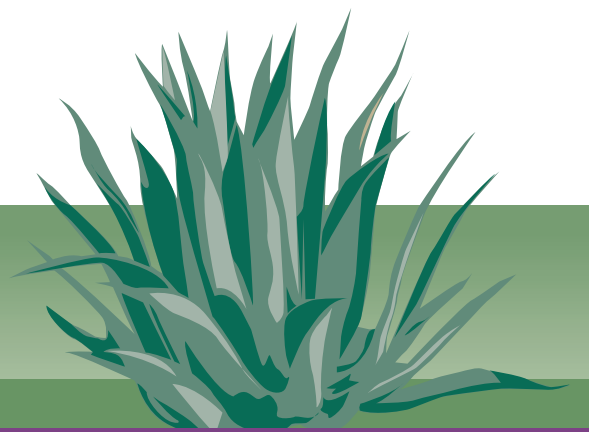


# Mesa Uplands Up Close



Bringing neighbors closer to their community

May 2015

## MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND MEANS FLOATING PICNICS ON THE SALT RIVER



By Lynda Breault

Thousands of floaters will be celebrating an Arizona family and reunion tradition with a floating picnic during Memorial Day weekend on the Lower Salt River in Tonto National Forest.

For decades, Memorial Day weekend has signaled the beginning of Arizona's fun in the sun. Floating picnics on the refreshing, mountain stream waters of the Lower Salt River are the coolest ride to beat the heat in the great outdoors. *Take Pride in Arizona*, and join Salt River Tubing and local radio stations as they encourage tubers to be responsible public lands stewards. Help keep the Salt River clean and beautiful during the 20th annual *Salt River Heroes = Litter Zero* event, from May 23 to 25, from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The holiday weekend *Take Pride in America* event has been phenomenally successful, with tubers having bagged more than 660 tons of picnic litter during the past 19 years. These efforts have reduced the amount of trash on the river by 90 percent.

Salt River Tubing employees will be distributing thousands of free litter bags to tubers, as they prepare to launch their floating picnics on the Salt River. The event offers live entertainment, free giveaways, beach line dancing and hula-hoop contests serving to enhance the thrill and chill theme of Arizona's Floating Picnic. The *Salt River Heroes = Litter Zero* event is co-sponsored by radio stations 98 KUPD FM and JAMZ 101.5 FM.

The Memorial Day weekend consistently is a sold-out event each day. "Floaters are encouraged to arrive early in the morning to ensure parking and tube rental availability," said President and CEO of Salt River Tubing Henri Breault.

On the holiday weekend, tube rental doors will open at 8 a.m., from Saturday through Monday, for early-bird floaters. This year, additional overflow parking areas are available for Memorial Day weekend in the Lower Salt River Recreation Area. This should ease the traffic problems experienced in previous years. Don't be late and miss the opportunity of a fabulous floating picnic.

Henri commends those Salt River tubers who have pitched in to lend a hand on their public lands, and have helped keep the Salt River free of litter. "It's so easy to be a Salt River Hero," he said. "Just take personal responsibility for your picnic trash while floating, and stash it and bag it in the litter bags provided by our company during tube rental." Responsible stewardship has resulted in a clean and beautiful Salt River each day during the holiday weekend.

*Take Pride in America* is a national partnership

aiming to inspire a new generation of volunteers. The objective is to put their love of country to work to improve our national parks, wildlife refuges, public lands, cultural and historic sites, playgrounds and other recreation areas. Salt River Tubing has received a record four National Take Pride in America awards for the company's conservation efforts in Tonto National Forest (1991, 2003, 2006 and 2010).

Shooting the Salt River rapids is great fun. Company officials recommend the following helpful tubing tips to assist tubers in planning their floating picnics for the holiday weekend:

- A valid driver's license is required for a tube rental deposit per five tubes rented.
- Children must be 8 years or older and at least 4 feet tall for tubing and shuttle bus service.
- Life vests are strongly recommended for children, non-swimmers and inexperienced swimmers.
- Glass containers by law are not allowed at the Salt River and will be confiscated. Ice chests will be inspected for glass containers before boarding shuttle buses. Please use plastic bottles or aluminum cans.
- Have a great time during your floating picnics, but remember, drugs, alcohol and the Salt River do not mix. Responsibly appoint a designated driver before your tubing adventure.
- Floating picnic ideas: fresh fruit, burritos, fried chicken or sandwiches. Pack them in Ziploc bags to keep dry. Please stash and bag all picnic supplies in litter bags while floating.
- Ice chest/coolers—Fill with ice, sport drinks, fruit juice and water. To help prevent dehydration, consuming one to two bottles of water per hour is recommended while floating.
- Sun block, tennis shoes, cap or visor should be worn. A minimum 30 SPF is recommended.

For more information about Salt River Tubing and Recreation, please visit the website at [www.saltrivertubing.com](http://www.saltrivertubing.com), or call the Salt River Tubing headquarters at (480) 984-3305. The Memorial Day Weekend holiday operating hours are 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with the latest tube rental at 2 p.m. (weather and water flow permitting).

The cost of tube rental is \$17 per person/tube, and includes shuttle bus service. Salt River Tubing accepts cash only. Checks, debit or credit cards are not accepted.

Operating under permit of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Salt River Tubing is located in Tonto National Forest, on North Power Road. The fun is located just minutes from Highway 202 East and Power Road Exit 23A. ■

Check out Salt River Tubing's latest slideshow on *Salt River Heroes* at our website, [www.saltrivertubing.com](http://www.saltrivertubing.com), or go to [player.vimeo.com/video/95605970](http://player.vimeo.com/video/95605970). It's fun to be a responsible, public lands steward.

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PUBLICATIONS

Published by

Phillips West

Publishing | Design | Writing | Photography

Mesa, AZ 85215

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E-mail: Publisher@PhillipsWest.com

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Celebrating its second anniversary is just the beginning at Pacino's

By Jamie Killin

Celebrating its second anniversary on June 6, Pacino's would like to thank everyone for making this Italian gem your restaurant of choice. "Everyone who comes in is like family," said Frank Spaccarelli, owner of Pacino's. "I think we've been successful because of the passion and compassion I have for people and Italian food. I've been in the business for 28 years, and feel blessed to do something I love."

Frank admits the restaurant business is ever evolving, and he envisions the same for Pacino's. Ensuring ingredients are always fresh and the menu is forever pleasing are his constant goals.

In addition to great Italian food, Pacino's also offers a cure for the summertime blues, with a wide variety of events. The Sunday buffet and live jazz, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., features breakfast items, salads, appetizers and Italian delights, all for just \$15.99.

Pacino's happy hour, with extended hours all day on Sunday, features house wines at just \$4 a glass and domestic drafts at \$2.50. In addition, all bottle wines are 10 percent off, and martinis are \$5 each.

"Our all-new lunch menu, served Monday through Saturday, will knock your socks off," Frank promised, "with prices ranging from \$6 to \$12."

Frank is excited to offer something new at Pacino's. "We are introducing our new three-course dinner for two," he said. "Share an appetizer, choose two entree's from our selected menu, and share a decadent dessert, for just 39.95."

The new family-style dining menu offered at Pacino's serves three to four guests. There are three different options from which to choose, for \$36.99.

Frank is happy to see families and friends enjoying his restaurant. "What strikes me is how valued we are by our customers," he said with a smile. "My goal is to be a landmark institution in this town."

While Frank genuinely appreciates each and every patron, customer, friend and extended family, he is quick to add an important point. "I couldn't have done it without my wife Alicia," he stated. "Together, we smile when we see people come into our restaurant."

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 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., from Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to close, on Friday and Saturday. Visit them online at [pacinosaz.com](http://pacinosaz.com) and at [facebook.com/pacinosrealitalian](http://facebook.com/pacinosrealitalian).



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EDUCATION

# Self Development Preschool Provides Exceptional Foundation for Kindergarten

By Jennifer Salvatori, MA and Linda Steiner, MEd Certified Teacher and Reading Specialist

If you are looking for a preschool program sure to equip your child with the academic and social skills necessary for kindergarten, look no further than Self Development Preschool (SDP).

SDP provides programs to children ages 2 through 5, exceeding standards and enriching higher levels of learning. The preschool acknowledges the importance of early childhood education and implements a weekly lesson plan.

The children follow a curriculum-based lesson, which includes 12 areas of enrichment. Rachel Hunt, MS, and Anjum Majeed, EdD, design the curriculum. They each have more than 13 years of experience in early childhood education. In addition, Linda Steiner, MEd, a Self Development Academy (SDA) kindergarten educator and a reading specialist, oversees the SDP phonics and reading program. These educators not only assist the staff in implementing the curriculum, but also teach the enrichment program.

Director Vernetta Madsen has been employed at SDP for more than 25 years, ensuring the school's commitment to providing excellent early childhood programs. The uniqueness of the program for the younger children is exceptional. The weekly detailed lesson plans include concepts and objectives. The academic program includes language/reading readiness, math and writing. The enrichment curriculum details art, classics/poetry, music, science, life skills and dramatic skills.

The 2- to 3-year-old classroom introduces preschool and pre-kindergarten curriculum goals and encourages concept mastery and academic confidence. The curriculum is an important component, since the 2- to 3-year-old classroom progresses with the skills needed to transition into the 4- to 5- year-old classrooms. This component ensures a solid academic start to kindergarten and elementary school.

The preschool prepares children to learn key subject matter. The school's success works on teaching

children the principles of number, letter, and sound recognition, learning the alphabet, verbal memorization, word association, and tracing and pattern formation, as well as introduction to writing their first and last name and letters.

"As a certified kindergarten teacher and state-endorsed reading teacher, I know the importance of early education intervention to promote a foundation for academic success," said Linda Steiner.

The school uses a multi-sensory phonics instruction, which focuses on visual, auditory, tactile, and kinesthetic techniques to reach each child's learning style. They learn phonemic awareness, and concentrate on one letter and number of the week. Research shows children need a full week to master each letter of the alphabet to insure correct phonemic awareness to begin reading.

"On many occasions, I have observed the classrooms, and I am truly impressed with the teaching techniques and engagement of the children," said Ms. Steiner. "The dedication and sincere devotion of the teachers to instill these essential concepts is amazing. I see the commitment to student education every day."

