

Newspaper Articles 2003-2004, Hawes Road, New River, Cave Creek, Mesa, County Trail System, Skunk Creek, Wittmann, Rain, Doubletree, Street Flooding, Balloonists, Gila River, W. Nile Virus, 83rd and Pinnacle Peak, San Tan, Agua Fria, etc.

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0	Y	Title of Newspaper Article	X Key Words
42	April 1, 1999	Superstition SanTan Corridor Will Help Keep Our Culture (& Picture)	X Cowboy Poet Buck Ramsey, Maricopa County, California, Canada, Quail, Saguaro, Rainfall, Creosote, East Valley, Superstition SanTan Corridor, 26-mile Floodway, East Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, Chandler, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Flood Control Device, Recreation Facilities, Hiking Trails, Parks, Soccer Fields, Equestrian Paths, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Superstition and Goldfield Mountains, Water, Channel or Basin, Higley Area Drainage Master Plan, Spook Hill Area Drainage Master Plan, Underway, East Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, Higley, Queen Creek, Retention Basins, <u>Converted Into Parks, Maintenance Roads, Trails, Desert Oasis, Tim Phillips Project Manager</u>
64	September 14, 1999	County Targets Mosquitoes - Spraying Attacks Areas on Encephalitis Carriers	X Maricopa County, Deadly Mosquitos, Health Officials, Fogged, Valley, Encephalitis Carrying Mosquitos, 8-Year Old Girl, Queen Creek, Died, Western Equine Virus, Lethal St. Louis Encephalitis, Maricopa, Pinal, Pima Counties, Craig Levy, Program Manager, Vector-borne Diseases, Arizona Department of Health Services, Mosquito-borne Ailment, Killed Four People, New York City, West Nile-like Fever, Africa, Asia, Fever, Headache, Neurological Disorders, Weakened Immune System, Longer, Wetter Monsoon Season, John Townsend, Manager, Vector Control, Storms, Water, Water Standing, Man-made Wetlands, Groundwater Recharge, Environmental, Larva, Adult Mosquitos, Citizen Complaints, Southeast Phoenix, Nuisance Floodwater Mosquitos, Culex Tarsalis Mosquitos, Bite at Night, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Dry Out
49	October 1, 1999	Peoria Approves Land Deal for First Community Park (& Map)	X Peoria, Agua Fria Freeway, New River Channel, City of Peoria, First Community Park, 50-plus Recreation Resource, Purchase, 40 Acres, Thunderbird Road, West of Loop 101, Peoria City Council, Sept. 19, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Additional 12 Acres, City Councilmember Joe La Rue, Ironwood Council District Representative, New River Channel, Pedestrian, Bike Paths, Rivers and Trails Master Plans, \$3.45 Million, Land, Lydic Family, Peoria Farmers, Peoria's Parks, Recreation, Open Space Master Plan, Skateboard Park, Infrastructure Improvements, Athletic Fields, Racquetball Courts, Picnic Areas, Funding, Bond Revenues, Impact Fees, Kelly Corsette, Public Information Manager
32	December 1, 1999	Bunker Bob' Watches, Waits for Dreaded Y2K Emergency (& Picture)	X Bob Spencer, Maricopa County Emergency Management Director, County Employees, Emergency Management Operation Center, The Bunker, Arizona National Guard Headquarters, Phoenix's Papago Park, Y2K Central, Constructed in 1950, Cold War, 3 Feet of Concrete, 3 Feet of Dirt, Walls are 2 Feet Thick, Designed, Repel Nuclear Fallout, Public Health, Transportation, Law Enforcement, Disaster Relief Agencies, Triple-decker Bunk Beds, Coordinate Emergency Services, Natural Disasters, Floods, Rare Desert Tornadoes, East Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale, East Valley, Flood Waters, Dams on Salt River Broke, Palo Verde Nuclear Plant, Bomb Threats, Riot, Queen Creek, Sewer Leaks, Water Shutoffs, Malfunctioning Elevators, County Flood Control Spokeswoman Kris Baxter, Valley, Sky Harbor International Airport
24	November 1, 2000	Flood Relocation Money Announced	X Maricopa, La Paz Counties, Property Destroyed, Walloping Flood, October, Sell, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Victims, Buyout, Federal Funds, Repair, Infrastructure, Aguila, Wenden, Area is Dangerous, Jan Brewer, Chairwoman, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Maintain Area as Open Space, Move People Out, Stay, Own Risk, Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, Mary Dahl, La Paz County Emergency Management Director, Grant Approval, Centennial Wash,
66	February 14, 2001	Around the Valley - Cart in the Rain (& Picture)	X Charles Vandor, Umbrella, Indian School Road and 32nd Street
28	April 1, 2001	Park Plan Supported by Babbitt - White Tanks Would Gain Federal Land (& Picture)	X Maricopa County, Add 2,880 Acres, Federal Land, White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Valley, Growth, West Valley, Creosotes, Arizona, Board of Supervisors, Federal Bureau of Land Management, 26,332-acre Park, Land Donations, BLM, Andy Kunasek, Chairman, Jan Brewer, White Tanks, Michael Taylor, BLM's Phoenix Field Manager, Mining, Grazing Leases, Public Hearing, Ridges, Bajadas, Lower Slopes, Vegetation, Wildlife, Del Webb, Johnson International, Gov. Jane Hull
68	May 9, 2001	Plant is the Pits, Neighbors Say - Sand and Gravel Operation Took Area by Surprise (& Picture)	X Todd Sundquist, Sand and Gravel Operations, Dysart Road and Southern Avenue, Southwest Valley, New West Materials, Take Pictures, Catching, Violating Law, Picketed, Government Entities, Avondale, Planner Tony Widowski, List of Requests, Meetings, Letters, Truck Traffic, Police Construction, Daniel McQuade, New West Operations Manager, Met All Requirements, State and County Laws, Mine, 174-Acre Field, Flood-relief Structure, Joe Maroney, Houses, Downhill, Berm, Diversion Canal, Sending Water, Neighborhood, Overflow, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Michael Ellegood, Chief Engineer and General Manager, Mix Concrete, Produce Asphalt, Special Use Permit, Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Moved into Neighborhood, Without Informing Neighbors, No Environmental Nor Restoration Plans, Flood Control and Dust
61	May 21, 2001	Yuma Clapper Rail Found With Broken Leg - Endangered Bird Heals	X Gregg Watts, Arizona Canal Diversion Channel, North Phoenix, Yuma Clapper Rail, Endangered Species, Seven Hundred, United States, 40 in the Valley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Broken Leg, Wetland, Buckeye, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Raccoons, Coyotes, Owls, Channels, Liberty Wildlife Rehabilitation Foundation, Scottsdale, Megan Mosby, Liberty's Executive Director, Native to Arizona, California, Mexico

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39	July 1, 2001	Flood Control by Natural Selection Doesn't Work (& Picture)	X Tribune, Coverage, Flood Control District, East Valley, Editorials, Critical, Hazards, Desert Flooding, Arid Landscape, Rushing Floodwaters, Buyers, Floodplain Land, Flood Control by Natural Selection, Identify, Analyze, Mitigate, Governments Role, Debated, United States, Disaster Strikes, Taxpayer Dollars, Aguila/Wendon (Wenden), Alluvial Plain, Formed by Water-borne Material Deposits, 23 Dams, Flood Protection, Roosevelt Dam, Salt and Gila River Dams, Environmental-altering Flood Control Projects, Cannot Build, New Issue, Property Rights, Environmentally Friendly Mitigation, Construction, Unavoidable, Extend Existing Channel, Usery Mountain Park
36	December 13, 2001	Public Gets First Look at Superstition SanTan Corridor; Marathon Trail	X East Mesa Residents, Preliminary Conceptual Plan, Superstition SanTan Corridor, Marathon Trail, Will Run 26 Miles, Floodways, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, Tim Phillips, Project Manager, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Leisure World, Concerned, Public Trailway, Private Development, Williams Gateway Airport, Superstition Springs Gold Course, Gold Canyon Residents, Ralph Cavan, Margaret Elliot, Loop 202 Red Mountain Freeway
50	November 12, 2002	Adobe Dam/Desert Hills Public Meeting (& Map)	X Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Public Meetings, Adobe Dam/Desert Hills Area Drainage Master Plan (ADMP), Photographs, Flooding, Erosion Problems, Watershed-wide Drainage Plan, Cost-effective, Community-based, Flooding and Erosion Control Solutions, Recommendations, Structural Improvements, Rules, Guidelines for Development, Project Manager Marilyn DeRosa, Michael Book, Logan Simpson Design Inc.
15	March 22, 2003	Area Drainage Plan Meets Town Approval	X Town of Cave Creek, Intergovernmental Agreement, Maricopa County's Flood Control District, Area Drainage Master Plan, Carefree, Flood District Develop Drainage Master Plan, Seven Major Snafus, Identified, Drainage Problems, Culverts, Clogged
14	April 3, 2003	Wet Weather to Continue - Some Weekend Events Washed Out (Pictures & Map)	X Rain, National Weather Service, 3 Inches or More, East Valley, More Than 2 Inches, Scottsdale, Extensive Street Flooding, Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt, Debris-strewn Roads, Forecasters, Drying Up, Low-pressure Center, Keith Kincaid, Meteorologist, Mesa, Brown Road and Horn, Lindsay and Guadalupe Roads, Gilbert, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Chandler, Alma School Road and Chandler Boulevard, Thunderstorms, High Winds, Storms, Rural/Metro Firefighters, Rescue Man, Miller Road and Murray Lane, Volume of Water, Moving Swiftly, Knock You Down, Carry You Away, Louise Steinfir, Nicole Englemann, Mud and Muck, Matt Burdick, Arizona Department of Transportation, Road Construction Projects, Cancelled, Weather and Temperatures, Loop 202, Country Club Drive and Gilbert Road, Cooler Weather, Scott Harelson, Salt River Project, Precipitation in the Valley, Shelter, Three Students, Brandon Anderson, Paul Armenta, Tyrece Wilson,
17	July 16, 2003	Maricopa County to Aid FEMA on Flood Maps	X Maricopa County Officials, Agreement, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Map Updates, Flood Control District, Digital Flood Insurance Rate maps, District, Receive, \$357,000 to Cover Expenses, FEMA, Hard-copy Insurance Rate Maps,
27	July 17, 2003	Balloonists Steaming at Site Loss - County Closes Takeoff, Landing Area (& Picture)	X Hot-air Balloon Operators, Decision, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Close, Takeoff and Landing Area, North of Phoenix, Federal Dust Regulations, Liability Issues, Banned Access, Cave Buttes Dam, Commercial Balloon Operators, 3,000 Acre Parcel, Jomax Road, Cave Creek Road, 20 years, Permits to Use State Trust Land, Brian Holmes, Interstate 17, 51st Avenue, 27th Avenue and Happy Valley Road, Carefree Highway, Chase Down Dirt Bikers, Busts, Gate Open, Cuts, Fence, Michael Ellegood, General Manager, Environmental Services Department, Off-road Vehicles, Destroying Public Facilities, Taxpayer Expense, Chase Vehicles, \$10,000-a-day Fine, Balloon Pilot Bob Romaneschi, Calm Prevailing Winds, Safely Land, Phoenix Behind Decision, Intergovernmental Agreement, 1994, City's Parks and Recreation Department, Rene Vera, Parks and Recreation Administrator, Trespassing, Major Problem, Remote Control Airplanes, Permission, Irresponsible Land Use
29	July 23, 2003	The Water Ran Clean - Longtime W. Valley Residents Reflect on Gila River's Past (& Picture)	X 115th Avenue Bridge, Small Pools, Brownish Water, Gila River, Haven for Wildlife, Destructive Force, Little Bit Salty, Clean, Fritz Amator, Resident, West Valley, Endured Floodwaters, Four Feet High, Baptisms, Back in the 1940's, Fishing, Swimming, Tolleson, Rod Rodriguez, Salt or the Gila, Agua Fria, Picnicked, In the '30s, Trees, Shade, Lila Schneider, Avondale, Morris
21	August 2, 2003	County Getting Tough on Trespassers at Dam (& Picture)	X Stiff Fines, Ongoing Costs, Maricopa County, Take Control Cave Buttes Dam Area, Northeast Valley, Security Patrols, Banned Hot-air Balloonists, Flood Control District Property, Stop Everyone, Trespassing, Off-road Vehicles, Joe Munoz, Raise, Dust, Patching Fences, Cleaning Up Area, Pinnacle Peak Road, Happy Valley Road, 16th Street, Cited for Trespassing, Criminal Damages, Chief Engineer, General Manager Mike Ellegood, Arizona Balloon Club, Disrespecting Property, Gates Unlocked, Cutting Fences, Traveling Off-road, Off-road Vehicle and Gun Enthusiasts, Tearing Up Desert, Maricopa County Air Quality Regulators, District, May Face \$10,000 Fines Daily, Philip Heinrich, Club's Government Liaison
3	August 6, 2003	Construction Debris Dumped in Floodplain (& Picture)	X Fred Kin, Resident, New River, Illegal Dumping, Construction Debris, Frontage Road, Interstate 17, Old Black Canyon Highway, New River Wash, New River Road, Maricopa County Zoning Enforcement Department, Dumping Concrete, Rebar, Rocks, Asphalt, Dirt, 10 to 15 Feet High, South of Roadrunner Restaurant, New River Elementary School, Torn Down, Parking Lot, Deer Valley Unified School District Elementary School, Target General, Inc. Prime Contractor, Subcontractor Fraley Construction of Mesa, Hauling Debris, Kent Davis, Associate Superintendent of DVUSD, Dirt Walter, Design and Construction Department, Normal Business, West Side of I-17, Maricopa County Flood Control District Offices, In Floodway, Dumping is Not Allowed Without a Permit, Mark Mayer, Inspection Manager, Matt Buckhannon, Maricopa County Sheriff's Deputies, Daisy

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22	August 14, 2003	Flood Control Agency Seeks Residents Input	X Maricopa County Flood Control District, West Valley Residents, Information, Neighborhood Flooding, Agua Fria and Hassayampa Rivers, Arizona 74 to White Tank Mountains, McMicken Dam, 1989, Drainage Study, Morristown, Circle City, Wittmann, Surprise, Peoria, Buckeye, Identify Flood and Erosion Hazards Ahead of Development, Mailed Questionnaire,
26	August 19, 2003	Supervisors Hold Line on Tax Rate	X Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Tax Rate, Same as Last Fiscal Year, Flood Control District Rate
19	August 20, 2003	Flood Control District Seeks Comments on Flooding	X Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Information, Agua Fria and Hassayampa Rivers, State Route 74 to White Tank Mountains, North of McMicken Dam, Neighborhood Flooding, Property Owners, Experiences, Concerns, Supervisor Max Wilson, District 4, 1989, Area Master Drainage Study, Tribley Watershed, Morristown, Circle City, Wittmann, Surprise, Peoria,
51	August 22, 2003	Hidden Treasure	X Museums, Valley Landscape, Residents, Deer Valley Rock Art Center, Adobe Dam, 47-acre Preserve, Native American Cultures, Hedgpeith Hills, Corn-grinding Materials, Many Centuries, History, Boulders, 1,500 Petroglyphs, Archaic Tribes, A.D. 300, Hohokam, Patayan Cultures, Central Arizona, A.D. 1450, Depictions, Animals, Humans, Crosses, Spirals, Circles, Assistant Director Marilyn Sklar, Small Dwellings, Burial, Meates, Manos, Flat Rocks, Grinding Stones, Hills, Mined for Basalt, Sacred Significance, Arizona Tribes, National Register of Historic Places, Phoenix Architect William Bruder, Phoenix's Burton Barr Library, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Artifacts, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Arizona State University, Adobe Mountain Railroad Museum and Desert Railroad, Big Mechanical Park, Cliff Fought, N. HO and G Gauge Trains, Antique
69	September 1, 2003	El Rio Watercourse - Flood-Control Project Promises to Expand Recreational Amenities for Local Residents (& Pictures)	X Sonoran Desert, Gila River, Vegetation, Birds, River System, Remnant, Growth, Dams, Dried Up, Rivers, Channels, Phoenix Metropolitan Area, Devastating Floods, West Valley Communities, Allenville, Buckeye, 1970s, 1980s, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Implement Flood Control Measures, Gila, Transform, River Banks, Human Encroachment, Non-native Species, Historic Uses, \$2 Million Project, El Rio Watercourse Master Plan, Re-introduce Native Wildlife, Trails, Education Center, Flooding, 17.5-mile Gila River, Confluence, Agua, Salt and Gila Rivers, Avondale, Goodyear, Buckeye, Historic and Pre-historic
4	September 3, 2003	New River School Debris Still Mars Floodplain (& Picture)	X Unauthorized/Illegal Dumping, Construction Debris, New River School, Unresolved, Remains in Floodplain, Dirt, Rocks, Asphalt, Concrete, Rebar, New River Wash, I-17 Frontage Road, Old Black Canyon Hwy., South of New River Road, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Notices of Violation, Dumping in a Floodplain, Without Permit, Prime Contractor, Target General, Inc., 600 Loads of Material, Removed or Buried, Leveled, No Permit Issued, Melissa Lemke, Spokeswoman, Permit, Engineering Report, Flood Delineation, Not Been Affected, Fraley Construction of Mesa, Subcontractor, Dumping Materials
12	September 10, 2003	Flood Evacuation Plan to Be Proposed for Aguila	X Aguila Fire Department Board of Directors, First and Ray Street, HRD Engineering Representative Dave Burab, Flood Alert Evacuation Plan, Flood Response, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Flood Response Office, Flood Alerts, Response, Rescue, Evacuation, Victor M. Vila, Chairman
13	September 10, 2003	Second Round of Flooding Hits Wittmann - Wittmann Highlights (& Pictures)	X Record Rainfall, 3 and 4 Inches, Wittmann, Storm, Washes, Rage, Deluge, Dove Valley Road and 211th Avenue, People Were Trapped, Two Raging Washes, Big Storm, August 26, Center Street, Buckle and Crumble Over, Wittmann Wash, MCDOT, Culverts Cleared of Debris, No Flooding, Center Street Wash, Eroding the Road, Trenches, Excavations, New Nadaburg School, Ponding, Flowed, Shallow Channels, Dry for Years, Small Rivers, Land, Prone to Flooding, Years Between Storms, Heavy Rainfall, Outlaying Areas, Dumping, Flowing Heavily, Runoff, Levee
11	September 30, 2003	Backers of Recreation Strip Cheer Possible Mining Pact	X 47-mile Recreation Corridor, Tentative Agreement, Mining Operators, Agua Fria and New Rivers, Diane Brossart, President, Valley Foreword Association, Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor, Peoria to Avondale, Dusty River Bottoms, Scenic Stretches of Parks, Trails, Other Amenities, Maintaining Rivers, Flood-control Standards, Sand-and-gravel Miners, Provide Channels in River Bottoms, Control Floodwaters, Cost, Channelization, Rusty Bowers, Executive Director, Arizona Rock Products Association, Mining Operators, Recreation Corridor Backers, Future of Riverbeds, Maricopa County Flood Control
10	October 22, 2003	Skunk Creek Re-vegetation Draws Many Residents (& Picture)	X Residents, New River, Help Restore, Damaged North Bank, Skunk Creek, Honda Bow Road, Volunteers, Digging, Planting, Creosote, Blue Palo Verde Seeds, Make a Difference Day, Maricopa County, New River PTSA, New River/Desert Hills Community Association, New River Kiwanis Club, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Emily Lane, ERA/Artizan Realty, Sara Vannucci, Southwest Small Business Group, Roadrunner Restaurant, County Supervisor Andy Kunasek, Gary Branum, Project Manager Afshin Ahouraiyan, NR/DH Community Association, Cub Scout Troop 431, 2.5 Acres, 7th Avenue on North Honda Bow Road, Home Site of Refuse, Dead Trees, Undercover Brush, Fire Hazard, Discarded, Brambles, Leveled the Soil,
9	October 23, 2003	County Trail System to Get Eastern Links (& Map)	X Establish, Regional Trail System Circling the Valley, Maricopa County Supervisors, Approved, Second Phase, 126-mile Section, Link Parks, Northeast Valley to Southeast Valley, Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area, McDowell Mountain Regional Park, Usery Mountain Recreation Area, San Tan Mountain Regional Park, Supervisor Andy Kunasek, Entire System, Could Top 1,000 Miles, Incorporate Existing Trails, Create New Ones, Walk, Run, Hike, Ride Horses, Canals, Parks, Flood Control Lands, First Phase, 221 Miles of Trails, White Tank Mountains, Cave Creek Recreational Area, Reed Kempton, County Planner, Third and Final Phase, South Mountain Park, Phoenix, West Valley

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30	October 28, 2003	Hurry Up And ... Wait? - A.J.'s Issues May Stall GC Incorporation (& Pictures)	X Incorporation of Gold Canyon, City of Apache Junction, City Manager George Hoffman, Arizona State Statutes, 19,000-acre Annexation Plan, South of US 60, Bob Reveles, Co-chairman of Gold Canyon Citizens for Incorporation, Apache Junction Mayor Roy W. Hudson, Mesa Annexation of Lands, Williams Gateway Airport, Future U.S. 60 Bypass, Long-range Transportation Needs, Michael Rumpitz, Leaser, Residents for Financial Responsibility, Tax Base, Public Works, Infrastructure, Parks, Libraries, Mayor Doug Coleman, State Land Department, Maricopa Copa County Flood Control District, Flood Control Issue, Since 1996, Pinal County, Growth Corridor, Don Blank
20	November 1, 2003	Flood Zone Information for Homeowners	X Gilbert, Eight Year, Drought-like Conditions, Gilbert Has Flood Zones, Slopes East to West, Heavy Rainfall, Water Can Back Up, Canals, Flooding, During Flooding, Turn Off Electricity and Gas, Take Shelter, High Winds, Lightening, Dust Storms, Heavy Rain, Washes, Low-lying Areas, Fill Quickly With Water, Obtaining Flood Insurance, National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Town and Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Reduce Risk of Flooding, Freestone and Crossroads Parks, Dual Purpose, Retention Facilities, Collect, Hold Rainwater, East Maricopa Floodway, Intercept Flows
2	February 6, 2004	Flood Moves Ceremony of Flood Control Project	X Flooded, Indian Bend Wash, Paradise Valley Officials, Move Dedication, Doubletree Ranch Road Flood Control and Street Improvement Project, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Between Tatum Boulevard and Invergordon Road, 15th Tee on the Marriott Camelback Golf Course
1	February 17, 2004	Flood Project May End Months Earlier	X Construction, Drainage Improvements, Hawes Road, Sally Stewart, Spokeswoman, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, East Mesa Area Drainage Master Plan, Eastern Maricopa County, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, 1.1 Miles Long, Capture and
6	February 25, 2004	County is Combining 3 Departments Into 1	X Maricopa County Officials, Flood Control District, Transportation, Solid Waste Departments, Public Works Department, County Administrator David Smith, Accounting, Separate
7	February 25, 2004	County Forms Public Works Department	X Maricopa County Public Works Department, Operations and Management, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Department of Transportation, Solid Waste Department, Integrated, Board of Supervisors Chairman Andy Kunasek, Build More Roads, Provide More Flood Protection, Better Use of Taxpayer Dollars, Reduce Duplication, County Administrator David Smith, Accounting String Separation, Three Funding Sources, Layoffs Not Expected, Maricopa County Human Resources Policies and Merit Rule Compliance, Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer and General Manager, Named Director, Superstition Freeway, Apache Junction, State Route 51
25	March 3, 2004	All Done - Doubletree Project's Completion is Cause Celebre (& Picture)	X Doubletree Ranch Road, March 6, Completion, Construction, January 2003, Street Improvement Project, Town of Paradise Valley, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Dedication Ceremony, Pat Neal, Town's Project Manager, Project Contractor Blucor Contracting, Inc., Speakers, PV Mayor Ed Lowry, Maricopa County Supervisors, Don Stapley, Andy Kunasek, 10-year Flood Event, Overflowed Cherokee Wash, One of Seven Server Storms, 1970, Flooding, 185 Homes, Undergrounding Storm
23	March 5, 2004	Party to Mark End of Work on Doubletree	X Doubletree Ranch Road, Paradise Valley, Block Party, End of 14-month Construction, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Flood Control and Street Improvement Project, Tatum Boulevard and Invergordon Road, Underground Storm Pipes, Drains, Culverts, Curbs, Sidewalks, Recreation Paths, Rubberized Asphalt, Lindstrom's Family Car Wash, Doubletree and Indian Bend Wash Crossing, 15th Tee on Marriott Camelback Golf Course, Mayor Ed Lowry, Blucor Contracting, Beautiful Residential Looking Roadway, Liz Clendenin, Town Council Candidate
16	March 17, 2004	Dedication Ceremony Marks Doubletree Completion (& Pictures)	X Paradise Valley's Largest, Expensive Street Project, March 6, Dedicate, Doubletree Ranch Road Area Drainage and Street Improvement Project, Flood Capacity, Two Inches of Rain, Carry, Capacity Load, Ground Water, Indian Bend Wash at Doubletree, Mayor Ed Lowry, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chairman Andy Kunasek, Supervisor Don Stapley, County Director of Public Works Mike Ellegood, Blucor Contracting, Inc., Checked Yard, Rainstorm, No Flooding, Michele Hamada, 56th Street and Doubletree, Former Paradise Valley mayor Joan Horne, Wash on 64th Street, Running Like Crazy, Broken Utility Lines, Design Changes, Street Closures, Complaints, Judy Theman, Gordon Bluth
8	March 22, 2004	Mesa's Share of Gilbert Rd. Work Debated	X Maricopa County Officials, Municipalities, Half the Cost, Flood Control, Road Projects, County Supervisors, Construction of Gilbert Road, Supervisor Max Wilson, Northwest Valley, Supervisor Don Stapley, Improve Gilbert Road, McDowell Road to Beeline Highway, 2.75-Mile Stretch, Mesa and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Loop 202, U.S. 60, Jeff Martin, Mesa Development Services Assistant Manager, Mike Ellegood, Director, Public Works Department
5	March 24, 2004	Cave Creek to Commission Drainage Plan - Pay \$100,000 to Flood Study	X Drainage Master Plan, Study of Washes, Drainage and Water Hazard, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Carefree, Mayor Vincent Francia, Flood Control Proposed a Study, Mid-1990's, Private Property, Former Mayor Tom Aughterton, Cave Creek's Assistant Town Engineer Jeff Lo, Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), Carefree Town Administrator Jon Pearson, Carefree Town Council, Drainage Problems, Ocotillo Wash, Rowe Wash, Hydrology, Echo Canyon Road, Carefree Flows to Cave Creek
18	March 28, 2004	County Solution to Street Flooding: Wait 4 Years (& Pictures)	X Linda Mullins, City Officials, Problem, Solved, Deer Valley Road Developed, Flooding, End, County, Paved 89th Avenue South of Williams, Retention Basin, Pump, Water, City of Peoria Engineering Director David Moody, Mike Ellegood, Public-works Director, Address Flood Control, Large Zone, Intersection, Paving and Drainage Work

