

Wrangler News

Kyrene Corridor Edition

Meeting stirs new KMS complaints

Kyrene Schools Superintendent Dr. David Schauer says the district will work collaboratively to ensure that KMS students continue to receive a quality education. Commentary, Page 9.

By Mark Moorehead

A letter to parents from Kyrene Middle School principal **Susan Poole** seems not only to have raised concerns over a drop in the school's academic ranking but unleashed a volley of other complaints.

Poole's letter was sent home Oct. 24, advising parents that, as a result of KMS' lower state-determined academic ranking for 2007, their children could transfer to one of two Kyrene schools with higher scores.

A number of parents expressed concern

— **KMS, Page 9**

Sallee Anderson pulls out all the stops — and the hats — for her annual Christmas tea party. **Page 25.**
— David Stone/Wrangler News

Refugee influx unlikely

Many arriving in Valley next year won't find homes in Kyrene Corridor, say officials

By P.J. Standlee

Social and economic conditions that characterize the Kyrene Corridor may discourage the relocation here of hundreds of Middle Eastern and South Asian refugees expected to arrive in the Valley next year.

Arizona, particularly metro Phoenix, is part of a massive resettlement program that will include refugees from Iraq, Burma and Bhutan.

Bonnie Wood, who represents the Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program, said it's too soon to say exactly how many from Iraq and other

Middle East countries will arrive, but unofficial estimates have put the number of new Iraqi refugee arrivals at 1,200 in the greater Phoenix area.

"We have no idea how many refugees will arrive until they get here," said Wood.

The Valley has been getting Somalis for a number of years, and the Valley has been getting Iraqis for the last couple of years.

"When refugees arrive, they are resettled here and can then choose to leave (for elsewhere in the country). It depends strictly on the refugee," said Wood.

"The purpose of resettling is to start life over and to help them become socially and economically self-sufficient."

Wood added that the number of Middle East refugees may increase depending on yearly

— **REFUGEES, Page 14**

Kyrene Corridor Dining Selections, Pages 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 27



Chandler Mayor Boyd Dunn: Award-winning architectural design at Desert Breeze Community Center reflects strength, stability of city departments located there.

— David Stone/Wrangler News

Desert Breeze center earns architectural-design honors

An architectural design that expressed simplicity in form and honesty in its use of basic materials has won a prestigious city of Chandler award for architectural excellence.

Architekton, the firm responsible for the design of west Chandler's Desert Breeze Community Center at the new fire/police substation, was the only west Chandler winner of an Architectural Excellence Award during the city's 2007 design competition.

The facility, near Desert Breeze Park, includes a police substation, fire station, Planning & Development Special Inspections Division and a five-acre park addition.

Chandler Mayor **Boyd Dunn** made the presentation at the city's annual architectural awards program. The awards were established in 2003, with

projects judged on design, landscaping, use of materials, site planning and relationship to surroundings.

A seven-member committee of Chandler residents has spent the past six months evaluating 48 projects.

The solid-masonry building materials used throughout reflect the strength and stability of the city departments located there, said the awards panel. Masonry block is used with a variety of different treatments on the building facades, colonnade columns and site walls. A standing seam metal roof serves as the building's focal feature and appears to soar from ground to sky.

The building is located at 251 N. Desert Breeze Blvd.

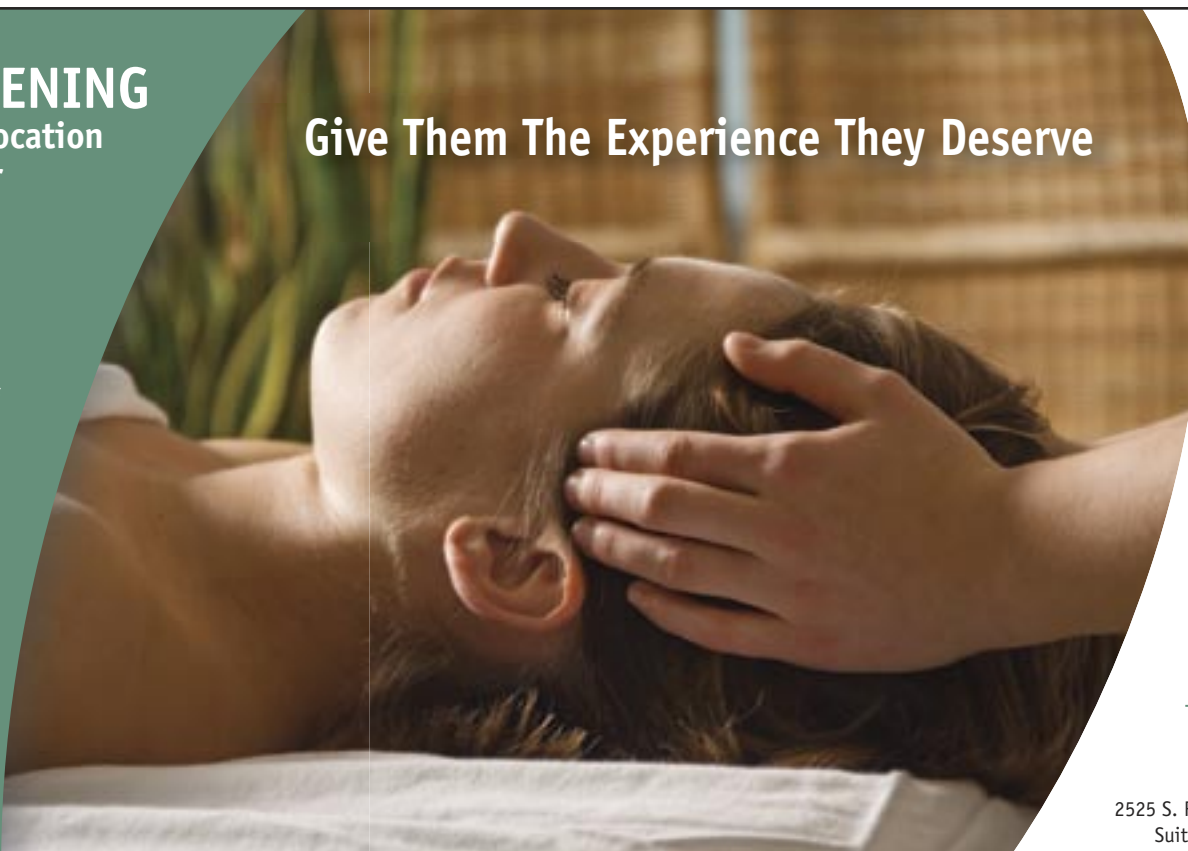
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CdS girls hoop squad energized to revisit its 'glory days' of old

By Alex Zener

The Corona del Sol girls basketball program earned its longtime enviable ranking soon after the school was built in the late 1970s and continued a competitive tradition for several years with its first coach, Larry Hughes, under which the team won its last 5A state championship in 2001 and finished as runner-up in 2002.