Almost 100 percent of the students completing their preschool year at SDP enroll in SDA, located next door to the preschool, for their kindergarten year. Given the exceptional academic foundation and social skills development offered at the preschool, the students smoothly transition to kindergarten.

The curriculum at SDA continues the tradition of providing a rigorous curriculum in a nurturing environment. SDA has open enrollment for kindergarten through grade eight, and limited spaces are available for the 2015-2016 school year.

We welcome all parents to experience this exceptional learning environment for your child. We are proud to recommend SDP and SDA as paths to your child's academic success. Parents need to be a part of this exceptional learning adventure for their child.

The preschool hours and extended care are from 5:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. The enrichment program hours for the 2- to 5- year-old classrooms are from 8:30 to

11 a.m. Additionally, SDP offers a summer program for children ages 5 to 13. The theme for this summer's program is *Destination Adventure*. Children will learn about other countries and cultures. The summer program includes art and science projects and field trips, too.

SDP delivers a well-rounded educational experience for your child. The school offers children the opportunity to develop a love for learning and a daily challenge to think at a higher level. ■

If you would like further information regarding Self Development Preschool, please contact Director Vernetta Madsen, at (480) 396-3522. Contact Self Development Academy at (480) 641-2640.



EDUCATION

## Author teaches valuable lessons about focusing on possibilities, not disabilities

By Dr. Anjum Majeed, Self Development Academy

Linda Steiner, a kindergarten teacher and a reading specialist at Self Development Academy, is the author of *Hayley's Courage*, and a Writer's Digest Honorable Mention award recipient in the category of Children's Non-Fiction.



She has a bachelor's degree in social welfare, from the University of California at Berkeley, and a master's in education, from Arizona State University. When I first learned of the book and its topic, I rushed to get a copy to read.

I decided to interview Ms. Steiner, as I have known the author and her daughter for many years. The book chronicles Hayley's struggles, her parents' anguish, and their valiant responses to the callous comments and cruelty hurled at them. Hayley's story must be shared with others to help those children who feel they are different to *fit in* and develop a sense of self-worth.

When asked what inspired her to write her book, Ms. Steiner recalls the day Hayley was born. "When Hayley was born, she was diagnosed with Sturge-Weber Syndrome," Ms. Steiner said. "Sturge-Weber Syndrome is a congenital disorder characterized by a facial birthmark and neurological abnormalities. As a first-time parent, I was overwhelmed," she continued. "My mother had already passed on, but my father was present to reassure my husband and me that we were equipped to take good care of our beautiful Hayley. Exhausted and drained, I fell asleep, and dreamt of writing a book."

Highly influenced by the works of Patricia Palacco, Ms. Steiner focuses on sharing the struggles of Hayley, and brings her own personal experiences into the writing of her book, *Hayley's Courage*. Ms. Steiner describes her style of writing as visual. The reader easily is able to visualize the main character's experiences, her emotions, conflicts and courage. The book is a reflection of Hayley's life. The situations described are real, and the events actually occurred. Some of the names of the characters are changed, however.

In her interview, Ms. Steiner pointed out the fact she designed the cover of the book, and was highly selective in approving the illustrations used within. "I wanted children to visualize Hayley's character, the color of her hair, and her looking in the mirror and discovering the red spot on her face." At one point during the interview, tears welled up in Ms. Steiner's eyes, as she recounted how a stranger came to her and asked, "Did you burn your daughter's face?"

Ms. Steiner's message to the reader is children, regardless of the differences in their abilities, must feel "...loved and safe." *Hayley's Courage* is a valuable resource for educators and parents to guide a child who struggles to *fit in* and be accepted by the peer group. Ms. Steiner concludes her interview with a message. "For every child who feels different, don't focus on the disabilities, but on the possibilities." ■

*Hayley's Courage* can be obtained through Lulu Publishing Services.

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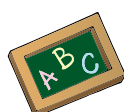


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LOCAL BUSINESS

# HAPPY PETS PALACE AND PLAYGROUND RECEIVES 2015 BEST OF MESA AWARD

**Submitted by Happy Pets Palace and Playground**  
The Mesa Award Program has awarded Happy Pets Palace and Playground with the 2015 Best of Mesa Award, in the Pet Boarding Service category.

Each year, the Mesa Award Program identifies companies believed to have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies enhancing the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Mesa area a great place to live, work and play.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2015 Mesa Award Program focuses on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on information gathered not only internally, by the Mesa Award Program, but also based on data provided by third parties.

Happy Pets Palace and Playground won the 2015 Best of Mesa Award in Pet Boarding Service because of their dedication to all of their clients, dog and human alike. Their state-of-the-art facility, in Mesa, focuses on dog day care and overnight boarding, specializing in dog-dog group play.

Happy Pets Palace has made their doggy day care

perfect for pet owners who work long hours or go on frequent day trips. Doggy day care also is ideal for owners with high-energy dogs, who want a tired out dog after playtime. They have four playground areas where dogs are grouped based on size and play temperaments.

Every Wednesday, they offer Puppy Day, where dogs up to 1 year old can get a full day of socializing and playtime at the half-day rate. Dogs can play to their heart's content, with other dogs of appropriate size and play style, in one of the supervised playgrounds. At the end of the day, dogs will come home tired out and ready to sleep.

Overnight boarding dogs sleep in family-private villas, and enjoy eight hours a day of playground time, and a late-night potty break at 10 p.m. The live webcams help pet owners stay connected to their pets. They can check in during dog-dog group playtime.

Staff members at Happy Pets Palace and Playground all love animals, most specifically dogs. The staff is trained to know 100 breeds on sight, and go through extensive dog behavioral training before working with the dogs. All Happy Pets staff members are certified in Pet First Aid and CPR.

"It is such an honor to have been chosen as the winner for Best of Mesa Pet Boarding Service," said Linda Huss, owner of Happy Pets Palace. "To be recognized for going the extra measure in making sure dogs in our care are safe and having a great time is so special to all of us. Taking excellent care of the dogs coming to Happy Pets Palace is something that we love doing," she continued. "It's not a job. It's our passion."

A pre-screening process is required for dogs coming to Happy Pets. A three- to four-hour prescreening interview makes sure new dogs are comfortable and suitable in dog-dog group play. ■

Call Happy Pets Palace, an award-winning pet boarding facility, to schedule your dog's prescreening appointment. For additional information, contact Happy Pets Palace at (480) 207-1852, or visit the website at [www.HappyPetsPalace.com](http://www.HappyPetsPalace.com).



LOCAL BUSINESS

# Make sure your home IS IN GOOD HANDS when you are away

**By Mike Leonard**

In addition to the handyman services offered by 480 Handyman Services, home checks also are provided for seasonal homeowners and those leaving for extended vacations. We have all heard of water pipes breaking, hot tubs draining or leaking, storm damage or damage from a break-in, as well as the A/C not working properly.

Unfortunately, most homeowners find out about a problem after they come back home or hear days or weeks later, from a neighbor (if they aren't also away). Some residents have friends or neighbors who may check on the house for them. Can they take care of any repair that may need immediate attention?

If this is a concern you may have, or you have crossed your fingers the last few years, hoping nothing happens, being proactive rather than reactive is much cheaper.

Count on 480 Handyman Services if you want help with providing a home check for your home. If you have someone already, that's great. You are proactive, and will have peace of mind while you are away. Either way, enjoy your summer away from the extreme heat. ■

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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 UpClose Publications 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 as your pathway to fun, recreation and a pleasurable lifestyle.*



## WHAT'S NEW?

### LAS SENDAS GOLF CLUB EXCITING NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Las Sendas Golf Club is not just about the golf and the course. It also is about service, socializing, a full slate of member events, great restaurants with excellent food, and a vibrant membership that enjoys all of what the club has to offer, and then some.

We are very excited to offer the following Golf Membership programs—some are only available on a limited basis, so call now.

#### Proxy Membership—no initiation fee and only \$345 per month dues—Only 10 available

- Open to residents of Las Sendas, Red Mountain Ranch, Mountain Bridge and surrounding areas.
- Proxy members pay monthly dues, and have unlimited golf privileges.
- Use of practice facilities, locker, club storage and participation in all member events.
- Priority reservations to dine on The Patio and for all other social events held at the club.
- Monthly dues are only \$345 per person (based on two family members) or \$590 for a single. Act now, as there are only 10 Proxy memberships available.

#### Non-Refundable Golf Membership—\$15,000 Limited to 12

- Immediate golf membership privileges.
- Monthly dues \$239/month based on two family members.
- Option at five years to become a full golf member, with 80 percent refundable.

#### Fully Refundable Golf Membership—\$45,000—Limited to five

- Free dues and cart fees for the first year.
- Currency at par for Canadian members.
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- Immediate full golf membership privileges.
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- Annual or Seasonal Dues packages.

#### Social Membership—\$3,000—Limited to 50

- Annual dues \$500 (first year's dues waived).
- 18 golf passes provided annually—value of \$960—six golf passes valid November through April—12 golf passes valid May through October or 10 any time passes.
- Priority reservations to dine on The Patio and all other social events held at the club.

Membership at Las Sendas Golf Club offers a friendly and unique golf club experience. Las Sendas is an 18-hole championship golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. Las Sendas is consistently ranked as one of the top 10 most challenging golf courses in Arizona, and is recognized as *Best Golf Course* by *New Times* magazine. Along with world-class golf, Las Sendas has The Patio restaurant, with live entertainment and spectacular sunsets, and The Grille, for the sports enthusiast. Las Sendas offers a diverse social experience unmatched by most golf facilities.

The following are the benefits and services provided to our members at Las Sendas Golf Club:



- Unrestricted play on our 18-hole championship golf course.
- Priority member tee time reservations, 120-day advanced booking.
- Member functions, including men's and ladies' leagues, golf tournaments, interclub competitions and social events.
- Special member guest rates.
- Unlimited use of practice facilities, including range, short game area, bunkers and putting green.
- Use of private carts for members only.
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For more information, call Wayne Crandall at (978) 697-4509, or send an email to [wcrandall@lassendas.com](mailto:wcrandall@lassendas.com).