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35	8/15/200?	Flood Control Readies New 83rd/Pinnacle Peak Plan (& Picture)	X Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Peoria Residents, Meeting, Glendale/Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan, Information Packages, June 20th Meeting, Alternative 4, Project Manager Marilyn DeRosa, 83rd Avenue and Pinnacle Peak Area, Area Maps, Maricopa County Department of Transportation, City of Peoria, Major Retention Basin
31	April 01, 200?	W. Nile Virus Likely to Hit State This Year	X Mosquito-born West Nile Virus, Arizona, Most-serious Effects, Brain Swelling, Encephalitis, Craig Levy, State Health Department's Vector Born and Zoonotic Disease Program, Mesa, New York, 1999, Diseased Birds, Yuma, Related St. Louise Equine Virus, Pet water Dished, Children's Toys, Puddles Under Outdoor Faucets, Stagnant Swimming Pools, Fertile Areas, Dr. Peter Kelly, Infectious Disease Specialist,
55	January 01, 1999?	The Bureaucrats and a Taxpayer	X Maricopa County Planning Department, Code Enforcement Officer, Continental Mountain, Gold Mountain Estates, Scott Schuff's Proposed Helicopter Pad, County Board of Supervisors, Director of Planning Joy Rich, County Attorney Jim Minter, Building Permit, Planning and Zoning, Lori Allen, Private Easement, Flood Control Issues, Grading Permit, Engineering Plans, Runoff, Hillside, Notices, Violation, Legal Action, Fines, Road, Grading and Drainage Plans, Building Safety, Wash, Creek
40	July 20, 199?	Disaster Waiting to Happen - Greenbelt is a Must (& Picture)	X Chief Engineer and General Manager, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Controversy, Scottsdale's Desert Greenbelt Project, Real Flood Hazard, Unique to North Scottsdale, Protect, Most Hazardous Area, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Same Risk as Land Near Sea Coast, 6,800 Homes, DC Ranch, High-hazard Area, Mitigate the Hazard, Protection, North Scottsdale Lies in an Alluvial Fan, Geologic Phenomenon, Arid Areas, Transition, Mountain, Desert Floor, Alluvial Fan Stream Channels, Unstable, Stormwater, Runoff, New Paths, Desert Floor, Fast Moving Sediment, 100-year Flood, House Hit With 4 1/2 Tons of Debris, Elevating Structure, Flood Insurance, Does Not Guarantee Safety, August 1996, 15-year Flood Event, Water Pipe Break, Pool Area of Reata and Pima Washes, Retention, Engineered Channel, Rawhide Wash, Safety Hazard, National Research Council, Ultra-hazardous, U.S. Geological Survey, Reata Pass, Dangerous Flooding Area, FEMA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Flood of 1972, Approve Funding, Build Indian Bend Wash, Environmental Impacts
38	March 9, 200?	County Discusses Agua Fria Plans	X Maricopa County Flood Control District, Citizen Input, Agua Fria and New Rivers, Develop River Corridors, 47-mile Park, City of Peoria, Doug Williams
43	Undated 01, 199?	East Valley Greenbelt Plan Mirrors Indian Bend Wash (& Map)	X Maricopa County Officials, Own Version, Scottsdale's, Indian Bend Wash, Maricopa County Floodway, East Valley, Linear Park, Flood Control Channel, Brown Road, Greenfield Road, 28 Miles, Gila River, Flood Collector Facility, Channels Heavy Runoff, Populated Areas, Michael Ellegood, Chief Engineer, County's Flood Control District, Main Purpose, Remain the Same, Redesign Into a Multipurpose Recreational Facility, Hiking, Cycling, Equestrian Trails, Picnic Sites, Basketball, Tennis Courts, Future Subdivisions, Face Greenbelt, Tim Phillips, Senior Project Manager, Planning Division, Dry Rivers, Canals, Keep Off, Public, Bought, Paid For, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, Chandler, Collin-Pina Consulting Engineers Inc., Preliminary Recommendation, Early 2000, West Valley, Agua Fria River, Re-evaluate, Waterways
34	Undated 01, 1999	Flood-Control Basins, Channels Proposed	X Maricopa County Flood Control District, Channels, Basins, Southwest Phoenix, Tolleson, Avondale, Durango Area Master Drainage Plan, Reduce Flooding, Build Parks, Trails, 5 Projects, 53 Square Miles, Open Spaces, Rivers, County Supervisor
44	Undated 01, 1999?	Flood Channel Planned	X Major Storm, Floodwaters, White Tank Mountains, Maricopa County, Building, \$3.5 Million Flood Channel, Protect Residents, Major Downpour, White Tanks North Inlet Channel, Major Flood Hazard, Olive and Glendale Avenues, Perryville Road, Rain, Desert, Sever Flooding, Valerie Swick, Project Manager, County's Flood Control District, New Flood Control Channel, Olive and Northern Avenues, Beardsley Canal, Culverts, Carry Floodwater, Recreation Corridor, Hiking, Equestrian Trails, Lowest Construction Impact, Preliminary Design Work
45	Undated 01, 1999?	Don't Put Landfill in Our Area, A.J. Tells Phoenix	X Apache Junction, Phoenix's Trash, Back Yard, Apache Junction City Council, Landfill, Pinal County, Pecos Road and Ironwood Drive, Councilwoman Carol Ulrich, Skunk Creek Landfill, 27th Avenue and Happy Valley Road, Reach Capacity in 2005, Michelle Woytanko, Acting Deputy Director, Phoenix Public Works Department, Partnership, Commercial Landfill, Vice Mayor Anne Marie Surra, Elliot Road Alignment, Ray Road Alignment, Bryan Powell, Assistant to City Manager, Flood Plain, Land, Owned by State, Residential Development
46	Undated 01, 1999?	Flood Plain Map May Offer Good News - Changes May Save on Insurance for Scottsdale Homes (& Map)	X North Scottsdale Flood Plain Study, 45 Homeowners, Flood Insurance, Public Works Planner Bill Erickson, Federal Housing Administration, Veterans Affairs Loan, Required, Buy Flood Insurance, Federal Government, Bad News, New Map, Incorporates Rainfall Pattern Studies, Topographic Analysis, Surveying, Land Use, Aerial Mapping, Legend Trails Subdivision, Hazard Area, Riverine-type Flow, Flooding, 10,000 Year Old Channels, Ancient, Well-established, Development, Stabilized Channels, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D.C., FEMA, District Spokeswoman Angeline Fowler, Study Area, 12.9 Square Miles, 7.1 Square Miles, Privately Held, 1.4 Square Miles is
47	Undated 01, 1999?	Editorial: Our View - County Was Set to Bulldoze Homes - How Did This Snafu Happen?	X Government, 21 Homeowners, Northwest Valley, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Drainage Project, Pinnacle Peak Road, 83rd and 91st Avenues, Build, 80-foot-wide Drainage Ditch, Catch Water, 100-year Floods, Four Alternatives

0	Y	Title of Newspaper Article	X Key Words
48	Undated 01, 1999?	Flood District Slates El Rio Plan Meetings	X Three West Valley Cities, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Gila River Habitats, Flood Control Measures, El Rio Watercourse Master Plan, Restoring, Natural Habitat, 17.5-mile Stretch, Avondale, Goodyear, Buckeye, 1999, Michelle Lempke, Public Involvement Coordinator, Levees, Open Flow Channels, Reduce Floods, Riparian Habitat, Wetlands, Native Species, Cottonwood, Willow Trees, Doug Williams
52	Undated 01, 1999?	Sand, Gravel Operations Face Opposition - Coalition Seeking More Regulations	X Rock Products Association, Most Powerful Lobby, State Legislature, Or Second Most Powerful, League of Arizona Cities and Towns, Sand and Gravel Businesses, Political Discussion, Complaints, Residents, Businesses, Dust, Noise, Odors, Emissions, Unmonitored Stacks, Truck Traffic, Sand and Gravel Operations, Government Entities, Powerless, Sun City, Peoria's Ventana Lakes, Inaction, Interests, Rock Products Business, Campaign Issue, Districts 15, 17, 19, Sen. Brenda Burns, Responsible, Breakdown in Communications, Industry Inspections, Emissions from Plants, Zoning, Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Change State Law, Rock Industry, Home Builders Association, County Officials, Address the Conflicts, Create Rules,
53	Undated 01, 1999?	Greenbelt Arguments Were Self-Serving	X Mike Ellegood, July 20, Flood Peril, North Scottsdale, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Homes, Built, Flood Zone, Scottsdale, Prevent, High Density Development, Threatened with Destruction, Developer-friendly Bureaucrats, Consequences, Unmanaged Growth, As Land Near the Sea Coast, Floodprone, Coast of Florida, House 4 1/2 Tons of Debris, Reduce Potential
54	Undated 01, 1999?	Commuters on Northern, Take a Different Route for Next 30 Days (& Picture)	X Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Achen-Gardner Inc., Storm Drain Pipes, Northern Avenue, 65th Avenue Alignment, Construction, Construction Manager Fred Fuller, Orangewood Storm Drain Project, Retention Basin, Northern and 63rd Avenue, West Valley, Traffic Restricted
56	Undated 01, 1999?	Bulldozing Wetlands Near Sky Harbor and Odious Choice	X Airports, Wetlands, Rivers, Farmlands, Oceans, Lakes, Landfills, Attract Birds, Prevent Birds, Gumming Up Aircraft Engines, Phoenix Aviation Director, Re-kill Rio Salado River Bed, Habitat, Mining, Grading, Dumping, Scientifically, Environmentally Sensitive Approach, Vegetation, Rio Salado, Recreational Area, Riparian Refuge, Cranes, Egrets, Migratory Birds, Phoenix,
57	Undated 01, 1999?	Greenbelt Column Raises Key Questions	X Mike Ellegood, Desert Greenbelt, July 20, Chief Engineer and General Manager, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, 6,800 Houses, Zoned, Developer Friendly Council, High Hazard Area, North Scottsdale, U.S. Geological Survey, Second-highest, Dangerous Flooding Area, Most Hazardous Area, Maricopa County, 100-year Flood, Land Near Seacoast, Same Risk, Alluvial Fan Stream Channels, Highly Unstable, Stormwater, New Paths, Desert Floor, Concrete, Change Flow Dynamics,
58	Undated 01, 1999?	Possible Trail Links Announced (& Map)	X Queen Creek, Gilbert, Mesa, Partnership, Park-like-setting, Flood Control Areas, East Valley, Tremendous Sprawl, Recreational Activities, Fulton Brock, Maricopa County District 1 Supervisor, Open Space, Green Belts, Trails, 25-mile Corridor, Maricopa County, Trailhead, Superstition SanTan Corridor, Marathon Trail, Follow County Floodways, Kris Baxter, Spokeswoman, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Link Trails, Apache Junction Area, A.J. Area, East Maricopa Floodway, 26 Miles Long, Brown and Greenfield Roads, Maricopa/Pinal County Line, Hunt Highway, Water Out-falls, Gila River Indian Community, Flood Prevention Goals, Reduce Scouring, Floodplain, Erosion, Protection, Irrigated Lands, Residential, Retail-Commercial, Roads, Highways, Irrigation Canals, Cheryl Banta, Special Projects Manager, Pinal County, Soon-to-be Built Lost Goldmine Trail, Superstition Foothills, City of Chandler, Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraney
59	Undated 01, 1999?	County to Vote on Flood Projects - Chandler and Queen Creek to Match Funds from Maricopa District	X Maricopa County, Spend \$9 Million, Storm Drainage Projects, Reduce Flooding, Chandler, Queen Creek, County Board of Supervisors, Vote, Two Agreements, Release Money, County Flood Control District, Flooding Problems, Fulton Brock, Upgrade Water-retention Basins, Central Areas, Protect Buildings, Damaged, Floods, Construction, Early 1900s, Gary LaForge, Supervisor Chandler Public Works Department, Erie and Ivanhoe Streets, Queen Creek Wash, Hawes to Power Roads, Carry Water, 100-year Flood, Flood Plain, Town Engineer Dick Schaner, Eliminate Need to Federal Flood Insurance, More Environmentally Compatible Project, Cottonwood Trees, Natural Vegetation, Town Manager Cynthia Seelhammer
60	Undated 01, 1999?	My View - County Misfeasance, Malfeasance and Corruption?	X Misfeasance, Lawful Action, Illegal, Improper Manner, Malfeasance, Wrongful Conduct, Public Official, Corruption, Bribery, Improper Means, Disagreed, County Supervisors, Department Heads, Planning and Zoning Matters, Continental Mountain, Wayne Smith, Director of Planning Joy Rich, County Attorney Jim Minter, Chairman of Supervisors Don Stapley, Cave Creek Records, Misrepresented, Ownership, No Grading Permits, County Enforcement, Flood Employee Bill, Maricopa County, Runoff Concerns, Scott Schuff's Situation, Helicopter Permit, Dust Control Permit, Seven Men Injured, Saguaro Harvesting, Mass Destruction, Governor Hull, Saguaro Hill, Stapley, Wildcat Subdivision, Business Dealings, Developments, Flood Control, Hillside Ordinance, Bob Brittain, Ex-county Planner Dennis Zwagerman, Gold Canyon Estates, Out of Compliance, Ron Short, Cave Creek's Director of Planning, Attorney General, Desert Foothills Land Trust, Cave Creek and Carefree, Gov. Jane Dee Hull, Attorney General Janet Napolitano
62	Undated 01, 1999?	Plan Shown for 26-mile Floodway (& Map)	X Mary Hauser, 26-mile Floodway, Southeast Regional Library, Gilbert, Maricopa County, East Valley, Superstition-Santan Corridor, Marathon Trail, Major Recreational Path, Barren Land, Green Parks, Walking, Riding, Horse Lovers, 16-mile Path, Queen Creek Horse Owners Association, Hunt Highway, Gilbert, Thomas Road, Mesa, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, \$40 Million, Construction, Basins, County Parks and Recreation Department

0	Y	Title of Newspaper Article	X Key Words
63	Undated 01, 1999?	Guadalupe Project Will Lead to Parks	X Sewer, Drainage Project, Guadalupe, East Valley, Four Retention Basins, Extra land, Town, Develop, Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Control, Flooding, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Town's Flooding Problems, Joe Munoz, Grant Money, Build Additional Storm Drains, 8.8-acre Basin, Residential Development, Baseball Field, Construction, Highland Canal, Baseline Road and Calle Cerritos, Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe Road
65	Undated 01, 1999?	Individual Property Owners Should Stick Together (& Puzzle)	X Individual, Collective Group, John F. Kennedy, City Council Meeting, Mayor John Keegan, North Peoria, Residents' Statements, Zoning Application, Agua Fria and New River Tributaries, Maricopa County, West Valley, Dry Watercourses, County Island, Pinnacle Peak Road, Glendale/Peoria Drainage Master Plan, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Drainage Ditch, Retention Basin, Recreation Area, West Valley Recreation Corridor, Open House, Peoria High School, Build, Floodplains, FCD, Arizona, People Allowed to Own Property, Condemnation, Bethany Home Road and 83rd Avenue, 25
37	Undated 01, 200?	Wetlands Project for Arizona Parcel	X Largest Wetland Restoration Projects, United States, Forest Service, Purchased 6,500 Acres, Private Land, Southeast of Flagstaff, Hay Lake Project, Wildlife, Egrets, Hawks, Deer, Geese, Ranching, Farming, Potholes, Collect Standing Water, Forest Service Spokeswoman Karen Malis-Clark, Interior Department, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Rep. J.D. Hayworth, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nature Conservancy, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Jim Briggs,
41	Undated 01, 200?	Construction Starts on Ahwatukee Park - 65-Acre Parcel Includes Softball, Soccer Fields, Area's First Public Pool (& Picture & Map)	X Ahwatukee Foothills Residents, Sales-tax Dollars, Construction, Park, 65-acre Pecos Park, Pecos Road and 48th Street, Public Pool, Softball Fields, Soccer Fields, City Councilman Greg Stanton, 35-square-mile Ahwatukee Foothills Area, Picnic Grounds, Playgrounds, Skateboard Park, Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, Pecos Road-Interstate-10 Link, Master Planned, Bruce Swanson, Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative Administrator, Flood Control Basin, Kris Baxter, Spokeswoman, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Basin Will Take in Water From Ahwatukee Foothills, Phoenix, Chandler, Funding, State Trust Lands, Sonoran Preserve, Desert Foothills Park, Western South Mountain 620 Area, Community Center
67	Undated 01, 200?	Flood Channel Planned	X Major Storm, Floodwaters, White Tank Mountains, Maricopa County, \$3.5 Million Flood Channel, County Officials, White Tank North Inlet Channel, Major Flood Hazard, Olive and Glendale Avenues, Perryville Road, Server Flooding, Valerie Swick, Project Manager, Flood Control District, New Flood Control Channel, Olive and Northern, East Side of Beardsley Canal, carry Floodwater, Recreation Corridor, Hiking, Equestrian Trails, Preliminary Design Work
33	Undated 01, 200?	County Buys Out 9 Homeowners - Structures Were Mistakenly Built in High-Flood Areas (& Map)	X Maricopa County, \$1.9 Million, Buy Out Nine Homeowners, Skunk Creek, North Phoenix, Built, High-flood Areas, Issued Building Permits, Andy Kunasek, Maricopa County Supervisor, Taxpayer Money, Flood Control District Officials, New River Resident David Caldwell, In 2000, Homes, Built and Occupied, Flood Study, Flood Erosion Danger, Flood Hazard, Spokesman Joe Munoz, Circle Mountain Road and Honda Bow Road, 19th Avenue, Floodway

#1

EAST MESA INDEPENDENT

PHOENIX, AZ
WEEKLY 31,736
FEB 17 2004



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Flood project may end months earlier

By Cary Aspinwall
Independent Newspapers

FRONT PAGE

Construction on drainage improvements for the Hawes Road area may be finished earlier than originally planned, officials said.

The drainage improvements in that area began construction in January, and now the contractor is estimating that the project could be completed one to two months earlier than planned - as early as June, said Sally Stewart, spokeswoman for the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

The Hawes Road project is identified as part of the East Mesa Area Drainage Master plan. The plan has identified drainage problems and solutions for eastern Maricopa County, including portions of Mesa, Gilbert and Queen

Creek, according to flood control documents.

The project will resolve many of the existing drainage problems along Hawes Road within the city of Mesa and unincorporated Maricopa County, officials said.

The project, which is approximately 1.1 miles long, will capture and convey flows along Hawes Road for discharge into an existing channel on Emelita, Ms. Stewart said.

A 66-inch storm drain and a 30-inch city of Mesa water main also will be installed, she said.

Don Rerick, project manager for the flood control district, said the project is designed to provide a 100-year level of protection by

See **Drainage** — Page 7

Drainage

Continued From Page 1

combining conveyance within the storm drain and channel and within the Hawes Road right of way.

The term 100-year level of protection means it is designed to handle flows from a 100-year flood - one of such magnitude that it is often used to determine if flood insurance is either

advisable or required on a property.

The developed areas adjacent to the project corridor along Hawes Road will benefit from the project, Mr. Rerick said.

So far, the district's contractor has relocated utility facilities in that area and started excavation work, Ms. Stewart said.

The improvements are a joint project between the city of Mesa and the Flood Con-

trol District.

The district is the lead agency for design, construction, and construction management. The city of Mesa will fund non-flood control features and will assume ownership and the operation and maintenance for the completed project, officials said.

For more information on the flood control district's projects, visit <http://156.42.96.70/Neighborhood/ActiveProjects.asp>.

#2

BRIEFS

As. Republic 2/6/04

Flood moves ceremony of flood control project

PARADISE VALLEY — A flooded Indian Bend Wash has forced Paradise Valley officials to move today's dedication of the Doubletree Ranch Road flood control and street improvement project from the wash to the street itself.

The town and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County are marking completion of the \$10 million project on Doubletree between Tatum Boulevard and Invergordon Road.

Today's 11 a.m. dedication was to take place at Doubletree and the Indian Bend Wash crossing behind the 15th tee on the Marriott Camelback Golf Course.

Instead, the dedication and a block party now will be held on Doubletree. The road will be closed to vehicle traffic between 56th Street and Invergordon from 8 a.m. to about 2 p.m.

Planned private school to hold open house

CAVE CREEK — A new private school opening in August will hold an open house from 10 a.m. to noon today and Monday for prospective parents and students, at 6914 E. Bella Vista Drive. The Bella Vista Private School will serve fifth-through seventh-graders with an eighth grade planned in 2005. The school is being patterned after the C.A.S.Y. Country Day School in

Scottsdale, which has a rigorous curriculum with an emphasis on fine arts. For more information: (480) 502-8

Bait stations are free to catch rats

SCOTTSDALE — Rat bait stations are now available to Scottsdale residents for pickup at the Papa Service Center, 7100 N. Dowell Road. The stations are available on open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Maricopa County Animal Control has donated bait stations to be provided to Scottsdale citizens who come, first-served.

Residents are requested to come for placing the bait stations and poisoned bait, at feed stores, on the streets and in other areas.

Residents can donate citrus from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today at the Elks Lodge No. 2148 at 6398 E. Oak St.

Scottsdale board members see no change

SCOTTSDALE — Scottsdale School Board members met Friday to discuss legislation related to former Elementary School Superintendent Maureen Booth.

The board voted to remove board members and additional attorney fees regarding Booth's case. Board member Maureen Booth requested access to the case because she has incurred attorney fees.

Today in Scottsdale

THE SCOTTSDALE JOURNAL

DESERT ADVOCATE

ESTABLISHED 1989

Fastest Growing Newspaper in Northern Maricopa County • Section One

August 6, 2003

Pray for the 
safe return of our troops!

THIS
WEEK IN
SECTION THREE

In our exclusive interview,
Secretary of State Jan Brewer
talks about the Golden Rule, and
her campaign to reward those who
live by its doctrine, page 1&5



photo by Alan Richardson

Construction debris dumped in floodplain

by Alan Richardson

NEW RIVER/DVUSD – Fred King, a resident of New River, was frustrated at what he thought was illegal dumping of construction debris between the frontage road along Interstate 17 (the Old Black Canyon Highway) and New River Wash, south of New River Road. He complained to the subcontractor

that was dumping load after load of materials. He complained to the Maricopa County zoning enforcement department. And finally, on Thursday, July 31, he complained to The Desert Advocate.

“They’re dumping concrete, rebar, rocks, asphalt and dirt some 10 to 15 feet high in areas along the wash,” King told this newspaper. He noted, “I can’t get anyone at the county to respond to this problem.” King then added, “This can’t be right.” The section of land in question lies on the east side of the freeway frontage road, south of the Roadrunner Restaurant to the New River welcome sign.

The materials being dumped were hauled from the old New River Elementary School which had been torn down this summer to make room for a parking lot at the new \$7.5 million Deer Valley Unified School District elementary school, opening August 21. Several front-end loaders, graders and bulldozers were digging up the old grounds to level the area just to the south of the new school buildings. Target General, Inc., as the prime contractor for the new school, was directing the construction work. A subcontractor, Fraley Construction of Mesa, was doing the actual hauling of debris.

Hundreds of loads of rock, dirt, broken chunks of concrete and old asphalt had already been dumped in two portions of the referenced property by 1:00 p.m. on July 31. One section was about 150 feet by 300 feet and had been leveled by

bulldozers. Dumping was still ongoing on the other section, covering about half as much area, although it had been partially leveled.

A telephone call to the office of Kent Davis, Associate Superintendent of DVUSD, prompted Dirk Walter, Design and Construction Department manager for the school district, to meet The Desert Advocate at the construction site. Both he and Target General’s on-site construction superintendent explained that it is normal business practice for contractors to contact local residents when such fill is available to see if anyone would want it.

They pointed to an area along the ridge on the mountain behind the school where a large amount of material could be easily seen, leveled out for a possible home site.

Also noted were sites on the east side of New River Wash and property on the west side of I-17. Both expressed their confidence that the owner of the property along the frontage road had requested 600 loads of material be dumped there.

However, a representative of the subcontractor could not identify the property owner and would only say, “A friend of the owner told us it was okay to dump there.” The dumping continued the balance of Thursday afternoon and again Friday morning.

Ironically, the questionable dumping probably saved a distraught woman’s life on Friday. She had stopped at the dump site during the night, planning to com-

mit suicide. She did not expect all the people who would be coming to the site on Friday morning and again in the afternoon. (See story on Page 1.)

Telephone calls to Maricopa County Flood Control District offices revealed that the property in question is in the floodway and, as such, dumping is not allowed without a permit. Further, construction materials like concrete, rebar and plastic pipe cannot be dumped. A quick check of issued permits did not turn up any records of a permit for the questioned location. The matter was referred to Mark Mayer, an inspection manager with the Flood Control District.

Kent Davis, the DVUSD official, said Thursday afternoon, “If we have material dumped where it should not be, we will clean it up.”

On Friday morning, Matt Buckhannon was at the dump site and echoed Davis’ commitment. “We’ll work with the subcontractor to get this material out of here, if we’ve made a mistake,” he said.

Floodplain
please see page 6

Floodplain

continued from page 1

A quick count noted about 21 new loads had been dumped late Thursday and early Friday. However, as Maricopa County sheriff's deputies and Daisy Mountain Fire

Department personnel converged on the scene in response to the woman's suicide threat, further dumping was suspended for a few hours.

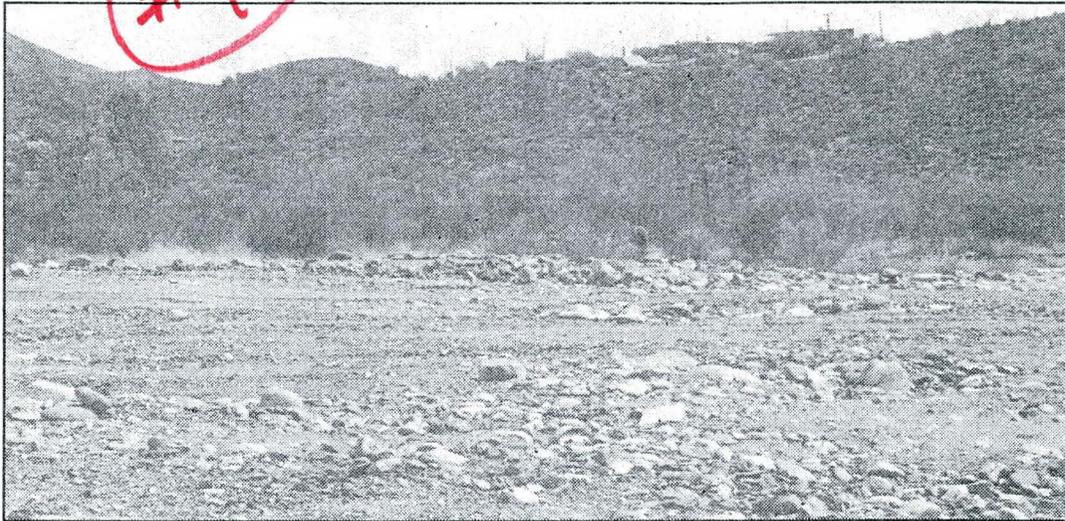
By 11 a.m., Mayer had been to the two dumping locations and posted notices that stopped any

further dumping. The notices read, "Work done on this property may be in violation of the drainage and/or floodplain regulation(s) for Maricopa County." The notice instructed those doing the work, "To prevent possible enforcement action, you are notified to call the

person listed below when the problem is corrected." The bright placards further instructed, "Fill should be removed or a floodplain use permit should be obtained within 10 days."

Persons interested in reaching the enforcement manager can call Mark Mayer at 602-506-6726.

Merv Giles, Project Manager for Target General, told *The Desert Advocate* late Friday morning, "We are trying to reach the owner of Fraley Construction to resolve this matter." He reiterated, "If this is a problem, we will clean it up." School district officials were unavailable on Friday, as the district is operating on a four-day workweek during the summer. ❖



Leveled area along frontage road in New River where dumping in the floodplain is under investigation.

New River School debris still mars floodplain

by Alan Richardson

The unauthorized/illegal dumping of construction debris from the newly built New River School, reported in the August 6 issue of *The Desert Advocate*, remains unresolved and, to date, the debris remains in the floodplain.

The materials, which included dirt, rocks, asphalt, concrete, rebar and various other construction materials, had been dumped in an area along New River Wash immediately east of the I-17 frontage road (Old Black Canyon Hwy) and south of New River Road.

Maricopa County Flood Control District posted notices of violation on the site for dumping in a floodplain without a permit. The notice allowed 10 days for obtaining a permit or removing the materials. While some representatives of the

school's prime contractor, Target General, Inc., believed that the property owner had given permission for the dumping of 600 loads of material, an employee of the subcontractor thought only that a "friend" of the owner said the site would take those 600 truckloads.

Now, more than 21 days later, the materials are still in the floodplain. The concrete and rebar have either been removed or buried under the other material. The rocks and dirt have been leveled. But, according to Flood Control, no permit has been issued for dumping at the site and the district was planning to send another inspector to the location.

Melissa Lemke, spokeswoman for the Flood Control District, said that she had been told the property owners were out of state and would not be back until sometime in

September. She did express the district's appreciation for what cleanup has occurred. "We're glad they at least leveled it out, to make things look better," said Lemke, but she hastened to add that the contractor will need a permit to leave the materials there. And that, she said, "will likely require an engineering report to make certain that the flood delineation has not been affected by what they did."

Fraley Construction of Mesa was the subcontractor who did the dumping of materials. The school district, for its part, had promised to make certain that any improper dumping gets taken care of by the appropriate contractor or subcontractor.

An inspector from County Flood Control had not been to the site prior to press time. ❖

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#5

Cave Creek to FRONT PAGE commission drainage plan

**Pay \$100,000 to
flood study**

By Curtis Riggs

CAVE CREEK - After a
several year cooling off peri-
od, the town intends to move
forward with a drainage mas-
ter plan.

Going through with the
study of washes, drainage
and water hazards by the
Maricopa County Flood Con-
trol District comes on the
heels of Carefree going
through the same process the
last couple of years.

"The last time they were
here they were nearly tarred
and feathered - literally,"
Mayor Vincent Francia said

about what happened when
Flood Control proposed a
study in the mid-1990s.
"They didn't want to move on
this. In fact, they were afraid
to even come back out here."

The Flood Control officials
received a rude welcome last
time because of fear of how
the private property of former
Mayor Tom Aughterton could
have been affected by the
study.

Cave Creek's assistant
town engineer Jeff Lo said the
town will deal with public
comment this time because of
what happened last time
around.

See Drainage page A-2

Drainage cont'd from page A-1

"The guys are still nervous
up here," said Lo, a former
Flood Control employee.
"They want us to deal with
the public. They will just pro-
vide technical support."

The council approved an
intergovernmental agreement
(IGA) with the county in its
approval of the study. Cave
Creek is being asked to pay
\$100,000 toward the project.

The Carefree study cost
\$800,000. Carefree Town Ad-
ministrator Jon Pearson said
Flood Control paid the entire
cost of the study.

Flood Control recom-
mended \$3 million worth of
improvements in Carefree.
The Carefree Town Council is
still determining what pro-
jects to do first.

Lo would like to concen-
trate on addressing drainage
problems in Cave Creek's
commercial core. He said
both Ocotillo Wash and Rowe
Wash need further study.

He would also like to see
the study include taking an-
other look at the hydrology of
Cave Creek wash.

He said another study
could take homes out of the
flood plain of Ocotillo Wash
near Echo Canyon Road. He
suggested the homes should
never have been included in
the flood plain in the first
place.

Lo adds that the Cave
Creek and Carefree studies
should probably have been
done at the same time.

"Almost everything in
Carefree flows to Cave
Creek," he said.

#6

don't do something like this." ... happen." ... popular and there are women-only groups." ... cerer objec

The Az. Republic 2/25/04

BRIEFS

Group touts renaming park area for Piestewa

PHOENIX — A group has formed to urge Phoenix officials to rename the park around one of Phoenix's signature peaks for Army Spc. Lori Piestewa.

Arizonans for Lori Piestewa includes the soldier's relatives, veterans and members of the League of United Latin American citizens, said Ernest Martinez, a leader in the newly formed group.

Piestewa from Tuba City, died in Iraq in March, becoming the first female Native American soldier killed in a foreign war. The state changed the peak's name from Squaw to Piestewa, and now a Phoenix citizens board

Information: (602) 495-2182.

County is combining 3 departments into 1

PHOENIX — Maricopa County officials are combining operations of its Flood Control District with the transportation and solid-waste departments to form a new Public Works Department.

County officials say the move, which will take place over 18 months, will increase efficiency and reduce costs. County Administrator David Smith said the county could save \$1 million, adding that accounting will be kept separate for all departments.

Victim of stabbing



WICKENBURG SUN

WICKENBURG, AZ
WEEKLY 5,000
FEB 25 2004



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County forms public works department

A new Maricopa County Public Works Department is being formed, and will be part of the county's ongoing effort to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

Operations and management of Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Department of Transportation and Solid Waste Department are being integrated.

The move will take place over the 18-24 months. The Solid Waste Department will be fully integrated by July 1.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Andy Kunasek says the integration will generate savings that can be used to build more roads and provide more flood protection throughout the County.

"A thorough study of these departments has shown that this move will help us make better use of taxpayer dollars and reduce the duplication of efforts," Kunasek said.

County Administrative Officer David Smith said the new Public Works Department will be able to redirect collars to capital needs, identify economies of scale in all areas and improve common functions.

Smith added that the move could provide one million dollars

or more in annualized savings.

He added that accounting string separation for all three funding sources for the different departments will be maintained as required by law.