Hughes has since left the job but his presence is still felt, not only because of his leadership but with Larry Hughes Court now a familiar part of the school gymnasium.

Although Hughes retired six years ago, current varsity coach **Pat Reed** and her Lady Aztecs hope to use this year as a starting point to make the transition back to those glory days of old.

Coming off a sub-par season last year, the girls hope both to improve their record this season and, most of all, solidify the reputation as a team that will not easily be taken down.

The task at hand may have been easier if not for a major injury to a key player, but the Lady Aztecs should be none the less competitive this season with several returning players from last year.

This year's team contains only seniors and experienced juniors who should be able to use their veteran savvy in order to start the return to once again becoming a competitive force in the Central Region.

One of the most veteran is third-year varsity player senior **Natalie Sargent**, who led the team last season in blocks and was second in rebounds and scoring. Unfortunately, she recently tore her ACL and

meniscus, which virtually ended her season.

Even with that devastating injury, **Sargent** has stayed upbeat and continues to provide senior leadership—as she so aptly put it, “cheering on my team from the sidelines.”

Although she will be missed, especially on the inside, several other players on this team should be able to use the experience they gained last year to help this season.

The Lady Aztecs squad will look toward its two returning guards, senior **Nicole Coggins**, second in team assists last season, and senior **Jordyn Wentis**, leading the team this season in 3-point scoring and blocks, to provide a majority of the team's leadership and control.

Another senior, guard **Alex Leake**, started this season with a pleasant surprise: leading the team in steals and assists. But it should be no surprise when **Leake** says:

“Our team strength, I think, is our defense. We are always running for the ball, and are always looking for

opportunities to steal the ball.”

Providing a strong presence inside are two dynamic sisters, junior forwards **Ali** and **Andrea Beard**, who were second and third in blocks respectively last season. They have also helped fill the void left when **Sargent** went out by leading the team this season in rebounds tied at 49 a piece.

Even though basketball is supposed to be a team sport, many invariably feel that two or three players are key to a team's success. Even so, the Lady Aztecs this season want to emphasize the “team approach” in an attempt to start improving their record over last season.

Leake puts into words a motto shared among all of the players I talked to this season when she says:

“Everyone is important to the team. All players contribute in their own way.”

That means that senior guard **Alyza Gutierrez** will have to continue making those 3-pointers and senior forward **Juqoya Cook** will

—AZTECS, Page 5

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Aztecs

From Page 4

need to continue playing hard on both offense and defense whenever she gets on the court.

Junior guard **Kim Pestalozzi** will need to find her rhythm and attempt to equal her record as the team's leading scorer from last season.

Sargent, now with a different perspective, adds:

"I think that if the seniors hustle all the time, the underclassman on the team will look up to us and do the same, leading to better practices which will lead to faster and more intense games." This attitude means that senior guard **Ashley Jenkins**, senior forward **Caitlin Wilkinson** and senior forward **Jodi Fanucci**, will not only have to provide leadership on and off the court—they will have to lead by example in both practices and games.

One likely recipient of this attitude

will be junior guard **Karen Bartlet**, who has already made seven rebounds and four assists so far this season.

Veteran guard **Coggins** stresses that, in addition to a team approach, this season's team needs to focus on preparation.

"I think the most important thing for our team to function is preparation. When we know that we have done all that we can to prepare for a game, it gives us more confidence in ourselves and in each other.

"This, in effect, helps us to perform better out on the court," she said.

Perhaps, with this team-orientated ideal, where each player carries an equal weight and preparation is the focus of every player, the Lady Aztecs will soon start to resemble that well-oiled machine of years past, with every part working together in fluid cohesion.

You can find a schedule of the Lady Aztecs game on CdS' athletic website at <http://www.aztecatletics.com/>.

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Confessions of a Financial Advisor

by **Kevin A. Kaesberg**



Q: I have heard about term insurance that offers your money back if you don't die at the end of the term. Is this available?—*J.K., Tempe, AZ*

Yes! One of the most common complaints about term insurance is that if you don't use it (i.e. you don't die), you lose all of the money (premiums) you put into it, much like auto or home insurance. There are now "return of premium" riders or policies that provide a cash value component to the term policy that grows to provide your premiums back at the end of the level term period you choose, commonly 10, 20, or 30 years.

These riders and/or policies, which may not be available in every state, are significantly more expensive than your traditional term policy as the insurers are providing a significant benefit in addition to the death benefit. You can expect to pay at least 50% or more than the premiums for a traditional term policy. Return of premium benefits can be complicated in their form, so it is important you review the contract language to make sure you have a good understanding of what benefits you may be eligible for and what is necessary to keep them to ensure they are inline with your wishes and expectations.

Q: I have most of my investments in annuities. I need to get access to some cash due to life events and remember being told I can't use assets in annuities until I turn 59 1/2. Is this true?—*B.T., Mesa, AZ*

Yes and no... It is true that deferred annuities are meant for long-term accumulation and have the added benefit of tax-deferral to help that accumulation. In return for the benefit of tax-deferral, the IRS wishes for you not to use this money until you are at least 59 1/2. If you choose to take the funds out of the annuity, your income for the year in which the assets are withdrawn will be increased by the amount of the withdrawal that is considered "gain" or profit in the contract. In addition, a 10% penalty will be imposed on the amount taxed and their may be surrender penalties assessed from the insurance company. This can all add up to tax and penalties on earnings and surrender charges on the withdrawal equaling 40% or more.