## THE GOLF SHOP

April showers bring May flowers somewhere, but here at Las Sendas Golf Club, May brings lower green fees. Yes, our rates are dropping. So, don't be a stranger. Come on out and enjoy what Arizona is known for, great weather and top notch golf. Our superintendent, Frank Saylor, along with his maintenance crew, has the golf course in pristine condition, and they are making even more improvements every day. Between the golf course, the phenomenal Patio and Grille, and the awesome new Vista Pavilions venue, there is no question Las Sendas Golf Club is a hot spot in the Valley. So, don't miss out on being a part of it all. Come on out today, and enjoy what's right here in your own backyard.

#### May Golf Rates—(includes green fee, golf cart, and practice balls)

- Monday through Thursday, \$69 plus tax
- Friday through Sunday and holidays, \$79 plus tax
- Afternoon rate seven days per week after 2:30 p.m., \$49 plus tax

#### Resident Golf Specials

Be sure to check your email for Summer Resident specials, or like us on Facebook to keep up to speed with what's





A CLOSER LOOK AT LAS SENDAS GOLF CLUB (CONTINUED)

happening at Las Sendas Golf Club. We post our lowest rates first on our own website. So, go to [www.lassendas.com](http://www.lassendas.com) to see what hot deals are out there.

Merchandise Specials—Putter Demo Day and Equipment Clearance Sale

- Saturday, May 9, 8 a.m. to noon
- 15 percent off—putters and woods
- 20 percent off—wedges
- 25 percent off—golf shoes and golf bags

Mother's Day Sale—in appreciation for all you do

- Saturday, May 9 and Sunday, May 10
- 25 percent off all ladies' apparel, golf shoes and golf bags

THE VISTAS PAVILION  
Summer Wedding Special 2015—June, July and August—\$5,999

The Vistas Wedding Pavilion at Las Sendas is pleased to offer a Summer Special Wedding Package for events booked and hosted in the months of June, July and August. The total cost is \$5,999 (does not include tax and gratuity) for 50 to 100 guests. Call us at (480) 396-4000 for more information, or visit our website at [www.lassendas.com](http://www.lassendas.com), and fill out our contact form.

New 2016 Wedding Packages

The Vistas Pavilion is now offering new and improved wedding packages for 2016. We have added a beautiful new wedding arch, with white and ivory florals, and a petal aisle runner, creating elements of elegance for your outdoor garden ceremony. We have developed and added a new Reception Package, which includes:

- 8-hour venue booking, setup and takedown
- Round tables, cocktail tables, gift tables, cake table, padded chairs
- Head table, sweetheart table
- Choice of black, white and ivory table linens and napkins
- Three votive candles per table placed on mirrors.
- House table centerpieces—choice of two.

- Ceramic dinnerware, glass wine and water glasses.
- Food tasting.
- Bridal suite, dress hooks, makeup stations.
- Access to prime photography sites.
- 12-by-12 dance floor, audio and video system, DJ station, four projection screens.
- Full service expert banquet staff, wedding coordinator.
- Portable bar, bartenders, mixers, juices, lemons, limes, olives.
- Free guest parking, event signage at street level.
- Customized agenda and floor plan.

We also have added a wedding cake, DJ, linen upgrades, florals and photography to our already high-quality venue and catering services. Well known and highly recommended in the industry, the one and only Sue Jacobs prepares our cakes. Ray the DJ provides our DJ services. Red Mountain Florist provides our florals, and CWLIFE Wedding Collections provides photography services.

See our detailed wedding packages online at [www.lassendas.com](http://www.lassendas.com). For more information, contact us at [info@lassendas.com](mailto:info@lassendas.com), or call (480) 396-4000.

THE PATIO AND THE GRILLE

Happy Hour

The days are getting warmer and Happy Hour is back, starting on May 4. We have drink specials, featuring craft draft beers, including Blue Moon, San Tan Devils Ale, Kilt Lifter, Stella, Slow Ride, Fat Tire and Modelo Especial.

Our chef has created numerous new yummy appetizers—Spicy Chicken Spring Rolls, Crispy Cauliflower, Ahi Tuna Wraps, Pork Nachos and our all-time famous \$5 Burger is back.

Come and enjoy casual dining and our large screen TVs in The Grille. Bring family and friends, from 3 to 6 p.m.

SPECIALS

MON.	Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Mushroom Ragu	\$16.95
TUE.	Flat Iron Steak, Mexican Cornbread, Peppers and Tequila Butter	\$18.95
WED.	Wine Down Wednesday	Half Price Wine—most bottles
THU.	Prime Rib, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables Add Glass of Wine	\$21.95 \$3
FRI.	Seafood Special Chef's Choice	Market
SAT.	Las Sendas Farmers Market Special	Market
SUN.	Pasta Bar with Made-to-Order Pasta Station	\$14.95 Kids (6 - 12) \$8.95

GOLF ACADEMY

Junior Golf Sticks Summer Program—Join in on the Fun

Ages of students range from 5 to 15 years. Juniors grouped according to age, gender and skill level. Basic fundamentals, games, drills, rules and etiquette, as well as on-course play are offered. Join any time throughout the summer, and pick and choose your days. Group lessons are offered Tuesday and Wednesday mornings on various weeks.

Starts June 2, every Tuesday and Wednesday  
June - 7:30 to 9 a.m.  
July - 7 to 8:30 a.m.

Registration forms are available at the Las Sendas Golf Shop or online at [www.lassendas.com](http://www.lassendas.com). You also can send an email to Tracy Berman at [tberman@lassendas.com](mailto:tberman@lassendas.com), or call her at (602) 920- 8208. ■

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**SECOND COURSE:**  
Seared Jumbo Scallop with Wild Mushroom Risotto & Vanilla Bean Beurre Blanc  
HESS Collection Chardonnay, Napa Valley, 2013

**THIRD COURSE:**  
Spiced Rabbit Loin with Sweet Carrot Couscous & Red Onion Confiture  
HESS Collection 19 Block Cuvee, Napa Valley, 2011

**FOURTH COURSE:**  
Braised Free Range Buffalo Gold Bar Short Ribs on White Truffle Polenta with Sautéed Brussel Sprouts & Natural Au Jus  
HESS Collection Cabernet Sauvignon, 2011

**FIFTH COURSE:**  
West Indian Key Lime Tart with Blackberry Coulis  
Peter Lehman "Layers White" Adelaide, 2013

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For reservations or information, call (480) 396-4000, or send an email to [events@lassendas.com](mailto:events@lassendas.com)

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REAL ESTATE

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

With the grand opening of Ryland Homes at Las Sendas just around the corner, buyers are eagerly waiting to view the models and find out the starting prices.



Buyers make one mistake right off the bat, however, by going to these communities on their own and purchasing the home directly from the builder without using a Realtor and not having any representation of their own.

**1) Builders Sales Reps Represent the Builder.** There will be sales reps who also may be Realtors on site to give you all the information on the models and the community, to help you pick from the many upgrades and even set you up with financing. Remember, though, these agents represent the builder, not you. Their job is to sell the homes, and their obligation is to the builder, not to negotiate the best deal for the buyer or to protect the buyer's best interest in the transaction. The builder's rep isn't going to just offer you an additional discount, or help you negotiate a better deal on upgrades, or tell you why it may be in your best interest not to use the title company or lender they suggest, but your own Realtor will.

**2) Fiduciary Responsibility.** The sales representative's fiduciary responsibility is to the builder. Having your own Realtor means having someone who is taking care of your best interests and whose fiduciary responsibility is to you. Your Realtor will have the knowledge and expertise to help you navigate through the purchase contract, and understand the terms and conditions before you sign on the dotted line.

**3) Negotiating a Better Deal.** Once you have found the perfect model home, and you are ready to write

an offer, your Realtor will be at the table with you, and will be the liaison between you and the builder to help negotiate a better deal on your behalf. With professional knowledge and expertise, your Realtor may be able to negotiate a better purchase price, discounts on the many upgrades you will likely add on, or negotiate better terms. Most builders want you to purchase using their specific lender and title company, and often offer incentives to the buyer to do so. On the other hand, your Realtor may be able to advise you on other lenders or title companies whose terms may be more beneficial to you, or whose rates and fees are better even without the incentives.

**4) Myth.** One of the biggest myths is that buyers believe the builder will discount the house if they don't use a Realtor. This is a myth. The builder does not offer a discount if you purchase directly from them. When they set the price of the homes and determine their marketing budget, they have already factored in how many buyers will use a Realtor and how many will not. Builders made that adjustment to the base price of the home for all buyers.

**6) Don't Sign Anything Without Your Realtor—Not Even the Registration Form.** When you first walk into the model home office, the nice and friendly sales rep will ask you to sign in, but remember they work for the builder, not you. What they are not going to tell you is when you register with the builder, you actually are waiving your right to representation. Even if you go back later, with your Realtor, it's too late. You have signed that right away. Make sure your agent is the first point of contact and comes with you on your first visit to register you as a client. Once your Realtor has registered you, you can go back as many times as you like without your agent to look at the model homes or get more information. However, as soon as you are ready to start talking about writing a contract or discussing anything with the sales rep, from what upgrades you want, to your financing options, makes sure your Realtor is always with you.

**7) Your Realtor is Your Advocate, and it's Free.** Your Realtor knows and understands the purchase contract, and will be able to point out any red flags on the Builders Purchase Contract, which may leave you at a disadvantage. If anything should go awry during the building of your new home or the closing process (and trust me they can and often do), having your own advocate to hold the builder accountable, per the terms of the contract, can save you time and money and a lot of headaches.

**8) Why You Should Have an Inspection on a New Build.** Due to space limitations, I couldn't fit this into my article. However, you may be surprised to read why you need one. Please check out my website to read the answer, as well as my own personal experience regarding what the builder forgot to do when building our home. Go to [www.Homes2SellAZ.com/Blog/NewBuild](http://www.Homes2SellAZ.com/Blog/NewBuild). ■

Lorraine Ryall is a Multi-Million Dollar producer and a recipient of the Coldwell Banker International President's Circle Award. For more information, call (602) 571-6799, or visit her website at [www.Homes2SellAZ.com](http://www.Homes2SellAZ.com).





