

Las Sendas Up Close

Bringing neighbors closer to their community

July 2015

BAG IT FOR BUCKS and express your patriotic pride during the July Fourth Weekend



bags. Tubers can trade in full litter bags at the end of their floating adventure for a \$7 tube rental discount coupon on their next visit to Salt River Tubing. The coupon is valid seven days a week, beginning July 6 through Aug. 28.

The holiday weekend event offers live entertainment by KKFR Power 98 and JAMZ 101.5, as well as water balloon contests and a beach ball bonanza. Since 1996, during summer holiday weekends, 669 tons of trash have been *stashed and bagged* on the Lower Salt River.

"In the past 19 years, tubers' conservation efforts, on the Lower Salt River, have resulted in protecting a Tonto National Forest's recreational oasis simply by taking personal responsibility for their own picnic trash and keeping it clean and beautiful," said President and Chief Executive Officer Henri Breault. "Responsible stewardship of our natural resources will guarantee that we can enjoy quality recreational opportunities on public lands for generations."

Salt River Tubing recommends the following safety tips for tubing adventures:

- Children, non-swimmers and inexperienced swimmers should wear life vests.
- Drink one to two bottles of water per hour while floating.
- Play it safe. Drugs, alcohol and the Salt River do not mix. So, just don't do it. Have a great time celebrating the July Fourth weekend by appointing a designated driver *before* your tubing adventure.

Celebrate a unique July Fourth picnic on the Lower Salt River. It is Arizona's *Floating Picnic Adventure*.

Holiday weekend operating hours are 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Weather and water flow permitting, the latest tube rental is 2 p.m. The last shuttle bus pickup is 6:30 p.m.

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

As a security deposit, one valid driver's license is required for every five tubes rented.

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. Please bring plastic or cans. ■

Salt River Tubing is located in beautiful Tonto National Forest, and operates under permit of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The fun is just seven minutes from the East Loop 202, Exit 23A, on Power Road and the Bush Highway, in Northeast Mesa. Like Us, Follow Us, Float With Us. Visit our website at saltrivertubing.com.



By Lynda Breault

Express your patriotic pride as a public lands steward, and celebrate a Star-Spangled July Fourth floating picnic on the Lower Salt River.

Salt River Tubing will kick off the holiday weekend with the award-winning *Bag it for Bucks Take Pride in America* event on Saturday, July 4 and Sunday, July 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on the Lower Salt River.

Salt River Tubing will be distributing Star-Spangled Bucks, a \$7 tube rental discount coupon, as a token of appreciation for floaters' conservation efforts while stashing and bagging their picnic trash in litter

MOUNTAIN VISTA MEDICAL CENTER CELEBRATES EIGHT YEARS

Submitted by Mountain Vista Medical Center

Mountain Vista Medical Center, a 178-bed, full-service hospital, is celebrating its eighth anniversary, showing gratitude to the community by offering a day of complimentary wellness screenings on Thursday, July 23 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The screenings offered will include:

- Lipids screening, with appointments being offered every 15 minutes, accommodating up to 4 each hour;
- Blood pressure screening;
- An *Ask the Pharmacist* session; and
- Chair massages provided by Massage Envy.

The event also will include a Mountain Vista



Medical Center auxiliary information table featuring a raffle for the chance to win Arizona Diamondback tickets and gift cards. Attendees can also visit the general

Mountain Vista information table to learn more about the hospital's services, plus enjoy a delicious root beer float.

Lastly, there will be a keynote speaker who will address the topic, *Understanding Your Vital Numbers*, beginning at noon.

Mountain Vista Medical Center is also partnering up with the Superstition Fire and Medical Department for a *Water Safety and CPR for Kids and Adults* seminar on Saturday, July 18 at 10 a.m. This is a non-certificate class, but will be a hands-on demonstration to help parents, grandparents and even babysitters understand how to keep loved ones safe throughout the summer months. The seminar is free to attend and registration is required.

For more information on these community events, visit mvmedicalcenter.com, or call 1-877-924-WELL (9355). ■



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In This Issue

School Success.....	4	Spooktacular Halloween Bash	12
Teen' It Up 4 Vets	6	Early Childhood Education.....	14
Summer Housing Market.....	9	Mesa Comics.....	21
Solar Energy.....	10	Water Fun.....	24
Travel Bucket List.....	11	Service Directory.....	26

*Happy
Fourth of
July*

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UpClose

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RED MOUNTAIN RANCH WELCOMES NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



Randy Owens

Submitted by Red Mountain Ranch Country Club

Red Mountain Ranch Country Club is pleased to announce the selection of Randy Owens as its new membership director.

A resident of the Valley for the past 30 years, he has worked in the golf industry in a variety of positions.

"I've mowed greens, sold tournaments, washed dishes and scrubbed clubs and more," Randy said. "Red Mountain Ranch Country Club offers the community a unique experience, and I'm happy to join the team. We have a one-of-a-kind country club in one of the world's greatest golf destinations," he continued. "I love the game of golf. My best and longest lasting relationships have been forged on the golf course. I'm excited to be a part of helping to build these same kinds of relationships among members, new and existing."

In Randy's spare time, he loves taking his wife and three daughters on bike rides, picnics and trips to the zoo. When he has time to himself, you will find him on the golf course or in a movie theater. ■

LOCAL BUSINESS

CARE FOR YOUR POOL DURING MONSOON SEASON

Submitted by Sterling Pools

With area temperatures in the triple digits during the summer months, it is refreshing when a monsoon blows through the Valley.

Monsoon storms range from minor dust storms, to a visible wall of dust hundreds of feet in the air, which generally is called a haboob. In addition to the dust, the Valley usually is hit with heavy winds, beautiful thunderstorms and heavy rains.

Inspect your pool after the storm has passed, even if you have weekly maintenance from a pool company. Here are some suggested preventive measures:

- Check the skimmer and pump baskets for yard debris. Clogged baskets prevent enough water from flowing to the pump. This can cause the pump to run too hard or even to stop working.
- Filters may need to be backwashed if they are coated with heavy dust from the storm.
- With all of the organic matter and yard debris likely to have blown into your pool during the storm, the chlorine is working overtime to break it all down. It is best to skim your pool surface to remove excess debris. If your chlorine level is too low, you could get an algae bloom overnight.
- Check to make sure your pool cleaner is running. There will be lots of debris at the bottom. This needs to be cleaned out.
- Keep up with yard maintenance. More yard debris in your pool results in more chemical imbalances. ■

Sterling Pools is offering a free pool inspection during the month of July. Please call Mike Sterling at (480) 241-4206, or send an email to msterling1@gmail.com.



Mike Sterling



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EDUCATION

PATH TO HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE SUCCESS BEGINS WITH SELF DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY



Submitted by Self Development Academy
In a special ceremony held on May 19, Self Development Academy (SDA) eighth-grade students were promoted to high school.
During the promotion ceremony, Lifelong Learners, students who began their education in kindergarten or grade one at SDA, were recognized, and six students received Lifelong Learner scholarships. Sponsored by Las Sendas Cardiology, the scholarships acknowledged those students who excelled academically and positively impacted the school community by demonstrating a respect for diversity and excellent communication and community building skills.
Students who complete their middle school education (grades six through eight) at SDA are well prepared for the high school educational experience, and make exceptional transitions. SDA middle school students have the opportunity to complete Algebra II, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics and literature courses typically completed in high school.

Given the accelerated, rigorous curriculum at SDA, as freshmen in high school, SDA students are placed in higher level honors courses, such as chemistry, geometry and English, just to name a few. Additionally, former students take leadership roles in various activities, such as junior varsity and varsity sports, student government and fine arts.
By enrolling in honors and advanced placement courses in high school, the former SDA students experience achievement of higher grade point averages and entrance to competitive colleges and universities. They also are awarded college and university scholarships. This path to success is established in the SDA elementary school (kindergarten through grade five).
The higher level of learning and accelerated curriculum begins in elementary school with the kindergarten year. The curriculum is a minimum of one grade level ahead of the state and national educational standards. The curriculum focuses on providing a solid foundation, while challenging students to obtain high-level thinking skills, including critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

For the 2015-2016 school year, the accelerated curriculum will include the use of mathematics manipulatives and centers, as well. The hands-on learning activities reinforce the curriculum concepts.
Part of the school's success is the vision of the school's principal, Dr. Anjum Majeed, and the commitment and dedication of the school's faculty. School personnel are present to support students during each step of their educational journey. They inspire students and motivate them to set high standards and goals. Additionally, they set high standards and goals for themselves, and make a commitment to professional development.
A visionary leader, dedicated faculty and staff and committed families ensure a positive educational experience for the students of SDA. This practice well prepares students for their future educational experiences and careers. ■
There are a few limited openings for the 2015-2016 school year. If you would like to learn more about SDA, please contact the Front Office at (480) 641-2640.



