

Las Sendas Up Close

Bringing neighbors closer to their community

February 2017

Scholarships lift careers off the ground

By Dawn Abbey

A total of six members of local Aviation Explorer Post 352, under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America's Learning for Life worksite-based, career education program, were awarded a total of \$35,000 in 2016 National Aviation Exploring scholarships to offset the costs of their aviation educations.

In addition, Matt Trojanowski was recipient of the \$2,000 Motorola Solutions Foundation Scholarship.

"These scholarships make it possible for young people to earn their aviation certifications much sooner than if they had to cover all the costs themselves," said Post Advisor Bennett Sloan.

The mission of the local Explorer Post is to provide young men and women ages 14 to 20 with practical, action-oriented opportunities to explore aviation for fun and as a potential career. Students accumulate experience in piloting, ground school and aircraft maintenance, as well as participate in aviation events, such as the Copper State Fly-In.

"Post 352 is fortunate to be one of the few in the country to have ready access to a plane," Bennett explained. "Years ago, the Falcon Fly Club was created at Falcon Field specifically to purchase a plane and provide aviation volunteers to teach the post members how to fly and maintain their Piper Cherokee."

Learning for Life scholarships are based on aviation goals and accomplishments. Winners are Skylar Peterson, Sporty's Foundation Professional Pilot's Degree \$20,000; and \$3,000 each to Ryan Coats, Pilot; Kristian



Five of the winners, from top left: Ryan Coats, 16; Austin Thompson, 20; Skylar Peterson, 19. Front row: Daniel Carpenter, 16; Kellan Bradshaw, 16. Not pictured: Kristian Nyman, 18, and Matt Trojanowski, 17.

Nyman, Avionics; Austin Thompson, Aviation/Airport Management; Daniel Carpenter, Maintenance; and Kellan Bradshaw, Avionics.

A graduate of Red Mountain High School, Skylar is pursuing a commercial pilot certificate at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, and has a full scholarship to the Summer Aviation Academy at the University of North Dakota, where he will attend the university's aeronautics program. His goal is to become either an airline or corporate pilot.

A National Honor Society student at Red Mountain High School, Ryan's goal is to become a commercial airline pilot and to graduate from Embry Riddle University. He is actively involved with several school programs, including the varsity swim team. He also serves as a mentor with the Best Buddies program for students with special needs.

A student at Arizona State University, Kristian's goal is to become a commercial airline pilot. An Eagle Scout with three Eagle palms, he has held leadership positions with several organizations, including vice president of his Exploring Post. Kristian dedicated 300 hours of community service to the

City of Mesa and was presented the Silver Service award.

Austin's goals are to become a U.S. Air Force pilot and then a commercial airline pilot. Currently, he is working toward his instrument and commercial rating certifications, and is pursuing a degree in Unmanned Aerial Science Aviation Management at Arizona State University. In 2010, Austin was awarded the Boy Scouts of America Heroism Award and the City of Mesa Young Hero

Award for risking his life to save another.

A Saguaro High School student, Daniel plans to complete his private pilot certification and further his aviation education. An aviation explorer for two years, he served as an air marshal for the Copperstate Fly-In. Daniel is team captain for the Mohave Robotics Team, winning the Excellence Award for finishing in first place at the Arizona State VEX Robotics Championship.

Kellan started training for his private pilot's license when he was 15. The Perry High School student's long-term goal is to graduate from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University with a degree in Aeronautical Science (Fixed Wing). His immediate goal is to complete the certification process for his private pilot's license by next year. He was a Copperstate Fly-In volunteer. ■

Aviation is just one of many career education training programs available to students. For more information, visit learningforlife.org or exploring.org/aviation/. For more information on Aviation Explorer Post 352, call Post Advisor Bennett Sloan at (602) 316-0588, or send an email to bennett.sloan@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S THEATRE PLAY WRITTEN BY LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

Submitted by East Valley Children's Theatre

East Valley Children's Theatre (EVCT) will present the world premiere of a brand-new youth play, *The Heroes of Olim*, by Claire Howard, at Mesa Arts Center, from Feb. 9 through 19.

Claire, a 16-year-old high school student in Mesa, is the winner of EVCT's 2016 Playwriting Contest.

She actually wrote this story when she was 14 years old, and entered it in EVCT's 2015 Playwriting Contest, where it tied for third place. After spending many months of revision, Claire resubmitted her play in 2016, where it came out on top.

Her play follows a team of misfits as they try to rescue their beloved Princess Elena from her kidnappers. Intrigue, people pretending to be someone they are not, and jester antics all lead to a surprising conclusion. Out of this upheaval rise many unlikely heroes. It is a show for all ages.

EVCT Artistic Director Karen Rolston directs *The Heroes of Olim*, which features 37 cast members, from ages 8 to 18.

Play times and days are 7 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays; 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturdays; and 2 p.m., Sundays. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$11 for children 17 and under. ■

For tickets, or for more information, call (480) 644-6500, or visit the website at evct.org.



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www.UpCloseAZ.com**LOCAL BUSINESS**

Try Microneedling for a Younger, Fresher Look

By Dawn Abbey

The verdict is in, and Microneedling is causing quite a stir among those experiencing the skin treatment.

