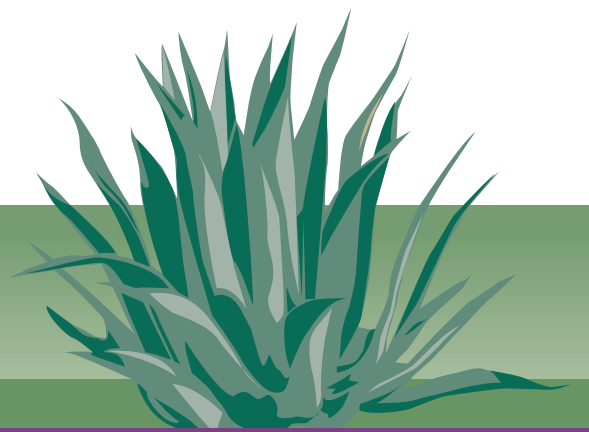


Mesa Uplands Up Close



Bringing neighbors closer to their community

June 2015

RED MOUNTAIN CENTER CAN HELP RELIEVE BOREDOM THIS SUMMER

By Dawn Abbey

With school over, every parent is dreading the day after the kids grow tired of the TV, the video games and even the backyard pool, and the words, "I'm bored" ring through the house.

There's absolutely no reason to ever be bored in this neighborhood, with the Red Mountain Center (RMC), at 7550 E. Adobe Road, open six days a week all summer, starting at 5:30 a.m., weekdays, and staying open until 9 p.m., weeknights, and 10 p.m. on Thursdays. Saturday hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This City of Mesa center offers all kinds of activities for all ages and abilities. In fact, it takes a 36-page online schedule, at redmountaincenter.com, to list them all.

Participation requires a nominal fee, starting at \$3 per day for kids, or individuals. Families can pay a reduced monthly membership fee. The RMC accepts Silver Sneakers and Prime Insurance Company for retirees. There are no contracts or initiation fees.

The center boasts a rock climbing wall, an indoor walking track (great on those hot summer days), 50 pieces of cardiovascular and strength-training fitness equipment, and more than 75 fitness and wellness classes. You can book personal services like a massage or a personal trainer. Showers and lockers are available.

There is a Kids' Club, and the Youth Activity Center, which lets 8- to 15-year-olds meet up with friends or make new ones. They have access to billiards and foosball, music, video games and movies.

Young and old alike can participate in drop-in or pre-registration classes and activities



ranging from rock wall climbing, to basketball, baseball, pickle ball, soccer and fitness. Pilates or yoga also are available, as well as learning crafts, music, acting, tumbling and dancing of all types, from ballroom to hip-hop.

RMC also contracts with outside experts to provide special interest classes at an additional affordable cost. These include Lego robotics and engineering, Minecraft, martial arts of various types, hula, hip-hop, country, social and belly dance, tai chi, language skills, writing computer code, cooking, parenting and more. The only way to find your favorite activity and the related fees and schedules is to visit the center or their website for more information.

If you're having an event or birthday party, the RMC offers all types of venues, from gyms, to meeting rooms or game rooms, to spaces with a stage or dance floor. The rock climbing wall area also is a favorite for kids' parties and corporate team building. Birthday party packages include activities, decorations and gift bags.

With so many options, check out RMC's schedule, and make your summer plans now. Registration currently is open for classes and activities through July. ■



For more information, call (480) 644-4800, or visit www.redmountaincenter.com to read or download the Spring/Summer 2015 Facility Information Guide. Information also is available at the Red Mountain Center, 7550 E. Adobe Road, near Red Mountain Park.



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UpClose

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HEALTH

Lois Will Help You STAY HEALTHY

Submitted by Red Mountain Ranch Country Club

Lois Moncel is the fitness director and personal trainer at Red Mountain Ranch Country Club.

Having been in the industry for more than 25 years, Lois comes from the Chicago area, where she managed small and large health clubs.

She is a certified personal trainer, a certified group fitness instructor, and a licensed Zumba instructor. In addition, she is an American Safety and Health Institute instructor for CPR/AED.

"Our country club fitness center is unlike those in the area," Lois said. "We have TRX training, an extensive group fitness program (yoga, cardio, sculpting, Zumba, Nia and Pilates classes), weight training equipment, personal training and aqua fitness classes."

"My goal for our fitness center is to provide our members with an enjoyable and intimate experience every time they come in," Lois stated. "Staying healthy can be a challenge, but when you enjoy working out, good health will follow."

Lois also has an objective once the workout is complete. "When members leave with a smile, I know we are doing our job." ■

For more information, contact Lois Moncel at (480) 981-8135. You also can send an email to LMoncel@RMRCC.com. The Red Mountain Ranch Country Club Fitness Center is located at 6425 E. Teton Circle.



Lois Moncel

LOCAL BUSINESS

Sterling Pools Stresses WATER SAFETY

Submitted by Sterling Pools

Sterling Pools strives to encourage safety around water and prevent drowning and other water-related injuries this summer.

We love to keep your pool looking beautiful, but most importantly, we want your pool and surrounding area to be safe. Here are some pool safety tips:

- Have constant adult supervision when children are in or around the water.
- Install an independent fence or barrier surrounding the pool. Fences should be 5 feet high, and gates should be self-closing and self-latching.
- Install other safety protection, such as alarms on doors.
- During social situations, assign an adult to watch over the pool.
- Don't keep toys around or in the pool.
- Learn CPR.

There are a number of resources around the Valley offering free or low-cost water safety classes and events. Phoenix Children's Hospital and the City of Mesa are great resources for CPR classes and water safety programs. ■

Sterling Pools is offering a free pool safety inspection during the month of June. To schedule your inspection, call Mike Sterling at (480) 241-4206, or visit our Facebook page at Sterling Pools.



Mike Sterling

GOLF, TENNIS, SWIM & FUN CAMP

Monday - Friday
7:30am - 2:00pm
AGES 5 - 17

CAMP DATES

June 1-5, June 8-12,
June 15-19, June 22-26
July 6-10, July 13-17

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Scott Bunker
480-985-0285
SBunker@RMRCC.com

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FOR DETAILS, call Terry at (480) 528-0951 or Email Terry@RMRCC.com

SUMMER SPLASH

Book a pool party for your summertime celebrations today! Whether it's birthdays, reunions, work events or team gatherings, let Red Mountain Ranch Country Club help you inject a bit of summer into your special occasion! Menu & drink options are available for events

Call Lorie Toms at 480-981-6501 x112 or email her at ltoms@rmrcc.com



EDUCATION

SELF DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY Celebrates 15 Years of Success

Submitted by Self Development Academy

May 15 was a special day for Self Development Academy (SDA), as the school celebrated its 15th anniversary. Over the past 15 years, the school has grown tremendously, from a student body of 37 to 450. The campus has expanded, and now includes four buildings, including a Science and Technology Center.

Although the school has developed immensely over the years, certain key aspects have remained consistent, including the commitment to provide and ensure exceptional educational programs to all students. A testament to this commitment is the school's consistent ranking among the top five Arizona schools.

The academic and extracurricular achievements of former students are another testament to the foundation laid at SDA. Cade Cote, Elizabeth Pierson and Molly Trapp, three former students, spoke during the anniversary festivities. The former students spoke about the role SDA played in their lives and in the pursuit of their present educational interests and career aspirations.

The former students acknowledged the nurturing and caring environment established by Dr. Anjum Majeed and fellow teachers as making a difference in their educational experiences. During the program, 15 staff and faculty members were recognized for their years of service, ranging from five to more than 15.

The anniversary celebration included the annual talent show, an event initiated by Max Gau, a former student who returned to emcee the event. The annual talent show provides students with the opportunity to showcase their many talents. Acts included singing, dancing, magic tricks and musical performances. SDA is committed to developing well-rounded students by providing fine arts



programs and extracurricular activities, as well as supporting the pursuits of its students.

The anniversary celebration and annual talent show concluded a week of exciting events, which showcased students' academic achievements and many talents. Earlier in the week, students participated in Field Day, the annual class plays and awards, and a percussion performance.

