living. Tucked within the heart of Mesa's Grove Corridor, it is often compared to North Scottsdale and Arcadia with sweeping space and prestigious grandeur.

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EVENT

Enjoy the Hawaiian Mega Hula Event on Salt River

Submitted by Salt River Tubing and Recreation
Aloha from the Salt River. Throw on your grass skirt, grab your beachcomber straw hat, and join Salt River Tubing and Recreation, featuring its fun-filled *Hawaiian Mega Hula* event on Saturday, June 21, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Salt River Tubing's Hawaiian luau adventure offers a cool and refreshing experience in the great outdoors. Everyone will be greeted with free leis, hula honey line dancers and hula hoop contests, complete with limbo music pulsating on our beach. Salt River Tubing will be awarding free tube rental passes and limited edition Hawaiian Mega Hula T-shirts for the best Hawaiian tuber costumes. Passes are valid on your return visit. Hawaiian barges will transport guests to the Lower Salt River for fun in the sun on the 68-degree mountain-stream rocking rapids.

"Our Hawaiian Mega Hula event was a huge success last year, and our guests raved about their luau adventure on the Salt River," said Salt River Tubing President and CEO Henri Breault. "The event is an attention-grabber for teens and families, and encourages them to venture into the great outdoors. June is a perfect time to enjoy a floating picnic on the Lower Salt River," Henri continued. "Our company is excited about creating a Hawaiian atmosphere for a unique voyage."

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

The cost of tube rental and shuttle bus service all day is \$17 per person/tube, which includes sales tax.

Children must be 8 years old or older and at least 4



feet tall for tube rental and shuttle bus service.

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 on the Lower Salt River by responsibly appointing a designated driver before beginning your tubing adventure. Drugs, alcohol and the Salt River do not mix. Therefore, play it safe, and just don't do it. Salt River Tubing operates in Tonto National Forest under permit of the USDA Forest Service.

Salt River Tubing is located just seven minutes from Highway 202 East, on Power Road.

For event details, please visit the Salt River Tubing Web site at www.saltrivertubing.com, and enjoy the Hawaiian Mega Hula video, or view it on Vimeo at vimeo.com/72126039. ■

For more information, call (480) 984-3305. Daily operating hours are 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and latest tube rental is 2 p.m., weather and water flow permitting. Salt River Tubing and Recreation is open seven days a week.

EDUCATION

Alternate Ending IS A WINNER

By Sharon Wozny
When Kayla Miller completed a writing assignment creating an alternate ending for Roald Dahl's *The Landlady*, she had no idea her piece would be one of the first place narrative winners in Mesa Public Schools district writing contest.

A student at Smith Junior High School, in LeAnn Napoleone's class, Kayla was surprised when she found out she won. The foundation for her writing skills was formed during her years at Zaharis Elementary School. At the same time, she found her passion for writing horror pieces. As a matter of fact, her fourth-grade teacher, Miss Barton, gave Kayla her first A grade in a writing assignment, which was horror-based.

Kayla's ideas are in her head, as well as in a journal. She loves imagining forestry places where her characters can come to life. Inspirations come from music, science fiction books and movies, such as *I am Legend*. Once her pencil starts, she just writes and rewrites, revising and editing as she goes along. "Ms. Napoleone has been an absolute huge help with my grammar," said Kayla.

"Winning this award has given me more belief in myself," Kayla said. Her winning entry also was published in *Voices 2014*, the Mesa Public Schools Student Writing Anthology.

Congratulations to Kayla and to all fellow winners. ■



Kayla Miller

To see all the other winners in the contest, visit www.mpsaz.org, and look under District News and Events. This is where you can scroll down and download *Voices 2014*.