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**Jacob's Ranch**  
Back on Market \$153,000  
1310 Sq Ft, 3 bed 2 bath



**Red Mountain Ranch**  
Cul-de-Sac Lot with pool  
2943 Sq Ft, 4 bed 3 bath

Lorraine really helped us throughout the whole time we were researching and looking for our condo. Being out of state buyers, we asked her tons of questions and she answered immediately, even texting us way past her normal working hours... She was not in a rush, making sure we understood everything we are going through. I recommend Lorraine without reservation of any kind. I am positive you will love her as much as we do. —April and Tom

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EDUCATION

Community Education is Mesa Public Schools' SECRET FOR SUMMER FUN



Students in Teens 'n' Tweens learn how to make cinnamon rolls.

Story by Laurie Struna  
Photo by Tim Hacker

Mesa Public Schools is gearing up for a summer of fun and learning, with the Community Education Department featuring a variety of opportunities for students all over the East Valley.

Teens 'n' Tweens is one of the programs available. Understandably popular with students who have completed fifth- through seventh-grade, the focus is on fun. It features opportunities such as Project Runway, Shark Tank and Cupcake Wars.

"Teens 'n' Tweens summer program is the best-kept secret in all Mesa," said Vicki Tolman, Skyline High School business and economics teacher. "I would have loved for my children to have experienced these incredible programs, with certified teachers instructing and captivating my children in engaging activities."

Vicki has taught a variety of summer

programs for the district. This summer, she will teach senior economics at Mountain View High School, but admits Teens 'n' Tweens is a blast.

"Working with students who are excited to learn about Shark Tank, creating a brand new product and marketing it to a group of sharks, is one of my favorite things about teaching these classes," Vicki shared. "Students were incredibly excited and came up with some very creative ideas to sell."

Landon Miller, now an eighth-grader at Smith Junior High School, participated in Project Runway. He started in the community education summer programs for younger students, and decided to continue because they were fun. In Project Runway, with the help of a creative staff, he constructed a dress for his sister who modeled it in the final fashion show. The budding designer's inspiration came from another dress his sister owns. He chose the fabric based on her favorite colors.

"The process involved a lot of math, sewing pieces together, and finally attaching everything," Landon said. "I learned to organize and to incorporate a backup plan."

Landon revealed some of his favorite moments involved all the teamwork and camaraderie between students. "You get to hang out with your old friends and make new friends. I hope they create a camp for older students," he stated. ■

For more information about all Mesa Public Schools summer programs, please visit [www.mpsaz.org/commed/summer-school](http://www.mpsaz.org/commed/summer-school).

EDUCATION

The Learning Center Unties the Educational Knots

By Sharon Wozny

As you walk into the Learning Center and meet Colleen Thomas, you feel the energetic dedication that makes the center successful on many levels.

"My son David gave me a gift," Colleen said. "In 1989, he told me I needed to buy the Learning Center."

David knows his mother's skills. "Mom, it's your talent and passion," he told her.

She followed his advice. Since then, along with her talented, experienced staff, Colleen has been changing the lives of thousands of students, one child at a time.

The Learning Center focuses on helping children of all ages to fill the gaps holding them back from reaching their full potential. As her business card says, *We untie educational knots.*

Homework assistance is a huge component. Keeping in contact with the student's school counselors ensures

accountability and responsibility. The center does not employ a one-size-fits-all program.

Each child's learning style is determined, which

allows the tutoring to play to the strength of how a child learns best. Math, science, study skills, Spanish, reading, silent reading strategies, writing, note taking, testing practices and memorizing are other areas in which the staff instructs students two times a week, an hour for each session. All ages are welcome, with a 10-package tutoring session required.

The center takes great care to match a tutor with the student, with compatibility being the key to building relationships and connecting. Tutoring is by appointment only, allowing for flexibility with everyone's schedule. To keep the learning happening full cycle, a student teacher is always on staff as a tutor.

If you are in need of a tutoring center exuding passion and a thirst for success, look no further than the Learning Center. With summer fast approaching, now is the time to fill those long summer days with some tutoring to keep the skills fresh.

"I pour my energy, my passion and my talent for helping kids into the Learning Center," Colleen said. The center also has the cutest mascot, Cooper, who will bring a smile to your face with his playfulness. ■

For more information or to schedule a consultation, contact Colleen at (480) 964-4999, or email her at [tlclearn@aol.com](mailto:tlclearn@aol.com). You also can visit the website at [www.education4you.com](http://www.education4you.com). The Learning Center is located at 2830 E. Brown Road, Suite 4.





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## LOCAL BUSINESS

## Let Cruise Planners Assist with YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST

By Kimberly Searles

Do you have a travel bucket list? At some point, we all dream of visiting distant lands, and experiencing whole new worlds. Whether your dream destinations include Europe, the South Pacific, or maybe places a little closer to home, Sue and Bruce Mitchell, of Cruise Planners/Red Mountain Travel, can help you check them off your list.

"Having a travel agent who's been there, done that' is important," said Sue.

Sue and Bruce not only talk the talk, but they also walk the walk. Over this past summer, they scratched half a dozen dreams off their list. They took a Viking River Cruise from Budapest, Hungary, to Passau, Germany, taking in Vienna, Melk, Durnstein and Salzburg, as well as Austria and Bratislava, Slovakia, along the way. Afterward, they hopped a flight to France, exploring all the delights of Paris, Normandy and Givenchy. Little did Sue know her favorite stop would be Budapest.

"It's a spectacular city, especially at night," Sue said.

In July, they checked off another item on the bucket list when they jetted off to the Lake District, in England. They even had the opportunity to attend the British Open in Royal Liverpool.

Tahiti? Check! Fiji? Check! Bora Bora, New Caledonia and Sydney, Australia? Check, check and check. While in Australia, Sue and Bruce spent time in Melbourne before heading to Queenstown, New Zealand.

"That wasn't on the list at the time," Sue stated, "but having been there and



Sue and Bruce Mitchell

experiencing the great weather and amazing outdoor activities, it should be on everyone's bucket list."

The Mitchells ended their summer of travel by checking off Fiordland National Park (the Southern Alps) and a return to Sydney.

So, what is the point of discussing Sue and Bruce's summer travel adventures?

"We can say we have more than 30 years of travel experience, and can help you find the best deals for your budget," Sue explained. "But because we have first-hand knowledge of a variety of destinations, we can offer you points of interests and advice you might not find online or in travel books."

Cruise Planners/Red Mountain Travel caters to anyone who likes to travel, and they are eager to help their friends and neighbors in the Red Mountain and Northeast Mesa areas complete their travel bucket lists. ■

Visit [www.redmountaintravel.com](http://www.redmountaintravel.com), or call (480) 396-8084. Sue also can be reached via email at [smitchell@cruiseplanners.com](mailto:smitchell@cruiseplanners.com).

## LOCAL BUSINESS

## Cosmos destroys enemy lines IN ANTI-WRINKLE BATTLE

By Dawn Abbey

The licensed aestheticians at Cosmos Salon and Day Spa are always on the cutting edge of anti-aging facial technology, improving the skin and appearance, while helping to avoid the need for cutting.

"The trend is getting away from the more invasive procedures like cosmetic surgery, toward dermal hydration and restoration," said Margaret Midlick. Margaret and fellow Cosmos aesthetician Maria Keller are always on the lookout for what really works.

Of course, in the Valley, they don't need to look far. An acknowledged leader in the aesthetics field is PCA Skin, in Scottsdale, founded by an aesthetician working with physicians. PCA Skin treatments and products are available exclusively through licensed skin health professionals trained and certified by PCA Skin in their use, as are Maria and Margaret. So, when PCA recently came out with a new product, Ideal Complex Restorative Eye Cream, the Cosmos staff was eager to try it out.

"We conducted our own studies of the cream over a six-week period," Margaret explained. "The cream was applied twice daily both to the eyelid and around the eye. Our clients started seeing results beginning at three weeks, with major results by five weeks."

The proof is in the photos.

"We did before and after photos, which show a lifting of the eyelid and a lessening of wrinkles at four weeks," Margaret continued. "The eye cream does

not replace a moisturizer, but is used in conjunction with daily care. And it's very affordable. A jar costs \$82, and should last four to five months."



Margaret and Maria suggest anyone interested in giving the cream a try can purchase it at Cosmos. Or they can come in for a free consultation to see if the product is a good fit for them. The staff can always find the right products for an individual's problem areas, and, of course, provide spa facials and treatments for any skin type.

According to the PCA website, Ideal Complex Restorative Eye Cream is a lab-created retinol, which is non-irritating to the skin. It is a hypo-allergenic anti-aging eye cream, which strengthens, firms and lifts the skin around the entire eye area. This unique formulation contains the latest science, combining proven ingredients in a single formulation. It can be applied directly to all areas around the eye, including the eyelid, to treat all conditions of the aging eye and achieve dramatic results rapidly, PCA claims. ■

For more information about products and services, or to make an appointment, call (480) 844-0707, or visit Cosmos Salon and Day Spa, located in The Village at Las Sendas, on the northeast corner of Power and McDowell roads.

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EVENT

# Flancer's announces winners in 15th annual CHARITY EVENT

By Dawn Abbey

For the third year in a row, Gus Beisel, of Tempe, won Flancer's Charity Pizza-Eating Contest, finishing off two extra-large pizzas in just over 14 minutes. Miss Arizona 2015 Maureen Montagne and owner Jeff Flancer presented Gus with his trophy and \$250 prize. The second place winner was Stephanie W. Jeff thanked everyone involved for helping raise more than \$29,000 during Flancer's 15th annual *Raising the Fun* fund-raising events. Since startup in 2000, Flancer's has helped raise and donate more than \$234,000 in cash donations to charities.

This year, the restaurant will be contributing to Sunshine Acres Children's Home, Jewish Family and Children's Services (Max Flancer Fund), and WarFighter Sports. Tragically, last year, Jeff Flancer lost his beloved 15-year-old son Max, and will continue to build funds to help other teens and parents in need of support and resources. "I want to thank the public, our great customers, my staff and all my sponsors, especially Shamrock Foods and Dignity Health, for helping us support these very worthwhile charities," said Jeff. ■

Flancer's Gourmet Grub is located at 1902 N. Higley Road, Mesa, (480) 396-0077, and 610 N. Gilbert Road, Gilbert, (480) 926-9077. Visit [flancers.com](http://flancers.com). To learn more about the beneficiaries of the donations, visit [sunshineacres.org](http://sunshineacres.org), [www.jfcsaz.org/](http://www.jfcsaz.org/) or [www.warfightersports.org](http://www.warfightersports.org).