The annual class plays and awards have become a much-anticipated event. Every year, each class (grades one through eight) performs a play, with each student having a role. Some students even write their class plays. The classes also create backdrops and props. Some of this year's plays included *The Bremen Town Musicians*, *A Bad Case of the Stripes*, *The Boston Tea Party* and *The Wright Flight*. In addition, there were spoofs on Shakespeare's well-known plays.

After each play, students received awards for citizenship, excellence in math facts, honor roll, attendance and participation in reading programs. Hundreds of awards were given to students to honor their achievements. The many May activities, including the 15-year anniversary celebration, served as a wonderful way to conclude the 2014-2015 school year. ■

For more information regarding SDA, please contact the front office at (480) 641-2640.





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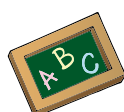


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Grades K-8 (480) 641-2640

1709 N. Greenfield Road Mesa, AZ 85205
www.SelfDevelopmentAcademy.com

LOCAL BUSINESS

Workshops Address Wide Range of Financial Topics

By Donna Kohlbase, CLU, ChFC, CASL

State Farm Insurance offers the following informative workshops to help you make the right decisions about important milestones or financial choices.

YOUR FIRST CAR

This workshop offers information about finding the right car for you, and how to finance it.

YOUR FIRST HOME

First-time home buying tips and tricks are offered in this workshop. Information includes deciding on the right home for you, where to find it, how to negotiate for it, and how to finance it.

YOUR FINANCES

Basic financial education is provided, as well as information on bank products, how to save, budget and maintain good credit.

YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

This workshop focuses on savings and investment products as a way to reach financial stability.

A SLICE OF LIFE

LIFE stands for Lessons In Financial Education. This workshop focuses on young adults. The icon of the pizza is a



way to engage participants and educate them on the different slices of financial subjects, which can help them create a successful financial life. This presentation covers such topics as budgeting, setting financial goals, looking out for credit traps, recognizing the importance of credit and investing for the future.

401K/IRA 101

Thinking about retirement is exciting. But in order to reach retirement, you have to plan. This workshop offers information on various retirement vehicles to consider. The objective is to allow you to save and live comfortably, to enjoy your golden years.

PYRAMID OF NEEDS

Everyone has goals and dreams. As you begin to realize some personal goals and dreams, you may begin to imagine how you want to pass on your assets. This workshop provides information on how to build and leave a legacy for people most important to you.

INSURING YOUR STUFF

This workshop offers information regarding protecting assets, such as your home or automobile. It also provides an overview on disability insurance, in the event you become disabled and unable to work to earn an income to support you and/or your family.

If your group or organization would like to hold one of these workshops, please contact Donna Kohlbase at (480) 396-2140.

COMMUNITY

COSMOS STYLISTS DONATE HIGH STYLE TO ROCK THE RUNWAY FUND-RAISER

Story by Dawn Abbey
Photos by Paul Woodford and Dawn Abbey

There was a huge white tent, bright lights and a runway, celebrities and models in high-fashion attire, but where would they be without the awesome hairstyles and makeup Cosmos stylists created at the Rock the Runway fashion show fund-raiser for Alice Cooper's Solid Rock Teen Center?

This third year for the charity event, hosted by Sheryl Cooper, wife of rock-star legend Alice Cooper, with Lea Woodford, of Smartfem.com, raised more than \$9,000 for the center providing free music and dance classes for at-risk teens. "We've found our home here at Las Sendas Golf Club, which also hosted the Alice Cooper Golf Tournament fund-raiser," said Sheryl.

Just after daybreak, Sandra and Cosmo Barbetta, and their Cosmos Salon and Day Spa staffers, arrived to turn Las Sendas into a high-fashion hair and makeup salon. Armed with their bulging makeup kits and hair styling tools, they spent hours creating hair styles and makeup to augment and complement

the elegant and far-out runway fashions donated by Glam Squad, Vintbikini and others, as well as one-of-kind, hand-painted and embellished clothing by Ruby Farias Designs.

For a showstopper, Sandra fashioned Sheryl Cooper's long tresses into a soft, stylish updo to accommodate the high, stiff collar of Sheryl's runway costume.

Channel 5 TV news anchor Catherine Anaya, a regular client of Sandra's, was given a whole new look with braids and hair pieces to complement the sassy style of her black and white hand-painted dress. Each of the 27 models received a unique look.

"It's all about the kids," said Sandra. "Our staff donates our time and efforts to the fund-raiser because we know the teen center provides a great creative experience and a safe alternative to keep teens off the streets."

Alice Cooper's Solid Rock Teen Center is located at 3625 N. 32nd St. For more information, call (602) 482-3534, or visit AliceCooperSolidRock.com. Cosmos Salon and Day Spa is located at the northeast corner of Power and McDowell roads. Smartfem.com is an online women's magazine.



Local MC Oscar De Las Salas presented models wearing hand-painted and embellished designs from Ruby Farias.



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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 VISTAS PAVILION

New—Chef's Table
Saturday, June 20—6 p.m.
The Garden Room, Vistas Pavilion
****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.

Come spend the evening with Chef Hidalgo, as he presents the Pacific Rim in five courses. Sit at one large table with friends, family, fellow community members and the chef, while he explains cooking styles and ingredients from these exotic, yet not so far off, lands. Food and wine will be brought to you from areas, such as Hawaii, Mazatlan, California and Seattle right to your table here in the Valley.

Consider bringing Dad out to our Chef's Table for a Father's Day treat.
Cost – \$49.95
To make reservations, call (480) 396-4000, or email events@lassendas.com.

We will be hosting two more events in July and August. Check our website at lassendas.com for dates and times.

Father's Day Special
Join us on The Patio or The Grille for Father's Day on Sunday, June 21, and celebrate all the great things your dad has done for you. Enjoy a 14-ounce ribeye, smoked potatoes, pickled onion rings and creamed succotash, all for \$24.95. Reservations can be made at lassendas.com, or call (480) 396-4000.

Summer Wedding Special 2015—June, July and August—\$5,999—extended to September
The Vistas Wedding Pavilion at Las Sendas is pleased to extend our offer of a Summer Special Wedding Package for events booked and hosted in the months of June, July, August and now September.

The total cost is \$5,999 (does not include tax and gratuity) for 50 to 100 guests. **For more information, call us at (480) 396-4000, or visit our website at lassendas.com, and fill out our contact form.**

THE PATIO AND THE GRILLE
Happy Hour—New Extended Hours 3 to 7 p.m.
Starting on June 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—spicy chicken spring rolls, crispy cauliflower,

ahi tuna wraps, pork nachos, and our all-time famous \$5 burger is back.

Our Three for \$30 Menu is back
Choose three items from our three for \$30 menu:
House Salad or Caprese Salad
Roasted Game Hen, Coriander Salmon or Flat Iron Steak
New York Cheesecake or Chocolate Bread Pudding

New Summer Specials		
MON.	Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Mushroom Ragu	\$15.95
TUE.	Farm to Table Tuesday	Market Price
WED.	Wine Down Wednesday	Half Price Wine—most bottles
THU.	Prime Rib 14-ounce	\$21.95
	Prime Rib 10-ounce	\$17.95
	Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables Add Glass of Wine	\$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



THE GOLF SHOP
Ping Custom Club Fitting
Come out and get fit this summer. We're talking *custom fit* for a new set of irons. It's lots of fun and simple, and we have certified custom Ping golf fitters right here at the club. Ping offers the most time-tested fitting process in the golf industry. The three-step process includes an interview to find out what your tendencies are on the course, a static fitting, where measurements are taken to find a starting point for the fitting process, and a dynamic fitting, where you hit balls with fitting tape on the club, to determine the color code for your set of irons.

We also make sure you have the correct size grips for your hands. Improperly fit golf clubs could be adding unnecessary strokes to your score. Once you have the right set of clubs fitted to your swing, you are sure to shave some strokes. So, call us, in the shop, to set up an appointment today. Call (480) 396-0440.

Bubba Limited Edition Pink G30 Driver
This is the coolest driver in Arizona right now... and it can be yours. There are only 60 in the Sunbelt State of Arizona and only 5,000 worldwide. They came out in April, just in time for the Masters, and we are honored and privileged to be the recipient of one for our shop... and it's thanks to our loyal customers who support us and Ping, as well.