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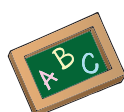


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LOCAL BUSINESS

CLEAR THE DECKS THE POOL DECKS, THAT IS

By Dawn Abbey

In Arizona, it's good to have cool decking around your pool, unless you know how to walk through hot, burning coals, but if your deck is not up to the task, maybe you should *clear the decks* and start over.

Most cool decking is plain vanilla beige, with what is called a *lace texture* pattern, which is made with an acrylic coating that doesn't absorb heat as much as regular concrete. Innovative products now available, however, can transform your plain deck into a colorful outdoor space. You can even replace worn, cracked and chipped decking with cool-to-the-touch products, which mimic flagstone, tile, stone and pavers.

"If your old cool deck is cracked, chipped or in need of refinishing, we can apply a colorful topcoat of lace texture acrylic that comes in various shades of grays, browns, terracotta and sand," said Chris Quam, owner of Arizona Pool Guy Inc. "Colors also can be mixed for a custom look. Cool deck finishes also can be made to look like flagstone, complete with faux seams and several shades of faux rock," he further explained. "Finishes also can be troweled or stamped to resemble slate, tile or granite. You can use the finishes on existing deck and to extend your patio, sidewalk and deck areas."

For a unique, luxury look, Chris suggests Marbella Shellstone, available in pavers, coping and tile in multiple sizes and patterns. "Marbella is a natural stone infused with ancient coral, colored shells and visual fossils," he said. "It has a light sandy beige tone, which looks like travertine tiles, but is cool to the touch."

The same material can be used for patios and decking, as well as transition areas between parts of the backyard, like sidewalks, entryways and play areas used by barefoot family members and guests.

"Refinishing your pool deck can be done right now without sacrificing too many swimming days," Chris said. "If your deck is unsightly, or even dangerous, with toe-scraping cracks, we can come out and give you some decorative ideas and a free estimate of how to improve your entire pool area." ■

For more information, call (480) 699-9607. Arizona Pool Guy Inc. is winner of the Best of Mesa 2014 Best Pool Company award.



EVENT

TEEIN' IT UP 4 VETS SEEKING SPONSORS, PLAYERS FOR FALL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Dawn Abbey

Teein' It Up 4 Vets fund-raising golf tournament, to benefit wounded warriors, is seeking sponsors and players for its third annual charity golf tournament, set for Saturday, Oct. 10, at TopGolf Gilbert.

Event organizer Joshua Perlman started the fund-raising tournament in 2013, after learning of the suicide of a former family friend, California Army National Guard Sgt. Daniel Somers, who suffered with traumatic brain injury and PTSD after returning from several tours of duty in Iraq. "Our families were neighbors growing up," said Joshua. "We were childhood friends, but had lost touch. After we heard of Daniel's tragic death, I wanted to do something to help other vets."

According to the Wounded Warrior Project, it is estimated 22 veterans kill themselves every day. In effect, more U.S. soldiers are dying from suicide than combat. Among their 19 programs, the Wounded Warrior Project focuses on the mind in helping wounded warriors overcome the challenges of readjustment.

"In supporting the Wounded Warrior Project, Teein' It Up 4 Vets hopes to assist the mission of honoring and empowering all wounded warriors," Joshua explained.

Sierra Building Systems LLC is presenting this year's event. "Various



other sponsorships are available, from \$125 up to \$1,500," said Joshua. "We have had wonderful support from local businesses and individuals. Last year's event netted \$7,000 for the wounded warriors. This year, we hope to raise \$10,000."

The event runs from 5 to 8 p.m. at TopGolf Gilbert, located at 1669 S. Santan Village Parkway. Sign up by Sept. 5, and get early-bird rates of \$260 per three-player team or \$90 per individual. Regular rates are \$290 per three-player team or \$100 per player. Registration includes food and non-alcoholic beverages. ■

To sign up for the tournament, or to be a sponsor, contact Joshua Perlman at (480) 861-1914 or teeingitup4vets@gmail.com. More information also is available on Facebook.

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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?

THE PATIO AT LAS SENDAS IS WINNER OF TOP 100 BEST RESTAURANTS

OpenTable Restaurant Reviews Reveal Top 100 Best Al Fresco Dining Restaurants in America

With summer travel season on the horizon, OpenTable, the world's leading provider of online restaurant reservations, and part of The Priceline Group (NASDAQ: PCLN), recently unveiled the 2015 Top 100 Best Al Fresco Dining Restaurants in America. These awards reflect the combined opinions of more than 5 million restaurant reviews submitted by verified OpenTable diners for more than 20,000 restaurants in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The Top 100 Best Al Fresco Dining Restaurants in America were selected between May 1, 2014 and April 30, 2015. The Patio at Las Sendas is proud to announce we have been selected as the winner of one of the Top 100 Best Al Fresco Dining Restaurants in America.

Only seven restaurants were selected in the state of Arizona, and The Patio was the only Top 100 restaurant in the East Valley. A big thank you is extended to our customers who voted for us, and congratulations to our food and beverage staff and management.

LAS SENDAS LAUNCHES TWO NEW VIDEOS ON WEBSITE

Las Sendas Golf Club and The Vistas Pavilion are proud to announce the release of two new videos on our website. Take a minute and have a peek at the flyovers of the golf course, The Patio, The Grille, The Golf Shop and The Vistas Pavilion. You can find the link on the Home page of our website at lassendas.com. Our video was designed and directed by our marketing staff and filmed by RealVu Films.

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- Purchase a summer golf pass, good from June 1 through Oct. 31, and play unlimited golf all summer. \$899—single passes. \$1,199—family passes.
- Tee times can be made seven days in advance any time after 7 a.m.

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

Monday through Thursday—\$34.99.

Friday through Sunday—\$39.99.

**At check-in, pay an extra \$10, and replay another 18 holes following your round.

Afternoon Green Fee Special with Food and Beverage Voucher

- Purchase a green fee after 1 p.m. for only \$29 seven days per week.
- Includes golf, range, cart and a \$15 food and beverage voucher.
- Voucher good through September—not valid with other discounts or specials.

THE VISTAS PAVILION

NEW - CHEF'S TABLE

Saturday, July 25—6 p.m.

The Garden Room—Vistas Pavilion

\$49.95 per person

**Limited to 20 guests. So, reserve your seat early.

The Vistas Pavilion introduces a new intimate fine dining experience in our Vistas Pavilion Garden Room—The Chef's Table. Indulge in our fresh ingredients, carefully handled, lovingly prepared and joyfully served. Surrounded by our sunsets and our panoramic views, let us entertain you for the evening.

Our feature for July is American Regional Cuisine, hosted by Chef Robert Eckhardt. He will dazzle you with foods from North, South, East and West U.S.A. For reservations, call (480) 396-4000, or send an email to events@lassendas.com. Our June event sold out within one week. So, don't delay for this one.

THE PATIO AND THE GRILLE

HAPPY HOUR OFFERS NEW EXTENDED HOURS—3 TO 7 P.M.

Starting July 1, we are extending our Happy Hour from 3 to 7 p.m. 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. Enjoy the Spicy Chicken Spring Rolls, Crispy Cauliflower, Ahi Tuna Wraps (staff favorite), Pork Nachitos, and our all-time famous Five Dollar Burger is back.



THREE FOR \$30 MENU

THE GRILLE AT LAS SENDAS

Salads

Bogey's House Salad

Mixed Greens, Pumpkin Seeds, Dried Cranberries, Grana Padano, Caramelized Shallot Vinaigrette

Las Sendas Caprese

Watercress, Heirloom Tomato, House-made Basil Mozzarella, Orange Supremes, Balsamic Drizzle, Orange Marmalade Vinaigrette

Entrees

Giving Thanks to Summer

Roasted Game Hen, Apricot and Bacon Stuffing, Crispy Leeks, Pan Jus

Gold Canyon Ranch Flat Iron

Flat Iron Steak, Heirloom Tomatoes, Baked Orecchiette and Cheese

Southwest Salmon

Coriander Salmon, Street Corn Succotash, Grilled Calabazitas, Chile Butter

Dessert

New York Style Cheese Cake

Homemade Carmel Sauce, Summer Berries, Whipped Cream

Petite White Chocolate Bread Pudding

Toasted Coconut, Homemade Carmel Sauce, Coconut Gelato

A CLOSER LOOK AT LAS SENDAS GOLF CLUB (CONTINUED)



CELEBRATE THE FOURTH OF JULY
Join us on The Patio for a barbeque and live music to celebrate the Fourth of July from 7 to 10 p.m. Our menu includes:

- Grilled BBQ Ribs, Honey Glazed Chicken
- Baked Potato Bar
- Corn on the Cob
- Fresh Greens and Fruit Salad
- Seasonal Berry Cobbler and Assorted Desserts

The cost is \$19.50 for adults and \$14 for children. Reservations are accepted by calling (480) 396-4000, or by sending an email to events@lassendas.com.

