

West Valley View

The community newspaper of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park & Tolleson, AZ ❖ Phone (623) 535-8439

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Community Notes: February 5, 2013

Goodyear police K-9 unit gets gift of protective vest

The Goodyear Police Department's K-9 unit has received a donation from the Sahuaro State Kennel Club of a ballistic vest for use by department dogs.

The protective vest, known as a "Buka," is valued at \$2,500 and is worn by police dogs during high-risk deployments, such as building searches, tracking, narcotics and explosives detection, authorities said.

IRS delays acceptance of returns using Form 8863

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that by mid-February, it will begin accepting tax returns that claim two higher-education credits.

Taxpayers using Form 8863 will have to wait until then before filing their 2012 tax returns, according to the IRS office in Phoenix.

The form is used to claim two higher educations credits - the American Opportunity Tax Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit, officials said.

In the meantime, taxpayers claiming other education related tax benefits, such as the tuition and fees deduction and student loan interest, can begin filing their returns, officials said.

For information, visit IRS.gov.

West Valley man to serve on FBI-related association

A Waddell man has been chosen to serve on the executive committee of the FBI Phoenix Citizens Academy Alumni Association, a nonprofit group.

Jim Sell, a certified public accountant and an association member since 2009, will serve as the group's vice president and treasurer, officials said.

The association was established to foster greater public understanding of the FBI and to strengthen the agency's relationships with the **community**.

American Legion will sponsor chili cook-off

The American Legion Riders Post 53 in Buckeye will sponsor a chili cook-off to benefit the veterans group and charities that assist military veterans.

The event is set for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Tin Top Bar & Grill, 37900 W. Salome Highway southeast of Tonopah.

Salt River Project to offer free electrical workshop

A workshop has been announced for tree trimmers, landscapers, excavators and others who work around overhead and underground electrical power lines.

The Salt River Project will offer the free safety training from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 23 at the utility's PERA Club, 1 E. Continental Drive, Tempe.

There will be an array of topics. including OSHA regulations. blue stake procedures. trenching and

shoring demonstrations, SRP officials said.

In addition, there will be safety presentations, including a tree rescue. Participants must be 18 and older.

The workshop is sparked by the deaths and injuries each year to professional tree trimmers and other workers who come into contact with live wires.

For information or to register for the workshop, call 602-236-2995 or email electricsafetywksp@srpnet.com.

Tres Rios festival to mark 10th anniversary of event

The Tres Rios Nature & Earth Festival will reach a milestone in March with the celebration of its 10-year anniversary.

The nature- and recreation-oriented activities are set for March 9-10 near Avondale Boulevard and the Gila River in Avondale, at the confluence of the Salt, Gila and Agua Fria rivers as well as Phoenix International Raceway.

The event focuses on area plants, animals, ecological relationships and recreational opportunities, officials said.

For details, call 623-333-2400 or go to www.avondale.org/tresriosfestival.



Educational offerings announced by Avondale

Two educational offerings have been announced by the Avondale Department of Neighborhood & Family Services.

All of the instruction will be at the Care1st Avondale Resource & Housing Center, 328 W. Western Ave.

The first free workshop, "Wired for Success," is being hosted in partnership with New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development, officials said.

One session, in English, will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. The second, in Spanish, will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 23.

To register, contact Jennifer Griffin at 623-333-2761.

The second free workshop, "1 2 3 Math & Science," is being funded by First Things First Arizona and will be fun math and science activities intended for preschoolers 5 years old and younger.

It will be from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 14. To register, contact Candice Ratlief at 623-333-2721.



Preparations continue for 'Two of Two Cities' event

Nearly 80 entries, including floats, marching bands and dance groups, are expected to participate in a parade jointly hosted by Avondale and Goodyear.

The 'Tale of Two Cities' parade is set for 10 a.m. Feb. 16, and will conclude with a free "International Celebration" at **Estrella Mountain Community College**, officials said.

The "grand marshals" will be 150 immigrants from many countries, who will take the oath of U.S. citizenship following the **college** festival.

The parade route begins on Litchfield Road at the Goodyear **Community** Park and will continue east along Thomas Road before ending at the **college**, 3000 N. Dysart Road, in Avondale.

Planning in the works for White Tanks Art Fair

There will be hand-crafted art and outdoor entertainment at the White Tanks Art Fair to be staged in Waddell.

The offering is set for 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 23 at White Tank **Mountain** Regional Park, 20304 W. White Tanks Road, at the west end of Olive Avenue.

In addition, visitors will have a chance to visit the new White Tank Nature Center and Library, organizers said.

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