An example: let's say you invested \$100,000 in an annuity contract 5 years ago that has a 7-year surrender charge of 3% per year and a 10% annual free withdrawal. It now has a value of \$130,000. You wish to withdraw \$50,000 and you are now 55 years old. \$30,000 will be penalized at 10% and taxed as income for this year as gain in the contract over the invested \$100,000. \$45,000 of the withdrawal will be hit with a 3% surrender charge penalty; keeping in mind the other \$5,000 is free of surrender charges due to the free withdrawal provision. With this information, the \$50,000 withdrawal will cost you \$3,000 in IRS penalties, \$9,000 in taxes (assuming 30% combined state and federal tax rate), and \$1,350 in surrender charges, for a total of \$13,350, or over 26%!

Remember, every annuity contract is unique, offering different surrender charges, living and death benefits, guarantees, etc. Make sure you are and remain aware of the type of annuity you are purchasing, your expectations, and the costs and penalties associated with each contract. Annuities can be very valuable to your financial and estate plan, but can be just as devastating if used and maintained inappropriately.

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Pet project Store joins campaign to help animals in need

PETCO's south Tempe store has joined a nationwide campaign to raise more than \$2 million for animals in need.

Pet lovers can help by purchasing card ornaments for a \$1, \$5, \$10 or \$20 donation. Customers donating \$20 or more will receive a PETCO Foundation ceramic ornament. Last year's fundraiser generated more than \$2.7 million nationwide. Contributions at the local store

already have raised \$1,000, according to manager **Chase Randolph**.

Money raised locally stays in the community and region, according to Randolph.

Each PETCO store selects among animal welfare groups, then collects donations on that organization's behalf. Customers can also donate online at PETCO.com.

At the south Tempe store, donations will go to Maricopa

County Animal Care and Control, Boxer Luv Rescue and Paw Placement.

In addition to local donations, PETCO's pet insurance partner, PetCare Pet Insurance Programs, will donate \$5 for each PetCare pet insurance policy activated during the fundraiser.

According to officials, approximately 8 million pets will flood the nation's animal shelters next year. Between 4 and 6 million pets are euthanized each year.

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MEETING OF THE CHANDLER AIRPORT COMMISSION

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School gets its own flagpole — finally!

It has taken more than 30 years but Waggoner Elementary School in Tempe finally has its own flagpole, plus flags to go with it.

Thanks to the efforts of a group of Waggoner parents, the new mast was sunk into concrete over the Thanksgiving break and will be dedicated officially at 8 a.m. Monday, Dec. 17.

By then, says parent **Eileen Mundine**, who helped coordinate the effort, both U.S. and American flags will have arrived.

The flags are coming from Gov. Janet Napolitano's office, which was alerted to the need by Thomas Reade and Katherine Ready on Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard's staff, who had heard about the project and offered to help.

Bree Boehlke, who is deputy director of constituent services for Napolitano and responsible for handling state-flag requests, said she happened to have a U.S. flag, as well, and would send both.

"They are extremely expensive,"

she said, "but the school needs them."

Waggoner, which opened in 1970, for many years shared a flagpole with adjoining Kyrene Middle School.

However, after an addition to Waggoner was completed in 1992, Waggoner became its own entity and no longer shared facilities with KMS,

according to school secretary **Mary Goldman**.

The sturdy, made-to-regulation mast sits currently flag-less in front of the school's administration office.

That, assures Goldman, will soon be changing.

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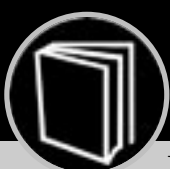
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Commentary

By Hut Hutson

Lack of consistency assailed on Tempe building heights

A Nov. 10 newspaper article on a proposed downtown Phoenix high-rise had me practically choking on my coffee at the kitchen table. Why? Because, remarkably, it featured comments from Phoenix Deputy City Manager Dave

Krietor that were dismissive of the FAA's initial ruling that the 510-foot height of the CityScape project amounts to a "presumed hazard" to Sky Harbor International Airport. The article reported that the FAA wants the development capped at 355 feet. How ironic for Phoenix, which has repeatedly assailed

Tempe for downtown development plans that it has said compromise safety and operations at the airport. Especially galling was one of Krietor's quotes brushing aside the FAA report. He reportedly said, "Basically, in the FAA parlance, that means 'we don't know enough about the

project.'" Yet, today and in the past, when smaller Tempe high-rises or other developments have been proposed, Krietor and his staff "know enough" to issue scathing letters to the City of Tempe and the developers involved to halt plans for those projects. It routinely seems acceptable for Phoenix to comment harshly on Tempe's downtown developments – but when the FAA eyes Phoenix projects critically, the reaction from our neighbor to the west is decidedly different. In July, the FAA issued a determination of no hazard for a 213-foot building for the Residence at the Arts Park, a development just south of the Tempe Center for the Arts. That didn't stop the Phoenix Aviation Department from sending Tempe a September letter requesting that the development not exceed 167 feet. Another example is the One Hundred Mill Avenue project on the site of Monti's La Casa Vieja, at Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway. The FAA has not issued a notice of presumed hazard on this project.

Yet the City of Tempe received an Oct. 9 letter from Phoenix Aviation Director Danny Murphy, who took over for Krietor, urging that the development's towers be capped at 220 feet.

Everyone remembers the Cardinals Stadium dustup of many years ago, when the team initially wanted its facility at Priest Drive and Washington Street.

Tempe received harshly worded communications from the City of Phoenix demanding that the project be stopped even before the FAA issued a presumed hazard notice about that site.

All along, Tempe has demanded only fairness when it comes to airport relations – the same treatment for developments east and west of Sky Harbor.

We are equally committed to passenger safety and our downtowns can co-exist and even complement each other.

That kind of success can finally come when we set aside pretense and deal with real issues.

– Hut Hutson is vice mayor of Tempe

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KMS

From Page 1

over the letter, and Poole hastily convened a meeting, notice of which was posted on the school's Carver Road marquee over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Although the announcement was limited to those passing by the school, about 40 parents turned out for the session, as did Schools Superintendent **Dr. David Schauer** and a number of administrative staff members.

Poole explained open enrollment and how it relates to funding from the Arizona Department of Education, followed by a suggestion that the audience divide into smaller groups for further discussion.

But parents, arguing that the group was manageable at its existing size, declined to break up and turned the forum into a gripe session over open enrollment, declining test scores, homework policies, crime, bullying and other complaints.

The increasing number of open enrollment students raised a particularly hostile response. Open enrollment refers to students who live outside the Kyrene district's boundaries. KMS currently has children enrolled from areas Valleywide, including south Phoenix and the city of Maricopa, resulting in its being designated a targeted-assistance school under federal Title I provisions.