"If you haven't heard about this skincare treatment, then you're about to consider our aesthetician Elle Baker to be your very own skincare fairy godmother," exclaimed Muschi Morga, spa director at Cosmos Salon and MedSpa.

Microneedling technology is designed to fight the onslaught of a variety of aging issues so many of us encounter sooner or later in our lifetimes. "Microneedling treats and improves fine lines and overall skin texture and appearance," Muschi explained. "It was accidentally discovered by a tattoo artist who noticed a remarkable side effect of the needling process—collagen stimulation, and smoother, more youthful looking skin."

Also known as collagen induction therapy, Microneedling is minimally invasive. A device with fine needles creates tiny punctures in the top layer of the skin, which triggers the body to create new collagen and elastin. These micro injuries are what encourage the body's ability to repair the skin through the physiology of collagen induction. In addition to improved texture and firmness, it can promote a reduction in scars, pore size and stretch marks. It also can effectively treat hard-to-reach places, such as around the eyes, nose and lips.

"During the month of February, to let everyone try it out, Cosmos is offering a combination three-pack mix-and-match Microneedling or Perfect Peel medium-depth peel," said Muschi. A Microneedling treatment will be \$183, and a Perfect Peel is \$233. "You must purchase three to get the special price," she continued. "Don't be scared. Yes, we use a topical numbing cream. It doesn't hurt. In fact, most people say it tickles."

This is a great starter package or definitely some-



thing to help jump-start your skin after the winter doldrums. February is the ideal time of year to use the break from the heat to smooth and even out your skin.

Sometimes, it is good to shake things up in terms of skin treatments, such as those being offered. "Microneedling stimulates collagen renewals, while the peel will help hyper pigmentation and melasma, and also even out skin tone and texture," Muschi said. "We like to allow the skin to heal and rejuvenate between treatments. So, optimally, you can schedule a treatment every six weeks."

Microneedling also may be combined with a topical treatment or serum. Muschi's favorite product is Intense Brightening by PCA Skin. This intense nighttime treatment gives your skin a healthy glow, and the quality of skin is improved and smoother. "It helps with cell turnover and brightening through the use of prescription-strength Retin-A and natural skin brightening agents," Muschi stated. "Be careful to use it sparingly only at night, and, of course, not the night before you spend a day in the sun." ■

To find out more about Microneedling, or to set up a consultation or appointment with Elle, call (480) 887-0671. Cosmos Salon and MedSpa is located at the northeast corner of Power and McDowell roads.

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No Snow Paddleboard Shop is located on the northwest corner of Power and Thomas roads, north of Walgreens, at 3654 N. Power Road, Suite 104. The shop is open by appointment through the winter months.

HEALTH

IASIS HEALTHCARE ANNOUNCES FOUR NEW ADDITIONS TO LEADERSHIP TEAM

Submitted by Angela Menninger, Co-Founder Duality Public Relations

IASIS Healthcare is pleased to announce four new additions to its leadership team at Mountain Vista Medical Center, a full-service hospital in East Mesa.

These additions include Patricia Rollins, the new Women's Services Director; Amy Lomu, the new Emergency Services Director; Audrey Jones, the new Therapy Services Director; and Kirk McFalls, the new Business Development Manager. These new leaders will help Mountain Vista Medical Center to reinforce its commitment to offering innovative services and programs meeting the evolving health care needs of the community.



Patricia Rollins, a registered nurse, brings 25 years of experience in women services to her new role as the Women's Services Director. Her focus will be on advancing Mountain Vista Medical Center's comprehensive programs for females at all stages of life, from children and teens, to the elderly. Prior to joining the hospital, Patricia was Director of Perinatal Services for Pioneers Memorial Hospital District in Brawley, Calif.



Amy Lomu, a registered nurse at Mountain Vista Medical Center for the past eight years, is taking her experience and knowledge of the emergency room to the next level. As the new Emergency Services Director, she will ensure the efficient and effective management of emergency operations, and focus on opportunities to improve quality of care and service. Prior to joining Mountain Vista Medical Center as a nursing supervisor, she was a telemetry travel nurse for American Mobile Healthcare.



Audrey Jones has been a lead outpatient physical therapist at Mountain Vista Medical Center for six years, and has supervised physical therapist assistants (PTAs) and other technicians. As the new Therapy Services Director, she will coordinate and manage the delivery of all physical therapy programs for patients, and oversee the performance of staff members. Prior to joining the hospital, she was a physical therapist at Avalon Shadow Mountain Healthcare.



Kirk McFalls has more than 20 years of health care sales and development experience from his work in both California and Arizona. As the new Business Development Manager, he will support the strategic vision of Mountain Vista Medical Center by developing and maintaining relationships and partnerships with physicians and key influencers in the business and local community. Prior to joining the Mountain Vista Medical Center, he was a regional sales manager at Katalyst Surgical.

"In addition to sharing our vision for the future of Mountain Vista Medical Center, these leaders bring a wealth of knowledge, talent and compassion for not only our patients, but for the community at large," said Eric Paul, IASIS Healthcare Arizona Market President. "This announcement further demonstrates our hospital's commitment to promote our people, and expand our services and offerings to create a healthier and happier community."

