

DISTRICT SENIORS NAME **National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists**













Anne Hatch, Mesa HS

Wyatt Appel, Mesa HS

Photos by Tim Hacker

Submitted by Mesa Public Schools

school seniors nationwide are eligible.

eniors from Mesa, Mountain View and Westwood high

schools have been named to the elite list of students

recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation

Merit Scholarship Program. Less than 1 percent of high

announced six Mesa Public Schools seniors were

named semifinalists in the 64th annual National

Dalin Stuart, Mountain View HS

The district semifinalists are:

Wyatt Appel and Anne Hatch, from Mesa High

- Cody Daniels, Jordan Gardiner and Dalin Stuart, from Mountain View High School.
- Alex Vuong, from Westwood High School. According to the sponsoring organization, these academically talented students have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million, which will be

Cody Daniels, Mountain View HS

offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent

of semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title. ■

For more information about all Mesa Public Schools, please

Northeast Mesa Resident Strives to Increase LITERACY LEVELS IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

By Natalie Berry

7 ith a trophy to signify his 2017 Community Leadership Award, Levi Leyba is no stranger to community service. Serving on multiple nonprofit boards in the Valley has provided him with inspiration for his next venture of writing children's books. And Levi, a Red Mountain Ranch resident, is doing more than merely writing children's books. He is tackling low literacy levels in communities, starting right here in Mesa.

Through a nonprofit charity Levi founded, he established the Book for Book program, with its primary purpose being the distribution of age-appropriate books to children living in low-income communities. And with the entrepreneurial spirit of which many are already aware with Levi, he not only wanted to be the author and designer of the children's books, but he also wanted to be the publisher. Levi is calling his children's books the Young Series.

The idea for the Book for Book program to incre literacy levels in low-income communities started while Levi was obtaining his master's degree. "As I was nearing graduation, I needed to do a final research paper, and I chose to research early childhood literacy and its relationship to educational and economic success," Levi explained. "It was this extensive research that opened my eyes to the immense magnitude of the literacy gap that exists between low-income communities and middle-upper income communities across our nation."

The concept to launch a publishing business started with Levi as an adjunct professor at Mesa Community College. "I teach a MGT253 class on Owning and Operating a Small Business," he said. "In one of my classes,



I wanted to show my students there was no need to pay large fees to file for an LLC, and I had a thought as to how to prove it in class," Levi continued. "With help from the faithful projector, I visited Arizona Corporation's website and walked my class through the process to file an LLC in under seven minutes for only \$50. This resulted in the

What sets this community venture apart from other businesses is the fact this is an impact-driven project created on the feeling of how and what should be done to change literacy across our nation. "According to research, there currently is one book for every 300 children living in low-income communities versus 13 books for every child living in middle-income communities," proclaimed Levi. "Something has to change, and if having access to ageappropriate books can make an impact, then I'll start there."

With every purchase of a Young Series bilingual children's book, one will be donated to a child in need.

"The purpose with my bilingual children's books and the Book for Book program is to increase literacy across the U.S., starting right here in Mesa," stated Levi as he beamed. "With these two joint ventures, I am not only providing bilingual children's books to parents who realize the prosperity of having their child understand two languages, but I am also arranging for age-appropriate books to be donated to children living in low-income communities where English may not be the primary language spoken at home."

With the initial launch of his four bilingual children's books, Levi's goal is to release a new book each month. Seeing what he has accomplished to date, we clearly see this not only being a practicable goal, but also a determined one, which will increase literacy rates across our nation. And with the upcoming holiday season around the corner, these make perfect gifts. ■

The Young Series bilingual children's books are available at Amazon.com and on their website at YoungSeries.com. To read more, or to donate directly to the Book for Book program, visit GACouncil.org.

formation of my publishing business," recounted Levi.

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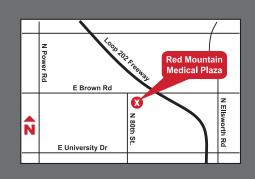
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Annual Physicals Address ILLNESS PREVENTION

By Stacy Mickey, MD Red Mountain Medical Plaza ife gets busy with work, kids, school, activities and

completely—but all too often, our health gets put on the back burner and a true physical, targeted at prevention, gets squeezed out.

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preventative health for the whole family. We are trained in pediatrics, gynecology, adult medicine and psychiatry.

A true physical should address every body system, discuss your family history, as well as your diet and lifestyle decisions, and ensure you have received the age-appropriate immunizations. All of this information guides us as physicians to understand how to make suggestions or offer advice to reduce your risk of disease.

Annual physicals should start at the age of 11 and continue throughout your life. The first part of the physical is your height, weight and blood pressure.

Blood work may be ordered, depending on certain risk factors your physician determines based on your exam and history. Many diseases, like high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes, have subtle or no symptoms at all.

We don't have screenings for every type of cancer, but for some cancers, such as cervical, breast, colon, prostate, skin and lung, there are screening tests available. The guidelines on how and when to screen for these cancers are constantly evolving. A discussion with your primary care physician can help you understand when and if certain screening tests are right for you.

Lifestyle decisions are also part of a physical. We all know diet and exercise are important, but the information on what kind of diet and how much exercise is more difficult, and frankly, evolving, as well.

There is increasingly more information that a low carbohydrate diet, with more liberal intake of healthy fats, may lower your risk of diabetes, heart disease, dementia

It is never too late to start exercising. Actually, the biggest benefit comes from moving from the couch to any level of activity at all. What about coffee? Alcohol? How can I quit smoking? These all are things that should be discussed at your physical. ■

Start by calling us and scheduling an appointment at (480) 999-0049. We will help you get started on the path, or continue on the path, to optimal good health.

ABOUT DR. STACY MICKEY

Dr. Stacy Mickey has been practicing family medicine in the East Valley since 2003. Growing up in Iowa, she attended the University of Iowa for her undergraduate degree in psychology, as well as for her medical degree. She completed her residency training

in Greensboro, N.C. She enjoys seeing patients of all ages, and has special interests in pediatrics and women's health.

Dr. Mickey keeps busy with her four children. When not at work, she usually can be found cheering them on at an ice rink or soccer field. She also enjoys playing golf, reading, cooking and cheering on her beloved Iowa Hawkeyes.





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TAKE THE GUESSWORK OUT OF MEDICARE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT

Submitted by Tapestry Insurance

hen reading up on how to enroll in a Medicare health plan, all the plans and options available might start to look like a foreign language, and even after extensive research, making a decision can be daunting.

Fortunately, you don't have to make sense of it all on your own. Lynne Jones is a licensed and trained

Medicare health plan agent who has worked for the past five years to become knowledgeable on the Medicare health plan landscape, and who attends seminars to stay current on the latest information.

"It's complicated, and there are so many moving parts," Lynne said. "So, I always think to myself, 'Why would you ever tackle this on your own?"

Lynne makes one-on-one appointments with each of her clients, so she is able to help identify their needs, and talk them through the process in a face-to-face manner, ensuring they fully understand the options available to them.

Additionally, Lynne reconnects with her clients each year, to ensure their current plan is meeting their needs. "I can't emphasize enough how important it is to have a local agent," she said.

Lynne's clients find that having the opportunity to speak in person to an agent who has taken the time to understand their wants and needs makes



all the difference when it comes to enrolling in a Medicare health plan. "There is not a *one-size-fits-all* plan that works for everyone," she said. "I want to empower people. I think they should have knowledge to make informed decisions."

Tapestry Insurance clients can look forward to knowing they are making the best possible insurance decisions, without being pressured or having

to pay a fee. As a Medicare health plan agent, Lynne is paid through the insurance companies when she signs up one of her clients. So, her clients don't pay any out-ofpocket fees for her expertise.

"People get nervous because they don't want to feel pressured," she said. "I try to help them by teaching them about all the options, and then letting them choose what's best for them."

Please join Lynne, at the Red Mountain Ranch Country Clubhouse, on Tuesday morning, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. She can check your prescription drug coverage, as well as share information about new plans available for 2019. Enjoy coffee and hot cocoa in an informal setting. If you are turning 65 next year, this also would be a great time to get acquainted with Medicare.

For help with your Medicare insurance needs, please contact Lynne Jones at (480) 212-2246.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Milano's, Previously Bellagio Pizzeria, Offers Same Great Food with New Name

By Jamie Killin

ilano's, previously known as Bellagio Pizzeria, is offering up the same great Mediterranean food Mesa residents know and love under the same reliable ownership that's led the business for more than 14 years.

"We are the same restaurant with the same concept," said owner Mike Bipar. "We are very, very affordable for the atmosphere we have and the service you get."

The restaurant decided to change its name after a legal dispute with a Las Vegas hotel, The Bellagio, as Mike decided to continue putting his time, energy and money back into the beloved restaurant instead of toward a difficult legal battle.

"Because of the cost involved, we made the decision just to change the name and go this way and save ourselves some time and put more energy into the business," said Mike. "I want people to know the business is the same, the food is the same, and the ownership hasn't changed."

It's that commitment to great food and service that's kept Mike's restaurant legacy running in the Valley since the 1970s. Mike began his journey as a restauranteur in 1971, with Papa Jay's Pizza, in Tempe, and has seen the evolution of his restaurant into Milano's.