Out of KMS' total enrollment of 1,247, slightly more than 350 are open enrollment students, accounting for 29 percent of the school's population.

Changing image

In other discussion, one parent noted that she moved near Kyrene Middle School because of its previous stellar reputation, which she said has recently changed for the worse.

Poole, however, defended open enrollment, citing the diversity of the KMS student body and suggesting that benefits accrue in myriad ways, including being a more accurate reflection of the world at large.

Schauer, the district's superintendent, also supported the open enrollment process, noting that enrollment numbers in Kyrene schools have been on a decline. Those reduced numbers have resulted in a corresponding drop in revenue to operate schools and pay teacher salaries, he said, requiring the district to use innovative strategies to boost revenue.

Schauer noted that 3,200 open enrollment students are being accommodated in district schools this year, resulting in \$14 million in funding that otherwise would be unavailable.

As to other concerns, some parents at the meeting said they feel that academic standards have been declining at KMS.

More than a half dozen members of the group, including Kyrene Corridor resident **Sandra Gertsch**, described what they consider clear signs of deterioration in the education of their children.

"I have lived in the school district 14 years," Gertsch said. "Two of my older children went to KMS and they are excelling in high school and college.

"However, my two older children had more homework and were challenged more when they attended KMS.

"My younger son, who attends KMS now, is not challenged enough in his classes. I can see this clearly when I compare his experience at KMS with that of his two older siblings. I'm concerned my son may not be adequately prepared for Corona (del Sol) High School."

Another resident said he has lived in the district 18 years and also had two older children attend KMS. Lately, however, he said he has observed a decline in the academic standards, claiming his child only rarely has homework.

Poole said, however, that the allegation academic standards have declined at KMS is not backed up by data she has showing AIMS and other test scores have been relatively unchanged for the last 10 years.

Although those figures were not immediately available, a comparison of 2007 AIMS scores with those of all six middle schools in the Kyrene district showed KMS with the lowest scores in both math and reading proficiency and the highest number (29 percent) of open enrollment students.

The average number of open enrollment students district-wide is 16 percent, according to Poole.

Other concerns

Yet another concern expressed by parents at the meeting was that of increased criminality.

Poole acknowledged that calls to the Tempe Police Department have been on the high end at KMS when compared to Kyrene middle schools in general, but not excessive, she said.

Poole added that KMS, as well as the district's other middle schools, have a full time Tempe police officer on site during school hours.

Assistant Principal **Scott Sofsian** reassured parents that KMS has a zero tolerance policy for violence, with penalties that are more strict than other Kyrene schools. Resident **Marcie Beaudoin**, a parent of two children, cited bullying as the reason she removed her children from KMS, adding that she now drives her children to Pueblo Middle School.

"My daughter was bullied repeatedly at KMS and when (she) informed administrators of the episodes she was told she might be exaggerating.

"When I spoke to the administrators, I received polite acknowledgement of the complaint, but no action was taken."

As the meeting wound down, Schauer, the district superintendent, overheard a mother sitting in front of him remark, "They aren't listening to what we are saying."

Said Schauer:

"I'm the superintendent, and I'm listening."

An Open Letter

from David Schauer, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Kyrene School District

When Susan Poole, KMS Principal, began hearing rumblings in the community about issues at her school, she wisely decided that the best approach would be to invite people to the table to share their concerns.

A community forum was scheduled and conducted on Nov. 26 for this purpose. About 40-50 parents and staff members attended.

Mrs. Poole's goal was to provide data and information about the school and district so that everyone who attended would have mutual understanding and knowledge about the school.

It is sometimes difficult to simply listen and not immediately jump to providing information or possible solutions before fully understanding the perceptions and perspectives that individuals bring forward.

Those parents who chose to attend the meeting and voice their concerns did have an opportunity to be listened to.

During the forum, school and District staff members worked to capture the major themes of the discussion and are now examining how to respond to each one of them.

All of the issues raised need careful examination to better define the nature of the concerns and determine next steps.

Some of these themes include a perceived change in teacher expectations for students, a concern about vocabulary and writing instruction, issues related to how teachers were selected to teach the newly implemented Kyrene Preparatory Program at the school, and anxiety about whether students would be adequately prepared for high school.

KMS will share each specific theme and next steps with those individuals who attended by mailing a written communication to all who attended the forum.

This will also be made available to anyone who is interested. In addition, KMS will create informational school newsletter articles on related topics for all KMS families whether they attended the forum or not.

One of the parents summed it up the best by saying he hoped what would come out of the forum would be a collaborative effort among parents, teachers, administrators and students to support the work of KMS.

We are committed to that effort and will keep doing everything we possibly can to ensure that each student at KMS continues to have a high-quality education.



Dr. David Schauer

— David Stone/Wrangler News

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Research Park garage project raising alarm among neighbors

Construction is due to begin in mid-December on a three- to four-story parking garage at ASU Research Park, a move that already is worrying residents of the nearby Estate la Colina and Tempe Royal Palms neighborhoods.

views and ultimately affect property values.

In her letter, however, Gay said the company has tried to be "very proactive in creating an appropriate view from (nearby neighborhoods.)"

She said a row of trees was placed with the company's first building to ensure they would reach full growth once the garage is constructed.

In addition, she said, a series of so-called "green screens" were incorporated into the garage facade to create additional blending of the landscape materials.

The garage also creates an additional buffer between the neighborhood and nearby buildings.

Gay also noted that, in the event of circumstances that require early morning construction work, the contractor will seek permission from the city of Tempe and then advise neighbors.

"We hope to minimize any unnecessary noise," she said.

According to **Gabriel Carbajal**, who has been in contact with representatives of Edward Jones, the investment firm whose headquarters building already is on the Research Park site, the project involves both a parking structure and another office building.

Jodi Gay, facilities director for Edward Jones, said in a letter to Carbajal that the company plans a phased approach to construction, with the first phase scheduled to begin in mid-December and be completed next summer.

Phase II construction would begin at that time.

Neighbors worry that the construction will further obscure their



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by Ray Johnson

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This report is brought to you courtesy of Ray Johnson of Re/Max Anasazi and is not intended to solicit properties currently for sale.