Mountain Vista Medical Center will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2017. The hospital is located in Mesa, just north of U.S. 60 at Crismon Road and Southern Avenue. ■

For more information, visit mvmedicalcenter.com, or call (877) 924-WELL (9355).

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RELIGION

Saint Valentine's Day Has Christian Roots

Submitted by Hosanna Lutheran Church

Happy Valentine's Day wishes to everyone. This is a big theme you will hear a lot this month. I look forward to the annual meeting of wondering husbands. We will meet again on Feb. 14, in the greeting card section at Bashas' on the corner of Ellsworth and Brown roads. We all will be reading through those cards and wondering whether we should go for a bit of humor or for the sweet sappy card... Hmmmm. I think we have scheduled our meeting for husbands for 3 p.m. this year. See you there, gentlemen.

This is what we do on St. Valentine's Day, as we pick up some flowers and a card to remind that someone special she really is special, and we express our love for one another. It's an ancient tradition now, reaching back for centuries.

It's actually a Christian holiday with roots growing up from the love of Christ himself, a love expressed in his people, including Saint Valentine. Do you know there really was a Saint Valentine? The legend comes from a real Christian priest who lived in the late 200s AD, and there are many legends and folklore stories

about him. He was known for preaching of the love of Christ Jesus and the redemption Jesus brought for us all. In the name of Christ, Valentine, or Valentinus, was said to have performed many secret Christian weddings for couples who also believed in the love of Christ.

Those weddings were illegal to the Roman Emperor, and Valentinus was condemned for performing those weddings because married men were less willing to march off to war in the emperor's army. So, Valentinus was arrested and jailed and told to deny his faith in Jesus. But he would not.

There is even a story of him healing the blind eyes of the daughter of a judge. In some versions of the story, he then fell in love with the healed young woman, and he left her love notes signed *Your Valentine* when he was martyred.

How much of that is true and irrefutable? I don't know. We do know, however, there really was a Valentine who believed in and proclaimed the love of Christ for us all. We remember that love and compassion still today, and we celebrate it on the anniversary of Valentine's death, Feb. 14. Come join us at Hosanna, as well, as we celebrate God's love all year round. ■

For more information, call (480) 984-1414. Hosanna Lutheran Church is located at 9601 E. Brown Road.





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Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service
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Dr. Rashid is a board certified dermatologist, cosmetic and Mohs micrographic surgeon. She received her medical degree from Kansas City School of Medicine and Biosciences. She completed her internship at Oakwood Hospital in Trenton, Michigan and her residency at Midwestern University/Arizona Desert Dermatology Residency Program.

She has been published in numerous journals and received recognition for her volunteer work with the United Nations Health Mission and other various organizations within the state of Arizona.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

KNOW BEFORE YOU THROW

By Jon Englund

Downsizing? Determined to get rid of stuff you no longer need? Cleaning out a home or an estate? Stop! *Know Before You Throw.*

Jon Englund

I don't know about you, but the original Star Wars movie, from 1977, was one of my all-time favorites. I loved the iconic characters of Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, Darth Vader and, of course, Princess Leia Organa. As most of us know by now, we lost Princess Leia by way of actress Carrie Fisher's recent and sudden passing.

Star Wars went on to become one of the most enduring film franchises of all time. And with that popularity came merchandising in the form of toys, games, models and action figures, just to name a few.

Some years ago, I was called in to help with the sale of a rather sizeable collection of pop-culture memorabilia, mostly from the 1960s and 1970s. There were old comic books, GI Joe dolls, and other popular culture items from that time. However, I'll never forget opening the boxes containing the Star Wars stuff.

Inside were all of the first series action figurines manufactured by Kenner. They were in mint in-the-box (never

opened or played with) condition. Even 20 years ago, when I sold those items, they each brought hundreds of dollars. Those same things only sold for a few dollars when they first showed up at the retail stores.

Scarcity and condition always dictate prices. Now, with Carrie Fisher gone, the Princess Leia figurines might see a spike in value. Perhaps now would be a good time to take a stroll down memory lane and rummage through your old boxes. Who knows, maybe the force will be with you. ■

Jon Englund has more than 25 years of experience in appraising and liquidating personal property, jewelry, art, collectibles, antiques, furniture, printed items and more. A Midwest transplant, Jon trained at New York University in appraisal studies.

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The Vistas at Las Sendas offers a premier wedding experience on an elevated mountain location, with panoramic views of the Phoenix valley, sunsets and city lights.

The Vistas is transforming service excellence of our wedding venue by engaging you in designing your décor, entertainment and catering, along with our expert event planning team. We have an open door policy for outside vendors.

We are flexible and easy to work with. Your vision is our challenge. Our promise is to meet and exceed your expectations.

March / April Wedding 2017 Special

The Vistas Pavilion is offering discounted ceremony and reception pricing for dates remaining in March and April 2017. For further details and package information, please call (480) 352-2614, or email tmcbean@lassendas.com.