NEW SUMMER MENU
Come and check out the new summer menu at The Grille. Staff favorites include Shrimp and Grilled Peach Flatbread made with Goat Cheese and Balsamic Drizzle, Prime Rib Sliders with Pepper Jack Cheese and Grilled Onions and the Rockfish Tacos.

Daily Specials		
MON.	Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, and Mushroom Ragu	\$15.95
TUE.	From Farm to Table Tuesday	Market Price
WED.	Wine Down Wednesday	1/2 Price Wine Most Bottles
THU.	Prime Rib—14 ounce Prime Rib—10 ounce Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables Add Glass of Wine	\$21.95 \$17.95 \$3
FRI.	Fish Fry Fish and Chips Special	\$12.95
SAT.	Tender Beef Brisket, Roasted Potatoes Summer Vegetables	\$14.95
SUN.	Pasta Bar with Made to Order Pasta Station	\$14.95 Kids (6–12) \$8.95



MEMBERSHIPS AT LAS SENDAS
We would like to welcome Keith Christian, Kevin Farley and family, Dana and Jim Dalton, John and Pam Haugen, Bill and Susan Wernecke, Marilyn Ingebo and family, Phil Ireland and Sheila McIntosh, Brent Punga, Ken Rembold and family, Michael and Kathleen Kyllonen, Mark Sampson and Randy Clarke as our newest members at Las Sendas Golf Club. They took advantage of our new membership programs offered, including Canadian on Par exchange rates, a free, brand new E-Z-GO golf cart, with our full memberships, as well as proxy memberships requiring no initiation deposit. Las Sendas Golf Club's new membership programs are being received very well, and we are excited to expand our family of members. Now, more can enjoy all the events, tournaments, programs and socializing for which Las Sendas is known. Please inquire if you are interested in one of our limited quantity membership programs. There are a few remaining. So, please don't miss out on this exciting opportunity. Contact Wayne Crandall via email at wcrandall@lassendas.com, or call him at (480) 396-4000. ■

The Grille

at Las Sendas



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REAL ESTATE

AS MESA'S SUMMER HOUSING MARKET SIZZLES, NOT ALL PRICE RANGES FEEL THE HEAT

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

Since 2013, the housing market has been turning around, slowly getting back to what we consider a normal market, with the drastic drop in short sales and foreclosures.



We didn't see much of a move in 2014 with supply and demand staying almost equal throughout the year, and home prices increasing 8 percent. We carried that trend into this past January, with both supply and demand below normal levels but equally below, keeping us in a balanced market.

Since February, demand has continued to increase (up 14 percent from June last year), while supply has decreased (down 26.8 percent from June last year), causing a shift from a balanced market into a seller's market, but not all price ranges are feeling the same summer sizzle.

The under \$200K price range has seen a huge drop in supply, and the \$200K to \$400K price range has seen a huge spike in demand, making both these price points a sizzling market right now. The price range from \$400K to \$800K has increased, but not nearly as much. I didn't break prices down any further as you get

into the smaller volume, but the \$400K to \$600K has increased in both supply and demand equally, keeping it balanced from this time last year. The \$600K to \$800K and the \$800K plus price range have both increased in supply, but the demand has increased even more, showing a stronger demand in these price ranges over this time last year.

In Arizona, summer is usually a slower time of the year for the real estate market. Buyers don't want to go house hunting in the triple digits, and sellers prefer to go on family vacations or hang out by the pool rather than keep their home spic and span and ready to show. Sellers will take their homes off the market in June or July, and wait for the fall to relist them. However, our market is very different this summer, especially in the under \$400K price range, and in today's market conditions, listing now, instead of waiting, could give you a huge advantage.

WHY THIS SUMMER IS A GOOD TIME TO LIST YOUR HOME

It all comes down to that good old market indicator supply versus demand, and, as you can see by the numbers, supply is way below demand. Less supply equals less competition. Instead of your home competing with 15 other similar homes in your neighborhood, by listing now, while most sellers are waiting until the fall, you may be the only home in

your neighborhood, or be one of only two or three similar homes.

Although having less competition may not always increase the value of your home, it certainly will increase your chances of selling your home faster and at a higher price. The longer your home sits on the market, the lower the offer prices become. Buyers will come in under your asking price when they see the home has been on the market for 30, 60 or 90 days.

We also are seeing multiple offers coming back again, especially in the under \$300K price range. One new listing in our office, priced at \$275K, had 14 offers within the first couple of days of being on the market. Who said the summer wasn't a good time to list your home?

WHY BUYERS ARE READY TO BUY

Buyers know the inventory is low, and supply and demand is unbalanced in the seller's favor. Interest rates are increasing, along with home prices, so buyers are actively looking now and ready to purchase. They know there is no benefit to waiting. They are no longer sitting on the sidelines, waiting to see what the market is going to do.

There have been enough reports and statistical data showing we are moving back into a seller's market, and prices are increasing. There are no signs or indicators showing these factors are going to be changing any time soon. Now is the time to buy, and buyers are ready.

If you are thinking about selling, and would like a free market analysis of your home, or would like more information on our market conditions, please don't hesitate to contact me. ■

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 Homes2SellAZ.com.

MESA SUPPLY/DEMAND/SALES PRICE JUNE 2014 and 2015			
	2014	2015	% Change
Active Listings	1791	1412	-26.8%
Under Contract	761	865	14%
Median Sales Price	\$182,500	\$210,000	15.1%

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EDUCATION

STUDENTS SHED LIGHT USING SOLAR ENERGY

Story by Laurie Struna

Photo by Tim Hacker

Students from Zaharis Elementary School are beaming with pride after the completion of a solar lighting installation project.

With the assistance of a \$5,000 learning grant from Salt River Project, and funds contributed by their PTO, fourth-grade teacher Scott Ritter sparked his students' interest in solar energy. Scott asked his students to research ways they could use solar lights to illuminate a 900-square-foot walkway leading to the school.

The desert is pitch-black at night. The unique location of the school presented challenges for community members walking from parking spots on the street to evening events on campus, including the highly anticipated fall carnival. The fourth-graders were called upon to problem-solve their need for lighting.

"Students were involved in every aspect of the project," Scott said. "They worked in groups researching possible lighting solutions, drawing diagrams to illustrate their ideas, and using PowerPoint and animations to present their plans to a panel of staff members for administrative approval."



Once a plan was selected, they chose SolarKing Inc. to turn their proposal into fruition. During spring break, solar panels and bollard lights were installed to the entryway of the school's common area. The lights are functional and stylish. They also complement the building and desert landscape.

"The results are amazing," Scott said.

The lighting will be used as an education tool for future fourth-grade students. The project will teach them about renewable energy, and raise awareness of solar power in one of the sunniest states in the nation.

"It feels good to work together as a team to make a difference that will impact our school," one of Scott's students shared.

Funds from the grant endowment also were used for student exploration of alternative forms of energy. The young scholars used solar kits to light small light bulbs and other experiments. Learning grants from SRP help support innovative teaching strategies, which improve student performance objectives in math and science. A total of 29 projects were selected for funding out of the 102 applications received. ■

For more information about all Mesa Public Schools, please visit mpsaz.org.



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LOCAL BUSINESS

THIS HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM WILL HELP YOU CHECK GREAT TRIPS OFF YOUR BUCKET LIST

By Jamie Killin

Crossing items off your bucket list can seem daunting, especially when those items include major travel plans.

Fortunately, Sue and Bruce Mitchell, of Cruise Planners/Red Mountain Travel, have plenty of experience helping clients book their perfect trip.

According to Sue, who has 30 years of experience in the industry, trips may be much more doable than people expect, especially with the help of an experienced agent.

She gets excited when helping match people to the trip they want. Sue also enjoys researching new places to which she and Bruce have not yet traveled.

"We are always thinking of new places to go," Sue said. "Every time we visit somewhere new, we learn something."

However, it seems there are few places Sue and Bruce haven't been.

Here's what Bruce said about their most recent trip:

On our latest journey, our friends, George and Lynn Boyd, accompanied us. Our goal was to visit some out-of-the-way places and, of course, check some items off our bucket list. We accomplished both.

Our trip started with an 11-day stay in Malaga, Spain, located on the spectacular Costa Del Sol. There were 150 kilometers of beautiful beaches and great golf courses. We toured Benalmadena, a boardwalk with delightful restaurants and many colorful vendors. We visited Frigilina, a mountain village, with whitewashed buildings overlooking a beautiful valley.

Another day, we drove to Mijas, a quaint mountain village, with whitewashed buildings overlooking the Costa Del Sol. We also toured The Rock of Gibraltar, a British military post guarding the 15-mile Straits between Europe and Africa. The rock is virtually hollowed out with caves and tunnels. Wild monkeys are everywhere.

Our next stop was Nerja, a delightful seaside village, where the third largest cave system in the world is located. Our final stop was to the mountain village of Ronda, which

overlooks a gorge, giving us an incredible view. The city also is the site of the oldest bullfighting ring in Spain.