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Local team the Sea Dogs won the city of Tempe fall baseball league 12-and-under championship, winning the final game in a nail-biter over the Pico de Gallo team by a score of 4-3. The league is sponsored by the Arizona Diamondbacks as part of its program supporting youth baseball throughout the Valley. The boys represented the Tempe South/Kyrene Corridor area, and most participate in Tempe South Little League. The team finished the season with an undefeated record of 12-0-1. Among team members are, kneeling, Houston Bauerle; standing, from left, Matthew Langmack, Austin Sigrist, Coach Michael Waxman, Tanner Wilson, Joey Piccirilli, Coach Daren Sigrist, Sam Waxman, Blake Stephens, Craig McGinnis, Kreston Woods, Coach Mark McGinnis, Ryan DeValle, Ryan Gardner, Coach Jay Bauerle and Kyle Coggins.

— Contributed by Bernadette Coggins

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Annual SRP canal dry-up due to end Dec. 16.

Portions of the South, Consolidated, Eastern, Tempe, Western and Highline canals on the south side of the Salt River, including sections in Tempe and Chandler, are being drained for annual maintenance and construction activities.

Many of Salt River Project's southside irrigation customers are not receiving water from the canals during the dry-up.

The dry-up, which is under way now, will continue through Dec. 16.



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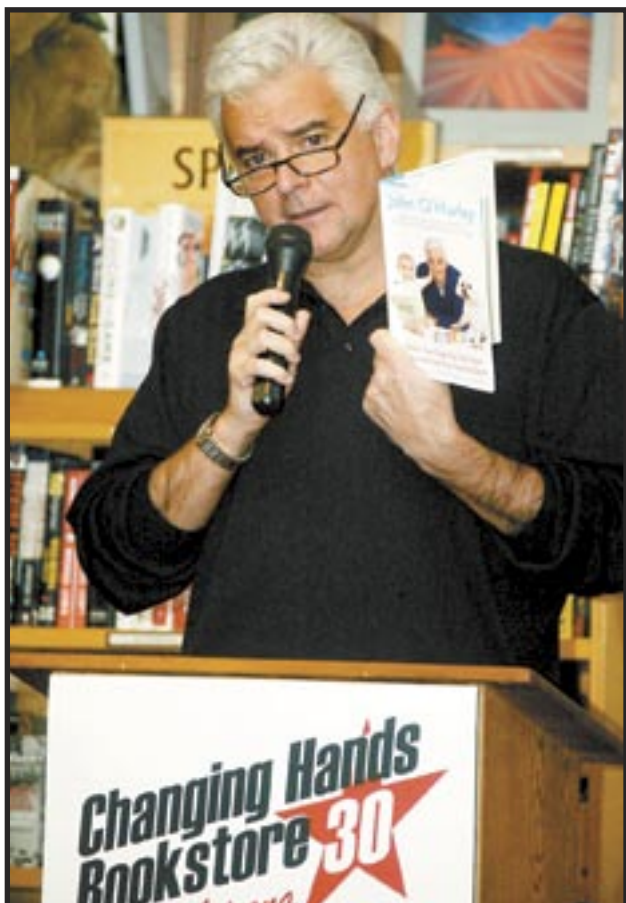
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And now a few words from . . .

J. Peterman

His days as the comedic cataloguer on the Seinfeld TV series are long gone, but not his wit or creativity. Actor/writer John O'Hurley was at Changing Hands Book Store to promote and sign copies of his book 'It's OK to Miss the Bed on the First Jump,' a collection of his beloved memories of dog ownership.

— David Stone/Wrangler News

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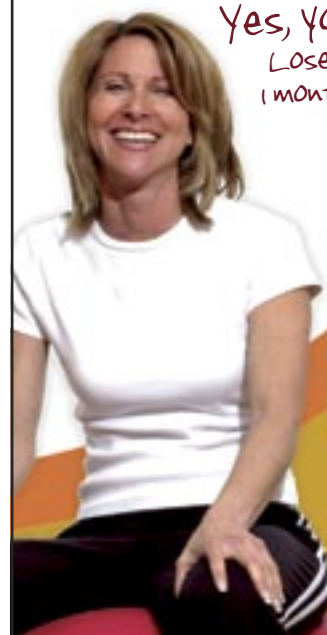
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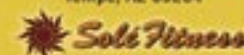
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Refugees

From Page 1

allocations from the U.S. Department of State and approved by President Bush.

Last year, the State Department allocated funding for no more than 80,000 U.S. entry positions, 5,500 of which were from Middle Eastern and South Asian countries.

Of the total entering the U.S. last year, only 2,335, or 4.84 percent, relocated in Arizona, including 602 from Burma, 158 from Iraq and 198 from Iran.

According to a State Department fact sheet on humanitarian assistance for displaced Iraqis, President Bush this year approved the admission of 28,000 refugees from Middle East and South Asian countries.

The program set a goal of admitting some 12,000 Iraqi refugees between Oct. 1, 2007, and Sept. 30, 2008.

Although the greater Phoenix area is due for a major influx, none of the

private refugee resettlement agencies in the greater Phoenix area has offices in Tempe or Chandler, and rarely operate in the area.

Public Affairs Officer Carla Sandine, of the International Rescue Committee, said refugees are not usually placed in Tempe or Chandler because of social and economic differences.

Most refugees live between Interstate Highways 10 and 17 in order to be close to important government offices and services.

The refugee's journey is a long and arduous one. Less than one percent of 12 million refugees worldwide relocate to host countries. Most can spend up to 10 years in camps waiting to be relocated, and 80 percent of refugees are either women or children, according to statistics.

Before arriving in the U.S. refugees undergo an interview screening process and medical examination overseen by the Department of Homeland Security.

Once they arrive, refugees are processed by the State Department

— REFUGEES, Page 15

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Refugees

From Page 14

and must submit to a medical review within 30 days. They are then resettled with the help of private Refugee Resettlement Agencies and the Arizona RRP, which provides services focus on the domestic side of the refugee resettlement process.

RRP services include job placement and mental health services for individual refugees or families up to five years from arrival in the United States.

RRP also funds refugee medical and cash assistance programs for up to eight months after arriving in the U.S. if the recipient doesn't qualify for other public benefits.

"We have many successful refugee stories," said Wood. "There is a myth about refugees that they are unlearned and don't want to be educated.