Summer 2017 Wedding Special

The Vistas Wedding Pavilion at Las Sendas is pleased to offer the following Summer Special Wedding Package for events booked and hosted in the months of June, July, August and the first two weeks in September 2017. The total cost is \$3,999 (does not include tax and gratuity), and the fee includes the following items:

Ceremony
White garden chairs, wedding arch, setup and breakdown of the ceremony, gift table and lemonade station, as well as champagne with fruit and cheese platter in the bridal room.

Reception
An eight-hour venue booking, setup and breakdown of reception, tables, padded chairs, 12-by-12 dance floor, black or ivory tablecloths and napkins, votive candles on tables, complimentary cake cutting, bridal room, wedding coordinator and plated or buffet dinner.

THE GOLF SHOP

Carrying forward into February is our super popular Free Polo Shirt Promotion. Purchase any retail merchandise in the Golf Shop for \$69.95, and receive a free men’s or ladies’ logoed Las Sendas golf shirt.

New merchandise is arriving every week in our Golf Shop. Come in and check out the new arrivals.

Feb. 14 is Valentine’s Day. Why not take your Valentine out for some golf and spoil that special person with some wonderful Las Sendas Private Label Wines? Available in the Golf Shop, we have Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio at only \$18.95 per bottle, and discounts apply if you buy multiple bottles.

Ladies Nine and Wine on Thursday Afternoons

Non-members are welcome every Thursday for nine holes of golf and wine after your round. Tee off starts at 2 p.m., and it is a non-competitive fun nine holes of golf with your friends. At \$39 plus tax per player, the fun includes driving range and shared golf cart. Meet new people from the Las Sendas community. To sign up, call the Golf Shop at (480) 396-4000.

The driving range is open to the public. We offer a daily rate to practice at our facility. Only \$20 gets you unlimited range balls and use of our putting green, chipping green and sand bunker. We offer 50 percent off for juniors under 14.

Golf Rates for February
Sunday through Wednesday, rates are \$99/\$79/\$49; and Thursday through Saturday, rates are \$109/\$89/\$59. Rates are before noon; noon to 2 p.m.; and after 2 p.m.

Community members who want to play at Las Sendas, please go to our website at lassendas.com, and scroll down to *Book a Tee Time*. From there, you can choose the day you want to play and the rate you want to pay.

Las Sendas Golf Memberships

Did you know that Las Sendas has one of the lowest monthly principle dues of any golf course in the Valley? Come join the fun.

Principle only \$383 per month. Add family for only \$133 per month. Call Wayne McBean at (480) 396-4000, ext. 201.



THE PATIO AND THE GRILLE

Our February Wine Dinner features wines from Darioush. Seating is limited. Make your reservations now. A five-course dinner is paired with wines at \$90 plus tax and gratuity per person.

Super Bowl Sunday
Gather all your friends for the biggest game of the year, and join us at The Grille at Las Sendas for wings and beer specials starting at 3 p.m., and the All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Buffet, starting at 5 p.m.

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2ND
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Crème Fraiche, Lemon Dill

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Caper Berries, Rocket Arugula
with Meyer Lemon Vinaigrette

Arugula, Red & Golden Beets
Blue Cheese Crumbles, Citrus
Essence Vinaigrette

3RD
Cherry Crusted Rack of Lamb
Garlic Gratin Potatoes, Braised
Balsamic Fennel

Grass Fed Beef Filet with Chimichurri, Herb Marinated Jumbo Prawns
Grill Asparagus,
Mushroom Risotto

Crab Stuffed Flounder
Champagne Cream, Truffle
Mash, Root Vegetable

DESSERT
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REAL ESTATE

CHOOSE THE RIGHT REALTOR AND GET THE BEST VALUE WHEN SELLING YOUR HOME

By Lorraine Ryall
Realtor, CDPE, CSSN
KOR Properties

As we head into Arizona's peak real estate season, if you are planning to sell your home this year, now is the time to get it ready to list.

To help with the selling process, I am writing a series of articles, which began with the January article, focusing on what upgrades sell your home. Next month's article is on home staging. You can read all these articles on my website at Homes2SellAZ.com, under the Blog section.



Lorraine Ryall

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT REALTOR

Like every industry, there are a lot of Realtors from which you can choose, and it may seem overwhelming when trying to decide which Realtor to pick. So, here are some helpful tips to keep in mind. Remember, you don't want to just list your home. You want to sell it.

Marketing—More than 96 percent of homebuyers will use the Internet to search for homes. So, online marketing is a key. Your Realtor needs to have a strong online marketing presence, which includes all the top sights, such as Zillow, Realtor.com, etc., and on social media, such as YouTube and Facebook.

Choose a Local Agent—It is always amazing to me when I see an agent from Scottsdale or other areas listing a home in Mesa. Although online marketing is so important, you still want an agent who knows your area well, can tell potential buyers all about living in Mesa and what it has to offer, as well as what makes your home stand out above the rest. They also need to be close enough to be able to show your home to potential buyers and be close at hand throughout the selling process.