We then left the Costa Del Sol to embark on a seven-day cruise of the Mediterranean. We took a tour of Mount Vesuvius, which included a strenuous walk to the top, which overlooks the caldera with its steamy vents. We then visited the famous city of Pompeii, which was destroyed by the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius, in 76 AD. Our next tour was a visit to Civita Bagnoregio, a dying city on an eroding hilltop. A quarter-mile long footbridge is the only way it can be reached. The city only has six full-time residents. We also toured the ancient Roman walled city of Toscani.

Our next stop was Le Cinque Terre, where we saw five coastal hamlets, on the west coast of the Italian Riviera. They either cling to the cliff face, or are concealed in miniature inlets, allowing them to perfectly blend in with the unique and unspoiled landscape.

The next day, we stopped at Cannes, where the renowned film festival occurs, and toured Monte Carlo, with the barriers and signage still in place from the Grand Prix, which had just occurred the week before. While we were there, we visited the famous Place du Casino. The view of the marina, from the city, was a sailor's dream, with its assemblage of yachts.

Next, we traveled to Monaco, where we went to the top of the rock, and viewed the palace of Prince Albert. The changing of the guard was spectacular. What photo opportunities!

Our last stop was Palma, Mallorca. We took a memorable bicycle tour of historic Old Town.

We finished our vacation with a three-day stay in the beautiful city of Barcelona. We walked along La Rambla, with its artisans and vendors. We took a casual walk through the marina, and, of course, enjoyed the splendid beaches.

Now is an ideal time to explore Europe, due to the current value of the euro, which makes traveling there more affordable.



"Europe is very affordable, and it was especially enjoyable traveling with friends," Bruce said. "We would love to help plan our neighbors' bucket list trips, whether it is off the beaten path, or one of the Seven Wonders of the World."

Next, Bruce and Sue will be traveling to Paris. They then will take a trip on Norwegian Cruise Line's new ship, the Escape's inaugural repositioning cruise, from Southampton to Miami.

"Cruise Planners caters to anyone who likes to travel, and we are eager to help our friends and neighbors in the Red Mountain area and the Northeast Valley," Bruce said.

Those interested can visit redmountaintravel.com to submit inquiries, view virtual brochures, see current specials, and sign up for the Cruise Planners/Red Mountain Travel e-newsletter. ■

Visit redmountaintravel.com, or call (480) 396-8084. Sue also can be reached via email at smitchell@cruiseplanners.com.

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EVENT

SALT RIVER TUBING INVITES YOU TO THE SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN BASH



By Lynda Breault

Howling phantoms, cackling witches and screeching bat mobile buses are bound to create the most unique and memorable floating adventure at Salt River Tubing's Spooktacular Halloween Bash on Saturday, July 18, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Free Halloween leis will be distributed to the first 1,000 tricksters. The cost is only \$17 per person or tube for an all-day spooktacular adventure, in the great outdoors, on the refreshing, mountain-stream waters of the Lower Salt River.

Salt River Tubing will award \$17 tube rental complimentary passes for the best tuber Halloween costumes. Costumes are optional for floaters. Paint your face, or don a mask and head to Salt River Tubing for Halloween in July.

Tubers can high step it with the Monster Mash beach line dancers and take advantage of numerous photo opportunities with the zany Salt River Tubing tricksters, as they put the wow into your summertime fun. Enjoy a howling adventure on Lisa's Frightful Ambulance, Ron's Fearsome Ride, Betty's Haunted Bus and Lynne's Glenda the Good Witch Coach.

"Halloween in July on the Salt River is such a fun-filled adventure in the great outdoors," said President/Chief Executive Officer of Salt River Tubing Henri Breault. "Our guests join the merriment by donning their own masks and swim costumes, and then beat the heat by rocketing down the Salt River rapids to cool off. There is sure to be Spooktacular fun with chills and thrills."

The popular event draws thousands each year to the Lower Salt River, in Tonto National Forest, while tubers enjoy a howling, ghoulish time. Awesome phantoms, frightful witches, scowling pumpkins and eerie voices echo throughout the day. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service's national program, *More Kids in the Woods*, was expressly designed to

encourage efforts to get kids and teens outdoors and to explore ways to connect youth and nature.

Salt River Tubing's Spooktacular Halloween event is aligned with the USDA Forest Service's commitment in meeting the challenge of reduced youth involvement in outdoor activities. The Halloween-themed event's objective is to capture the attention of teenage youth, and encourage them to enjoy the great outdoors on the Lower Salt River, in Tonto National Forest.

Daily operating hours are 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The cost of tube rental is \$17 per person or tube, which includes sales tax, tube rental and shuttle bus service.

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.

Children, non-swimmers and inexperienced swimmers should wear life vests.

Have a great time on the Lower Salt River, and appoint a responsible designated driver before your tubing adventure. Drugs, alcohol and the Salt River do not mix. Just don't do it.

Weather and water flow permitting, the latest tube rental is 2 p.m. The last shuttle bus pickup is 6:30 p.m. ■

Salt River Tubing is located in the beautiful Tonto National Forest, in Northeast Mesa, just minutes from the East Loop 202, Exit 23A, on Power Road.

Check out Salt River Tubing's Monster Mash video at vimeo.com/70254801 or the Spooktacular Halloween video vimeo.com/68895620.

For more information about Salt River Tubing and the Halloween Spooktacular event, please visit the website at saltrivertubing.com, or call (480) 984-3305.

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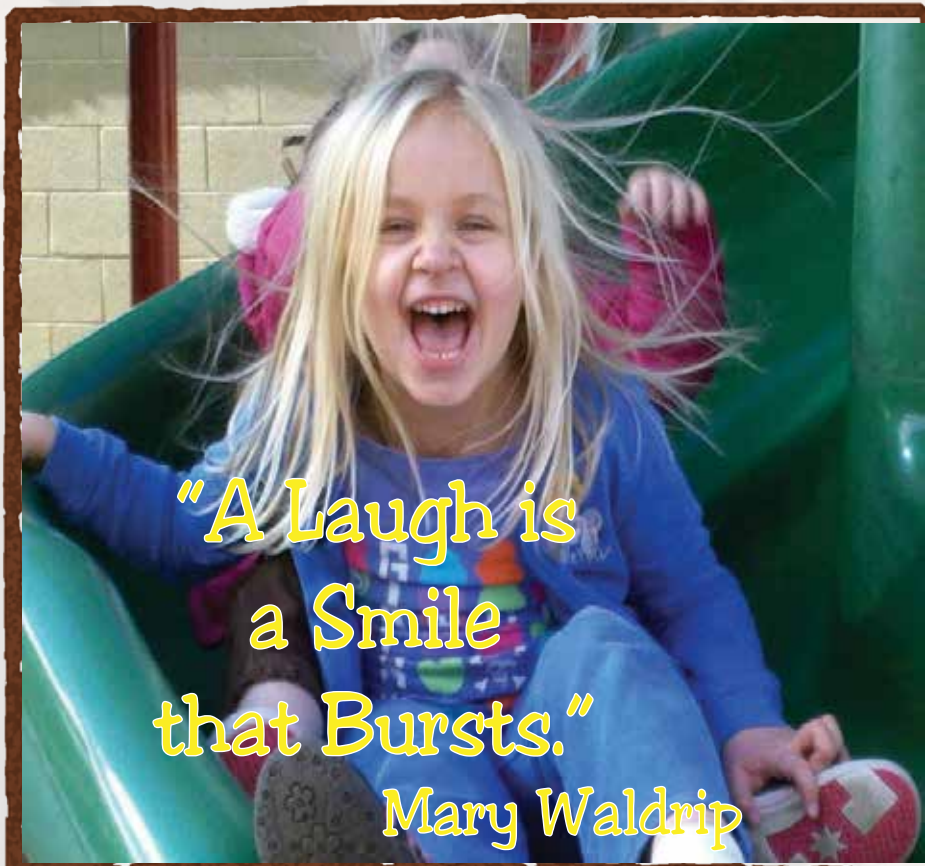
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EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOSTERS DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE CHILD

By Regina Madrigal, President of Operations Bridges Preschool

Playgrounds, circle times and sing-a-longs are often the scenes one pictures when thinking about preschool. Although these sweet little scenes are very important in the preschool day, in early childhood education today, children have more well-rounded experiences, which foster development in the whole child.

In order for children to become the self-sufficient, problem solving, socially capable adults we want to send out into society, the adults surrounding them must help them develop physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively. This is what it means to foster development in the whole child. This process starts in the earliest learning years of life.

It has become an increasing need for young children to be exposed to quality preschool environments to give them their greatest chance at development in all four areas. Quality preschools, such as Bridges Preschool and Kindergarten, will provide meaningful social experiences of various sorts.