Tour professional and two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson is the inspiration for the driver. He has been using a pink driver since he won his first Masters in 2012. You need to act fast, as each course receives only one. Ours is a Men's Stiff Shaft 10.5 degree. So, come on into the shop today to check it out and give it a home, in your golf bag.

Beat the Heat with Great Summer Green Fee Discounts
June 2015 Golf Rates—(includes green fee, golf cart, and practice balls)
Monday through Thursday—Las Sendas Green Fee Special—see coupon below.
Friday through Sunday and holidays—\$48.99 plus tax.
Afternoon Rate—seven days per week after 11 a.m.—\$27.99 plus tax.

\$38.99

green fee and a \$10 replay plus tax.

Valid Monday through Thursday. Expires June 30, 2015.
One coupon per foursome. Please present this coupon.

A CLOSER LOOK AT LAS SENDAS GOLF CLUB (CONTINUED)

Golfers Special—after 1 p.m.

Green Fee - \$29 plus tax - includes a \$15 food and beverage voucher that can be used for The Grille or The Patio.
Tee times can be made seven days in advance.
Voucher expires September 30, 2015.

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

Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21.
25 percent off all men's golf apparel, golf bags and golf shoes.
Other discounts do not apply. Special orders not included.

July 4 Red, White and Blue Sale

Friday, July 3 through Sunday, July 5.
Choose from select items at 50 percent off.
Other discounts do not apply.

Play a game of golf with your dad for free

Sunday, June 21—all juniors under 17 play for free with a full paying father.

GOLF ACADEMY

Junior Golf Sticks Summer Program—Join in on the fun

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

Starting 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 lassendas.com. You also can email Tracy Berman at tberman@lassendas.com, or call her at (602) 920-8208.

Summer Adult Men's and Ladies' Lessons

Summer is a great time in Arizona to work on your game. Most leagues and tournaments are finished for the season, and we offer tee times at our discounted rates for the summer. Come out and learn what is helping so many golfers at Las Sendas improve. We have numerous hourly, daily and monthly lesson packages available with great summer pricing. For more information, contact David Huffman at (480) 677-1533.

Las Sendas Community Ladies' Lessons

We have ladies' lessons carefully designed for the new female golfer or someone interested in learning the game with friends. Come and enjoy the success Malaska golf students are experiencing, and learn this great game. For more information, contact David Huffman at (480) 677-1533.

New Membership Offerings are Selling Don't miss out

You already know about Las Sendas and what the club has to offer. Don't delay in making a decision about a membership. Our programs are selling and selling now, especially the Proxy memberships. We had 10 available, and there are only five left. They will not be offered again. If you are a seasonal visitor and don't want to miss out, contact us, so we can help you get in on these offers.

Proxy Membership—no initiation fee and only \$345/month/family member Only five 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 a few Proxy memberships remaining.



Non-Refundable Golf Membership \$15,000—nine remaining

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- 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.

Check out lassendas.com, under Membership Programs, for a comparison chart of membership options. For more information, contact Wayne Crandall at (480) 396-4000. You also can email him at wcrandall@lassendas.com. ■

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REAL ESTATE

MAKE YOUR BEST OFFER

Better In A Seller's Market

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



Our housing market is still going strong, with fewer active listings over the same time last year, and more pending sales.

With fewer homes for buyers to choose from, and more buyers ready to purchase, we have started to see our market change from a buyer's market to a seller's market, and have already seen the multiple offers situation again in some areas.

In a seller's market, competition can get fierce, and it's important for the buyer to present the best offer they can right up front.

If you are getting ready to purchase a home, here are just a few options you can use to improve your offer and make it more attractive to the seller.

Keep Your Offer Clean—If you don't have to, don't ask for closing costs. Don't ask for the seller to pay for a home warranty or for the HOA transfer fee. Don't ask for the fridge, washer, dryer or other personal items, which are not included in the sale of the home.

Have a Fully Completed Prequalification Form from Your Lender—With just a phone call, you can get a prequalification from your lender in order to submit an offer. This is great if you are in a crunch and need one quickly in order to submit an offer. It can hurt you, though, if there are multiple offers.

There are a number of boxes on the *prequal* asking the lender how much information they have received. For example, it asks if the lender has received the buyer's

paystubs, tax returns, proof of down payment, etc. If these boxes are marked *No*, this tells the seller the *prequal* is based on limited information the lender has received. If all these boxes are marked *Yes*, the seller knows the buyer is well qualified, and the lender has received all the required documentation. This will make it a stronger offer. The seller will look at all the offers, and will accept the highest and best. Note the fact it's not just the highest offer, but also the best offer. Your offer may be \$1,000 higher than the next, but, if your prequalification has most boxes marked *No*, and the other offer has all their boxes marked *Yes*, the other offer is a stronger offer. Therefore, the seller may choose that over the higher price.

Earnest Deposit—Typically, the earnest deposit in Arizona is around 1 percent. By offering a higher earnest deposit, you are showing the seller you are a serious buyer and willing to put more skin in the game.

Buying As Is—This is a big one for the seller. After an offer has been accepted, there is the inspection period, when the buyer can ask the seller to make repairs to the home. We see too often where this stage of the buying process can make or break a deal, or it certainly can cause a lot of headaches. Sellers hate to know they will have to negotiate or come out of pocket for repairs based on what

the buyer requests. If you are in a multiple offer situation, and you really want the home, and feel comfortable enough that you are willing to pay for repairs yourself, writing the offer *As Is* will certainly entice the seller to accept yours over others. Just because you are buying *As Is* doesn't mean you lose any of your rights during the inspection period. It just means you are willing to accept the property *As Is*, and will not ask the seller to do any repairs.

You still get the 10 days to do all your inspections. If any major repairs are needed or anything more than what you are willing to accept is found during the inspections, you can cancel the contract, and get a full refund of your earnest deposit.

Make It Personal—I am always surprised when I receive an offer from an agent via email without a phone call first or any information about the buyer. Write a cover letter to the seller to be submitted with your offer.

Let the seller know a little about you, that you are a strong and serious buyer, how much you love their home, and why it's the perfect home for you and your family. Sellers like to hear how someone else loves their home like they do. It adds a human touch, and makes it more personal rather than just pieces of paper.

If you are thinking of buying a home and want to present the best offer possible, or would like more information, please contact me. We can discuss all the options available to you. ■

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 Inventory and Sales for May			
	2014	2015	Difference
Active	1326	1114	-16.0%
Pending	645	766	18.8%

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EDUCATION

Mesa Public Schools Receives Nine A+ SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Story by
Laurie Struna
Photo by
Tim Hacker
It's a big deal when a school receives an A+ School of Excellence Award from the Arizona Educational Foundation.



This makes it easy to understand the ripple of excitement felt by Mesa Public Schools when an unprecedented nine schools joined the elite group of A+ schools. Highland Arts, Ishikawa, Keller, Mendoza, Porter, Robson, Sirrine, Sousa and Washington elementary schools received word of the selection in April.

RECOGNIZING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The awards reflect the district's commitment to providing quality education and maintaining high standards of academic achievement.

"It is gratifying to know the judges recognized our efforts as we strive for excellence both academically and socially in a safe and supportive environment," said Rene Parker, principal at Sirrine Elementary School.

The application process is a significant undertaking. Schools are evaluated on student focus and support, school culture, active teaching and learning, curriculum, leadership, community and parent involvement, as well as assessment data.

For Ishikawa Elementary School, this is their second time receiving the A+ designation. Principal Shelley Heath shared their secret to success. "It's built upon dedicated and skilled teachers, and parents who work in partnership with the staff and students who show power in leadership and pride in achievement every day," she said.

THE ART OF ACHIEVEMENT

This achievement is indicative of school communities committed to building life-long learners, and demonstrates meeting the needs of their student population. There is an overwhelming sense of pride in students, staff members and parents. They are excited to be part of a school recognized with this distinguished honor, and will gladly tell you so.

A student from Sousa Elementary School stated, "Because of all the student and staff support, when students come to Sousa, they stay at Sousa."

A SENSE OF JUBILATION

The morning Porter Elementary School received word of their accomplishment, Principal Paula Warren greeted parents by holding a large sign with a big metallic A+. Parents honked their horns and shook hands with the principal. During announcements, students did the happy dance to Kool and the Gang's *Celebration*.