Additional Marketing—Determine what other marketing the Realtor offers, such as professional photography, virtual tours, showcasing your listing, flyers, newspaper ads, etc. The more marketing and higher quality of marketing really can enhance your listing and give it the added exposure to get it sold in the shortest time for the highest price.



Understanding the Market—Your Realtor should have a good understanding of the current market, as well as your particular neighborhood. Not all neighborhoods are the same. A single-story home gets a premium price in one neighborhood. Yet a two-story home may get a premium price in another. Are we in a buyer's or seller's market? This makes a huge difference on marketing and pricing your home.

Negotiating Skills—Your Realtor needs to have strong negotiating skills. Receiving an offer is just the beginning. Now, you start the negotiations, and your Realtor needs to know how to negotiate on your behalf to get you the best possible price and terms. Once the contract has been agreed to, the buyer will have inspections. This often can become an issue, and, in some cases, the contract is cancelled during the inspection period because the parties cannot agree. Your Realtor needs to know how to negotiate and even think outside the box sometimes to keep the transaction moving and all parties happy.

Communication—This is a key in a successful closing. There needs to be good and constant communication between you and your Realtor, as well as your Realtor and all other parties, such as the title company, the buyer's agent and buyer's lender.

Check out your Realtor on the Internet—Make sure the Realtor has a good website and Internet presence, and check them out on sites, such as Zillow.com, and read the reviews from past clients.

Please contact me if you would like a free home valuation to determine the current market value of your home or for any additional information. ■

Lorraine Ryall has been a Multi-Million Dollar producer for the past nine years. You can reach Lorraine at (602) 571-6799. You also can send her an email at Lorraine@Homes2SellAZ.com, or visit her website at Homes2SellAZ.com.

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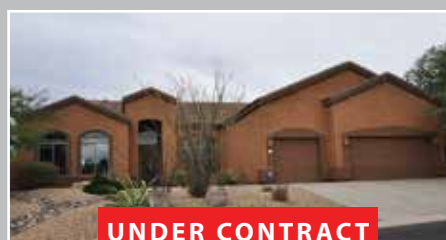
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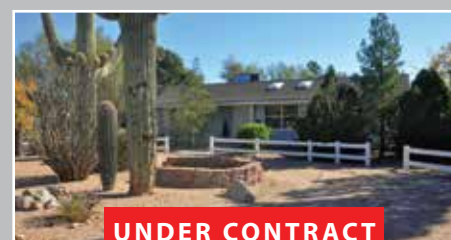
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LOCAL BUSINESS

Learn the dirty truth ABOUT FUEL SYSTEMS

Submitted by H and I Automotive

Everyone knows you need fuel for your car to run, but over the years, the system your car uses to deliver that fuel to the engine has changed tremendously.

It all started with the introduction of the carburetor, and has evolved into direct fuel injection, which is finding its way into most modern vehicles.

The carburetor was used to spray fuel into the intake manifold, where it would be mixed with air and delivered to all the cylinders at once. This caused two issues. First, every cylinder getting fuel, when only one is used at a time, was very inefficient and wasted fuel. Second, the cylinders closest to the carburetor would receive more fuel than the cylinders farther away.

A single fuel injector, located in the same position as the carburetor, eventually replaced said carburetor. Aside from having a little better fuel management, however, the fuel delivery issues remained.

This led to the development of multi-point fuel injection. Fuel would now be delivered to the firing cylinder only. Each cylinder had its own dedicated injector, which was fired when that cylinder required fuel. The injector also moved the fuel introduction point from on top of the air intake manifold to the bottom of the manifold.

Only the cylinder combusting would receive fuel, and all cylinders would now receive the same amount. The fuel efficiency and performance of vehicles was increased greatly by this innovation. Problem solved, right?

Well, there always is room for improvement, which leads us to direct injection fuel management. Direct injection bypasses the intake manifold completely and introduces fuel directly into the cylinder. The benefit of this process is the injectors can be programmed to increase and decrease the

amount of fuel they deliver. This will increase fuel efficiency even more by lowering the amount of fuel used during idle and when at a cruise.

Unfortunately, there is a serious downside to direct injection. Direct injection will lead to excessive carbon build up on your vehicle's intake valves if you do not properly maintain the system. Carbon is left behind when fuel burns in the engine. This carbon is left everywhere, on the intake manifold, the valves and even on the pistons.

When the fuel came through the intake manifold and valve, it would help keep them clean. Direct injection will allow the carbon to build up on the valves and cause them to not close properly. The result is a rough running engine, most likely, causing the check engine light to come on.

Fuel system cleaning always has been important to maintain efficiency and performance. With direct injection, it will now prevent a costly visit to your service provider. Direct injection vehicle owners are encouraged to have their vehicle's fuel system cleaned every 15,000 miles by a professional service facility. Standard fuel injection vehicles should have their systems cleaned every 30,000 miles.

We also recommend using only top tier fuel stations when you fill up your car. These companies use additives in their fuels to help keep your system clean. You can learn more about top tier fuels by visiting toptiergas.com. Good fuel system preventive maintenance will lead to better economy and lower vehicle repair costs. ■

For more information, call H and I Automotive at (480) 985-9279. We are a full service professional automotive service center, serving our East Valley neighbors since 2009. Find us online at handiautomotive.com, or on Facebook and Google+.