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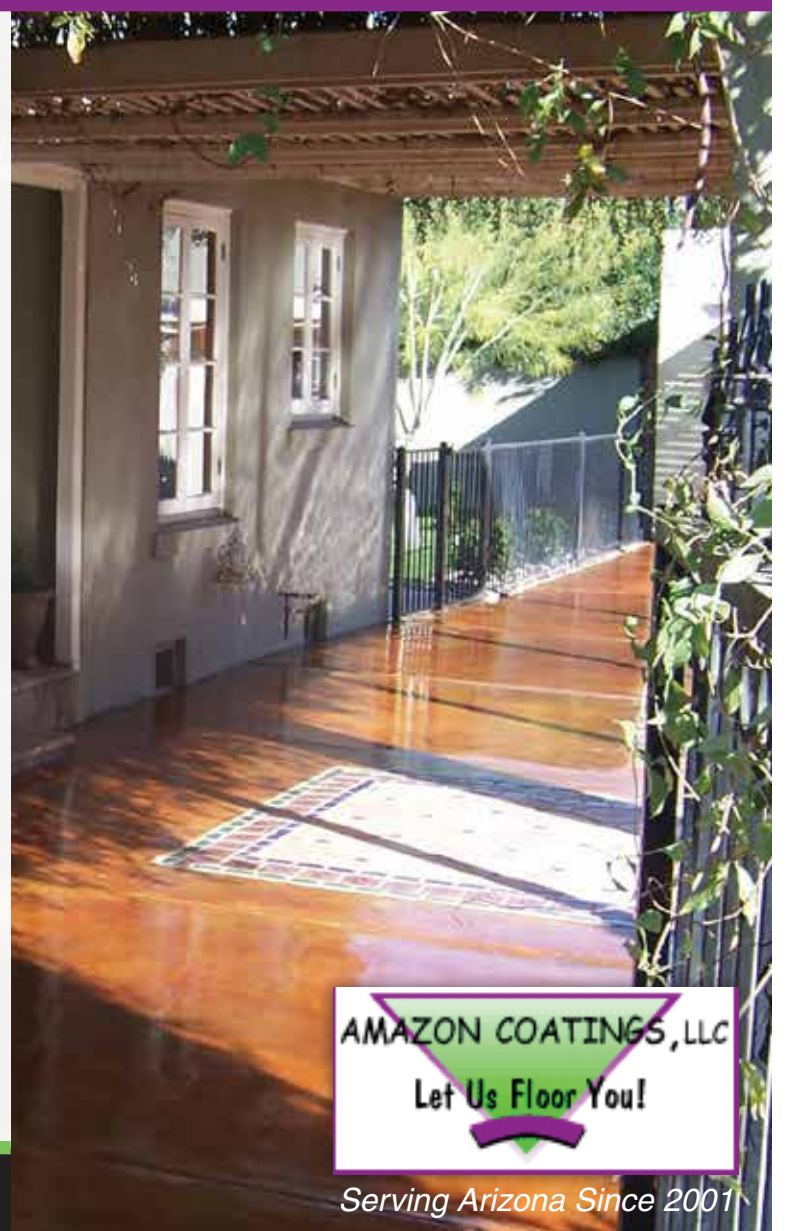
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HEALTH

Hot Yoga Has Many Advantages

Submitted by Hot Lotus Yoga Studio

Many students wonder about the benefit of adding heat to a yoga practice. Well, there are plenty benefits. Here are a few, which come with an 80-minute Hot Lotus yoga class.

Flexibility. The heat allows students to safely reach a greater degree of depth within many yoga postures, aiding in enhancing flexibility and mobility.

Strength. Yoga requires balance, coordination, core stabilization and mental focus. Muscles often ignored in other disciplines are trained in this environment. The heat allows the muscles to relax and work more effectively throughout a class.

Cardio. The heart works the same way moving through yoga postures in a heated room as it does biking, running, kickboxing or hiking. A major benefit of yoga is the fact this is accomplished while never leaving a mat. On something as small as a mat, due to the effort required throughout an 80-minute class, a student can burn hundreds of calories, while also stimulating the metabolism. This means the body continues to burn calories at an increased rate for hours following a yoga class, as compared to prior to the yoga class.

Detox. The heated room makes students sweat. The added heat and humidity creates the perfect environment, which allows the body to sweat out a number of toxins. Yoga poses alone are detoxifying for muscles, organs and glands, with the constriction and release of blood flow throughout the body, and sweating intensifies this process for maximum benefit.



Breath. Additional heat makes breathing deeply a necessity. Shallow breathing won't cut it. If there is no breathing, there is no yoga. Hot yoga will teach the skill of breath control in order to properly oxygenate the blood. When breathing deeply, you can let go of your day, your stresses or whatever is on your mind. Students focus on their breath, and leave feeling better than when they came to class.