Despite name and location changes, consistency in delivering a great experience to customers has remained of the upmost importance to Mike. He provides consistency by sticking with great menu items and keeping employees.

"I've had the same crew since years ago," he explained. "My manager and my cook have been with me for more than



25 years. We keep the same employees as much as we can."

This reliability in staff and values has kept the quality and consistency of the food high, allowing customers to know they can always expect the same great meal whenever they visit.

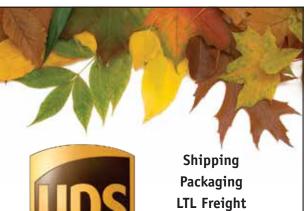
"Every time I talk to customers they say, 'Ever since you've been here, over ten years ago, you are always consistent," recalled Mike.

In addition to quality, Milano's also provides options, with Mediterranean menu items, as well as pizza, and with choices for all kinds of dietary needs and preferences.

Another key component to Milano's success is an excellent atmosphere. Mike continues to strive for a better atmosphere by constantly remodeling. Last year, it was an upgraded kitchen, and this year, he's working on a remodeled bar, one of the most popular aspects of the restaurant, where patrons enjoy watching the multiple TVs.

"It's a very simple concept that we have, and it can be considered fine dining because of the atmosphere we have. I remodel every two years," he said.

Milano's is located at 4545 E. McKellips Road, Suite 103. For more information, call (480) 325-1600.



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Self Development Academy Pursues International Baccalaureate Program

Submitted by Self Development

 \blacktriangleleft o meet the demands of a rapidly changing world, Self Development Academy (SDA) is pursuing becoming an International Baccalaureate (IB)

The IB education focuses on teaching students how to learn, a skill necessary for success in the present world where innovation is rapid.

SDA is prepared to implement the IB program during the upcoming school year, while continuing SDA's commitment to a rigorous curriculum.

The IB program plays a significant role in the administration's dedication to continuous school enhancement, which is a key reason for the students' consistent high level of academic performance.

Over the years, SDA, a public charter school educating children for more than 19 years, and a pillar in the Mesa community, has grown from a student body of 37 to 500. The campus has grown, too, from one building, to several facilities, including the Science and Technology Center.

As the SDA community and campus transformed, the commitment to providing an outstanding educational experience to each student by the school's leader and now superintendent, Dr. Anjum Majeed, has never wavered. Under her direction, the school has been consistently ranked among the top elementary and middle school programs in the local community and in the state.

At SDA, a student's middle school years begin with grade six. Many students transition from SDA's elementary program (kindergarten through grade five) directly into middle school. However, students are welcome at any grade level. SDA's middle school program continues the tradition of an accelerated curriculum, which begins during the elementary school years.

By the time SDA students reach middle school,



many are prepared to enroll in Algebra I, Advanced Literature and Advanced Science. During middle school, students have the opportunity to complete Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II, Advanced Literature, Science, including Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Technology, Latin and Spanish.

Many of these courses are not offered until high school. Students completing eighth grade at SDA are

enrolled in Honors and Advanced Placement courses upon entering high school. Additionally, many students receive high school credit for courses completed at SDA. This enhances their grade point averages, and makes them highly competitive students when applying to colleges and universities.

The SDA curriculum is designed to instill study skills and academic knowledge for success in high school. Students who complete the kindergarten through grade eight program at SDA have the reputation for being self-disciplined, motivated learners who tend to be highly successful in high school. SDA coordinates with local high schools to facilitate a smooth transition to high school and ensure student success.

Besides the academic focus, students have opportunities to develop other skills, such as public speaking, sports and performance skills. Class plays, winter performances and Science Fair are just a few of the many annual in-house activities. Afterschool activities include Sports Club, Science Olympiad (a competitive team), Dance Club, Choir Club and Student Government. SDA is committed to developing well-rounded students who are well prepared for high school and beyond.

For more information, and/or to schedule a tour, please contact the Front Office at (480) 641-2640. SDA is located at 1709 N. Greenfield Road. Enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year opens on Nov. 1.







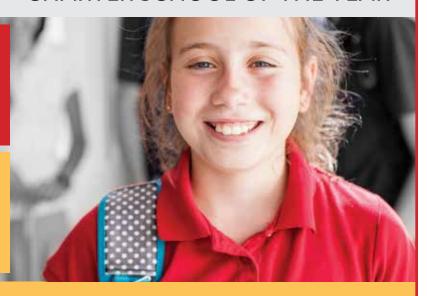
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By Jamie Killin rom facelifts, to **◄** lip plumping, to even snoring reduction treatments, a new, cutting-edge laser treatment at La Peau Dermatology is offering life-changing results.



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The laser even can replicate the effects of a traditional four-dimensional facelift in three to four treatments. It also is ideal for anyone who would be a candidate for a surgical facelift who is suffering from saggy skin and deep wrinkles.

"For the first time in the history of lasers, to treat wrinkles, we're treating from inside the mouth, not just from the outside," explained Dr. Rashid. "You treat it from the inside of the mouth, so the collagen is induced both ways."

In addition to facelifts, this new laser technology can provide many other cosmetic benefits, such as feminine rejuvenation, removing upper and lower eyelid sagging, hair removal, and reducing acne and scarring. Additional cosmetic advantages include lightening stretch marks and

veins, reducing fat, firming the body and even plumping lips. Each procedure is accomplished with just a few treatments.

"It all depends on the specific type of condition," said Dr. Rashid. "The veins on the legs, superficial blood vessels on the face. It's great for someone who has had excessive sun exposure or rosacea. It's ideal for someone who has lost weight and wants skin tightening, or wants to remove stretch marks. It's all in one."

In many cases, these laser services are more cost effective and longer lasting than their surgical counterparts. Dr. Rashid can complete the treatments in the office.

The offerings don't stop at cosmetic benefits either. The laser can even remove fungus in toe nails or warts as well as painlessly reduce someone's snoring and allow better sleep at night by treating the upper and lower palate.

Patients can even track the reduction in their snoring though an app.

For more information on the new laser treatments, as well as all of La Peau Dermatology's offerings, call (480) 396-2300.



HEALTH

SPECIAL HORMONE FOR WOMEN ADDRESSES SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION

By Sharzad Green, PharmD

s a female pharmacist specializing in women's care, I often hear ■ about women's concerns regarding sexual dysfunction.

According to statistics, 40 percent of women between the ages of 45 and 64 living in the United States have sexual concerns. Even though sexual problems are common in women, it is a topic that can be very difficult to discuss for you and for your health care provider.

To address the concerns of many individuals with sexual dysfunction, we always are looking for different concoctions to help men and women with their sexuality. Some helpful approaches may include addressing overall hormone balance, vaginal dryness, using arousal enhancing creams and compounded testosterone and DHEA when appropriate.

Another possible solution involves using a hormone called oxytocin. You probably are familiar with the name since oxytocin is used as a medication to facilitate childbirth. A recent study published in the journal Hormones and Behavior suggested that the intensity of orgasm and contentment after sexual intercourse were increased upon oxytocin administration. That is why oxytocin also is known as the love hormone.

For women, oxytocin levels increase one minute after orgasm but return close to normal within five minutes afterward. For men, oxytocin levels increase during sexual arousal and persist beyond ejaculation.

There are additional benefits to using oxytocin. This amazing hormone, which is produced in the hypothalamus (part of the brain), can be a great pain reliever. It plays a role in social bonding, sexual reproduction in both sexes, and during and after childbirth. Furthermore, oxytocin lowers serum cortisol, which often is called the stress hormone. That is why it can improve mood.

The love hormone, oxytocin, is a hormone that also can promote feelings of intimacy. In recent years, we have seen an increase in demand for compounding oxytocin for many different medical conditions.

At Community Clinical Pharmacy, we compound oxytocin lozenges, as well as nasal sprays. The lozenges can be made using the flavor of your choice. Some of the popular flavors are marshmallow, raspberry, banana and mint. Oxytocin lozenges are to be dissolved in the cheek or under the tongue five to 15 minutes prior to intimacy.

Of course, sexual arousal and function in women is very complicated, and not everyone would benefit from the same treatment. Therefore, it is important to talk to an expert and discover what options may be appropriate for you. For more information, and to set up a consultation appointment with me to discuss your options, please contact Community Clinical Pharmacy at (480) 969-0600. ■

Dr. Sharzad Green is a graduate of the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and specializes in bio-identical hormone therapy and natural alternatives for men and women. You may contact her at (480) 264-7600 or via email at info@naturalvaginalsolutions.com.

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Well, now it does. LSGC is offering the new affordable Family Membership. It is looking for 10 young families to join the club with a special membership, which allows the spouse and the children age 14 and younger of a principal member to play absolutely free after 3 p.m., seven days a week. "Now, you can play three, five or nine holes with your entire family and all of this is free," said Wayne. "All principal members are invited to take advantage of this amazing offer."

For more details on the Family Membership or any other membership inquiries, call Wayne McBean at (480) 323-9364, or send on email to wmcbean@ lassendas.com.



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If you have always envied those creative folks who can design fantastic floral arrangements, but just couldn't master it yourself, now is your chance to learn.