Gus Beisel and Maureen Montagne

EDUCATION

# Welding Program Is Changing Lives

By Sharon Wozny

When something phenomenal is happening, watching the growth and potential unfold becomes infectious. That is what is occurring with the welding program at Red Mountain High School. Dan Hurst, along with extensive support from the district and administration, is taking his program to new levels, which, in turn, is changing the lives of the students enrolled in the class.

An extension of the welding class is the welding team. "I had no experience in welding prior to this class," Co-Captain Chase Diersen, a junior, stated. "I took the elective because I thought it would be fun, and it was something to do with my hands." Now, Chase is looking to attend a school for welding, in Cleveland, Ohio, and getting his degree.

For the second year in a row, Red Mountain High School students won the combined team build project in the *Best in the West Invitational Welding Contest*, which took place this past March at Vern Lewis Welding Supply in Phoenix. The Red Mountain team was one of 16 teams competing from around the state. Red Mountain's team project was to construct an industrial pallet used to transport gas cylinders.

Red Mountain team members included Zach Griggs (captain), Chase Diersen (co-captain), Cole Carver, Cole Liesner, Hunter Atwater, Hunter Cavanagh, Bryce LeSueur, Brittany Chavez and Osman Quinones Arredondo.

Not only did Red Mountain High School win the title, there were two members who competed in individual competitions. Cole placed second in the tungsten inert gas (TIG) competition, while Brittany competed in the vertical stick weld. Kudos to her for entering the competition. This is her first year in the welding class.

Bryce, a sophomore, is another first-year welder. He participates in engineering and robotics classes. Those interests prompted him to investigate the welding elective to see how he could integrate his skills. He runs the plasma table for the team. "Mr. Hurst knows so much, and he is bubbling over with information," Bryce said. "He is a good hands-on teacher."



Zach, a senior, started welding his sophomore year to be able to work on his race cars. Being in this class, he has learned TIG welding, as well as refining his welding skills.

Besides the competition, the students involved in welding class are responsible for creating items for the school, bringing the real-life experience to the students. They experience the accomplishment and school pride associated with having contributed to the overall atmosphere of the school. Be on the lookout for new number signs on the buildings, as well as a cart the track team uses to haul equipment. As the welding program continues to grow, there also is the collaboration with other classes, like auto shop and the agricultural department.

Coach Hurst is incredibly proud of the Red Mountain team. "This competition allows the students to think outside the box and showcase their abilities with students from around the state," he said. "Winning is just the icing on the cake. The ability to meet other students engaged in the same skill set gives the team pride and confidence." ■

If you are looking for an elective to impact your life in more ways than you can imagine, check out Dan Hurst's welding class. For more information, contact Red Mountain High School at [www.mpsaz.org/redmountain](http://www.mpsaz.org/redmountain), or call Dan at (480) 472-8225.

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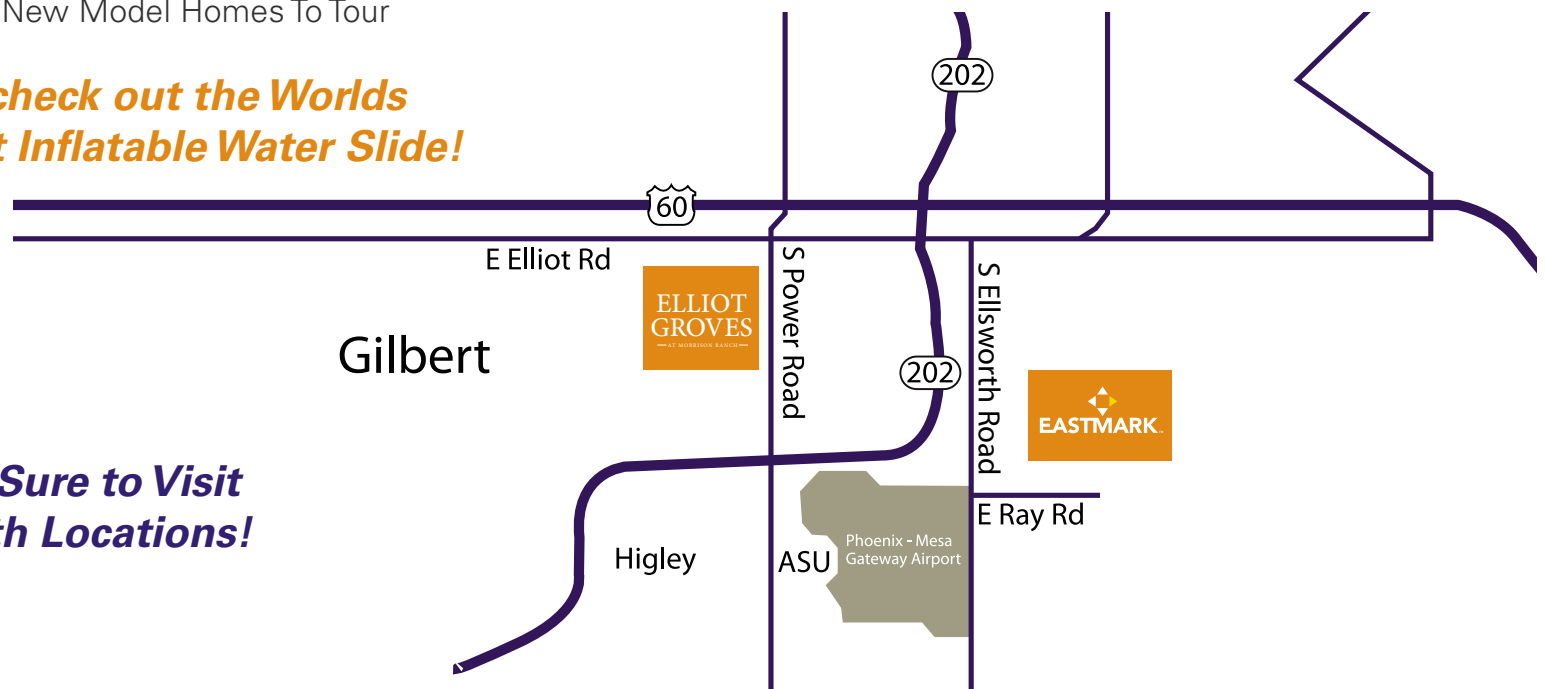
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REAL ESTATE

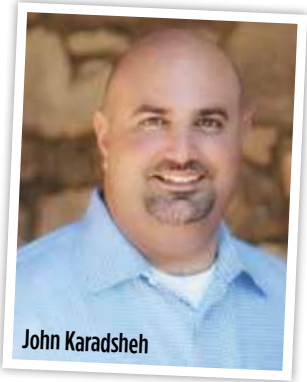
DETERMINE WHAT YOUR HOME IS WORTH

By John Karadsheh

There isn't a week that goes by when I don't hear, "According to Zillow, my home is worth X amount." As a Realtor, this always makes me cringe. Sites like Zillow and Trulia use automated valuation methods, which are online software programs, to pull a variety of facts to establish your home's value. While, in theory, this should work, it is rare to find two homes that are exactly the same in every single way.

Think for a moment of two homes, both 2,500 square feet, with the same floor plan and in the same subdivision. According to an online evaluation, both homes are worth \$250,000. House A has limited upgrades and a basic gravel backyard. It also smells of last week's fried chicken the moment you walk through the front door. The window coverings are basic, the paint needs touching up, and the owners have done little to decorate the home.

By contrast, House B looks like a model. It has granite counters, new bathroom cabinets, presents like a Pottery Barn showroom, and has a well-maintained backyard, with blooming plants and a water feature. If you are the owner of House A, you think



John Karadsheh

your home should absolutely be worth \$250,000. If you are the owner of House B, you definitely don't think your home should be worth the same as House A. So, whose home should be worth the online estimate? Probably neither. The real marketable value of House A may be \$225,000, while House B may sell for \$275,000.

Online estimates not only lack accuracy because they can't account for the general condition of a property, but they also are often wrong simply because the data used is not relevant. When appraisers value property, they only consider sales that have occurred in the last six months. Just because a home sold across the street a year ago for \$300,000, doesn't mean yours is worth \$300,000 today. It may very well be worth much more. In fact, we just had two properties sell last month for more than their online valuation.

THE CURRENT MARKET DICTATES YOUR HOME'S VALUE

The real estate market is always changing, based on supply, demand and what is going on in individual neighborhoods. Perhaps you have the only home in your area with a four-car garage. This may make your home more valuable to buyers.

On the flipside, your home may be one of 10 homes with the same floor plan for sale in your area. With greater supply, your competition suddenly will be greater as buyers compare your home to those similar on the market. This increased competition may translate into increased days on the market and lower values. In our market, new home sales also impact resale values. Builders recently have been offering incredible incentives and favorable financing options, which have driven away a segment of the market from resale. This increases the general available housing supply, but not with like properties.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NEXT?

Most of us usually think our homes are worth more than what the market dictates. This seems to happen in good and bad markets. The key is to look at what your next step will be. If you sell low, you will probably be buying low. If you are selling high, you will probably be buying high. If you are moving out of state, study the market where you are considering moving. If that market is hot, you may need to keep a competitive price on your home here, and sell quickly, so you don't get priced out of the next city.

Of course, always get as much information as you can. Don't hesitate to call us any time for a free market consultation on your home. Get the real facts, so you can take your next steps. ■

John Karadsheh is the Designated Broker for KOR Properties. He has been a Multi-Million Dollar producing agent for more than 12 years, and is an Accredited Buyers Representative (ABR) and Certified Residential Specialist (CRS). In 2014, John was voted the No.1 Real Estate Agent in Arizona by Ranking Arizona. You can reach John at (480) 568-8684, or visit his website at [www.KORproperties.com](http://www.KORproperties.com).