"They are smart and resourceful; they take jobs right away — sometimes not in their chosen field — to allow them to get settled in and to move up. Basically, they want to be successful."

In fact, being economically and socially self-sufficient is a requirement of the resettlement program, said Wood.

Refugee resettlement agencies, such as the International Rescue Committee, help find housing,

employment and education services for refugees. Typically, it's the agencies that provide long-term help.

Carolyn Manning, executive director of the Arizona Refugee Advancement Coalition, leads teams of volunteers in meeting refugees and helping them furnish their homes.

Manning said the majority of refugees are primarily concerned in finding work.

"The biggest concern expressed to me is finding a job. There is assistance only for a finite amount of time," Manning said.

"They want everything that we all want. They can't wait to send their kids to school so they can learn, and they are also anxious to learn English. They want the American dream. They can achieve those things."

Manning said most refugees are glad to get out of camps and be able to start their lives, thankful for a chance to start over.

"We met an Iraqi who loved our Constitution. He had helped an American and was threatened by terrorist. He took his wife and mother-in-law and got away," said Manning.

"In his own country he was a lawyer and member of the Ba'ath Party.

"He said he couldn't believe our Constitution and Bill of Rights. He said he couldn't believe that people decide who is guilty."

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Tempe City Page

News, notices and events
December 2007 - January 2008

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Danish holiday traditions at the Petersen House

Celebrate the holiday season at the Petersen House Museum, a restored Tempe home that features regular docent-led tours.

The house, which was built by a pioneering Danish immigrant in 1892, will showcase holiday decorations inspired by the Danish story "Peter's Christmas" by J. Krohn. It's the tale of a boy's Christmas in Denmark in the late 1800s. Each Sunday through Dec. 23, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., festivities include a reading of "Peter's Christmas," refreshments,

ornament-decoration activities and sing-alongs.

This is the second year the Petersen House Museum and the Danish Immigrant Museum of Elkhorn, Iowa, have partnered to host the month-long event. The Petersen House Museum is located at 1414 W. Southern at the northwest corner of Southern Avenue and Priest Drive.

For more information, call 480-350-5151 or visit www.tempe.gov/petersenhouse.



Santa Show on Tempe 11

Tempe has the perfect way to tell Santa what you'd like for the holidays: The Santa Show.

For the seventh year, Tempe 11 will air the live call-in show starring Santa Claus.

It is a popular tradition for

Tempe children who watch live on the city's cable channel, and for the viewers everywhere who watch on the city's Web site, www.tempe.gov/tempe11.

This year, the show will air Monday, Dec. 10, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Children can call 480-350-8900 to talk to Santa.

The show also features segments highlighting holiday events in Tempe.

Proper disposal of Christmas trees

When the holidays are over and decorations are tucked back into storage, Tempe residents have handy options for disposing of their Christmas trees – which should not be placed in garbage containers.

Trees can be dropped off from 7 a.m. to noon on Fridays and from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays at the city's Household Products Collection Center, 1320 E. University Dr.

Additionally, trees can be dropped off at the parking lot west of Kiwanis Park Recreation Center, 6111 W. All-America Way, 24 hours, seven days a week.

Both sites will accept trees through Jan. 20.

The city also collects trees during normal monthly collection for brush and bulky items. Visit www.tempe.gov/recycling/uncontainedschedule.pdf to find out when your neighborhood is scheduled for monthly collection. For information, call 480-350-8265.

Ring in 2008 at the Insight Bowl and Insight Fiesta Bowl Block Party

For the first time, the Insight Bowl and the Insight Fiesta Bowl Block Party will be presented together in the Mill Avenue District on New Year's Eve – and every game ticket is good for both events at one price.

The Insight Bowl kicks off at 3:30 p.m. with a Big Ten Indiana-Big 12 Oklahoma State match-up at Sun Devil Stadium on Monday, Dec. 31. The block party begins at 4 p.m. that day and continues until 12:15 a.m.

For game tickets, which also get fans into the Block Party afterwards, visit www.insightbowl.org or call 480-350-0911.

For those not attending the game, advance tickets to the Block Party are available at Fry's Food & Drug Stores for \$20 with a Fry's VIP card. At the gate, block party tickets are \$25. Tempe residents may also purchase up to four Block

Party tickets at the discounted price of \$5 each by using the voucher on Page 2 of the December issue of *Tempe Today*, found in Tempe water bills. Vouchers must be redeemed at the specified Tempe recreation centers by Saturday, Dec. 29.

More than 40 local bands and this year's headlining act, Barenaked Ladies, will entertain the Block Party crowd. A family-friendly event, the Block Party also features two fireworks displays, a parade, children's activities, motocross jumpers, carnival rides and a midnight countdown drop.



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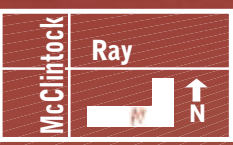
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Westside Chandler input sought on downtown parking

Chandler is assessing parking needs in its downtown area and seeks input from its Westside and other

community residents. A meeting to solicit comments on the current parking situation and possible

future needs will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the Police Community Room located in police

headquarters, 250 E. Chicago St.

Carl Walker and Associates has been hired by the city to conduct the study and has completed a parking inventory and performed occupancy and turnover studies.

The Dec. 11 meeting will include a brief presentation outlining the study process,

a cursory review of existing conditions, and a discussion of parking issues.

Meeting participants will be asked to answer questions regarding their general perception of parking in downtown Chandler, future developments that may impact parking, opportunities for

improving parking, and what they deem to be the most important parking related issues.

The study area is bounded by Chandler Boulevard on the north, Frye Road on the south, Dakota Street on the west and the Union Pacific railroad tracks on the east.

Information: Kysa Meyerer, 480-782-2246.