"This award identifies and gives recognition that Porter Elementary is an outstanding public school," Principal Warren shared. "This is extremely important, because, in Arizona, parents can choose where they want to send their child to school, and our community is aware their neighborhood school is outstanding."

The Arizona Educational Foundation created the A+ School of Excellence Program in 1983 as a comprehensive school assessment tool to identify, celebrate and recognize overall educational excellence in schools throughout Arizona. Award-winning schools receive \$500 and a banner designating it as an A+ School of Excellence. All faculty at winning schools are eligible for partial scholarships from Argosy University, Phoenix. ■

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

HEALTH

Student Athletes Can Get FREE SPORTS PHYSICALS

Submitted by Mountain Vista Medical Center
This summer, Mountain Vista Medical Center will host a seminar and sponsor student athlete physicals. The seminar, *Combatting Hip and Knee Pain and Sports Injuries*, takes place on June 10, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at Red Mountain Ranch Country Club, located at 6425 E. Teton Circle.

Brian McWhorter, DO and Tim Bert, MD will present the seminar. RSVP at mvmedicalcenter.com/events, or call (877) 924-WELL (9355).

Sponsored by Mountain Vista Medical Center, doctors at Desert Grove Family Medical, located at 10238 E. Hampton Ave., Suite 508, will offer free sports physicals to students (regardless of whether the individual has insurance) on one selected Saturday a month, from June through August.

Sports physicals will be offered on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on June 13, July 18 and Aug. 8.

Most school districts now require physical exams prior to enrollment in sports and other extracurricular activities. A sports physical is required in Arizona for students interested in participating in school athletics and sports, along with summer camps, clinics and more.

The medical providers at Desert Grove Family Medical are committed to your family's health and well-being. From annual check-ups and immunizations, to sudden illness and sports injuries, you are minutes away from receiving the caring services you and your family need. Their focus is on preventive health care, including making healthy lifestyle choices. Desert Grove Family Medical providers will take the time to educate you and your family about your health care condition, and help you develop a successful recovery plan. ■

To schedule a free sports physical, call (480) 834-7546.





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EDUCATION

Red Mountain Rampage INVITE BRINGS GOOD COMPETITION

By Sharon Wozny
There is no better way to celebrate a new track at Red Mountain High School than to hold your first annual Red Mountain Rampage Invite. This past April, a total of 16 teams from around the state, including Corona Del Sol High School, in Tempe, and Marana High School, in Tucson, together with other Division 1 and Division 2 schools, invaded Red Mountain to compete in a variety of track and field events. The invite ran on time and smoothly, with compliments all around for head coach Brett Krieg. "Without the help of all the other coaches, the administration and,



of course, the Parent Booster Club, this invite wouldn't have been as successful as it was," said Coach Krieg. "The atmosphere was exhilarating, with everyone using our new facility," stated Taryn, a senior. Many of the athletes described the home crowd enthusiasm. It made running at home exciting. Taryn had a season best time in the 2-mile, and her 1-mile time was a great qualifier for state. Coach Krieg motivates his team with a friendly, engaging, positive and encouraging attitude. They respond to him with a willingness to dig deeper. Many personal best times were set. As Taylor Brenden and Corienne Clarkson agreed, they love the team aspect of the 4 by 800 meter relay. It makes them want to try a bit harder. A discus throw by Cameron Lewis was 166 feet, and Dylan Kerr handled the hurdles with ease. Jack Wickens, a freshman, not only participated in the triple jump, but he also helped at the meet, and worked other areas to keep the event running on time. Kenneth Webb, a senior, loves to help his teammates. Watch for the Rampage to return next year with even more exciting times and records being set. ■

For more information about Red Mountain track and/or this invite for 2016, contact Coach Krieg at mpsaz.org/rmhbs, or visit the Red Mountain Track page on the website at mpsaz.org/rmhbs/athletics/programs/track.

HEALTH

Studies show need for WISDOM TEETH REMOVAL

**By Dr. C. Martin Farnsworth, DMD
Las Sendas Dental Health**
Over the years, questions have been raised about the efficacy (prudent need) of third molar (wisdom) teeth removal as a preventive measure, compared with waiting for pathology (problems) to develop. The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Board of Trustees endorsed the concept clinical and biological research was needed to further investigate the answers to these questions. In 1993, a special committee was appointed to critically review existing literature, and to design a prospective longitudinal clinical trial, which could give us more information, and continue to build upon our knowledge in the future. Multiple universities and doctors have been involved since then, and the data has been collected into what has become known as the Third Molar Clinical Trials. From these clinical trials, there have been more than 70 articles or abstracts published, all yielding scientifically based reasons supporting the removal of asymptomatic wisdom teeth before problems ever arise. These studies include evidence for increased risk of bone loss and periodontal disease around the second molars, increased risk of decay on the second molars and premature loss of the second molars due to external resorption.

In addition, there is evidence for a risk of chronic oral inflammation, with negative impact on cardiovascular, obstetrics, metabolic and renal outcomes. Further publications also have shown increased risk of worsening of periodontal disease among pregnant women with retained third molars, and risk of pre-term, low birth weight babies. The findings also provide validation for prompt intervention of wisdom teeth removal to avoid adverse health-related quality of life issues, such as pain, oral function and resuming a normal lifestyle. The evaluation of wisdom teeth is part of the normal exam your dentist does on a regular basis. Sometimes, an additional X-ray, called a panoramic, is needed to look at all the surrounding anatomical structures when determining the health/risk benefits surrounding the keeping or removing of wisdom teeth. Regardless of age, or with or without pain, the evaluation of a person's wisdom teeth should be done periodically to help prevent future problems. ■

For more information, or to have your questions answered, please contact Dr. Derek Farnsworth at (480) 396-9685, or Dr. Martin Farnsworth at (480) 283-5854. Las Sendas Dental Health is located at 2947 N. Power Road, Suite 103. Sossaman Dental Health and Implant Center is located at 1228 S. Sossaman Road.





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LOCAL BUSINESS

DON'T LET IT GET YOUR GOAT NOW THAT Flancer's Gourmet Grub is here

By Dawn Abbey

Almost everyone who's ever eaten at Flancer's restaurants in Mesa or Gilbert has probably heard *The Legend of the Flancer Goat*, a mythical creature who lived thousands of years ago in Southern Arizona, then a lush green land.

With his voracious appetite for fresh, succulent and delicious food, the goat turned Arizona into a desert. Although some believe the Flancer goat to be extinct, many claim to have seen a flash of him while dining at Flancer's.

Now 15 years later, the goat, a bit more mature, has a slightly altered appearance, and Flancer's restaurants are now being known as Flancer's Gourmet Grub. But don't let it get your goat. "Our regulars have nothing to fear, since we're not changing our menu, but we will be adding more gourmet grub to our offerings," said owner Jeff Flancer about the name and logo update.

"We've always been more than our original name, Flancer's Incredible Sandwiches and Pizzeria," Jeff said. "Everyone has always said our food was more gourmet and unique than just your average sandwich or pizza."

For instance, you don't just get a chicken sandwich at Flancer's. You get a prickly-pear-marinated chicken breast with melted provolone, lettuce and tomato and homemade New Mexican green chile mayo on their own fresh-baked bread.

Flancer's has stayed current with items, such as gluten-free pizza and sandwich breads, and often presents a local twist, like incorporating seasonal organic vegetables from Queen Creek's Desert Root Farm into salads.

The original Flancer goat was created back in the

late 90s by one of Jeff's high school buddies, an artist. "He had also created logos for my former restaurant in Santa Fe," related Jeff, "and it's odd, because I had been thinking of updating things when we got back together over New Year's, after not seeing each other for decades."

It was actually Jeff's friends who brought up the idea of updating the goat. "After exchanging stories and ideas, and downing a couple of brews, my friend exclaimed, 'We need to change this goat up.' So, we did. And I have a really good feeling about it. Our Facebook fans were overwhelmingly positive, too," he said. "It will be a process over time. We've gone through a couple of updates in the past, and it always gets a little bit better."

This summer, Jeff is returning to his alma mater, Culinary Institute of America, in New York, to participate in a menu seminar. So, Flancer's can continue with its motto of *Rockin' Your Taste Buds Since the Year 2000*.