COMMUNITY

Community Resident Speaks On Renewable Energy Sources

By Pat Favier
RMR Social Club Secretary

On Thursday, Jan. 12, the Red Mountain Ranch Social Club was privileged to feature a speaker from our own community.

David Bransby, a retired emeritus professor from Auburn University, specializing in the field of bioenergy, spoke to our group regarding renewable energy sources so important to our world's vast needs.



In the United States, we have long been dependent on fossil fuels, such as oil, coal and natural gas, to supply our energy needs. These sources are finite and cannot be replaced. Some oil must be imported, and costs can be both in dollars and lives. Sources, such as wind, solar, hydro, biomass and geothermal, are renewable and can produce electricity, but only biomass can produce liquid transportation fuels, such as gasoline, diesel and aviation fuels.

For more than 29 years, Professor Bransby's research has contributed in showing that cellulosic biomass from sources, such as wood, grasses, crop residue, algae and industrial wastes, can be converted to enough liquid transportation fuels to replace all the oil imported from OPEC.

Gasification and gas-to-liquid conversion is one approach to production of hydrocarbon fuels from cellulosic biomass. These gases can be burned to power an internal combustion engine, which could drive an electric power generator, or can be reconstituted into hydrocarbon fuels.

The current cost of defending our oil interests in the Middle East in terms of lives and dollars is huge and contributes to a massive U.S. negative balance of trade, a serious national concern.

Wouldn't it be encouraging if we no longer had to depend on foreign sources to supply our energy needs?

David Bransby continues to consult with government and commercial entities toward bringing these opportunities and operations to a reality. ■

If you are interested in hearing informational speakers, such as Professor Bransby, come to one of the Red Mountain Ranch Social Club meetings on the second Thursday of each month, at 9:30 a.m., at the Country Club, located just off Redmont Drive.

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Las Sendas Area Market Report

Sales for the Month of December 2016

Address	Square Feet	Community	Sold Price
2846 N. Rowen Cir.	1,571	Silverhawke	\$269,900
2430 N. Raven Cir.	1,762	Grayfox	\$280,000
2758 N. Augustine	1,571	Trailridge	\$285,000
3055 N. Red Mountain #182	2,451	Ironwood Pass	\$311,900
7020 E. Regina St.	2,451	Tapestry Mountain	\$339,900
7258 E. Norland St.	2,835	Trailridge	\$345,000
7246 E. Norland St.	2,475	Trailridge	\$345,500
3060 N. Ridgecrest St. #179	2,105	Desert Vistas	\$365,000
8251 E. Teton Cir.	2,478	Stonecliff	\$410,000
3846 N. Red Sky Cir.	2,815	Echo Canyon	\$422,500
3706 N. Barron	2,226	Highlands	\$444,000
4010 N. Terra Mesa Cir.	2,309	Stonecliff	\$525,000
7130 E. Saddleback St. #48	3,600	Golf Colony	\$848,000
3247 N. Ladera Cir.	3,930	Rock Canyon	\$1,120,000

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
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EDUCATION

Kindergarten Program Is An Exceptional Educational Experience

Submitted by Self Development Academy

A student's path to academic success begins with the kindergarten program at Self Development Academy (SDA).

Parent and elementary school faculty member Jessie Christensen happily voices her thoughts regarding the kindergarten program at SDA. "I have two daughters attending kindergarten at SDA," she stated. "I am amazed every day with the work my children are doing and the level at which they are performing. They both already were reading within the first month of school and doing addition and subtraction facts," Jessie continued. "They love coming to school. Their teachers, as well as all the staff, truly care for my daughters and want them to succeed." Similar comments and testimonies are heard over and over again from SDA parents.

SDA

SDA, a public charter school, serving students from kindergarten through grade eight, is known in the local community and statewide for its outstanding academic programs. Now in its 17th year, SDA consistently has been ranked among the top five elementary and junior high schools in the state. The success of SDA students is due to Dr. Anjum Majeed, its visionary leader. Dedicated faculty and staff, as well as supportive parents and hardworking, diligent students all play an important role in the school's continued success.

THE SDA CORE CURRICULUM

SDA offers an accelerated curriculum, with students learning a minimum of one grade level ahead of the Arizona Department of Education Standards. The SDA kindergarten curriculum emphasizes the two main areas of language arts and mathematics. The language arts curriculum focuses on phonemic awareness, reading fluency, reading comprehension, handwriting and grammar.

At the end of the kindergarten year, students are reading fluently at the grade one level and writing complete sentences. They even are creating their own storybooks.

Number sense, addition and subtraction, fractions, patterns and the basics of time and money are components of the mathematics curriculum. During the kindergarten year, students master the concept of addition and subtraction and memorize math facts. By the end of the kindergarten year, SDA students are well prepared to continue with the accelerated curriculum as grade-one students.

SPECIALS AT SDA

In addition to laying a strong language arts and mathematics foundation, SDA offers weekly specials, including physical education, music and art classes. For more than five years, Mrs. Christy Porter, the music and violin teacher at SDA, has led the music class. The students showcase their musical talents twice a year at the Winter Program and Kindergarten Promotion Ceremony.