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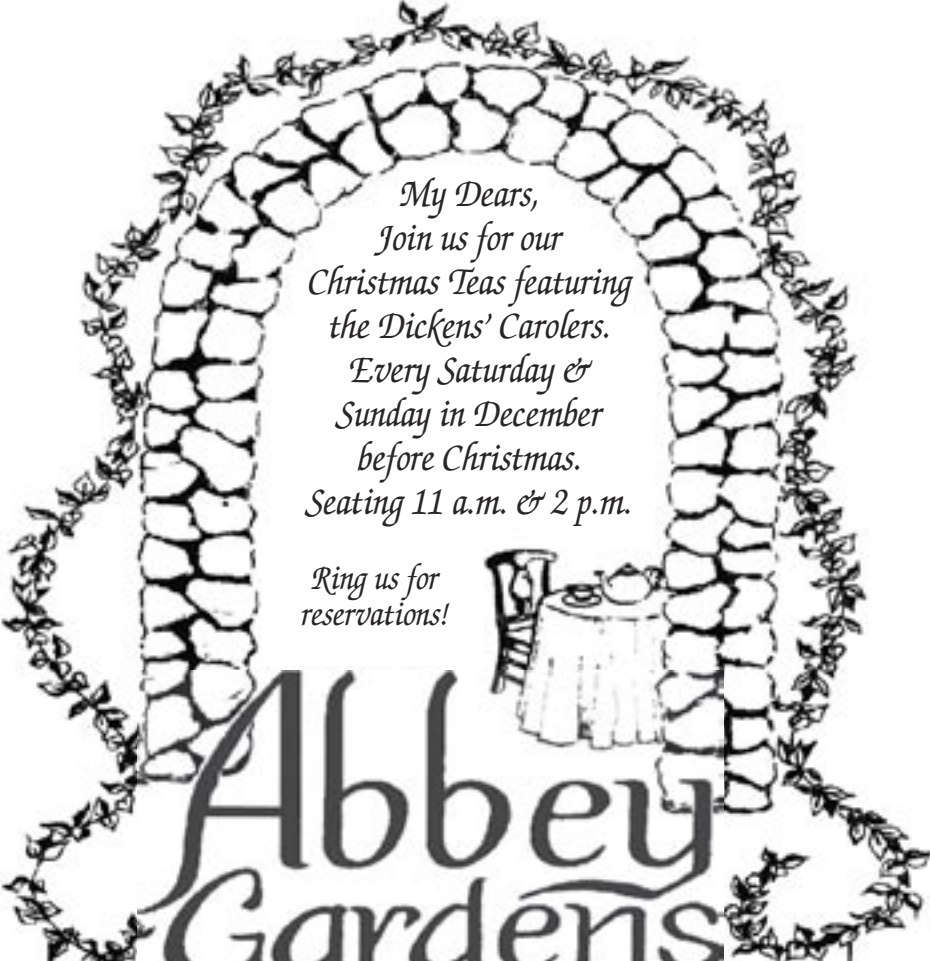
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Register in person at West Chandler Ballpark (Kyrene & Frye Rd)
Jan. 23, 6-8 p.m. and Jan. 26, 9-11 a.m.
Please bring child's birth certificate and a copy of current utility (showing your zip code)

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Late Tryouts • Wed., Feb. 13 • 7 p.m. • West Chandler Ballpark
Parent/Coach/Player Meeting • Thurs., Feb. 21 • 7 p.m. • West Chandler Ballpark
Opening Day • Sat., March 29 • West Chandler Ballpark



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Please apply my contribution to the following specific EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY at the school(s) that I have designated: _____

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*Total amount cannot exceed \$400 for joint tax return. Individual returns are \$200 maximum credit. Corporate and/or business checks are not eligible. A.R.S. 43-1089(E) defines extracurricular activities as school-sponsored activities that supplement the school's educational program and require enrolled students to pay a fee in order to participate. Please check with the school if you have questions about specific program eligibility.

Please Note: The above complete information is required in order for this contribution to be used as a TAX CREDIT on your 2007 Arizona State Income report. If the information is incomplete, your contribution and form will be returned to you. Tax credits must be POSTMARKED by December 31, 2007. Please mail completed form to: **Tax Credits, Kyrene School District No. 28**, 8700 South Kyrene Road, Tempe, AZ 85284. **This is NOT a receipt. You will be mailed a receipt by the receiving school.**

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Hats-travaganza: 'Like being little girls again'

By Georgia Rogers

For **Sallee Anderson**, the joy of the holidays comes from sharing. About 10 years ago, the south Tempe resident came up with a signature way of thanking—and sharing with—her friends, neighbors and clients.

Tying her Canadian upbringing to the process, Anderson began a tradition of hosting annual holiday tea parties at her home for the women in her water aerobics class, the choir from her Tempe church, real estate clients and her neighbors in Camelot Park Villas.

Since Anderson enjoys collecting teacups and stylish women's hats, her holiday teas are like something that would be the envy of British high society – minus the pretense, but with a good measure of spirited fun mixed in.

Her husband, George, helps her make their home look truly festive with Christmas decorations old and new and twinkly lights everywhere.

"The tea parties are really something we do together," Anderson said. "I couldn't do this without George's help getting everything ready. He encourages and supports my creativity."

Small tables draped in linens are masterfully set for each tea party, complete with floral centerpieces and accents like gold-colored napkin holders with little angels on top.

When Anderson's guests arrive, the first thing they do is choose from her collection of 100 or so women's hats to wear during the tea party. That's where a special piece of Anderson's youth comes into play.

Her great aunt, Florence Toombs, owned a millinery shop in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, from about 1910 to 1960, specializing in the design, creation and selling of women's hats.

It was because of the great aunt's work that Anderson developed her affection for hats. She helped out in the shop when she was old enough, and several of Florence's head-topping creations are still in Anderson's varied collection.

A week after Thanksgiving this year, Anderson hosted her annual holiday tea for the 30 or so women from the water aerobics class she has been part of for the past 20 years.

One member of the class, **Patty Smith**, brought along her mother who sat beaming beneath a wide-brimmed hat topped with festive red feathers.

As longtime Tempe resident **Barbara Hanigsberg** enjoyed her tea at another table, she couldn't help but comment.

"This group is so much more than a water aerobics class. We've become a strong source of support for each other over the years. It's wonderful that Sallee gets us all together this way at the holidays."

On every table was a specially printed menu listing the teatime treats: delicate scones, an assortment of savory finger sandwiches and delectable holiday dessert items.

All were created and served by **Donna Allen**, owner of Culinary Delights by Donna. She'll soon be helping with the catering for a children's holiday tea party at downtown Tempe's historic Hackett House.

"Having these teas really brings back memories for me," Anderson said.

"Growing up in Canada, there were teas at my church. My grandmothers and great aunts hosted tea parties, too.

"This is my way of thanking the special people in my life and sharing time with them during the holidays," Anderson explained.