His plan is not to mess with what's good, but perhaps tweak things a little, like adding less salt or oil, minor changes for healthier options without diminishing the quality or taste. "We'll keep people's favorites," he said, "and try out a few new things, too."

Jeff credits his staff for the huge part they play in making Flancer's what they are known for, which is making gourmet grub with a unique twist on new and old favorites, peppered with friendly service, in a quaint neighborhood eatery.

That should keep the Flancer goat happy. ■



Flancer's Gourmet Grub is located at 1902 N. Higley Road, Mesa, (480) 396-0077, and 610 N. Gilbert Road, Gilbert, (480) 926-9077. For more information, or to order online, visit flancers.com.

ORGANIZING

Avoid Procrastination By DEVELOPING A PLAN OF ACTION

By Nancy Nemitz

If just thinking about tomorrow's task pricks the hair on the back of your neck, or just thinking about the task compels you to do something more trivial, you are probably procrastinating.

This is according to University of Calgary economist Piers Steel.

Studies show impulsive people are easily diverted by temptations cropping up in the middle of a project. Procrastinators fear failure. They will put off the task so they won't be judged.

Solutions offered by experts in the field of procrastination

- Get started. Anticipating the task is often worse than the task turns out to be.
- Pick the lesser of two evils—do the task, and risk imperfection; or avoid the task, and lose your job.
- Setting your own deadline can make you a better performer.
- Commit to a specific time and place to get the task done.

What are you going to do when you are tempted to avoid the task? Have a plan. ■

Nancy Nemitz works with clients to help them be more productive. Her company is Create the Space Professional Organizing. You can reach her at nancy@createthespace.com.



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REAL ESTATE

Facing the Decision to Downsize
CAN PRESENT A DILEMMA

By John Karadsheh

Have you thought about downsizing? We have had a steady stream of clients, this year, who are looking to scale back their maintenance, expenses or both. We will admit, it is not always an easy process, but with some forward thought and planning, it can be both positive and liberating.



John Karadsheh

The first thing to do when embarking on a downsize adventure is to truly define why you want to downsize, and define why that is positive. Maybe downsizing allows you to work less or retire early. Perhaps the move will allow more time for family or resources for travel. Maybe the change will simply provide peace of mind. Our clients, who have established their goals and focused on them, have found happiness in the process. They feel more liberated and less like they are having to compromise.

Secondly, think about how you are going to use your home in the next five to 10 years, and then prioritize your wants and needs. Perhaps, you love to restore cars, and a three-car garage is a priority. For someone else, a gated community, with yard maintenance included, is key because they travel frequently. Another person may just want to eliminate his mortgage.

The challenge with downsizing is most clients have everything they want in their current home. So, the process of giving something up feels uncomfortable, after a lifetime of trying to move up the ladder.

Next, evaluate the costs. If you are downsizing to reduce expenses, carefully consider your current expenses,

and run scenarios for what the expenses in your next home may be (we can help with this).

Perhaps your idea is to move from a single-family home into a condo. While this sounds like a great idea, will it really be less expensive? HOA fees in condo communities are normally much higher, so it is worth taking into account whether the savings on pool and landscape maintenance, for example, will offset these other fees.

Before you actually have to move, do a pre-move, and sort through your things. When downsizing, it is not possible to take everything from a 3,500-square-foot, three-car garage home, and fit them into a 1,600-square-foot condo, with a two-car garage.

Also, if you are trying to simplify your life, getting a storage unit for the extras probably is not the answer. We will admit this part of downsizing can be a difficult process, but, if you focus on the end goal, you can liberate yourself from the burden of stuff.

Speak to your kids and loved ones, and see if they can use your duplicates. Keep just the things you love and will use every day. One of our clients recently told us she decided from now on to just use her Waterford glasses and sterling silver every day. "What are we saving

them for?" she said with a laugh. "With our luck, our kids will just donate the lot to Goodwill. So, we may as well enjoy them now."

Enjoy now, free yourself from storing and maintaining stuff, and you will find a lighter, happier life, no matter your age. ■

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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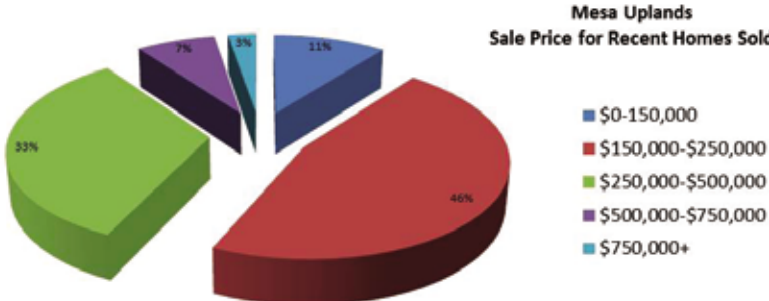
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2024 N 88TH ST	1,807	MOUNTAIN BRIDGE	\$304,368
6202 E MCKELLIPS RD 22	1,638	TUSCANY VILLAS	\$317,000
2329 E JASMINE ST	2,536	COUNTRY PARK	\$323,000
9418 E HALIFAX ST	2,202	SIERRA ESTATES	\$323,500
3116 E MINTON ST	2,861	VISTA MESA	\$327,000
2843 E NORCROFT CIR	2,124	VISTA MESA	\$329,000
4035 E GLENCOVE ST	3,310	ESTATE GROVES	\$330,000
2511 E LYNWOOD ST	2,808	CITRUS HIGHLANDS	\$335,000
1430 N ESTRADA ST	3,239	GRANDVIEW ESTATES	\$339,900
6202 E MCKELLIPS RD 309	1,880	TUSCANY VILLAS	\$340,000
2955 E HERMOSA VISTA DR	3,311	VISTA MESA	\$348,000
2548 N LEMA DR	1,948	APACHE WELLS	\$353,000
6202 E MCKELLIPS RD 116	1,804	TUSCANY VILLAS	\$356,000
7917 E PALM LN	2,542	COUNTRY ISLAND	\$363,000
8340 E INCA ST	2,383	MOUNTAIN BRIDGE	\$365,000
5353 E HERMOSA VISTA DR	1,758	APACHE WELLS	\$369,900
1510 N BERNARD CIR	3,025	SIERRA ESTATES	\$371,000
3011 E GRANDVIEW ST	2,200	MESA NORTHGROVE	\$382,000
5345 E MCLELLAN RD 8	3,027	ALTA MESA	\$392,000
3505 E MCDOWELL RD	2,346	COUNTRY ISLAND	\$400,000
3125 N 82ND ST	2,484	COUNTRY ISLAND	\$406,500
2923 E HALE ST	3,806	MESA NORTHGROVE	\$415,000
2433 E MENLO ST	3,559	HERMOSA DEL SOL ESTATES	\$429,000
1402 N RECKER RD	3,302	COUNTRY ISLAND	\$430,000
8518 E LOCKWOOD ST	2,690	MOUNTAIN BRIDGE	\$447,950
2112 N 80th PL	3,276	ESTATES AT DESERT SHADOWS	\$449,900
3041 N SOSSAMAN RD	1,959	COUNTRY ISLAND	\$450,000
3909 E ELMWOOD ST	3,338	TROVITA ESTATES	\$465,000
3730 E MENLO ST	4,475	EL CAMINO DOLCE	\$515,000
8757 E NANCE ST	2,965	MADRID	\$519,000
1508 N ALTA MESA DR 121	2,753	ALTA MESA	\$538,000
8720 E NORCROFT CIR	3,940	MADRID	\$540,000
3529 E NORCROFT CIR	4,276	HERMOSA GROVES NORTH	\$540,000
9520 E NANCE ST	3,142	ESTATES AT BOULDER MOUNTAIN	\$559,900
2706 N ADAIR CIR	3,313	ESTATES AT BOULDER MOUNTAIN	\$570,000
8714 E LAUREL ST	4,251	MOUNTAIN BRIDGE	\$813,000
1440 N 40TH ST 7	5,913	CENTRE COURT	\$850,000
2303 N HILLRIDGE	5,284	MOUNTAIN BRIDGE	\$927,900

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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Mesa Uplands Market Report