Exposure to different social scenarios will teach children how to interact in small groups, large groups and in one-on-one situations. Bridges supports social development by providing large group projects like circle time and gardening. Small group



experiences are integrated into the day, with activities like cooking projects, science experiments and opportunities for imaginary play. This invites collaborative learning, social problem solving and language development.

Cognitive development is evident in

quality preschools when hands-on/hands-in pre-mathematical concepts are being taught, sensory and science projects are continuous and ongoing, art projects are open ended, and children are invited to solve various puzzles and problems independently.

Teachers should guide the learning experience by being facilitators in the classroom who expand on children's learning with use of extended language and thought-provoking questions. The teachers at Bridges are highly knowledgeable in the type of rich learning activities to set up in order to promote higher level thinking skills. The teachers take those activities and add meaning and value to the experiences through use of language, thought-provoking questions and gathering documentation with the children.

Bridges has Adventure Playgrounds, which are extensions of the learning experiences and provide areas for physical development. Playgrounds should have a variety of elements for interactive learning, social experiences and physical movement. Mud kitchens, music gardens, climbing features and outdoor art should be available to children on the playground.

Cognitive, social-emotional and physical developmental opportunities, combined with degreed, experienced teachers is what makes an early education environment capable of developing the whole child. ■

For more information about Bridges Preschool and Kindergarten, visit the website at bridgespreschool.com.



COMMUNITY

SOCIAL CLUB MEMBERS ENJOY SPRING COCKTAIL PARTY

Submitted by Edith Pitts, Secretary Red Mountain Ranch Social Club

The Red Mountain Ranch Social Club recently held its semi-annual cocktail party in the Overlook Room, at Red Mountain Ranch Country Club, with 42 people attending.

Betty Day, Mary Becker, Janice Glessner, Corinne Vitale and Wanda Wimp, hosts of the event, also had decorated the room with an international theme, which was carried through to the menu.

Patrick Tubert, the new RMRCC chef and food and beverage manager, oversaw the preparation and serving of appetizers, chicken skewers, salad and lasagna, as well as churros served with mousse.

After a couple of hours of mingling, eating and enjoying the atmosphere, 10 door prizes were awarded to the lucky ticket holders. The group looks forward to the fall cocktail party in October or November, and wishes more people would join in on the club's fun.

To learn more about the activities of the Red Mountain Ranch Social Club, please call Betty Day at (480) 325-1342. ■



Real Estate In Las Sendas brought to you by: Las Sendas Area Market Report Sales for the Month of May 2015 KOR PROPERTIES MLS John Karadsheh

Address	Square Feet	Community	Sold Price
7262 E. Norwood St.	1,131	Windsong	\$189,500
7248 E. Melrose St.	1,372	Windsong	\$212,000
7241 E. Melrose St.	2,104	Windsong	\$240,000
3055 N. Red Mountain #221	1,756	Ironwood Pass	\$265,000
3055 N. Red Mountain #198	1,571	Ironwood Pass	\$283,000
7448 E. Nora St.	2,126	Grayfox	\$309,000
4122 N. Boulder Canyon	2,451	Featherwind	\$315,000
7248 E. Tasman St.	2,657	Featherwind	\$315,000
7343 E. Norwood St.	2,126	Grayfox	\$317,500
2751 N. Augustine	1,926	Trailridge	\$325,000
7325 E. Mallory Cir.	1,999	Grayfox	\$330,000
7325 E. Minton Cir.	2,126	Grayfox	\$360,000
3821 N. Barron	2,732	Highlands	\$371,500
3060 N. Ridgecrest #95	2,226	Desert Vistas	\$390,000
7625 E. Snowdon Cir.	2,307	Highlands	\$399,900
3534 N. Piedra Cir.	2,732	Grayhawk	\$410,000
3430 N. Mountain Ridge #62	2,827	Sonoran Heights	\$435,000
3254 N. Stone Gully Cir.	3,732	Grayhawk	\$449,000
4012 N. Stone Peak Cir.	2,309	Stonecliff	\$450,000
8050 E. Teton Cir.	2,309	Stonecliff	\$455,000
7130 E. Saddleback St. #55	2,910	Golf Colony	\$500,000
7957 E. Sugarloaf Cir.	3,426	Whispering Ridge	\$540,000
4110 N. Twilight Cir.	2,786	Pinnacle Point	\$575,000
4039 N. El Sereno Cir.	3,183	Legacy Hills	\$640,000
7130 E. Saddleback St. #1	3,148	Golf Colony	\$699,500
4226 N. Via Cobre Cir.	3,839	Copper Canyon	\$935,000
7260 E. Eagle Crest Dr. #19	5,414	Black Rock	\$1,132,750

Information gathered from the Arizona Regional Multiple Listing Service is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Sales Information Provided By John Karadsheh, ABR, CRS, DESIGNATED BROKER KOR Properties www.KORproperties.com

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Las Sendas Market Report

	Average	Low	High
Square Footage	2,690 sq. ft.	1,131 sq. ft.	6,239 sq. ft.
List Price	\$497,534	\$195,000	\$1,598,000
Sale Price	\$477,815	\$189,500	\$1,475,000
Price / Sq. Ft.	\$171.29	\$110.16	\$341.53
Days on Market	108	3	449

Las Sendas Sale Price for Recent Homes Sold

45% \$0-300,000 26% \$300,000-\$500,000 12% \$500,000-\$750,000 9% \$750,000-\$1,000,000 8% \$1,000,000+

Sale Price Range	\$0-300,000	\$300,000-\$500,000	\$500,000-\$750,000	\$750,000-\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000+
Number Sold	20	35	9	7	6

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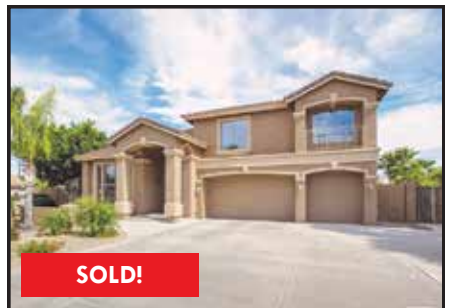
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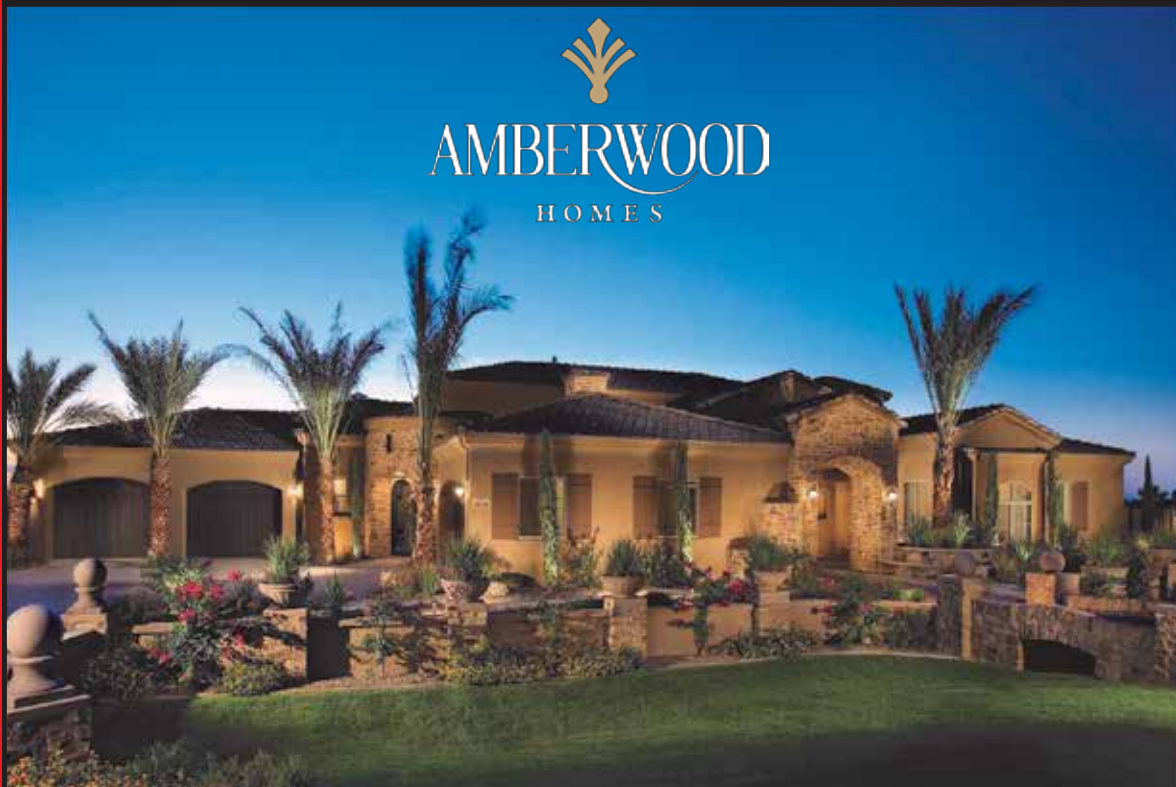
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REAL ESTATE

HERE ARE THE TOP 10 THINGS WE HAVE LEARNED FROM WATCHING HGTV

By John Karadsheh

Even though our family lives, eats and breathes real estate, we still are captivated by HGTV. From shopping for apartments in Paris, to remodeling historic homes in Texas, we are intrigued by all the properties and their transformations. The one thing we can't deny is HGTV has impacted the way we all view, remodel and value property.