Employees of the affected departments were briefed earlier this week about the changes. Existing vacancies and attrition are expected to provide additional savings and the flexibility to increase efficiency in certain operational areas.

Employees were told that layoffs are not expected. All changes will be carefully handled in accordance with Maricopa County Human Resource policies and merit rule compliance.

Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer and General Manager of the Flood Control District, has been named the director of the new Public Works Department. Ellegood has 35 years of experience in civil engineering, including 22 years in transportation planning, design, construction and management.

He has been involved in the development and management of several transportation projects in the Valley including completion of the Superstition Freeway in Apache Junction and a section of State Route 51.

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Phoenix, AZ
ARIZONA REPUBLIC
Phoenix Met Area

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LUCE PRESS CLIPPINGS

Mesa's share of Gilbert Rd. work debated

ISDIAP

By Christina Leonard
and Adam Klawonn
The Arizona Republic

MESA — Maricopa County officials generally ask municipalities to pony up about half of the cost of flood-control and road projects.

But there apparently are exceptions to every rule.

County supervisors last week voted 4-1 to pay \$14 million for construction on Gilbert Road.

And although about half of the widening project sits in Mesa, the city agreed to chip in only about \$500,000.

Supervisor Max Wilson, who represents the northwest Valley, questioned the arrangement and voted against the item.

Supervisor Don Stapley, who represents the northeast Valley, said Mesa has chipped in millions for improvements along other areas on Gilbert Road.

County officials have worked with other area entities for years to widen and improve Gilbert Road from McDowell Road to the Bee-line Highway.

The 2.75-mile stretch in question cuts through Mesa and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Mesa had funded about \$30 million for previous work to widen Gilbert Road between Loop 202 and U.S. 60, said Jeff Martin, Mesa Development Services assistant manager.

#9

Thursday, Oct. 23rd AZ Republic

front cover lower left

County trail system to get eastern links

By Christina Leonard
The Arizona Republic

An ambitious plan to establish a regional trail system circling the Valley took another step toward reality Wednesday as Maricopa County supervisors approved its second phase.

The newly approved 126-mile section will link parks in the far northeast Valley to those in the southeast Valley, connecting Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area and McDowell Mountain Regional Park in the northeast to Usery Mountain Recreation Area and San Tan Mountain Regional Park in the southeast.

"It's a very fun, light project that we're putting a whole lot of energy into," Supervisor

Andy Kunasek said. "We're far enough ahead of development where we'll be able to provide a real quality corridor."

The entire system, which could top 1,000 miles, will incorporate existing trails and create new ones for people to walk, run, hike and ride horses. It will use canals, parks and flood-control land.

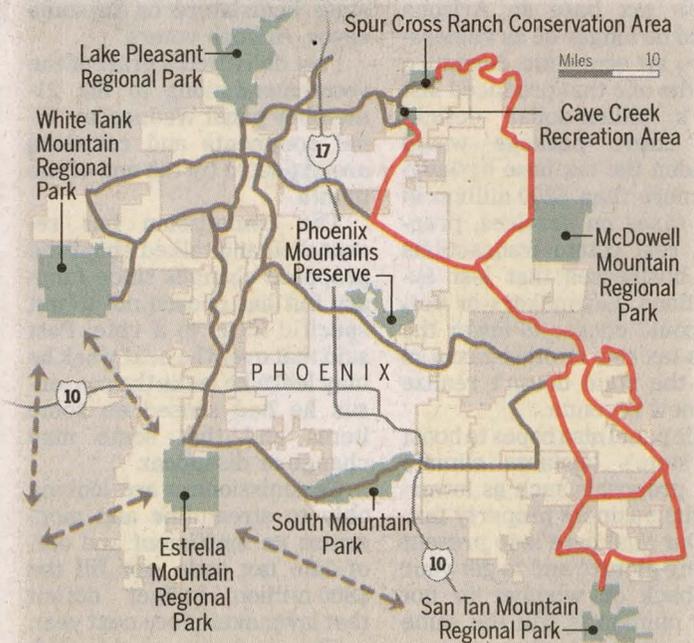
The first phase includes 221 miles of trails from the White Tank Mountains in the West Valley to the Cave Creek Recreation Area in the northeast Valley. That portion could be completed in three to four years, said Reed Kempton, a county planner.

The third and final phase will weave through South Mountain Park in Phoenix and back to the West Valley.

Connecting Valley's desert parks

County supervisors approved the second portion of the trail.

Trail system approved Planned or existing trails Phase 3



Source: Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department Eric Baker/The Arizona Republic

#10

Inside Top left

Skunk Creek re-vegetation draws many residents

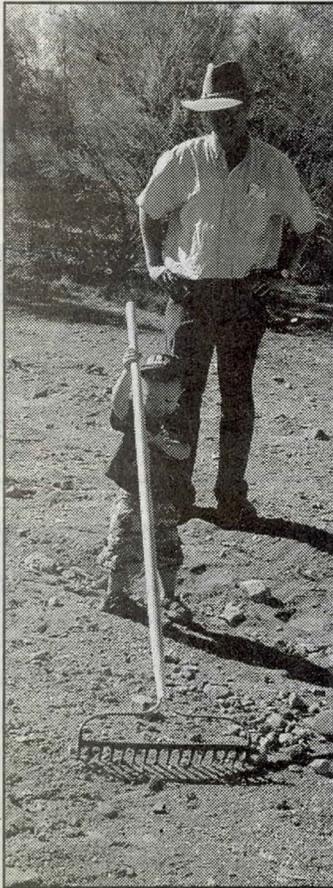


photo by Sara Vannucci

NEW RIVER – Despite another 100-plus day, residents from New River and adjacent areas turned out early Saturday morning, October 18, to help restore the damaged north bank of Skunk Creek at Honda Bow Road.

Volunteers came dressed for digging and planting, and concluded midday by spreading creosote and Blue Palo Verde seeds over a wide expanse. The event was in recognition of the annual “Make a Difference Day” and was organized by Maricopa County, the New River PTSA, and the New River/Desert Hills Community Association.

Other sponsors included the New River Kiwanis Club and Flood Control District of Maricopa County providing drinking water, and Emily Lane, ERA/Artizan Realty, and Sara Vannucci, Southwest Small Business Group, providing snacks. A complimentary hot dog lunch was provided to all Make a Difference Day participants by Roadrunner Restaurant, and trash bags, plant material and tools

were provided by the Flood Control District. County Supervisor Andy Kunasek was present for the entire event, and after praising the participants’ civic sharing, pitched in to shovel, rake, and plant rows of seeds until the heat pretty much determined that folks should quit. Needless to say, Kunasek was responsive to many neighborhood requests and questions from residents, who were happy to have him present.

In addition, many employees of Flood Control gave their day to mulch, guide, instruct, and photograph the work and the final results. Gary Branum of Flood Control was on site early in the morning to set up buckets of water, seed, tools and trash bags, and to teach safety procedures to the volunteers. Project Manager Afshin Ahouraiyan focused primarily on answering questions of residents.

Six stations were determined necessary for the work at hand as brush was raked up, all focused on access to the mulching truck. Almost a dozen

Flood Control people were present to work and cheer the younger volunteers on with their planting.

Kiwanis members were also out in force to help, as tents were set up, signs raised, and planting supplies distributed. The NR/DH Community Association saw that participants had water, food and resting places. Cub Scout Troop 431 was much in evidence. The youngest “participant” was but six weeks old.

The area, approximately 2.5 acres across from 7th Avenue on North Honda Bow, had been a home site and refuse, dead trees and undercover brush remained as a fire hazard to adjacent neighbors. The property had been prepared during the preceding week by Flood Control workers who discarded the worst of the brambles, leveled the soil somewhat and cleared a planting area.

The creekside desert should now bloom in glorious color when we have been blessed with rain. ❖

#11

AZ Republic Tuesday, Sept. 30th bottom half/inside

Backers of recreation strip cheer possible mining pact

By Marty Sauerzopf
The Arizona Republic

WEST VALLEY — Backers of a planned 47-mile recreation corridor traversing the West Valley are praising a tentative agreement that could end years of disagreement with mining operators who populate the Agua Fria and New rivers.

"It will help make this project happen," said Diane Brossart, president of the Valley Forward Association and co-founder of the Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor.

The proposed recreation corridor, which stretches from Peoria to Avondale, is an ambitious effort to turn dusty river bottoms into scenic stretches of parks, trails and other amenities, while maintaining the rivers' flood-control standards.

That dream generally didn't include the presence of sand-and-gravel miners, but Brossart said talks between both sides have led to a tentative agreement that would call on mining operators to provide channels in the river bottoms. Those channels would control floodwaters and clear the way for the miles of parks and trails envisioned in the corridor.

"The difference in the cost, if we had to do the channelization on our own, is hundreds of millions of dollars," Brossart said.

Rusty Bowers, executive director of the Arizona Rock Products Association, said mining operators and recreation corridor backers finally are working together to ensure that the rock business can continue

while aiding the future of the riverbeds.

"When I came on two years ago they were heading straight for court," Bowers said of the recreation corridor supporters and mining operators.

Bowers said the tentative pact won't satisfy everyone, since some West Valley leaders want mining operations completely out of the rivers.

"We'll be able to produce product, but we won't be able to produce as much," he said. "We know it's kind of a donation on our part, but the flip side is once the channel is made, it could really be an incredible gem on the west side to tie all those communities together."

The tentative deal is being reviewed by the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

Meanwhile, recreation corridor backers will hold a "vision session" from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Oct. 10 at Estrella Mountain Community College, 3000 N. Dysart Road, to give an update on the project and hear more input from cities, residents and others.

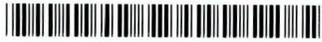
Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor also began soliciting bids last week from consultants to help with promotion and lobbying for the project. The group collected about \$40,000 from West Valley cities and other interested groups to help fund a consultant, who should be hired by early November, Brossart said.

Reach the reporter at
marty.sauerzopf@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-6920.

#12

WICKENBURG SUN

WICKENBURG, AZ
WEEKLY 5,000
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1501AP B-7

Flood evacuation plan to be proposed for Aguila

At the next monthly Aguila Fire Department Board of Directors meeting, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m., at the Aguila Fire House, located at First and Ray Street in Aguila, HRD Engineering representative Dave Burab will present a flood alert evacuation plan to the public and the Aguila Fire District Board of Directors.

HRD is under contract from the Flood Response, Flood Control District of Maricopa County to

arrange the plan. The presentation is expected to address flood alerts, responses and evacuation, and generate action recommendations to the plan by the residents of Aguila Fire District, Aguila Fire Department, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and Flood Response Office, since they all would be involved during any flood alerts, response, rescue and evacuation.

It is planned that the Aguila Fire

Department Fire House will be the command center and assembly area for those prevented from reaching their homes or rescued from their homes, and place from which evacuation will be planned to other cities and facilities.

The public is invited to attend.

For further information, call Victor M. Vila, chairman, Aguila Fire Department, at 928-685-3087, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#14

1501AP

RAIN, FOR GOOD OR BAD



MATT HINSHAW, TRIBUNE

RESCUE: Rural/Metro firefighters rescue a man from his car Friday at Miller Road and Murray Lane in Scottsdale.

Wet weather to continue

FRONT PAGE



RALPH FRESO, TRIBUNE

GIVE ME SHELTER: Three Mesa students, Brandon Anderson, left, Paul Armenta and Tyrece Wilson seek shelter from Friday's rain.

Some weekend events washed out

By **TONI LAXSON**
TRIBUNE

The good news is we are getting much-needed rain.

The bad news is the Easter egg hunt, arts festival, unity march and other events might be canceled.

According to the National Weather Service, 3 inches or more of rain is expected in parts of the East Valley through tonight.

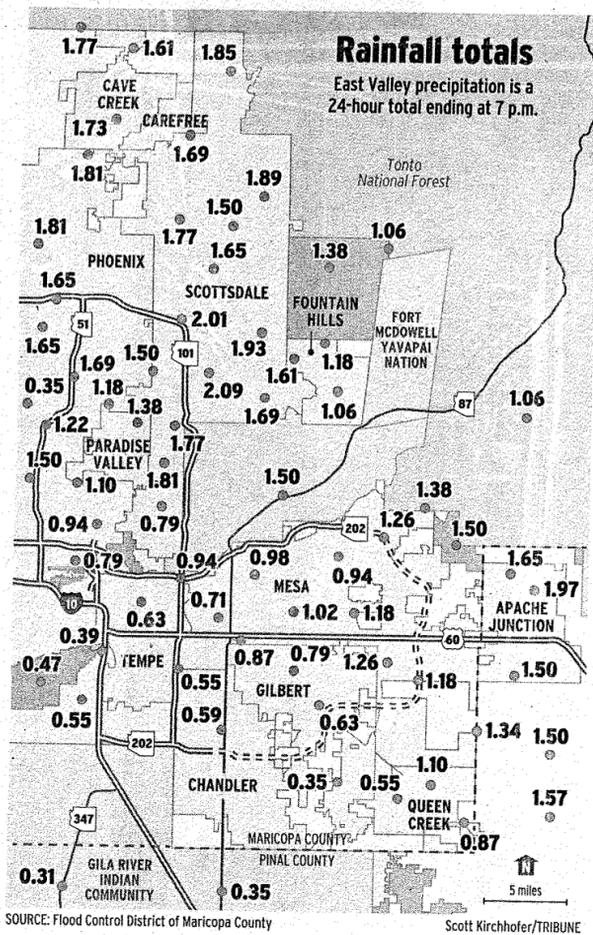
More than 2 inches fell Friday

in north Scottsdale, causing extensive street flooding along the Indian Bend Wash greenbelt, debris-strewn roads and at least one stranded motorist.

Forecasters said to expect more of the same today, though things should start drying up Sunday.

"We have a low-pressure center just sitting there. It's not moving anywhere," said Keith Kincaid, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Phoenix.

By Friday night, more than one inch of rain had fallen in



RAIN: Weekend temps not expected to top 70

FROM PAGE A1

Mesa at Brown Road and Horne — about the same as recorded at Lindsay and Guadalupe roads in Gilbert, according to monitors set up by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County. In Chandler, at Alma School Road and Chandler Boulevard, the monitors registered 0.59 inches.

Kincaid said the chance of rain in the Valley is 50 percent to 70 percent through early Sunday. That forecast could include thunderstorms and high winds, such as the 60 mph breezes that whipped through Gilbert on Thursday evening, he said.

"There's a possibility of severe weather, but we won't know that until the storms develop and we see them on the radar," Kincaid said.

At 3 p.m., Rural/Metro firefighters in Scottsdale rescued a man when his car became stranded in almost two feet of rushing water at Miller Road and Murray Lane next to the Coronado Golf Course, fire spokesman Mike Clark said. The rescue took about 30 minutes.

"He thought he would make it through, but when his car died, he realized that the volume of water, moving that swiftly, certainly can knock you down and carry you away," Clark said. The man was not identified.

In north Scottsdale, 95-year-old Louise Steinfirst on Friday was re-evaluating whether she will attempt to break a world record today for her age group.

Steinfirst is signed up for the Hawk Trot Race, a 5K and 10K walk/run sponsored by the Grayhawk Community Association.

Her time last year in the event's 5K would have qualified as a record, said coordinator Nicole Engelmann, but it couldn't be ranked because the race wasn't an officially timed event. This year it is, and it is to continue, rain or shine.

"I don't think I want to walk through mud and muck," Steinfirst said. "But as long as I'm here, I'll do what I can."

Matt Burdick, with the Arizona Department of Transportation, said all road construction projects planned for today have been canceled because of rain.

The projects will be rescheduled for later this month, he said.

If weather and temperatures permit Sunday, crews will shut down all but one lane of eastbound Loop 202 between Country Club Drive and Gilbert Road for paving. But the temperature must be at least 75 degrees for the pavement to cure properly, he added.

Weather's effect on local events

"Rain or shine"

- Tempe Music Festival, noon today, Tempe Beach Park
- March of Dimes WalkAmerica 8 a.m. today, Scottsdale Civic Center, 75th Street and Indian School Road
- Hawk Trot Race, 8 a.m. today at Grayhawk Drive and Hayden Road, Scottsdale
- Thieves Market and Art Faire today through Sunday, downtown Scottsdale between Camelback and Indian School roads and Goldwater Boulevard and Scottsdale Road
- Native Trails, noon until sunset today, Scottsdale Center for the Arts, 7380 E. Second St.
- Cyclefest today at Rawhide Wild West Town, 23033 N. Scottsdale Road

"Shine" only

- Sonoran Festival of Fine Arts, today and Sunday, Carefree Town Center
- Sunday A'Fair, noon to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Scottsdale Center for the Arts, 7380 E. Second St.
- Chandler Family Easter Celebration, 9 a.m. to noon today, Snedigar Sports Complex, 4500 S. Basha Road

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- Rebuilding Together — Four Scottsdale volunteer projects to improve the homes of low-income, elderly residents and nonprofit organizations.

Undetermined

- Cesar Chavez unity march and outdoor fiesta — Walk in Mesa to commemorate the Chicano leader, followed by party. Starts 10 a.m. at Queen of Peace Church, 141 N. Macdonald. Call (480) 833-5875 to confirm.

Kincaid said Sunday's temperature won't top 70 degrees and today's projected high is 65 degrees. The cooler weather, expected to drop to 52 degrees overnight, provides a break from weeks of record-breaking high temperatures, he said.

"We need the rain, especially when we are coming off of our hottest March on record, ever," Kincaid said.

Scott Harelson, spokesman for the Salt River Project, said the precipitation in the Valley and in northern Arizona is still "too little, too late" to affect low lake levels.

"We'll take it, but it's not going to put us in a situation where we would call it a good runoff season," Harelson said. "We are still dry."

CONTACT WRITER:
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or tlaxson@aztrib.com



#14

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FRONT PAGE



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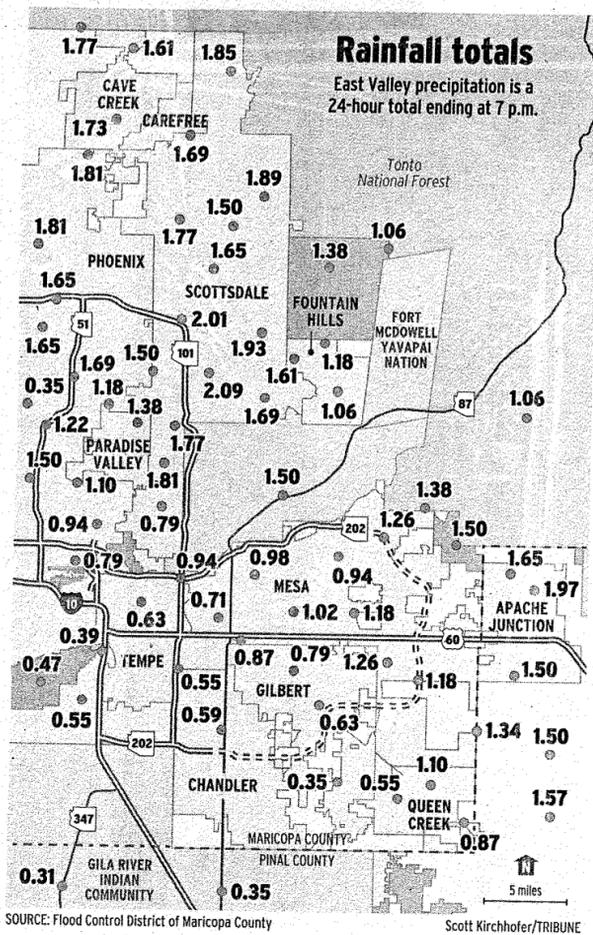
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SEE RAIN • PAGE A7



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or tlaxson@aztrib.com

#15

Scottsdale

Arizona Republic

Monday 3/22/04

Area drainage plan meets town approval

CAVE CREEK — The town of Cave Creek has approved an intergovernmental agreement with Maricopa County's Flood Control District to prepare an area drainage master plan.

Neighboring Carefree recently had the flood district develop a drainage master plan for the community in which seven major snafus were identified.

Several of the drainage problems were caused by culverts that had become clogged with sediment.

Doubletree

Continued From Page 2
County Board of Supervisors Chairman Andy Kunasek, Supervisor Don Stapley and County Director of Public Works Mike Ellegood. A fiesta-style lunch was provided by Blucor Contracting, Inc., contractor of the project.

Many residents in attendance were pleased with the new road, including one woman who admitted she checked her yard during Friday's rainstorm to see if the drainage project had protected her home.

"It worked. Even with Friday's rains there was no flooding at our house," said Michele Hamada, who lives at 56th Street and Doubletree. During previous rains, there had been "a lot of water in the yard."

"I can't say anything bad about anything," she added. "They did a fabulous job of making people happy."

Former Paradise Valley Mayor Joan Horne was happy to see the project completed.

"I've been working on this since I was on the council (1990-96)," she said. "During Friday's storm I checked the wash on 64th Street and it was running like crazy the way it's supposed to."

While problems with broken utility lines, design changes and street closures plagued the project and prompted complaints from many residents, Saturday was more of a day of celebration for most residents who were enthusiastic about how attractive the street is. Others went as far as to use the roadwork as a learning experience.

"It was fun for us," said Judy Theman. "Our boys are 3-1/2 and 1-1/2 years old and they enjoyed watching the trucks."

3/17/04

#176

Dedication ceremony marks Doubletree completion

By Wendy Miller
Independent Newspapers

Bright skies greeted guests at the completion of one of Paradise Valley's largest and most expensive street project.

On March 6, more than 100 people showed up to help dedicate the Doubletree Ranch Road area drainage and street improvement project. In an ironic twist, Mother Nature decided to test the flood capacity of the project two days earlier by dumping

more than two inches of rain on Paradise Valley.

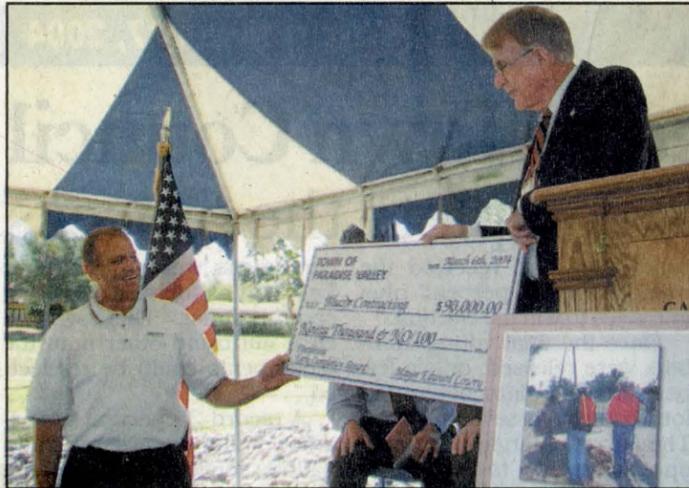
The new street and flood control lines managed to carry the capacity load, but ground water retained in the Indian Bend Wash at Doubletree forced the dedication site out of the wash and onto the road. The move meant closing the newly completed street for several hours during the ceremony and subsequent barbecue lunch.

Guest speakers included Mayor Ed Lowry, Maricopa

See Doubletree — Page 5



Two young boys couldn't resist playing in water left when a rainstorm flooded the Indian Bend Wash two days prior to the dedication ceremony. Saturday's warm weather and special event also brought out others to enjoy the park-like setting.



Photos by Wendy Miller/Independent Newspapers

Gordon Bluth (left), owner, Blucor Contracting, Inc., accepted a check for \$90,000 from Paradise Valley Mayor Ed Lowry. The check was an early completion bonus for the Doubletree Ranch Road project.



Andy Kunasek, chairman, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors (at podium), drew applause from Mayor Ed Lowry and Michael Ellegood, Maricopa County Director of Public Works, and audience members when reflecting on the changes in his life during his six years working on the street project.

#17

Downtown • East Phoenix • North-Central • New River • Maryvale • Sunnyslope • Moon Valley

PHOENIX

Stacy Sullivan, Phoenix editor • 602.444.NE stacy.sullivan@arizonarepublic.com

For additional news from this report see today's community section or go to a

Man's leg is amputated after patrol car accident

PHOENIX — A man who ran from officers was accidentally pinned by a patrol car Monday and had to have his leg amputated, police said.

Two officers were questioning Lance Knight, 23, after receiving a call about shots fired near 28th Drive and Larkspur Lane, when Knight ran from them, Sgt. Randy Force said. Officer Ted Olsen tried to catch up to Knight in his patrol car.

When Knight turned and tried to run past Olsen's car in a

dates.

The county district has a digital flood maps for the The district \$357,000 to co required to prep

Traditional hard-copy flood maps, which i ard areas with Potential hom maps to det they need to p National Floo gram.

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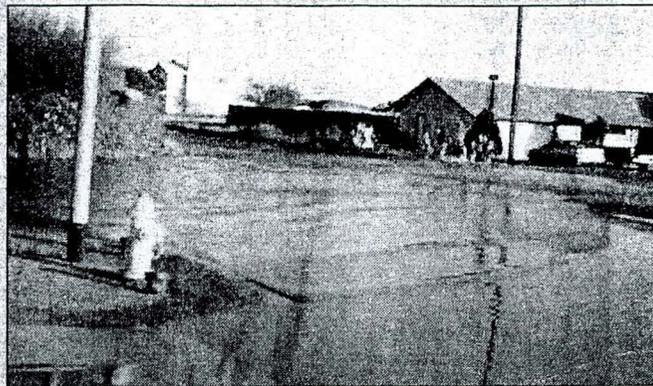
#18

REPUBLIC WATCH

WHAT'S NOT WORKING

County solution to street flooding: Wait 4 years

Linda Mullins says city officials told her the problem would be solved when the area south of Deer Valley Road was developed, but that didn't happen. In 2001, the couple were told the flooding would end when the county paved 89th Avenue south of Williams, but that didn't happen. The county thought of building a retention basin. That hasn't happened, either. The city sends a crew to pump the water, but the Mullinses think that's a waste of time and money and want a per-



Linda and Mike Mullins

Neighbors have been trying to get something done about this Peoria intersection for 12 years.

Phoenix, AZ
ARIZONA REPUBLIC
Phoenix Met Area

Sunday SUN 596,993

MAR 28, 2004



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LUCE PRESS CLIPPINGS

REPUBLIC WATCH

1501AP

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Status: City of Peoria Engineering Director David Moody and Mike Ellegood, public-works director for Maricopa County, say they must address flood control in a large zone around the intersection. Moody plans to propose that the city do paving and drainage work on

nearby streets, setting the stage for the county to fix the flooding by paving 89th Avenue. Ellegood says he will seek funding to carry through with that solution. Even if that plan works, Moody says, the end of flooding at the intersection is at least four years away.

Who's responsible: Mike Ellegood, Maricopa County public-works director. Call (602) 506-8795, or e-mail rogerball@mail.maricopa.gov.



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WORKING

p 202 sound wall

of the Arizona Department of Transportation. Call (602) 712-7227, or e-mail vmendez@dot.state.az.us



Valley residents, especially those who state bureaucrats. Call 602-444-NEWS ch@arizonarepublic.com



BURRELLE'S LUCE

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Arizona Republic (Phoenix, AZ)

Date of publication: 03-28-2004

Account Number: 1501AP



Headline: County solution to street flooding: Wait 4 years

Source Web Page: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/arizona/articles/0328watch28.html>

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#19

WICKENBURG SUN

WICKENBURG, AZ
WEEKLY 5,000
AUG 20 2003



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INFORMATION SERVICES

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Flood Control District seeks comments on flooding

1501AP A10
The Flood Control District of Maricopa County needs information from citizens, who live in the area between the Agua Fria and Hassayampa rivers from State Route 74 to the White Tank Mountains and north of McMicken Dam, about neighborhood flooding.

"We want to hear from property owners about their experiences with flooding in their neighborhoods and their concerns," said Supervisor Max Wilson, District 4. "I encourage everyone to participate and I'm excited about the potential opportunities for this area."

In 1989, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County conducted an Area Drainage Master Study for the Trilby Watershed, which includes Morristown, Circle City, Wittmann and portions of the cities of Surprise,

Peoria and Buckeye. Significant changes in recent years require a study update, according to Kelli Sertich, Wittmann project manager for the District.

The Wittmann study area is rapidly growing with 68 percent of the land available for development, Sertich said. Conducting the study now allows the Flood Control District to identify flood and erosion hazards ahead of development.

"It is vital that area residents comment now at the start of the study so proposed solutions respond to community issues," Sertich said. "It is critical that as development occurs in the area it does not increase drainage and runoff or encroach into the floodway and other hazard areas."

The District has mailed an information brochure and questionnaire to property owners in

the area. If you own property in the area but did not receive the mailing, you can access both documents online at the District's web site at www.fcd.maricopa.gov or to receive by mail, call Sertich at (602) 506-0867.

Conducting the study before development occurs benefits area property owners by allowing the District to evaluate less costly solutions. The study update also will benefit property owners by reducing the impacts of flooding and increasing the opportunities for multi-use facilities.

The study area, which covers the Trilby watershed, is 307 square miles bounded by the Hieroglyphic Mountains on the north, the White Tank Mountains and McMicken Dam on the south, Beardsley Canal

and the Agua Fria River on the east and the Hassayampa River basin on the west. All water in this watershed eventually drains to McMicken Dam in the city of Surprise, and is discharged into the Agua Fria River. The area is characterized by a sharp contrast between flat plains and mountains, with much of the watershed still retaining its natural vegetation.

During the next 18 months, the District will collect technical information, identify flood and erosion hazards and identify possible solutions to address flooding and drainage issues. The technical analysis will be complete in Spring 2004, Sertich said. Initial recommendations for potential flooding and regulatory solutions then will be developed, with recommendations complete in December 2004.



YOUR TOWN

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Permit No. 2

Vol. 7 No. 12, November 2003

Flood zone information for homeowners

As Gilbert enters the eighth year of drought-like conditions, residents may be surprised to learn that Gilbert has flood zones. In fact, Gilbert slopes from east to west, and in the event of heavy rainfall, water can back up in certain places, including the canals. Although flooding is not common in Gilbert, residents should be aware of this possibility and take some basic precautions.

Protecting family first and property second should be the top priorities during a flood. Residents should turn off electricity and gas into the home, then take shelter from the high winds, lightning, dust storms and heavy rain. During extreme flooding, residents should exercise caution around washes and low-lying areas, which can quickly fill with water during a storm.