Each classroom at SDA has an interactive computer board allowing technology to be woven into curriculum, as well. Through specials, the kindergarten students develop other important skills, such as gross and fine motor and social skills.

THE SDA KINDERGARTEN TEAM

The success of the kindergarten program is due in large part to the SDA Kindergarten Team. This team is made up of Mrs. Kathi Haschke, Mrs. Lori Redivo, Mrs. Linda Steiner and Mrs. Kelli Wolfe. Kindergarten aides and other school personnel support the kindergarten program and students, too. The teachers and staff foster the high academic and personal standards of the program in a nurturing environment. The Kindergarten Team is passionate about educating children, many serving the SDA community for more than five years. The team is dedicated to being a special part of the educational experiences of students. ■

Enroll now. Limited spaces are available for the 2017 – 2018 school year. For more information regarding SDA, or to arrange a tour, please contact the front office at (480) 641-2640.

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EDUCATION

Go behind the scenes WITH THE BLUE CREW

Submitted by Mesa Public Schools

Coming soon to a school near you is Mesa Public Schools' Blue Crew. The evening maintenance team is designed to complement the day operations staff in addressing campus maintenance issues.

The Blue Crew is taking a proactive approach to maintaining school facilities at a level that continues to allow educators to provide a safe and positive learning environment for students. A total of seven skilled tradesmen make up the Blue Crew, including painters, carpenters, plumbers and electricians. All are outfitted with a stocked minivan warehouse on wheels.

"There are times when operations cannot gain access to certain areas of a campus during school hours," said Todd Poer, director of operations. "Sometimes we have to close restrooms, or turn off water or the power. Having our Blue Crew take care of these things after hours eliminates being disruptive during classroom instruction."

The Blue Crew focuses on one site at a time. This allows the team to perform preventative maintenance on aging items, which reduces the number of new site-based work orders, along with increasing workflow efficiency, while saving time and money. The day maintenance staff assists the Blue Crew by completing a variety of aesthetic projects,

which includes restriping parking lots, painting curbs, assessing roofing issues, manicuring landscapes and deep cleaning campuses.

"We want principals and staff to feel they are getting our undivided attention," Todd said. "By the time we complete the final walkthroughs with the principals, we will have addressed everything on their list, and the campus shines."

Principals complete an initial visit to address issues and concerns with their campuses. They are updated on the progress throughout the project.

"The Blue Crew went above and beyond to take care of our school and our needs," stated Monica Torres, principal at Longfellow Elementary School. "They ticked everything off our checklist in a timely manner, and our campus sparkles. The Blue Crew rocks!" ■

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



TRAVEL

Today's All-Inclusive RESORTS ARE POPULAR

Submitted by Cruise Planners

The all-inclusive resort used to be considered the *budget inn* of travel, with images of a rowdy crowd drinking in the Jacuzzi, bland food, forced group activities and limited entertainment being the norm.

Today, the all-inclusive concept has expanded to unlimited activities, such as golf on a championship golf course, gourmet meals, as well as more upscale and intimate resorts.

More and more vacationers are looking into all-inclusives and the industry is listening. The reasons for the popularity of all-inclusive resorts are time and value. Travel experts say prepaying for all the food and drinks ahead of time allows you to have a more enjoyable getaway because you don't have to think about how much you are spending and you don't have to worry about carrying your wallet around the resort. Think of it as a no-hassle, stress-free vacation.

An all-inclusive resort usually includes:

- Accommodations
- All meals
- Room service
- Drinks, including wine, beer and spirits
- Daily activities
- Entertainment
- All tips and gratuities and more

It's best to choose the resort with the activities and atmosphere best matching your interest. Kid-friendly or romantic hideaway? Beach or snow? Whatever is your fancy, there is one just for you.

All-inclusive family resorts have everything for everyone, young and old. Some of



the most popular resorts are located in Mexico and the Caribbean. There are great beaches, fun watersports and awesome age-appropriate kids programs. But wait. There's more!

In addition to the *normal* inclusions, you also can expect the following at most family all-inclusives:

- Family/connecting accommodations
- Kids Club
- Kids Only Dining Room
- Teens Only Club
- Organized games and activities
- Family activities
- Kid-friendly pools and waterparks
- Themed character activities, such as the gang from Sesame Street

When you're looking to steal away with just that special person in your life, however, you may want to consider one of the upscale hideaways. The upfront sticker price may be a shock at the beginning, but when you do the math, it is all worth it. Plus, not having to think about pulling out the credit card and tipping the attendant every single time is what a vacation is all about. Not a single care in the world.

Let us do that for you. Give us a call, and we'll take care of everything else. We work with the best land and tour partners in the world, which offer everything from a hut in Fiji, to an all-inclusive family suite in Turks and Caicos.

Are all-inclusives worth it? Yes, more than ever. ■

For more information, and to reserve your next dream vacation, contact Sue or Bruce Mitchell, of Cruise Planners, at redmountaintravel.com or via email at smitchell@cruiseplanners.com. You also can call (480) 396-8084.