"Everyone so enjoys picking out their hat and giggling as they try on different ones. Some of my lady friends tell me it reminds them of when they played dress-up as little girls."



A cup of tea, full to the brim

As longtime Tempe resident **Barbara Hanigsberg** enjoyed her tea at another table, she couldn't help but comment.

'This group is so much more than a water aerobics class. We've become a strong source of support for each other over the years. It's wonderful that Sallee gets us all together this way at the holidays.'

— Photography by David Stone/
Wrangler News

Hoop hopefuls

Corona del Sol High School was due to face Highland High at home Dec. 7 and has its eyes on the McClintock Shootout Tournament starting Dec. 26. This year's varsity basketball team includes, left to right, **bottom row:** David Whitmore, Logan Roberts, Tarik Smith, Louis Feinberg. **Middle row:** Leland Devlin, Tory Gomez, Nikhil Kulkarni, Nick Timpone, Aaron Foshie, Andrew Fox. **Top row:** Dean Steffey (assistant coach), Sam Duane Jr. (head coach), Mike McCoy, Alex Zener, Michael Stahl, Jon Drury (assistant coach), Steve Hunter (basketball operations).

— Photo courtesy Kris Cartwright





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Happy Holidays!

Dana Hubbell

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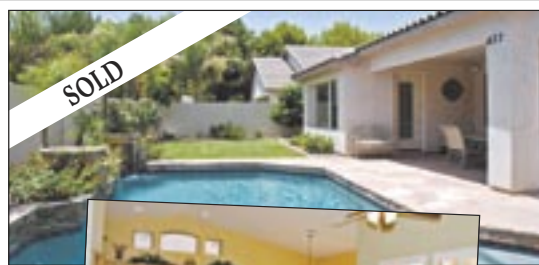
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PREMIER GATED COMMUNITY-ALISANOS OF TEMPE!

You don't want to miss this popular Fulton basement plan! 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, apx. 3,213 sq.ft. basement home with dual master floorplan. Plantation shutters on main level. Backyard was remodeled in 2004! Pebble sheen pool w/water feature & removable fence. Flagstone covered patio & kool decking. Island kitchen w/maple cabinets. New lighting and new faucets. Tile in all the right places. Basement has 2 bedrooms, full bath and a large family room/game room. Surround sound in basement, speakers on outdoor covered patio and speakers in main floor family room. Great location, great schools! \$700,000.



GREAT LOCATION - NO HOA!!

Enjoy this 4 bedroom 3 bath, apx. 1,725 sq. ft. home. New raised panel hickory cabinets, microwave, dishwasher, disposal, stove/oven, sink faucet and granite counter tops. Hardwood floors, interior recently painted and newer heat pump! In-ground heated spa, built in BBQ and brick patio in backyard. Nice Neighborhood! \$274,900.



PRESTIGIOUS RAY RANCH ESTATES!

You won't be disappointed in this 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 3 car garage home. Granite slab counters along with new stove/oven, dishwasher and microwave. Oversized tile floors in entry, halls, kitchen, laundry and baths. New light fixtures, door hardware and faucets. Gas fireplace and speaker for surround sound in Family room. Heated pebble tech pool. Flagstone patio and walk way from and back. N/S exposure. \$485,000.



HUGE LOT IN LUXURY GATED COMMUNITY!!

This home sits on a HUGE lot! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2,475 sq.ft. split floorplan. New laminate wood floors in kitchen, family room, master bath, hall, dining & entry. N/S exposure, jacuzzi tub in master with separate entrance to the backyard! Recently repainted in and out. Great location, near schools and freeway access. \$665,000

Sold in the Corridor in the Last 2 Weeks!

Twelve Oaks, \$375,000, Single Level, 2,041 sq.ft.
Carrillo Ranch, \$465,000, Single Level, 2,557 sq.ft.
Wild Tree, \$432,500, Multi-level, 3,038 sq.ft.
Galleria, \$430,000, Multi-level, 2,624 sq.ft.
Carver Ranch Estates, \$1,045,000, Single Level, 4,567 sq.ft.

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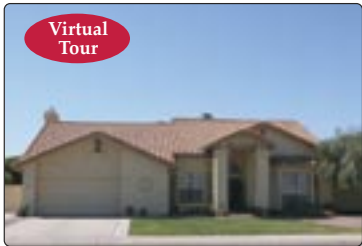


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Large Corner Lot In Warner Ranch
5BR, 3 BA, 3297 sf, bonus room, pool
Priced at \$549,900 • MLS #2843473



Mountainside Ahwatukee Home
4 BR, 2 BA, split floorplan, pool, spa
Priced at \$469,888 • MLS #2844261



Upgraded Chandler Home
4 BR, loft, bonus room, pool, RV gate/storage
Priced at \$465,000 • MLS #2748161



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Private Lot in Warner Ranch
4 BR, 2 BA, split floorpla, backs to greenbelt
Priced at \$430,000 • MLS #2845047



Stunning South Chandler Home
4 BR, den, 2.5 BA, 2879 sf, salt water pool
Priced at \$420,000 • MLS #2858528



Corner Lot in Harmon Ranch
3 BR, Den, 2232 sf, fenced pool
Priced at \$410,000 • MLS #2847725



Spacious Corner Lot in Chandler
3 BR, private cassita, pool, RV gate
Priced at \$390,000 • MLS #2876084



Beautiful Cooper Commons Home
4 BR, over 3000 sf, fenced pool, 3G
Priced at \$375,000 • MLS #2842682



Lovely Fox Crossing Home
3 BR, Den, Fenced pool, split floorpan, RVgate
Priced at \$350,000 • MLS #2875266



Updated Warner Ranch Beauty
Split floorplan, new interior paint & A/C unit
Priced at \$329,000 • MLS #2828615



Remodeled Scottsdale Home
New flooring, paint, appliances, countertops
Priced at \$329,000 • MLS #2782334



Well Maintained in Warner Ranch
3 BR, 2 BA, large living area, new patio
Priced at \$315,000 • MLS #2853731



CDS Lot in Warner Ranch
3 BR, 2 BA, 1801 sf, Marble flooring in master
Priced at \$300,000 • MLS #2858517



Great Tempe Location
2 master bedrooms, 2.5 BA, private patio, 2G
Priced at \$210,000 • MLS #2843539



Erika Lucas-Goff

Jeff Lucas

Randy Goff

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