The Vistas Pavilion is hosting a Lunch and Learn luncheon and a creative floral centerpiece designmaking class. Just in time for the holidays, noted local florist Connie Little, from Here Comes the Cake and More, will lead the class.

Class starts on Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 10 a.m., upstairs in the Vistas Pavilion. Afterward, the luncheon will afford participants time for conversation and appreciation of finished fall floral centerpieces.

Reservations are required for the event. The price is \$50 plus tax and gratuity, and includes the class, luncheon and materials. Call or email by Thursday, Nov. 8, to Jess Miller at (480) 396-4000, ext. 227, or JessMiller@LasSendas.com.

FALL FLAVORS TO SAVOR

Cooler nights prompt our dinner thoughts to turn toward plates filled with warm comfort food. With that in mind, our chefs have created some delectable fall flavors to savor right now.

Aside from our regular menu, we will be offering a different special each night:

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WINE DOWN WEDNESDAY—The night features 40 percent off on all bottles of wine under \$100. Pair your favorite vino with Slow-Braised Lamb Shank, Saffron Risotto and Asparagus, \$18.

THURSDAY—Enjoy the unique herbal flavor of Juniper Brined Roast Pork with Mashed Potatoes, Gravy and Green Beans, \$16.

FRIDAY IS PRIME RIB NIGHT—Served with Aus Jus, Mashed Potatoes and Baby Vegetables. Pick your portion, the 10-ounce Queen, for \$19.95 or the 14-ounce King, for \$26.95.

SATURDAY—Celebrate the myth of Seafood Cioppino. It is said that when fishermen came back empty handed, they would walk around the docks with a pot asking the other fishermen to chip in whatever fresh-caught morsel they could spare. Have a seafood adventure and dive into our Seafood Cioppino, \$25.

SUNDAY—The Pasta Buffet Bar includes an allyou-can-eat full buffet. Create your own pasta from a variety of pastas and sauces, \$18.

While you are enjoying your special dish, be entertained by nightly live music. Check out the newly remodeled surroundings and the fantastic views from our Patio. The public is always welcome.

The Patio and The Grille are located at Las Sendas Golf Club, 7555 E. Eagle Crest Drive. For reservations, call (480) 396-4000, or go to lassendas.com or opentable.com.

HAVE A RELAXING CHRISTMAS EVE TOGETHER

Decorations are up. Shopping is done. Presents are wrapped. And Christmas Day activities are all arranged. Now is the time for relaxation and reflection without the hassle of preparing a meal.

This Christmas Eve, The Patio at Las Sendas is serving a special early evening three-course dinner. You and your guests can enjoy the quiet relaxation, as well as the sunset and city-light views, while experiencing a delicious dinner prepared by our gourmet chefs.

Reservations are required. For information about the menu and pricing, call (480) 396-4000.



GET A NEW LAS SENDAS T-SHIRT AT THE GOLF SHOP

Just arriving are our new Las Sendas T-shirts—not golf attire, but great to wear everywhere else. Show your Las Sendas pride by wearing a branded Las Sendas T-shirt, only \$34.95

The Golf Shop welcomes back our snowbird friends from the North. November is such a great month to play golf at Las Sendas Golf Club. Rates are still very attractive before we move into our really busy season.

The best deals are always on our website at lassendas.com. Scroll down to Book a Tee Time, choose the day you want to play and the rate you want to pay. It's always free to book times on our website.

We always have a sale on at the Golf Shop, so come check us out. The public is always welcome.

New stock is arriving every day. We have all the latest women's fashions, from JoFit, Tail, Jamie Sadock, Antigua, Greg Norman, Under Armour, Ping and Annika. Men's fashions for this year include topline merchandise, from Antigua, Ping, Greg Norman, Travis Mathew, Under Armour and FootJoy.

We also carry a great assortment of Skechers and FootJoy golf shoes for women and men, the most comfortable golf shoes at unbeatable prices.

We wish a Happy Thanksgiving to all our friends in the Las Sendas community.

Rick Crowson, Director of Golf, Las Sendas Golf Club

A is for Appel Exceptional Mesa Teen on Track for National Merit Scholarship

By Darshan Dawson

s a 2-year-old, Wyatt Appel was different, and his parents, Karen and Martin Appel, both teachers in Mesa, knew their son was not like most children. As a second-grader reading at an eighth-grade level, Wyatt was having conversations with his parents about what he read, which were not typical for a child his age. He always has freely expressed his thoughts and ideas about subjects of interest to him in biology or calculus, and to the amazement of his father, can do complex mathematical computations in his head.

His mom, Karen, explained, "Wyatt has a curious mind and always wants to know why and how things work." His parents agree he has an exceptional memory. With insight beyond his years, this unassuming young man sums up his academic gifts in this way, "I think I was naturally inclined," said Wyatt. "I remember things well and can make connections. That is the biggest thing, being able to make connections with what I have learned."

As a youngster, ensuring Wyatt was intellectually engaged was not a problem. His parents say he has always been self-directed and motivated to learn. However, not everything has been easy for him. He readily admits that the middle school experience at Mesa Academy was challenging and pushed him, but he realizes the workload really prepared him for high school and college.

"We have never set any standard for him to get all A's," Karen said. "We never had to. He has his own personal expectations and goals, and he quietly goes about his business." Wyatt's dad, Martin, added, "Not just in academics, it is in all aspects. Athletically he does not want to just play. He wants to be the best he can be and works at it all the time." Aside from his academic pursuits, Wyatt keeps himself well balanced by participating in a variety of interests, including cooking, art, basketball and helping with student council activities.

The quiet and popular Mesa High School senior is strong in English, math and science. His favorite subjects

are math and science. "I like knowing the way the world works," said Wyatt. "Math has to be applied, but the chemistry, physics and biology interest me, since they explain why the world is the way it is."

A straight-A student throughout his school career, Wyatt has set his sights on the National Merit Scholarship, a quest that started in his junior year by taking the PSAT

test, the precursor to the SAT. Scoring 1490 out of 1520 points has qualified him as a National Merit Scholarship

Each year, more than a million and a half academically gifted students from more than 22,000 high schools across the country participate in the program. Only 1 percent of students from each state who took the PSAT in their junior year with the highest scores are named as semifinalists in their senior year. Arizona has a number of semifinalists, who include seniors from traditional public schools, public charters and private schools, as well as a handful of home-schooled students.

For a semifinalist to move on to finalist status for a National Merit Scholarship, they must apply, write an essay, provide transcripts, take the SAT and score well. Wyatt took the SAT in April, earning a score of 1560, and putting him in the 99th percentile. About 90 percent of semifinalists are estimated to achieve finalist standing. More than half of the finalists are expected to win scholarship money.





For the last 63 years, the National Merit Scholarship program has awarded more than \$31 million a year in scholarships. Its mission is to identify and honor scholastically talented American youth, and to encourage them to develop their abilities to the fullest. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation offers three types of Merit scholarships to finalists: National Merit \$2,500 scholarships, corporate-sponsored

Merit Scholarship awards and college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards.

Special scholarships are awarded to outstanding students who are not finalists and meet a corporate sponsor's criteria. With the award comes the title of Merit Scholar. A college-bound, first-year student with such a status will attract the attention of colleges and universities that intensely vie for and proudly promote those students.

Wyatt seeks to earn a business degree and is looking at universities with good business schools. He is hoping to get accepted to Princeton, Columbia, University of San Diego or Boston University.

Wyatt's interests are so broad, to pursue one particular discipline, such as medicine, he feels would be too confining. He has many ideas and wants to be diversified to have the freedom to do a lot of different things. He believes an entrepreneurial focus will allow him to do that.

Wyatt and his parents will learn of his standing in the National Merit Scholarship program when the finalists are announced in the spring of 2019. ■



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TAX IMPLICATIONS FOR CANADIANS AND FOREIGN PERSONS SELLING U.S. REAL ESTATE

By Lorraine Ryall Associate Broker, CDPE, CSSN, KOR Properties

→ he Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980, also known as FIRPTA, applies when a foreign person sells U.S. real estate.

FIRPTA defines a foreign seller as a non-resident alien individual, a foreign corporation not treated as a domestic corpora-

tion, or a foreign partnership, trust or estate.

East Mesa has been one of the top locations for Canadians to purchase their second homes. With the stronger Canadian dollar over the past few years, however, more Canadians have been selling to take advantage of the exchange rate. Understanding the tax laws and how they will impact you as the seller or the buyer can save you time and money and possible penalties. Whether you are a Canadian or another non-U.S. resident, these laws and taxes apply the same.

HOW MUCH WILL I HAVE TO WITHHOLD?

As a Canadian citizen, when you sell a U.S. property, you may be subject to withholding tax of up to 15 percent of the gross proceeds on the sale. If the buyer is purchasing the property as his primary residence, and the sales price is less than \$300,000, tax is not required to be withheld. If the buyer is purchasing the property as his primary residence and the sales price is between \$300,000 and \$1,000,000, the tax withheld is 10 percent. If neither of these two scenarios applies, 15 percent tax must be withheld.

HOW ARE FUNDS WITHHELD?

The title company handling the sale of the property will withhold the funds as shown on the Settlement Statement at closing and submit the funds to the IRS within 20 days of the close of escrow.