Residents may also want to inquire about obtaining flood

insurance, since flooding is not covered by standard property insurance. Flood insurance is available through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and most agents can provide NFIP rates.

The Town and Flood Control District of Maricopa County have taken many measures to reduce the risk of flooding in the community. For example, Freestone and Crossroads parks serve a dual purpose as retention facilities to collect and hold flood waters. Also, the East Maricopa Floodway helps to intercept flood flows before the water can enter Gilbert. For more information about flood zones call 503-6848.



Jordan Dacquisto Services

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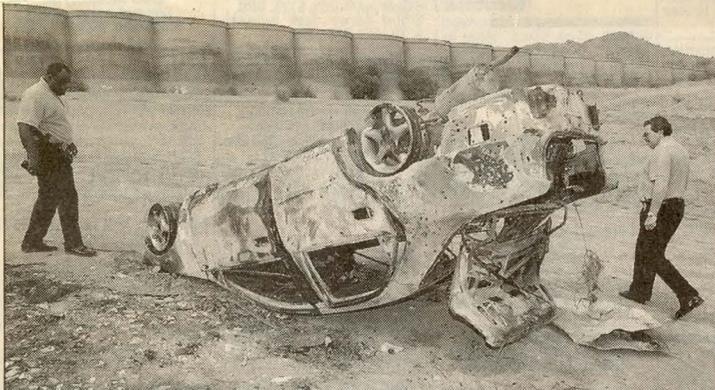
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Carlos Chavez/The Arizona Republic

Jordan Dacquisto (right) and Ron Reddic with County Protective Services check out a stolen vehicle at Cave Buttes Dam.

County getting tough on trespassers at dam

By Christina Leonard
The Arizona Republic
1501 AP

Faced with stiff fines and on-going costs, Maricopa County has decided to take control of the Cave Buttes Dam area in the Northeast Valley by introducing regular security patrols there.

It has already banned hot-air balloonists from the Flood Control District property, and now it wants to stop everybody from trespassing. The bulk of the problem, county officials say, stems from off-road vehicles.

"ATVers don't necessarily need trails," said Joe Muñoz, spokesman for the county's flood control district. "They go out there and rev these things up, and they have their kids and they have food. These things raise a lot of dust and they grind up the ground really fast. It's just not meant for this kind of stuff."

Officials say they have spent more than \$27,000 this year patching up fences and cleaning up the area about one mile north of Pinnacle Peak Road where Happy Valley Road would intersect with 16th Street.

The district owns and manages about 3,500 acres surrounding the dam. The area is fenced and posted with signs displaying ownership and the penalty.

Flood control officials, who signed a \$50,000 contract with the county's Protective Services to patrol the area, said people found on the property could be cited for trespassing or criminal damage depending on

the circumstances. Muñoz would not disclose how many officers will work the area, nor would he say when they would conduct the patrols.

Muñoz said flood control Chief Engineer and General Manager Michael Ellegood believes open space should be used, "but when it starts costing you money, you have to draw the line."

In April, county officials banned Valley hot air balloon enthusiasts from using one of their most popular launching grounds. They accused members of the Arizona Balloon Club, which had authorized use of the area for years, of disrespecting the property by leaving gates unlocked, cutting fences and traveling off-road.

Now Muñoz said it's the off-road vehicles and gun enthusiasts tearing up the desert.

Maricopa County air quality regulators have warned the district that it may face \$10,000 daily fines if it doesn't take steps to mitigate the dust problem created by unauthorized activity there.

"They're just going to have to find farther and farther places out where the dust isn't a problem," Muñoz said of the off-road enthusiasts.

As for the balloonists, Philip Heinrich, who acts as the club's government liaison, said they're trying to get their launch spot reinstated. And although he can't say they've never gone off-road, Heinrich said members do try to obey the rules.

"It's always been the off-road bikers, in my opinion," he said.



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Flood control agency seeks residents' input

WEST VALLEY — The Maricopa County Flood Control District is asking West Valley residents to provide information about neighborhood flooding.

Officials want information from people who live in the area between the Agua Fria and Hassayampa rivers from Arizona 74 to the White Tank

Mountains and north of McMicken Dam. In 1989, the district conducted a drainage study of the area, which includes Morristown, Circle City, Wittmann and portions of Surprise, Peoria and Buckeye.

Officials said a new study will allow the district to identify flood and erosion hazards ahead of development. The district has mailed a questionnaire to area property owners, and it is also online at www.fcd.maricopa.gov or by calling (602) 506-0867.

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Ariz. Republic 3/5/04

Party to mark end of work on Doubletree

By Diana Balazs
The Arizona Republic

PARADISE VALLEY — Residents along Doubletree Ranch Road in Paradise Valley are invited to a block party Saturday to celebrate the end of a 14-month construction project.

Paradise Valley and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County are putting on the party to mark completion of a \$10 million flood-control and street-improvement project on Doubletree between Tatum Boulevard and Invergordon Road.

Improvements include underground storm pipes, drains and culverts, curbs and sidewalks, recreation paths and rubberized asphalt.

For putting up with the work, the town is treating immediate neighbors to a complimentary carwash at Lindstrom's Family Car Wash in Phoenix. Residents have until April 15 to use the offer.

Saturday's 11 a.m. dedication takes place at Doubletree and the Indian Bend Wash crossing behind the 15th tee on the Marriott Camelback Golf Course. Parking will be on the north side of the street at 56th Street.

Mayor Ed Lowry will present a \$90,000 check to Blucor Contracting for finishing work two months early and under the \$13 million projected cost.

"I'm just delighted that it's finished and that it turned out to be a beautiful residential-looking roadway through there," Lowry said.

But not all residents are happy, arguing that the project's drainage portion was costly and unnecessary. Liz Clendenin, a Town Council candidate who lives on Doubletree, has been a critic.

"No comment. That should send a message," she said.

social science.

The students also write an essay, participate in an interview and present speeches.

The final event, the Super Quiz Relay, on Saturday is open to the public. The Super Quiz Relay starts at 1 p.m. at North Canyon High School, 1700 E. Union Hills Drive, Phoenix, in the auditorium.

Scottsdale board has session on ex-principal

SCOTTSDALE — The Scottsdale School Board will hold an executive session and special meeting at 2 p.m. today to discuss legal issues related to the case of former Sequoya Elementary School Principal Maureen Booth. The meeting is at the Education Center, 3811 N. 44th St.

Suspended teacher gets dates for hearing

SCOTTSDALE — An employment hearing for a teacher accused of hitting students at Ingleside Middle School has been set for March 15 and 16.

Kim Youngblood, who teaches students who are learning English, has asked for the hearing in hopes of keeping her job after the Scottsdale School Board notified her in January that it intended to fire her.

Youngblood has filed a lawsuit against the district in Maricopa County Superior Court, accusing officials of malicious prosecution, conspiracy and libel.

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e festival.

annual Carefree Fine Art & Wine feature more than 165 artists from throughout the as well as a variety of domestic wines for tasting. Admission: \$2. \$10.

p.m. today, Saturday and Sunday Carefree, Easy and Ho Hum east of Tom Darlington Drive and Road.

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, there will be two southbound lanes and one northbound lane open on Country Club Drive from McKellips to McDowell.

■ If heading to the Phoenix Open from the Cave Creek or Carefree areas via southbound Scottsdale Road, left turns are banned at Mayo Boulevard into the general parking lot. Continue south to the Princess Drive parking entrance.

■ If you plan to use eastbound Loop 101 across the north Valley to the Open, watch for a lane closure at the 56th Street exit, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today.

■ Scottsdale has set up a hotline for Phoenix Open traffic reports. The number is (480) 312-CITY (2489).

and clarity), and how to stop it.

It has been my unscientific conclusion that the prime culprit is the speeder. Any of the major roads are rife with vehicles doing well above the posted speed limits. If the police would really lean on speeders, the higher fines for speeding would by extension reduce the necessity of fines for running red lights. Why not punish the culprit before they can make the situation worse by running the red light since they are going too fast to stop?

— Dave Washabau
Flagstaff

Addressing the problem by increasing the size of the intersection is counterproductive. It will give red-light

The Arizona Republic
runners more space to get into the intersection legally and more space to increase their speed before they enter legally. The further back the boundary of the intersection is, the more limited their field of vision of the intersection becomes, (and) the more difficult it will be for cross traffic to see them as they approach.

— Charlie Nardin
Chandler

When the light changes to yellow, you judge whether you have time to stop before entering the intersection. If yes, brake. If not, proceed with extra awareness of what other drivers are doing. Jamming on the brakes in an

#24

Flood relocation money announced

By Hernán Rozemberg
The Arizona Republic

Dozens of homeowners in Maricopa and La Paz counties who had property destroyed by a walloping flood in October will soon be able to sell their properties and move to safer areas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced Wednesday that it will give both counties a combined \$1.33 million so it can offer flood victims a buyout to prevent a similar catastrophe in the future.

The money is in addition to \$9 million in emergency federal funds that went to repair infrastructure.

The buyout effort will focus on the two towns hardest hit by the flood: Aguila in Maricopa County, slated for a \$732,975 grant, and Wenden

in La Paz County, which will get \$596,910.

"Nature has shown us that the area is dangerous," said Jan Brewer, chairwoman of the Maricopa County Flood Control District. "We want to maintain the area as open space and move people out of harm's way."

No one will be forced to move. But if they stay, it's at their own risk.

"It's a voluntary relocation, but they're on their own in the event of another flood," said Mike Ellegood, chief engineer and general manager of the Flood Control District.

Mary Dahl, La Paz County emergency management director, was happy to get word of the grant approval Wednesday, but said the problem is far from over, adding that both counties need to team up to forge a solution to

“Nature has shown us that the area is dangerous. We want to maintain the area as open space and move people out of harm's way.”

Jan Brewer

Chairwoman of the Maricopa County Flood Control District

prevent future floods.

Aguila and Wenden sit on the edge of Centennial Wash. Starting on Oct. 21, the usually dry, tree-filled wash experienced what officials dubbed a "100-year flood event" after heavy rains filled it with a water flow peaking at 24,250 cubic feet per second. One man was swept to his death and more than 200 buildings were destroyed.



Teacher of the Year



The Arizona Educational Foundation

#25



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INFORMATION SERVICES

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FRONT PAGE

CLOSE UP



Photo by Wendy Miller/Independent Newspapers

Bill Crooks (right), owner, Wm. J. Crooks, Inc., and Bill Payne are working to permanently replace 20 mailboxes along Doubletree Ranch Road. The original postal containers were documented, then removed prior to the start of the yearlong drainage and street improvement project.

ALL DONE

Doubletree project's completion is cause celebre

By Wendy Miller ^{BOIAP}
Independent Newspapers

Rejoice, the end is near. For 14 months, residents on Doubletree Ranch Road have endured detours, dirt and downed utilities, not mention their occasional bumpy bottoms from driving on bumpy streets.

However, on March 6, the beeping back-ups, cut cables and delayed deliveries will become things of the past when the Town and its residents celebrate the completion of one of its most controversial, and arguably most attractive, projects.

Construction began January 2003 on the Doubletree Ranch Road drainage and street improvement project, a joint effort of the Town of Paradise Valley and the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

This Saturday's dedication ceremony will bring

If you go

What: Doubletree street project dedication and block party
When: 11 a.m. March 6
Where: 5800 block Doubletree Ranch Road, at Indian Bend Wash
Who: Residents are invited to attend. A fiesta lunch to be provided by Blucor Contracting. Guest speakers will be Andrew Kunasek, chairman, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors; Supervisor Don Stapley, and Mayor Ed Lowry.
General parking: Staff-directed parking, north side of street

together the project's major players to reflect on the enormity of the undertaking.

"For a project so huge it went pretty well," Pat Neal, the Town's project manager said. "It was a hardship for (Tesseract) school and a major inconvenience for residents in the area but they were all super. We were blessed by the residents, who went beyond understanding. We had a

good contractor and the flood control personnel did a good job administering to the work."

Capping the ceremony will be a fiesta-style luncheon provided by project contractor Blucor Contracting, Inc.

Guest speakers will include PV Mayor Ed Lowry and Maricopa Coun-

See Complete — Page 6

2574

Complete

Continued From Page 1

ty supervisors Don Stapley and Andy Kunasek. Also, a permanent plaque will be unveiled.

Discussions to improve flood control along Doubletree and adjoining lateral streets began about a decade ago, after a 10-year event flood in 1992 overflowed Cherokee Wash. The flooding prevented worried parents from picking up their children from Cherokee Elementary School, 8801 N. 56th St., for several hours.

It was one of seven severe storms since 1970 cited by the Town to have caused flooding in the area, which includes about 185 homes.

The plans called for flood control improvement by undergrounding storm drains and culverts under Doubletree to carry water to Indian Bend Wash. Under-

ground storm drain laterals also were called for, north and south of Doubletree to catch and carry flood water on 52nd Street and Butler Drive, 56th Street north to Doubletree, and on Tatum Boulevard from Horseshoe Road to Doubletree.

Doubletree itself would be lowered to carry excess floodwater into Indian Bend Wash.

To beautify the corridor, existing ditches on both sides of the road would be eliminated, while desert landscaping and recreation paths would be added to roadway shoulders. Rubberized asphalt would be applied to the street surface for a quiet and durable ride. A curvilinear design would enhance the scenic view while calming traffic.

While most residents supported the project's street improvement plans, some opposed the flood control aspect, claiming added

drainage was not necessary on Doubletree and did not warrant a multi-million dollar expenditure.

Since the beginning of construction in January 2003, sections of the project have been plagued with such problems as utilities outages, due mostly to outdated utility line maps and decrepit utility lines, one-way traffic, open sewer lines, detours, dust, and torn-up roads.

Many of these same detractors argued the Town made claims regarding construction it didn't keep, such as finishing one section at time before starting work on a new stretch of road.

However, Town officials said their statements were misinterpreted and it would be impossible to work efficiently without concurrent projects.

For others, it's been a smooth ride.

"This has not been a both-

er. The Town has been very accommodating," said Sigrid Ibing, who lives in the 6200 block of Doubletree.

Her only peeve was the colored rock the landscaper had chosen to readorn her front yard. The grayish stones were to overlap, and thus clash, with the existing red stones in the main front yard. The matter was resolved when the Town agreed to use red rocks on the main yard and the grayish stones in the right-of-way.

Most residents agreed Mr. Neal and Blucorp representatives did their best to resolve problems as they arose.

In the end, the project is finished a month ahead of schedule, earning Blucorp a \$90,000 early completion bonus.

Final costs for the project have yet to be compiled.

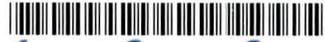
#26

EAST VALLEY TRIBUNE

MESA, AZ

TUESDAY 115,000

AUG 19 2003



ARIZONA CLIPPING SERVICE

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**Supervisors hold
line on tax rate**

1501 AP

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors approved an overall property tax rate Monday that remains the same as last fiscal year. The combined rate is \$1.54 for every \$100 of assessed valuation, which includes a primary property tax rate of \$1.12, a secondary debt service rate of 7 cents, a flood control district rate of 21 cents, and a library district rate of 05 cents.

Jennifer Ryan, (480) 898-6535

#27

Arizona BUSINESS Gazette

The business resource

July 17, 2003
Volume 123 No. 29
Established 1880

Balloonists steaming at site loss

COUNTY CLOSES TAKEOFF, LANDING AREA

By **MIKE FIMEA**
Arizona Business Gazette

Valley hot-air balloon operators are steaming over a decision by the Maricopa County Flood Control District to close a popular takeoff and landing area north of Phoenix.

Citing federal dust regulations and liability issues, the Flood Control District banned access to the area around Cave Buttes Dam on May 1.

Commercial balloon operators have used the 3,000-acre parcel north of Jomax Road and west of Cave Creek Road for about 20 years.

Balloonists still fly near Cave Buttes because they have permits to use state trust land to the north and west. But moving off county land has changed the flight patterns.

Brian Holmes, president of



File photo by Mike Fimea/Arizona Business Gazette

Hot-air balloons have been forced off land north of Phoenix controlled by the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

Phoenix-based Hot Air Balloon Co., said flights that once landed east of Interstate 17 now carry as far west as 51st Avenue. With growth in the Valley push-

ing farther north, those vacant parcels are likely to be filled in as soon as two years.

"Developing is exploding out there. They're scraping land

around 27th Avenue from Happy Valley Road to the Care-free Highway," Holmes said.

Holmes and other pilots believe the Flood Control District

banned balloons because they're an easy target. The flights drift slowly across the early-morning sky and are easy to spot.

"Why suddenly are we the problem?" Holmes said. "The district told us they realize that other people are using the area and causing dust. But they don't have the money to chase down every dirt biker that busts a gate open and cuts through a fence."

Michael Ellegood, general manager of the district, concedes that balloonists are not the sole cause of the dust problems that sparked a citation in January from the county's Environmental Services Department.

"The bigger issue is off-road vehicles," Ellegood said. "They come in and just absolutely destroy public facilities at tremendous taxpayer expense."

The district's problem with balloons is with the "chase vehicles" that pack up equipment after the balloon lands. Ellegood said the balloonists have keys to gated roads in the Cave Buttes area.

"In their zeal to recover their

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Balloon

Continued / Page BG1

balloons, they'll unlock the gates and leave them open," he said.

"We warned them several times, but all we get is a lot of arm waving and 'it's not us.' We don't want people back there, and we don't want off-road vehicles back there. We can't risk a \$10,000-a-day fine (for federal dust violations)."

Balloon pilot Bob Romaneschi said the natural air phenomenon near Cave Buttes offers ideal flying conditions. Calm, prevailing winds from the east allow the balloons to safely land near Interstate 17.

"If we're not allowed to use the roads we're familiar with, it changes our flight characteristics," said Romaneschi, who also owns a balloon repair and maintenance company. "Once we leave the ground, we have no control over where we land. We want to find a reasonable solu-

tion and gain access to (Cave Buttes) at least on an emergency basis."

Holmes and Romaneschi say Phoenix is behind the district's decision to close access. As part of an intergovernmental agreement signed in 1994, rangers from the city's Parks and Recreation Department provide security at Cave Buttes.

In the early 1990s, Romaneschi said, balloon operators were told that although Cave Buttes would someday be developed as a city park, the Flood Control District would allow them access.

"There has been no immediate development, but more control has been handed over to (the) Phoenix parks (department)," Romaneschi said.

"It's not the county pulling the strings. As long as Phoenix doesn't want us there, the district won't change their minds."

Rene Vera, a Parks and Recreation administrator with the city,

said trespassing in Cave Buttes is a major problem that came to a head when the county was cited for dust violations.

He said the operators of remote-control airplanes are the only group with permission to use the area.

"This isn't a permanent use of the land; five years from now, residents will be living right there," Vera said.

"One of the problems with growth is that some uses aren't allowed any more. I used to go dove hunting at 43rd Avenue and the river bottom, but you can't do that now."

Ellegood said he is willing to reconsider the ban if the dust control and trespassing issues can be addressed.

"I'm hopeful we can work through what needs to be done and allow the balloons back in there," he said. "What I'm opposed to is irresponsible use of the land. It's not like they haven't been warned before."

Northwest
Valley

#28

Park plan supported by Babbitt



Paul Connors/The Arizona Republic

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt (second from right) leads a tour of land proposed for addition to White Tanks Regional Park.

White Tanks would gain federal land

By Kathleen Ingley
The Arizona Republic

Maricopa County can count on support from the top in its plan to add 2,880 acres of federal land to White Tank Mountain Regional Park.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt highlighted his enthusiasm for the deal with a hike

"We are heading in this Valley right down the path of Los Angeles," he warned. "We are risking the values that make it such a special place."

With growth roaring into the West Valley, for instance, Babbitt sees White Tank park as an "island that will inevitably be isolated in an onslaught of tens of thousands of homes."

So it makes sense, he said, to set aside more land there.

"This is a really remarkable park and a beautiful piece of desert," he marveled, looking out over creosotes blanketed in tiny yellow blooms and saguaros crowned with flower buds.

Protecting such broad areas of open space is just the type of "big, robust plan" that Babbitt urges throughout the Valley and Arizona.

"We've got to have more than a postage-stamp-sized park," he said.

Last month the county Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to request more land from federal Bureau of Land Management, an agency

under Babbitt's jurisdiction. The 26,332-acre park, the county's largest, was created through a series of land donations from the BLM.

Federal law allows the agency to provide land free to local governments for recreation.

Andy Kunasek, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and Jan Brewer, the supervi-

See PARK | Page 4

PARK | Babbitt backs addition

From Page 1

sor representing the northwest Valley, joined Babbitt on his White Tanks excursion.

Both want to move quickly to add the BLM property, which runs along the west side of the White Tanks.

Noting that Babbitt's appointment will end in eight months, Kunasek said, "There's no guarantee that your replacement will even be able to find Arizona on the map."

The county is also looking to acquire about 14,000 acres of BLM land along Interstate 17 in the far north.

If the county doesn't step in and request the most valuable parcels, Kunasek said, there's the risk that the BLM might someday trade it away.

The vast expanse of empty desert surrounding White Tanks park is deceptive, Brewer said, when developers "are envisioning a bunch of red tile roofs from here to kingdom come."

"If we don't do this now for this region, it will be gobbled up," she said.

Michael Taylor, BLM's Phoenix field manager, will make the final decision on whether to grant the land to Maricopa County. Other claims, such as mining and grazing leases, must be settled, he said, and public hearings will be held. But he foresees no large hurdles.

The BLM land that would be added to White Tanks park includes ridges and *bajadas*, the lower slopes that are rich in vegetation and wildlife.

That pleases Babbitt, who said, "The real beauty out here is these *bajadas*."

State trust land also surrounds the White Tanks, and local residents are trying to preserve it. Unlike federal land, it must be sold or leased to the highest bidder, with the money going to education.

Del Webb and Johnson International have applied to buy much of the trust land around the White Tanks.

Babbitt said he doesn't plan to comment on that issue.

However, he has an ambitious plan to protect other large pieces of trust land through a complex version of a trade. The trust land would end up with the BLM, where it could be managed for preservation. The state would pick up federal property that could be sold.

So far, Gov. Jane Hull is cool to the idea and questions whether the state would be shortchanged.

Babbitt is still optimistic, saying there's plenty of federal land for the state to choose from.

"We're willing to engage in an impartial appraisal process," he said, to make sure the deal is fair.

#29

WEST VALLEY VIEW
AVONDALE, AZ
WEEKLY 40,000
JUL 23 2003

ARIZONA CLIPPING SERVICE

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View photo by Owen K. Martin

River reflections

Life-long West Valley resident Fritz Armator stands at the 115th Avenue bridge over the Gila River near what was once a gathering place in the 1950s for those seeking a place to fish, swim and sunbathe along the sandy shore of the desert river. Those who remember the "Gila River Beach" said they guess it to have been between 115th Avenue and El Mirage Road.

The water ran clean

Longtime W. Valley residents reflect on the Gila River's past

by Anna Foard
staff writer 1501AP

A look down from the 115th Avenue bridge reveals small pools of brownish water peeking through the blanket of green treetops.

The Gila River, a haven for wildlife and a sometimes-destructive force to the communities nearby was also, decades ago, a place where people came to relax and enjoy the day.

"It was a little bit salty, but it was clean," said Fritz Amator as he looked down on the river. "We'd go swimming in it in the summer almost every day."

Amator, a longtime resident of the West Valley, has lived for more than 30 years in a yellow house on 115th Avenue just north of the river.

He's endured floodwaters four feet high in his home, yet his stories of the Gila of his youth seem to reveal a longing for what once was.

From baptisms to fishing

Amator was born next door to where he lives now, and said he remembers a different stream of cars driving by his house — not the mass number of rumbling trucks and fast-moving cars that pass by his home today.

"We'd see a bunch of cars come down here Sunday morning. We'd figure, well, they're going down to have a baptism. So we'd follow them down, sit on the bank of the river and watch them in the river," Amator said. "We always called them holy rollers, but I don't know what church they belonged to."

This was back in the 1940s, when the river was still clean enough to swim in, Amator said.

LIFE ALONG THE GILA

PART SIX IN A SERIES

(See El Ro on page A40)

El Rio

(From page A1)

"They had regular places where the water was deep and people could go swimming," he said. "It was regular water that came up through the ground back then ... It seeped up out of the ground, two, three miles east of here ... You could see it a couple miles east of here bubbling out of the ground."

Some folks preferred fishing at the river to swimming.

"We used to go down there fishing as kids, because it was not too far away from Tolleson. We used to walk there," Rod Rodriguez of Tolleson said. "To me, it was a thrill. You won't believe it, but we didn't dare go into the Salt or the Gila because it had a little bit too much water. But I used to go swimming in the Agua Fria."

Still others spent their time by the river munching on lunch.

"We picnicked over in that area when I was quite small, probably in the '30s. There were a lot of trees there, so there was plenty of shade," said Lila Schneider of Avondale. "Mother would cook a bunch of chicken and stuff — always fried chicken."

Schneider's brother, Morris Aragon of Phoenix, said he remembers going down to where the Gila River meets the Agua Fria.

"It was nothing but thick brush. Sometimes we'd take a little time and go out there and we'd cut some of the paths away. Make little paths going down close to the river," said Aragon, who used to fish at the river.

As far back as the late 1920s, people from the Goodyear camps in the Litchfield Park area would take Litchfield Road down to the river to swim, Aragon said.

With Phoenix still a young town, the water was still clean enough to swim in and fish from, he said.

"People weren't throwing too much trash around the Salt River Valley. This was way back," Aragon said with a laugh.

The trees and brush provided relief from the desert heat, too.

"It was a lot cooler than where we lived. We lived in Avondale and the river was maybe a mile away from us," Schneider said. "There were a lot of tamarack trees and there was water ... I never did like water too much. I know my brothers did. They also fished when the river was running. There was real river water then."

Then in 1963, it completely dried up, and a few years later, effluent water began to flow from the 91st Avenue Waste Water Treatment Plant, Amator said.

Since then, the Gila River has ceased to be a local haven for swimming, fishing and picnics. Instead, murky waters and trash seem to plague the once-frequented river.

The Maricopa County Flood Control District's El Rio project and its plans to restore the native wildlife of the river, however, may allow West Valley residents to enjoy the Gila once more.

Anna Foard can be reached by e-mail at afoard@westvalleyview.com.

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INFORMATION SERVICES

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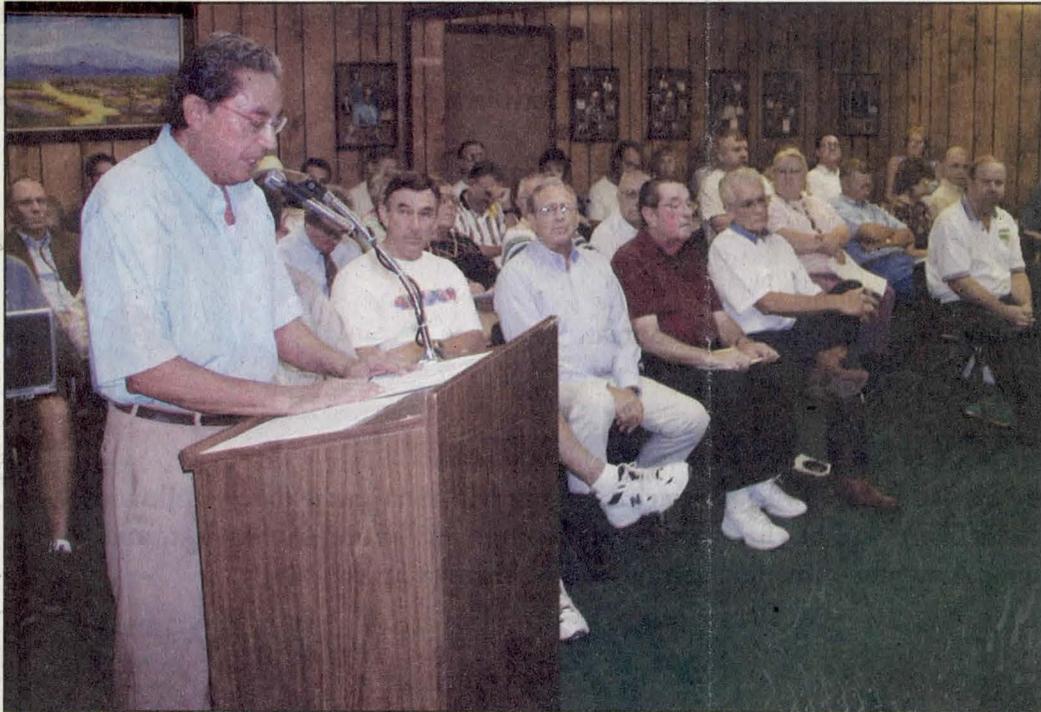


Photo by John Wolfe/Independent Newspapers

Gold Canyon Citizens for Incorporation co-chairman Bob Reveles explained his group's objectives to the Apache Junction City Council at last Monday's study session.

HURRY UP AND ... WAIT?

A.J.'s issues may stall GC incorporation

By John S. Wolfe
Independent Newspapers

The campaigns to create - and to fight - the incorporation of Gold Canyon have been under way for more than a month.

Yet such energy may be wasted for one simple reason: the city of Apache Junction.

As City Manager George Hoffman told the city council at an Oct. 20 study session on the matter, there are two issues from the city's perspective.

"One is the issue of the 'what'; that is, should Apache Junction support an incorporation vote?" he said. "The other issue is one of 'when.'

"As your city manager and as a resident, I would offer for your consideration that the question of 'when' should be considered first," Mr. Hoffman continued. "With the future of our western and southern borders so uncertain, I believe it is premature and ill-advised to negotiate over our eastern border."

According to Arizona state statutes, any city within six miles of a locale looking to incorporate must give its blessing.

Because Apache Junction has its own land issues - it's been waiting seven years for

word on a 19,000-acre annexation plan for south of U.S. 60 - city officials are unlikely to endorse any proposal at this time.

Those circumstances did not stop Gold Canyon residents from attending the study session to offer their perspectives.

Bob Reveles, co-chairman of Gold Canyon Citizens for Incorporation, began his 10-minute appeal by reading a letter from former Apache Junction mayor Roy W. Hudson.

Mr. Hudson noted that Gold Canyon is in about the same position Apache Junction was in more than 25 years ago, prior to incorporation.