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COMMUNITY

GOLF COURSE OWNERS DEMAND CITY ALLOW
Residential Development

By Nancy Nemitz

Owners of the Red Mountain Ranch Golf Course, Divot Partners, have demanded the City of Mesa allow residential development on portions of the golf course property without rezoning.

There has been an outpouring of support for the city as officials work their way through the legal process. You can access all the latest news and legal documents, as well as sign the petition, by going to redmountaincommunity.com.

No matter where you stand on the issue, it's important to know what's going on in your community. If you are 18 years or older, you can sign the petition even if you don't live in Red Mountain Ranch. Simply click *Other* in the parcel section.

If you are interested in helping the residents of Red Mountain Ranch stop the demands to change the Development Master Plan of Red Mountain Ranch, go online and sign the petition today. ■

Nancy Nemitz can be reached by email at nancy@createthespace.com. Her website is createthespace.com.



Nancy Nemitz



FINANCE

The most important financial guide is you

Finding a balance to achieve your goals is what any financial professional should discuss with you

Submitted by Thrivent Financial

Many people want to know the secret to financial success.

Whether they should be saving more, protecting more, investing more or spending less, everyone wants a magic bullet to set them on the road to financial success. The difficult thing is—I can't give that to them.

At Thrivent Financial, we believe the key is to have discussions with your family and loved ones about what priorities are most important to you. Our members come to us around a shared goal of being wise with money and living generously, and we aim to help them live this every day in their lives.

Whether it's saving for a child's college education, supporting a favorite charity, building retirement strategies, or a combination of all of those and more, each financial strategy should be driven by one person—you.

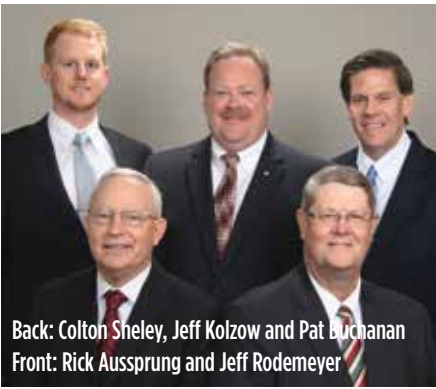
With our members in the driver's seat, we offer guidance based on sound and timeless principles.

SPEND LESS THAN YOU EARN

This is critical. No one can live beyond his means forever. All bills—credit card, mortgage, home equity loans and others—eventually come due. Being wise with money means having the ability to be prudent with the resources you already earn.

BE WISE WITH DEBT

Debt isn't something to be avoided at all costs. Some debt can be very healthy and a way to broaden and strengthen your future—both inside and outside your financial picture. Mortgages, student loans and car loans can all be entered into and can be a part of a healthy financial strategy. They just need to be managed carefully and effectively.



Back: Colton Sheley, Jeff Kolzow and Pat Buchanan
Front: Rick Aussprung and Jeff Rodemeyer

PROTECT AGAINST SETBACKS

Even the best of financial strategies can be derailed by a sudden accident or death if not properly protected. Life insurance, disability insurance, long-term care insurance all can work as protection against the worst, should it happen, and help ensure you and your family are taken care of, and you're not leaving others with bills or burdens, which can be protected against.

HAVE A SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM PLAN

College, retirement, emergency savings, a new car—all of these are great goals for families and individuals to set for themselves. The key to reaching these goals is to do so in a way that maximizes current resources and helps minimize risk for an overall strategy. So, when it comes to transitioning to drawing down money in retirement, the most important structure is to plan for the short term, for the near term and ensure it is working in conjunction with the long-term strategy for you and your family.

GIVE BACK

Nothing lasts forever. At Thrivent Financial, we work with our members to ensure generosity is instilled throughout a lifelong financial strategy, not just when someone accumulates enough to give. We want to support our members' efforts to impact their families and communities through programs and opportunities to live generously.

Many people are looking for a silver bullet when it comes to finances. The most important part is to be true to yourself, your family and your goals. These five pillars can be guides. However, it's ultimately up to you and what you want for your future. ■

Thrivent Financial is represented in the Red Mountain area by Red Mountain Group, which includes Jeff Kolzow, Pat Buchanan, Jeff Rodemeyer, Rick Aussprung and Colton Sheley.

Thrivent Financial's Red Mountain office is located at 2941 N. Power Road, Suite 105. For more information, call (480) 396-5333, or send an email to redmountaingroup@thrivent.com.

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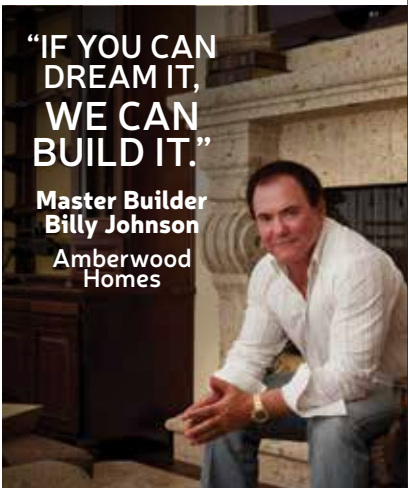
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