Healing. Having a regular yoga practice can heal old injuries, as well as prevent new ones. Hot yoga can assist in healing back, neck, knee or shoulder injuries, and also is known to reduce symptoms of diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure, depression, arthritis and obesity. Besides the body, yoga will heal the mind. It will allow you to let go. In return, you will find more clarity after you have calmed the mind and body.

Focus. The Hot Lotus sequence is always the same. The routine helps to improve practice through repetition, which turns into more of a moving meditation. The student can focus intensely on what is required in the moment. The more often one attends, the more focus and presence of mind one has. When able to focus on the task at hand, or as yogis say, "Live in the moment," every aspect of life becomes a little easier and quite a bit more enjoyable.

Yoga is like music. The rhythm of the body, the melody of the mind, and the harmony of the soul, create the symphony of life.
~ B.K.S. Iyengar ■

For more information about Hot Lotus Yoga Studio, call (480) 654-9642.

RECIPE

THIS QUINOA AND BLACK BEAN SALAD

is Sure to Please Your Taste Buds



Submitted by PIEfection

Enjoy this healthy and delicious salad as a side dish or a main course, and you are sure to make it again and again.

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 cup quinoa, rinsed until water runs clear | 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper |
| 2 cups chicken (or vegetable) broth | 1 tablespoon chopped cilantro |
| 1 15 ounce can black beans, rinsed and drained | 1/3 cup fresh lime juice |
| 1 1/2 tablespoons red wine vinegar | 1/2 teaspoon salt |
| 1 cup corn | 1 teaspoon cumin |
| 1 cucumber, chopped | 1/4 cup olive oil |
| 1 red bell pepper | 1 tablespoon agave nectar |
| 1 small clove garlic, minced | 4 scallions, chopped |
| | 1/2 jicama, cut in strips |
| | 1 cup cherry tomatoes |
| | 1 avocado |

INSTRUCTIONS

Cook quinoa in chicken broth, following the directions on the package. Put in bowl, and let cool. Toss black beans with vinegar, garlic, salt and pepper to taste. Add beans, bell pepper, scallions, cucumber, corn, jicama, cayenne and cilantro to quinoa, and toss well. In a small bowl, whisk together lime juice, salt, cumin and agave, and add oil in a stream while whisking. Drizzle over salad, and toss well. Garnish with tomatoes and avocado. ■

PIEfection is located at 6731 E. Brown Road. For more information about all the delicious pies on the menu, call (480) 218-7437.

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EDUCATION

Self Development Academy Recognizes Student Achievement

By Jennifer Salvatori

More than 500 students attending Self Development Academy (SDA) recently received awards at the end-of-the-year festivities.

Student academic achievement is recognized in the areas of reading, mathematics, citizenship and attendance, as well as overall academic performance. The number of students having earned awards in these categories is a testament to the commitment and working relationship among the administration, teachers, parents and students.

SDA provides an accelerated curriculum to students, and encourages learning outside the classroom. This includes reading, and the school sponsors two reading programs. They are Parents as Partners (grades kindergarten through eighth grade) and the Children's Classic Reading Program (grades two through eight). If parents read a minimum of four nights a week for 90 percent of the school year, students earn a Parents as Partners certificate.

The Children's Classic Reading Program requires a yearlong commitment from students. Students earn a trophy for reading eight classics (abridged versions) a year, writing a report, and completing an oral and visual presentation. Some of the classics include *Treasure Island*, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, *Black Beauty*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Hobbit*. A total of 164 students obtained a Parents as Partners certificate, and 48 students earned a Children's Classic Reading Program trophy this year.

The memorization of Math Facts is one important part of the school's math



curriculum, which requires a commitment from parents and students, as well. At the end of the school year, students demonstrate their Math Facts knowledge, and compete to earn a Math Facts certificate. Each class has one Math Facts winner, and that student receives a Math Facts certificate, acknowledging mastery in this curriculum area.

The students are acknowledged during one of the school's most anticipated events, the end-of-the-year class plays. The class plays are a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their creative talents. Every year, each class (grades one through eight) performs a play, with each student having a role. Some students even write their class plays. The classes also create backdrops and props. Some of this year's plays included *The Bremen Town Musician*, *Abraham Lincoln*, *Little Red Riding Hood's Granny*, and *Rosa Parks Leads the Way*.