	Average	Low	High
Square Footage	2,100 sq. ft.	640 sq. ft.	5,913 sq. ft.
List Price	\$69,700	\$69,700	\$69,700
Sale Price	\$283,119	\$69,000	\$957,434
Price / Sq. Ft.	\$131.87	\$84.64	\$210.41
Days on Market	88	2	513



Sale Price Range	\$0-150,000	\$150,000-250,000	\$250,000-500,000	\$500,000-750,000	\$750,000+
Number Sold	20	88	63	14	5

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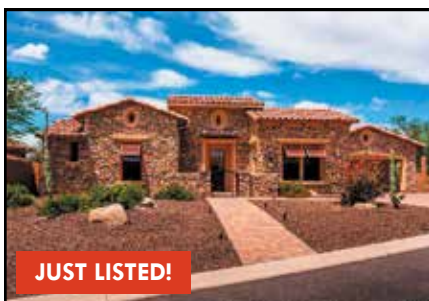
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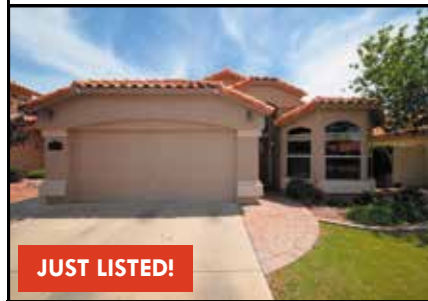


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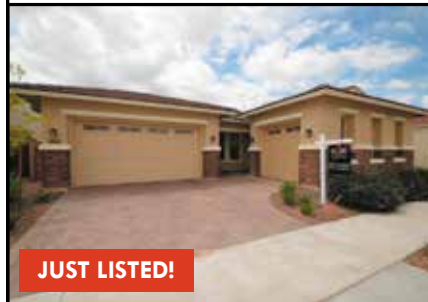
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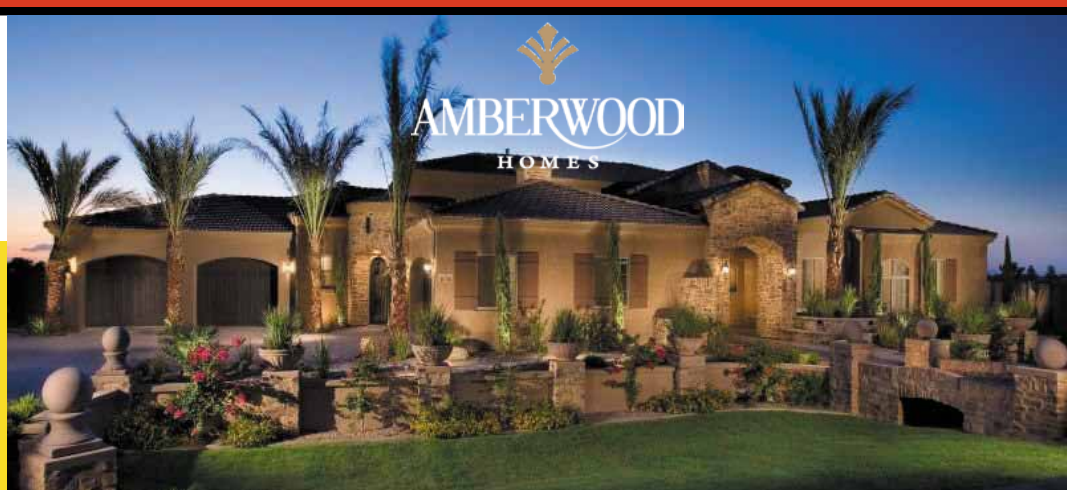
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COMMUNITY

Her dream to be a Rockette is on trajectory

By Dawn Abbey

When she was just a little girl, Hannah Ruckle remembers watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on television, and being awestruck by the high-kicking Rockettes dance troupe.

"It was almost magical," Hannah recalled. "Their amazing precision intrigued me."

It was then she decided she wanted to be a dancer, and, in fact, a Rockette. So, from second grade on, she has been seriously involved in dance lessons and the art of dance, including dance production at Red Mountain High School.

Now, at 17, her dream is starting to unfold. Last January, Hannah auditioned in Los Angeles, and earned one of the coveted spots in the Rockettes Summer Intensive. This comprehensive summer training program is set for July, at Radio City Music Hall, in New York City.

"The Rockettes had auditions all over the country, as well as video submissions. There were at least 100 girls trying out in LA," Hannah said. "We all had to learn three different dance routines, jazz, tap and high kicking, to perform for the judges."

But Hannah almost didn't make it. "I came down with the flu two days before the audition, and it continued throughout the time I was in LA," she said. "The day of the audition, I still wasn't feeling well, but I pushed through it. Three months later, I got notice that I was chosen."



Hannah's first dance instructor, Elle Eckardt, owner of Elle's Dance Studio at Red Mountain Ranch Country Club, isn't surprised. "When she first started classes, you could see she was special—a stage presence," she said. "Your eye goes to her. She is so driven and focused. She practiced, practiced, practiced," Elle continued. "She is so inspiring to other girls—to let them see it can really happen."

Hannah, who has never even been to Radio City Music Hall, or seen the Rockettes in person, can't believe she will be studying eight hours a day for a week in this hallowed arena. "We will be taught routines in tap, jazz and ballet, and then give a live performance at New York University," she said.

After graduation in 2016, Hannah plans to major in dance and minor in business at college. However, if other opportunities arise, she is open to them. "I'd like a career in dance, and especially with the Rockettes," she said. "Eventually, I would like to open my own dance studio to encourage other kids to follow their dreams."

For more information about Elle's Dance Studio, at Red Mountain Ranch Country Club, send an email to Elle121@aol.com.



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Sierra Prep Faculty and Staff Go (and Fall) the Extra Mile

By Edward Denny
Founder and Headmaster of Sierra Prep

Many years ago, one of my students—a particularly brilliant student—came to me with a problem. I was teaching chemistry and physics at the time, and he was puzzled by Galileo’s famous thought experiment concerning gravity. “I understand the formulas and concepts we study in class, and I realize Galileo must be right, given all we know, but I just don’t believe it.”

I asked, “Believe what, exactly?” “I can’t believe two objects of different mass will fall at exactly the same rate and hit the ground at the same time,” he said with frustration.

Being the teacher I am, I responded, “Hmmm,” which, apparently, was not very helpful.

So, we tried doing experiments to construct a convincing argument, and I remember wishing we lived closer to the Leaning Tower of Pisa to reconstruct Galileo’s experiment, which disproved Aristotle’s theory of gravity. But alas, Tempe was too far from Pisa, and the administrators at Arizona State University frown on dropping things from the top of the Physical Sciences building.

After much discussion with me and other teachers, he eventually was convinced intellectually if not spiritually, and went off to college to reinvent computers and have a fantastic career in the tech world.

Years later, just a few weeks ago in fact, that same student, Joseph Irvine, who is now Sierra Prep’s IT guru and on the board of directors, sent me a photo and an ecstatic email explaining he finally was able to experience, truly experience, what Galileo had theorized hundreds of years ago. Joseph, it seems, decided to jump out of a plane.

Strapped to a tandem jumper with a combined weight of perhaps 400 pounds, Joseph jumped at the same time as a photographer, who was many pounds lighter, and they all fell at the same rate keeping perfectly even with each other. Joseph is now a believer, or perhaps better stated, a knower.



This is the kind of dedication to learning we expect from our faculty, staff and board at Sierra Prep. We take nothing for granted, and, in accordance with the Socratic method, question everything—to the point some of us are willing to leap from planes in the name of real education.

Sometimes a book, a discussion or a classroom experiment is enough to truly understand a concept, and sometimes, dramatic experience outside the classroom is required. What I particularly appreciate about our team members is their worldly experience and willingness to share with our students.

Here are just a few stories from some of our extraordinary faculty:

Eli Ferbrache (humane letters and middle school history) came to us from Ohio, with a banjo on his knee and years of experience teaching music, humanities and math, including several years in Alaska, where he was an itinerant teacher for the Iditarod Area School District. He has been a Pioneer Farm Intern at Mount Vernon, Va., a wilderness experience leader, and the president of the Contra Dance Collective, at St. John’s College.