WHY IS THE BUYER RESPONSIBLE FOR TAX **WITHHOLDING?**

Although the tax withholdings are deducted from the seller's proceeds from the sale of the property and held back by the title company, if for any reason it is not withheld, FIRPTA law holds the buyer liable for the amount that should have been withheld. With the seller living outside of the U.S., the IRS has made this tax the buyer's responsibility, and they will pursue the buyer or place a lien on the property to collect their tax, if necessary.

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN THE U.S. WITHOUT BEING CONSIDERED A RESIDENT?

A common misconception is that Canadians regularly travelling to the U.S. for long stays can spend up to 182 days, or six months, in the U.S. without being considered a resident for tax purposes. Although Canadians can stay in the U.S. for up to six months per immigration, it's not that simple for the IRS and taxes. If you are travelling to the U.S. for long stays year after year, your stay is averaged using a special formula (see below) over a period of three years. The total number of days spent in the current travel year is added to one-third the total number of days spent in the previous year, and one-sixth the number of days spent in the year prior to that.

Formula

- + 2014 115 days 1/6 = 19
- + 2015 120 days 1/3 = 40
- + 2016 123 days 1 = 123
- Total = 182

If your stay is more than six months in three years, using the formula above, you are now considered a U.S. person and subject to U.S. taxes on all your income and reporting that income to the U.S. There are exceptions to this rule if you do find yourself in the U.S. for longer than six months, and your tax accountant can advise you on this.

The tax withholding is based on the gross sales price,

but the seller can do a pre-audit for the net proceeds and submit to the IRS prior to the date of transfer. All receipts for depreciation, along with all allowed expenses, must be submitted. Title will withhold the funds without sending to the IRS until they get the determination. If it is approved, funds will be returned to seller. If not, the funds will be transferred to the IRS.

Regardless, if you have withholding, you still have to file a U.S. tax return. If you do not file, the IRS can with-

If you are selling a home toward the end of the year, you want to try and close by Dec. 31. Otherwise, you cannot file your tax return for another year.

CANADIAN TAX RULES

Even if you do not owe any U.S. tax, that doesn't mean you will not have to pay Canadian tax.

Example

- 2012 purchase property for 300K U.S. When exchange rate is .9 (270,000 cdn)
- 2017 sell property for 300K USD When exchange rate is 1.2 (360,000 cdn)
- + U.S. No gain or loss Canadian Capital Gain of \$90,000 cdn (\$360,000 - \$270,000)

There are many more exceptions and scenarios other than those outlined here. This is just a summary and not intended as tax or legal advice.

For more information on selling your home or purchasing from a foreign seller, or if you would like a recommendation for an approved accountant for FIRPTA withholding, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

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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- John M. Guasto

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Las Sendas No Neighbors Behind - \$375,000 1926 sq ft - 3 Bed, 2.75 Bath



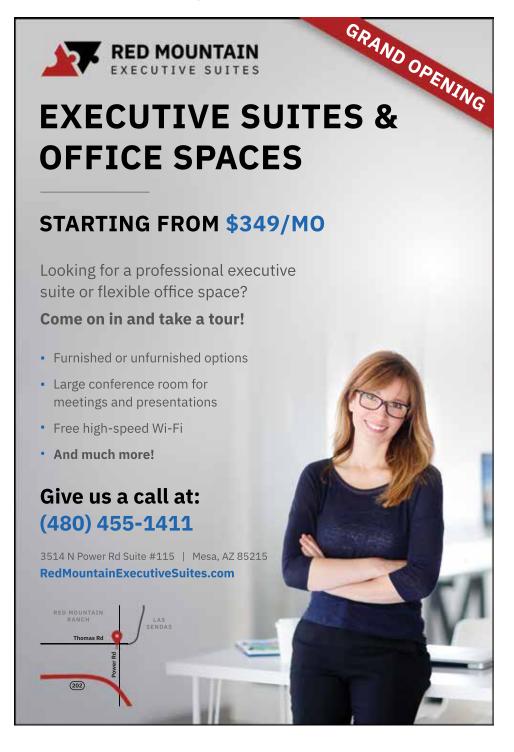


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LOCAL BUSINESS

East Mesa's Newest Executive Suites Offers **Top Amenities, Professional Space**

By Jamie Killin

ed Mountain Executive Suites offers Mesa businesses a modern, upscale new space for working and networking, with access to amenities like boardrooms, a game room, a community kitchen, receptionist services, furnished offices, high-speed Internet, free printing and more—all at a competitive price.

Tenants have the option to lease a fully furnished executive suite or set of cubicles in the modern, contemporary office, located in the heart of East Mesa, near Las Sendas and Red Mountain, as well as near restaurants, shopping and the Red Mountain freeway.

The office provides flexible office spaces for individuals or teams of 30 or more. Businesses enjoy a professional space with all the amenities, but without the burden of leasing an entire building, where many common spaces are left underused.

According to longtime Las Sendas resident and owner Dennis Seifert, leasing an executive suite can be a great way for someone working at home to transition into a more professional work environment. Leasing also is a great option for a growing small business in need of top-quality office amenities for an affordable price.

"For one price, you get everything,"

said Dennis. "You can pay so much for the cubicle or an office, and you've got access to high-speed Internet, coffee, printing and fax. It's all included."

Dennis himself has utilized the benefits of executive suites for his companies, such as the often much-needed social aspect of a positive work environment. This social aspect is facilitated at Red Mountain Executive Suites with a shared game room equipped with foosball, darts and television.

The executive suites model also facilitates collaboration and networking, often allowing companies easy access to partnerships and potential growth.

The suites at Red Mountain Executive Suites average 10 feet by 13 feet, with floor to ceiling windows and high-quality finishes and furniture. Some suites even offer private entry. They are fully enclosed and can be locked separately for extra security.

High-quality cubicles provide a generous 6-foot by 6-foot space, with furniture available. Tenants also are permitted to bring in their own furniture for both cubicles and offices. ■

Red Mountain Executive Suites is located at 3514 N. Power Road, Suite 115. For more information, or to schedule a tour, call (480) 455-1411.





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LOCAL BUSINESS

FORE YOU THROW

By Jon Englund ownsizing? Determined to get rid of stuff no longer needed? Cleaning out a home or an estate? Stop! Know Before You Throw.



Last month, I asked if anyone out there might be interested in letting me peek into his collecting life and share it with my readers. Well, I got a taker, and just in time.

This person's passion is in wristwatches. I touched on this subject last December when writing about Paul Newman's Daytona Rolex, which sold at auction for nearly \$18 million. That watch was quite special. And the provenance, or ownership and history, certainly added to

To some extent, conventional wristwatches are fading into history. With the advent of smart watches, which give you your pulse, emails and grocery list all on one little 38mm to 42mm screen, single purpose watches are losing some relevancy these days. In spite of that, quality investment-grade watches are still in demand and have proven to increase in value over time.

Some characteristics to look for in collectible watches are those made from stainless steel or gold (versus gold plate), and an internationally recognized manufacturer with longevity. Some of the high-end brands that are collectible and have good resale value are Breitling, Patek Philippe, Omega and Cartier. And we

must not forget one of the most recognizable brands the world over, Rolex.

This month's collector favors Rolex. His Explorer II, in stainless steel, which sold for \$3,700 in 1997, now sells new for nearly \$8,000. A good condition used example can fetch up to \$5,000 or so. His GMT Master II, in stainless steel, with the Coke colored bezel (black and red), really went up in value. While this model Rolex cost a bit more than the Explorer II, it now sells for \$8,000 to \$10,000. And it's a used watch.

Thank you so much for sharing your area of collecting with me. Please let me know about your interesting collection, as I would love the opportunity to feature it in an upcoming article. Send me an email at Jon@ KnowBeforeYouThrow.INFO, or give me a call at (480) 699-1567 (a landline, so no text). Let me know what's in your closet. Hopefully, I can feature your collection in the coming months.





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Church Celebrates 125 years in the Heart of Mesa

Submitted by First United Methodist Church of

¶irst United Methodist Church of Mesa will on the weekend of Nov. 16 through 18.

Recognized by the City of Mesa as a historic landmark, the church will open its doors, at 15 E. First Ave., for a free concert featuring its Centennial Organ, at 7:30 p.m., on Friday, Nov. 16.

If you appreciate music, you will want to enjoy it surrounded by the sanctuary's superb acoustics and evocative stained glass windows.

On Sunday, Nov. 18, at the 9 a.m. worship service, Bishop Bob Hoshibata, of the United Methodist Church Western District Phoenix Episcopal Area, will be the guest speaker. Mesa Mayor John Giles will then speak at a brunch for the congregation.

When the church was organized in 1893, Mesa was a small community of about 700 people, and Arizona was a territory struggling through a drought and low wool prices. People were abandoning the territory, according to a report to the church's missionary society in New York City.

But fresh late rains stirred new hopes. "God has not forsaken Arizona," wrote the church's superintendent for the Arizona Territory, in his report to the missionary society.

In Mesa, Iowa transplant Dr. E.W. Wilbur was founding a Methodist Church comprised of nine adults and six children. The seeds of the church began in 1892 when he held Sunday school classes in a barn near where Stapley Drive and Main Street intersect today.