Together, the class plays and awards ceremony served as a wonderful way to end the 2013-2014 school year. We are so proud of our students. ■

If you are interested in learning more about Self Development Academy, please contact the front office at (480) 641-2640.

EDUCATION

Local Student Wins DEKALB Agricultural Award

By Dawn Abbey

Jacob Bernal, son of Robert and Michelle Bernal, of Mesa, was awarded the 2014 DEKALB Agricultural Accomplishment Award, at the Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center (AAEC) Red Mountain Early College High School's annual Future Farmers of America (FFA) banquet.

Jacob was honored for leading his FFA chapter this year as president, and also for excellence in academics, leadership and agricultural work experience. He won *First Place Individual* at the district competition in agricultural mechanics career development. His team also placed seventh at the state competition.

The DEKALB award, sponsored by Monsanto, is AAEC Red Mountain's highest agricultural honor. Over the past 67 years, more than 168,000 high school seniors nationwide have received the award. Jacob's name will be displayed on a permanent plaque at the school. Britney Marsh served as his agricultural education instructor and FAA advisor.

The 2013-2014 Retiring Chapter FFA Officer Team, consisting of Jacob Bernal, President; Savannah Gunton, Vice President; Zak Jones, Secretary; Nicole Bungartz, Treasurer; Wayne Fuller, Sentinel; and Julia Masser, Historian, announced the awards. The awards also included AAEC students receiving 33 Career Development

Event awards; 12 Supervised Agricultural Experience Excellence awards; and 52 Greenhand degrees to first-year agricultural education students.

The Supervised Agricultural Experience is a practical application of classroom concepts designed to provide real world experiences, and develop skills in agriculturally related career areas conducted outside of class time. Winners were Myranda Bascom, Valentina Gerasimova, Veronica Greer, Samantha Johnson, Abby Heeg-Jones, Amanda Jones, Emma Kramer, Winter Ruljancich, Valentine Sargent, Christian Shook, Hope Torres and Aja Wright.

Career Development Events winners included Jacob Bernal, Nicole Bungartz, Riley Johnson, Payton Bewsey, Elizabeth McCamy, Zak Jones and Owen Greiving competing in Agricultural Mechanics, Aja Wright and Valentina Gerasimova, Creed Speaking; Roxanna Leura, Extemporaneous Public Speaking; Julia Masser, Shandiin Farrell, Tameryn Lowery and Serena Hehnke, Horse Judging; Savannah Gunton, Interview Contest; Kaite Keledjian, Reed Newell, Hope Torres and Samantha Johnson, Livestock Judging; Wayne Fuller and Josh Ferrigno, Marketing; and Jacob Bernal, Arizona FFA Chorus.

The Veterinary Science team consisted of Shannon Prowett, Brycen Lauer, Amber Bent and Hannah Grumblin. Rebecca Holcomb, Aaron Knight, Payton Bewsey and Sydney Nooden competed in the Wildlife CDE. ■



From left: Vice President Savannah Gunton, Treasurer Nicole Bungartz, Secretary Zak Jones, President Jacob Bernal, Sentinel Wayne Fuller and Historian Julia Masser.

The Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center, Inc., AAEC Red Mountain public charter school is an early college high school, offering students the opportunity to earn college credits. It is located at 2165 N. Power Road, adjacent to Mesa Community College. For information, call (480) 854-1504, or visit aaechighschools.com.


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LOCAL BUSINESS

Protect your home's electrical system this summer



By Kimberly Searles

If you ever catch your home's lights flickering when the air conditioner kicks on, it is the effect of a low-level power surge on your home's electrical system. These surges happen more frequently than you may think, according to George Robbins, of Eagle Electrical Services. "Over time, those low-level surges eventually wear out the electronic products in the home," said George. "That can end up costing thousands of dollars to repair, or even replace your washer/dryer, television and other expensive electronics."

The closely approaching monsoon and summer season means there will be an even greater likelihood for those low-level power surges to attack your home. In fact, lightning more than a mile away can create a low-level surge. Fortunately, Eagle Electrical offers a solution to help homeowners protect their investments.