"The major challenges we faced then are pretty much the same challenges faced today - Mesa annexation of lands important to Apache Junction's growth pattern; the charge that our community couldn't afford to run a city; the paving of roads, and the always present fear of an increase in taxes," Mr. Hudson wrote.

"But you know what? Apache Junction has more than met most of the challenge," he added.

Mr. Reveles said his group wants Gold Canyon to be able

to determine its own future.

He envisions a city of Gold Canyon joining forces with Apache Junction officials on issues like Mesa's annexation plans; flight paths for Williams Gateway Airport; the future U.S. 60 bypass; and long-range transportation needs.

Michael Rumptz, leader of Residents for Financial Responsibility, used his time before the council to question the community's ability to pay for itself.

"I feel the (incorporation) committee and the community are not ready for incorporation," he said. "There's not a tax base."

He also questioned the budget figures being used by the Gold Canyon Citizens for Incorporation.

"They're not considering public works or the infrastructure," he said. "Some are pressing for parks and libraries, but there's nothing in the budget. It's a false promise."

"It shows an unrealistic understanding of the real costs," he added.

After each side's comments, Mayor Doug Coleman made it clear that this discussion may be premature.

See Canyon — Page 9

Handwritten red scribble, possibly "K-30" or similar, circled in red.

Canyon

Continued From Page 1

"I don't feel I can say no, I don't feel I can say yes," he said. "But I do feel I can say, 'Not at this time.'"

He noted that the state of Arizona is not eager to create a bunch of small, ineffective governments where one solid one might suffice.

He also cited the issue of the 19,000 acres, now tied up in a dispute between the State Land Department and the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

"The flood control issue needs to be settled," he said. "We've had the request since 1996 but it's no closer to being resolved."

He concluded by saying, "It would be an injustice to our 35,000 residents if I were to say anything else."

No other council member



Photo by John Wolfe/Independent Newspapers

Michael Rumptz, center, and members of the Residents for Financial Responsibility wore yellow ribbons to the council study session last week to show their opposition to Gold Canyon's incorporation.

spoke.

Outside the council chambers, Mr. Rumptz said he believes Gold Canyon should remain an unincorporated part of Pinal County.

"Incorporation is a good idea and has many benefits,"

he said, before adding, "in its proper economic time and place."

Mr. Reveles said he hopes the city council reserves judgment until his committee completes the necessary petitions.

He noted that his group is

also waiting on the city council - to determine Apache Junction's growth corridor and boundaries.

On a related matter, there will not be a debate of the issue on Nov. 5.

The Gold Canyon Democrats invited both sides to their monthly meeting, and the pro-group was willing to take part, but Mr. Rumptz said his group was not interested.

"Our time will be much better spent polishing off our due diligence," he said.

Rather than get into a "cat fight" on Nov. 5, he said his group is planning an event in mid-November to unveil its report against incorporation.

The Gold Canyon Democrats will instead have a planning meeting at 7 p.m. in the Ocotillo Room of Mountainbrook Village.

Don Blank said the Democrats hope to have a debate with both sides in December or January.

yes, it hurts. The degree to which it hurts apparently varies and depends on the skill of the piercer and the pain threshold of the piercee.

It was described to me in terms ranging from "a mild pin prick" to "a lot, really a lot."

Overall, however, I'm thinking it can't hurt that much or you wouldn't see so many pierced navels around.

If you are going to have your navel pierced — and God only knows why you would want to do that, but I guess it's not my business — have it done by a reputable, trained piercer. In other words, not your best friend's cousin who did her own one day when her parents weren't home. And follow carefully the post-piercing care instructions or you might end up with an infected belly button, which sounds extremely gross, if you ask me.

I had a note the other day from a doctor who specializes in sleep research. He said it is possible to dream while you are snoring. That's nice to know.

Reach Thompson at clay.thompson@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-8612.

Sun & Moon

Sunset today: 6:55 p.m.
Sunrise Thu.: 6:05 a.m.
Moon rises today: 11:18 a.m.
Moon sets Thu.: 2:18 a.m.

First	Full	Last	New
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April 1 April 16 April 23 May 1

April 1 April 16 April 23 May 1

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Springerville	66	9	70	30	s	72	31	s	Corpus Christi	74	60	1	70	45	s	75	50	s	Mpls-St. Paul	49	22	54	33	s	63	41	pc	Tempa	85	73	.08	78	
Tucson	83	43	89	49	s	87	51	s	Dallas	57	42	64	40	s	71	49	s	Mobile	65	63	1.48	62	41	c	66	45	pc	Tpeka	47	32	t	57	
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Winslow	68	19	73	38	s	75	39	s	Detroit	33	30	1	44	30	pc	56	36	pc	Norfolk, VA	48	44	51	47	sh	55	47	sh	Wichita	50	31	t	58	
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Yuma	88	55	93	63	s	92	62	s	Durango	60	13	67	25	s	62	28	s	Okla City	48	35	61	35	s	73	45	s	Wilkes-Barre	38	30	42	42		

NOTES: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, r-rain, f-fog, sh-showers, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, w-windy, th-thunderstorms, i-ice, t-trace, nr-no report, cl-clear, c-cloudy.

#31

W. Nile virus likely to hit state this year

By Kerry Fehr-Snyder
The Arizona Republic

The mosquito-borne West Nile virus will make its way to Arizona this year, several health officials predicted Tuesday, and elderly residents will be especially vulnerable to its most serious effects, the brain-swelling of encephalitis.

Arizona will join 44 other states battling to control mosquitoes and prevent the spread of a disease that killed more than 270 in the country last year, said Craig Levy, head of the state Health Department's vector-borne and zoonotic disease program.

"It's entrenched, it's spreading fast, and we'll

have to deal with it, too," Levy told other health officials at a three-day disease conference in east Mesa.

What began as a small outbreak in New York in 1999 has turned into "a major public health threat" infecting more than 4,100 people last year. Arizona was one of four states unaffected so far. Instead of growing by hundreds of cases, the West Nile virus exploded by thousands last year and was "a major wakeup call for many of us," Levy said.

Diseased birds carry the virus, which is then transmitted to people by mosquitoes who have fed on the birds. Based on the migratory patterns of birds in Arizona,

Levy said he wouldn't be surprised to see the first case of West Nile in the southern region, perhaps Yuma. He also said Arizona has a long history with the related St. Louis equine virus that has been a forerunner to West Nile, "so it's going to hit us potentially hard."

"We are guaranteed pretty much to see it in Arizona," Levy said, "and it has the potential to be serious."

Despite Arizona's dry climate, desert urbanization has spawned a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Pet water dishes, children's toys, puddles under outdoor faucets and stagnant swimming pools all are fertile areas for breeding mosquitoes.

Dr. Peter Kelly, an infectious disease specialist with the state Department of Health Services, warned that even mild cases of West Nile virus come on quickly and give patients fatigue, headaches, malaise and other flu-like symptoms. Twenty percent of cases also give patients a rash.

More severe cases, he said, result in encephalitis, "a very diverse disease" that often leads to fever, weakness, nausea, vomiting and even death.

"This is basically a disease of older people," Kelly said, adding that the median age for West Nile virus encephalitis is 59 and the median age for deaths from it is 78.

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Handwritten notes in green ink: "M&I", "The Republic", "Star", "ATM", "and STAR network", "freedom to use m".

'Bunker Bob' watches, waits for dreaded Y2K emergency

An auld lang sign hangs on the door of Bob Spencer's underground office. Not like a basement is underground, but really, truly underground, with a lot of concrete, rock and dirt separating him from the sky.

On the sign a colorful cartoon shows a man named "Bunker Bob" emerging from beneath the surface.

Spencer's actual title is Maricopa County emergency management director, but "Bunker Bob" fits.

County employees lightheartedly call their Emergency Management Operations Center "the bunker." The installation is carved several feet under a granite knoll at the Arizona National Guard headquarters in Phoenix's Papago Park.

After a history as a bulwark against communism and years of use to manage local disasters, tonight the bunker becomes Y2K Central.

Not that Spencer is too worried. He's looking forward to a pretty quiet night.

He smiled and gazed out toward downtown Phoenix as he stood atop the knoll. Below, an olive-green military radar dish the size of a minivan whirled noisily.

"At midnight I'll probably not be in the bunker, but up here watching the fireworks," he said.

The bunker was constructed in the 1950s, when the Cold War teetered on going hot and people wondered about their neighbor who couldn't quite recall who played in the last World Series. Between Spencer's office and the surface is 3 feet of concrete and 3 more feet of dirt. The walls are 2 feet thick, as the bunker was originally designed to repel nuclear fallout.

And yes, it has what staff members nicknamed the "war room." Hey, Bob, does it have a button that says...

"Launch?" he said with a



MARK SCARP
COMMENTARY

laugh. No, there isn't. And nobody's seen Dr. Strangelove around, either.

But there are spaces for public health, transportation, law enforcement and disaster relief agencies to each have a desk with a computer and a multiline phone.

The bunker stores 20,000 gallons of drinking water and has a kitchen, plus — just in case county bigwigs have to put in some long hours — a couple of rooms, one for men, one for women, with triple-decker bunk beds and thin mattresses.

"About an inch thicker than what you had in summer camp," Spencer said.

Unless they were very quiet about it, the Communists never did invade Arizona. In the years since the bunker mostly has been used to coordinate emergency services during natural disasters, usually floods or the rare desert tornado. Last summer, county officials converged in the bunker to direct efforts to help victims of tornadoes that struck east Mesa.

Tonight, while there's no giant red "reset" button to put everyone's computer right again, the war room's desks will be occupied by people from several public agencies, watching a digital clock's 4-inch numerals count the seconds to midnight.

Beneath the clock on a small stage, a couple of large county maps are displayed. One shows how far into Phoenix, Scottsdale and the East Valley flood waters might rise if certain dams on the Salt River broke. Another has concentric circles marking each mile from the Palo Verde nuclear plant west of Phoenix. A chart

shows how many are nearby.

There are at the bunker wish there were and one who is. Those tonight son to be glad.

County officials conducted a dry run Wednesday where war room participants fielded several fictional Y2K surprises, from bomb threats to a riot in Queen Creek, from mysterious sewer leaks and water shutoffs to malfunctioning elevators.

Everything worked, county Flood Control District spokeswoman Kris Baxter said, except for one computer whose word-processing program didn't mesh with others. It was fixed within minutes, sort of like most people's offices any old day, except the "fixed within minutes" part.

The bunker is to be staffed from 6 p.m. today to 6 p.m. Saturday. "Hopefully we'll be able to call the second shift and tell them they don't need to come in," Spencer said.

In any event, staff members will share a potluck dinner there tonight.

As Spencer looked across the Valley, planes took off and landed at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and traffic zipped along local streets.

He recalled how as recently as two years ago many of his colleagues nationwide were predicting that it could be as long as 2015 before all the Y2K glitches were fixed. He spoke admiringly of how hard people across the country have worked to be ready by today, not 15 years from now.

"America, time and time again in history, has faced a crisis and got it done," Bunker Bob said.

Tribune writer Mark J. Scarp can be reached by e-mail at mjscarp@aztrib.com or by calling (480) 970-2351.

#32

County
Tribune
(Before Y2K)
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County buys out 9 homeowners

Structures were mistakenly built in high-flood areas

By Christina Leonard
The Arizona Republic

PHOENIX — Maricopa County will spend more than \$1.9 million to buy out nine homeowners close to Skunk Creek in north Phoenix after the homes were mistakenly built in high-flood areas.

It will cost an additional \$590,000 to remove the structures, conduct an asbestos survey and reseed the area, which will be used as open space.

"It's a terrible mistake that we ever issued building permits," said Andy Kunasek, a Maricopa County supervisor. "Whether it's voluntary or not, the buyout is a use of taxpayer money. And we shouldn't have been in that position."

Escrow on the last property closed in September, and six residents have moved thus far. All the residents will have moved into their new homes by November, Flood Control District officials said.

New River resident David

"It's a terrible mistake that we ever issued building permits."

— **Andy Kunasek**
County supervisor

Caldwell, 58, turned his keys over Tuesday.

"It was not the happiest day in my life," Caldwell said. "It was a sad experience for me and my wife, but it was inevitable."

Caldwell, a real estate agent in New River, said they had lived in the home for more than 20 years and will miss the acreage, vegetation and wildlife they've enjoyed there. Although he feels he was treated fairly in terms of compensation, he objected to describing the deal as a "voluntary buyout" because his property would become a valueless asset if he had stayed.

In 2000, county officials discovered that more than a doz-

en homes had been built and occupied near the creek before the latest flood study showed significant flood and erosion danger in the area.

"The flood hazard was larger than what was originally thought to be," district spokesman Joe Muñoz said.

Officials had estimated that building a dam to protect the homes would have cost more than \$12 million.

The county qualified 13 homeowners for the voluntary buyout program. Nine accepted. Seven of the homes are along Skunk Creek between Circle Mountain Road and Honda Bow Road, and two are downstream near 19th Avenue. One property owner is working to move the home away from the floodway, and another didn't feel the offer was substantial but does not live on the property.

Two residents in the high-risk area were not interested in the deal.

"I think it was the right decision to do, but it certainly

Potential flood area

Maricopa County will relocate nine homes in the Skunk Creek area this fall. The homes were built in high flood and erosion areas.



wasn't pleasant," said Kunasek, who represents the district. "I don't think you'll get any of those people to say it was a happy, voluntary thing."

#34

Arizona Republic

■ AVONDALE

Funding available for housing unit

The Maricopa County Housing Department has been awarded state tax credit funding to build affordable housing at Harrison Street and Fourth Avenue. Construction on the 120 units is expected to begin early next year.

The \$12.5 million Rose Terrace development will feature a recreation area, swimming pool, community center and a Head Start facility, county officials said.

Information: (602) 257-1113, Ext. 112.

■ SOUTHWEST VALLEY

Flood-control basins, channels proposed

The Maricopa County Flood Control District is proposing a series of channels and basins that would wind their way through southwest Phoenix, Tolleson and Avondale.

The \$100 million Durango Area Drainage Master Plan to reduce flooding would build parks and trails in five projects covering 53 square miles.

"We have an opportunity to create open spaces and fingers to the rivers," said county Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox of District 5. "They will automatically upgrade the quality of the homes."

Residents can comment on the plan from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Littleton Elementary School cafeteria, 1252 S. 115h Ave.

■ NORTHWEST VALLEY

Center now offering variety of classes

A new education center will provide residents in this burgeoning area with high-school through college-level classes.

Northwest Education Center, available to juniors and seniors in the Deer Valley Unified School District, began classes Monday at the campus of Glendale Community College North, a satellite of GCC.

GCC North opens Sept. 5 to an estimated 400 community college students. The \$2 million campus at 5727 W. Happy Valley Road in Phoenix also borders Glendale and Peoria.

■ SUN CITY WEST

Manager sought for rec centers

A search is on to find a new recreation manager for the Recreation Centers of Sun City West.

Lisa Conn, who took the position in 1999, resigned Aug. 10. Carolyn Vinson, who works with the senior manager of leisure services, has been named the interim recreation manager.

There are four recreation centers in the retirement community. The recreation manager helps create programs for all the amenities, including the centers' 25 tennis courts, six swimming pools, nine spas and areas for lawn bowling and miniature golf.

Southwest Valley

Arizona Republic

N/A

Peoria

N/A

#35

Flood Control readies new 83rd/Pinnacle Peak plan

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County invites Peoria residents to a meeting to discuss aspects of the Glendale/Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan.

The meeting takes place at 6:30 p.m., Aug. 15 at the Sunrise Mountain High School auditorium, 21200 N. 83rd Ave. Residents in this neighborhood were mailed information packages with details on the meeting and comment postcards, so those who cannot attend may still give their opinions.

Residents attending the June 20 meeting showed a strong preference for Alternative 4. A slightly modified version of this alternative will be presented for public comment.

Those interested will hear a

presentation by Project Manager Marilyn DeRosa pertaining to a new recommended alternative for the 83rd Avenue and Pinnacle Peak area. Area maps and information boards will be displayed as well.

Representatives from the Maricopa County Department of Transportation and the City of Peoria will also be on hand to answer questions.

Photo by Bill Dosham
This is what the northwest corner of 83rd Avenue and Pinnacle Peak Road looks like today: a used-car lot. Flood Control District of Maricopa County's concept plans for the future call for this corner to be a major retention basin.



#36
Superstition

Public gets first look at Superstition SanTan Corridor, Marathon Trail

By KRISTEN GUNDERSEN
Independent Newspapers

East Mesa residents had their first look Dec. 13 at the preliminary conceptual plan of the Superstition SanTan Corridor and Marathon Trail. It will run 26 miles through the floodways in Mesa, Gilbert and Queen Creek.

The meeting was geared toward addressing public questions and concerns with the concept. However, as this is early in the planning stages, things such as project costs haven't been determined, officials said.

Tim Phillips, project manager for the Maricopa County Flood Control District, said he has heard some comments from businesses, but nothing from the private sector.

Leisure World, a large retirement community in unincorporated Maricopa County, was concerned about a

public railway running through a private development. "We hadn't really thought of the issue; so I'm glad that was brought to our attention," Mr. Phillips said.

Other comments came from residents near Williams Gateway Airport and Superstition Springs Golf Course.

"People want to make sure they are heard," he said.

Two Gold Canyon residents, Ralph Cavan and Margaret Elliot, came to find out if the project would interfere with the future Loop 202 Red Mountain Freeway.

Ms. Elliot said she came into the meeting skeptical, but by the end, she had all of her questions answered by the representatives from the flood control district.

Mr. Phillips said he isn't concerned with the lack of public comment thus far.

For more information on public meetings, contact Mr. Phillips at (602) 506-1501.

Independent

12/13 101

SkyHarbor

Az Republic Wetlands project for Arizona parcel

#37

Associated Press

One of the largest wetland restoration projects in the United States is planned for one of the nation's driest places:

The Forest Service this week purchased 6,500 acres of privately held land 40 miles southeast of Flagstaff to create the Hay Lake Project, which is expected to attract such wildlife as egrets, hawks, deer and geese.

The wetland, which has dried

due to years of ranching and farming operations, will be restored by creating potholes to collect standing water, Forest Service spokeswoman Karen Malis-Clark said.

The project was included in this year's Interior Department appropriations bill, which allowed the Forest Service to purchase the area through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Rep. J.D. Hayworth, R-Ariz., whose district includes Hay

Lake, said funding for the project totaled \$10.78 million.

Hayworth said the land was part of a privately held ranch whose owners approached the Forest Service with the intent to sell. Investors had expressed interest in buying the land, the owners said, and they wanted to preserve it.

"We both wanted to make sure it remained under preservation, not part of a new development," Hayworth said.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service will lead the restoration effort, teaming with such groups as the Nature Conservancy and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, said Jim Briggs, an assistant state conservationist. He expects the project to take about 18 months to complete.

The Forest Service is seeking funds from Congress to purchase an additional 3,600 acres in the area.

N/A

Peoria Independent

This Week

Peoria Independent County discusses

Agua Fria plans

The Maricopa County Flood Control District holds a public meeting to collect citizen input on the future of the Agua Fria and New rivers at 6:30 p.m. March 9 at the Peoria High School cafeteria, 11200 N. 83rd Ave.

Flood Control District officials want residents comments for the plan to develop the river corridors into a 47-mile park that would be developed, in part, by the city of Peoria.

For information, call Doug Williams at 602-506-8743, or visit the project's Web site at www.agua-fria-river.com/.

Peoria

#38

N/A

Az Republic

East Valley

#39

July, 2001

Flood control by natural selection doesn't work

At the outset, let me thank the Tribune for the recent coverage of the Flood Control District's efforts in the East Valley, including your editorials that are critical of our efforts. The fact that your journal considers flood control important enough to cover helps greatly in our efforts to educate the lay public in the hazards unique to desert flooding.

The opening paragraph in your July 5 editorial, "Our arid landscape hides the potential for rushing floodwaters . . ." is as eloquent a description as I have seen of the desert flood hazard.

The tone of your editorials, though, seems to suggest that government ought get out of the flood control business. You state that "Buyers of floodplain land should beware the consequences . . ." This approach, implying flood control by natural selection, sounds good but doesn't often work. In many cases, the flood hazard is not obvious. This makes it difficult for a well-meaning individual with a normal education to identify, analyze and mitigate a flood hazard on a piece of property. And if he or she does have the ability and constructs a facility



Michael Ellegood

to protect the property, what are the impacts on the neighbors?

The issue of what the governments role should be in flood control is continually debated throughout the United States. Although most citizens of this nation, myself included, like to profess that less government is better, when disaster strikes, all of us look to our government for help. Disasters are proclaimed and government steps in with often huge sums of taxpayer dollars to alleviate the suffering. We had such an event last fall in the Aguila/Wendon area costing millions of dollars and at least one life. Doesn't it make more sense to mitigate before tragedy strikes?

The argument is made that we should not be allowing people to construct in areas prone to flooding. Again, a great sounding strategy that doesn't always work. This

whole valley was formed by flooding. It is an alluvial plain, which, by definition, is formed by water-borne material deposits. We have 23 dams within the county that provide flood protection, as well as the Roosevelt Dam and the Salt and Gila River dams that provide protection for large portions of the Valley. Like it or not, all of us who enjoy life in the Valley do so with the protection provided by "huge environment-altering flood control projects."

Having said that, staying out of harm's way is an effective strategy when it can be accomplished. However, when we tell folks that they cannot build where they want, a new issue emerges, one of property rights. Yet, as you correctly point out "there are still places where we should not build." There is a balance that we work towards: avoiding hazardous areas where we can, constructing the most environmentally friendly mitigation possible when construction becomes unavoidable.

Your editorial mentions the proposal to extend the existing channel in Usery Mountain Park as an example of environmentally altering

projects. It must be remembered that this is only one of several alternatives that are under consideration. It is attractive because government would not have to acquire and demolish people's homes as the other alternatives require. It is attractive because it is simply an extension of an existing channel in the park. It is attractive because the folks who live just south of the park boundary would not have to look out their back windows at a really ugly concrete channel constructed by their homebuilder.

While we do think that the Usery Mountain Park proposal has merit, it is far too early in the process to state that any proposal is preferred. I would ask that your readers continue to monitor our efforts and to voice their opinions when they can make a difference. The district will continue the process openly as we have in the past. We welcome the continued coverage of our East Valley projects by your paper, including your editorial opinions.

— Michael S. Ellegood, P.E., is chief engineer and general manager of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

July 20th

#40



Mike Ellegood

upstream location to slow and regulate the stormwater.

In the case of Scottsdale, the options are limited. There are already more than 6,800 existing homes within the danger zone of the alluvial fan. Many more are currently permitted, so a stop of development is not an option. Because development has already occurred in the pool area of the Reata and Pima washes, retention is not possible.

The engineered channel is the only option available. Retention is possible and is the preferred solution for Rawhide Wash.

A real safety hazard exists in north Scottsdale. The National Research Council calls the alluvial fan in the north Scottsdale area ultra-hazardous. The U.S. Geological Survey rates Reata Pass a nine, the second-highest on its scale for comparing dangerous flooding areas.

FEMA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Flood Control District all agree that residents of north Scottsdale are in harm's way.

The real issue is not growth versus no growth. It is not about tearing up the desert. It is about protecting people and their homes. It took the flood of 1972, which killed one man and forced dozens of others to evacuate their homes, for Scottsdale residents to approve the funding to build Indian Bend Wash. I urge the city not to let history repeat itself.

The city of Scottsdale has studied and restudied this project. The environmental impacts are known and can be mitigated as part of the project. The recommended alternatives, channelization for Reata Pass and Pima Channel and retention for Rawhide Wash are the most environmentally sensitive, most unobtrusive solutions to this real problem that can be engineered.

In closing, I would only remind the naysayers that the laws of physics are non-negotiable. This project is essential to public safety in north Scottsdale.

Mike Ellegood is chief engineer and general manager of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

Disaster waiting to happen

Greenbelt is a must

As chief engineer and general manager of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, I have followed with interest the controversy surrounding Scottsdale's Desert Greenbelt project. What seems to be missing in these discussions is the recognition of the very real flood hazard that is unique to north Scottsdale.

Here are the facts about the flood hazard:

- The area that these projects will protect is the most hazardous area in Maricopa County.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency rates the flood hazard associated with this area at nearly the same rate of risk as land near the sea coast.
- There are about 6,800 homes in portions of the DC Ranch and other subdivisions that are constructed in this high-hazard area.
- These projects will mitigate the hazard and provide effective protection to the 17,000 residents that live in this area.

North Scottsdale lies on an alluvial fan. This is a geologic phenomenon that occurs in arid areas at the transition from mountains to the desert floor. Alluvial fan stream channels are highly unstable.

Stormwater coming off the mountains charts new paths to reach the desert floor and carries huge quantities of fast-moving sediment with it. In the case of a 100-year flood, a house in the wrong place could get hit with 4½ tons of debris. While elevating a structure to FEMA guidelines allows a homeowner to purchase flood insurance, it does not guarantee the safety of those who reside in the home.

In August 1996, a 15-year flood event

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July 20th

#40



Mike Ellegood

Disaster waiting to happen

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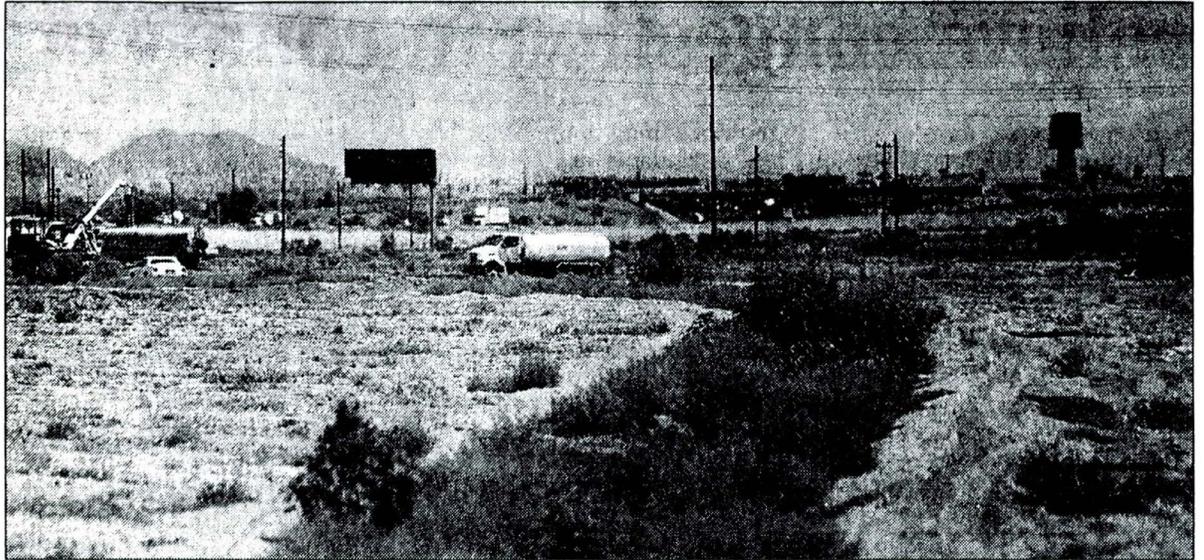
continued

Ahwatukee

241

Tribune

N/A



SAMANTHA FELDMAN/TRIBUNE

Moving dirt: A community center will be built at this site near 48th Street and Pecos Road in Ahwatukee Foothills. Sales tax dollars will provide revenue for the project.

Construction starts on Ahwatukee park

65-acre parcel includes softball, soccer fields, area's first public pool

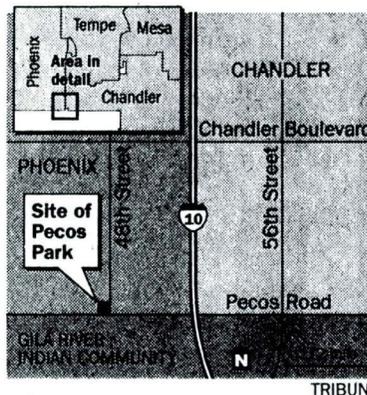
BY ALIA BEARD RAU
TRIBUNE

Ahwatukee Foothills residents can now see their sales-tax dollars at work, with construction started on a park that will include playing fields and a public pool.

The 65-acre Pecos Park, at Pecos Road and 48th Street, will feature the first public pool for the area's roughly 100,000 residents. In addition, two lighted softball fields and five lighted soccer fields are expected to fill a large void.

"There is such a need for additional ballfields for children," said District 6 Phoenix City Councilman Greg Stanton, who added that open space is his highest priority. "It's a shame that too often families have to go to the east side of the freeway to find open space."

The 35-square-mile Ahwatukee Foothills area currently has city parks with a total of eight softball fields and one soccer field. Pecos Park also will have



TRIBUNE

picnic grounds, playgrounds, an in-line and skateboard park, basketball courts and tennis courts.

The park is expected to be completed in early 2002, depending on completion of the Pecos Road-Interstate-10 link.

"This park was master planned with an extensive community involvement process," said Bruce Swanson, Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative administrator. "We are looking forward to really moving this along."

Construction has begun on the flood control basin in which the park will be located.

Putting the park in a basin gives taxpayers double usage for their money, said Kris Baxter,

spokeswoman for the Maricopa County Flood Control District. The basin will take in water from Ahwatukee Foothills, Phoenix and Chandler.

Funding for the park is coming from a one-tenth of a cent sales tax increase, approved by voters last September as Proposition 101, the Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative. The tax increase is expected to generate \$256 million over the 10-year life of the tax. About 60 percent will go to purchase State Trust Lands for the Sonoran Preserve, 30 percent will pay for the development of Pecos and eight other regional parks, and 10 percent will fund renovation of existing parks.

A shade structure was installed at Desert Foothills Park, and upgrades will be made in other Ahwatukee Foothills parks. Stanton also wants to use the money to purchase preserve land in the western South Mountain 620 area, which has been designated for development.

Part of the Pecos Park land has been reserved for a future community center and a permanent police substation. The funding to build these buildings is expected to come from 2001 bond elections.