John Karadsheh

WE ARE LIVING IN THE ERA OF THE OPEN PLAN—Until HGTV came along, a kitchen open to the family room was something nice to have. Now it is a must. Open plans are one of the top items on buyers' wish lists. All new homes have them, and they appropriately reflect the continuing trends of informal entertaining, media-centered living and airy spaces.

WE ALL NEED AN ISLAND—Some HGTV shows actually will show you how to buy an island in the Caribbean, but in this case, we are talking about kitchens. The kitchen island truly has replaced the kitchen table as the place for breakfast, lunch, dinner, working, home-work and party buffets. It may be the most useful piece of furniture in the whole house. So, give your island the attention it deserves, with stonework, storage and pendant lighting.

CURB APPEAL MATTERS—HGTV has taught us the fact landscaping simply wears out. Plants age, styles change, and a landscape refresh is a great way to add value to your property.

PATIOS RULE—Outdoor living spaces have become more important than home offices and formal living spaces. These spaces are now being treated as extensions of the inside living spaces, and they are designed accordingly.

CHECK THE NUMBERS BEFORE YOU GET TOO EXCITED—When it comes to remodeling, we always question how the HGTV remodelers do such extensive work for so little money. Before you move ahead with your remodel, get some real bids from contractors you trust.

THERE WILL BE HICCUPS—Every TV remodel episode has a glitch—good for TV, but not so good in the real world. If you are planning on remodeling, factor a 20 percent contingency into your remodeling budget, so you aren't caught by surprise.

FURNITURE AND DÉCOR MAKE THE HOUSE—The houses on HGTV are so appealing because of how they are styled. Without thoughtful furnishings, you never will achieve the look. So, be sure to include an allowance for furnishings in your budget.

FINDING A PERFECT HOUSE IS RARELY POSSIBLE—HGTV has shown us the reality that all buyers are faced with choices. Should you choose location or square footage, a three-car garage or swimming pool, a move-in ready gem or a fixer-upper? There always will be choices to make when house hunting, but, through compromise, you can find happiness.

ANY SIZE HOME CAN BE A GEM—Stylish homes are possible at any price point. Thoughtfully plan one room at a time, and you can achieve your HGTV dream home (although it will take longer than 30 minutes).

MAKE IT PERSONAL—Adding thoughtful elements reflective of your personality, heritage and interests make a home interesting. Your space should represent what you love most about your life.

Maybe we should watch less HGTV, but it is the perfect guilty pleasure during the long hot summer... and, after all, it is research. ■

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 KORproperties.com.



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EDUCATION

SIERRA PREP FACULTY HELP STUDENTS RISE TO THE TOP

By Edward Denny
Headmaster of Sierra Prep

When asked what the most important lesson was he learned in the liberal arts program at St. John's College, the response from Sierra Prep Academy (SPA) Dean of Students Eli Ferbrache was, "There are books out in the world, and I can read them."

The response was simple, but it is at the heart of what Sierra Preparatory Academy's teachers are trying to accomplish as they prepare the curriculum for the inaugural year.

In essence, books, ideas and challenging education are not for the elite alone. All students can be guided to the realization they can gain understanding, and, with practice, they can do so independently. For example, Dr. Darryl Orletsky has predicated his entire natural philosophy curriculum at SPA upon the goal of enabling students to be independent thinkers, with the ability to collect data from disparate elements and create meaningful synthesis.

In the *ed biz*, the buzzwords are *critical thinking*. But it all comes down to one important notion, which is we must never underestimate a student's ability to thrive in the world of difficult books and ideas.

Students not only crave challenge, but they also thrive because of it. So, it is the job of teachers to relinquish authority, and help students accept the responsibility for their own education. This is precisely why we employ the Socratic method at Sierra Prep, and why our classes are seminar-style, in which students struggle together to understand, not merely know, the world around them.

C.S. Lewis emphasized in his book *An Experiment in Criticism* that the value of a book is not in the way it is written, but in the way it is read. One might read Agatha Christie mysteries analytically and gain deep insight into human behavior, but read Shakespeare superficially, gaining nothing. In other words, students cannot be

passive learners. As learners, they must engage the world on their terms, trusting in their sound judgment, which takes years of patient, courageous work to develop.

If there is one thing I admire most about the faculty of Sierra Prep, it is their boundless intrepidity. They are truly fearless in their pursuit of understanding, and it is their strength and experience that will serve our students well. Teachers must not profess, but model what it means to be a learner, and Sierra Prep is fortunate to be guided by so many excellent model scholars.

Like the entire faculty, Lee Willcockson, one of our natural philosophy teachers, has a truly adventurous spirit and eschews fear in favor of curiosity and the satisfaction of achievement. He leads students by example, not by empty lecturing.

Mountain climbing, one of Lee's many notable avocations, is the perfect metaphor for what we do as learners at Sierra Prep, which is why the symbol of the mountains is so prominent in our logo. Once atop the mountain, basking in the splendor of accomplishment, we can look further and farther, beyond the murky depths. ■

...

Mea Culpa: Following the last article about our faculty and staff, I received several responses specifically related to the experience of one of our board members who felt he had finally come to an understanding of Newtonian physics by flinging himself out of a plane.

I will readily admit that my scientific summary was imprecise, and as a former physics and chemistry teacher, I should know better. One respondent even hurled the word *hermeneutic* at me, but fortunately I ducked just in time.

Admittedly, it is very difficult to fully explain the physics of skydiving in a very short newspaper article, but I maintain the following: 1. All other variables being equal,

objects do, in fact, fall at the same rate. Galileo was right.

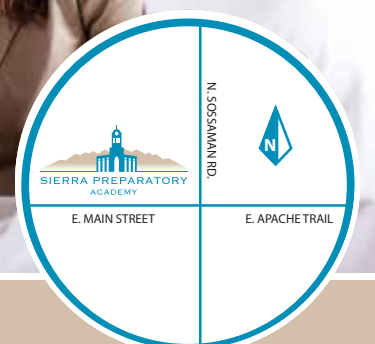
2. Experience outside of the classroom is necessary for truly understanding the world at large, whether one uses a hermeneutic or not. 3. Skydiving is more complicated than it looks, which is why I admire so many of the Sierra Prep faculty for having the guts to try it.



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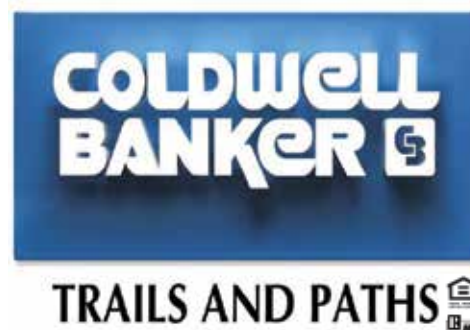

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REAL ESTATE

A RISE IN INTEREST RATES WILL NOT NECESSARILY CAUSE PRICES TO DECLINE

By Ron Brown

At first glance, over the course of decades, interest rates and home prices appear to have a negative correlation to each other. It would appear to make logical sense in assuming that as interest rates decline over time, affordability should be heightened. Therefore, demand should increase, resulting in rising prices. This theory gives credence to the feeling that if interest rates should rise, affordability would be reduced, lowering demand, and thus causing prices to decline.

The problem with this theory is it actually hasn't happened in nearly 30 years. If we look at the six times interest rates have climbed significantly over an extended period of time since 1987, not once have prices declined in response. In fact, they have gone up. Conversely, when the interest rate has declined over a period of time, prices have either remained flat, gone up or gone down, giving us no distinct correlation.

The reason is the interest rate is only one indicator among many affecting demand. Demand is only 50 percent of the equation when predicting a price response as prices respond to both supply and demand together. In order for interest rates to have a direct influence on price, all other influencers would have to remain constant, which is a rarity.

The biggest influence on demand is how loose or tight banks are with their loan approvals. When banks are loose, they approve more people. The more people are approved, the higher demand. Once



someone is approved, the interest rate will dictate what size home the individual will buy on average. As interest rates rise and fall, overall demand is affected minimally, but demand within price ranges shifts up and down.

In 2013, we saw the lowest historical mortgage rate at 3.35 percent. Ironically, while there was, indeed, an increase in demand, over 40 percent of transactions were cash and not involving a loan. While the interest rate was extremely attractive, lending practices were so tight that very few consumers could actually qualify for it. Therefore, the interest rate was not a major factor in the increased demand. Extremely affordable prices and investor optimism were the driving forces, which resulted in an influx of cash purchases.