"While power surge strips are a great starting point, they don't necessarily protect the entire home," George stated. "We recommend and use Eaton's

Complete Home Surge Protection, which takes care of your home's entire system." An industry standard for electricians, Eaton's product safely directs energy away from the home's electronics. Once installed, it offers worry-free protection and peace of mind. It's a product also endorsed by Mike Holmes of HGTV's popular *Holmes on Homes*.

George mentions the fact it takes about an hour to install the complete home surge protector on your home's outside main electrical panel. It's an affordable solution, which can extend the life of your electronics, as well as save thousands in unnecessary expenses.

Eagle Electrical wants you to stay safe during the monsoon season. If you experience a power outage, make sure to unplug all your electronics before the power is restored. Of course, you always can count on George and the rest of the team at Eagle Electrical to offer other such advice to help you and your home's electrical system weather the storms. Give them a call, and find out more about complete home surge protection. ■

Eagle Electrical is a local, family-owned business serving the entire Valley, and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for emergencies. Always current on the latest advancements, Eagle Electrical provides honest work at an honest price. Contact them at (480) 659-4942, or send an e-mail to george@EaglePAE.com to make an appointment for a free estimate. You also can visit them online at www.eagleplumbingandair.com.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Uber app makes auto travel easy

Submitted by My Chauffeur Taxi Service

A service in town capable of blowing your mind, Uber is true to its meaning.

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driver, his type of car and his license plate. You actually see the car coming to you on your phone, and a bell rings when it arrives.

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For more information about signing up, see the Uber ad on page 22 in this publication.



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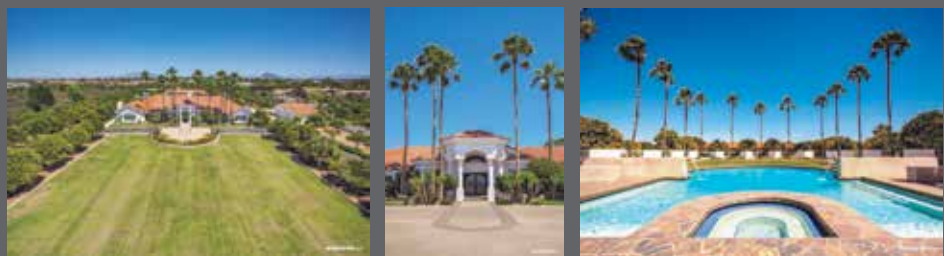
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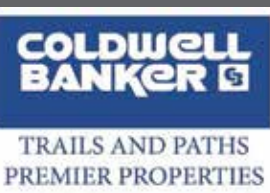
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REAL ESTATE

HERE ARE FIVE REASONS TO BUY A HOME THIS SUMMER

By John Karadsheh

With the local housing market heating up like an Arizona summer, here are five good points to contemplate with regard to purchasing a home at this time.



John Karadsheh

WE ARE NOW IN A BUYER'S MARKET

Between 2012 and 2013, we saw local property values appreciate year over year by more than 20 percent. During those years, inventory was historically low, and we had a lot of investors in the marketplace who were attracted by the large inventory of distressed properties. Now, in 2014, investors have moved on to other markets, while the increased values have made it financially possible for homeowners to put their homes up for sale again. With less demand from investors, and a greater supply of traditional listings, buyers are in the driver's seat. For buyers, this means more properties from which to choose and less competition from multiple offers.

INTEREST RATES ARE STILL LOW

At the beginning of the year, it was expected we would see substantial increases in interest rates. However, by early May, the average rates for 30-year fixed mortgages fell to their lowest point since the week of Nov. 7, 2013, and were about .32 percent lower than at the beginning of 2014. While rates still are expected to rise by year's end, the increase is expected to be very gradual.

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET IS ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

This past March, foreclosure starts fell to the lowest

level in seven years. The Valley real estate market is more balanced than it has been in years, leaving the big ups and downs behind us for now. Furthermore, unemployment levels are dropping. While unemployment was 9.1 percent in April 2011, this April, it was just 6.3 percent. Jobs allow people to purchase homes, and home purchases stimulate other related sectors, such as construction, residential maintenance and home improvement, etc. While values are not skyrocketing like they were 18 months ago, they still are moving up, and it is anticipated they will continue to increase over the next few years.