#42

Subscription
Independent

Opinions

Letters may be sent to Richard
East Mesa Independent Inc.
201 W. Apache Trail Ste. 200, Apache
Please include your telephone

Guest Commentary

Superstition SanTan Corridor will help keep our culture

By DON STAPLEY

Cowboy poet Buck Ramsey has said that once a culture is gone you can never get it back. In Maricopa County, a huge part of our culture relates to the land we live on. It is the bond between all those who come here from the east coast, California, Canada and other far-flung locations. The call of quail, the stands of saguaro and the scent of rainfall on creosote make common memories for many residents, no matter what their backgrounds.

As more people come to dwell in this fascinating land called the East Valley, it becomes more difficult to preserve that which we love so much. Projects such as the Superstition SanTan Corridor will play a vital part in keeping our

culture.

The Superstition SanTan Corridor is a 26-mile floodway that runs through east Mesa, Gilbert and Queen Creek and nearly touches Chandler. I, along with my fellow Maricopa County Board of Supervisors members, am proposing the channel be used for two purposes — first and primarily as a flood control device, and secondly as an avenue for recreational facilities such as hiking trails, parks, soccer fields and equestrian paths.

The project is something that must be completed for safety's sake. The Flood Control District



STAPLEY

of Maricopa County must augment the channel to compensate for the thousands of new residents coming to the East Valley. Whenever a new house goes up, it decreases from the amount of land available to absorb runoff from the Superstition and Goldfield mountains. The water has to go somewhere, so it runs downhill until it finds a channel or basin. If it is not encouraged to go in a safe direction, water will find its own way, sometimes destroying homes and taking lives. Studies, such as the Higley Area Drainage Master Plan and Spook Hill Area Drainage Master plan, are currently underway in east Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, Higley and Queen Creek to determine what other

See ■ GUEST, Page 5

WCA

Mesa
INDEPENDENT

WE PLEDGE...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust.
- To help our community become a better place to live and work.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent

■ GUEST

From Page 4

kinds of facilities are necessary, but the Superstition SanTan Corridor will likely have the most impact.

It also offers east Mesa residents the most opportunities. Retention basins can easily be converted into parks. Maintenance roads could become trails. All this can attract

small businesses, such as snack bars and horse stables.

What is now barren can become a desert oasis, if that is what we envision.

We have an opportunity with the Superstition SanTan Corridor to decorate the land with the culture

of our common experiences. We can make it a place of quiet reflection, of healthy recreation and desert dreams. By building this together we can give our children the heritage of our choice. This is a wise investment for our future.

(Mr. Stapley, Maricopa County

supervisor, R-District 2, can be reached at: (602) 506-7431. For more information on the Superstition SanTan Corridor, call Tim Phillips, project manager at the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, at (602) 506-1501.)

The East Valley

#43

Business Journal

N/A

East Valley greenbelt plan mirrors Indian Bend Wash

BY MIKE PADGETT
THE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Maricopa County officials are considering their own version of Scottsdale's people-friendly Indian Bend Wash.

The goal is to redesign the Maricopa County Floodway in the East Valley into a linear park. The flood control channel starts at Brown Road just east of Greenfield Road and stretches southwesterly nearly 28 miles to merge with the Gila River. Along the way, it functions as a flood collector facility that channels heavy runoff through populated areas, said Michael Ellegood, chief engineer at the county's Flood Control District offices.

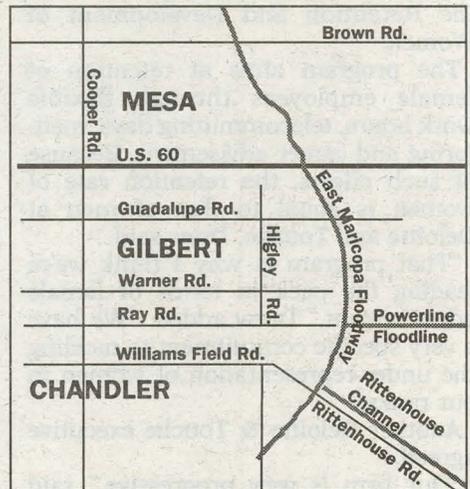
While the floodway's primary purpose would remain unchanged, it could be redesigned into a multipurpose recreational facility with hiking, cycling and equestrian trails.

Wider areas of the channel could include picnic sites, basketball or tennis courts, and other amenities, similar to what is available in Indian Bend Wash in Scottsdale.

Where the floodway crosses farms planned for future subdivisions, homebuilders could place new homes so they face the greenbelt instead of streets or block walls, said Tim Phillips, senior project manager at the Flood Control District's planning division.

"We're taking a look at all of our facilities throughout Maricopa County, particularly these linear facilities that we own and operate, to see if we can't make them open to the public," Ellegood said.

"We have these miles and miles and miles of dry rivers and canals with big signs that say, 'Keep off,'" he said. "It's land that the public has already bought and paid for. So, wouldn't it make sense



to see if we couldn't make them available to the public and allow the public to use them as open space?"

Planners in Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek and Chandler support the proposal, he said.

To help prepare a new design, the county hired Collins-Pina Consulting Engineers Inc. A preliminary recommendation is expected in early 2000.

Growing support for open space is part of the drive behind the project. In addition, continued construction of new homes and businesses in the East Valley has changed potential flood patterns.

The county also is working with cities and towns in the West Valley to see if recreational greenbelts can be added along the Agua Fria River. That study is about one-third complete.

Ellegood said the Valley's cities and towns, along with the county, should re-evaluate all their waterways to see if they could be opened to the public for hiking or riding.

#44

Glendale
AZ Republic

N/A

AZ Republic - Date N/A

Flood channel planned

By Marty Sauerzopf
The Arizona Republic

and Northern avenues on the eastern side of the Beardsley Canal.

Fearing that a major storm could send floodwaters into neighborhoods near the White Tank Mountains, Maricopa County will soon begin building a new \$3.5 million flood channel to protect residents.

The project will include culverts to carry floodwater to the eastern side of the canal and will create a recreation corridor that could include hiking and equestrian trails.

County officials said a major downpour could overburden the White Tanks North Inlet Channel and create a major flood hazard between Olive and Glendale avenues near Perryville Road.

Swick said the channel was the least expensive of a number of alternatives considered for the area. It will also have the lowest construction impact.

The county is doing preliminary design work this month.

"It is important for us to remember that while it does not rain often in the desert, when it does, severe flooding can occur," said Valerie Swick, project manager for the county's Flood Control District.

After a series of meetings with residents, the district has decided to build a new flood control channel between Olive

Don't put landfill in our area, A.J. tells Phoenix

BY ZARANA SANGHANI
TRIBUNE

Apache Junction does not want Phoenix's trash in its back yard.

The Apache Junction City Council decided Tuesday to send Phoenix a letter saying the council does not want a landfill built in Pinal County, near Pecos Road and Ironwood Drive, which would be close to Apache Junction's southern border.

"Why do we want Phoenix's trash in our neighborhood?" asked Councilwoman Carol Urich. "They need to look in their own back yard."

The site is one of eight that Phoenix is looking at to use as a landfill. The city's Skunk Creek Landfill at 27th Avenue and Happy Valley Road is expected to reach capacity in 2005, said Michelle Woytanko, acting deputy director of the Phoenix Public Works Department.

Woytanko said Phoenix will study all eight sites and seek public comment before making

a choice. She said the city may consider a partnership with a commercial landfill.

"Public comments are probably some of the most important," Woytanko said. "We're not going to go into an area — we'd be very hesitant — where the public doesn't want us."

Phoenix should take the site in Pinal County off the list because Apache Junction residents are worried about the possibility, said Vice Mayor Anne Marie Surra.

Apache Junction's border goes to the Elliot Road alignment, and the landfill may back up to the Ray Road alignment, which is two miles south of Elliot, said Bryant Powell, assistant to the city manager. The city has a master plan that calls for residential development in that area, Powell said.

Apache Junction sent a letter last week saying the area may not be appropriate because it is in a flood plain, the land is owned by the state and the city expects residential development in that area.

#45

East Valley

East Valley

Tribune

N/A

#46

AZ Republic Date: N/A

Flood plain map may offer good news

Changes may save on insurance for Scottsdale homes

BY SCOTT C. SECKEL
TRIBUNE

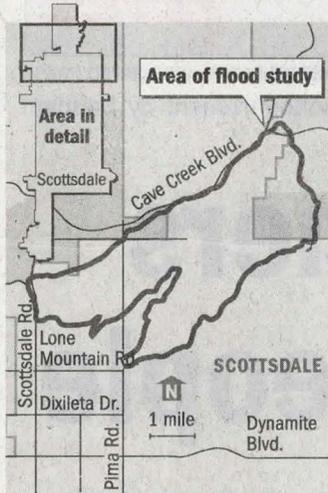
A new north Scottsdale flood plain study may save about 45 homeowners from shelling out about \$300 annually in flood insurance, according to city officials.

Results of the study will be unveiled at an open house Tuesday night.

"It says there's approximately 90 existing homes in the flood plains that have been identified up in the northern portion of the city," said senior public works planner Bill Erickson. "We have reviewed it and found there are what I would call anomalies in that area. It's probably well over half those people are not truly within the flood plain."

If a home is in a flood plain with a federally backed mortgage such as a Federal Housing Administration or Veterans Affairs loan, owners are required to buy flood insurance by the federal government.

Bad news may come for some homeowners, though. The new map, which incorporates rainfall pattern studies, detailed topographic analyses,



SOURCE: Maricopa County Flood Control District
TRIBUNE

surveying, land use and aerial mapping, "very well could" put some homes in flood plains, but no one knows for sure yet which homes or how many, according to Erickson.

Flood plains cross the Legend Trails subdivision, and some homes are in the hazard area. The hazard is a "fairly well-contained riverine-type flow," said Erickson, flooding that may or may not spill from 10,000 year-old channels in the area.

As well as being ancient and well-established, development has further stabilized the channels.

"It's not likely to go all over the place," Erickson said. City officials plan to re-examine the study's technical data.

Policies usually cost about \$300 per year for \$100,000 of coverage for the structure, but coverage is capped at \$250,000 for the building and \$100,000 for the contents, according to officials from the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

After Tuesday's meeting, the study results will be sent to Federal Emergency Management Agency in Washington, D.C., for adoption — a process that can take up to two years, according to Erickson. Homeowners will not be affected until the map is adopted by FEMA, district officials said.

"Flood insurance requirements don't become effective until the actual map is adopted," said district spokeswoman Angeline Fowler.

IF YOU GO

What: Flood plain delineation study open house

When: 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday

Where: Sunrise Community Church, 29505 N. Scottsdale Road

The entire study area is 12.9 square miles. Of that, 7.1 square miles is privately held, 1.4 square miles is Tonto National Forest, and 4.4 square miles is state trust land. Jurisdictionally, part of the area is in Scottsdale and part of it is in Carefree.

"It's a good study in that additional development in there can stay out of these areas," Erickson said.

Scottsdale

AZ Republic

N/A

Tempe

#2 Republic

147

1/11

EDITORIAL: OUR VIEW

COUNTY WAS SET TO BULLDOZE HOMES How did this snafu happen?

There's nothing like facing the loss of your home to get the adrenaline flowing and to take up the fight against government.

That's what 21 homeowners in the far northwest Valley did. They channeled their outrage and confronted the Maricopa County Flood Control District to take another look at a drainage project.

And guess what?

The district was able to rework and reroute the project.

The homes were spared.

Obviously, the homeowners are relieved and pleased.

Fighting government bureaucrats can be a lesson in frustration, and endings don't always turn out as happy as this one did for the residents living north of Pinnacle Peak Road between 83rd and 91st avenues.

Still, the question persists: How did the Flood Control District almost raze 21 homes to build a ditch designed to protect these and other homes in the area?

Talk about an ultimate solution.

Through no fault of their own, the



Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

Steve Simmons (left) stands with Lorraine Hall-Currence and Ron Currence in front of the Currence home, which the county wanted to bulldoze.

homeowners weren't aware of the plan to build an 80-foot-wide drainage ditch to catch water from 100-year floods. Oh, yes, there were public hearings on a series of four alternatives, and the one the Flood Control District considered the most reliable appeared to be on the fast track for approval.

But the contractor hired by the district to spread the word to the neigh-

borhood apparently ran out of informational fliers. That left the people most affected, the 21 homeowners in the dark.

To its credit, the Flood Control District convened another hearing and did what it should have done in the beginning: Adopt plans for a flood-control project without sacrificing homes to do it.

Let's hope the district has learned its lesson. Its notification system is not fail-safe, and changes should be made to ensure that every property owner who might be affected by a project is duly notified.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Editorials represent the position of *The Arizona Republic*, whose Editorial Board consists of Keven Ann Willey, Phil Boas, Richard deUriarte, Jennifer Dokes, Kathleen Ingley, Doug MacEachern, Joel Nilsson, O. Ricardo Pimentel, Robert Robb, Laurie Roberts, Paul Schatt, Linda Valdez, Ken Western and Steve Benson.

#48

County
West Valley
View

NA

Flood District slates El Rio plan meetings

West Valley View
View report

Three West Valley cities may be affected by a new project proposed by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

The district will hold several meetings during the next two weeks to discuss a plan to restore Gila River habitats while implementing flood control measures.

The project, called the El Rio Watercourse Master Plan, will include restoring natural habitats along a 17.5-mile stretch of the river that runs through Avondale, Goodyear and Buckeye. First proposed in 1999, the project would involve the three communities and Maricopa County.

"The project was a vision for the West Valley ... it's been around for a while," said Michelle Lempke, public involvement coordinator for the district. "Primarily we have to look at the flood control aspect."

Proposed levees and open flow channels could help to reduce floods in an area continually under threat, with the added benefit of restoring the riparian habitat along the river. The district also proposes developing wetlands and introducing native species, such as cottonwood and willow trees.

Meetings will be held:

- From 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Buckeye Community Center, 201 W. Centre Ave.
- From 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 5 at the Agua Fria Union High School cafeteria, 750 E. Riley Drive, Avondale.
- From 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 10 at Estrella Mountain Church, 10485 S. Estrella Parkway, Goodyear.

For information, contact Doug Williams, regional planning manager, at 602-506-8743 or at daw@mail.maricopa.gov.

Peoria approves land deal for first community park

10/1999

#123

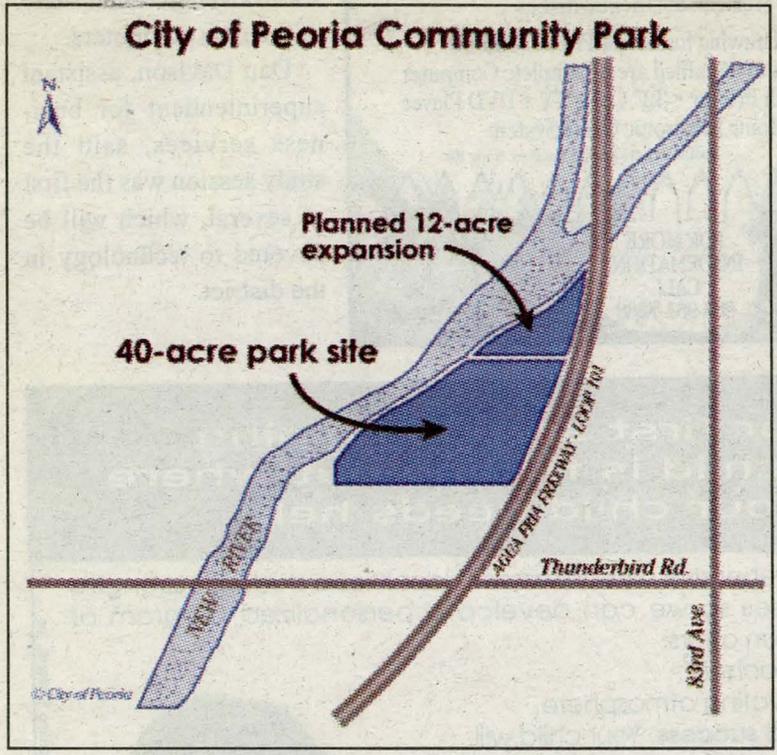


Illustration courtesy of City of Peoria

The City of Peoria has struck a deal with farmer Howard Lydic on 40 acres of land north of Thunderbird Road for the city's first community park.

In a prominent spot in central Peoria between the Agua Fria Freeway and the New River channel, the City of Peoria will develop its first community park. When completed, the park will be a 50-plus acre recreation resource located in the center of the city that will provide fun, recreation, and relaxation for Peoria residents.

The purchase of 40 acres of land north of Thunderbird Road and west of Loop 101 was approved by the Peoria City Council on Sept. 19, and negotiations with the Maricopa County Flood Control District to acquire an additional 12 acres to the north are expected to be completed soon.

"I can't imagine a better place for Peoria's first community park," said City Councilmember Joe La Rue, Ironwood Council

District Representative. "We have been working at this for a long time, and our efforts have been rewarded. It's a great location right off of the freeway and adjacent to the New River channel, which makes it a perfect link to the pedestrian and bike paths that will be developed in the river channel as part of our rivers and trails master plans."

The city is paying \$3.45 million for the land, although it has been appraised at \$3.9 million. The Lydic family, owners of the land and longtime Peoria farmers, agreed to sell the land at the lower price to allow the park to be built.

"I would like to personally thank the Lydic family on behalf of the city of Peoria," said La Rue. "The Lydics have been a Peoria fixture since its beginning, and if it were not for their

passion for Peoria, this park would not become a reality – the funds simply would not have been available to purchase the land."

While Peoria has more than 20 neighborhood parks around the city, this will be its first community park. Community parks are designed to provide centralized recreation opportunities for large portions of the population. Peoria's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan calls for developing three community parks – one each in the north, central, and southern areas of the city. A needs assessment and facilities analysis recommended the central location be developed first, largely due to the significant number of people who reside in the immediate area.

Plans are to develop the park
More **PARK** on A11

Park, From A1

in phases. The first year would include seeking public input and designing the park. Physical development of the park would then take place over the next five years.

One element of the park that citizens will probably see soonest will be Peoria's first skateboard park.

Funds for the skateboard park (\$250,000) are budgeted for the current fiscal year.

Initial park development is likely to also include adjacent and connecting trails as well as infrastructure improvements.

Following that, the remainder of the park will be

developed based upon the availability of funding and the schedule and priorities agreed upon in the citizen involvement process.

Once completed, the park will include lighted youth and adult multi-purpose athletic fields, the city's first outdoor racquetball courts, large

picnic areas, and other amenities. Funding for the park will come primarily from a combination of bond revenues and impact fees.

For additional information, please contact Kelly Corsette, Public Information Manager, at 623-773-7339.

Peoria
N/A

450



ADOBE DAM/DESERT HILLS

AREA DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN

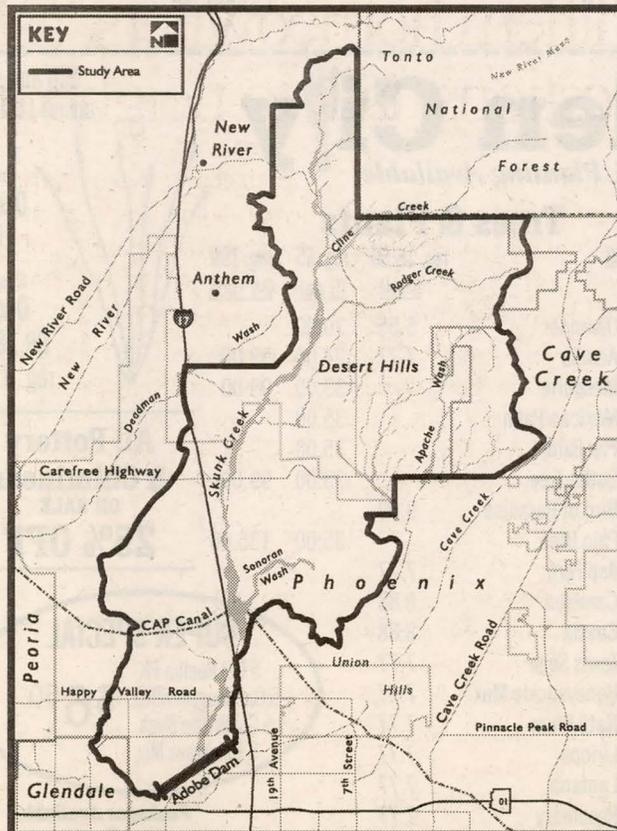
PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County is holding the first set of public meetings for the Adobe Dam/Desert Hills Area Drainage Master Plan (ADMP).

It is important that the community get involved in the process. We invite you to attend this meeting and give us your input. Please bring your photographs of flooding and erosion problems in your area.

The result of the Adobe Dam/Desert Hills ADMP will be a watershed-wide drainage plan that provides cost-effective, community-based, flooding and erosion control solutions for the residents. To achieve this, the ADMP will include recommendations for structural improvements, as well as rules and guidelines for development.

If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, you can view the project information at www.fcd.maricopa.gov. If you have any questions on this project, please call the project manager, Marilyn DeRosa, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, at 602-506-4766 or email her at mdr@mail.maricopa.gov.



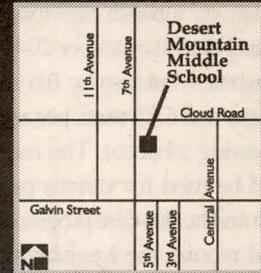
Persons with a disability may require accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Michael Book, Logan Simpson Design Inc., 51 West Third Street, Suite 450, Tempe, AZ 85281, Phone: 480-967-1343, Fax: 480-966-9232. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodations. This notice is available in alternate formats by contacting Michael Book at the address/phone number referenced above.

Working toward tangible flood control solutions...

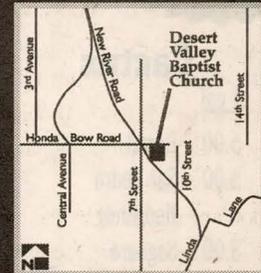
PUBLIC MEETING LOCATIONS

The same information will be presented at each meeting.

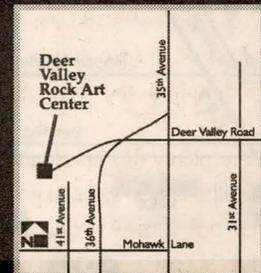
Tuesday, November 12, 2002
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Presentation at 6:45 p.m.
Desert Mountain Middle School
35959 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ



Thursday, November 14, 2002
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Presentation at 6:45 p.m.
Desert Valley Baptist Church
42425 North New River Road
Phoenix, AZ



Tuesday, November 19, 2002
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Presentation at 6:45 p.m.
Deer Valley Rock Art Center
3711 West Deer Valley Road
Glendale, AZ



#51

Burrelle's

INFORMATION SERVICES

75 EAST NORTHFIELD ROAD / LIVINGSTON / NEW JERSEY 07039 / (973) 992-6600 / (800) 631-1160

World Wide Web Edition

Arizona Republic (Phoenix, AZ)

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Headline: Hidden treasure

Source Web Page:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/northphoenix/articles/08223rockmuseum0822Z3.html>

Pat Flannery
The Arizona Republic

Aug. 22, 2003

To muse is to become absorbed in thought, the dictionary says. To amuse is to entertain in a light, playful or pleasant manner.

Museums are a splendid combination of both, and they dot the Valley landscape, giving local residents plenty of choices for thoughtful fun.

In the dog days of late summer, nothing can beat a museum to get you out of the house for a relaxing jaunt.

The Deer Valley Rock Art Center is one of the Valley's hidden cultural treasures. Nestled against Adobe Dam, the museum and surrounding 47-acre preserve tell the story of several Native American cultures that quarried the adjacent Hedgpeth Hills for corn-grinding materials over many centuries.

Their history is graphic: The boulders in the hills contain more than 1,500 petroglyphs carved both by archaic tribes that disappeared around A.D. 300, and by more recent Hohokam and Patayan cultures that ranged through southern and central Arizona, respectively, until roughly A.D. 1450.

From a quarter-mile nature trail, visitors can gawk at centuries-old depictions of animals, humans and a host of symbols like crosses, spirals and circles whose meaning are still being studied today. The east-facing hills of art clearly were important to ancient cultures, said assistant director Marilyn Sklar, and even evidence of a small dwelling and a burial have been found at the site.

Metates and manos, the flat rocks and grinding stones used by ancient people to grind corn, have been found throughout the area, strong evidence that the hills were being mined for basalt, an ideal and durable material for the implements. Other tools like rock knives and axes also have been found there.

Why the site has so many petroglyphs is still not entirely clear, but it retains sacred significance among some Arizona tribes. The Yavapai people, says one exhibit, consider the petroglyphs "messages from the past, lessons for the present and guides for the future."

Scholars continue to pore over the artwork as well, the center being one of the few rock art research facilities in North America.

Now on the National Register of Historic Places, it is equally notable for its 7,000-square-foot museum, an angular, austere concrete-and-steel building designed by Phoenix architect William Bruder.

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World Wide Web Edition

Bruder's most visible project locally is Phoenix's Burton Barr Central Library.

Sklar said some visitors come just to see the building, which was commissioned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to house artifacts from the surrounding area after the dam was built. It was opened to the public as a museum in 1994, and is now owned by the [Maricopa County Flood Control District](#) and leased to Arizona State University to operate.

Guided tours offer visitors a chance to discuss the art in depth, though they also are free to ramble on their own and at their own pace. There are only two rules, Sklar says: don't leave the trail and don't touch the rocks.

The Adobe Mountain Railroad Museum and Desert Railroad is near the Deer Valley Rock Art Center and also takes advantage of the open spaces and desert mountain vistas north of the Loop 101.

"We're making this a big mechanical park," said Cliff Fought, a miniature railroader at the railroad museum. With N, HO and G gauge trains, a porter tank engine that once worked in the mines, and a live steamer, the park has more than seven miles of track on which it will offer free rides from noon to 5 p.m. Sundays once the park reopens Sept. 6. Like many local attractions, it was closed for the summer.

The park hopes to add a 24-inch gauge railroad that once operated in a salt mine, and an antique tractor club will soon lease 20 acres to show its machines. A blacksmith club will start doing live demonstrations next spring.

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#52

SUN CITY #
AZ REPUBLIC

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

OBITUARIES/VALLEY & STATE

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VALLEY & STATE

Sand, gravel operations face opposition

Coalition seeking more regulations

By David Madrid
The Arizona Republic

By most accounts, the Rock Products Association is either the most powerful lobby at the state Legislature or the second most powerful behind the League of Arizona Cities and Towns.

So it will be interesting to see how the sand and gravel businesses represented by the association will fare as the industry becomes the topic of political discussions.

Complaints are on the rise as residents and the businesses find themselves side by side. There are complaints from residents of dust, noise, odors and emissions from unmoni-

tored stacks and of constant truck traffic.

Those who complain about the sand and gravel operations say they are typically sent to various government entities that claim to be powerless.

Retirees from Sun City and Peoria's Ventana Lakes community say they are tired of that inaction, and they accuse lawmakers of putting the interests of rock-products businesses before their constituents.

They have vowed to make sand and gravel a campaign issue in Districts 15, 17 and 19 in the coming legislative elections. They say they will try to organize 100,000 votes for candidates who will stand up to the

industry.

The complaints from Sun City and Peoria led to a meeting called by Sen. Brenda Burns, R-Glendale, to get the industry leaders, residents and regulating agencies together to find out who is responsible for what.

Burns said one thing is certain: There has been a breakdown in communications, and there is a need for better disclosure.

She said industry inspections, emissions from plants and zoning near the businesses also must be addressed.

Burns says she's not sure yet whether the issue requires legislative action, but Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox says it is time to change state law.

Wilcox says a task force of residents, representatives from the rock industry and home builders association, county officials, and other affected parties should be formed to address the conflicts and create rules for land uses near the businesses.

That task force could find common ground and avert political battles over the issue or prevent residents from mounting an initiative or referendum drive, Wilcox maintains.

"There has to be a give and take, and it can't all be one way," she said. "Sand and gravel has to work with us so this doesn't blow up in their face."

Reach the reporter at david.madrid@arizona-republic.com or (602) 444-6926.

#53

North Valley

Tribune

Greenbelt arguments were self-serving

After reading Mike Ellegood's self-serving piece (Tribune, July 20) in which he describes the flood peril in north Scottsdale, one must wonder what he and the Maricopa County Flood Control District were thinking when homes were allowed to be built in Scottsdale's so-called flood zone.

The area, of which Ellegood expresses such concerns, has been part of the landscape for eons. He could have taken steps in the past to raise the same concerns with Scottsdale to prevent the high-density development that he now says is threatened with destruction.

The answer is that he and the district have been part of the same group of developer-friendly bureaucrats that have tacitly supported continuous development of land in the north without regard for the consequences of such unmanaged growth. Having stayed in the background for the past 10 years and not taken one single step to prevent this growth, he now says that a massive \$100 million project is needed to prevent a potential catastrophe in the future.

In his article, Mr. Ellegood makes the inflammatory comment that the area is "nearly" as hazardous as land near the seacoast. He doesn't say what coast and under what conditions. Can he possibly imagine that it is as flood-prone as the coast of Florida in a typical hurricane?

He talks about a "house in the wrong place could get hit with 4½ tons of debris." Yes, it might, if it was built in the middle of a large wash, but nobody in his or her right mind would do that and, besides, it's not permitted by the

city or the federal government.

These statements are nothing more than scare tactics in a last-minute attempt to support a highly flawed plan that does not deserve the public's endorsement and over \$100 million of taxpayer dollars.

The primary objective of Ellegood and the district is to reduce potential flood damage to land in Phoenix under development north of Mayo Boulevard and on the west side of Scottsdale Road — the Rawhide wash. He has personally promoted a plan to build a 35-foot retention basin dam in Scottsdale at Dynamite and Pima to hold water that eventually flows into Phoenix. This was rejected soundly by the local residents and even the past City Council didn't like the idea. The dam is primarily designed to protect Phoenix — if it's necessary, let Phoenix built on their land.

The Scottsdale residents who live in the area designated as a flood zone oppose the Desert Greenbelt project. At a meeting held by the Army Corps of Engineers earlier in the year, speaker after speaker opposed the plan.

It is time for the city council to pull the plug on a costly plan that has highly questionable value and is not supported by the vast majority of residents who live in the area. The city has already spent over \$19 million of taxpayers' money for studies, legal fees and other costs in an attempt to rationalize the project. It is time to end this boondoggle.

Robert Vairo
President
(for) The Board of Directors
Coalition of Pinnacle Peak Inc.