In the fall of 1893, a church home for this fledgling congregation started taking shape in Downtown Mesa when Dr. Wilbur acquired two parcels of land on the south side of First Street across from where the Mesa Arts Center stands today. In the following year, construction began at the site on a one-room brick chapel.

The congregation outgrew the one-room church, and a new Spanish Colonial-style church was built on the site of the first church in 1913. Members hauled sand and gravel from the Salt River for concrete. The cost of the

1913 church was \$8,835.

After World War II ended, Mesa's population began to swell and plans for a third church started to take shape. The church campus grew to include the corner lot at Center Street and First Avenue, thanks to a memorial gift from the John Dobson family.

The first part of the new church to be completed was the 120-foot tower—today an iconic feature of Downtown Mesa.

Today's First Church was designed by Mesa architect Martin Ray Young Jr., a descendant of Brigham Young. Martin was Mesa's first architect and was credited with designing more than 1,600 projects in a 50-year career.

During dedication ceremonies in 1958, the church building's design was said to express "... aspiration. The lines have an upward trend, expressing faith and praise..."

About 10 years after the new church was built, a young liturgical design artist was hired to design stained glass windows in the church nave and attached chapel, and to carve front door panels that depict the Christmas Story. The artist, Maureen McGuire, had been trained at the Pope Pius XII Institute in Florence, Italy.

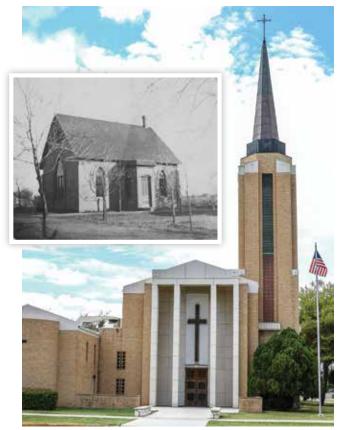
In 2014, the City of Mesa recognized First United Methodist Church of Mesa as a historic landmark. In announcing the decision, the city said this about First Church:

"In existence since the late 1800s, the church campus is the oldest one still in continuous use in Mesa. Its steeple has had a presence on the downtown skyline since the 1950s."

"First United Methodist was the church home to the late U.S. Rep. John J. Rhodes, who represented Mesa for 30 years. The congregation sponsored the city's first Boy Scouts of America troop, Troop No. 1, in 1922. The current church was designed by Martin Ray Young Jr., Mesa's first architect..."

The city noted "the importance of the church congregation to Mesa's history..."

Come worship with us and celebrate 125 years of Mesa history, beautiful music and a glorious sanctuary. For more information, call (480) 969-5577. First United Methodist Church of Mesa is located at 15 E. First Ave. ■





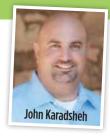
eal Estate In Las Sendas





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Sales for the Month of September 2018



Address	Square Feet	Community	Sold Price
7251 E. Manning St.	1,131	Windsong	\$230,000
2661 N. Raven	1,605	Windsong	\$251,300
7445 E. Eagle Crest Dr.	1,795	Windsong	\$289,000
3643 N. Desert Oasis St.	1,571	Ironwood Pass	\$295,000
3055 N. Red Mountain, #107	1,571	Ironwood Pass	\$321,500
7228 E. Nathan St.	2,835	Trailridge	\$355,000
2936 N. 72nd St.	2,539	Desert Creek	\$358,500
2737 N. Raven	1,926	Trailridge	\$365,000
7437 E. Nora St.	2,136	Grayfox	\$380,000
7755 E. Western Hills St.	2,451	Mountain Gate	\$387,500
3758 N. Sonoran Hills	1,926	Trailridge	\$399,900
2558 N. Rowen Cir.	2,126	Grayfox	\$417,000
3835 N. Canyon Wash Cir.	2,814	Eaglefeather	\$360,000
3662 N. Paseo Del Sol St.	3,426	Highlands	\$505,000
4107 N. Silver Ridge Cir.	3,017	Legacy Hills	\$599,000
3824 N. Calisto Cir.	4,275	Echo Canyon	\$769,000
7828 E. Riverdale Cir.	3,458	Rock Canyon	\$790,000
3236 N. Canyon Wash Cir.	4,618	Rock Canyon	\$1,030,000
3239 N. Ladera Cir.	4,150	Rock Canyon	\$1,050,000
8442 E. Vista Canyon Cir.	8,667	Diamond Point	\$2,600,000

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 KOR Properties www.KORproperties.com



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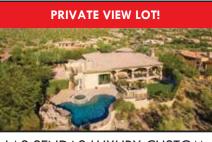
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LAS SENDAS LUXURY CUSTOM 4346DesertOasis.com \$1,595,000



AS SENDAS LUXURY CUSTOM 8113EchoCanyon.com \$1,395,000



LAS SENDAS LUXURY CUSTOM 3565CrystalPeak.com \$1,275,000



LAS SENDAS LUXURY CUSTOM 8151EchoCanyon.com \$874,500



LAS SENDAS TUSCAN 4054ElSereno.com \$819,900



LAS SENDAS GOLF COURSE LOT 3739Avoca.com \$729,000



CACHET @ LAS SENDAS 1,388 SF / 2 BR / 2 BA \$265,000



LAS SENDAS 3,657 SF / 6 BR / 4 BA \$487,500



LAS SENDAS 2,226 SF / 4 BR / 2 BA \$475,000



LAS SENDAS LOT .55 ACRES \$269,000

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REAL ESTATE

HERE'S WHAT'S NEW IN MESA

By Natascha Ovando-Karadsheh, Associate Broker **KOR Properties**

s chair of the City of Mesa Economic Development Advisory Board, I love updating clients on what is happening in the City of Mesa, especially as it relates to economic development.



Economic development is important for homeowners because there is a strong relationship between economic development and household wealth, housing quality and growth. Better quality jobs equal higher household incomes, equal higher quality housing demand, and equal higher property values for all.

Just look at what has happened around Intel, in Chandler. After the Intel announcement two years ago, we watched housing values jump by almost \$30 per square foot in the course of 60 days. This is what business expansion and job creation can do for homeowners.

Currently, there are several great things happening around Mesa. So, here's the scoop.

ELLIOT TECH CORRIDOR

It recently was my honor to attend the opening of the \$2 billion Apple Global Command Center, in Mesa, on the Elliot Tech Corridor. This huge 1.3 million square-foot facility is the worldwide hub for all Apple data centers, and supports Apple's iCloud, iMessage and iTunes, among other platforms.

The Elliot Tech Corridor runs along the north and south sides of Elliot Road, from the 202 Freeway, to Signal Butte Road, and has been developed by the City of Mesa to support high-growth, high-technology businesses with amazing infrastructure, including extensive power capacity and advanced fiber networks.

The Apple announcement has garnered global attention for the area. More than half the parcels of land along the corridor have changed hands in the last 18 months. In March, Edgecore broke ground on the first of several buildings at their Mesa Data Center Campus, which is expected to eventually feature 1.25 million square feet of space. EdgeConnect and Digital Realty also have purchased property for development, and Dignity Health soon will be opening its newest hospital on the corridor.

PHOENIX-MESA GATEWAY AIRPORT AND SKYBRIDGE

Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport is a huge asset for Mesa, and will be the key to growth in the southeast Valley for decades to come. With its three massive runways, Gateway Airport is perfectly poised to absorb the coming population growth and manage air traffic overflow from Sky Harbor International Airport.

The other exciting news at Mesa-Gateway Airport is the opening of SkyBridge Arizona, a 360-acre development offering the nation's first international air cargo hub. Housing both Mexican and United States Customs operations, SkyBridge Arizona allows distributors sending air cargo to clear Mexican customs in Mesa before flying into Mexico. The customs process normally takes up to two weeks in Mexico. SkyBridge Arizona reduces the time to less than two days. Governor Doug Ducey expects SkyBridge Arizona to lead to the creation of 17,000 new and indirect jobs.

OPPORTUNITY ZONES

The most recent federal tax bill established the creation of approximately 8,500 Opportunity Zones throughout the United States and territories. Referred to as a once in a lifetime opportunity, Opportunity Zones have the ability to accelerate growth and employment in low-income census tracts, while providing investors unprecedented tax benefits.

Mesa has 14 strategically chosen Opportunity Zones getting attention from national investors, particularly surrounding Downtown Mesa, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and Falcon Field. While the government has yet to release all of the regulations on these Opportunity Zones, the window to achieve the maximum benefit is limited, with the highest returns reserved for investments made in 2018.

This benefit is employment creation, not single-family housing creation. It is important for the City of Mesa to protect these zones and work to attract great companies.

Clients have asked me why Mesa doesn't have great looking office buildings like those along Tempe Town Lake. My answer always has been, "Because we haven't had a developer willing to do so." After almost two years of planning and negotiation, Mesa selected prestigious Lincoln Property Co. and Harvard Investments to develop the soccer fields at Riverview and create a 1.35 million square-foot mixed-use district called The Union. This project will provide Class A office space designed to attract premier companies and employees.

A STRONG ECONOMY

Job creation, household wealth and home values are on the rise across the Valley. We have the tailwind of a strong national economy, but our local success also is the product of many years of economic planning and diversification in the Valley. For decades, our economy was based exclusively on construction and housing. During the recession, business and community leaders in Mesa and throughout the Valley realized a diverse economy was the key to our success.

