Community Notes: April 24, 2012 - West Valley View - Avondale, AZ



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Avondale police will host bullying-prevention meet

Avondale police have joined forces with a local club to commemorate National Crime Victim's Rights' Week, which lasts through Saturday.

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Police will host a free child fingerprinting and bullying prevention effort from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Friday at the Tri-City West Thornwood Branch Boys & Girls Club, 301 W. Western Ave.

Participants will be taught the rights of children if they are bullied, how to identify bullying, how to report it and how to prevent it.

The event is intended for children 10 years and older, he said. Also, child fingerprinting kits will he handed out. For information, call 623-333-7219.

Drop-off sites set up for prescription medicines

West Valley police agencies are offering residents a chance to rid their homes of unwanted

The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked, authorities said. The take-back is part of an ongoing effort to give people a safe way of disposing of controlled substances.

Police and sheriff's deputies have teamed up with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency for drop-offs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the following five West Valley sites.

- Avondale: The parking lot of the Walgreen's, 10710 W. McDowell Road.
- Buckeye: The outside front door of the Wal-Mart Supercenter, 1060 S. Watson Road.
- Litchfield Park: Litchfield Elementary School, 13825 W. Wigwam Blvd.
- Luke Air Force Base: The Base Exchange, Building 1540.
- Tolleson: The lobby of the Tolleson Fire Department, 203 N. 92nd Ave.

All pills, capsules, tablets and liquid medication will be accepted, excluding glass containers, according to police.

Liquid medication must be sealed in original containers. Inhalers, syringes or other items used to inject medicine will not be accepted because of potential health problems.

Illegal drugs, such as marijuana or methamphetamine, will not be accepted.

Avondale police to host fundraiser for ill officer

The Avondale Police Association has teamed up with a local golf club to stage a benefit for a stricken police sergeant.

All proceeds from the tournament will be used for the support of Jerry Davis, who has mounting medical expenses due to colon cancer, an illness that is not related to his city duties, police said.

The fundraiser will be May 19 at the Coldwater Arizona Golf Club, 100 N. Clubhouse Drive. Organizers ask that reservations be made by May 1.

In addition, there will be a silent auction for items that people may wish to donate to be sold or

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raffled for the benefit of Davis, the former master of the police department's shooting range.

The cost for a sponsor foursome is \$500 and \$75 per person for an individual foursome, including range balls, cart and lunch.

For information, contact Javier Pina at 623-826-8736 or jpina@avondale.org; or John Filas at 602-550-3661 or jfilas@avondale.org.

Avondale junior college awarded scholarly kudos

Estrella **Mountain Community College** has won scholarly recognition from Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year **college**s.

The Beta Alpha Xi Chapter at the Avondale school has been ranked by the international group as among the top 18 of 1,200 chapters, according to Marylyn Bradley, an adviser for the academic program at EMCC.

During an April convention in Nashville, the chapter also was one of 28 to be recognized for scholarly and **community**-project initiatives, she said.

About 300 EMCC students belong to the Beta Alpha Xi Chapter, about 50 of whom are actively involved in ongoing projects, Bradley said.

Avondale charity plans open house at new site

Southwest Lending Closet, a long-standing West Valley charity, has announced plans for an open house at its new business site in Avondale.

The event, which is described by the charity as a "sponsorship appreciation party and new building dedication," will be at 3 p.m. May 9 at the new office, 218 N. Central Ave.

The new site opened for business Sept. 1, replacing the former facility at 113 E. Western Ave. in Avondale. The switch was made necessary because of increased customer activity, officials said.

Since May 2000, Southwest Lending Closet has loaned home health equipment, free for 90 days, to several thousand clients. The charity is operated by a staff of volunteers.

The agency has been supported by Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park and Tolleson, as well as other **community** groups and service clubs.

Nonprofit charities may apply for financial help

The Avondale City Council has allocated \$50,000 in funding assistance for qualified nonprofit groups.

Now, charities that provide health and human services to Avondale residents may apply for a portion of the funds.

Applications must be filed by 5 p.m. May 18. Forms can be found at http://www.avondale.org/CAP. For information, call 623-333-2720.

Goodyear Girl Scouts plant acacia tree in park

An Acacia tree was planted April 18 in a Goodyear park by the city's Girl Scout Troop 006.

The troop is one of 100 units throughout Arizona that were given trees to plant in order to commemorate 100 years of Girl Scouting in the state, said Michelle Klimczak, a Troop 006 leader.

The tree was planted at **Estrella** Vista Park South, 2700 S. 157th Ave., where the troop has staged clean-up projects.

In addition, the troop collected more than 6,000 plastic bags during a recycling drive at Dreaming Summit Elementary School, 13335 W. Missouri Ave., north of Litchfield Park, Klimczak said.

'Quarter Auction Craze' scheduled in Buckeye

The Buckeye **Community** Services Department will host what it describes as a "Quarter Auction Craze" to raise money for the town and local vendors.

The event will be at 6 p.m. May 4 at the Dr. Saide Recreation Center, 1003 E. Eason Ave., Buckeye. Admission will cost \$3.

Vendors will be auctioning off prize packages that retail for \$100. For information, go online at







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www.buckeyeaz.gov/events, or call Phil Yabes at 623-349-6604.

Farm group seeks names for hall of fame honors

Arizona's Farm & Ranch Experience, a Goodyear group, is seeking statewide nominations of outstanding ranchers, farmers and other agricultural workers.

Those honored will be inducted next year into the Arizona Farming & Ranching Hall of Fame. The group has set a Sept. 1 deadline to submit a nomination.

Nominations may be sent to Arizona's Farm and Ranch Experience, Heritage Center at Lakin Farm, 289 N. Litchfield Road, Goodyear, AZ 85338.

Additional information also may be obtained at 623-695-9614, or online at www.heritageatlakinfarm.org.

Spring Demolition Derby comes crashing into Buckeye

The Spring Demolition Derby is coming to Buckeye, an event that will feature scooter races, racing riding lawn mowers and other attractions.

The derby is set for 7 p.m. May 12 at the Helzapoppin' Rodeo Arena on Miller Road, just south of Baseline Road in Buckeye.

Tickets will go on sale starting Monday, May 7, at the Buckeye Chamber of Commerce, 508 E. Monroe Ave. They also will be sold at the arena gate.

For information, call the Chamber at 623-386-2727.

2 healthy relationship meetings set in Avondale

New Life Center Outreach Program, in partnership with the Avondale Neighborhood and Families Services Department, will host two workshops that will focus on healthy relationships.

The free offerings are set for 10 to 11:30 a.m. May 8, and 5 to 6:30 p.m. May 14 at Care1st Avondale Resource and Housing Center, 328 W. Western Ave., in Avondale.

The workshops are aimed at older teens and adults and offer information on healthy relationships, ways to assess if a relationship is healthy and what to do if caught in an abusive relationship.

To register, or to obtain more information, call 623-333-2703.

Scholarship offered by women's education group

Women who are returning to **college** after a gap in their education since high school may apply for a \$300 book scholarship from a West Valley group.

The help is being offered by the West Valley branch of the American Association of University Women in order to help the recipient complete a two-year or four-year degree program.

Applications must be returned by May 1. The form can be obtained online at http://aauwwestvalleyvine.weebly.com. For questions, call 623-694-3507.

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