#54

North Valley
Glendale Star

The Glendale



Photo by Bill Dosham

The contractor is on the job between 65th and 67th avenues along Northern Avenue, installing storm drainage pipes. Traffic will be restricted to one lane until the work is done.

Commuters on Northern, take a different route for next 30 days

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County, working with Achen-Gardner Inc., started placing storm drain pipes beneath the railroad track that crosses Northern Avenue at the 65th Avenue alignment this week. Traffic at that location is being re-

stricted to one lane in each direction until construction is completed, which should be in about a month. Traffic on Northern Avenue will be routed to the outside or curb lane in each direction.

"This construction may slow down traffic in the area," said Flood Control District construction man-

ager Fred Fuller. "To avoid the inconvenience and possible delays, we would ask that people choose a different route during this time."

The work is being done as part of the ongoing Orangewood Storm Drain Project. Anyone with questions can call the project hotline at (602) 241-9431.

The storm drains are just part of a larger project involving the retention basin being constructed south of Northern along 63rd Avenue. The retention basin being constructed at that location will eventually tie in with a storm drainage system throughout the West Valley.

#95 The bureaucrats and a taxpayer

On January 13 a taxpayer, property owner and voter called Maricopa County planning department. A code enforcement officer who happened to walk by the ringing phone picked up. The taxpayer asked a number of questions which when overlaid on county planning's actions, or lack of action, on Continental Mountain (Gold Mountain Estates and Scott Schuff's proposed helicopter pad) make the case that there is a major disconnect between the county board of supervisors, Director of Planning Joy Rich and County Attorney Jim Minter and their subordinates. See "My View" on page B-2, after reading this telephone exchange.

Taxpayer: "Would I be able to get a building permit if the only access I had to my house was through a helicopter?"

Bureaucrat: Loud and sustained laughter. "Highly doubtful." More laughter.

Taxpayer: "Is that right?"

Bureaucrat: "Yeah - highly doubtful. We don't have a fleet of helicopters to get a building inspector up there."

Taxpayer: Oh, Ok that's a good point. Umm

Bureaucrat: "Yeah gee, that is a new one. I don't think I've ever heard that one." More laughter.

Taxpayer: "You work at planning and zoning, right, I've got the right department? What was your name?"

Bureaucrat: "Lori Allen, I'm a code enforcement officer who just happens to be walking by the receptionist, just this minute..."

Taxpayer: "Oh, code enforcement! Hey, so if I put a road in — if it was like a private easement, I could just blade that in. Right? If I stayed within the..."

Allen: "Yes - but you have to have a permit to do any grading or blading."

Taxpayer: "Oh do I?"

Allen: "Yes - because of flood control issues."

Taxpayer: "Oh, OK."

Allen: "But it's just a grading permit, you know."

Taxpayer: "So what do I do, just come in there and apply for it?"

Allen: "Exactly."

Taxpayer: "Do I need engineering plans or anything like that?"

Allen: "Well it depends on how extensive it is. And I don't really know what their big criteria is, but I can let you talk to somebody over there — but what I do know is — that any time you take a blade to a piece of ground, a piece of desert, especially a piece of desert that has never been developed at all, you know you are definitely rerouting, you are possibly rerouting. I shouldn't say definitely, but you are possibly rerouting some runoff and especially on a hillside and it sounds like if access is only by helicopter (laughter) you are probably on a hillside, or on top of a mountain somewhere. So there is serious runoff concerns there."

Taxpayer: "Ok, that is great then. Is there... can you transfer over to somebody then? Oh you know what, if somebody did do

something without a permit is that your job to go in and do stuff..."

Allen: "That would be me"

Taxpayer: "What would be the recourse if..."

Allen: "What happens to you?"

Taxpayer: "Yes."

Allen: "Well what we do is send a number of official looking notices which say you can't do this, you are in violation of article section da da da, and then if nothing happens we allow a total of 60 days, if nothing happens then we get, uh, you know, turn it over to the county attorney's office for further legal action and per offense there is up to four months in jail and a stiff fine."

"Right this minute we happen to be going criminally through the county attorney's office, however very shortly we are going to be switching over to civil with our own hearing officer that would — we don't have the power right now through the county attorney's office to lien the property and so by doing it civilly like that we can impose our own fines on a daily basis if need be. Like I said if a big contractor is doing something that, on a daily basis is out day in and day out doing it and he is aware that he shouldn't be. Then we can impose a real stiff fine, like you know a thousand dollars or ten thousand dollars or whatever and make it a daily thing."

"And then go back and lien the property."

Taxpayer: "Would you then keep the jail time still?"

Allen: "Possibly. You know it just depends on ... it is totally on a case by case basis, it would depend on the severity. You know somebody who had stuck a little shed in the wrong place on their property certainly we probably wouldn't go there but ..."

Taxpayer: "Somebody who put a road up a hillside would probably ..."

Allen: "Yeah (giggles) that's different, yeah."

Taxpayer: "And then who would be the one in charge of deciding, who would enforce it? Then if it did come to your people who would be the one enforcing it?"

Allen: "The code enforcement officer for that ..."

Taxpayer: "You guys would actually be able to enforce — and who oversees what you guys do then?"

Allen: "In terms of a person's name or ..."

Taxpayer: "It would be like the county supervisors then?"

Allen: "Well ultimately, yes, yes, yes. We then of course, our director of planning and development is, is you know kind of regional, you know, and then ..."

Taxpayer: "Who is that?"

Allen: "Joy Rich."

Taxpayer: "Oh, Ok, Ok. Well could I speak to somebody about getting ..."

Allen: "You bet, let me figure out how to use this phone ... since I was just walking by here. One sec."

Taxpayer: "Thanks."

Allen: (Talking to someone in her office.) "You know what, I want to transfer this phone to you and she has a question and,

uh, do you know how to do this phone?"

Bureaucrat II: "Hello, flood control, this is Bill."

Taxpayer: "Oh, flood control — Hi. I was just inquiring about putting a road in. It is in kind of a remote area and I was told you can just go in there on a weekend when nobody is looking and put it in there and I just wanted to make sure — can you do that?"

Bill: "Not legally, you can't."

Taxpayer: "No?"

Bill: "Because we come out and if things have been altered then it's turned over to code enforcement."

Taxpayer: "And code enforcement is the person I was just talking to then?"

Bill: "Right, because then you have a violation. Anything done within Maricopa County, grading, uh, building or anything does has to be permitted."

Taxpayer: "OK, Anything, huh?"

Bill: "Anything."

Taxpayer: "Is there any exception, like if it's a private easement or it's ..."

Bill: "If you are moving dirt then it requires a permit within Maricopa County."

Taxpayer: "Ok. How about if it's on a hillside? Would that make a difference?"

Bill: "That would make a big difference."

Taxpayer: "I would be able to do it then?"

Bill: "No. With hillside, it takes special regulations to do anything on a hillside."

Taxpayer: "OK."

Bill: "And what you are going to be looking at if you are looking at putting a road on hillside, then you would have to come in with grading and drainage plans, probably hydrology reports — it would have to be approved through zoning to be going on hillside and would have to be approved by flood and building safety."

Taxpayer: "Regardless?"

Bill: "Regardless."

Taxpayer: "OK, What if it was in a wash then? I've got a, you might even call it a creek. It doesn't flow all the time, but it is pretty heavy flowing when it does."

Bill: "What happens on those when the plans come in you submit what you are wanting to do on it, what you are proposing — taking a look at that, what the hydrology reports come in showing what kind of flow that has had in past history, and would in the future, and normally they are going to hold you to stay with the natural grade."

Taxpayer: "What would that mean then?"

Bill: "If it's a creek then it would be staying just basically scraping the surface to stay with that natural contours."

Taxpayer: "Ok. So I could put one in there?"

Bill: "Yes you could go through with the approval. Like I say having a permit on it."

Taxpayer: "Ok. I don't have to do a bridge or anything like that I could just ..."

Bill: "No not if you felt comfortable, we really prefer that you stay with the natural contours when you are doing anything."

Taxpayer: "Ok thank you for your help."

#56

Az Republic

Sky Harbor

Bulldozing wetlands near Sky Harbor an odious choice

Az Republic

N/A

There are airports across the nation that have wetlands, rivers, farmlands, oceans, lakes and even landfills which attract birds at one or both ends of their runways. Many find ways to prevent birds from gumming up aircraft engines other than bulldozing habitat, so it is especially odious to read that the acting Phoenix aviation director proposes to re-kill the Rio Salado river bed east of Sky Harbor, just as it is beginning a slow rebirth of habitat after years of mining, grading and dumping.

Surely a college-educated minister of public policy could devise a more scientific and environmentally sensitive approach than to "clear the vegetation." The Rio Salado can be both a recreational area for our community and riparian refuge for wildlife. It should not be a drain pipe swept free of life and nature.

For 35 years I have twice daily crossed the Rio Salado and despite the benign neglect it receives, I increasingly see cranes, egrets and other migratory birds beginning to appear. Every "creature" (as the aviation official calls them) I have seen has been pecking away looking for dinner, chatting among themselves about philosophical matters or coming and going at levels barely above the river bank. I have seen none dodging planes at 650 feet in the center of the glide path. And to the best of my knowledge, no bird-plane catastrophe has occurred in this area.

So why the haste to spend a barrel of public dollars for someone to wring their hands over a near-zero risk? It seems to me that wiping out these vegetated areas will accomplish only three things:

Reduce the bird-plane collision probability from nearly zero to very nearly zero; make that section of the river as inhospitable to man and beast as is possible; and reinstate the world "ugly" as the Phoenix definition of the Rio Salado.

— Earl de Berge
Phoenix

More development?

Greenbelt column raises key questions

#57

Mike Ellegood, who wrote a column supporting the Desert Greenbelt in the July 20 Tribune, is chief engineer and general manager of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, but for whom does he really work?

Where was he when 6,800 houses were zoned by a developer-friendly council in this "high hazard area" in north Scottsdale? Why did he not warn them that they were in "harm's way"? Why did he not stamp his feet and scream until they listened that the U.S. Geological Survey rates the area in question "the second-highest on its scale for comparing dangerous flooding areas"? And why does he now say that "a stop of development is not an option"?

But, most importantly, if he truly believes that this area in north Scottsdale is the "most hazardous

area in Maricopa County" and is concerned for lives and property, why does he not call for an immediate cessation of all building in this "highly unstable" area?

A 100-year flood could occur at any time and until the situation is studied and rectified, further building is irresponsible and dangerous. Instead, he wants the taxpayer to support more development by constructing the Desert Greenbelt.

As he pointed out, land near the seacoast has nearly the same risk yet many people enjoy living near or on the beach and we don't try to reroute the ocean. People are free to make informed decisions and assume risks for their life choices and those of us who choose a safer route should not subsidize those who choose greater risks.

Finally, building the Desert Greenbelt will allow many more structures to be erected in north Scottsdale, and as Ellegood points out, "alluvial fan stream channels are highly unstable . . . and stormwater coming off the mountains charts new paths to reach the desert floor."

Can Ellegood guarantee that a disaster won't happen even if the greenbelt is built? As we change the face of the desert by pouring more concrete, we change the flow dynamics of the stormwater just as we change our climate. But now, more lives and more property will be at stake. Again, whose payroll is Mr. Ellegood on?

Scottsdale

Scottsdale

Tribune

N/A

Dawn Brokaw
Scottsdale

Tribune

\$50

Possible trail links announced

BY KRISTEN GUNDERSEN
Independent Newspapers

Queen Creek, Gilbert and Mesa have formed a partnership to create a park-like setting in the area's flood control areas.

In recent years, the East Valley has experienced tremendous sprawl and one of the challenges the area must now address is recreational activities, according to Fulton Brock, Maricopa County District 1 supervisor.

"Today we have challenges," said Supervisor Brock. "And now we want to assist in

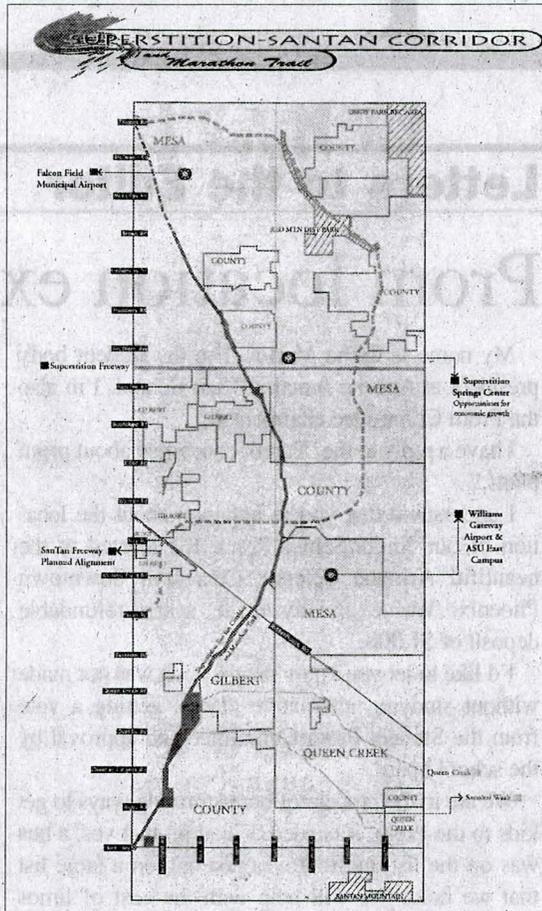
bringing the area together to bring open space, green belts and trails in a 25-mile corridor around Maricopa County."

The challenges are being met in the form of a 25-mile trailhead, the Superstition SanTan Corridor and Marathon Trail, which will follow the county floodways already in existence in these three cities.

Kris Baxter, spokeswoman for the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, said although this project has no immediate plans to link to trails in the Apache Junction area, future local links could be developed in the future.

"But people in the A.J. area will certainly use this trail," she said.

The East Maricopa Floodway flows from north to south and passes through Mesa, Gilbert and Queen Creek. The floodway is owned and operated by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and is 26 miles long. It extends from Brown and Greenfield Roads north to the Maricopa/Pinal County line at Hunt Highway on the south. The water out-falls onto the Gila River Indian Community, just



west of Greenfield Road.

On the onset, flood prevention goals were intended to reduce scouring on the floodplain, erosion and to provide protection for irrigated lands, residential and retail-commercial properties, roads, highways irrigation canals and other facilities.

Cheryl Banta, special projects manager for Pinal County, said the county would be interested in forming any partnerships to link into the existing Arizona Trail and the soon-to-be built Lost Goldmine Trail, in the Superstition Foothills.

Like Apache Junction, the City of Chandler is not included in this project, but that certainly doesn't mean people won't use it.

"I see the project as a significant amenity, not only for our residents — but also for the region as a whole. Anytime you can provide large tracts of open space that run through a number of communities, you've developed something special. And though the Superstition SanTan Corridor and Marathon Trail is not in Chandler, I think the people of this community will take advantage of this amenity," said Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraney.

*Queen Creek
Independents*

W/A

#59

Tribune
county
N/A

County to vote on flood projects

Chandler and Queen Creek to match funds from Maricopa district

BY LE TEMPLAR
TRIBUNE

Maricopa County is expected to spend \$9 million on storm drainage projects that will reduce flooding in Chandler and Queen Creek.

The county Board of Supervisors will vote today on two agreements to release money from the county Flood Control District.

Chandler and Queen Creek would match the county with local tax dollars, raising the total amount to \$18 million.

"If we can partner with the cities of Chandler and Queen Creek to design and build creative solutions to flooding problems, then we are using our resources effectively," Fulton Brock, R-District 1 of Chandler, said in a statement.

The \$12.2 million Chandler project would build a series of storm drains and upgrade water-retention basins in central areas of the city.

The work will protect buildings that have been damaged in floods since construction in the early 1900s.

~~The thinking in that time~~

"The thinking in that time was that we live in a desert, we don't have to worry about rain," said Gary LaForge, general services supervisor of Chandler's Public Works department. "They really didn't account for places to accumulate or get rid of it."

One part of the project affecting Erie and Ivanhoe streets was started by Chandler last winter and is nearly completed. The other segments will be constructed in the next five years, LaForge said.

With approval from the county, Queen Creek would begin to channel 2½ miles of the Queen Creek Wash from Hawes to Power roads.

Like the Chandler storm drains, the wash would be designed to carry water from a 100-year flood.

The project could remove nearly two square miles from the flood plain, Town Engineer Dick Schaner said. That would raise property values and eliminate the need for federal flood insurance.

Instead of turning the wash into a deep concrete ditch, Queen Creek wants to build a wider, more environmentally compatible project.

Many cottonwood trees and other natural vegetation would be saved.

Walking and horseback-riding paths would be included.

"It's our desire for the wash to be the backbone of a parks and trail system," Town Manager Cynthia Seelhammer said.

#60



MY VIEW by Don Sorchych

County misfeasance, malfeasance and corruption?

Definitions:
Misfeasance: The performance of a lawful action in an illegal or improper manner.

Malfeasance: Wrongful conduct by a public official.

Corruption: (A) Inducement to wrong by bribery or other unlawful or improper means. (B) A departure from what is pure or correct.

The answers represented in the transcript on page B-3 is not the first time that subordinate employees have disagreed with the county supervisors and department heads on planning and zoning matters.

At the very outset of the rape of Continental Mountain by Wayne Smith and his merry highwaymen, Director of Planning Joy Rich, County Attorney Jim Minter and then Chairman of supervisors Don Stapley have come up with lame excuses for their soft handling of the Continental Mountain project.

First of all, records of and town of Cave Creek records show that Smith misrepresented his ownership. Smith claimed, and his map showed, that the 100 acres owned by several owners were part of his project. It wasn't and isn't.

This has been pointed out to the county countless times. They don't care. They say "that is a civil matter, get an attorney."

That is easy for them to say for in this unbalanced system of government county employees are protected by the county attorney - the very agency that your tax dollars support.

Remember that to this day, the county has required no grading permits on Continental Mountain. Why? What did the county enforcement and flood employees say in the transcript comments? "You have to have a permit to do any grading or blading." Period.

Flood employee Bill, said, "If you are moving dirt, then it requires a permit within Maricopa County."

Either Joy Rich needs remedial training by her subordinates or she needs to train them not to answer the phone. I expect that she already has established added controls so that truth doesn't again seep out.

Rich claimed that Smith et al didn't need a grading permit because they merely had "brushed up" a mining claim road.

When Smith moved beyond the mine and up the mountain, and on to totally untouched desert terrain, she then said

that they didn't need a permit because they were on a newly surveyed and staked easement.

Nowhere is that allowance in the code. Listen to Enforcement Bureaucrat, "But what I do know is - that anytime you take a blade to a piece of ground, a piece of desert, especially a piece of desert that has never been developed at all, you are definitely rerouting...." Then she qualifies that but says, "if access is only by helicopter, you are probably on a hillside, or on top of a mountain somewhere. So there is serious runoff concerns there."

Does that sound like it - exactly - fits Scott Schuff's situation, where he is requesting a helicopter permit on top of Continental Mountain and where a road has raced up the mountain to get to that homesite?

When seven men were injured in Apr. 1999 while gathering saguaros for sale from the road alignment it seemed that finally the county would do something to bring this wildcat project into compliance.

Showing panic, Don Stapley said that he would challenge County Attorney Jim Minter and see to it that the project was properly permitted.

Everything changed when the accident victims survived. The county forced a permit all right - a dust control permit! A permit that never has been enforced.

One of the people at the accident scene said that they had tried to get the project slowed, that they were pushing too fast and it was unsafe.

He said that Scott Schuff had purchased or traded for 40 acres at the mountain summit and that Smith demanded that the saguaro harvesting keep pace with the road building.

Contrast this mass destruction and removal of saguaros with our last week's story about Governor Hull and her family "adopting" two of 384 saguaros on Saguaro Hill.

Saguaros are saguaros whether on Saguaro Hill or Continental Mountain. These stately ancients have observed hundreds of years of history and this project has thumbed its nose at all that we in the foothills hold dear, including our majestic saguaros.

And our elected and appointed officials in the county have fudged, lied, bobbed, weaved and stonewalled.

Where is the fix?

Who has told Joy Rich to look the other way? It would

have to come from the supervisors. Don Stapley was in charge, and this is also his district. When queried, other supervisors have deferred to Stapley.

Stapley also has a history of involvement with "wildcat" subdivisions and an investigation is still ongoing on Stapley's business deals concerning developments.

Is this one of the "team" efforts where the other county supervisors merely look the other way? Is there no sense of fiduciary duty?

When someone calls a county office and is told by code enforcement and flood control that putting a bulldozer blade to desert requires a permit, why doesn't Wayne Smith and company require one?

Why is it that hillsides are even more special and yet Joy Rich and her subordinate say that especially if it is on a hillside - and considered a road - no permit is required?

Ask where it is written and they will tell you "that it is assumed."

The man who wrote the hillside ordinance, Bob Brittain and ex-county planner Dennis Zwagerman say Gold Canyon Estates is out of compliance.

Ron Short, Cave Creek's director of planning says that the project is out of compliance.

We have printed tens of thousands of words on this project; we are repeating ourselves now.

Where is the Attorney General? I know this situation has been reported to them in detail.

Where is the Governor's office? They are fully informed also.

Where is the Desert Foothills Land Trust, our local high profile preservationists?

Where are Cave Creek and Carefree officials?

Where is the legislature?

Where is the television and radio media?

Where are you, citizen taxpayer? It is in one way or another in your back yard.

This saga screams for a serious investigation into the County Board of Supervisors, Joy Rich and the county attorney's office.

Grand Jury investigation?

Demand it.

Gov. Jane Dee Hull 602-542-4331

Attorney General Janet Napolitano 602-542-5025

I can be reached for comment at 480-488-2021 ext. 25, or e-mail at sonnews@aol.com.

Tempe
Arizona Rep.
5/21/01

Yuma clapper rail found with broken leg Endangered bird heals

By Ashley Bach
The Arizona Republic

The bird flapping in front of him was obviously a different sort, with its long beak and large size. But Greg Watts couldn't have known what he'd really found last month in the Arizona Canal Diversion Channel in north Phoenix.

Turns out the bird was a Yuma clapper rail, an endangered species numbering just several hundred in the United States and about 40 in the Valley. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed the identity Thursday.

The bird, now healing from

a broken leg, probably wandered about 40 miles from its home in the wetlands near Buckeye because of its injury, one avian expert said.

For Watts, a senior operator with the Maricopa County Flood Control District, his discovery came as part of an otherwise-routine workday. He has found raccoons, coyotes and owls in the channels, but this bird was clearly out of its element — and in pain.

The bird couldn't fly more than a few feet because of its leg, and it had little water and no food.

"I knew it was just going to end up starving to death," he

said. Watts called his supervisor, and the Liberty Wildlife Rehabilitation Foundation in Scottsdale picked up the bird.

Since then the bird has been eating steadily and trying to get used to a leg bone that's calcified but apparently healed, said Megan Mosby, Liberty's executive director.

Officials won't know for a few weeks if the bird can be released into the wild.

The Yuma clapper rail is native to Arizona, California and Mexico. It's about a foot long with a rusty orange breast and brown and tan feathers.

Plans shown for 26-mile floodway

By Peter Ortiz
The Arizona Republic

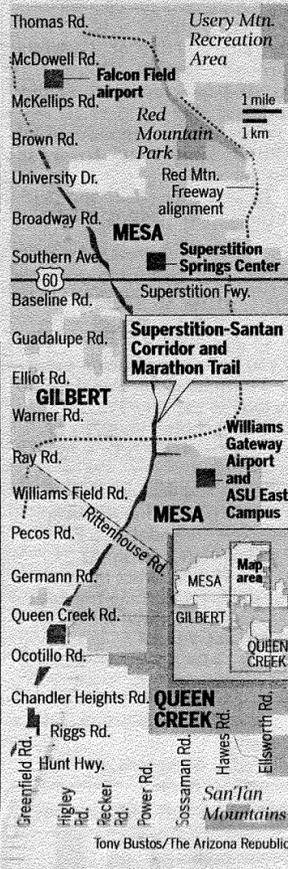
Mary Hauser could not contain her excitement Wednesday after plans for a 26-mile floodway were unveiled at the Southeast Regional Library in Gilbert.

Maricopa County and East Valley city officials showed how the Superstition-Santan Corridor and Marathon Trail could become a major recreation path that would replace barren land with green parks and provide for continuous walking and riding through the East Valley. For Hauser and other horse lovers, that could mean a 16-mile path to ride her horse along the bottom of the channel.

"It really opens up a lot of possibilities," said Hauser, who is president of the Queen Creek Horse Owners Association.

For now the future path is nothing more than a schematic and drawing. It would stretch from Hunt Highway in Gilbert to Thomas Road in Mesa. The Flood Control District of Maricopa County has budgeted \$40 million for the construction of basins, and is working with East Valley municipalities and the county Parks and Recreation Department to make it real.

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Guadalupe project will lead to parks

By Peter Ortiz
The Arizona Republic

A sewer and drainage project may not sound exciting to most people. But for residents of Guadalupe, it will mean the town's first park system.

The East Valley town should have ~~four~~ retention basins in five years when the \$770,000 project is expected to be completed.

Three basins will be turned into parks, with some extra land left over that the town can develop.

"It will mean more usable, open space for recreational areas," said Mary Rose Wilcox, a member of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. "We are going to control the flooding and get more use out of (the land)."

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County and Guadalupe have been working together since 1994 to solve the town's flooding problems, which agency spokesman Joe Munoz attributes to the side-

walks being built at street level.

Town officials obtained grant money to lower the streets and build additional storm drains.

About half of an 8.8-acre basin will be used to develop a park, leaving the rest for possible residential development. Five acres will be used to build a baseball field on another basin, leaving about three acres for additional development.

Construction on the basins is taking place south of the Highline Canal, between Baseline Road and Calle Cerritos, and west of Avenida del Yaqui. The parks will include paths, benches and a baseball field.

Construction, which will be limited to side streets north of Guadalupe Road and east of Avenida del Yaqui, may cause some temporary disruptions to water and sewer service, officials said.

Reach the reporter at peter.ortiz@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-7726.

4.5 million

Basins will be done this year

Town has no money in the storm drain system

Guadalupe

AZ Republic

County targets mosquito areas

— *BY, from Page A1*

any humans.

"It's been a pretty bad year for mosquitoes this year all around," said Craig Levy, program manager for vector-borne diseases at the Arizona Department of Health Services.

"As far as Maricopa County, this is the most virus I've seen in my 16 years here."

Meanwhile, nationally, scientists have tossed out their original diagnosis of a mosquito-borne ailment that has killed four people in the New York City area. Originally, the four were thought to have been infected by St. Louis encephalitis.

Now, scientists say that it's a virus never before seen in this hemisphere and that birds flying south may have spread it to a far wider geographic region. The West Nile-like fever, as it is called, is usually found in Africa and Asia but has been found in 37 people, including the four who died.

It's called West Nile-"like" because scientists have not yet identified it with certainty. The disease's symptoms, fever and headache, are similar to those of St. Louis encephalitis but are generally milder.

In rare cases, the virus can cause neurological disorders and death. The elderly, young and anyone with a weakened immune system are most vulnerable.

Health officials in Arizona don't believe that the West Nile-like virus has made it to this state, although they are not ruling it out entirely.

"Nobody knows for sure," Levy said. "There's a humongous amount of questions that need to be answered."

Until then, officials are warning residents who live in mosquito-infested areas to limit their outdoor nighttime activities, wear protective

clothing and use bug repellent.

"The fewer mosquitoes that bite you, the less chance you have of getting anything," Levy said.

Arizona's mosquito problem can be blamed on a longer and wetter monsoon season, which officially ended Saturday, according to John Townsend, manager of the vector-control program for Maricopa County.

"We've had lots of storms and lots of water, and whenever you have lots of water standing, it's just a matter of time before mosquitoes start coming off," he said.

Residents new to rural areas are unaccustomed to country living and the pests that come with it, Townsend said, so the county is called upon to spray more.

In addition, mosquitoes have become a problem in cities that are building man-made wetlands for groundwater recharge and environmental reasons, he added.

County trucks have been spraying more frequently and widely than in past years to combat this year's mosquito outbreak.

Typically, the county sprays 18,000 to 25,000 acres of land with two types of insecticide that kill both larvae and adult mosquitoes. This year, Townsend estimates, the county will have sprayed well more than 40,000 acres.

"I haven't seen anything even close to this year for mosquitoes," Townsend said. "Since July, month after month after month, it's been a zoo out there."

"Most of the insecticide is spread in response to citizen complaints, although some spraying, especially to kill larvae, is routine. The county has been doubling its efforts in Queen Creek, southeast of Phoenix, primarily because of the publicity generated by the death of the 8-year-old girl there.

"We've been getting a lot more complaints from Queen Creek,"

Townsend said. "Plus, we're focusing on areas where this little girl may have been.

"We go off worst-case scenario until someone tells us differently."

For most healthy adults, mosquito bites don't cause illness. Even those bites from mosquitoes carrying the Western equine or St. Louis encephalitis viruses will cause only flulike symptoms of a headache and fever in healthy adults.

Where mosquito viruses can become deadly are in young children, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems.

But like all their victims, not all mosquitoes are created equal. Those that bite during the day tend to be nuisance floodwater mosquitoes that don't carry disease.

Conversely, the Culex tarsalis mosquitoes that bite at night carry viruses picked up from birds that then may be transmitted to humans.

Although the mosquito scare back East is generating concern, health officials in Arizona cautioned residents not to panic.

"The odds of getting mosquito-borne encephalitis are very low," said Levy of the DHS.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta put the risk of serious illness from St. Louis encephalitis at about 1 in 250. The risk for Western equine encephalitis is about 1 in 1,000.

Still, it doesn't hurt to take extra precautions to avoid nighttime mosquitoes, at least for the next few weeks.

"We're towards the end of the season, as long as it starts to kind of dry out," Townsend said. "Historically, by mid-October, we're not doing any kind of fogging anymore."

Kerry Fehr-Snyder can be reached at (602) 444-8975 or at kerry.fehr-snyder@pni.com. The Associated Press contributed to this article.

County targets mosquitoes

Spraying attacks areas of encephalitis carriers

By Kerry Fehr-Snyder

The Arizona Republic

In the dead of night, when most people are sound asleep, a fog is blanketing much of Maricopa County.