The challenge now is to stay the course and encourage our city leaders to continue to advocate for great projects, amenities and job creation. Housing developers are an aggressive bunch, and they push their projects with ferocity. By contrast, Fortune 500 companies have to be wooed. Our future will be determined by the thoughtful decisions made by our leaders. We want Mesa to be a great city with enviable mixed-use projects, great high wage jobs for our citizens, rising property values and great amenities for all our citizens to enjoy. ■

Mesa native and Las Sendas resident Natascha Ovando-Karadsheh is chair of the City of Mesa Economic Development Advisory Board, Associate Broker, owner of KOR Properties and the founder of Mesa Food Truck Fridays. A graduate of Princeton University and The French Culinary Institute, she is a member of Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate.







Mesa School Board Candidate Believes in Working Together, Communicating

Submitted by Committee to Elect Jenny Richardson

enny Richardson grew up in Mesa, the oldest of a large service-oriented family. "Helping others and working to make our neighborhood stronger

was just something my parents modeled for us," Jenny said. "I was well served by Mesa Public Schools, attending Emerson Elementary School, Carson Junior High School, and graduating from Westwood High School. As a former elementary school teacher, I believe in the power education has to transform lives. Volunteering my time to the schools has been a natural fit."

As the mother of six, she is the *only* serving board member and only candidate with children currently attending Mesa Public Schools—her three youngest attend the same schools she did, with her three oldest graduated from Westwood, as well. Jenny brings that unique lens to her service on the Mesa Governing Board, where she has served as board clerk and board president.

"Keeping our focus on what is best for children is vital," she said. "Our administrators, teachers, families and communities must work together to serve every child."

Jenny believes every student deserves to feel safe at school, valued and special in the classroom, and to learn and progress at high levels. "We have incredible people in Mesa, but we have to look at how we are

allocating our resources and supporting our staff to keep up with the educational demands," she said.

Her signs boast the slogan Mesa In Mind, but that is not just a catchy play on words. "I love Mesa," Jenny said. "After

moving often while my husband served in the Air Force, we chose to come home and raise our family here. Strong neighborhood schools, where families gather and serve each other, will protect our property values and attract great businesses to our community," she continued.

She works to have strong academic, arts, athletics and other quality programs on every campus,

so each school can offer great things to the neighborhoods they serve.

"Mesa deserves a board member who is willing to communicate often, clearly and with transparency about where our resources are being used," Jenny stated. "Our district should have a board committed to the success of every student and focused on policies and budgets that support our goals. I am that kind of board member."

To this day, Jenny appreciates the foundation her education afforded her. "Mesa Public Schools gave me a great start in life," she said. "I want those same experiences for my children and for yours."

Please vote Jenny Richardson for Mesa School Board. ■

Contact Jenny at jennyformps@gmail.com.



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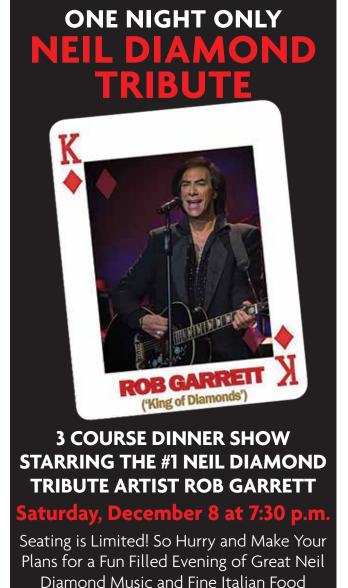
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LOCAL BUSINESS

Local Company Makes Auto Glass Replacement FUN, EASY AND AFFORDABLE



ny vehicle owner knows there are few things more stressful than an automobile repair, and while many people rush through the process in an effort to check another item off their to-do list, Advantage Auto Glass has a different approach.

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There's even a cash grab money machine, which means you'll actually leave your appointment with more money than when you started.

"Everyone calling us is calling with a repair issue that also is a safety issue," said owner Jeremy Solheim. "It is inconvenient and unplanned. Our goal is to have our customers feel better about their day, not just feel better about getting the repair work handled."

Throughout the process, Advantage Auto Glass makes the customer a priority by offering the best in customer service, making insurance claims easy and fast and accepting all insurance providers.

Plus, the repairs are top-notch, with only the best quality craftsmanship and glass. They'll even tint your glass, too. All of theses features contribute to the five-star reviews and glowing customer feedback for Advantage Auto Glass.

Those who may not have the time to take advantage of the onsite amenities of Advantage Auto Glass can opt to have their services done at home or work. These customers still enjoy the staff's friendliness, professionalism, efficiency and high-quality work.

"They did an excellent job, did everything right with no problems," said customer Josh Johnson. "Kevin told me how the process works and was helpful. The installation did not take very long at all, and there were no surprises. I recommend anyone who needs a windshield replaced to go through Advantage Auto Glass."

Customer Brian Madsen agreed. "Advantage Auto Glass replaced my windshield and did such a great job. There is no clue that the windshield was ever replaced," he said. "I actually enjoyed this windshield replacement experience! Friendly staff, snacks, beverages and a movie. Advantage Auto Glass has new lifetime family customers." ■

Advantage Auto Glass is located at 1810 N. Rosemont, Suite 103. For more information, visit advautoglass.com, or call (480) 892-7633.



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LOCAL BUSINESS

The Giving Heart of Greenfield **Discount Dry Cleaners Benefits**

THE PHOENIX RESCUE MISSION

By Darshan Dawson

espite some recent setbacks, Carla Jetton is focusing on the future of Greenfield Discount Dry Cleaners and how she can give to the community. You might say dry cleaning is in her blood.

As a 25-year old, Carla plunged into three dry cleaning businesses and a laundromat in Portland, Oregon. It was there that she also learned to give back to the community in a unique way. "There are not too many opportunities to give back as a dry cleaner," said Carla. Her creativity led her to partner with her customers by organizing a successful blanket drive for the homeless in the Portland area.

After relocating to Mesa, Carla purchased what was the One Hour Martinizing cleaning business at Brown and Greenfield roads in East Mesa and for the third year, continues the tradition of giving.

She wants to partner with her customers and residents, and encourage them to donate old blankets, quilts or sleeping bags they no longer want, or use, by dropping them off at Greenfield Discount Dry Cleaners. The

cleaners will collect them, clean them, and deliver them to the Phoenix



Greenfield Discount Dry Cleaners is located on the northeast corner of Greenfield and Brown roads and offers next day dry cleaning and laundry

services at a low everyday price, with specials on comforters and wedding apparel. Affordable pricing extends to alterations, household items, and wash and fold services. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Apply These Tips to Find **Jobs After Retirement**

Submitted by Matt Watson State Farm

hile retirement is supposed to be the time you give up the 9 to 5 job and say goodbye to water cooler chatter, many people are including work as part of their retirement plans. Longevity, combined with meager



savings, is driving more people to stay on the job longer. Today, almost 19 percent of Americans ages 65 and older are employed full or part time. In 2000, just 12.8 percent of people that age were working, according to the Pew Research Center. The trend might be a good thing. Just a few more years of working may help to improve your retirement funds.

If you plan to make work part of your retirement, make sure to follow these tips.

TIP 1 - DON'T QUIT BEFORE YOU'RE READY

Compared to younger workers, it takes older job seekers longer to find new jobs following a job loss. In most cases, the new jobs don't pay as much as the ones they had. If you plan to work during retirement, start your job hunt or finalize your employment first. The last thing you want is to realize you don't have enough money in retirement, only to be unable to land a job.

TIP 2 - KEEP YOUR SKILLS FRESH

Many people unfairly assume that older workers may not have the necessary technology and communication skills. If that's the case, sign up for a course or two to learn new skills. Don't be afraid to ask questions as you try to master the basics of additional smart-device options.

TIP 3 - TAKE YOUR ENCORE

If you can afford it, retirement also may be time to consider volunteer work in a field that allows you to pursue your interests and passions. Some may enable you to still earn a paycheck. Check out how our local office stays informed on opportunities to get involved at neighborhoodofgood.statefarm.com. ■

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TOP TOP TOP

Patient's Choice Award Recipient

Ballot Questions 4, 5 and 6 Will Impact Northeast Mesa

abeled as Mesa Plays, Questions 4, 5 and 6, on the Nov. 6 ballot, give us in Mesa the rare opportunity to put a stake in the ground and authentically claim Mesa as being one of the best cities in the country for kids and sports, which fits nicely with an already established reputation as a family-friendly destination.

Mesa Plays is a community builder, a job generator, and a catalyst for future economic development projects that will inevitably come in and around the facility. With Mesa rapidly growing, we depend on sales tax revenues to provide essential public services. It makes logical sense to invest in products and infrastructure that bring more sales tax revenue.

Let's explore Questions 4, 5 and 6, and address some of the most frequently asked questions.

WHAT ARE QUESTIONS 4, 5, AND 6?

Question 4 has something for everyone—whether you enjoy museums, dog parks, mountain bike and walking trails, a good library or a great park accessible for all abilities.