In contrast, from 2004 through 2006, interest rates were 5.2 percent to 6.8 percent, and 90 percent to 94 percent of transactions were financed. While the interest rates were less attractive, nearly anyone could qualify for a mortgage. Excessively loose lending practices, combined

with excessively high euphoria about the market, caused a large boost in demand beyond what the supply could handle, resulting in a sharp price appreciation.

GOOD NEWS FOR MESA

Inbound relocation, jobs and income are significant influences on real estate demand. Here are a few of Mesa's developments along those lines this year:

APPLE announced the hiring of 500 employees, instead of the original 150, for its planned data center.

Special Devices Inc., a Japanese maker of airbags, announced the development of a new facility to employ 175 people by 2016.

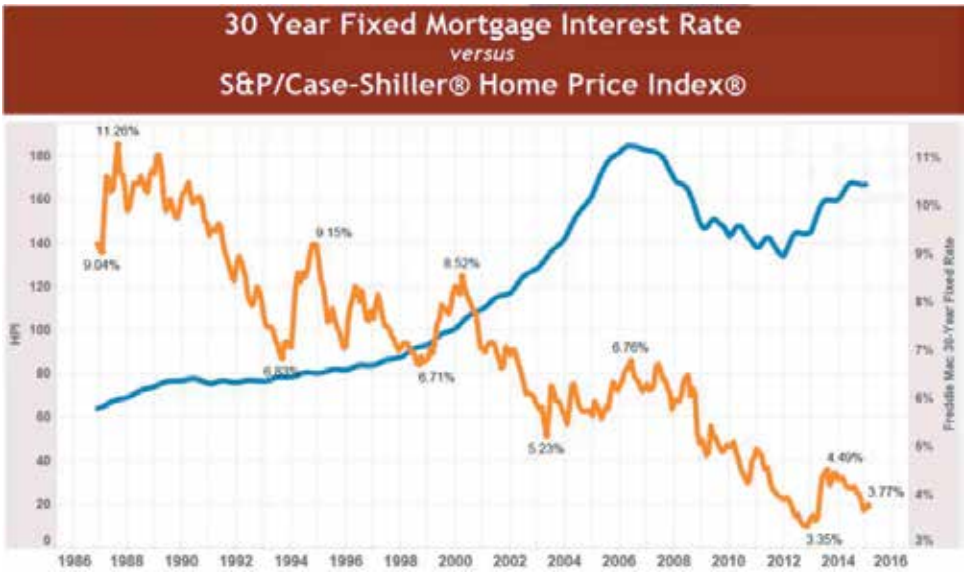
Fiesta Mall announced the development of the Fiesta Corporate Campus, converting the vacant Macy's store into modern office space. The 158,000-square-foot campus could bring 900 to 1,200 jobs.

Autoline Industries plans to invest \$3.8 million into converting the vacant Sunkist packing plant, located at Broadway Road and Country Club Drive, into a manufacturing center and corporate headquarters.

A 21-acre farm, near the Superstition Freeway and Mesa Drive, will be developed as a commerce park with four office/industrial buildings.

A large employment center is planned near the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, which could bring 2,000 jobs in aerospace, e-commerce and manufacturing.

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



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LOCAL BUSINESS

Summer sun and fun CAN WEAR ON YOUR HAIR

By Dawn Abbey

The Valley's hot, dry climate combined with summer activities—swimming, sunning, boating and outdoor sports—all take their toll on your hair.

To avoid that dry, brittle, sun- and chlorine-damaged look, Sandra Barbetta suggests treating your hair this summer with the original Moroccan oil line of hair care products, created with luxurious argan oil. Sandra, owner, with her husband, Cosmo, of Cosmos Salon and Day Spa, is making it easier to try by offering a 10 percent discount on all original Moroccan oil products during the month of July.

According to Sandra, original Moroccan oil, which is 100 percent pure argan oil, started the whole worldwide phenomenon of oil-infused hair care products. "Now, the original line has expanded into targeted treatments, hair masks, shampoos, conditioners and a variety of styling aides," she explained.

"For instance, a product that can benefit anyone is Moroccan oil Treatment, an essential foundation for hairstyling, which can be used as a conditioning, styling and finishing tool," Sandra continued. "Infused with antioxidant-rich argan oil, strengthening proteins and shine-boosting vitamins, it detangles, speeds up drying time and boosts shine."

Depending on type and condition of your hair, Moroccan oil offers



hydrating, smoothing and volumizing products, as well as curly hair treatments, hot iron treatments and styling aides.

Sandra admits it can be a bit overwhelming to figure out which treatments are right for your hair.

"That's where our experienced and helpful staff comes in," she said. "We are always happy to offer a complimentary consultation on what would work best for you, your hair and your lifestyle."

Sandra suggests stopping by the salon during July, and looking over their line of Moroccan oil products, now on discount. ■

For more information, or to make an appointment, call (480) 844-0707. Cosmos Salon and Day Spa is located at the northeast corner of Power and McDowell roads, in The Village at Las Sendas. To find out more about Moroccan oil products, visit moroccanoil.com.

LOCAL BUSINESS

MESA COMICS offers fun for everyone

By Sharon Wozny

If you love comic books, have a hobby, or need a family-friendly environment to enjoy those passions, come on over to Mesa Comics, where Michael Girard has created a fun and relaxing store for all ages.

Whether you want to sort cards, play games, read comic books, or find the latest items in the comic book world, Mesa Comics is the place for you. "This store is a safe environment for anyone to practice their hobby," Michael said.

His sister introduced him to the world of comics and games back in 1996, when she taught him how to play *Magic: The Gathering*. This game still is going strong, with Mesa Comics carrying what you need to play.

Michael's expertise runs the gamut, from game design, sales and manufacturing, to now owning Mesa Comics. "I want to pair comic book readers and fans with the stuff they want to read,"

he said. Michael enjoys seeing that *aha moment* when he is teaching a game to people in the store.

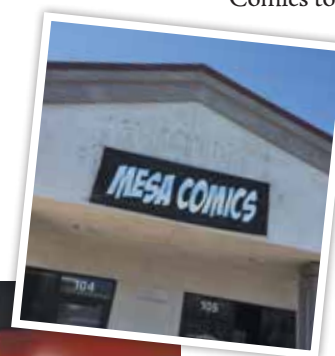
Some of the happenings at Mesa Comics include workshops on Thursdays for *Warhammer* and sorting cards. On Wednesdays, its old and new comic releases, and comic stories are featured once a month. You also can create a subscription box at no charge. A total of three titles are complimentary. You then will receive a 15 percent discount when a credit card is used.

In addition, there are tournaments for *Magic: The Gathering*, with prizes and a minimum cost of just \$5 to play. All ages are welcome. As a matter of fact, a father and 4-year-old son recently visited Mesa Comics to get an *Avengers* comic book after seeing the movie that morning.

If you are looking for a wonderful place to practice your hobby, getting started in the world of comic books, or just wishing to meet new people with similar interests, come to Mesa Comics. See what is being offered. You won't be disappointed.

Located on the northwest corner of Power and Brown roads, Mesa Comics is open Tuesday through Sunday, from noon to 9 p.m. The store is closed on Monday. ■

For information, contact Michael Girard at (760) 908-1002, or send an email to girard@mesacomics.com.



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LOCAL BUSINESS

Local Business Owner VISITS FEDERAL LAWMAKERS

By Donna Kohlbase, CLU,
ChFC, CASL
State Farm Insurance Agent

Donna Kohlbase recently joined hundreds of fellow professional insurance agents, advisors, brokers, consultants and employee benefit specialists from across the country in Washington, D.C.

The group met with United States Senate and House members and staff as part of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors' Congressional Conference.

Congressional Conference attendees talked with their members of Congress about the importance of life insurance, annuities, retirement savings and employee benefits for their clients and the U.S. economy. Additional topics of discussion included tax reform and middle market access to financial advice and service.

A local agent with State Farm Insurance, Donna is a member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, which sponsored the event. She joined NAIFA leaders, including IFAPAC, APIC and government relations chairs; association presidents and executives; NAIFA President Juli McNeely; President-elect Jules Gaudreau; and members of NAIFA's board of trustees for the event.

Life insurance products currently account for 20 percent of long-term savings by Americans. The life insurance industry pays out \$1.5 billion each day and supports 2.5 million jobs. ■

To discuss your life insurance needs, please contact Donna Kohlbase at (480) 396-2140.



Donna Kohlbase

LOCAL BUSINESS

Dance Studio C Offers Classes All Summer

By Jamie Killin

Dance Studio C will be providing young dancers with a variety of classes throughout the summer, along with open enrollment, allowing new dancers to get involved without having to wait for a new registration period.