It's part of a war on potentially deadly mosquitoes being waged by local health officials this fall.

More than double the area normally sprayed is being fogged by county trucks in cities throughout the Valley, where encephalitis-carrying mosquitoes have been detected recently.

An 8-year-old Queen Creek girl died last week of encephalitis, but health officials still don't know whether her disease was caused by a mosquito bite. Tests are being conducted to determine exactly how she contracted the virus.

The state has confirmed at least 11 cases of the Western equine encephalitis virus and at least six cases of the more lethal St. Louis encephalitis virus in samples of mosquitoes it has tested in the past few months. State health officials first issued an advisory about the problem for Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties in July.

Those mosquitoes are not known to have infected

— Please see COUNTY, Page

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County
Az Republic
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#65

Individual property owners should stick together

The illustration that accompanies this editorial says it as well as anyone could when it speaks to the rights of one individual being as important as the rights of a collective group.

The quote is one of many by John F. Kennedy, who had a marvelous ability to meld words together and make people think beyond the ordinary. It is a quote that was used as a campaign poster for victims rights last year.

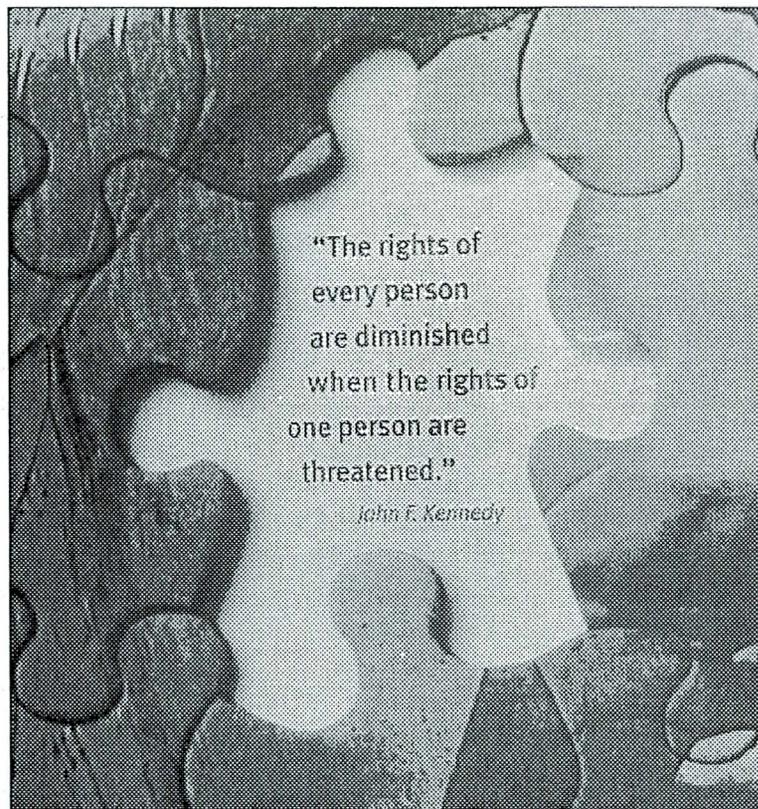
Although the Statue of Liberty poster was meant to be discarded when the new one came in to the office of the victims rights coordinator, it probably should be kept on the wall in the lobby. It reminds all of us that we can never forget individual rights are what made this country.

While there are compelling arguments for "the common good" and "what's best for the majority," we need to be mindful about the individual whose rights are being stolen when we make our decisions in the halls of Congress, the great rooms of our state legislatures, the hearing rooms of our county supervisors and the chambers of our city councils.

Although it may have appeared to be a hasty and unseemly outburst by some at the City Council meeting last week, Mayor John Keegan's sudden response to a North Peoria resident's statements regarding a zoning application not only was meant as a defense of the City Council's actions but as his own statement about private property rights.

That is what is being discussed these days in homes throughout the length of the Agua Fria and New River tributaries in Maricopa County. West Valley residents who live adjacent to or near these mostly dry watercourses find themselves in the middle of a flood of controversy.

Property owners in the county island north of Pinnacle Peak Road feel they have been left out of the process because they did not receive notification of public hearings about the Glendale/Peoria Drainage Master Plan. Those who are in the thick of the process at the Flood Control District of Maricopa County - engineers and project coordinators or managers at one level or another - had faith everyone



was informed and aware of everything that was taking place. A drainage ditch here, a retention basin there, perhaps a small recreation area over here.

The Flood Control District has written statements about its failure to properly notify the residents most affected by the preliminary proposals for their property. The FCD has made it clear in their response to the

residents that no plans are set in stone, nothing is final. And that is factual information as far as we have been able to discover.

The fact remains: There are going to be disruptions in people's lives as a result of the drainage plans and the plans for the West Valley Recreation Corridor. It's a fact that should have been emphasized from the beginning.

At the open house held at Peoria High School last month, a member of the audience asked why people were allowed to build in the floodplains in the first place.

One of the spokespersons for either the FCD or one of its consultants replied that Arizona is one of the few states where people are even allowed to own property in a floodplain.

At the time, it appeared to be an innocent response. But as the days and weeks have passed since that open house, events have occurred to bring the issue floating to the surface. A condemnation of two properties at Bethany Home Road and 83rd Avenue; the possibility there could be as many as 25 property owners displaced in the Pinnacle Peak/83rd Avenue vicinity.

There is no reason to believe the FCD or any other government body is ready to "take" properties along the waterways of Maricopa County. But the affected property owners should be aware they could become a force for change, as individuals with individual rights coming together to make the pieces of the puzzle fit.

Around the Valley

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Feb. 2/14/01



Jack Kurtz/The Arizona Republic

Cart in the rain

Charles Vador keeps one hand on the cart and the other firmly on his umbrella Tuesday as he heads through the parking lot at the Bashas' store at Indian School Road and 32nd Street.

Flood channel planned

By Marty Sauerzopf
The Arizona Republic

Fearing that a major storm could send floodwaters into neighborhoods near the White Tank Mountains, Maricopa County will soon begin building a new \$3.5 million flood channel to protect residents.

County officials said a major downpour could overburden the White Tanks North Inlet Channel and create a major flood hazard between Olive and Glendale avenues near Perryville Road.

"It is important for us to remember that while it does not rain often in the desert, when it does, severe flooding can occur," said Valerie Swick, project manager for the county's Flood Control District.

After a series of meetings with residents, the district has decided to build a new flood control channel between Olive

and Northern avenues on the eastern side of the Beardsley Canal.

The project will include culverts to carry floodwater to the eastern side of the canal and will create a recreation corridor that could include hiking and equestrian trails.

Swick said the channel was the least expensive of a number of alternatives considered for the area. It will also have the lowest construction impact.

The county is doing preliminary design work this month.

Glendale

Az Republic

N/A

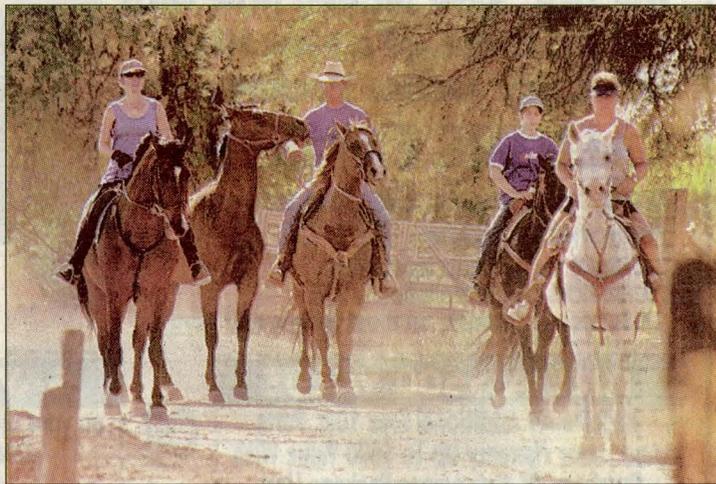
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Plant is the pits, neighbors say

Sand and gravel operation took area by surprise

By David Madrid
The Arizona Republic



Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

Horse owners (from left) Shelia O'Neal, Tom Bartol, Janae Wells and Lisa Gorman oppose a sand and gravel plant.

Todd Sundquist woke up one day in April to find a sand and gravel operation had moved into his neighborhood.

A 30-year-old, rural area at Dysart Road and Southern Avenue in the southwest Valley is home to residents like Sundquist who like their peace and quiet and space to ride their horses. The neighborhood has not taken kindly to the surprise arrival of New West Materials.

Sundquist and his neighbors have erected billboards denouncing the business and its owners. They film the operation and take pictures in hopes of catching the business violating laws. They have picketed.

They have approached, and continue to approach, any and all government entities who might be able to help them remove the business.

And they hear the same thing: "There's nothing we can do."

They are so desperate that they've considered foregoing the less-restrictive approach they have living in the county in preference to the protection a city could give them, Sundquist said.

But nearby Avondale can offer little help either, concedes city planner Tony Widowski, because the sand and gravel operation is already there.

The city did send New West owners a list of requests, including hold neighborhood meetings, provide letters from neighbors within 300 feet of the operation and conduct a study of truck traffic. The neighborhood is in the city's planning area.

The sand and gravel company, owned by Pulice Construction, never responded.

Daniel McQuade, New West operations manager, says that

his company met all the requirements of the state and county laws and therefore has the right to mine the 174-acre field.

He said it would have been impossible to comply with Avondale's requests and still remain in business.

Widowski acknowledges that the law does not require New West to respond or comply. "If they come into our city, they would have to follow these."

McQuade said the company invested half a million dollars in preparation for mining the property, and, therefore, it isn't going anywhere.

He said his business will improve the area.

"Those homes used to get flooded in that area," he said. "We've spent over a quarter of a million dollars on a flood-relief structure in there to eliminate that from happening again."

But Joe Maroney, who lives in the neighborhood, points out that most of the houses are downhill from the plant. He frets that the berm and diversion canal around the property will keep the business dry, while sending more water down on the neighborhood if the canal were to overflow. Another canal running parallel to the New West canal has overflowed its banks and flooded the neighborhood in the past.

But the Flood Control Dis-

trict of Maricopa County says that New West's flood control plan is a good one.

Despite what the county may think of New West's actions, once it met the flood-control requirements, the district had no choice but to approve its plan, said Michael Ellegood, chief engineer and general manager of the district.

But there is another battle brewing between the county and New West.

McQuade says the business can mix concrete and produce asphalt on the property. He says that under state law, New West doesn't need a special-use permit that would require citizen input.

Maricopa County Supervi-

sor Mary Rose Wilcox disagrees, but New West is fighting the county on the issue, and it will likely end up in court.

She laments the way the business moved into the neighborhood without informing the neighbors, but there is no law that requires it to do so. She says New West has no environmental nor restoration plans for the site. Those aren't required either.

But the county has little say except when it comes to flood control and dust, she says.

"We've got no say over this," Wilcox said. "It's kind of like a flaunting."

Sundquist agrees.

"They (New West) just don't care about the neighborhood or the people out here," he said.

He also complains that the truck traffic from the business will be unsafe for the neighborhood. People will no longer be able to safely ride their horses, and the trucks will present a danger to the school buses transporting children.

McQuade says Sundquist doesn't represent all the residents in the area. He says there are those who want the business there, though he said he couldn't give out any names.

Reach the reporter at david.madrid@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-6926.

West Valley
AZ Republic
5/9/2001

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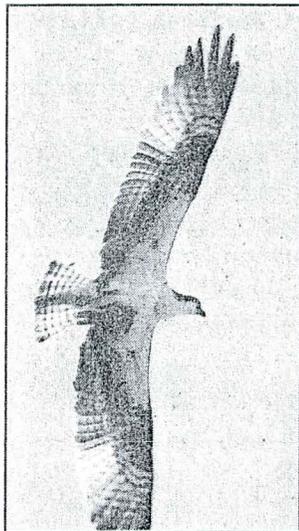
El Rio Watercourse

Flood-control project promises to expand recreational amenities for local residents

BY ANNA FOARD
staff writer

In the Sonoran desert where water is scarce, the Gila River provides an oasis of lush green vegetation, an abundance of birds and pools of water seemingly out of place in the Valley's harsh environment.

This unique river system, uncommon for the presence of water year-round, is a remnant of what used to be, decades before growth and dams dried up most of the rivers and channels in the Phoenix metropolitan area.



Indeed, it has been the abundance of water that has put the river in headlines in years past — devastating floods that have washed through the nearby West Valley communities of Allenville and Buckeye during the 1970s and 1980s.

In the coming years, the Maricopa County Flood Control District plans to implement flood control measures along the Gila to protect the expected influx to the West Valley of people and businesses.

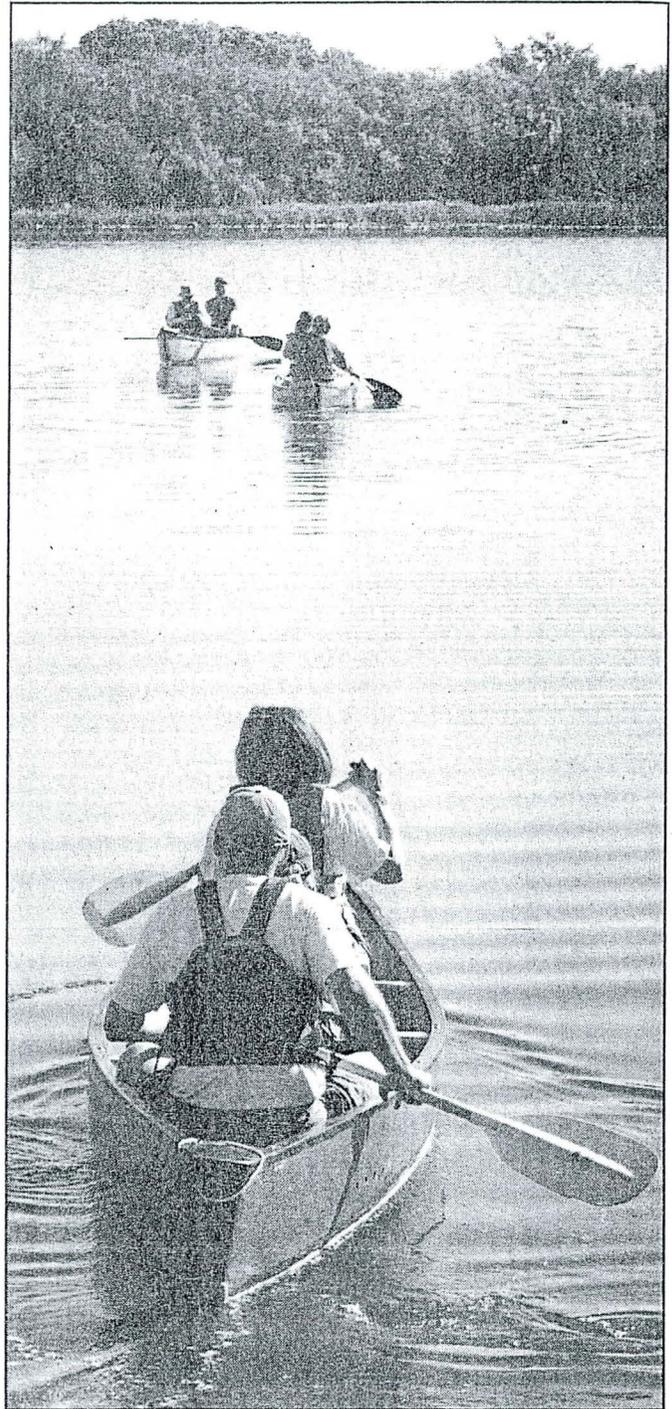
In the process, the county also plans to restore and transform the river's banks, where human encroachment and non-native species have driven out native habitat and weakened nature's own flood mitigation methods.

Historic uses of the river

The county's \$2 million project, called the El Rio Watercourse Master Plan, proposes to re-introduce native wildlife and plants to the area, set up trails and educational centers and to limit the extent of flooding along a 17.5-mile stretch of the Gila River from the confluence of the Agua, Salt and Gila rivers to near SR85. The project covers areas in Avondale, Goodyear and Buckeye.

In August 2002, the district began a two-year study to analyze the project area. One of the focuses of the study is to look at pre-historic and historic sites, including Hohokam, Pima and Papago Indian ruins.

Remnants of prehistoric human activity have been found both north and south of the river, but much

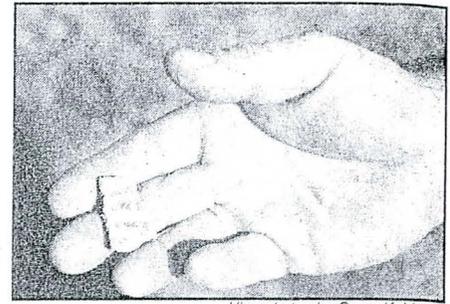


View photo by Owen K. Martin

Lake excursion

(Above) Using canoes, experts working on the Maricopa County Flood Control District's El Rio Watercourse Master Plan check out various project sites, including Jackie's Lake near the confluence of the Salt, Gila and Agua Fria rivers. (Above left) A ferruginous hawk soars above the Gila River, clutching its prey in its talons.

▶ See EL RIO, Page V68



View photos by Owen K. Martin

Clues from the past

(Left) A relatively undisturbed Hohokam canal still exists southwest of Buckeye. (Above) Archaeologist Jim Rodgers holds a piece of decorative pottery discovered at the site of a prehistoric Hohokam village near the Agua Fria and Gila rivers.

EL RIO: *reviving a river*

► From Page V66

has disappeared to floods, homes, farms and roads.

Jim Rodgers, principal investigator at Scientific Archaeological Services, spent a year gathering archaeological data for the El Rio project.

The findings are a stark reminder of the fragility of prehistoric and historic ruins. Of the 133 sites identified within the El Rio area, 71 percent have had surface destruction — and more are destroyed every day.

As development spreads and people move in, not only vandals, but also property owners not knowing what is on their land end up destroying sites, Rodgers said.

What does remain, however, gives us a glimpse into the importance of the Gila River to humans thousands of years ago.

Long before the ranches and farms, before the cars and freeway, a civilization thrived along the rivers of the West Valley. In addition, water was a valuable commodity then, just as it is today.

The prehistoric people may not have had the technology to build dams and dikes, but they knew how to control the water enough to irrigate their crops.

Research shows the possibility of two other canal systems in the El Rio project area.

In 1975, Rodgers recorded a unique prehistoric and historic

canal system along the southern bank of the Gila River. He said he believes the prehistoric canal is unique because instead of taking water out of the Gila River, a series of channels diverted seasonal water coming out of the Buckeye Hills arroyos into fields on the flood plain south of the Gila.

Because the Hohokam did not have the technology to build dikes and dams so a canal could cross the various arroyos running down

the hills, with each new arroyo a new series of channels was created to divert the water.

"It was an incremental canal," Rodgers said.

By 1917, the Gila Water and Land Co., having the technology to build dikes and cross arroyos, had turned the system of incremental canals into a five-mile long continuous one.

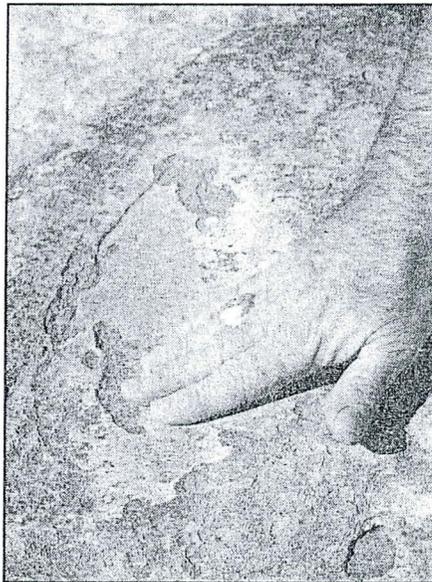
Although in use for no more than six years, this historic canal was unique. In 1975, Rodgers recorded the remnants of a pumping station at the head of the canal, indicating the company pumped water out of the Gila.

Another canal system in the El Rio project area is the Liberty Canal, a 16-mile-long system that preceded the historic and modern Buckeye canal, according to a 1971 map by amateur archaeologist Frank Midvale.

The Liberty Canal, north of the Gila, had a main channel and two smaller distribution channels. The historic and modern Buckeye Canal follows similar alignments to the Liberty Canal, showing the canal systems incrementally moved away from the river.

For example, the Buckeye Canal today is several hundred feet north of where the old Buckeye canal was in the early 1900s.

Rodgers' research during the mid-'90s showed that Midvale's location of the Liberty Canal heading was slightly wrong, which makes him question the accuracy of Midvale's data.



View photos by Owen K. Martin

Early mill

A rock outcrop near a Hohokam canal shows signs of use. Evidence in the area led archaeologist Jim Rodgers to believe that the prehistoric American Indians used the surface for grinding mesquite beans, corn and other seeds to make food.

► See **EL RIO**, Page V70



View photo by Owen K. Martin

Keeping watch

Great blue herons stand watch over their young in a rookery along the banks of Jackie's Lake, a reservoir near the confluence of the Salt, Gila and Agua Fria rivers. Herons, along with snow and great egrets, are

commons sights in the El Rio project area, a 17.5-mile stretch of the Gila River running through Avondale, Goodyear and Buckeye.

EL RIO: *reviving a river*

► From Page V68

How's the water?

Another large focus of the El Rio study has been identifying the quantity, quality and location of water sources, testing the quality of soils and identifying different water treatment methods and where to enhance and restore habitat.

The task has fallen to Roland Wass and Sara Gerke of WASS Gerke and Associates Inc., part of a team of experts working on the project.

They have been acting as a liaison between hydraulic engineers and biologists, Gerke said.

Discarded car parts and spent beer cans show signs of human activity in the Gila area, a sad reminder that folks still insist on visiting and swimming the effluent

water of the river.

The El Rio project, in part, will address these issues by educating the public about the river and its habitats — and the dangers of swimming in contaminated water.

From 1958 to 1960, the Buckeye and Avondale area used 1.7 million pounds of the insecticide DDT, Gerke said. Though the material is slowly working its way out of the environment, there is still some potential concern, she said.

Agriculture is not the only culprit. Urban storm runoff and water from the 91st Avenue Waste Water Treatment Plant (treated, but still effluent) make their way into the Gila River area as well, Wass added.

Both surface and groundwater flow into the Gila, and the riparian habitat is key to treatment.

Experts can design natural wetland systems to treat for a variety of different things, depending on what the source water is to that area, Gerke said.

For example, a wetland can be developed at the point the water

enters the project area and the water could be slowed down to settle sediments.

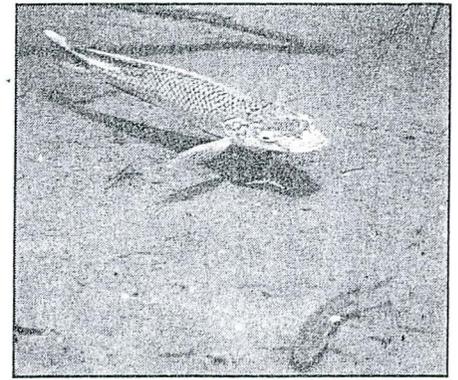
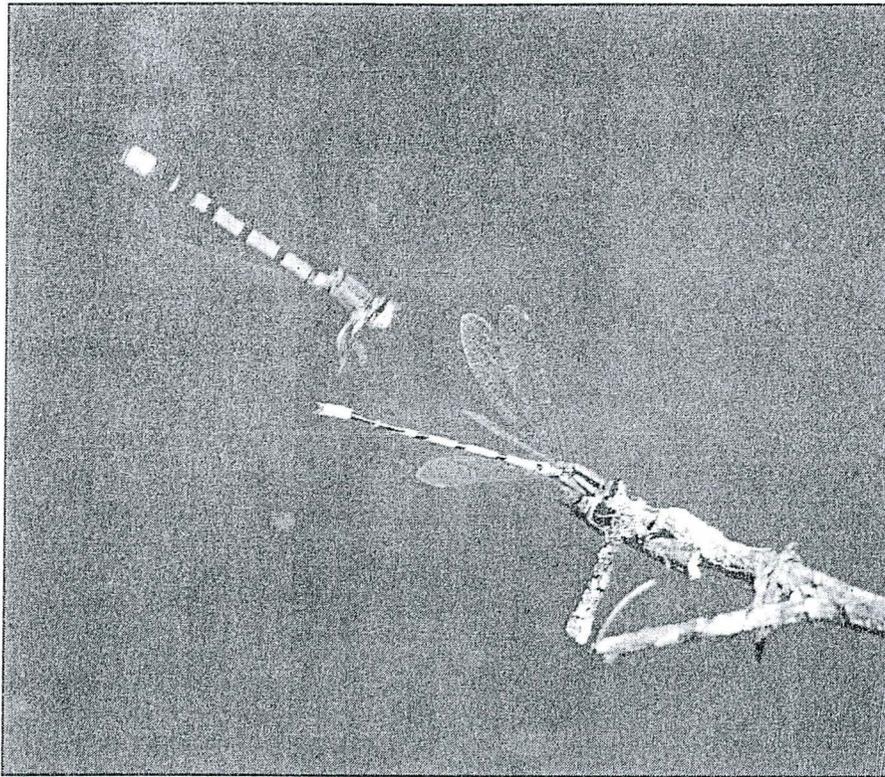
Reeds, bulrushes and cattails may be used to help catch metals, minerals and solids, remove nutrients and add oxygen. Subsurface treatment may include a gravel matrix to keep water away from human and animal contamination.

A big issue with developing wetlands is the threat of mosquitoes. Developing a subsurface wetland is one solution, though even with open water, mosquitoes can be controlled by having moving water or adding fish to cut back on the numbers, Gerke said.

Where and how a riparian habitat can be restored requires looking at the quality, quantity and location of a water source.

Wass and Gerke will look at whether a water source can be used for restoration or whether

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View photos by Owen K. Martin

A fishy look

(Above) Tilapia swim in Jackie's Lake near the confluence of the Salt, Gila and Agua Fria rivers. (Left) Dragonflies touch down on a tree branch near the bank of the Gila River, home to an assortment of animals including beavers, raccoons, javelinas, mule deer and foxes.

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it needs treatment before they do restoration work with it.

Another key factor in the restoration equation is the quality of the soil. Salt cedar, a non-native species notorious for how it has overrun many areas in the state, has made some soil too salty for other plants to survive.

In some cases, the ground may not get enough water to wash the salt out of the soil, and salt cedar may be the only plant that can tolerate the salt content.

It would take a lot of effort to eradicate the salt cedar, Wass said.

"It's definitely always better than nothing in terms of habitat for wildlife," Gerke added.

It's not all bad news either. Wass and Gerke have identified areas that are fringed with salt cedar, but have native willows or cottonwood thriving in the middle, areas that are potential spots for replacing the salt cedar with the natives.

Identifying habitats

The river area is home to an

assortment of animals, including beavers, raccoons, javelinas, mule deer, badgers, muskrats, foxes, snakes and lizards.

From great blue herons to Gambel's quail, a variety of birds flourishes along the river, too.

The density of wading birds in the Gila River area is higher than anywhere in the state, said Tim Wade, a senior biologist for EcoPlan Associates Inc., who is working on the El Rio project.

While the channel of the Gila often stands dry, deep with sand, groundwater is only a few feet deep along areas of the river.

At the eastern end of the El Rio project, near the confluence of the Gila, Salt and Agua Fria rivers, and toward the western end of the project near SR85, the high groundwater table produces a string of perennial lakes and ponds — riparian habitat that seems out of place to a first-time visitor.

Wade and his EcoPlan colleagues spent a couple of months canoeing the lakes and hiking along the channel to map the various habitats, identifying the vegetation and the animals that live along the river. The team also mapped areas where endangered species live and identified areas for possible restoration, referred to as "opportunity areas."

This data was then compiled into geographic information system

(GIS) overlays using aerial photos of the project area (a 17-mile stretch of the Gila) and color-coded mapping of the different habitats.

The GIS computer program can be used to quickly identify certain vegetation types or animal habitats. For example, you can pull up the mapping for suitable habitats for the Yuma clapper rail bird or for salt cedar communities.

Wade and his colleagues identified 12 distinct categories of plant communities that support different wildlife.

The information, along with research data from other experts working on the project, will help the Flood Control District find out what the opportunities and constraints are to the project, said Theresa Pinto, environmental services planner for the flood control district.

For example, if the district needs to implement flood control measures in an area where there is an endangered species habitat, the project managers know that the process will be more difficult and will take longer because of more restrictions and necessary consultations with other agencies.

The data can be used to identify feasible solutions for the flood control project, Pinto said.

Wade's team found four

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View photo by Owen K. Martin

Photo op

Melissa Lempke, public involvement coordinator for the Maricopa County Flood Control District, snaps a photo while canoeing on Jackie's Lake near the Gila River with Chuck Williams, a civil engineering and

resource management expert working on the El Rio Watercourse Master Plan. Lempke and Williams were among a group of experts that visited various project sites along the Gila River earlier this year.

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opportunity areas that stood out from the rest because of their higher percentages of native species, perennial water bodies and greater bio-diversity.

"There were quite a few more, but those four have the best chance of success," he said.

Balancing the different aspects of the project — restoration and preservation of habitat, recreational and educational activity development — while still implementing flood control measures will be challenging.

"Flood control is the priority because we're the flood control

district. But we do want to achieve as many of the multiple objectives as we can," Pinto said.

Riparian habitat vital to wildlife

El Rio is not the first project to try to restore riparian habitat. From Tucson to Flagstaff, Arizona has many ongoing projects to repair river areas, with the help of the Army Corps of Engineers. In the past, the Corps dealt with flood control by building dams.

When they realized many of their dams were destroying the natural environment in these river systems, they took on the new mission of restoration, Gerke said. The Corps will finance 65 percent of a project if local sponsors take on the remaining 35 percent.

This new mission might have come in the nick of time for

Arizona. According to a United States Geological Survey report, around 3 percent of Arizona's landscape once was wetlands; since the 1800s, the state has lost more than a third.

This is significant, considering that more than half of Arizona's animals depend on riparian areas, according to an Arizona Riparian Council fact sheet.

Fortunately for the El Rio plan, development has not yet boomed around the project area. If the Flood Control District had waited a few more years to restore the river habitats, the project may have been harder to pull off.

"It's much more difficult to move houses for a habitat or flood control," Wass said.

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