INVESTING IS STILL A GOOD OPTION

While the opportunity to buy discounted properties on the courthouse steps may no longer exist, purchasing a home to use as a rental can still be a good idea. Because many people are not able to re-enter the market due to short sales, bankruptcies and foreclosures, rentals remain popular. Household creation also is declining as millennials find it difficult to save for a down payment and juggle their student loan debt. Further, they also are getting married later and choosing to spend their money on entertainment, dining and travel over housing. So, instead of buying, they are renting. If you have children who currently are renting, you might want to consider investing in a piece of property, which they could rent from you. You also may consider helping your kids buy their first home, so they can appreciate the tax benefits of homeownership and long-term property appreciation.

BANKS ARE LENDING

When the new lending regulations went into place, we saw an initial market

slow down, as lenders and borrowers struggled to figure out how these new guidelines would be implemented. Now, things have settled down, and lending has opened up again. In mid-April, a survey of the Mortgage Bankers Association revealed the fact it is easier now for individuals to get mortgages than it has been at any other time over the last three years. Furthermore, in mid-May, Mel Watt, the head of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, instructed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to make more credit available to homebuyers. This has yet to trickle down, but, hopefully, it will continue to encourage the availability of financing for homebuyers. ■

John Karadsheh is a licensed REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker, Trails and Paths Premier Properties. He also is an Associate Broker, Accredited Buyers Representative, a Certified Residential Specialist and was the No. 1 residential real estate agent in Arizona 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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LOCAL BUSINESS

Feel At Home with Salon Escape

By Kimberly Searles
Salon Escape owner April Smith believes the salon experience should be more than offering a service, so she and her team make it their goal to create an at-home experience among friends. "I once had a client tell me that when she comes to the salon, she always feels like she's at a girlfriend's house rather than a place of business," said April. "That's exactly the environment we want at Salon Escape." Salon Escape offers all the services you would expect. From hair services, to waxing, permanent makeup and beyond, the seven-member staff takes the time to help clients achieve their desired look. "Our staff is well-versed in the latest techniques, and takes the time to bring quality service," April stated. "After all, we only want the best for our friends." If you want a great salon with a cozy feel, make a run for Salon Escape. ■

Salon Escape is a full-service salon open seven days a week, with limited services available on Sunday and Monday. They gladly accept walk-ins, or you can arrange an appointment by calling (480) 621-5302. You also can go to www.vagaro.com/SalonEscape#.U3Zj-l563vw to schedule online.



EVENT

Second Time Is the Charm Again for Winner of Flancer's Pizza-Eating Contest

By Dawn Abbey
The grand prize winner of this year's Flancer's Incredible Sandwiches and Pizzeria's 14th annual Pizza-Eating Contest, and retaining his title from last year, was Gus Beisel, of Tempe, who scarfed down two extra-large pizzas in just 12 minutes.

Gus received his trophy, as well as a \$500 prize, from Miss Arizona 2013 Jennifer Smestad, of Gilbert, and owner Jeff Flancer. Coming in a very close second place was Mirza Selmic, with only some crusts left. Eleven contestants participated in the charity fund-raising event, with the youngest being 11-year-old Renee Sadler.

"With this past season's charity events, and the help of our sponsors and customers, Flancer's has raised \$30,000 for our local charities, Warfighter Sports, Sunshine Acres Children's Home, and Jewish Family and Children's Services," said Jeff.

This is the 14th straight year Flancer's Incredible Sandwiches and Pizzeria restaurants have hosted their Pizza-Eating Contest and other Raising-the-Fun Fund-raisers.

"I want to thank the public, our great customers, my staff and all my sponsors, especially Ben Franklin Plumbing, Shamrock Foods and Dignity Health," Jeff stated, "for helping us support these very worthwhile charities." ■

Flancer's is located at 1902 N. Higley Road, in Mesa, (480) 396-0077; and at 610 N. Gilbert Road, in Gilbert, (480) 926-9077. For more information, visit flancers.com.



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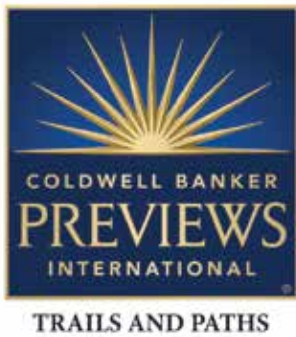
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