This ballot question also addresses the huge demand for more athletic fields throughout the city. The largest number of fields is slated to go on federal government land given to the city exclusively for recreational purposes. The land is free, the need is high, and the timing is right.

In addition to parks, trails, museums and libraries, Question 4 funds recreational fields for local team use. Question 5 authorizes the construction of athletic fields, and Question 6 increases the city's hotel bed tax. So, tourist dollars can be used to pay for the construction of tournament fields. Question 6 pays for Question 5.

WHERE IS THE PROPOSED SPORTS COMPLEX FACILITY TO BE LOCATED?

The Multi-Purpose Sports Complex is proposed for the presently vacant, city-owned land southeast of Red Mountain High School, between Brown Road on the north, Adobe Street on the south and west of 80th Street. The land can be used only for recreational purposes like the proposed sports complex.



HOW MUCH WILL THE MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS COMPLEX COST TO BUILD AND WHAT WILL IT COST ME?

The cost will be \$5.44 per year or \$0.45 per month. The 24 multi-purpose fields are budgeted to cost \$55 million. However, the nine artificial *community* fields, which are packaged in the \$111 million Parks and Culture bond (Question 4 on the ballot), are estimated to cost \$25 million. If the \$25 million were pro-rated from the \$111 million, the estimated cost to the average Mesa homeowner is \$0.45 per month.

Question 5 simply authorizes the City of Mesa to build the other 15 natural grass *tournament* fields. These fields, along with the spectator seating, are estimated to cost \$30 million. However, these fields will be built with city enterprise funds and Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenues. This means there will be no additional tax to you, the Mesa resident. Thus Question 5 is not a new or additional tax.

Visitors are paying for the facility. Question 6 on the ballot pays for Question 5. Question 6 raises the city's hotel bed tax by 1 percent, from 5 percent to 6 percent, to help build the 15 natural grass *tournament* fields.

WHAT ARE THE ANNUAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE SPORTS COMPLEX?

- More than 349,000 new visitors.
- A \$350.3 million total economic output; \$199.3 million in direct visitor expenditures (no multipliers

or inducements).

- + A total of 3,256 new, sustained jobs.
- More than 150,000 hotel room nights booked in Mesa. Source: Economic and Fiscal Impact of the Proposed
 Mesa Youth and Amateur Sports Complex, Elliott D. Pollack and Company, March 2018

WILL THE ANTICIPATED REVENUES COVER THE COSTS OF ANNUAL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE?

Yes, and then some. The Elliott D. Pollack and Company report conservatively anticipates the facility generating positive net revenues for the City of Mesa (after paying operations and maintenance expenses) even when booking the facility at 50 percent of its capacity.

IF THIS YOUTH AND AMATEUR SPORTS COMPLEX IS EXPECTED TO BE SO LUCRATIVE, WHY DOESN'T THE PRIVATE SECTOR BUILD IT AND ASSUME THE COSTS?

The reason municipalities build sports complexes all over the country is because it is the cities that are the primary beneficiaries of the revenues. The real money is not made through onsite rental fees and concessions, but rather through visitor tax receipts from spending at hotels, restaurants, retail outlets, grocery and convenience stores and gas stations, etc. These visitors spend their dollars in our city, which helps sustain jobs and businesses in our community.

Municipally owned and managed facilities offer much greater access to local residents than do privately owned facilities, at which the primary mission is to lease the space at the highest rental rate in order to turn a profit.

If you believe building Sloan Park (Cubs) was important because it is good for tourism and good for sales tax revenue generation during the six weeks of performance, imagine how great Mesa Plays will be with its near 365-day operation.

For more information with Mesa Plays and to see videos, check out MesaPlays.com and remember to vote Yes on Questions 4, 5 and 6.







WHEN MESA PLAYS, MESA WINS!



- Question 4 has something for everyone; whether you enjoy museums, dog parks, mountain bike and walking trails, a good library or a great park that is accessible for all abilities. This ballot question also addresses the huge demand for more athletic fields throughout the city. The largest number of fields are slated to go on federal government land given to the city exclusively for recreational purposes. The land is free, the need is high, and the time is right.
- Question 5 is not a tax. It simply authorizes the construction of atheltic fields.
- Question 6 increases the hotel bed tax by 1%, ensuring visitors, NOT Mesa residents, are paying for the tournament fields.

MESA PLAYS FACTS!



Mesa families will be able to play sports year-round in our community instead of traveling hundreds of miles each month.



YES on 4, 5 & 6 is a revenue generator – visitors will spend money and support local businesses (\$350.3M total annual economic output).



Increased sales tax revenue from visitors means residents can enjoy improved services and amenities without increasing our sales tax to pay for those crucial services.

www.MesaPlays.com

Thank You For Your Service

Wear a poppy to show your support.

In England where I grew up pretty much everyone would wear a poppy in November for Remembrance Day/Veterans Day.



I loved this tradition and started handing out poppies during the first season of Mesa Food Truck Fridays in honor of my father who passed away in November 2012. He always wore his poppy with pride and was never seen without one.

Come show your support for our Veterans by stopping by the KOR Properties booth at Food Truck Fridays on November 2nd and pick up a poppy to wear in November.

If you missed Food Truck Fridays and would like a poppy, please call me at 602-571-6799 and I will bring them to you.





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Financial Advisor

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FINANCE

Time to Think About Year-End Investment Moves

Submitted by Edward Jones

but it's not too soon to start thinking about some year-end investment moves that might benefit you.

First, put more money into your IRA, if you haven't already reached the limit of \$5,500, or \$6,500 if you're 50 or older. You have until April 15 to fully fund your IRA, but why wait until the last minute?

Also, if your employer allows it, bump up your contributions to your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. And if you experienced a major life event in 2018, such as a marriage, the addition of a child or even a new job, you may need to adjust your investment plans or strategy.

Finally, review your investment mix to ensure it's still suitable for your goals and risk tolerance. Over time, the changing values of individual investments can cause your portfolio to become over-weighted in one way or another, so you may need to do some rebalancing.

These aren't the only year-end moves you may want to consider, but they can help you close out 2018 on a positive note.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



WILD OLD WEST DINNER SHOW

An evening of Wild Old West music, food, and fun!
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EVEN1

Wild Old West Dinner And Show

FEATURES MUSIC AND FUN

Submitted by Pioneer Pepper

addle up and ride back into the nostalgic era of the singing cowboys at the Wild Old West Dinner and Show, returning to Farnsworth Hall for another season of Wild West music, food and fun.

The dinner and show take place on Saturdays this year on Nov. 24 and Dec. 1, and Jan. 5, Feb. 9 and March 9, 2019. Dinner for all shows is at 6 p.m., and the show is at 7 p.m., at 6159 E. University Drive in Mesa.

The show features the internationally acclaimed singing cowboy Pioneer Pepper with The Sunset Pioneers and dazzling showgirls. This multi-talented cowboy singing and dancing group keeps the Old West alive with their attention grabbing mixture of traditional cowboy music, comedy and choreography.

Performing such nostalgic songs as Tumbling Tumble Weeds, Cool Water, Ghost Riders and Back in the Saddle Again, this notable troupe takes you back to the days of Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and Marty Robbins, reminding audiences that a little bit of cowboy lives on in us all.

The Sunset Pioneers are international entertainers and have been to Austria, England, Canada and across the United States. They performed for the *Little House on the Prairie* TV show reunion at the Western Film Festival, filmed with the BBC-TV for the TV series Only in America and with the Midwest Country TV Show, on RFD-TV Network.

They performed in Hollywood at the legendary House of Blues on Sunset Boulevard, and have been named Fender Artists. As the official town balladeers of Gilbert, Arizona, they were hailed Top Personalities of the Year by the *Arizona Republic* newspaper.

The Academy of Western Artists nominated their album, *Wagon Load of Western Songs*, for the Album of the Year and the esteemed Will Rogers Award. Pioneer Pepper and The Sunset Pioneers recently were featured on ESPN Monday Night Football, representing the sights and sounds of Arizona.

Earlier this year, Pioneer Pepper proudly released *Old Hymns of the Cowboys*, his fifth album, and was honored to have the album cover painted by Jack Sorenson, the No. 1 selling Western artist in America.

Tickets for the dinner and show are only \$28. Just the show tickets are \$20.

For reservations, information and tickets, go online to SunsetPioneers.com, or call (480) 986-6340. You also can purchase tickets at the Dreamland Villa Community Office, 320 N. 55th Place. Enjoy the greatest, funniest, bestest, Old West dinner show around!

Farnsworth Hall is located at
6159 E. University Drive.
For more information, call (480)
832-3461.

David Luna Addresses Questions Surrounding Home Rule

By Vice Mayor and Councilmember David Luna

llow me to take this opportunity to clarify confusion I've been hearing within District 5 about Home Rule, or what is officially known as the Locally Controlled Alternative Expenditure.

This important authorization allows the city to control its own financial destiny and be accountable to our residents for a balanced budget. The following



questions and answers should help clarify the issue.

WHAT IS HOME RULE?

Home Rule is a voter-approved authorization for the City of Mesa to set its own balanced budget through 2023 versus following a state expenditure limit.

WHAT IS THE STATE EXPENDITURE LIMIT?

The state expenditure limit uses a formula to establish a budget cap based on 1979 data adjusted for inflation and population. It limits local government expenditures to the formula regardless of the actual revenues received.