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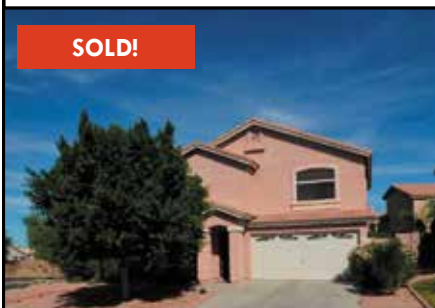
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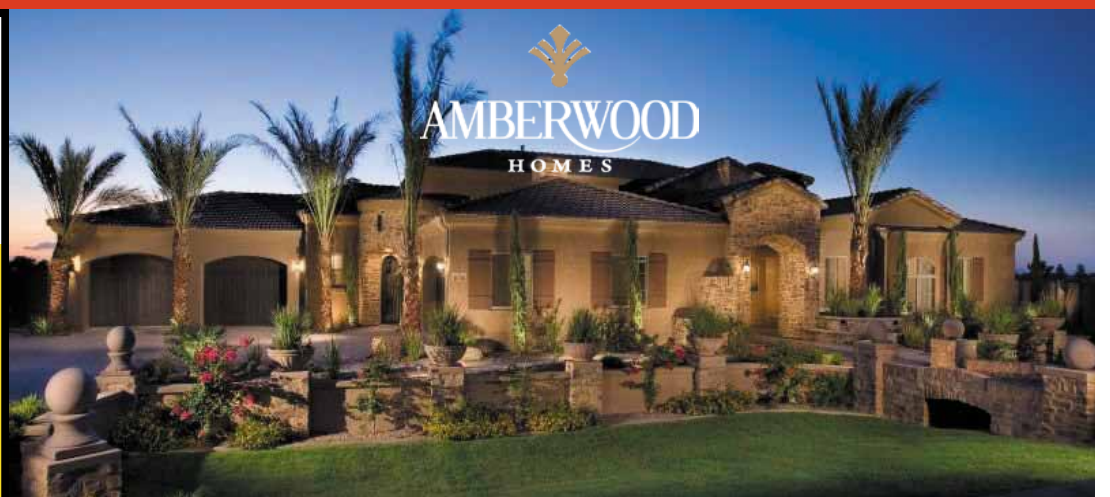
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LOCAL BUSINESS

Determine whether your POOL NEEDS A FACELIFT OR JUST A REFRESH

By Dawn Abbey

If your pool appears to be showing signs of wear and deterioration, there is more than one way to make it look new again.

Have you noticed a stubborn ring around your pool tile? Or perhaps there are some cracks or chips in your plaster or pebble finish, especially on steps or the rolled bond-beam edges on pebble-finish pools. If your pool deck is old, cracks and peeling might be forming there, too.

“Just because you notice a little damage, doesn’t mean you need to completely re-plaster or redo your pool,” said Chris Quam, owner of Arizona Pool Guy Inc. “Of course, we can entirely remodel your pool if necessary, but if not, there are lots of little fixes we can do to make your older pool sparkle like new.”

For instance, hard-water buildup on pool tile is a common issue. “It’s almost impossible to remove it yourself without scratching or damaging your tile,” Chris stated. “Replacing tile can be expensive, especially glass tile. We have a way to remove the buildup without hurting the tile.”

Cracks in your pool need attention, too. In fact, Chris recommends having them fixed as soon as possible, before damage becomes more extensive.

It’s not just your pool in need of refreshing from time to time. “Every so many years, your pool deck needs refinishing,” Chris said. “A new pool deck surface, in one of the many attractive new colors, can give your pool area a whole new look.”

For more information, or for a free consultation, call Chris Quam at (480) 699-0607.



Chris Quam

ORGANIZING

Typewriter Typing and Thinking STILL GO TOGETHER

By Nancy Nemitz

After recently refurbishing my Adler Satellite 2001 electric typewriter, I was surprised to learn something interesting from the owner of Mesa Typewriter Exchange.

He shared with me the fact English teachers and writers tell him they and their students are more thoughtful and creative typing on a typewriter as opposed to a computer keyboard.

To me, the typewriter sounds like productivity and creativity. I love the sound of the bell when I come to the end of the line and the speed of the carriage return. The only problem is the jolt of the carriage return moves my dining room table mat about one-eighth inch every time it returns. Therefore, every so often, I have to move everything back into place. There isn’t any spell check or grammar check, so I have to be more careful. Naturally, I can’t bring my typewriter to the coffee shop.

You don’t have to follow the herd. Use technology when it works for you. But there still is a place for paper and pencil and the typewriter. Use what works. If you have an old typewriter sitting in a closet, I encourage you to try it again. See if it doesn’t make you smile. ■



Nancy Nemitz isn’t always busy typing on her electric typewriter. She works with business owners to find ways to make their work less tiresome and more productive. If you want to ask her advice, call (480) 223-8939, or send an email to nancy@createthespace.com. She would love to hear you have taken up using a typewriter again. Her company is Create the Space, located in Mesa.



Nancy Nemitz

EVENT

Red Mountain Ranch Offers Summer Fun

Submitted by Red Mountain Ranch Country Club

Red Mountain Ranch Country Club (RMRCC) will sponsor summer camp sessions, featuring golf, tennis and swimming, for participants ages 5 through 17, Monday through Friday, in June and July, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**GOLF** This is a one-of-a-kind junior golf program. Director of Golf Scott Bunker, together with assistants Mitch Powers and Sean King, lead the sessions. The program is designed not only to be fun, but also to develop your child’s golf skills through exposure to the fundamentals of the game.

**TENNIS** Our instructional summer sessions are developed to provide athletes an opportunity to become better tennis players in a fun, positive atmosphere. Our camp participants learn from Ray Kheshvadjian, the best coach in the Mesa area. Everyone leaves camp with confidence and a passion to enjoy the sport for a lifetime.

**SWIMMING** Following the swimming sessions, those taking part have the opportunity to play water games and have fun in the pool. A life-guard will provide supervision.

Camp session costs include daily lunch and game time. For RMRCC members, the cost is \$249 per week, plus a \$25 registration fee. For non-members, the cost is \$299 per week, plus a \$25 registration fee. Registration for the camp sessions is open from April 1 through May 8.

Choose from the following camp session dates:

• June 1 through 5	• June 22 through 26
• June 8 through 12	• July 6 through 10
• June 15 through 19	• July 13 through 17 ■

For more information, or to register, contact Scott Bunker at (480) 985-0285, or send an email to SBunker@RMRCC.com. Visit the website at www.rmcc.com. Red Mountain Ranch Country Club is located at 6425 E. Teton Circle.



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EDUCATION

Sierra Prep’s Public Education Model Emphasizes Community



**Submitted by Sierra Prep Academy**

“What are your values?” This is a question we at Sierra Prep Academy (SPA) ask ourselves every day as we contend with myriad operational decisions.

Fortunately, the answer is very simple—community. It is the concept at the heart of our mission, and every activity at SPA. Be it curricular or administrative, it must serve the development of a community of learners.

As is often the case, upholding one’s values can be challenging when faced with the harsh realities of things like budgets. Many schools in the East Valley have had to make difficult decisions recently, and communities have been unsettled. Establishing Sierra Prep as a tuition-free, public charter school, in the East Mesa/Apache Junction region, is one way in which we are trying to help the larger East Valley develop meaningful communities.

The word *community* gets used rather a lot, but rarely does it seem to have substantive meaning. Not long ago, I heard someone refer to the *Facebook community*, which, according to a recent statistic, involves 1.4 billion people. While Facebook may be predicated upon gathering *friends*, I suggest more than one billion people do not truly constitute a community of individuals with shared values and goals.

As many as 100 to 300 people is considered the ideal range for community size, according to anthropologists and sociologists. Experience tells us smaller groups tend

to function better when trying to establish commitment, mutuality and trust. This is why we at Sierra Prep have a target of 250 students total for grades 6 through 12, and 292 students as the absolute maximum.

No one school can serve the needs of everyone, but in a small community, the needs of every student can be met. Every element of Sierra Prep, including a sustainable budget model, has been designed with this in mind. Here are just a few examples:

**SMALL CLASS SIZES**

Sierra Prep has a maximum of 22 students per class (20 students per class—grades nine through 12) and two sections per grade. With small classes, teachers will know their students well, and will be able to provide individualized attention. As a result, we deliberately will build strong relationships, which will, in turn, create an enduring community.

**SOCRATIC METHOD**

If we are to avoid the traditional *hierarchy of learners*, in which a teacher lectures from a lofty position, in the misguided effort to merely fill students with information, then, our methodology must be atypical. Ironically, the Socratic Method, which we employ, is more than 2,500 years old, but is far less common than it ought to be. In a Socratic seminar, in which students and teachers sit in a circular collegial setting, teachers guide questioning in order to capitalize upon student curiosity and insight. Students do not proffer answers they think the teacher wants to hear, but talk to each other in an effort to find truth through collective logical discourse. Meaningful conversation is not as easy as some might suppose, but it is a certain path toward developing camaraderie, shared purpose and community.

**MERIDIAN COLLATIONS AND POST-PRANDIAL CAESURAS**

Otherwise known as *lunch* and *recess*, these are essential restorative elements for a healthy environment promoting community. At Sierra Prep, teachers and students all take

lunch together. On certain days each week, students will have assigned seats, so that they have the opportunity to engage with students from other grades and sections.

We also have two opportunities for recess at SPA—a 15-minute break in the morning and 30 minutes following lunch, which may be used entirely at the discretion of the student. Brains, like muscles, need rest in order to operate at peak performance. Rest helps significantly reduce stress, which, in turn, enables positive socialization.

**THE LEONARDO DA VINCI MAKER SPACE**

As important as the classroom is, extracurricular activities are just as important for building friendships and creating fellowship. At SPA, we have planned for a number of activities, including music, fine arts, language clubs, speech and debate. Our new Maker Space will be the centerpiece of the school. Helping students make connections between the material covered in class and their individual agency in the world is one of our highest goals as an educational institution.

The Maker Space, in particular, will be a collaborative learning environment, which takes its inspiration from both Renaissance art studios and 21st century engineering workshops. As students work together, to build rockets or Rube Goldberg machines, or use laser cutters and 3-D printers, community will be strengthened on a daily basis.