What I find really fascinating about him, however,

is the fact he spent a year teaching at Transylvania University, in Lexington, Ky., on a Fulbright Scholarship, before settling down here in Arizona with his artist wife Anne. He often reminisces about hiking the Carpathian Mountains in Romania, and he will tell fun Dracula stories if you ask him.

Physics teacher Lee Willcockson will direct the Sierra Prep Maker Space. He hails from Colorado, but recently has been working as an engineer in Minnesota. Not only was he the recipient of a 2006 Astronaut Scholarship, personally given to him by NASA Astronaut Scott Carpenter, he also is a registered EMT and a professional rock-climbing instructor.

In addition, he serves as a volunteer search and rescue backcountry ski patroller. As an avid cyclist, he will be leading SPA’s Bike Club, with our office manager Minnie Swetel who, with her husband, successfully runs the annual Chino Grinder, a 106-mile, gravel road, ultra-endurance cycling event here in Arizona.

There are too many extraordinary stories about our team to tell in one article... like the stories about Mary Beth Innes (math and economics) whose vast experience in business includes managing the launch of Verizon and Cricket in this area, or the stories of Tracy Challis (middle school dean and humanities teacher) who spent time teaching orphans in Katwe, Uganda, or the stories by and about Amy Lively (history and writing) who is widely published in the fields of history and baseball.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge Darryl Orletsky, our lead teacher of natural philosophy. He now has officially completed his PhD in curriculum and instruction in mathematics at Arizona State University. Dr. Orletsky is one of the most impressive teachers I have ever met, and all of us offer him the heartiest of congratulations for his achievement.

I am truly humbled by the people who have shown their dedication to, and belief in, Sierra Prep. If you want to meet any of our extraordinary staff, please join us for our weekly open houses in June and July. For more information, visit sierraprepaz.org. ■



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EVENT

National Get Outdoors Day Promises to be Fun

By Lynda Breault
Grab your pirate hats and celebrate the eighth annual National Get Outdoors Day (GO Day) event at Salt River Tubing, on Saturday, June 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Prime goals of the event will be reaching first-time visitors to public lands and reconnecting our teens to the great outdoors. Buccaneers can frolic in the pirate-themed merriment as costumed Salt River Tubing employees and pirate warships (shuttle buses) ferry the Salt River pirates to and from the river.

The Salt River Pirates/National Get Outdoors Day (GO Day) attracts thousands of buccaneers, and is the second highest visitation day on the Salt River during the summer season. Yo Ho Ho and a bottle of water!

PIRATE TREASURES FOR BUCCANEERS

Salt River Tubing officials will tender free pirate bandanas to the first 1,000 buccaneers during National Get Outdoors Day. As an added bonus, Salt River Tubing also will be giving 500 pirate treasure bags to the first 500 groups upon tube rental return. These bags will be filled with pirate bandanas, public land brochures, \$7 discount tube rental coupons and other treasures.

The company also will award free tubing passes to participants throughout the event for the best tuber costumes. Salt River Tubing's infamous pirate line-dancers will be performing hourly during the event. Live entertainment will be offered by KKFR Power 98 radio station, including water cannon battles, pirate coin grabbers, contests and free giveaways.



Invited exhibitors include Tonto National Forest and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Lake Patrol. Celebrate National Get Outdoors Day with a splash and extra sizzle at Salt River Pirates. Yo Ho Ho and a bottle of water!

"The success of the Forest

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

According to ARC, GO Day partnered with federal, state and local agencies, key enthusiast organizations and recreation businesses to create a healthy, fun day of outdoor adventure aimed at reaching first-time visitors to public lands and reconnecting children to the outdoors. Last year, more than 100 official GO Day sites across the nation welcomed thousands of new faces to the joy and benefits of the great outdoors.

Salt River Tubing's pirate-themed event endeavors to capture the attention of teens and their families, and the results have been overwhelmingly positive with their turnout on GO Day.

Salt River Tubing is open seven days a week. Daily hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The latest tube rental is 2 p.m., with weather and water flow permitting.

The cost of tube rental is \$17 per person/tube (includes sales tax) for tube rental and



shuttle bus service all day.

Children must be 8 years old or older and at least 4 feet tall for tube rental and shuttle bus service.

Glass containers are prohibited by law in the Lower Salt River Recreational Area and will be confiscated. Ice chests and coolers will be inspected for glass containers before boarding shuttle buses. Have a great time on the Lower Salt River by responsibly appointing a designated driver before beginning your tubing adventure. Drugs, alcohol and the Salt River do not mix. Play it safe, and just don't do it.

Salt River Tubing is located in beautiful Tonto National Forest and operates under permit of the USDA Forest Service. The fun is just seven minutes from the Loop 202 East, Exit 23A, on Power Road and Bush Highway, in Northeast Mesa.

Please click on saltrivertubing.com or player.vimeo.com/video/97024793, [Pirates2013](https://www.facebook.com/Pirates2013) and [Pirates@The Salt River](https://www.facebook.com/Pirates@TheSaltRiver) to view fun-filled Salt River Pirate videos on National Get Outdoors Day. ■

For more information about Salt River Tubing and National Get Outdoors Day (GO Day), please visit the websites at saltrivertubing.com and nationalgetoutdoorsday.org, or call (480) 984-3305.

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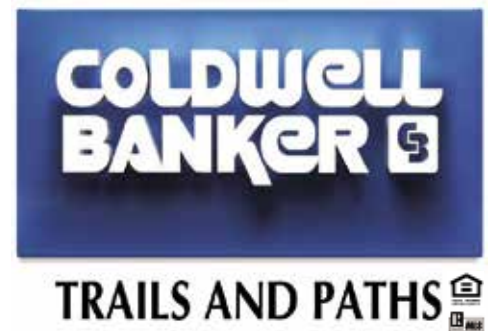
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REAL ESTATE

SALE PRICES CONTINUE TO IMPROVE IN the Valley Residential Real Estate Market

By Ron Brown
Owner, Coldwell Banker
Trails and Paths

The seller's market in Phoenix has continued to strengthen into May, which is typically the most active month for new contract activity every year.

The supply of homes for sale in the MLS is now 22 percent below historically normal levels, while demand is 2 percent above normal. This places the Cromford Market Index (CMI) at 129.3, indicating a strong and growing seller advantage.

The lack of choice for buyers is giving sellers an advantage in negotiation, and causing sales prices to rise in many areas, but not as sharply as you might think for the majority of homes. The primary lack of supply is in single family homes below \$200,000. However, it's starting to decline further in the \$200,000 to \$300,000 range, as well. This has been good for condominium and townhouse sales, which have been supplementing supply in these price ranges and seeing increased buyer interest.

QUARTERLY MEDIAN SALES PRICE RISING

In the Phoenix metro area, 50 percent of all sales are below \$205,000 so far in the second quarter of 2015. That



is up 3.3 percent from the first quarter measurement of \$198,500. Historically, the median price for this quarter is comparable to the second quarter of 2008 (\$207,000) and between the first and second quarters of 2005 (\$197,000 to \$238,000).

Our market today is nothing like the spike of 2005 or the fall of 2008, however. Supply was much lower, and demand was much higher in 2005, which put the CMI at a record high of 312 compared to our current value of 129.

In 2008, supply was much higher and demand much lower than today, with a catastrophic and near-record low CMI of 30. The farther away the CMI gets from 100, the more dramatically prices will respond in either direction. Sale prices are expected to continue rising in the short term, but at a more gradual and sustainable rate over time.

Not surprisingly, the highest percentage increases in sales price per square foot are in the lowest price ranges. Working from an already small base means even similar dollar differences will produce varying percentages across price ranges. The price range that stands out the most is \$100,000 to \$150,000, with a whopping \$7.33 per square foot increase and 8.4 percent difference from last year.

While the dollar increase in the over \$1 million price range also is eye-catching, it's not caused by a lack of supply. In fact, there are a wide variety of luxury products

available, and square footage is not a primary factor in price. Demand is up this year, and buyers have significant choice in products, such as high rise condominiums, horse properties, mountaintop lots and sprawling estates. Because of the varying square footage of these different luxury products, combined with a comparatively small dataset of sales scattered throughout the Valley, the monthly sales price per square foot in this price range can be erratic, with great fluctuations from one month to the next.