WHY IS THIS ON THE BALLOT?

State law requires the renewal of this alternative spending authorization every four years. The City Council directed staff to study the potential effects of the spending limit and to recommend action. Staff recommended a renewal of Home Rule based on a detailed review of general fund operations and expendi-

WHY DOESN'T THE STATE EXPENDITURE **LIMIT WORK FOR THE CITY OF MESA?**

While there are numerous reasons why the state expenditure limit is less than ideal for the City, three key factors are:

- The state expenditure limit formula uses adjustments for population and inflation based on national trends. Mesa's population growth and economy grew at a faster pace than national indicators through the 1980s, 1990s and into 2000, making these factors less than adequate to address the city's actual growth.
- There are voter-approved tax revenue sources that the formula does not anticipate, such as the Quality of Life and Local Streets sales tax and Proposition 400 regional transportation tax. These fund sources must be available to provide residents with the services they approved.
- Environmental mandates placed on the city, such as the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Air Act, cause costs to rise faster than a simple inflation-based formula. In addition, security mandates following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, have significantly impacted the budget.

WHAT HAPPENS IF HOME RULE IS NOT **RENEWED?**

If home rule is not renewed, the state-imposed limits would require the city to cut approximately \$200 million from its budget, which would reduce the eligible expenses by nearly 42 percent, impacting all city departments, including public safety.

This is why it so important to vote Yes on Question 1

As always, I am available for any questions or concerns you may have for District 5. Contact me via email at District5@MesaAZ.gov or via phone at (480) 644-3771.

HEALTH

THE BALANCE SYSTEM PLAYS VITAL ROLE IN ACTIVITY LEVEL, QUALITY OF LIFE

By Garrett Johnson PT, DPT Spooner Physical Therapy

alance is one of the most important aspects of our

There is no other system in your body that is responsible for the same number of activities, as well as the number of systems that coordinate to perform

The balance system is comprised of multiple parts of your body, including your muscles, bones, joints, nerves, inner ear, eyes and brain. All of these individual body parts have to coordinate with one another to complete even simple tasks, such as standing in one place.

Have you ever noticed that you sway slightly when standing still? This is due to constant information being processed by the brain, and the muscles and joints responding with small adjustments to your position to maintain your balance.

The balance system can best be described as the combination of strength and coordination necessary to complete a complex task safely. Whether you are rising from a chair, making breakfast, golfing, playing tennis or hiking, you rely on your balance to be successful. A dysfunction of the system can cause problems for those who are not able to maintain balance and experience a fall.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, falls can cause severe injury and financial hardship. Falls also can prevent you from participating in activities you love. There are more than 2.8 million injuries treated in emergency departments each year due to falls, with a total cost of more than \$50 billion per year.

Falls and fear of falling also have been linked to many other issues affecting quality of life, including physical decline, social isolation, depression and feelings of helplessness. These situations occur as individuals choose to limit their activity for fear of falling.

If you feel that your balance has declined, or that you are unable to participate in activities you love, there are options to help. Many insurance plans will help with the cost of a gym or personal training. You also can join a group exercise program within your community or hire a personal trainer.

If you feel that you need more assistance than those offered, physical therapy can provide a personalized training program specifically designed to meet your needs and help you return to the activities you love. ■

Spooner Physical Therapy, in North Mesa, is located at 6824 E. Brown Road. To learn more, call (480) 924-5514, or visit spoonerpt.com/locations/north-mesa.

SPIRITUALITY

Thanksgiving is a Time TO THANK OUR CREATOR

By Pastor Paul Frank Hosanna Lutheran Church

▼ hanksgiving is a secular holiday with a religious

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln, and even as far back as George Washington, decreed that our nation should take time to thank our Creator for the gifts of life and the fruits of the earth.

A portion of President Lincoln's decree reads as follows: "It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord."

Lincoln went on to declare that the nation became embroiled in the Civil War precisely because the people had turned away from God, and they began to believe their prosperity was due to their own greatness, wisdom and skill. They failed to humble themselves before the God of creation who alone truly does sustain our lives through the

The Nation we all love fell into war with itself because so many people believed that their way was the only way for life and society to be shaped. Families were divided to the point of actual war. Mayhem reigned, and tremendous

Now, I know that many factors contributed to the tragic event that came to be the Civil War, and it became a war that had to be fought. But it began, in many regards, as Lincoln had declared, when so many people turned away from the God who gives us life and opens our eyes to the overwhelming value of life—each and every life of every human being.

At the same time, people began to place the value of their own lives, preferences and plans over the top of other people. I pray that we do not go down that road again, attacking fellow Americans and seeing others as beneath us, having less value than us, whoever us might be.

Instead, let's gather in worship of the Giver of Life. Let's express our Thanksgiving to God for creating us, blessing us to live in this great land, providing for all our needs in both body and soul, through the fruits of the earth, and through Jesus Christ, our Savior. ■

Join us at Hosanna Lutheran Church on Thanksgiving Eve as we worship the One who gives us each other, as well. The church is located at 9601 E. Brown Road. Check out our website at hosanna-lcms.com.







LOCAL BUSINESS

The Revolution Is Here

Submitted by Toepel Company PC

Revolution, called Cloud accounting, is the way today's accounting services are delivered to users.



Cloud computing accounting software is hosted on remote

servers and accessed securely over the Internet. Data is sent into the Cloud, where it is processed and returned to the user.

It is completely changing the way small businesses and accountants do the process of accounting. From the Cloud, accounting software is updated automatically and gets us closer to real-time reporting. Businesses don't get stuck with expensive equipment and licenses.

Cloud accounting requires far less maintenance than its traditional counterpart. Backups and updates occur automatically, and nothing needs to be downloaded or installed on a company computer. And best of all, it saves money.

The profession of accounting has a long history that can be traced back thousands of years to ancient civilizations. The system developed alongside writing, counting and, of course, money.

The Italian, Luca Pacioli, recognized as the Father of Accounting and Bookkeeping, was the first person to publish a work on double-entry bookkeeping. This double entry, debit and credit system is considered the first revolution that changed the accounting world forever.

In the early 1900s, through the 1980s, adding machines and electronic calcula-

tors once again changed the profession of accounting. In the 1990s came the extensive use of computers.

Some might remember a software program called VisiCalc. It was the first electronic spreadsheet available on an affordable microcomputer, and turned the microcomputer from a hobby into a serious business tool. Today, Microsoft Excel is the spreadsheet of choice in the accounting world.

As revolutionary as these things were to accounting, the Cloud may be even bigger. Its advantages are available to businesses large and small. As a firm invested in this technology, we can provide our services virtually anywhere with access to the Internet.

No longer do we have to drive to a client's location and interrupt business activities. No longer are business owners and accounting staff tied to a single office, computer and desk. You can work from anywhere, at any time.

We are proud to be part of this technological revolution. ■

Paul Toepel is a CPA who has lived in Las Sendas for more than 17 years. His firm, Toepel Company PC, is a full-service, Mesabased CPA firm offering a variety of services for more than 30 years.

These services include tax preparation and representation, accounting, fraud prevention and QuickBooks setup and support. The company mission is to provide exceptional service, knowledge and experience, all while making you and your business successful.

For more information, call (480) 833-8300. Toepel Company is located at 2500 S. Power Road, Suite 129.

LOCAL BUSINESS

There Are Valuable Lessons to **Learn from Hurricane Florence**

By Nancy Nemitz

→ lorence 🜓 was a Category 4 hurricane on its approach to the North Carolina coast headed directly toward my daughter's home south of New Bern. I was with



her because she gave birth seven days before. She also has a 21-month-old son and her husband is deployed.

All her earthly possessions and those of her children had to fit into the cargo space of a Subaru Forester. Her two dogs evacuated with her sister-in-law to Atlanta.

Luckily, she's organized. All-important insurance, medical and vital records were in a binder.

Photos already were on thumb drives. Her memorabilia already was pared down to fit into one banker's box. She took one garbage bag for her clothes, and a backpack for the baby's clothes and blankets. All of Benjamin's clothes fit in half a trash bag, and the rest she filled with his toys.

Diapers and wipes already were in bins, so all ready to go.

There wasn't room for childhood Christmas ornaments and stockings, her wedding dress, her husband's guitars or childhood photos.

We were in a hotel for nine days, and listened to the stories of many evacuees who were losing a lifetime's accumulation

of furniture and memories. One man said, "I looked out my window and saw a man driving through deep water. The truck was carried away. I don't know what happened to the man."

So many brave people said over and over again, "It's just stuff."

We can learn a lot from the survivors of Hurricane Florence. Think about what you could fit in your car if you had to leave with only a day or two to prepare. What if there is a fire or flash flood and you don't have much time. Get your vital records binder prepared now. Put your most cherished photos on a thumb drive and pare down memorabilia while you have the time to make good decisions.

Nancy Nemitz is the owner of Create the Space Professional Organizing, in Northeast Mesa. Visit her website at createthespace.com.



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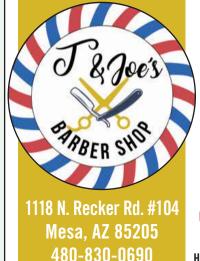
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