Since we are a school based upon the great books, it is perhaps fitting to end by quoting from de Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America*, in which he comments upon the American tendency to join in voluntary associations, saying, “Feelings and ideas are renewed, the heart enlarged, and the understanding developed, only by the reciprocal action of men one upon another.” How many problems in our current educational system could be significantly mitigated by one-on-one interactions, which increase understanding and refresh the heart and mind? Where else is this more possible than in a true community of learners? ■

For more information about Sierra Prep Academy, located at 7464 E. Main St., call (480) 440-0238.

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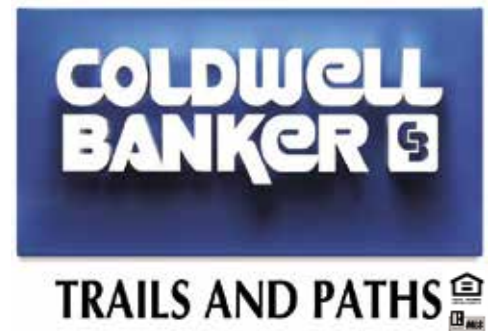
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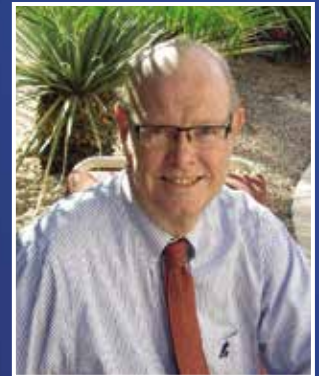
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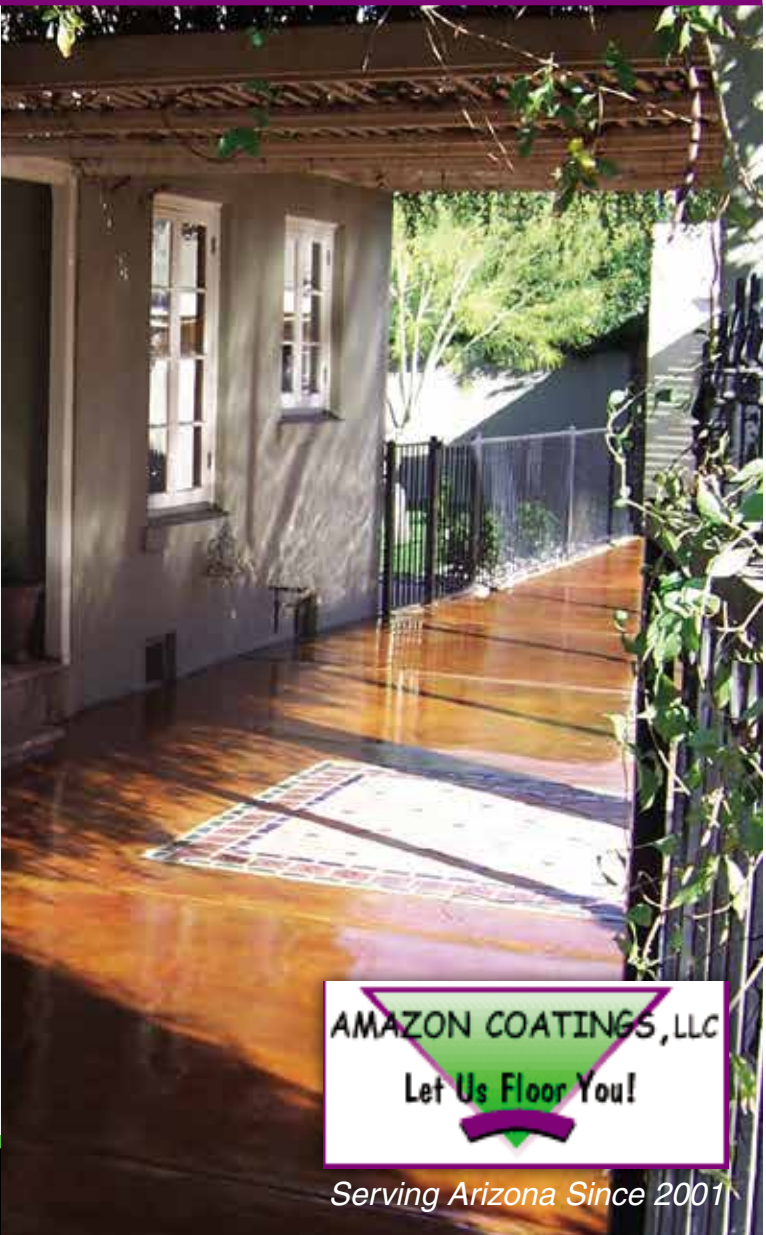
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EVENT

Conference Serves to Empower Young Women



Submitted by Time to Blossom

What started as a conversation between Mesa moms Carla Jorgensen and Debbie Forrest Dayton about the struggles teenage girls face has become an annual Latter Day Saints (LDS)-based conference serving hundreds of young women of all faiths across Arizona.

This year, Time to Blossom will take place from June 15 through 19, at East Valley Institute of Technology. The event will feature popular LDS speakers John Bytheway and Hank Smith, along with local speakers Jester'Z Improv Comedy owner Jef Rawls and composer Clyde Bawden.

The mission of Time to Blossom is to empower young women with inner strength, courage and confidence to reach their potential and find lasting happiness. According to the book *Reviving Ophelia*, girls are their true selves at age 12, and year after year, they quit being themselves, and try to be accepted by their peers. They do this by giving up their likes, style, hobbies and talents, etc. to fit in.

"Each young woman is beautiful and has distinct gifts and talents," Debbie explained. "We want young women to realize and love their uniqueness." ■

For more information about Time to Blossom, please visit [www.TimeToBlossom.com](http://www.TimeToBlossom.com).

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REAL ESTATE

Phoenix Metro Area Sees a Seller's Market Again

By Ron Brown

The number of listings under contract has continued to improve, and has reached nearly 13,000 by mid-April.

This number is 9 percent higher than April 2014, and signifies a continuance of the Phoenix real estate recovery. As rents have continued to rise in the single-family home segment, some renters are discovering they are paying more in monthly rent than a mortgage payment on a similar or even larger home. This, combined with lower down payment and mortgage insurance requirements, has been making homeownership a viable solution to lock in monthly expenses.

Seeing more buyers shopping is good news for sellers today, especially those under \$300,000. With fewer new listings coming on the market to replenish those that have sold, there is less competition for sellers to consider. This puts sellers in a better position when it comes time to negotiate, and increases their chances of a successful close.



Ron Brown

the two highest success rates, while the higher price ranges are more moderate in their improvements. The luxury market over \$1,000,000 has not lost any demand compared to last year, but they have increased competition in new listings, which has diminished their negotiating advantage.

April 2015 Activity By Price Range	For Sale	Under Contract	Level
Under \$100,000	1,377	764	WARM
\$100,000 - \$150,000	1,855	1,945	FRENZY
\$150,000 - \$200,000	2,843	2,777	FRENZY
\$200,000 - \$300,000	4,575	3,195	HOT
\$300,000 - \$500,000	5,289	2,169	WARM
\$500,000 - \$1M	3,183	1,329	WARM
Over \$1M	1,877	250	COOL

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

The under \$100,000 market has very little for sale, and 78 percent of all the supply is townhouses and condominiums. Single-family homes under \$100,000 are in a frenzy environment similar to the \$100,000 to \$200,000 price range. Sales under \$300,000 represent 77 percent of all sales activity in the Phoenix metropolitan area. To have such a significant percentage of the market in short supply and good demand sets up a positive price appreciation projection for the next year. The over \$300,000 is still doing well. It may not be as hot as the lower prices, but there is still stronger contract activity in 2015 than there was during the chilly 2014 market.

INFLUENCES

The main influence has been the return of those previous homeowners who suffered a foreclosure or short sale years ago. After waiting the mandatory seven years after foreclosure and four years after short sale, tens of thousands of people will have these blemishes removed from their credit reports in 2015. Their return is just one more step in the recovery process in Phoenix. These consumers are not restricted to the lower price ranges. They span the entire market and will affect demand overall.

Zip Code	Active	Under Contract	Status
85201	75	65	HOTTER
85202	71	85	FRENZY
85203	62	57	HOTTER
85204	68	107	FRENZY
85205	144	107	HOT
85206	172	100	HOT
85207	290	130	WARM
85208	188	109	WARM
85209	147	132	HOTTER
85210	49	55	HOTTER
85212	153	103	HOT
85213	112	85	HOT
85215	132	60	WARM

MESA'S HOTTEST ZIP CODES AND PROJECTED PRICE RESPONSES

The market in Mesa is closely mirroring the rest of the market. Those zip codes with lower list prices are in frenzy, while the upper end is cooler. Selling quickly requires supply to be low in comparison to demand. With that in mind, right now is the best time to list in order to get the most buyer activity. However, in terms of potential price appreciation, with fewer cash transactions and more buyers obtaining loans, appraisal contingencies may keep prices at a more sustainable rate than the market has seen in the past.

For additional information, call Ron Brown at (602) 618-9512, or visit the websites at [www.TrailsAndPaths.com](http://www.TrailsAndPaths.com) or [www.LasSendasColdwellBanker.com](http://www.LasSendasColdwellBanker.com). Coldwell Banker Trails and Paths, serving the East Valley for the past 16 years, is located in The Village at Las Sendas.

MORE LISTINGS SUCCESSFULLY CLOSING

An active listing isn't considered failed or successful until it cancels/expires or closes. An increasing listing success rate means, of the listings coming off of active status, fewer are cancelling or expiring, while more are closing. Not surprisingly, the \$100,000 to \$200,000 price range is experiencing

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Dance Studio C emerges from humble beginnings  
TO BECOME EXCEPTIONAL FACILITY

By Jamie Killin

Dance Studio C has been offering young dancers the best in dance instruction since 2011, when it began, like many successful companies, in a small garage studio, at the home of Cory and Chaney Lucas. A hit from the start, the studio has grown to a large, four-suite dance studio, able to accommodate their hundreds of students.

Dance Studio C showcases one of the nicest studios in the Valley, featuring custom, wood dance floors, huge full-length mirrors and large, 12-foot gallery windows, which allow parents to watch their children as they dance.