"A lot of studios close up over the summer," explained owner, Cory Lucas. "Our classes go all summer long."

Cory and his wife, Chaney, a dancer who has been teaching for 15 years, opened Dance Studio C in 2011.

The studio offers many different classes for boys and girls, including ballet, tumbling, tap, hip-hop, jazz, lyrical and contemporary. These classes are for dancers as young as 2 years old and all the way up to 18.

Ballet continues to be one of the most popular classes at Dance Studio C.

"Our ballet program continues to get better and stronger," Cory said. "It's one of the best in the Valley."

The princess combo class, for 2- to 5-year-olds, also has been extremely popular. The class even enjoyed a visit from Disney favorites Elsa and Anna, from the movie *Frozen*.

"Space is limited because it's so popular," said Cory.

In addition to traditional dance classes, Dance Studio C offers hour-long tumbling classes for \$45 a month, which is half the price of many similar tumbling classes.

Dance Studio C also recently completed tryouts for the fourth year of its Moxie Pom and Dance team. The team, made up of 4- to 16-year-olds, will perform in a variety of events, including parades and half-time shows. ■

To register, call (480) 748-9859. Dance Studio C is offering a free month of classes (up to a \$45 value) for new students who enroll and pay full tuition for their first month. For more information, visit dancestudiocaz.com. The studio is located at 3049 E. McKellips Road, near the intersection of Lindsay and McKellips roads.



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Finding water in the desert is easy

By Dawn Abbey

Desert dwellers know the best way to keep cool in our summer months is to find water, as they drink a lot of it and spend a lot of time in it. Even if you have your own backyard pool or community pool complex, the kids like an adventure and a change of scene. In our neighborhood, we have lots of options for cooling off in water. Each is close by and reasonably priced. Cool off in City of Mesa aquatics programs and pools. Of the city's nine locations, two are just minutes away. Fremont Aquatics Complex is located at 1101 N. Power Road. For information, call (480) 644-2369. The Shepherd Aquatic Complex is at 1407 N. Alta Mesa Drive. Call (480) 644-3037. Both locations offer water slides and diving boards, and Fremont even has grills for family cookouts. Travel a little further to experience the new Lazy River at Mesa Aquatic Complex, located at 1630 E. Southern Ave. For additional information, call (480) 644-3036.



All-day pool admission is \$2 for ages 17 and younger, and \$4 for adults. Individual and family summer pool passes also are available. Pools are open Monday through Friday, from 1 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, from 1 to 6 p.m. For water thrills and excitement, check out the FlowRider surf machine at Rhodes Aquatic Complex, 1860 S. Longmore St. Call (480) 644-2550. If you wakeboard, skateboard or snowboard, this ride is for you. Ride sessions, consisting of 55 minutes of heart-pounding thrills and spills, cost \$5.50 per child, and \$11 per adult. Visit mesaaz.gov/flowrider, or watch it on YouTube. The Rhodes Aquatic Complex also is open on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. Mesa aquatic programs include swimming lessons and junior lifeguard training, as well as aquatic sports teams, for ages 5 through 17, in swimming, springboard diving, synchronized swimming and water polo. In addition, Northeast Mesa residents are less than a 30-minute drive from the Salt River and Saguaro Lake recreation areas. With a \$6 daily Tonto Pass per car, the whole family can picnic, grill, boat, swim, fish or even camp. For an exciting outing, which is an Arizona tradition, tube the Salt River for a two- to five-hour float through beautiful desert habitat, rapids and calm water. You might even see some wild horses or desert bighorn sheep. And it's a fun party and picnic on the river. Salt River Tubing provides tube rental and shuttle bus pass for \$17 per person, or a bus pass for \$14 per person, starting at 9 a.m. daily. Last rental is at 2 p.m., and last bus pickup is at 6:30 p.m. A driver's license is required per every five tube rentals, and payment is cash only. The rental center is located seven miles north of the Power Road exit of the East Loop 202, at 9200 Bush Highway. ■ For more information on Mesa pool passes, lessons and fees, call (480) 644-4271, or visit mesaaz.gov/pools. For more information on Salt River Tubing, call (480) 984-3305, or visit saltrivertubing.com. For information about Saguaro Lake, visit saguarolakemarina.com.

ORGANIZING

Assess all information carefully before making ANY DECISIONS

By Nancy Nemitz

The latest isn't always the greatest, and the most recent idea doesn't mean it's better than one you had last week or last month.

Researchers say we are wired to think the latest tweet, text or email is better than one that arrived before simply because it is the most recent. This means you will give greater weight and urgency to the most recent task on your To Do List. Now that you know there is this tendency to exaggerate the importance of more recent information, I hope you will slow down and take the time necessary to evaluate all the information when making a decision. ■



Nancy Nemitz



A Red Mountain Ranch resident, Nancy Nemitz is the owner of Create the Space Professional Organizing. She consults with business clients to help them be as organized and efficient as possible. Nancy can be reached at (480) 223-8939, or you can send an email to nancy@createthespace.com. Email her if you are in need of a trainer or speaker for your event.

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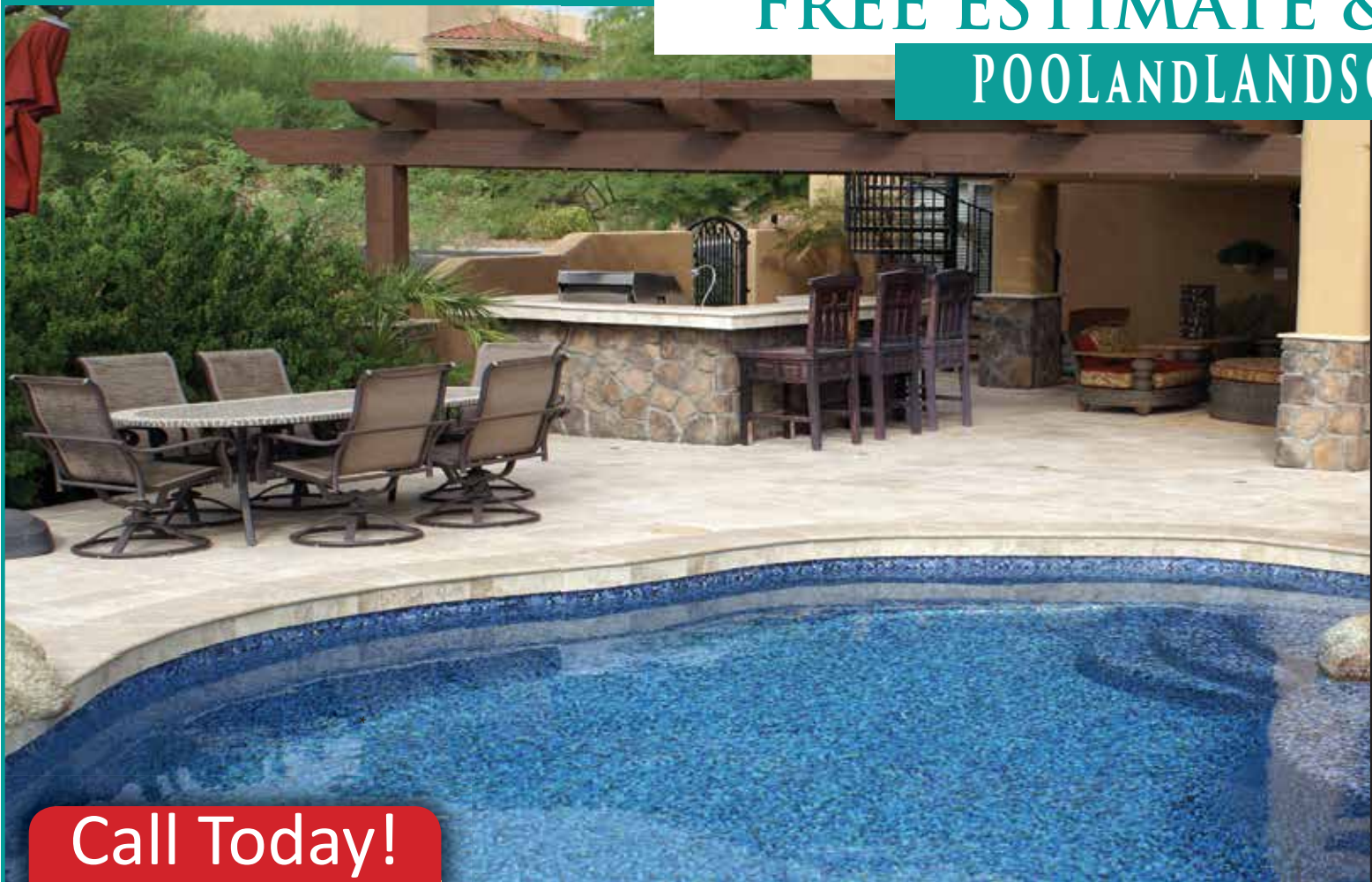
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