HOW MESA COMPARES TO THE OVERALL MARKET

The market in Mesa is mirroring the overall market under \$300,000, and is cooler than the overall market over \$300,000. Buyers over \$300,000 are getting more home for their money in Mesa versus the Phoenix metropolitan area as a whole.

On the lower end, there are literally more properties under contract than active for sale between \$100,000 and \$200,000, creating a frenzy situation for buyers in competition with each other for smaller homes. There isn't much relief if buyers go up or down a notch in price as it just goes from frenzy to extremely hot.

Appraisals have been a key factor in maintaining a calmer appreciation rate despite the frenetic atmosphere. The majority of buyers require a loan, and thus an appraisal. Those who have already gone through a short sale or foreclosure in the past seven years are less willing or able to pay significantly over appraisal than they were in more confident times.

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

MESA ONLY April 2015 Activity By Price Range	MESA ONLY Avg. Sales \$/ SF April '14	MESA ONLY Avg. Sales \$/SF April '15	Dollar Difference	Percent Difference	MESA Median Size by Price Range	MESA Active For Sale	MESA Under Contract	MESA Buyer Activity Level
Under \$100,000	\$71.82	\$74.14	+\$2.32	+3.2%	956 SF	182	132	HOT
\$100,000 - \$150,000	\$97.02	\$103.68	+\$6.67	+6.9%	1,216 SF	151	189	FRENZY
\$150,000 - \$200,000	\$108.07	\$113.08	+\$5.01	+4.6%	1,497 SF	272	338	FRENZY
\$200,000 - \$300,000	\$116.03	\$122.90	+\$6.87	+5.9%	1,883 SF	415	365	HOT
\$300,000 - \$500,000	\$136.70	\$130.84	-\$5.86	-4.3%	2,690 SF	347	151	WARM
\$500,000 - \$1M	\$172.86	\$163.89	-\$8.97	-5.2%	4,096 SF	183	28	COOL
Over \$1M	\$234.71	\$315.25	+\$80.54	+34.3%	3,499 SF	47	5	COOL

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LOCAL BUSINESS

BOUTIQUE BRINGS IN New Styles for Summer

By Jamie Killin

Bella Blue Boutique, an apparel and accessories shop, located in The Village at Las Sendas, is busy stocking up on the latest summer fashions, including a variety of different styles of dresses, shorts and capris, in lighter colors and cooler fabrics, such as chiffon—all perfect for the high Arizona temperatures.

“We’re preparing for the heat,” said Bella Blue Boutique owner Frances Carlotta-Paja. “I love the maxi dresses and sun dresses. We also have some great skorts.”

To stay current on all of Bella Blue Boutique’s specials, and to see the latest styles the boutique is offering, patrons can visit the shop’s Facebook page, and sign up for the weekly email list. To join the email list, which is sent out every Friday, send an email to carlottapaja@gmail.com. ■

For more information about Bella Blue Boutique, visit facebook.com/BellaBlueMesa, or call (480) 924-1088. The boutique is located at 2837 N. Power Road, near the intersection of Power and McDowell roads. Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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EDUCATION

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IS RECIPIENT OF PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

Submitted by Susan West

Megan Manning, a senior at Mountain View High School, is the recipient of the prestigious Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) STAR Scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Chapter Z, of Mesa, recommended Megan, the daughter of Keith and Mary Manning, for the scholarship. Megan will attend Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University, in the fall, where she will study philosophy.

The PEO STAR Scholarship is a \$2,500 scholarship based on excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, community service, academics and potential for future success. The program promotes women celebrating women and motivating them to achieve their highest aspirations [the stars]. It is open to young women who are citizens or legal permanent residents of the United States or Canada, and who are graduating seniors at the time of application. A PEO chapter must recommend a student.

The PEO Sisterhood, founded on Jan. 21, 1869, at Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, is an

international philanthropic and educational organization, which promotes increased educational opportunities for women. There are nearly 6,000 local chapters in the United States and Canada, with almost 250,000 initiated members. The PEO Sisterhood has given more than \$250 million in financial assistance to a total exceeding 95,000 recipients.

The PEO Sisterhood also owns Cottey College, located in Nevada, Missouri. A fully accredited, private liberal arts and sciences college for women, the institution offers two-year and selected four-year programs. ■

For more information about the PEO STAR Scholarship, contact Susan West at (480) 641-1480, or visit peointernational.org.



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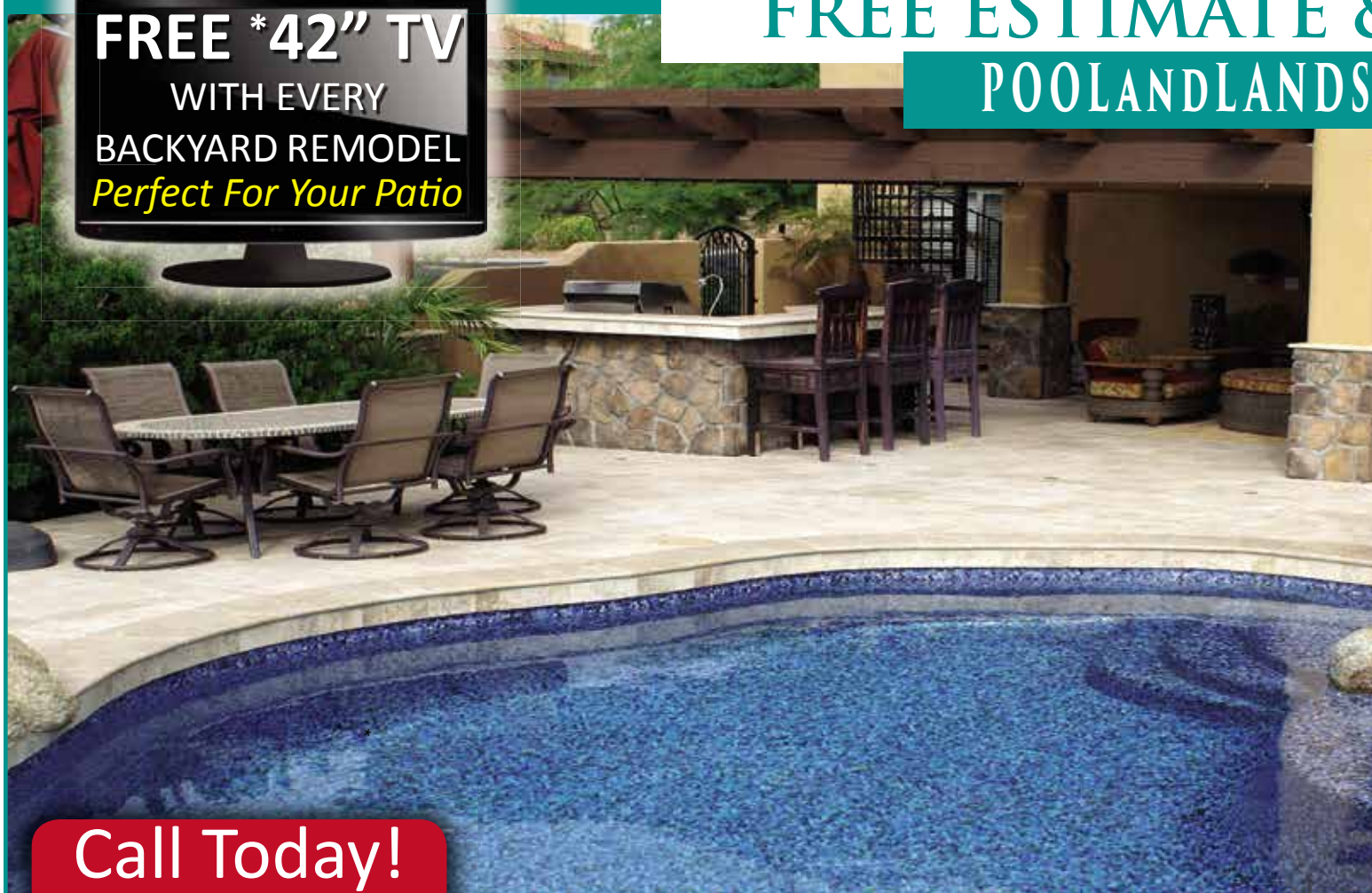
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