Even with Studio C's growth and popularity, the studio maintains very moderate class sizes in order to ensure personal attention for each student.

"In a lot of studios, you're just a number, and you get lost in the crowd," Cory said. "Our class sizes are relatively small, which allows the students to receive the individualized attention they need."

In addition to small class sizes, Dance Studio C has recruited some of the Valley's top instructors. While many studios use older students as instructors, to keep payroll down, Studio C does the exact opposite. They offer a higher salary as part of a comprehensive package to attract the best instructors the Valley has to offer.

Not only do they have the highest paid instructors, they also have attracted the highest quality instruction, as well. It is not uncommon for Dance Studio C's instructors to have bachelor's or master's degrees in education, as well as extensive dance training. Several are even professional dancers.

"We have some of the best teachers in the Valley," Cory said.

Chaney has taught dance for 15 years, and is passionate about dancing and teaching young dancers.

Dance Studio C offers all kinds of dance classes for boys and girls, including ballet, tumbling, tap, hip-hop, jazz, lyrical and contemporary, for dancers as young as 2-years-old all the way up to 18. The studio boasts

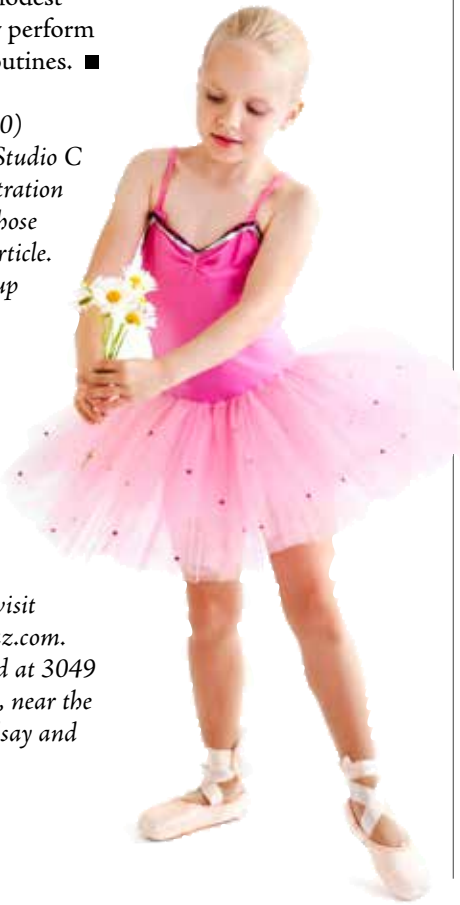
an especially impressive ballet program, and quickly developed a positive reputation regarding the program for 2- to 4-year-old dancers.

"The program Chaney developed, for that age group, is probably one of the best in the Valley," Cory said.

Dance Studio C also offers programs for every dancer's level of ability and commitment, from beginning recreational classes, to performance only teams, to competitive company programs.

The studio takes pride in its family-friendly approach and its commitment to making sure dancers wear age-appropriate, modest costumes and only perform age-appropriate routines. ■

To register, call (480) 748-9859. Dance Studio C is offering free registration and a free class to those who mention this article. Students who sign up for a class will have the opportunity to take classes for a week before deciding which program and style of dance fits them best. For more information, visit [www.dancestudiocaz.com](http://www.dancestudiocaz.com). The studio is located at 3049 E. McKellips Road, near the intersection of Lindsay and McKellips roads.



COMMUNITY

New Executive Chef/Food and Beverage Director  
Hopes to Make a Difference



Chef Patrick Tubert

Submitted by Red Mountain Ranch Country Club

Red Mountain Ranch Country Club (RMRCC) is pleased to announce the placement of Patrick Tubert as the new Executive Chef/Food and Beverage Director.

Since 2002, Patrick has been in the Valley working in hospitality venues, including Wild Horse Pass Casino, Starwood Properties and Benihana.

He attended Arizona Institute of Culinary Arts, with emphasis on Polynesian cuisine.

When asked how he is going to make a difference at RMRCC, Patrick said, "I want to ensure total satisfaction of the membership to the point everyone leaves the club that day with big smiles on their faces, and looking forward to the next time they return to dine with us."

Patrick enjoys spending time with his family, hiking, biking, cars and the kids. ■



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LOCAL BUSINESS

# BUYING A USED CAR doesn't have to be scary



Submitted by H and I Automotive

When searching for a new or replacement vehicle, more and more consumers are buying pre-owned.

This leads to the question, "What am I really buying?"

Here are some tips and facts about buying a pre-owned vehicle.

If available, ask for a Carfax or other used car report. If buying a vehicle from a dealer or car lot, either one should be able to provide this for you. If you are buying from a private seller, you can obtain an online report for a small fee. These reports will let your know if there has been a major accident reported on the vehicle, and how many owners it has had. In some cases, service records will be included.

Ask for service records. A private seller who has the records on the vehicle will be proud to share them because it increases the value of the vehicle. Do not accept verbal confirmation of services. Also, if buying from a retailer, don't assume they have performed the needed maintenance. In most cases, they do not.

Dealers only have to inspect vehicles

and fix safety related items. If a vehicle is traded in with 60,000 miles on it, and the service was not yet performed, most likely, you would still have to perform the service after you have purchased it. Investigate service requirements, such as spark plugs and timing belts.

Test drive the vehicle. See how it feels. Does it ride well? Are there any strange noises? Check your views in all directions. Pay attention to everything. Try to use all the functions of the vehicle, like windows, door locks and even the wipers. Do not be afraid to question the seller.

When you find a vehicle in which you have interest, have the vehicle inspected by a private shop you trust. The cost for this is minimal, and the peace of mind you receive for doing it is priceless. Most dealers and private owners won't object to having this done. Just remember, no car is going to be perfect, and the inspection will bring up points, which may not be seen in a normal walk around and tire kicking session.

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*Our facility is located at 5338 E. Main St., Suite 4. Please feel free to call us at (480) 985-9279, or visit our website at [www.handiautomotive.com](http://www.handiautomotive.com).*

# Dance Studio C

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## HEALTH

# Ferguson Family Medicine ADDS SKIN CLINIC

By Paul O'Neill

Ferguson Family Medicine is pleased to announce the expansion of its services with the addition of Ferguson Skin Clinic.

Ferguson Skin Clinic will be located within Ferguson Family Medicine, which has been serving the community for many years. Together with his family, Dr. Ferguson is very much involved in our community, and is happy to offer a focus on skin care. Our skin and its condition are very important, especially living in this wonderful but very sunny state of Arizona.

To help launch the clinic, Janis Adams has joined the team. She will manage the clinic and its services. A native to Arizona, Janis has studied in the field of skin care for more than 20 years.

"We are very excited to have Janis join our team," said Dr. Ferguson.

The Ferguson Skin Clinic will host an open house on May 7 from 3 to 8 p.m.



This is not your typical open house, however. Clients are not only welcome to tour the clinic, but they also have the opportunity to receive its varied skin care services at a fraction of the regular price, and are able to purchase future services at drastically reduced pricing. With Mother's Day coming soon, consider the gift of skin care.

"It's going to be a fun afternoon," Janis stated. "We will be featuring the newest lasers, skin resurfacing treatments and body enhancing treatments, as well as Botox and fillers all under one roof."

Light refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon. A raffle will include Mother's Day specials and gift baskets containing assorted skin care products. The grand prize is a completely free treatment.

Everyone attending the open house will enjoy a very relaxed and open atmosphere. For example, some clients will be receiving various treatments, while others may be touring the facility. Bring a friend and make a day of it. Perhaps follow it up with a glass of wine and dinner at one of our fine local restaurants.

For more information and to RSVP for a scheduled treatment, call (480) 275-5755. Dr. Ferguson, Janis, and the entire staff look forward to seeing you.

*Ferguson Skin Clinic is located within Ferguson Family Medicine, on the southwest corner of Power and Thomas roads, at 3514 N. Power Road, Suite 105.*

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# Featured Homes and Properties



**\$799,900**

5,866 sq. ft. w/basement, 6BR plus an office, 4.5BA, 4G. Stone exterior, travertine tile w/granite inlays, SS appliances, custom cabinetry, pool, BBQ, covered ramada.



**\$539,000**

3,142 sq. ft. 4BR, 3.5BA, 3G. Usery Mtn. views, hardwood flooring, custom cabinetry, freestanding soaker tub, wine fridge, pool, fireplace & 3 hole putting green.



**\$560,000**

3,346 sq. ft. 4BR, 3BA, 3G. Cherry cabinetry, SS appliances, double ovens, wine cooler, heated pool & spa w/remote waterfall, putting green & a basketball court.



**\$750,000**

4,110 sq. ft. 5BR, game room, bonus room, 3.5BA, 3G. Oversized 0.80 acre corner lot, detached workshop w/220V power, tons of storage, resort style back yard.



**\$560,000**

3,360 sq. ft. 4BR, 3BA, 3G. No HOA, travertine tile, granite counters, pool, spa, BBQ & a chicken coop.



**\$615,000**

3,850 sq. ft. 5BR, 3BA, 3G. Corner lot, game room in basement, pool, outdoor bar, BBQ & a gas firepit.



**SOLD**

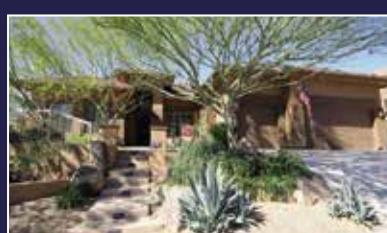
2,484 sq. ft. 4BR, 2.5BA, 3G. City light & Mtn. views, no HOA, wood beam ceilings, workshop & pool.



**\$170,000**

1,305 sq. ft. 3BR, 2BA, 2G. Large corner lot, Pergo® wood flooring, new AC, water softener and R/O system.

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2,786 sq. ft. 3BR, 3.5BA, 3G. Porcelain and wood flooring, granite counters, plantation shutters, Pebble Tec® pool.



**UNDER CONTRACT**

4,145 sq. ft. 3BR, 3.5BA, 4G. Cul-de-sac lot, hardwood & travertine flooring, pool, ramada, BBQ & citrus trees.